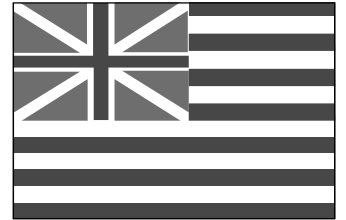


# THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



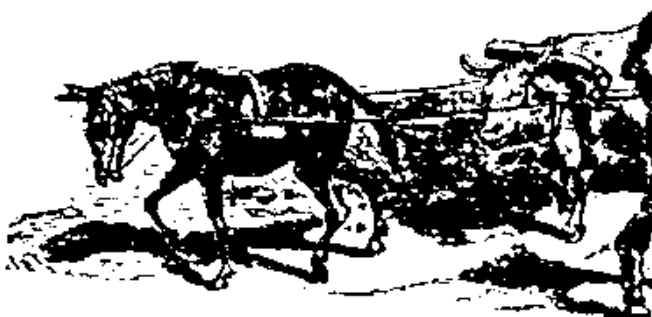
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Volume 3 Number 2

*Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society*

March/ April 2000

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"Rolling a hogshead to Roy's warehouse"

## The Founding of Port Royal

*by Trip Wiggins*

This month we travel a short distance down river for our Rappahannock area excursion. Virginia was a colony founded in 1607 not as a haven for religious freedom, nor as a penal colony, but rather as an extension of England – a colony set up to make money for the Mother country. A year after its founding at Jamestown, Capt. John Smith set out, in the *Discovery*, to explore the vastness of the area sailing up the east side of the Chesapeake Bay and returning down the west side while traveling up several of the rivers into the interior of Virginia. One such river was named the Pembroke, in honor of William Herbert, the Third Earl of Pembroke – a large investor in the London Company, the corporation behind the Jamestown experiment. Smith sailed up the river as far as “the falls” before returning.

Four years later trade between whites and the natives was begun by Samuel Argall sailing up the same river – soon to be renamed the “Tappahannock”, then “Rappahannock” which name it still retains to honor the local native inhabitants.

By the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century ships were routinely plying the waters of the Rappahannock to support the growing number of English colonists who had established plantations in the region. Moving upstream from the Chesapeake, “civilisation” was slowly moving up the river and overtaking the frontier. In the 1650's Col. John Catlett and his half-brother Ralph Rowzee had acquired land in Essex county as far up river as the current location of Port Royal.

Being on the “frontier” meant always facing a potential attack by the now displaced and sometimes hostile Indians and pirates who were still plundering the area's waterways in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. For this reason several forts were established along the Rappahannock (and the other primary rivers). Catlett was appointed the Colonel of the militia for the fort in the Essex county

con't on page 3

*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 ways of life of our forebears in this area.*

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## 2000 RCHS OFFICERS

**President:** Diane Nolan  
*Diane344Nolan@aol.com*  
**Vice-President:** Al Piercey  
*pierceyunderthehill@yahoo.com*  
**Secretary:** Trip Wiggins  
*TripWig@aol.com*  
**Treasurer:** Myra Wiggins  
*MyraWig@aol.com*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we continue to move forward, a number of important issues were addressed at the March membership meeting. The Articles of Incorporation were adopted and will be submitted right away for approval. We greatly appreciate all the work that went into the research, and writing to put this together. Many thanks to Myra Wiggins and her committee for a job very well done.

The name of the organization was officially changed to *THE RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY*. The members also voted in favor of co-sponsoring the Scottish Society/James Monroe Museum Block Party in May. This event celebrates James Monroe's birthday, his Scottish heritage and the colonial era in which he lived and practiced law in Fredericksburg. There will be many activities and displays to help children and adults learn more about the way our ancestors lived 200 years ago.

On March 4th many of us attended the Annual George Washington Ball in Williamsburg, Va. We had a great time together as we learned new dances, met new people from other historical societies and dance groups, got a chance to see some of the new things at Williamsburg town and to do some shopping. I would urge you to check out the calendar of upcoming events in this newsletter and plan to join in the fun.

