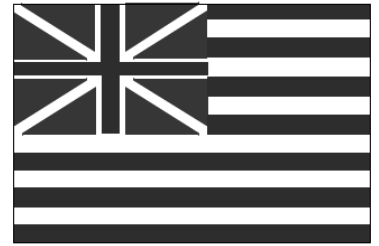




# THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



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*Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.*

*Volume 4 Number 2*

*March/April 2001*

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*Drawing by  
Preston W. Simms*

## **William Woodford of “Windsor”**

*by Trip Wiggins*

In Caroline county, just south of Fredericksburg, is a small town named Woodford. To drive through the area one would think it's just another small, rural Virginia area. Most would have no idea that the namesake for the town rose to become a Brigadier General in the Revolutionary War who gave his life for Independence!

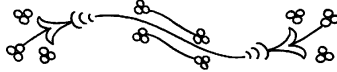
Major William Woodford, the General's father, was a native of England and was a merchant. He first married a Mrs. Whittaker who came to America with him. They settled in Caroline Co., Va, and he called his estate "Windsor". She died without an heir. He next married the widow Battaille, who also died without issue. Lastly, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 1732, he married Ann Cocke, daughter of William Cocke and his wife Elizabeth Catesby. To this union were born five children: William, Thomas, Catesby, John, and Henry. All but Henry survived to adulthood.

William was born on Oct. 6, 1734 at Windsor. (That area of Caroline Co. is now called Woodford.) He grew up equally in Caroline Co and in Fredericksburg where he made some life-long and most interesting friends.

With the outbreak of hostilities of the French and their Indian allies in the mid 1750s, Virginia raised a regiment to combat the aggression. Lt Col. George Washington was to lead the Virginians. Within the regiment were several future Fredericksburg notables including Lt George Weedon, commissioned 26 July 1757 and Ensigns James Duncanson (28 June 1756) and William Woodford (13 July 1757). The regiment accompanied Col. Washington on the march to Ft. Necessity in western Pennsylvania. They were loyal to their commander and a letter was sent to Washington in Dec. 1759 urging him not to resign his commission. Both Woodford and Weedon (now both Captains) signed the letter. The war was rapidly winding down. Washington resigned, but Woodford remained a member of the militia until disbanded in the spring of '61.

The unit was shortly reactivated with the "Cherokee Uprising". During this, Woodford earned great merit when he negotiated with the tribal leaders and ended the conflict. For his service, the House of Burgesses voted William a gratuity of £ 30. He was again reactivated for more Cherokee problems. He and Weedon stayed with the unit until it was finally dis-established in February, '62.

*The purpose of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is to bring together persons interested in preserving & perpetuating the heritage and culture of the colonial era in & around the Rappahannock River Valley of Virginia; to conduct historical research of persons, places & events relating to the Rappahannock River Valley in Colonial times, and to organize activities related to the Colonial era in an effort to educate the public about the way of life of our forebears in this area.*



### **2001 RCHS OFFICERS**

- President:** Diane Nolan  
*Diane34Anolan@aol.com*
- Vice-President:** Al Piercey  
*pierceyunderthehill@yahoo.com*
- Secretary:** Trip Wiggins  
*Trip Wig@aol.com*
- Treasurer:** Myra Wiggins  
*Myra Wig@aol.com*

### **THE PRESIDENT'S PEN**



2001 has gotten off to a roaring start. The RCHS calendar was full of activities and events from early on and continues to fill.

In February, the RCHS Dance Team performed at the Historic Dumfries Annual Cherries Jubilee to celebrate George Washington's birthday. Some members even entered the pie eating contest. At the invitation of Holy Cross Academy, RCHS members visited the school and talked to a 5th grade class about life in the 18th century. The students had many questions about our attire, and the role of children in colonial Virginia. The class also participated in a dance lesson and did very well. Several RCHS members were able to help out with children's games and dressing at Ferry Farm for their annual George Washington Birthday celebration. Although it was a chilly day, RCHS members and the many children attending had a great time.

In March, several members of the dance team attended the Annual George Washington Ball in Williamsburg. It was a grand event with over 200 participants. We learned many new dances and met numerous dancers from across the region and out of state. Always eager to increase our knowledge and enhance our skills, several RCHS members attended the Historic Fashion Forum held locally. They will prepare a mini-workshop for members who were not able to attend to share what they learned. The dance team had the privilege of entertaining at the James Madison Birthday celebration in King George. James Madison (aka Dal Mallory) attended the event and joined the dancers in their presentation.

Due to the many invitations extended to RCHS for dance and educational presentations, I have added two more positions to the board. I am very pleased that Tina Buchanan has accepted the position of Corresponding Secretary. She has exceptional writing skills and it is always a joy to read her notes and letters in 18th century verbage. I am also excited to have

Catherine Bell as Educational Programs Director. She has a magical way with children and is in the process of preparing a program format for various age groups which will coincide with state SOL requirements for history studies.

Our next big event is the annual James Monroe Block Party. It is not too late to get involved in this celebration of his birthday, his Scottish heritage and the colonial era in which he lived. Contact any RCHS officer and let us know what you would like to do.

Our April meeting is very special as we will have His Honor, Mayor Beck, to address the meeting and share with us his plans and vision for preserving and presenting the rich colonial history and heritage of Fredericksburg.

