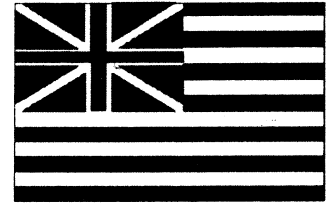




THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 11 Number 2

www.rchsinc.org

February 2008

Calendar of Events

For more information, please contact the Event Coordinator (EC) or Committee Chairperson.

Feb. 29 - Sewing Circle:

6:00-10:00 p.m., Linda Pool's studio. Work on cloaks. EC: Sharon Brunacci.

Mar. 4 - Monthly Business meeting:

7:30 p.m., St. George's room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci.

Apr. 1 - Monthly Business meeting:

7:30 p.m., St. George's room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci.

Apr. 18 - Sewing Circle:

6:30-9:30 p.m., St. George's Faulkner Hall. Work on riding habits. EC: Sharon Brunacci.

Apr. 25 - Sewing Circle:

6:30-9:30 p.m., St. George's Faulkner Hall. Work on riding habits. EC: Sharon Brunacci.

Apr. 27 - Coaching Day at Stratford Hall:

EC: Elaine Sturgeon.

Reminder: Due to liability concerns of the corporation, your membership must be current in order to participate in these events.

2008 Dues are Overdue

If you haven't already, please take a moment to send in your dues. Individual dues are \$10 and family dues are \$15. The address to mail it to is P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823. If your contact information has changed, please let us know.

English Country Dancing

English Country Dance classes are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Faulkner Hall, St. George's Episcopal Church. Classes are open to the public (\$2 per class). EC: Elaine Sturgeon, Dance Mistress, 540-785-2168.

Mar. 7 – Demo

Mar. 14 – Open

Mar. 28 – Open

Apr. 4 – Demo

Apr. 11 – Open

Apr. 25 – Open

RCHS Committees

If you would like to join any of these committees or find out when they are meeting, please contact the committee chairperson.

Dance: Elaine Sturgeon

Events: Lyn Padgett

Media: Greg Brunacci

History: Trip Wiggins

Education: Sharon Brunacci

The purpose of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is to bring together persons interested in preserving and perpetuating the heritage and culture of the colonial era in and around the Rappahannock River Valley of Virginia; to conduct historical research of persons, places and 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 ways of life of our forbears in this area.

Education Committee Notes

If you are interested in participating in educational programs at local schools, please contact Sharon Brunacci at 540-659-2080. Program dates are listed below:

Mar. 6, 11:00 a.m.:

Colonial Dance demonstration at Fredericksburg Christian School

Mar. 27:

Colonial Dance demonstration at Odyssey Montessori School

Media Committee Notes

In the future, you can receive *The Rappahannock Gazette* as an Adobe® Acrobat® PDF document by e-mail instead of receiving printed copies. This would allow RCHS to include color on the Adobe PDF document and reduce expenses related to printing and mailing black and white copies. You could also get it sooner! To request the newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail to the editor (Naomi McPherson) at nana4979@comcast.net.

If you would like RCHS business cards to hand out at events, contact Greg Brunacci at 540-659-2080 or gbrunacci@comcast.net for more information.

Sewing Circle Information

Ladies' Riding Habit: You may need to purchase the pattern in addition to the materials, so please call the Event Coordinator if you plan to make one. For the jacket and waistcoat (sizes 8-18), you'll need 3 ½ yards of 60-inch wide medium weight wool fabric and 3 ½ yards of 60-inch wide (or 5 yards of 45-inch wide) linen or linen/cotton in a matching or contrasting color for the lining. ½ yard of iron-on woven interfacing is optional. You'll also need 16 buttons (1-inch in diameter) for the jacket, 10 buttons (¾-inch in diameter) for the waistcoat, matching thread and button hole twist. To make the matching petticoat, you'll need about 3 yards of 60-inch wide medium weight wool fabric and 2 ½ yards of 1- to 1 ½-inch wide cotton, linen or wool tape in a coordinating color. Remember to wash, dry and press the linen fabric before you come. And if you have a sewing machine, bring it!