DN

## COLONIAL FREDERICKSBURG FACTS



- 1732** Relocation of Courthouse from Germanna to Fbg.
- 1716** Spotswood's "Knight's of the Golden Horseshoe" travels to the top of the Blue
- 1752** Roger Dixon operates a ferry across Rappahannock River (at the foot of Rocky Lane). Ran till Dixon's death in 1772.



## AMERICAN HISTORY TIDBITS

- 1716** 1st theater in colonies opened in Williamsburg by William Livingston (later Fredericksburg's first resident)
- 1710** English Parliament passes Post Office Act which starts a postal system
- 1737** 1st colonial copper coins minted in Connecticut
- Mar 1760** Much of Boston destroyed by raging fire

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 9** - "Benedict Arnold Invades Chesterfield". 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. Cite of Henricus (Second permanent settlement in the New World) Free.
- April 15** - Easter Egg Hunt. Free admission to the grounds for participants. Regular admission to the Great House. Stratford Hall.
- April 22** - "Spring has Sprung" - Explore 17th century English and Native American gardening techniques while lending a helping hand in the gardens. 10am-5pm. Cite of Henricus. Free.
- April 22** - "Easter Egg Hunt". Members of RCHS will be in period attire to help with activities. Ferry Farm, Fredericksburg, VA.
- April 27-30** - Ft. Frederick Market Fair; 27th, 12-6pm; 28th, 10am-6pm; 29th, 9am-6pm; 30th, 9am-3pm. \$
- April 29-30** - Revolutionary War Weekend. Commemorate the 225th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Yorktown, VA
- May 6** - Scottish Block Party & Colonial Children's Festival. 10am-3pm. 900 Charles St. F'burg. Co-hosted by James Monroe Museum, Scottish Society Fredericksburg, & Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society. Donation reequested.
- May 7** - "Here Comes the Judge". Attend the trial of a man who is accused of missing church at the Cite of Henricus. 1:30pm and 3:30pm to witness the justice of 1613. Free.
- May 13** - The founding of Jamestown. Special archeological lectures and children's activities. Jamestown, VA
- June 3** - "1776" at the Lazy Susan Dinner Theater, Woodbridge, VA.



## RCHS DANCE PLANS

**Note: Dances are open invitation but require reservations due to limited capacity.** Colonial dress is required. Don't forget to bring your flatware, plates, bowls, glasses, etc. These items should match the time period as closely as possible; i.e. pewter or wooden plates, two or three tine forks, and pewter, glass, ceramic or brass mugs.

Cost: Non-members \$8 / Members \$6 for potluck dances. Prices for dances with catered food will be announced prior to that particular dance.

**April 1st - Masquerade Dance--Pot Luck.**

Dress: Colonial attire or masquerade from any earlier time period.

**May 27th - Lawn Party** at the Ferry Toll House  
208 Sophia St. Pot Luck. \$6.00 for all. Please bring a chair.

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## RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL DANCERS

**We have formed a Colonial Dance demonstration team.** We have been asked by several people and organizations to “perform” for functions, so we have formed a group that will be able to meet those needs. 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 Diane Nolan 540-373-7651. Upcoming demonstrations are:

**March 25 - Port Royal Tavern Night.** Port Royal, VA

**April 28 - Statewide Conference of Interpreters for the Deaf.** Germanna Community College, F'burg. Campus

**May 6 - Scottish Block Party & Children's Colonial Festival.** James Monroe Museum, Fredericksburg.

**May 20 - Fielding Lewis Market Days.** Caroline Street across from Library.

## Port Royal (con't)

region and was killed in 1670 while defending the fort against an Indian attack. (In all probability, the “fort” was just the group of armed settlers and not a physical palisade structure.)

