



# THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



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

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## **The Founding of Fredericksburg**

*by Trip Wiggins*

In 1608 – only a year after the establishment of the first permanent English colony at Jamestown – Capt. John Smith sailed up the “Pembroke” river as far as “the falls.” The Pembroke would be renamed the Tappahannock and eventually the Rappahannock, but “the falls” are still “the falls” located just above the US Route 1 bridge in Fredericksburg. What John Smith found was a wilderness populated only by wild animals and a few Indian tribes. That picture would change little over the next 60 years. But, like a glacier, civilization was slowly overtaking the frontier of the colony. Hobb’s Hole (later renamed Tappahannock) – Port Royal – towns were popping up; ever upward and inward the people moved.

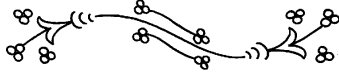
There were many “key” people to the settlement of the region, but prior to 1730 seven or eight individuals stand out from the rest – Royal Lt Gov. Alexander Spotswood, Lawrence Smith, Robert Taliaferro, John Buckner, Thomas Royston, Larkin Chew, William Livingston, and Henry Willis.

To the north of the river in the area of the falls Margaret Brent had patented 1000 acres, but the choice land remained on the southside, below the falls. It was here that Smith and Taliaferro (pronounced Tol’-i-ver) patented over 4000 acres in 1666 running from Snow Creek (on the Spotsy/Caroline line) to just above the mouth of the Massaponax. Later, in 1671, Smith patented for himself another 5000 acres extending from his current joint holdings to just above Hazel Run (modern Wolfe street).

Smith and Taliaferro were from Gloucester county and both were immigrants. Smith was a surveyor of note who would lay out the town of Yorktown in the early 1690s, but now he was acquiring land for himself.

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*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.*



### **2002 RCHS OFFICERS**

- President:** Trip Wiggins  
tripwig@cox.net
- Vice-President:** Al Piercey  
pierceyunderthehill@yahoo.com
- Secretary:** Catherine Bell  
scot.forlife@verizon.net
- Treasurer:** Myra Wiggins  
myrawig@cox.net

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



Hello fellow "time travelers" and Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Night! Another year has come and gone – but oh, what a year it was. So many things took place that I cannot begin to discuss them all in this short message. Hopefully you all received the e-mail (or hardcopy) of our Year in Review. Here are some highlights. People: we grew with new members, while keeping a really dynamic core of the "veterans!" Schools: part of our reason for being. We had too many visits to list (or remember) and it looks busier this coming year – which is a GOOD thing. Events: The Tea, Block Party, Washington's Birthday, Wreath making, the dinner, the Candlelight Tour – it goes on and on. Dance: many excellent practices (including the Minuet) and many well-attended demonstrations and dances. All in all, "It Was a Very Good Year" as the song goes. And without all of you, we couldn't have done it. You have received many and varied well-earned praises from many people in our community. As for me, I humbly thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your President with such a fine board of officers, committee chairs and members. Huzzah to all of YOU.

2003 will pick up just where 2002 left off – with a hectic but exciting schedule, capped off with our participation in the year-long celebration of Fredericksburg's 275th birthday. More festivals, special events and co-hosting a ball! I'm excited – as I hope you are.

As we kick off the 275<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, in the newsletter we thought it proper to discuss the founding of Fredericksburg as our lead article. Then, from the archives, we reproduce the actual Charter that started our community. I hope it will bring some enlightenment to all who read it. We continue with another popular game of the times – this time "All Fours." And we add a new feature - Drinks of the time.

Finally, we hope to see you all at both the events and the monthly meetings and help make this strong community organization even stronger. And a small reminder that it is the start of a new year so the treasury would appreciate you renewing your membership in our society. Without further adieu, let's step back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century!

Trip

### **Election results**

The nominating committee returned a slate as follows:

President	Trip Wiggins
Vice President	Al Piercey
Secretary	Catherine Bell
Treasurer	Myra Wiggins

At the January 7 annual meeting the slate was elected as presented with no nominations from the floor.

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### **TIME TO PAY YOUR 2003 DUES**

**Please take just a moment to send in your dues for next year. Individual dues are \$10.00 and family dues are \$15. A family is defined in our bylaws as "consist of two or more related persons, or members of the same household." We have a lot of fun activities coming up next year and don't want you to miss out on them! This is the 275th anniversary of the signing of the charter for Fredericksburg & Falmouth and we are involved in a lot of things coming up. 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. The address to mail to is PO Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823.**



## EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

Ongoing - Through February 16, 2004. Colonial Williamsburg - DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum. The Language of Clothing showcases Colo-

onial Williamsburg's superb collection of antique clothing, featuring garments ranging from masterpiece court gowns to maternity wear. Discover how clothing offers clues to understanding people of the past.