If you are a member and have not been "involved" or a non-member with an intense interest in colonial history, I hope you will be enticed to join in the fun, the opportunities for learning and sharing, and the activities this society offers. We hope to see you soon.

*Diane*

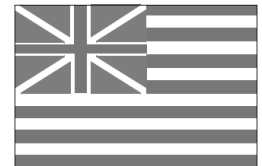
### **COLONIAL FREDERICKSBURG FACTS**



*May 1756 - Militia units for Spotsy and surrounding counties called up to defend new forts.*

*1743 - Ordinary license to: Charles Colson, John Doncastle, Joseph Bell, Joseph Colvert, Patrick Dowdall, and John Gordon*

*1746 - George Washington participates in expedition to map the western boundary of the Northern Neck holdings of Thomas 6<sup>th</sup> Lord of Fairfax. Among the Fredericksburg suppliers for the expedition were John Gordon (tavern owner) and Fielding Lewis (manager of his father's store).*



### **AMERICAN HISTORY TIDBITS**

**1711** - Bookselling now flourishing trade; in Boston alone about 30 shops were doing profitable business. Early booksellers, as well as printers, did not limit themselves to books. Items like tobacco, patent medicines, playing cards, etc., could be purchased in their shops.

**1735** - Public balls came into vogue in colonial New York. In 1736, birthday of Prince of Wales celebrated by magnificent ball at Black Horse Tavern.

**1784** - David Landreth of Philadelphia, Pa., founded what was probably 1st seed business in US, although Price family of Flushing, Long island, preceded him as nurserymen.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**April 4 - Farm Opens. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. April 8, May 13, June 10 - Women on the Plantation Tours. Gunston Hall.** Consider what it was like to be a woman-gentry or enslaved-on Va. and Md. plantations in the 1700's.

**April 12 - Virginia Women During the Revolution-lecture.** Weston Manor, 12noon. Historic Hopewell Foundation, Inc.. Regional Tourism Initiative.

**April 14 -Salting Fish. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. 1-4pm.**

**April 20-21. Garage and Spring Plant Sale. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. 9-1.**

**April 21 - Knit Finishing. Fiber Connection. 10:30-12:30 \$ 540-371-5207. FiberConn@aol.com**

**April 21 - Two Color Knitting. Fiber Connection 1:30-5:30. \$ 540-371-5207 FiberConn@aol.com**

**April 21-22 - Rev War Weekend. Colonial National Historical Park. Yorktown.** 226th anniversary of start of Rev War.

**April 25 - Cooking with Herbs. Gunston Hall.** Cooking techniques and sample dishes with pungent herbs from the herb garden. 11a-2p.

**April 25, 27-29. Colonial Skills Workshop & Encampment. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** Wed. Apr 25 6-8pm teaches basic skills used to recreate 18th century life.

**April 25 - An Evening of Colonial Music. St. John's Parish Hall.** St. John's Church, Richmond. 7-9pm Free. 804-648-5015 Regional Tourism Initiative.

**April 26-29 - Fort Frederick Market Fair. Ft. Frederick State Park**

**April 28. Horse Racing & Hazards, Whist & Wheels: Social Leisure During the 18th Century. Virginia Historical Society.** 3-5pm. Free 804-306-5565 Regional Tourism Initiative.

**April 28 - Scottish Block Party and Colonial Children's Festival. James Monroe Museum.** 908 Charles St. Fredericksburg.

**May 5 - Dairy Day. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. 1-4pm**

**May 5-6 - Spring on the Plantation. Pope's Creek Plantation** filled with 18th century activities 9-5. \$

**May 12 - Tavern Night. Historic Port Royal. 804-742-5036 or 804-742-5406.**

**May 12 - The Founding of Jamestown. Colonial National Historical Park. Jamestown.** 294th Anniversary. \$

**May 12 - Spinning Reunion. Fiber Connection Free.** 540-371-5207 FiberConn@aol.com

**May 13 - Mother's Day Tea. Gunston Hall. 2-4pm.**

**May 19 - Old Port Royal School Day. Historic Port Royal.** 804-742-5036 or 804-742-5406.

**May 19-20 - Spring 18th Century Market Fair. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 11am-4:30pm

**June 30, July 1 - Rev War Encampment. Pope's Creek Plantation** Demos of camp life, drill & musket fire. 9-5. \$

**June 1-30 - Canoe, Capstan & Cargo. Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center.** Maritime activities of 17th & 18th century Virginians. 12:30pm, 2pm,3:30pm.

## <----- WEB SITES FOR LISTED EVENTS:

George Washington Birthplace National Monument  
[www.nps.gov/gewa](http://www.nps.gov/gewa)

Montpelier  
[www.montpelier.org](http://www.montpelier.org)

Yorktown/Jamestown  
[www.nps.gov/colo](http://www.nps.gov/colo)

Jamestown Settlement  
[www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org)

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
[www.history.org](http://www.history.org)

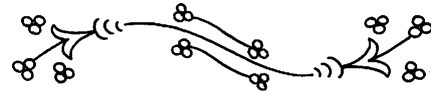
Gunston Hall  
[www.gunstonhall.org/events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/events)

Fort Frederick  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/fortfrederick.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/fortfrederick.html)

Regional Tourism Initiative  
[www.rtiheritagetours.com](http://www.rtiheritagetours.com)

Claude Moore Colonial Farm  
[www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org)

Stratford Hall  
[www.stratfordhall.org](http://www.stratfordhall.org)



## RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY DANCERS



We are looking for people who will be dedicated to coming to rehearsal, getting the proper attire together and be available when we have a commitment to do a demonstration. This will be a team striving to develop a level of expertise in this type of dance over time. For anyone who wants to be on the demo team, contact Elaine Sturgeon, coordinator 540-785-2168 or Diane Nolan 540-373-7651. Upcoming demonstrations are:

April 28 - Scottish Block Party  
May 12 - Historic Port Royal Tavern Night

## RCHS ACTIVITIES

In addition to the dancers the group has several other activities lined up in the near future. Come join us for some fun:

**April 22 -** Covered dish evening at Donna & Hans Wauer's sewing-gaming 4-8pm

**April 28 -** Scottish Block Party and Colonial Children's Festival

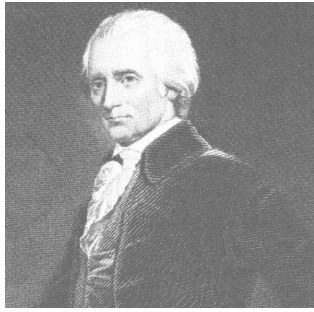
**May 19-20 -** Fielding Lewis Market Fair

**June 3 -** Aquia Episcopal Church Rededication

## NOTABLE COLONIAL PERSONS

### *Virginia Signers of the Declaration of Independence*

#### **Richard Henry Lee**



Many people know the name Richard Henry Lee. Unfortunately most of those only remember how he was portrayed in the musical “1776.” You remember him and the singing, “Here a LEE”, “Positive-LEE”; and him perpetually riding between Philadelphia and Williamsburg on behest of John Adams and Ben Franklin. A kind-hearted but overly self-infatuated, buffoon. How wrong we are with this picture. Let’s take a closer look.

He was born to the Lees of Stratford in Westmoreland county on January 20, 1732, just a month before his neighbor George Washington made his arrival. He was the eldest of the four Lee brothers destined to be players in Virginia and colonial politics for decades to come – Richard, Francis “Lightfoot” (another “Signer”), William, and Arthur. Richard, like many in his social class, was educated in England; he at the Wakefield Academy where he prepared for a life of public service. He returned to Virginia in 1751 and developed a lifelong itch for politics.

His first break was as being elected a county justice of the peace for Westmoreland in 1757. A year later he parlayed that into a seat in the House of Burgesses – a place he would stay until it was dissolved by Governor Dunmore in 1775. During those years he made fast friendships with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. They were the more independent and liberal thinkers as opposed to the more sedate and patient older leaders of the House. His voting record as a Burgess was inconsistent and some labeled him a “self seeker.” He was though, to be one of his colony’s most influential leaders. In 1773 following the Gaspée incident, he organized Virginia’s (and the colonies’) first Committee of Correspondence to keep all of the colonies abreast of patriotic activities. He advocated liberal policies and was an early opponent to the Crown’s colonial administration.

Following the Boston Tea Party and the subsequent closure of the port of Boston, the Virginia Burgesses denounced the closure and called it a “hostile action.” Dunmore dissolved the Assembly. The burgesses reconvened in the Raleigh Tavern as the Virginia Convention and called for a convention of ALL the colonies. The other colonies agreed and the First Continental Congress was the result. Representing Virginia from its first meeting in 1774 until 1780 was Richard Henry Lee. Fellow Virginian’s at that historic first meeting were: Peyton Randolph (elected as Congress’ first President), George Washington, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Richard Bland, and Benjamin Harrison.

By 1775 the fever for independence was spreading throughout Virginia. The Virginia Convention met in Rich-

mond in March, 1775 and it was here that Patrick Henry delivered his famous fiery speech of “Liberty or Death” calling for a defense of the colony. Seconding the motion was his ally, Richard Henry Lee. Following its adoption, they were appointed chairman and vice chairman, respectively of the new committee.

He was again elected a representative to the Virginia Convention of May, 1776 at which the convention proposed a resolution of independence! As the ranking member of the Virginia delegation at the Continental Congress the following month, he addressed that assemblage. Tall, spare and with bold features Richard was not the fiery speaker of Patrick Henry. He was none the less a noted orator for his time. He has been called the “Cicero” to Henry’s “Demosthenes”. This then, was the speaker who introduced the resolution calling for independence on that hot June day. While he missed the debate over the Declaration of Independence he did return to sign it following its adoption.

Throughout the rest of his time in Congress he was actively involved in foreign affairs. For a while he was concurrently holding a seat in all five Virginia Conventions, the Virginia Assembly (1777-78, 80-85), and his seat in the Congress. In 1777 he authored the first national Thanksgiving Day proclamation following the victory over Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga. In 1781 he briefly served as a Colonel in the Westmoreland militia and participated in a skirmish with the British in April of that year. He returned to Congress (now the Congress of the Confederation) from 1784 to 1787 and was elected and served as it’s 12<sup>th</sup> President (Nov 1784-Nov 1785).

Throughout the Constitutional Convention of 1787 he, along with Patrick Henry and George Mason, were vocal critics of the proposed constitution and were known as the Antifederalists. They were opposed to the strong central government and urged a strong bill of rights. The debate in Virginia over the constitution was intense, but the Antifederalists got their point across. Although the constitution was approved in Virginia (89-79) which paved the way for its approval in other swing states, the Virginia delegation demanded a need for a Declaration of Rights to be added. In this they eventually prevailed with the Bill of Rights.