Brag!

Background: A game for all. Mostly played by working class, the merchants and gentry also

participated. Come to an ordinary and expect to see this one played. As to its popularity in England, just look at Mr. Hoyle's books. His first book was on how to play Whist (1742). This was shortly followed by books on: Backgammon, Piquet, Quadrille and Brag! Like many games, simple to learn, tough to master.

Number of Players: 2-8

Equipment: Standard 52-card deck

The Play: This is really a cross of luck, poker and Twenty-One. When you ante up, you toss one stake into each of three pots. There are three ways to win. Cards rank from Ace (highest) to 2 (lowest). Nine cards are dealt, three at a time, beginning on the left (Eldest hand) and continuing clockwise. The last card dealt each person is dealt FACE UP. If 6 or more players are in the game, you will be unable to deal 9 cards, so go until you complete the players. (6 players: 8 cards; 7 players: 7 cards; 8 players: 6 cards).

First Pot: The person who has the highest card showing wins the first stake or pot. If any are showing the Ace of Diamonds, that beats all others. In case of tie, the Elder hand wins, meaning the first person after the Dealer, going clockwise around the table who had the tie card wins the pot. Following this, the turned up card is discarded from all hands into the *Stock* (the remaining cards).

Second Pot: This is the *Bragg*. Each player looks at his cards for pairs. The highest PAIR will win the pot. (Three of a kind means nothing here, it's pairs.) The Knave of Clubs is a wild card. That means it can be teamed with any card to make a pair of the other card. It can also be added to a pair to make 2 ½ of that "pair" which beats all other pairs! Before the pairs are shown bets are made starting with the Eldest hand. Bets are made as in poker with each player having the option of matching the raise, raising again, or folding. When all have had a chance, the pairs are laid down; highest pair takes the pot. The cards are discarded from the players' hands and added to the *Stock*.

Third Pot: From the remaining cards in your hand, pick cards that will add up to as close to 31 without going over. Face cards count 10, Aces 11, all others

their “pip” value, that is the number of pips displayed on the card. Closest to 31 gets pot. In case of tie, the Elder hand (first clockwise after the dealer) with best score wins.

Deal is passed to Eldest hand for subsequent plays.

Sources:

Nelson, Walter. *The Merry Gamester*

Cotton, Charles. *The Compleat Gamester*

Carson, Jane. *Colonial Virginians at Play*
various card game Web sites

The Fitzhugh Family

Submitted by Trip Wiggins

This past fall our group was invited to dance at the Fitzhugh family reunion held at “Eagle’s Nest” in King George County. To get better acquainted with this old Northern Neck family, I started doing some research to share with my fellow dancers. With a little editing, it is presented here for your enjoyment to learn a bit more about our “neighbors” and their families. We’ll only look at a few selected individuals in each generation.

First a short note on Northern Neck counties. We’ll start in 1720 with the formation of King George County. If you picture the Northern Neck from Fredericksburg to Dahlgren, all that land north of route 218 was Stafford County, all to the south was King George. This continued up through Falmouth almost to Hartwood—that to the south of US 17, King George; to the north, Stafford. This changed in 1776 to the present county boundaries. So when it was built, “Eagle’s Nest” was in Stafford, but now resides in King George. Similarly “Chatham” was built in King George but now lies in Stafford.

Note on genealogical notations: After each person, you will see in brackets the name of the person’s father, and his generation, followed by grandfather and his generation, etc. As an Example, William Fitzhugh of Chatham will be shown as: William Fitzhugh [Henry 3, William 2, William 1].

The major plantations in the family:

Bedford (no longer exists), in Owens/Dahlgren, established by William (the immigrant) and later owned by Henry.

Eagle’s Nest, on Eagle’s Nest Lane, off 218, King George Co. Probably built by William the immigrant as he is buried there.

Somerset (no longer exists), off 218 adjacent to Eagle’s Nest. Also probably built by the immigrant. Marmion, in the center of King George Co. Built by William the immigrant’s grandson, John. It is the ONLY colonial plantation home in King George Co. still standing/lived in.