Ongoing in 2003 - James Madison: Secretary of State in the Age of Expansion and Exploration. Montpelier. Presented in conjunction with 200th anniv. of Lewis & Clark Expedition. January 2-Feb 23. Generations: Costume in Alexandria. Lyceum. Exploration of what clothes can say about a commu-

nity. 18, 19, & 20 century garments. Free. Call 703-838-4994

Jan 19 - Robert E Lee's B'day. Stratford Hall. Regular adm.

Feb 1-28 - African-American Heritage Month. Stratford Hall. View special exhibit of photos commemorating the Payne family, whose enslaved ancestors and their descendants worked at Stratford until 1998.

Feb 1 - Black History Month Program. Geo. Wash. Birthplace Nat. Monument. 2pm. Program featuring music and guest speaker.

Feb 2 & 23 - A "Considerable Force": the Slaves at Gunston Hall. 9:30a-5p. Take part in special tours exploring the lives of slaves of Gunston Hall Plantation.

Feb. 15 - Annual George Washington Birthnight Banquet & Ball. Gadsby's Tavern. Set in the year 1801, you are invited to this fine celebration honoring George Washington. 6:30pm-midnight. \$ Reservations required.

Feb 16 - Ft. Ward: Rev War Re-enactment. Part of Alexandria's George Washington B'day celebration. Free. 10a-2p

Feb 17 - George Washington's B'day (overserved). Geo. Wash. Birthplace Nat. Monument. Free Free Day.

Feb 22 - George Washington's B'day. Geo. Wash. Birthplace Nat. Monument. Free Free Day. Planned activities and farm chores presented by costumed interpreters.

Mar 16 - James Madison B'day celebration. Montpelier. Free admission.

Mar. 22 - Food from the Landscape. Historic Landscape Seminar, Lyceum, Alexandria. Explores the connections between our ancestors' environment and their dining tables. \$ Pre-registration required.

Mar 29 - Open Hearth Cooking Class, Level II. Gunston Hall. 10:30a-4:30p. Advanced level class. Pre requisites are the completion of Level I class or permission from the instructors. \$. Call 703-227-2231. Fills up quickly!

Apr 2 - Claude Moore Colonial Farm Opens for 2003 Season. 10am

Apr 5 or 6 10:30a-3:30p. Gunston Hall. Learn the basics of cooking over an open fire. Eat what you make! Pre reg. required. Call 703-550-9220 \$. Fills up quickly!

Apr 12 - 18th Century Grand Ball - Gadsby's Tavern.

Springtime ball presented in the style of the 1790's. 8-11pm \$

Apr 26 - Gunston Hall. Learn about the fascinating discoveries that have been unearthed in Gunston Hall's formal gardens. 3 Part of Virginia's Historic Garden Week.

## RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY DANCERS



We are looking for people who will be dedicated to coming to rehearsals, 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 Tina Buchanan 898-2113. We rehearse at St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne St. Our next rehearsals are:

January 10 & 24

February 14 & 28

## 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:

Jan. 15 - Educational program at Grymes School in Orange

Feb 22, 2003 - George Washington Birthday Celebration - Ferry Farm

March 29 - March Muster at Market Square (part of 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities)

## <---- 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)

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

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

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

Gadsby's Tavern  
[www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org)

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

## Founding (con't)

Just north of the northern Smith tract was a small 2000 acre patent awarded to Royston and Buckner of Essex Co. (In 1671 all of the modern Spotsylvania county was still Essex, King and Queen, and King William counties.)

In 1676 the Assembly in Williamsburg was getting more concerned about hostile Indian attacks along the Rappahannock (remember Bacon's Rebellion?) so authorized a fort above the existing one at Corotoman, Robert "King" Carter's home. The fort was to be placed in the vicinity of "the falls." Phillip Ludwell was appointed Colonel with our friend Lawrence Smith appointed Major, who – it appears – actually ran the fort's operations for its short life. (Some say Smith was appointed Major and the fort was placed on his land for his service to the Crown in the late Nathaniel Bacon rebellion.) The fort was located approximately where the Country Club now resides.

Our next character is Alexander Spotswood – Royal Lt. Gov. of the Virginia colony, arrived in 1710. He was a military man who gave up his career to take the job of running the colony. He was a strong-willed Scotsman who was determined to bring distinction to the name of Spotswood.