By 1675 more and more people destined to lay the foundation of Spotsylvania county and Fredericksburg had appeared on the scene in the Port Royal area patenting thousands of acres. Included in the group were: Lawrence Smith; Robert Taliaferro; Anthony, John, and Richard Buckner; Thomas Royston and Francis Thornton. A key event in the founding of the town was the establishment of the first chartered tobacco warehouse by John Buckner on the site of current Port Royal.

Remember, plantations were established by wealthy land owners not as idyllic settings for homes – but to turn a profit. The largest profit-making crop in the Virginia colony was tobacco – but unless the owners had a way to get their tobacco to buyers it was useless. Virginia was blessed with an abundance of natural highways for transporting tobacco from the plantations to market – rivers. The Potomac (or Patowmack), Rappahannock, York, and James were the “Interstate highways” of their time. All goods going into or out of the colony went via ship. The land had not yet been tamed to build highways very far.

Thus, the founding of a tobacco warehouse was critical in the development of the area. Hogsheads of tobacco could be stored safely out of the elements to await the next ship bound for market. While the large plantations along the river had their own wharves, inland plantations needed a port to get their crop to market. In 1716, John Roy bought Buckner’s warehouse and continued its operation. It ran without much competition until the Conway tobacco inspection warehouse was built in 1734 – twelve miles further upstream in Caroline county.

By now the area was brimming with people. No longer was it a simple frontier tobacco station – but real civilization was creeping in with all the trappings: churches (Church of England, of course, as it was an English colony), shopkeepers, taverns, and families. Additionally “tithes” were being collected by the county government and Crown approved tobacco inspectors were provided housing at the Roy warehouse.

The Roy family, headed by Hugh, first came to Virginia in 1634. Hugh’s son, Richard, settled in King & Queen county and was married about 1679. To this marriage were born at least four children: Hannah, John, William (or Richard Jr.), and James.

Two of these are of interest to us. Hannah, born about 1680, would marry that early leader of Spotsylvania county, Larkin Chew. But for now we will concentrate on the life of John. He was born about 1683. In 1716 he purchased Buckner’s Essex county tobacco warehouse. (Caroline county would not be carved out of Essex for another decade.) John had been an inspector at Buckner’s which was located about 100 yards north (upstream) of the current US 301 bridge. A tobacco inspector was an office of importance in the colonial towns.

About 1712 the Roy and Buckner families became closer as John married Dorothy Buckner Smith – daughter of Richard Buckner. (Richard was John Buckner’s son.) She was also the widow of Charles Smith (of the Lawrence Smith family) and she had blood ties to the Fitzhugh’s of King George Co.

John and Dorothy had a fairly large and interesting family. Among their children were:

Thomas, born about 1712, who managed the warehouse from his father’s death in 1734 until his own death in 1772.

Reuben (ca 1715-1757), Richard (ca 1717-ca1795), Mungo, Dorothy, Mary and Elizabeth. It is to be noted that Elizabeth (Betty) married the future famed Virginia jurist Edmund Pendleton in 1741 but died the same year in childbirth.

John Roy’s wife, Dorothy, deserves special mention in the Roy family annals and in the founding of Port Royal. She is regarded as one of America’s first business women. In a day when men controlled everything and women had few rights, Dorothy was ahead of her time. It was she who is credited with getting a “rolling road” built connecting Chesterfield (west of Bowling Green) to Roy’s warehouse – generally following the current US 301 route. (This was to counter the road between the plantations at Guinea & Francis Conway’s warehouse.) Following the death of her husband in 1734, Dorothy obtained a license and operated a tavern in town, and secured title to both the Roy warehouse and a ferry in her name. She may have been the first woman in Virginia to own a tobacco warehouse. She died in 1746.

By the 1720s the population in the area was growing. More ships were making port visits to the Rappahannock tobacco warehouses and Roy’s warehouse was quickly outpacing Conway’s. In 1727, Lt. Gov. Gooch signed a law creating Caroline county from the upper areas of King and Queen, King William, and Essex counties naming it for King George II’s wife, Caroline of Ansbach. By the 1740’s more and more settlers were living around Roy’s warehouse and using the Roy Tavern as a central communications hub for the area (conversation, news, gossip, mail, food & drink, and entertainment). The time was right to form a town. What was still needed was the land on which to lay out the townsite.