Boscobel (no longer exists), in Grafton area of South Stafford Co. Now Boscobel subdivision.

Bell-aire (Bellair) (no longer exists), in Grafton area of South Stafford, adjacent to Boscobel.

Chatham, on Rappahannock River across from Fredericksburg.

Ravensworth (no longer exists), Fairfax Co. (I-495 and Braddock Road.)

1st Generation

Col. William Fitzhugh (1650/1-1701) the immigrant

William was born in Bedfordshire, England, of a woolen draper, Henry Fitzhugh. He immigrated about 1671 and had amassed over 54,000 acres before his death. He built Bedford and Eagle’s Nest, both in Stafford (now King George) County.

William had emigrated with John Newton and the two patented land together in the Northern Neck. It was through Newton that William met his future wife.

In 1674 Fitzhugh married Newton’s step-daughter, Sarah Tucker (1663-abt. 1715) of Westmoreland County, and sent the eleven-year-old girl to England to be educated before consummating the marriage. The couple raised five sons including Colonel William Fitzhugh, the grandfather of William Fitzhugh of Chatham. They started their family at Bedford, the land located about ½ mile north of Owens in King George County (just outside Dahlgren) on the Potomac.

Besides accruing great wealth, this gentleman planter had diverse interests. He represented Stafford County in the House of Burgesses, commanded the local Militia (“Col.”), and served as Judge of the county court for a number of years. According to his contemporaries, he was known as a skillful barrister. He was also named a member of the Governor’s Council—an exclusive group of 12 men in the colony who served as personal advisors to the governor.

He appears to have been a morally straight individual. 'As to your wonder that I have never been troubled therewith,' he replied in 1698 to a friend who had just recovered from a severe attack of gout, 'I'll tell you Sir. I never much frequented Bacchus' Orgyes & always avoided Ceres' shrine, & never was one of Venus' votarys.'

And how did he acquire vast land holdings? As the old saying goes, 'it's not what you know, but who you know.' William was associated with the agent handling the land transactions of the 5th Lord of Fairfax. Through this position, he was able to obtain land throughout the Northern Neck. Plantations that resulted from these early dealings include Bedford, Bell-aire, Boscobel, Chatham, Eagle's Nest, Marmion, Somerset and Ravensworth.

William described his house at Bedford in a 1686 letter to England, "Upon this same land is my own dwelling house, furnished with all accommodations for comfortable and gentle living, with rooms in it, four of the best of them hung [with tapestry], nine of them plentifully furnished with all things necessary and convenient, and all houses for use, furnished with brick chimneys, four good cellars, a dairy, dove cot, stable, barn, henhouse, kitchen and all other conveniencys, and all in a manner new, a large orchard of about 2,500 apple trees, most grafted, well fenced with a locust fence, which is as durable as most brick walls, a garden a hundred foot square, well paled in, a yard wherein is most of the aforesaid necessary houses pallisadoed in with locus puncheons, which is as good as if it were walled in, and more lasting than any of our bricks."

He probably built Eagle's Nest as it was completed shortly before his death and he died and is buried at Eagle's Nest.

Children include: Rosamond, William (1676-1713), Unnamed Daughter (1678-1678), Thomas (1689-1719), George (1690 -1722), and John Marmion (1696-1733).

John Marmion married Anna Barbara, daughter of Daniel McCarty, Speaker of the House of Burgesses (by his first marriage), and died in 1733. John and Anna's son, William (cousin to William of Chatham) built "Marmion" in King George ca. 1750 (the only colonial plantation house still in existence in King George County). [Marmion was conveyed in 1785 by Philip Fitzhugh to George Lewis, son of Fielding and Betty Lewis and remained in the Lewis family for well over 100 years.]

Interesting footnote about Marmion. The original paneling is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Says the Met of the faux painted walls, "The panels form what is probably the finest painted room produced in the Virginia colony."