Arriving in Virginia after a 4-year period with no Royal Governor in-residence he had his hands full with regaining power for the Crown from the wealthy land owners (Carter, Ludwell, and others). He was also one of Virginia's first entrepreneurs. While touring the frontier (a favorite pastime) he discovered an iron ore deposit on the south side of the Rapidan river and secretly acquired the land. He and his partners brought over German miners to work the land and Germanna was founded. By 1720 he had his Germanna mine and Tubal Furnace (off Rt 620 in Spotsy. County) in full operation. But he wanted more land, so he secretly crafted a bill to ostensibly create two new counties for the protection of the colony from the Indians to the west. They had inducements for able-bodied settlers including: no land acquisition limits and no taxes on the land for 7 years. To mask the area he was really interested in, he created two counties widely separated. In the south it was Brunswick county – named in honor of the land where the Hanovers lived in Europe. In the north, it was Spotsylvania county, named after the Spotswoods and the ONLY county in the colony NOT named after the Monarchy family. ("Sylvania" is Latin for "woods.")

It passed easily in 1721 and Spotswood and other land speculators jumped in buying up all they could get. By 1722 Spotswood owned 85,000 acres connecting his iron mines all the way down to his wharf at the mouth of the Massaponax on the Rappahannock. (That land had been Lawrence Smith's, passed on to his son, Augustine, who was a close ally of Spotswood.) He controlled the region. Naturally the county court house and the church were located at Germanna, the now *former-Governor's* home.

Elected as a burgess for the new county in 1722 were two men not particularly close to Spotswood. His power was starting to fade. Francis Thornton was a large landowner in Caroline and Spotsylvania counties who paid no allegiance to Spotswood. Also elected was Larkin Chew, former Spotswood ally, but who now was his staunchest opponent. While Spotswood built his empire, it was the citizens of the county

who paid the price. While all the good roads connected the county seat (and Spotswood's home and mine) to the river (at Spotswood's wharf at the mouth of the Massaponax), there were few improvements anywhere else in the county. And since the bulk of the population was far removed from Germanna, even going to church or court was a real problem. The people disliked Spotswood, but no one dared to take him on – except Larkin Chew.

Not wishing the whole county's economy controlled by Spotswood who owned the ONLY wharf, Chew presented a plan to "pre empt" his Massaponax holdings, declare them "public domain" and establish a town there for the good of the county. Chew was still new to politics, and Spotswood had out guessed him so offered his own plan for a town on the Lease Lands of Royston and Buckner. After all, no one lived there and there was no wharf or roads. He had his man, Augustine Smith, present the petition to the county who had no choice but to "certify" both plans as they were barred from selecting one over the other. Then both were forwarded to Williamsburg for action, or no action. Spotswood felt he had won. Either no action would occur by the House of Burgesses, in which case his wharf would dominate the region, or the Lease Lands would be picked for the town site and since the site was an uninhabited area, he would still control the region from his road and wharf. The Assembly, as anticipated, did nothing.

Unfortunately for the former Governor, life had taken a turn against him in 1722. First, many of his land acquisitions were questioned, as was his treatment of his German workers, the buildings of the church and court house were unfinished, and he had been awarded 1000 pounds for arms and ammunition for the defense of the frontier and neither arms or money was to be seen. His power was draining and he went to London to regain his good name and reputation.

By 1727, Spotsylvania county was really growing. Chew again petitioned to move the Court House to the south end of the county which was again rejected. Also a new Governor (Gooch) had arrived on the scene and new elections for burgesses were scheduled. Winning the election were Augustine Smith and newcomer Henry Willis.

Willis had also come from Gloucester county where he had been a burgess (and his brother still was one) and moved to Spotsy in 1728. On Mar. 8, 1728 a reading was made of a bill to make a town of the Lease Land (no mention of Massaponax) site. Augustine Smith was so confident of the outcome that he didn't even attend the readings. It passed and was signed by the Governor on March 30. The Lease Land was now Fredericksburg. Spotswood's machine had prevailed. There would be a town but he would still rule the county with his road and wharf as the town lay empty.

Not quite empty. William Livingston and his wife Susannah had leased 50 acres from Royston/Buckner and as of 1726 were operating a small farm in the area across from the current "Barefoot Green's" on Lots 27 & 28 on Amelia Street. Livingston had been the owner and manager of the first theater in Williamsburg, but had gone bankrupt in 1723

## Founding (con't)

and somehow landed up here on the banks of the Rappahannock. In 1727 he was running an ordinary that his wife would continue running after his death in 1729. In that year Susannah also opened a "public roleing house" on lots 29 and 31 (a tobacco warehouse). Fredericksburg now had one real resident, a rolling house and an ordinary. Willis next jumped in with a tavern of his own and a ferry at the foot of Wolfe street. Additionally he was appointed by the Assembly in 1730 to be the tobacco inspector. Tobacco was the currency of the colony. More and more planters were growing "2<sup>nd</sup>" inferior crops. The first crop was sold at market while the 2<sup>nd</sup> was used to pay the Crown's taxes and the church, and the Crown was fed up with this practice. To combat it, they appointed inspectors to ensure that the tobacco was prime for both market and the Crown.