In 1789 Richard was elected to serve as one of the first two senators to represent their state in the newly named U.S. Senate (the other was William Grayson). He introduced resolutions to amend the flaws of the constitution which would become the Bill of Rights when approved on Dec. 15, 1791. Ill health forced his resignation in 1792 when he returned to his beloved “Chantilly” not far from his birthplace. It was here that he died at age 63 on June 19, 1794 and is buried. The Signer had nine children by his two wives, Anne Aylett and Mrs. Anne Gaskins Pinckard.

Sources:

“The Story of the Declaration of Independence.” Dumas Malone.

“Colonial Spirit of ’76.” David C. Whitney.

“The Encyclopedia of Colonial and Revolutionary America.” John Faragher, ed.

“The General Assembly of Virginia: 1619-1978.” Cynthia Leonard, compiler.

“Virginia – The New Dominion.” Virginius Dabney.

“Miracle at Philadelphia.” Catherine D. Bowen.

## SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrott

### Sugar and the Tavern Wench



My Master is reaching for his hat... I think he is going out...O, I hope he takes me...he is...he is!!! We walked up the street..it was so exciting! I said "whatschewdoing several times and then my Master started whistling and I whistled too. Thank goodness we walked past the flour mill. There is a nice girl that works there but there is that awful flour too! We passed the boatyard and the place where we found the lady that lives with us. That was so nice there and it was full of nice ladies. I can see the tavern, that's the building with the rising sun sign. Now we are going in the tavern, oh good, this is one of my favorite places. Right away this nice lady came up and asked me to go with her so I got on her hand and then climbed up on her shoulder and went with her while she delivered drinks to the men. She gave me a sip of a drink but it tasted pretty bad and I yelled at her for such a bad trick. She brought my Master a bubbly drink and for a while he talked with the other men about freedom of religion, whatever that is. One of the men talked a lot more than the others. He was a tall, young, man and everyone was very quiet when he talked. Somebody said he writes (that's when you use a feather to draw black lines) important things but I have never seen any black lines that are different than any other.

For a while I watched some men playing with some cards with pretty pictures painted on them. I got one and bit a piece out of it. The men got upset and put the cards away. I don't know why they wouldn't share. Then they got some bones with spots on them and threw them on the table and I ran after them but the men were pretty fast and always got them before I did until once when one of them hit me and I grabbed it before anyone else. The men quit playing with the bones and started yelling for the nice lady. Pretty soon she came and got me.

What a nice day.

*(Sugar is a parrott living with his master, John,. John and Sugar reside on Water Street in 1790 Virginia. John is a 'factor', an import/export agent that arranges for purchases and sales between the newly independent colonies and England. He visits the waterfront docks daily.)*



### **Reminder:**

#### **Memberships**

Due to liability concerns of the corporation, your membership **must be current** in order to participate in any events the group is asked to do.

## Gaspée Incident

As a result of the hated Navigation Acts, the Crown launched a plan to curtail smuggling in the colonies. One such boat detailed to watch for smugglers was the sloop Gaspée commanded by British Navy Lieutenant William Dudingston. He was overzealous in his prosecution efforts. Assigned to the Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island region, he had been battling Newport's captains and crews for some time. The local merchants complained of his actions and methods to no avail. Dudingston was stopping all sorts of vessels, even small boats merely headed for market. Whenever challenged, he refused to show his authorization papers, and when he found smuggled goods he sent them to Boston, even though the law required the shipowner to be tried in the colony where his goods were confiscated.

Protests were at such a high pitch that Rhode Island's governor sent his sheriff to summon Lt. Dudingston and demanded to see his authorization. Unfortunately for the governor, the Lieutenant's commander, Rear Admiral Montagu, was just as obstinate as Dudingston and warned the governor never to send his sheriff on board one of His Majesty's ships again! He told the governor that he had heard rumors of Newport mariners fitting out armed vessels to confront the Gaspée and warned the governor that any who tried would be hanged as pirates.

About noon on June 9th in 1772, Captain Benjamin Lindsey sailed his sloop out of the harbor at Newport with the Gaspée in chase. As each vessel tried to outmaneuver the other, the Gaspée hit a bar and became grounded. Lindsey escaped and the Gaspée would have to await the midnight tide.

Upon his arrival at Providence, Lindsey spread the happy news of the Gaspée's distress. A group formed rapidly to take final action on the Gaspée and its harassing captain. Eight longboats were quickly manned and rowed quietly to the stranded Gaspée. As they neared, the Gaspée called "Who's there?" One of the protesters replied that he was the sheriff and had a warrant for the Lieutenant's arrest. A shot rang out, the Lieutenant fell wounded, and the men quickly boarded the Gaspée and captured her crew.

A medical student in the boarding party, John Mawney, bandaged the bleeding officer and his actions saved the young Lieutenant's life. The crew was removed and the ship burned. Lt. Dudingston and his crew would no longer harass the local area.

Despite their efforts, the Crown never identified any of the boarders and eventually dropped the incident, much to the dismay of local Crown administrators and loyalists. However the colonists did not let it fade from memory. Rather they used it to promote a plan of action. It was this incident that the Virginia House of Burgesses used to call for the establishment of a committee of correspondence and urged the other colonies to do the same, that they might keep one another informed of their constitutional concerns. They heeded the call and committees sprang up throughout the colonies eventually leading to the establishment of a Continental Congress and independence.