2nd Generation

William Fitzhugh (1677-1713) [William 1]

William, first generation native-born Virginian, lived at Eagle's Nest in Stafford County. According to *The Vistas at "Eagle's Nest": the Fitzhugh-Grymes Family Home, King George County, Virginia* by Liza Lawrence, Eagle's Nest was large and built for comfortable and commodious living. Here William the immigrant hosted all the upper crust of Virginia in a well-furnished house and numerous out buildings. The original Eagle's Nest was damaged by fire ca. 1793. As Ms. Lawrence described it, "Carrying out its tradition of hospitality to the last, appropriately enough, it was during great-grandson Benjamin Grymes' poker party of about 1793, that this first house burned down." The current (2007) owner/ resident thinks parts of the current structure go back to the original as does possibly the foundation/floor plan.

William was appointed clerk of the Stafford Court and represented the county in the Virginia House of Burgesses. He also served as a justice and High Sheriff of Stafford. Like his father, William was appointed to the Governor's Council in 1712.

He married Ann Lee (ca. 1683-1731/2) of Westmoreland County. She was the daughter of Richard Lee and Letitia Corbin, families with ties throughout the Northern Neck. Richard Lee was also a member of the Governor's Council.

William made a lasting impression on the colony. None other than Lt. Gov. Spotswood said to Queen Anne, "He is a gentleman of a plentiful estate, of good interest in his country, and of principles entirely loyal so far as I have been able to discover of him." He added, "This gentleman being added [to the Council] will...give me some more time to consider of proper persons for supplying future vacancies, which...is a matter of some difficulty among the little choice the country affords."

Following William's death, Ann married secondly, Captain Daniel McCarty, of Westmoreland County, speaker of the House of Burgesses.

Children of William and Ann include Henry (1706-1742), Lettice (Letitia) (1707-1731/2) married Geo. Turberville (1684-1725/26) of Westmoreland County, and Sarah (1710-1743) married Edward Barradall, Attorney General of Virginia.

Henry Fitzhugh (1685/6-1758) [William 1] of “Bedford”

Henry was a member of the House of Burgesses for Stafford County. As with most wealthy planters, he held numerous other posts: County Justice, Tobacco Inspector, Sheriff, and Coroner. Henry married Susanna, daughter of Mordecai Cooke, of Gloucester County (who was a member of the House of Burgesses). Henry and Susanna had at least 9 children.

3rd Generation

Henry Fitzhugh (1706-1742) [William 2, William 1] of “Eagle’s Nest”

Henry studied at Oxford and upon his return to Virginia married Lucy Carter (1715-1763), daughter of Robert “King” Carter and Elizabeth Landon of Corotoman. Henry was a member of the House of Burgesses, once an unsuccessful candidate for Speaker, and Lt. Col. of the Stafford militia.

Following Henry’s death, Lucy married in 1748 Col. Nathaniel Harrison of Brandon, who brought his two children, Elizabeth and Benjamin, to live with Lucy and the children. Henry’s inventory included a LARGE library worth over 258 pounds sterling.

Children include: Elizabeth Landon, Anne, Lucy, and William.

Elizabeth Landon (1731-1756) married ca. 1747 Benjamin Grymes (1725-1776) son of Hon. John Grymes of Middlesex County (House of Burgess, Councilor). Benjamin was never popular and was always controversial. While never elected to St. George’s vestry, he did earn a spot twice as a burgess from Spotsylvania County (1767, 69). He ran a fairly large furnace/forging operation at Massaponax (100+ workers). Benjamin and Elizabeth’s son was Benj. Grymes Jr. (1756-1804), a revolutionary war soldier. He was charged with murder in the shooting death of Mr. Robert Gallaway but was acquitted by “reason of insanity.” Their daughter became the mother of Bishop Meade

of the Diocese of Virginia—one of the most notable Bishops in the Virginia Episcopal Church.

Following Elizabeth’s death, Benjamin married Priscilla Rootes, the sister-in-law of local Fredericksburg merchant/entrepreneur Roger Dixon. It was at this time Benjamin built the Bloomery (a forge) on Sophia Street which went bust after a few years.