Henry Willis saw all of this and saw the possibilities, and got himself appointed as the official inspector for Fredericksburg. There was NO station assigned to Massaponax. Spotswood's political abilities failed him here and never again would he be the power of the region.

Willis' and Livingston's businesses were a small step, but a crucial one. Fredericksburg was the Crown's official inspection station and with two ordinaries and a ferry it was moving the center of commerce away from the Massaponax wharf. It would be many more years before you could actually call it a town, but it was off and running.

For more read:

Forgotten Companions, Paula Felder  
History of Fredericksburg, Alvin Embry

## COLONIAL FREDERICKSBURG FACTS

**March 30, 1727/8** - House of Burgesses establishes the town of Fredericksburg on the Royston-Buckner tract

**Dec. 10, 1710** - Royal Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood is appointed

**Aug. 13, 1728** - George Homes made first survey of Fredericksburg and lays out original 64 lots

**1742** - Ordinary license to: Charles Colson, John Doncastle, Joseph Bell, Joseph Colvert, Patrick Dowdall, and John Gordon. Most ordinary owners were also employed by the town - as constable, gaoler, keeper of the streets (in need of constant repair)



## AMERICAN HISTORY TIDBITS



**1775** - First Pianoforte made in America, by John Behrent in Philadelphia

**Feb 27, 1773** - Christ Church in Alexandria, VA completed after 6 years of extravagant construction at total cost of \$4070

**1765** - Colonial curriculum for wealthy young Southerners described by William Kean, director of Queen Anne County School in Queen Anne County Virginia. He instructed "in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, the Grecian and Roman Histories and Antiquities....reading, writing, arithmetic-vulgar, decimal, and duodecimal-geometry, planometry, trigonometry, surveying, gauging, Italian bookkeeping, navigation and the proportions of the horizontal dials."

**1714** - Tea introduced to colonies. Favorite non-alcoholic drink of colonists, however, was chocolate. Coffee was also drunk infrequently. But favorite beverage was still rum in New England and beer in middle colonies. Of wines Madeira took first place, followed by canary, claret, Burgundy, port, brandy, and champagne. Use of tea, cocoa and coffee was a direct result of the new era of European expansion. Cocoa, with sugar and vanilla added, was introduced as a European beverage by Cortes in 1520, after cacao beans were discovered by the Spanish in Mexico. Coffee came to Europe by way of Turkey and was introduced in England in 1652 by a trader named Edward. First English reference to tea was in a letter, dated 1615, kept by the East India Company, and the forerunner of the teashop appeared in 1657. The colonists were not far behind the Europeans in adopting these fashionable light drinks.



The Orange County Historical Society is embarking on the mission of inventorying and cataloguing all the "goodies" in their vault. Anyone who might be interested in helping with this worthwhile project, email Mary - [maryq@summit.net](mailto:maryq@summit.net) or Tina - [purrs4me@wwlnk.net](mailto:purrs4me@wwlnk.net); or call Tina at 540-898-2113.



As you read of the bickering and politics that went into the founding of our fair community, it's nice to read the actual words of its founding penned by our members of the General Assembly in the House of Burgesses. No, it isn't a Declaration of Independence. It's a practical bill that had to be presented and approved at three sessions of the Assembly before it could be enacted. Just the facts – but these facts help us to paint a picture of this wilderness that was to turn into a thriving Northern Virginia community.

When it was first drafted, there was talk of founding a town at the mouth of the Massaponax or one on the “Lease Lands.” By the time it actually got to the Assembly, Alexander Spotswood's man (Augustine Smith) had the Massaponax site removed from the legislation as he didn't think that, even if approved, anyone would actually move and settle here on the “Lease Lands,” and so tobacco farmers would still have to bring their tobacco to the only wharf in the region - at the mouth of the Massaponax which was owned by his benefactor, the ex-governor. Well, things don't always work out as planned for today Fredericksburg is a bustling center of commerce and the mouth of the Massaponax is still, well, the mouth of the Massaponax.

Sit back and soak up what was said to begin the story of our community.