Sources:

"The Encyclopedia of Colonial and Revolutionary America", John Faragher, ed.

"Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution", A.J. Langguth.

## Woodford (con't)

Returning home at age 27, he decided to settle down. On June 26, 1762, he married Miss Mary Thornton (b. 1744), daughter of John and Mildred Thornton. Mary was a distant cousin of George Washington (her grandmother Mildred was Augustine's sister). William and Mary had two sons, John Thornton (b. 1763) and William Catesby (b. 1768). (There is a locket containing some of William's red and Mary's black hair at the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters in Washington D.C.) He also decided to get involved with business in town and public responsibilities. By 1764 he was a Caroline Justice and it's Col. of Militia (appointed in '62) in addition to being a planter (inheriting Windsor following his father's death). He served in both capacities until the outbreak of the Revolution. (He carried on in the steps of his father who also served as Caroline Col. of Militia from 1738 until his death.)

Additionally he was a Vestryman at St. Mary's in Caroline from 1763-75. It appears that his relationship with George Weedon remained close for in 1768 when his horse was lost, William placed an ad in the Virginia Gazette asking for return of his horse to him at Windsor or in care of "George Weedon in Fredericksburg." Additionally, Woodford was a frequent customer at Weedon's tavern (especially liking cards and billiards) and purchased much of his meat from Weedon. Like many of the new gentry of the area, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge (again with Weedon, Washington, Fielding Lewis, Hugh Mercer, Charles Dick and others).

It appears that William was interested in brewing and opened a brewery in town as early as 1764. He expanded its operation with the purchase of the Bloomery. The Bloomery was a local industrial furnace at the lower end of Fredericksburg (on Sophia St. just above City Docks). He purchased it with his brother-in-law John Thornton in 1773. It had been built by Benjamin Grymes, Roger Dixon, Pressley Thornton, and William Fitzhugh. He added a partner in one Joseph Jones. After a year they sold the building but kept the business going, now as "Fredericksburg Brewery." In 1777 he added George Thornton, his wife's double first cousin (George's and Mary's parents were brothers/sisters!) Woodford sold his interest in '79 and apparently lost money in the venture. This was not the norm, as John Mercer said in a letter to his son, "As you know how much our ordinaries abound and daily increase (for drinking will continue longer than anything but eating)."

His two partners were interesting in their own right. Jones was the uncle of James Monroe, his sister being the wife of Spence Monroe. More important to the times, he was a member of the House of Burgesses (1772-75) and the Continental Congress (77-78 and 80-83). Jones was married to Mary Taliaferro, cousin of Mary Woodford. He lived in Fredericksburg at 301 Caroline St. The house still stands. Following the revolution he was a Judge and a Major General in the Virginia State Militia. James Monroe and his wife lived with him while Monroe was Commonwealth Attorney in Fredericksburg.

George Thornton was a trustee in Fredericksburg and a Captain of Militia for Spotsylvania Co. Following his death, his widow (Mary) married a Rev War veteran, Col. Thomas Posey – destined to be a Major General, US Senator and Territorial Governor!

In the 70's, George Washington got legislation approved for bounty land for veterans of the French & Indian War. Although there is no record of Woodford receiving land, it is possible that he sold his bounty and put the money into the brewery.

In June, 1774, as things were heating up in the Colonies, Woodford was appointed to the Committee of Correspondence for Fredericksburg and Caroline County. Fielding Lewis was appointed Chairman. (The others were: Charles Dick, Charles Mortimer, Charles Washington, James Duncanson, William Porter, George Thornton, and Charles Yates.) Things then started moving fast.

In the spring of 1775 Governor Dunmore dissolved the House of Burgesses so the members formed their own "Virginia Convention" in Williamsburg's Raleigh Tavern and approved the organizing of three regiments of infantry. At the end of the first vote for the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Mercer led by one vote but had no majority so a run off was made with Patrick Henry winning. (Henry would not last long in his new position as the Convention later voted him as the first Governor of Virginia) The 2<sup>nd</sup> was offered to Thomas Nelson, but who declined and the convention offered it to Woodford with Scott as his Lt Col. At that point they decided not to raise a 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment but voted for funds for Fredericksburg for the establishment of a manufactory of arms to make gun barrels, ramrods, and other equipment. Henry was obviously a political choice as he had no military experience. Woodford was a seasoned military veteran. It is obvious that the distinguished member of the convention, Edmond Pendleton of Caroline Co. had something to do with the nominations and elections.

In October, the Virginia Committee of Safety ordered Woodford and his 2<sup>nd</sup> VA to Norfolk to keep a close eye on the now former Gov. Lord Dunmore who had the Virginia armory raided and left with a great deal of gunpowder. On Dec., 9<sup>th</sup>, the two forces met in battle at Great Bridge, VA with Woodford's men forcing Dunmore to retreat to his anchored fleet in the Chesapeake.

The following July he was ordered with the 3<sup>rd</sup> VA (commanded by Hugh Mercer with Weedon as his Lt Col) to rid Gwynn's Island (at the mouth of the Rappahannock) of the British.