Following his heavy indebtedness, his former brother-in-law, William Fitzhugh, presided over his estate sale in 1772 in an attempt to appease the many creditors attacking Benjamin. (We’ll do a future feature on this colorful gentleman.)

Thomas Fitzhugh (1725-1768) [Henry 2, William 1] of “Boscobel”

Thomas married first, 1746, Catherine Booth (1721-1748), daughter of Thomas Booth and Mary Cooke of Gloucester County. Following her death, Thomas married in 1750 Sarah Stuart (1731-1783) at “Belmont” in Falmouth, daughter of Rev. David Stuart and Jane Gibbons of King George County. Thomas was a Stafford County court justice from 1750 until his death. He built “Boscobel.”

John Fitzhugh (1727-1809) [Henry 2, William 1] of “Bell-aire”

John married Alice Thornton (1729-1793), daughter of Rowland Thornton and Elizabeth Catlett of “Crowes” in King George County. He built Bell-aire in Stafford County (next to “Boscobel”). He was blind by age 45. Member of Stafford Committee of safety 1775. Was said of John, “he was a gentleman—he never sued and was never sued.”

Next issue: the most significant member of the 4th generation—William Fitzhugh of “Chatham.”

A Few Good Words To You!

Submitted by Trip Wiggins

A few interesting words from the renowned Dictionary maker, Mr. Samuel Johnson. His was the first real English dictionary published. It came out beginning in the 1750s and was an instant hit. He had an interesting way in describing words, as you will soon discover. Oftentimes, he would follow with an example of the word’s use and give an author’s source. Of course, I leave out the “normal” words that also appeared and concentrate on some

more unique definitions. Enjoy! Where you see numbers in parentheses, that is the number of the definition printed. Perhaps you could use one of these in your speech.

Apish – (2) Foppish; affected; (3) Silly; trifling; insignificant

Apologue – Fable; story contrived to teach some moral truth.

An apologue of Aesop is beyond a syllogism, and proverbs more powerful than demonstration. Browne's *Vulgar Errors*.

Apoplexy – A sudden deprivation of all internal and external sensation, and of all motion, unless of the heart and thorax. The cause is generally a repletion, and indicates evacuation, joined with stimuli. Quincy. (Trip's translation – a stroke.)

Armadillo – A four-footed animal of Brazil, as big as a cat, with a snout like a hog, a tail like a lizard, and feet like a hedge-hog. He is armed all over with hard scales like armour, whence he takes his name, and retires under them like a tortoise. He lives in holes, or in the water, being of the amphibious kind. His scales are of a bony or cartilaginous substance; but they are easily pierced. This animal hides himself a third part of the year under ground. He feeds upon roots, sugar-canes, fruits, and poultry. When he is caught, he draws up his feet and head to his belly, and rolls himself up in a ball, which the strongest hand cannot open; and he must be brought near the fire before he will shew his nose. His flesh is white, fat, tender, and more delicate than that of a suckling pig. Trevoux.

Arrack – (or arack) – A spiritous liquor imported from the East Indies, used by way of dram and in punch. The word arrack is an Indian name for strong waters of all kinds; for they call our spirits and brandy English arack. But what we understand by the name arack, is really no other than a spirit procured by distillation from a vegetable juice called toddy, which flows by incision out of the cocoa-nut tree. There are divers kinds of it; single, double, and treble distilled. The double distilled is commonly sent abroad, and is preferred to all other arracks of India. Chambers. (Trip's note: It's still available in liquor stores. It tastes like black

liquorice and made a popular punch at Weedon's Tavern.)

Arse. to hang an arse – A vulgar phrase, signifying to be tardy, sluggish, or dilatory.

Costume Close-Up—Back in Print!

A brook review by Jenny-Rose White
I am so very delighted to announce that the fabulous *Costume Close-Up: Clothing Construction & Pattern 1750-1790* is back in print!

This wonderful volume by Linda Baumgarten and John Waston, closely examines extant 18th century garments and offers scaled patterns, construction notes, and photographs for each. The book provides detailed information on how the garments were made including the stitches and methods used, changes and alterations over the life of the garments, details on the materials and more. Additional notes about period fashion and construction, as well as period artwork can be found sprinkled throughout the book.