## **An Act for erecting a Town in each of the Counties of Spotsylvania and King George.**

I. WHEREAS great number of people have of late seated themselves and their families upon and near the river Rapahannock, and the branches thereof, above the falls; and great quantities of tobacco and other commodities, are every year brought down to the upper landings upon the said river, to be shipped off and transported to other parts of the country; and it is necessary, that the poorer part of the said inhabitants should be supplied from thence, with goods and merchandise, in return for their commodities; but for want of some convenient place, where traders may co-habit, and bring their goods to, such supplies are not to be had, without great disadvantages; and good houses are greatly wanted, upon some navigable part of the said river, near the falls, for the reception and safekeeping of such commodities as are brought thither; and for the entertainment and sustenance of those who repair thither from remote places, with carriages drawn by horses or oxen: And forasmuch as the inhabitants of the county of Spotsylvania, have made humble supplication to this general assembly, that a town may be laid out, in some convenient place, near the falls of the said river, for the cohabitation of such as are minded to reside there, for the purposes aforesaid, whereby the peopling that remote part of the country will be encouraged, and trade and navigation may be increased:

II. Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Burgesses, of this present General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, That within six months after the passing of this act, fifty acres of land, parcel of a tract of land belonging to John Royston, and Robert Buckner, of the County of Gloucester, situate, lying, and being upon the south side of the river Rappahannock, aforesaid, in the county of Spotsylvania, commonly called or known by the name of the Lease-Land, shall be surveyed and laid out, taking the whole breadth of the said tract of land, upon the river, by the surveyer of the said County of Spotsylvania; and the said fifty acres of land, so to be surveyed and laid out, shall be and is hereby vested in John Robinson, esq. Henry Willis, Augustine Smith, John Taliaferro, Harry Beverly, John Waller, and Jeremiah Clowder, of the county of Spotsylvania, gentlemen, and their successors, in trust, for the several purposes hereafter mentioned; and the said John Robinson, Henry Willis, Augustine Smith, John Taliaferro, Harry Beverly, John Waller, and Jeremiah Clowder, are hereby constituted and appointed directors and trustees, for designing, building, carrying on, and maintaining a town upon the said land. And the said directors and trustee, or any four of them, shall have power to meet as often as they shall think necessary; and shall lay out the said fifty acres in lots and streets, not exceeding half an acre of ground in each lot; and also to set apart such portions of the said land for a church and church-yard, a market place, and public key, and to appoint such places upon the river for public landings, as they shall think most convenient; and if the same shall be necessary, shall direct the making and erecting of wharfs and cranes, at such public landings, for the public use; And when the said town shall be laid out, the said directors and trustees, shall have full power and authority, to sell all the said lots by public sale or auction, from time to time, to the highest bidder, so as no person shall have more than two lots. And when such lots shall be sold, any two of the said trustees shall and may, upon payment of the purchase money, by some sufficient conveyance or conveyances, convey the fee-simple estate of such lot or lots, to the purchaser or purchasers; and he or they, or his or their heirs and assigns, respectively, shall and may forever thereafter peaceably and quietly have, hold, possess, and enjoy the same, freed and discouraged or and from all right, title, estate, claim, interest, and demand whatsoever, of the said John Royston, and Robert Buckner, and the heirs and assigns of them, respectively, and of all persons whatsoever, claiming by, from, or under them, or either of them.

III. Provided nevertheless, That the said directors and trustees, shall pay or cause to be paid, unto the said John Royston, and Robert Buckner, out of the money to be raised by the sale of the said lots, as soon as the same shall be by them received, after the rate of forty shillings for every acre of the said fifty acres of land, according to the right which the said John Royston, and Robert Buckner, now respectively have to the same; And the John Royston, and Robert Buckner, shall also have each of them two lots, which shall be assigned to them by the said directors and trustees, and they shall respectively remain seized of such lots of the same estate, whereof they were respectively seized in the said land, before the making of this act.

IV. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That after the said lots shall be laid out and disposed of, as aforesaid, the said directors, or any four of them shall have full power and authority, to apply all the over-plus money, which shall be raised by the sale of the said lots, to such public use, for the common benefit of the inhabitants of the said town, as to them shall seem best.

V. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the grantee or grantees of every such lot or lots, so to be conveyed and sold to the said town, shall within two years next after the date of the conveyance for the same, erect, build and finish, on each lot so conveyed, one house, of brick, stone, or of wood, well framed of the dimensions of twenty foot square, and nine foot pitch at the least, or proportionably thereto, if such grantee shall have two lots contiguous: And the said directors shall have full power and authority to establish such rules and orders, for the more regular placing the said houses, as to them shall seem fit, from time to time. And if the owner of any lots shall fail to pursue and comply with the directions herein prescribed, for the building and finishing one or more house or houses thereon, then such lots upon which such houses shall not be so built and finished, shall be reverted in the said trustees: and shall and may be sold and conveyed to any person or persons whatsoever, in the manner before directed; and shall revert, and be again sold, as often as the owner or owners shall fail to perform, obey, and fulfil the directions aforesaid: And if the inhabitants of the said town shall fail to obey and pursue the rules and orders of the said directors, in repairing and amending the streets, landings, and public wharfs, they shall be liable to the same penalties as are inflicted for not repairing the highways in this colony.