1776 was not a good year for Woodford. In February his command became part of the Continental Army along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> VA. In April the commander position was vacant in the 5<sup>th</sup> VA. In June, command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> was vacant with the promotion of Mercer to Brigadier General. Scott and Weedon were appointed Colonels of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. In September Adam Stephens was appointed a Brigadier. Woodford was furious and resigned his Continental commission. (Vanity over seniority were to plague Washington as he attempted to build an army with so many prima-donnas. He had his hands more than full trying to reason with them to put the value of Liberty over personal acclaim. Some did, others didn't.)

## Woodford (con't)

Over the fall and winter Washington was able to win over Woodford and coaxed him back into the army. In February 1777, Congress appointed Brigadier Generals and Woodford was at the bottom of the Virginians owing to the fact that he had resigned his commission. Again he was ready to resign but at Washington's urging he remained as a Brigade commander. The other Virginians were (in order of seniority): Muhlenberg, Scott, and Weedon.

At home, his brewery partner, Joseph Jones had duties in the Continental Congress to take care of so it was decided to sell the brewery. George Thornton took over the helm in April, 1777.

In May, Col. Daniel Morgan and his riflemen joined Woodford's brigade. That's the high point of the '77 campaign season. He led his 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Brigade at the losses of Brandywine and Germantown. During the winter of 77-78 the army encamped at Valley Forge. Woodford established his headquarters at Samuel Richards' "Brookvale Farm". In correspondence we see that his own orderly Sergeant identifies the General in his own diary as "beau" Woodford indicating he considered him something of a "dandy".

Seniority was again to raise its ugly head in the spring of '78. Congress decided to act and settle the issue of rank of generals once and for all. Naturally they couldn't make the decision easily. They formed a committee to come to Valley Forge and interview everyone involved and finally directed Washington to regulate the rank of generals Arnold, Woodford and Scott. It was probably an agonizing decision but they came to a conclusion, passed it to Congress who approved it. The result: Woodford was reinstated as the senior Virginia Brigadier followed by Muhlenberg, Scott and Weedon. In the ensuing temper flare-ups Weedon and all four of his Colonels resigned (including Morgan). Congress allowed them to "retire" and promised they would have their rank if they were recalled. Of local interest, Major Benjamin Day was noted as the general's aide-de-camp.

The summer of '78 did bring merit to both Woodford and the army. On June 28, Washington's army collided with the British at Monmouth, N.J. Here Woodford led his brigade in the last attack of the battle. The attackers were recalled by Washington owing to the fact that he had secured the victory and the men were dropping like flies from heat exhaustion in the humid conditions as the temperature broke the 100 mark!

The winter of 78-79 was spent at Morristown, NJ. In November the general's old friend John Thornton died naming Woodford as administrator. Much of the winter was spent in Fredericksburg attending to these duties. He rejoined his command in March, 1779.

In December, Washington ordered Woodford to take the Virginia "division" to relieve Major General Lincoln at Charleston, now under siege. His troops traveled by ship from the Philadelphia area to Williamsburg and then marched the remaining 500 miles in 30 days arriving just before Clinton's main British force. Woodford himself spent some time in Fredericksburg finalizing his administrator duties and seeing his family (for what would be the last time). He and his troops arrived in Charleston on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, it was too

little and too late. Lincoln was forced to surrender on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 1780. Woodford was confined to a prison ship and went to New York harbor.

The general's health had been deteriorating for the past year or so and now confined to the ship he went downhill fast and died on Nov 13, 1780. He was buried with full military honors by his captives at Trinity Church in New York City. The exact grave is unknown.

He lived life to the fullest, and died a patriot. Husband, father, community leader, and military hero – he was all this and more; let us not forget this man who helped ensure our Liberty!

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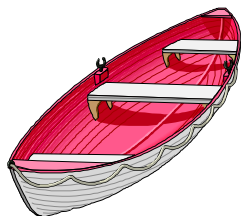
## NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

In order to produce a good newsletter, accurate and in a timely manner, please try to use these guidelines.

1. Our time period and location is 18th Century Virginia with our area of concentration Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River Valley. The Rappahannock River Valley covers from the ford of the Rappahanock and Rapidan Rivers down to the Chesapeake Bay. Our particular interests lie in the areas of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George, and Caroline counties.
2. Any member may, and **is encouraged to**, submit article(s) for publication. The newsletter is distributed to and read by people with varying degrees of expertise. Some of us are not as well versed on Colonial life and times as others, so in order to be as accurate as possible, please check your facts prior to submitting an article.
3. Sources/references **must be given** for factual information. This enables the reader to go to the original source for more information, gives credit to the source, and also lets the editor of the newsletter off the hook if the information is challenged. This includes information from the internet. If you write to someone for permission to reprint and receive it, I would appreciate a copy for my files.
4. Opinions of the writer must be clearly identified as such.
5. The newsletter is published every other month in January, March, May, July, September, and November. My target date to have the newsletter published is the 15th of those months. In order to do that I will need any submissions by the 8th of the month. You may mail to the PO Box, or email me at [<MyraWig@aol.com>](mailto:MyraWig@aol.com).
6. The editor has the final say on content, format and deadlines. I try to keep the newsletter to 12 pages for postage. If I receive several articles and we also have a good bit of news to go into the newsletter, it may be necessary for me to edit, publish as a two part article or use it in the following month's publication.
7. If you have an idea for an article but don't have the time, resources, etc. to write it yourself, we have someone who is willing to do the research and write the article.