Costume Close-Up features an in-depth examination of 25 garments and 28 patterns from the permanent collection of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia. The selection covers both men's and women's garments, (heavy on the ladies wear)—from undergarments and accessories to gowns and outerwear.

The patterns included are scaled and are not designed for the beginning seamstress or tailor. To quote the book's introduction, "this book is less about how to sew modern copies than about how to look at antique clothing and uncover its lessons. Curators, conservators, costumers, and re-enactors today seek to understand the intricacies of eighteenth-century clothing construction and fit, not just its superficial appearance." Keeping this in mind, the intermediate or experienced seamstress will find these patterns quite useful. Personally, I have successfully made up the cloak on page 54 and am currently in the process of creating a wool version of the mantle on page 50. While I have not specifically made up other garments patterned in this book, I have found them invaluable as references for similar garments made from other patterns. This volume rarely stays on my bookshelf

for long, as I constantly refer to the wealth of information it contains.

This book cannot be recommended highly enough. It has transformed the way I think about, fit and construct 18th century reproductions, and has also inspired & delighted me personally—I know, given the chance, it will do the same for you!

Costume Close-Up is currently available for \$24.95 from the publishers: Quite Specific Media. Call them at (323) 851.5797 or order from the Web site <http://www.quitespecificmedia.com>.

Events of Interest in the Area

The following were gathered from various sources and are subject to change.

Mar. 15 – Colonial Foodways: National Colonial Farm, Prince George’s County, MD. Costumed interpreters demonstrate what life was like for “middling” sort tobacco growing families in the late 1770s, preparing seasonally available foods using colonial implements and methods. Visit www.accokeek.org for more information. \$

Mar. 16 – Free Birthday Tour: Montpelier. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. In honor of James Madison’s 257th birthday, enjoy free admission to Montpelier. Go to www.montpelier.org for more information.

Mar. 28 – “All Manner of Useful Goods” Symposium: George Mason University, Fairfax. 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For information and registration form, e-mail susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-631-1429 before March 21 deadline. \$

Apr. 6 – Tartan Day Special Exhibits: Hugh Mercer Apothecary. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. In celebration of Hugh Mercer’s Scottish heritage. Go to www.apva.org for more information. Free.

Apr. 16 – “Myths of George Washington Debunked” Lecture: Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:00 p.m. Dr. Peter Henriques addresses myths. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Apr. 19 – Grand Ball: Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Presented in 1780s, includes live music, desserts and “gaming.” Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more info. Reservations required. \$

Apr. 21-26 – Spring Opening of St. James’ House. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Tour 18th century gentlemen’s cottage. Visit www.apva.org for info. \$

Apr. 24-27 – 18th Century Market Fair: Fort Frederick State Park: Big Pool, MD. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (closes at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday). Call 301-842-2155 for more info. \$

Apr. 27 – Open House: James Monroe Museum. 1:00-4:00 p.m. To celebrate the 250th anniversary of James Monroe’s birth. Go to <http://www.umw.edu/jamesmonroemuseum/> for details.

May 11 – Mother’s Day Tea and 18th Century Fashion Show, Gunston Hall Plantation. “World of Women” plantation tours are at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., tea is at 2:00 p.m. Reservations required. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for info. \$

May 17-18 – Spring 18th Century Market Fair, Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run: McLean. Go to www.1771.org for more information. \$

Newsletter Guidelines

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.

Any member may, and is encouraged to, submit articles for publication. Committee chairpersons are especially encouraged to write reports of past and upcoming activities. The newsletter is distributed to and read by people with varying degrees of expertise. Articles should be accurate in detail, sources/references must be given for factual information and opinions of the writer must be clearly identified as such. This newsletter will be posted online, so be very careful about listing your sources and getting permission for reprints. The editor has the final say on content, format and deadlines. Items for the newsletter should be addressed to the Editor, c/o RCHS, P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 or e-mailed to nana4979@comcast.net.

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