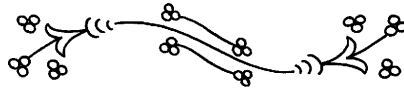
VI. And for the continuing the succession of the said trustees and directors, until the governor of this colony shall incorporate some other persons, by letters patent, under the seal of this colony, to be one body politic and corporate, to whom the government of the said town shall be committed, Be it further enacted, That in case of the death of the said directors, or of their refusal to act, the surviving or other directors, or the major part of them, shall assemble, and are hereby impowered, from time to time, by instrument in writing, under their respective hands and seals, to nominate some other person or persons, being an inhabitant or free-holder of the said town, in the place of him so dying or refusing; which new director or directors, so nominated or appointed, shall from thenceforth have the like power and authority, in all things relating to the matters herein contained, as if he or they had been expressly named and appointed, in and by this act: And every such instrument and nomination shall, from time to time, be recorded in the books of the said directors.

VII. And whereas William Levingston is possessed of a lease under the said John Royston, for certain years to come, of part of the said fifty acres of land, and hath erected buildings, and made several improvements thereon, which will be taken away when the said town shall be laid out: For making satisfaction for which,

VIII. Be it further enacted, That the two lots to be assigned to the said John Royston, pursuant to this act, shall include the dwelling house and kitchen of the said William Levingston, and shall be held and enjoyed by him, for the residue of the said term; and at the expiration thereof, shall revert unto, and be vested in the said John Royston, as aforesaid: And moreover, the said trustees are hereby enjoined and required to pay unto the said William Levingston, the sum of twenty pounds current money, out of the monies arising by sale of lots, as a consideration and competency for the said lease.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the town aforesaid shall be called by the name of Fredericksburg.

taken from History of Fredericksburg, Virginia by Alvin T. Embrey, pg.45-46



## RCHS Christmas Dinner



Those of you who missed our annual Christmas dinner missed a really good time. This year we went to Smythe Cottage on Fauquier Street. This is fun place to be on most any occasion, but we discovered that on certain nights the staff dresses in Colonial attire so naturally, we chose to go then. About 20 of our members attended (most in attire). Great food, drink, and fellowship by all. Make plans to attend next year!



## All Fours

There are many “trick” taking card games. Bridge and Whist (or Whisk) are two of the more commonly known. But this month we’ll focus on a forerunner (first recorded in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century) to that style of play. It is a 2-person card game called “All Fours.” It was played and enjoyed by any and all throughout the many strata of society. All you need is a standard 52-card deck and 2 players. Why the name? It is a game in which you score points in four ways – holding the highest Trump, lowest Trump, Jack of Trump, or collecting Tricks (Game).

First, cut for the deal. High card is the dealer. Deal out 6 cards to each player, 3 at a time per person. The next card is turned up and that suit is Trump. If a Jack is turned up, the dealer gets one point. The other player (Eldest Hand) then examines his cards. If he is satisfied, he says “I Stand” and play begins. If he is not satisfied with them, he declares “I beg.”

If he begs, the dealer then examines his own cards and can either leave things as they are by saying “Take it” (at which time the other player receives a point called a “gift”), or by dealing out three new cards to himself and the other player (“running the cards”), and then turning up a new card for Trump. If the same suit as was previously turned up is again turned up, the dealer deals another three cards to each player and again turns up the Trump card. This continues until a new suit is turned up as Trump. If a Jack of the rejected suit comes up as any of the new Trump cards, the dealer does not get one point. If the deck is exhausted, then the deck is taken up, reshuffled and re-dealt. The Eldest hand may not beg again but must accept the new Trump suit. Then the players take up their hands and discard all but 6 cards.

All Fours is a standard trick-taking game. Aces are high. The Eldest Hand leads with a card. The dealer must lay any card of the suit played, or if he does not have a card in the played suit, he may play another card, even a Trump. The highest card in the suit played wins, unless a trump card is played in which case the highest Trump played wins. When a player takes a trick, he takes those cards to the side and leads the next trick. Play continues until all cards are played. Trump may be led at anytime.

### Scoring:

There are 4 points possible per hand, as follows:

The person with the highest Trump in his hand at the end of the hand earns one point.

The person with the lowest Trump played also is awarded one point. When you play what you believe is the lowest Trump, you are to declare it so. If someone later plays a lower, there is no penalty for a false declaration – except you won’t get the point.