That came from Elizabeth Smith, widow of Robert Smith. In September, 1744 she petitioned the House of Burgesses that her husband’s will had ordered 60 acres of land, lying near Roy’s warehouse, be laid off for a town. The same week, Charles Carter, of Cleve, in King George county across the river, requested a town be established near Roy’s warehouse. In those days a bill had to be read before the Council three times before it could be enacted. Oct. 4, 1744, was the third reading for “an Act for establishing a Town near Roy’s warehouse in ye County of Caroline...” It was finally approved by the Governor and his Council on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. The town was born – but it still needed a name. (The 60 acres had been surveyed in 1743 by Robert Brooke who laid out 84 lots on the land east of present-day US 301.)

The “town at Roy’s warehouse” was probably established more for trade and commerce than to provide services to its inhabitants. It had excellent wharves, many blacksmiths, the tobacco warehouses, stables and taverns. It was also located on

the main road connecting the capital of Williamsburg with Maryland and important cities to the north (the Potomac ferry crossing was at Hooe’s in modern Dahlgren).

The General Assembly appointed seven trustees and directors to oversee the town: Charles Carter, William Beverley, Thomas Turner, John Baylor, Richard Taliaferro, Lunsford Lomax, and Oliver Towles (the only trustee actually living in Port Royal). Their duties included, “building, carrying on, and maintaining a town on the said land; and they, or any three of them, to have full power to meet as often as they shall think necessary, and shall set apart such land for a market place, a public quay, and 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 of wharves and cranes at such public landings, for the public use.”

The first duty was to convey lots to Smith’s widow, Elizabeth, and his sons, as further stipulated in his will. Then they began auctioning off the remaining lots.

Finally a name was settled on – Port Royal – by the General Assembly. Why? Some sources indicate it was in honor of Port Royal, located in Jamaica, West Indies, with whom many Virginia planters had carried on trade. Records from the Revolutionary War indicate that some wanted to change the name to Port Roy as the term “Royal” was in ill favor during the rebellion – but “Royal” remained. Other sources point out that it was named after John Roy and it was merely expanded to Port Royal because it sounded better. Still others say it was named after John’s entrepreneurial wife –Dorothy- who really got the area moving with her road, tavern and tobacco warehouse. What’s the real answer? Perhaps no one will ever know.

Regardless of how it was named, this fascinating town has, for over two and a half centuries, kept its small, port town atmosphere very much alive. Where others have been enlarged – and somewhat trashed by the urban sprawl of progress – Port Royal remains much as it was in John and Dorothy’s day. Come. Drop into the 18<sup>th</sup> century on your next drive down US 17!

For more, read: *Hidden Village, Port Royal, Virginia 1744-1981* by Ralph Hall. Historic Port Royal, Inc. will be reprinting this book in 2001. It is also available at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library.

Also... visit the Caroline County History page on the internet at <<http://co.caroline.va.us/history.htm>> .

## FOR SALE

1 pr. men's rought cut colonial shoes. Worn only once. No buckle holes. Size 10. \$50.00. phone 540-785-9451





## A Masquerade? What Do I Wear?

by Susan Bailey

The invitation read “a masquerade ball”. How exciting! Then, a lowering thought struck. What does one wear?

I’ve read enough about Regency masked balls and the elegant disguises worn to them. But what was worn in the previous century? What was worn in Virginia? What do I have a hope of recreating based on available resources—time, patterns, fabrics, and money? Maybe it would be easier, smarter, etc., to just pass on this one.

No chance of that! The rest of the family had already seen the invitation, and it had fueled their collective imagination! So, the quest for knowledge began.