## Boat Committee

Al Piercey



There were several forms and names of transport vessels in the 18th century and in their ignorance most people would call them all ships. Ships were three masted & square rigged and were commonly used to cross the Atlantic because the crossing was done with the wind from behind. This was the most efficient with the smallest crew. The wind blew from East to West in the more southerly latitudes and from West to East in the more northerly latitudes. On the other hand, if a ship were designed as a North-South sailer, which could be a coaster or a vessel dealing with the Carribbean trade, then a vessel would more often be rigged fore and aft. If multi-masted it would be called a schooner, or a smaller single-masted vessel would be called a sloop or a cutter. There were many forms of vessels between these extremes that were custom made for a certain need that combined different combinations for fore and aft and square rigging that included such names as bark, brig, barkinteen, briginteen, hermaphrodite brig and tops'1 schooner which included a variety of masts and rigging and hull shapes. If a place name were attached to a rigging type, for instance, a Baltimore schooner, it would tell you more details about the vessel. Baltimore schooners were very fast coasters and were much desired as privateers (or pirates). If someone needed a new vessel there would be innumerable questions asked about the plans for the vessel; hull shapes, planned routes, depth of harbor and the approaches to the harbor, etc. It was not a simple decision and there were always give and takes.



### Claude Moore Farm

#### CLOTHING INFORMATION SESSION

To help those who want to make their own 18th-century clothing, the Farm will offer a Clothing Information Session on Monday, April 9, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.. This session will cover the basic required clothing items such as shifts, petticoats and aprons. You will be able to examine clothing, trace patterns, ask questions, and purchase fabric. If you plan to attend, please

RSVP to Rachel at 703-442-7557

## Coffee, anyone?

The below written by John Adams in his diary, at the city of New York in August, 1774, en route as a member of the Massachusetts committee to the first Continental Congress to be held starting on September 1, 1774, in Philadelphia.

22. Monday... This morning we took Mr. McDougall into our coach, and rode three miles out of town to Mr. Morin Scott's to breakfast—a very pleasant ride. Mr. Scott has an elegant seat there, with Hudson's River just behind the house, and a rural prospect all around him. Mr. Scott, his lady and daughter, and her husband, Mr. Litchfield, were dressed to receive us. We sat in a fine airy entry till called into a front room to breakfast. A more elegant breakfast I never saw—rich plate, a very large silver coffee-pot, a very large silver tea-pot, napkins of the very finest materials, toast, and bread and butter in great perfection. After breakfast a plate of beautiful peaches, another of pears, and another of plums, and a muskmelon were placed on the table....

23. Tuesday.... Went to the Coffee House and saw the Virginia Paper; the spirit of the people is prodigious; their resolutions are really grand. We then went to Mr. Peter Vanbrugh Livingston's, where, at three o'clock, we dined with Scott, McDougall, Philip Livingston, Mr. Thomas Smith and a young gentleman, son of Mr. Peter Livingston. Smith and young Livingston seem to be modest, decent and sensible men.

The way we have been in, of breakfasting, dining, drinking coffee, etc., about the city, is very disagreeable on some accounts. Although it introduces us to the acquaintance of many respectable people here, yet it hinders us from seeing the college, the churches, the printers' offices and booksellers' shops, and many other things which we should choose to see.

With all the opulence and splendor of this city, there is very little good breeding to be found. We have been treated with an assiduous respect; but I have not seen one real gentleman, one well-bred man, since I came to town. At their entertainments there is no conversation that is agreeable; there is no modesty, no attention to one another. They talk very loud, very fast, and all together. If they ask you a question, before you can utter three words of your answer they will break out upon you again, and talk away.

-ADAMS, *ed.*, *Works of John Adams, II*, 340-353, *passim*

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# JENNY'S JOURNAL

Jenny Washington

17—

Dearest Friend,

Good day to you. Tis a Thursday night and I just found you. Corbin had tucked you away in his love pouch. His love pouch is a little pouch of his he likes to collect stones and shells in. Mama saw it in there and took it out.

Oh, guess what happened! I went to a ball on Saturday night. Twas a big ball in honor of Uncle George. There were many people there - Someone said over 130 people. The terrible thing is that Uncle George could not attend because Patsy had another of her spells. I like Patsy, but tis just that she is always ruining things! Every time something like this comes up, she is always pulling one of those little stunts! I was so disappointed they could not come but I had a good time anyway!

There was this one lady who had on a lavender gown with little roses all over it. Mama and Grandmama fell in love with it! All the ladies wore such pretty dresses. I just wish the milliner had finished making mine. Grandmama thought I would have been the belle of the ball. Bushrod thought that was very funny and laughed. He thinks I am just a tomboy who likes to swim, fish and ride. He is at college now and thinks he is very important. I guess I could say I find it an honor to have my brother at William and Mary, and we all miss him.

The morning went by slowly though. All I did was sit and sew, sit and sew, and I cannot bring myself to tell Mama I am tired of sitting and sewing. I love to play the harpsichord, but tis not the same when Bushrod is not here to play his violin.

This afternoon, I was outside picking some flowers with Corbin and I saw Papa with a new horse! He has just purchased a fine young gelding for me! But, please understand - I will never give up on Charelston. He is my one and only. I love him so much. The new horse is a Thoroughbred and has very fine bloodlines. We gave him the new name "General". Papa almost wished he was not a Gelded horse because with his lines and structure he would, most certainly, have produced a good crop of foals in the spring.