The person who holds the Jack of Trump at the end of the hand gets one point. (If a Jack is the ONLY Trump played, that card is worth 3 points as the highest, lowest and the Jack.)

The person scoring most points through tricks (see below) earns one point.



T. All Fours. Cartoon by Henry W. Benson.

If you win a trick, you are awarded the following points for each card won: Ace scores 4 points; King, 3; Queen, 2; Jack, 1; and a 10, 10 points! All other tricks score nothing. The person who won the most *points* from tricks scores one point.

Play continues until a player has amassed more than 31 points.

Enjoy it with a drop of Madeira! Next time we’ll shoot dice!

Sources:

Nelson, *The Merry Gamester*  
Morehead, *Hoyle’s Rules of Games*  
Cotton, *The Compleat Gamester*

## A Toast to the King!

We’ve added a new feature to our newsletter - one on popular drinks of the time. This issue we’ll look at a couple of mixed drinks that were quite popular at Weedon’s Tavern (at least they show up constantly in his ledger book of his clients’ tabs). “Manhattans,” “Martini’s,” and “High Balls” were off in the distant future. We had simple tastes with simple ingredients. So let’s start with a bowl of Bumbo and an Arrack Punch.

While Bumbo’s ingredients are common in today’s world, you may be asking, “What is this Arrack stuff?” Fair question. It was an imported liqueur made from palm trees that tastes like black licorice. Then it would have been imported from the islands in the Caribbean while today it is available in the Virginia ABC store and is a product of Lebanon.

So sit back and enjoy a round with your host, George Weedon. (Yes, I have tried both and they are quite good!)

### Bumbo

**Rum, water, sugar, and nutmeg. Mix to taste.**

### Arrack Punch

**1 Pt Arrack (Arak)**

**1 Qt Rum**

**1 Qt water**

**¼ lb sugar**

**Dash of Tincture of Lemon Peel**

**Mix and serve.**

### Arrack Punch (another way)

**Strained juice of 2 large Oranges**

**¾ lb loaf sugar**

**Small/thin slices of peel**

**Pour over it 1 Qt boiling water**

**Add 1 Pt Arrack**

**1 Pt Hot Red wine**

**Stir together.**



## Fredericksburg Candlelight Tours

Every year Fredericksburg has a Candlelight Tour Weekend in December where nicely decorated houses are open for people to visit and see the rich Christmas decorations. This year for the first time, the Lewis store was open for visitors. RCHS has never before been involved in helping with this event. Well, this year, we got involved neck deep.

We performed Colonial dances at Martha Crimmins on both Saturday night and several times Sunday as well as chatted with visitors about the Colonial times. As usual, Elaine Sturgeon introduced the dances and discussed the role of dances in the colonial period. We are becoming so good at recovering from errors that when your reporter made a mistake and ended up with the wrong partner after one section, the dance was changed extemporaneously and changing partners at the end of each section became a part of the dance. It was such an excellent version that I think it should be called the "Piercey" version.

We also were involved with explaining the role of the colonial store during the entire eighteen hours that the Lewis store was open. RCHS was assigned the office area that was equipped with a nice old desk and three old chairs by Bill Beck's antique store. The furniture fit so well, I suggested that Bill donate it to the Lewis store. We also brought many of our own items including a fashion doll, examples of money and book keeping items. During our stint we talked about the nature and role of the colonial store, the value of the fashion doll, the shortage of money and the use of tobacco, wheat, and human skills as a substitute for money, and the wide use of credit. The members who contributed their expertise in talking about the store include Trip Wiggins, Marjorie Steen, Al & Sandra Piercey, and last but not most present Joe Steen. Joe was working for almost the entire eighteen hours to the extent that his voice wore down to a squeak! Thanks Joe you did a great job.

*Mrf. Ameilia Ball Offers for sale on the most reasonable terms all manner of fine Linnens, Woolens, Fustians and Cottons, The most current Publications of Fashions, and Textiles, The latest from London and Paris in Fashion Patterons, and Nortions of all Sortf. To be sold by appointment.*

*JOHN HARDIA, FACTOR*

*Lately arrived from England, Madam Fitzefferie  
Offerf instruction on dancing and deportment.  
Residing at Mr. Hetrickf Just off Willowpointe  
Lane - Inquire of the Printer.*

## The Virginia Gazette

April 25, 1766. Number 779. Page 3, Column 1

THE subscriber, in Fredericksburg, has about 600£. sterling worth of European merchandise on hand for sale, at a low advance, and on reasonable credit; they consist of a great variety of saleable articles, viz. Cutlery of all sorts, stationary in convenient boxes, mens and womens saddles, mens and womens hats, thread strockings, fine Irish linens, printed linens, humhums, calico, gauze and gauze handkerchiefs, linen and cotton handkerchiefs, silk caps, womens and girls stays, thicksets, dimities, worsted damasks, calimanco, a large assortment of brown, whited brown, and nuns thread, ribands, ferrets, tapes, inkles, &c. a large assortment and great variety of metal and mohair buttons, gunpowder, shot, lead, pewter, hardware, earthen ware, nails, broad and narrow hoes, broad and narrow axes, mens and womens shoes, &c. &c. &c. to tedious to mention. I have also imported lately a considerable quantity of Maderia WINE, in pipes, hogsheads, and quarter casks, which I will sell for ready money, or wheat, at the rate of 40£. Currency per pipe, or at 45£. On credit for a year.  
Roger Dixon.



"The learned Fool writes his Nonsense in better  
Language than the unlearned; but still 'tis  
Nonsense.

-Benjamin Franklin



## RULES OF CIVILITY

### 4th Rule of Civility:

Do not seek amusement by singing to yourself, unless you are beyond the hearing of others; do not tap out the beat of a drum with your hands or feet.

**Deadline for submissions to the next issue of the newsletter is April 8, 2003.**

## SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrott

### Sugar and the Donkey

My master and I are just snoozing in the sun on the ferry. Normally the freed man runs the ferry but he was running errands today so my master and I are doing it. For a while this morning we made several trips and brought wagon after wagon across and the iron triangle was singing a regular song with people hitting it when they wanted us to come across the river. It must be market day with all those wagons full of goods. But now everything is quiet.

There are some other birds flying around. I can't fly very well because my wing feathers are cut short but I am the prettiest bird. All the women tell me how pretty I am. Some of the birds have pretty songs, but they can't talk like me!

The iron is singing again and there is someone waiting for the ferry across the river. My master gets up and stretches and starts pulling the ferry across with the ferry rope. As we approach the bank I can see that it is a small boy with an even smaller donkey waiting for us. We tie up to the dock and the boy says good morning and picks up the donkey's lead and starts for the ferry but he stops suddenly when the donkey sits down. The boy pulls and pulls on the donkey's lead but the donkey won't budge. My master makes several suggestions to the boy but no matter what he tries the donkey does not move. Finally my master and I go to help the boy and he and the boy pull and pull until the lead breaks and they both fall down, and I fall off my master's shoulder, but the donkey still just sits there.

My master picks me up and dusts his clothes off and then he looks at me as if he has never seen me before. After the boy ties the donkey's lead on again my master tells the boy to get ready and then he puts me on the donkey's head and the donkey jumped up. When the boy pulled him he went on the boat quickly. My master is pretty smart, but I don't know what he would do without me!

*(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 water-front docks daily.)*



## Liberty's Kids

Through the eyes of two young apprentice reporters named Sarah and James, viewers of Liberty's Kids go on adventures in search of the real stories of the American Revolution. The show is produced using high-quality animation, creating an exciting world through which today's kids can experience characters, events and issues at the heart of the American Revolutionary War and the founding of the United States. Liberty's Kids is a revolutionary children's animated series that tells the story of the birth of democracy in America, told through the eyes of two teenagers and their young friend working in Benjamin Franklin's print shop.

This series is being shown on the PBS stations (www.pbs.org). Trip has been watching it almost every day and thinks it's a really good show. It is geared for kids 7-12 (or those of us who think we are). It airs at 5:30pm M-F on WHUT - channel 32.

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In publishing these guidelines, I am aware that I have not been in compliance on my end for getting your newsletter out in a timely fashion. However, things have settled down at my job, which had been the primary reason. I am dedicated in 2003 to getting back on track and making this a regular publication again. I look back at past issues and can tell exactly what was going on in our group up until last year. However, I also know that without your submissions and ideas, I wouldn't be able to get the newsletter out. So, please, contribute ideas, articles, 2 or 3 sentences, pictures of events - anything helps.

Myra

### 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 being Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River Valley. The Rappahannock River Valley covers from the ford of the Rappahannock 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 articles(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 quarterly in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. My target date to have the newsletter published is the 15th of January, April, July and October. In order to do that, I will need any submissions by the 8th of those months. You may mail to the PO Box, or email me at myrawig@cox.net.
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 issue.
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. So please let me know if you have a particular interest.

The RCHS Newsletter is published quarterly in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. All members receive a copy. Membership is \$10.00 per year for individuals, \$15.00 per year for families. **RCHS does not maintain an office.** All correspondence should be addressed to

**RCHS at P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823.**

Items for the newsletter should be addressed to the Editor c/o RCHS or e-mailed to [myrawig@cox.net](mailto:myrawig@cox.net).

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