Corbin sat, for the first time, on his new pony Reddie. Reddie is a roan mare and is very pretty. She has a row of dots going down each side of her neck and over her haunches. Today we put Papa's new draft horses to the carriage. Once or twice they bucked and reared but no harm was done.

Well tis time for me to be getting to bed  
Goodnight, Friend—

Yr  
Faithful servant.

Jenny Washington.

## Alum Springs Duels

*taken from Alum Spring Park - A History  
by Robert Hodge*

When writing of his travels in Virginia in the summer of 1791, the Frenchman Ferdinand M. Bayard noted the Americans were imprudent imitators of the English, especially in regards to dueling with pistols. There was much talk of a recent one and he thought it strange the magistrates did not prosecute these violators of the law.

The timing and place of his writing make it likely he was referring to the duel of two Fredericksburg business men the year before which had taken place at Alum Spring. By reconciling the account of the duel as recorded by Robert Reid Howison from published portions of his autobiography with a letter of 3 April 1790 from Henry Lee to James Madison and identified Spotsylvania court records, the events may have been as follows.

In or about March of 1790 the members of the Masonic Lodge #4 of Fredericksburg gave a large and brilliant ball. Among those in attendance were members William Glassell and Robert Ritchie.

William Glassell, a native of Scotland, was a successful merchant and respected citizen who had married a sister of Anthony Buck, the latter a highly esteemed auctioneer in the town. Glassell had escorted to the ball a young, attractive and respected orphan girl who was living in his home.

Mr. Ritchie was originally from Essex county down the river from Fredericksburg, but doing business in town. He was not married. During the course of the evening at the Masonic Ball, and somewhat under the influence of wine, Ritchie offered a distinct insult to Glassell's young guest, then refused to make a suitable apology when called upon to do so.

Glassell sent a formal challenge which Ritchie accepted, choosing pistols as the weapons and Alum Spring as the place. Ritchie, knowing Glassell to be an excellent marksman, was concerned enough over the event to make his will which was dated 27 March 1790 and if probated, left all his legacy to his sister, Elenora.

William Glassell had second thoughts and through friends, attempted to get Ritchie to reconsider. Ritchie refused and the duel took place on the pathway along the Alum Spring right in front of the clear mill pond.

At first shot, Ritchie fell to the ground. Glassell hurried to his side and implored forgiveness, which was refused.

After Ritchie's death, a murder warrant was issued. Glassell was arrested and taken before a magistrate, but was acquitted.

Benjamin Henry Latrobe visited Alum Spring on 24 July 1796. He described the rock ledge as a freestone (sandstone) of coarse grit with a great quantity of quartz and granite pebbles. He noted the petrified wood fossils and the holes and impressions of the former carbonized wood now weathered away. Mention was made of the edges of the rock being coated with crystals of alum and he described the whole "situation as beautifully romantic."

The end of the year 1803 was a time of another tragedy at Alum Spring—the Thornton-Conway duel.

William Thornton was born 24 September 1772 at a Stafford County farm downriver from Fredericksburg and nearly opposite "Nottingham", the home of John Spotswood. William's father, John Thornton, had died and his mother, Catherine, had married Dr. Robert Wellford whose home at 1501 Caroline St. in Fredericksburg still stands.

The 21 year old William had a cousin, Francis Fitzhugh Conway of nearly the same age. The Conways were reported to be a prominent Caroline County family living at Mount Zion.

These two cousins were each attracted to a young niece of James Madison (the man who would in 1808 become the 4th President of the United States). Miss Nellie Madison was a Christmas holiday guest at Chatham in this year of 1803. She was most likely a friend of William Fitzhugh's 20 year old daughter, Ann Randolph, called Nancy, who for two years had been Mrs. William Craik and/or the guest of 15 year old Mary Lee (Mollie) Fitzhugh.

The two cousins, William and Francis, arrived at the Chatham festivities on horseback and their horses were stabled. Francis had adorned his horse with a brand new handsome bridle (a Christmas gift?) and during the evening made veiled references to Miss Nellie as to the "surprise" he would reveal later that evening (hoping, of course, to win her favor!)

Unfortunately, when departure time came and Francis was primed to "show off", the groom had switched bridles on the horses and it was William's horse that made the greatest impression on Miss Nellie.

The hurting Francis accused William of having bribed the groom. The denial simply aggravated the argument and the end result was a challenge to a pistol duel to take place at the Alum Spring Mill site.

The parents were not made aware of the impending duel, but on that Monday morning at the breakfast table Mrs. Conway was distressed as she recounted a dream in which she vividly saw a man on a white horse hastening to her house with a message that her son was dead.

On that same morning, William Thornton, with his half brother, John Spotswood Wellford serving as his second, and Francis Fitzhugh Conway met on the narrow pathway between the Alum Spring and the mill pond. At the word "fire" both shots sounded almost simultaneously and each bullet passed through the region of the bladder in each combatant.

Thornton was able to ride back to Fredericksburg where Dr. Wellford apprehended the wound would be fatal and death occurred on Tuesday at the same hour that Francis died.

And on that Tuesday afternoon, a man riding a white horse rode up to the home of Francis Conway and informed his mother of her son's death.

The *Virginia Herald* of 17 February 1804 carried a notice that a brace of brass-barrelled pistols was found near the alum Springs and could be claimed from William or John Rutter