I quickly discovered that searching the Net for “masquerade” turned up a majority of hits on Vampire Live Action Role Playing (LARP) sites. Needless to say, this was a little darker side of masquerade than I was seeking. So many of the hits dealt with this kind of site that I modified my search and looked for “masked balls”. This time I hit paydirt. Sites here included those on the Mardi Gras, Carnaval in Brazil, Carnival in Venice, and similar festivals in the Caribbean.

Let’s do a quick historical recap to set the stage. Like most festivals, masquerades trace their origins to pagan celebrations. Masquerades, masked balls, and mummery seem to have originated with the Saturnalia and carnival. There was traditionally a feast, calling on friends, exchanges of gifts and merrymaking. Sounds a lot like our modern Christmas festivities. In this case, slaves sported their masters robes. The patricians, wearing elaborate costumes, roamed the streets with their slaves. All persons were free for the day with age and rank forgotten. Songs and ballads provided the musical background for the revelers capers.

Monks in the Middle Ages set aside a day at the beginning of Lent for the “lords of misrule and abbots of unreason”. One source indicates that when this custom began it was celebrated from December 26 reaching its climax the day before Ash Wednesday. In Italy, this is the Florentine (in Florence) or the Venetian (in Venice) Carnival. It is also known as Mardi Gras in other parts of southern Europe.

As with the Saturnalian festivals, every excess was permitted. The fact that all wore masks seemed to abolish all social divisions. People thronged everywhere intent on partying and carousing, singing, dancing and playing games.

The English and German version is the Christmas Mosque, practiced during the traditional twelve days of Christmas. Usually, this was in the form of a dramatic entertainment with an allegorical theme. It, too, embodied pagentry, music, and dancing. This mosque is usually more familiar to us as the mummery’s play, usually St. George and the Dragon. There are also Celtic variations on this theme.

In the colonies and, later, the emergent United States,

these customs flourished. The Mardi Gras imported by the southern Europeans found a new home in the Caribbean, Florida, and Louisiana. The English masque is evident in the Philadelphia Mummers’ parades. George Washington, following his inauguration, practiced the custom of New Year’s Day calls. The mummery did friendly impersonations of the President. These were always accompanied by a clownlike figure, “Cooney Cracker”, who many believe to be a forerunner of Uncle Sam.

OK, so now we know where this whole thing originated. The problem still remains--what to wear!

The historical intent of a costume for these events was to provide anonymity. So, one must hide every distinguishing characteristic. The most common costume was a black silk hood, a lace cape, a voluminous cloak, a tricorne, and a white mask that completely covered the wearer’s face. This disguise, with all being dark except the mask, provided excellent camouflage among the throngs on the street, especially at night.



A variation on the caped cloak is the domino. This was a fairly shapeless garment, usually a black or red coat of a lightweight material. Depending on the time period, the style of the domino would be different. Its intent was to cover the clothing of the wearer. Therefore, in a period when ladies wore panniers, the domino would have been more voluminous. While the caped cloak was, in my opinion, an “out of doors” costume, I feel the domino was seen primarily in the ballroom.

### Women's Domino (below)

This image is from the *Galerie des Modes*, a French fashion journal c. 1778-1787. Note the feathered evening hat. In Isabelle de Charriere’s 1782 *Letters from Mistress Henley*, Mistress Henley and her husband argue over her wearing such a hat to a ball. Such a hat is also seen in the famous Gainsborough, *Hon. Frances Duncombe* c. 1777, now used as the cover picture of the Oxford University Press edition of Frances Burney’s *Cecilia* (1782).



Allegorical costumes abounded, such as the classical Diana, goddess of the hunt, and the exotic Arab sultans and sultanas. Historic figures from previous time periods were popular. Some costumes indicate role reversals. These included the old Roman slave/patrician switch, or gender switching.

**Godess Diana Costumes** (below left)

Francis Cotes' *Lady Stanhope and the Countess of Effingham as Diana and her Companion* 1765 (held by the York City Art Gallery).



**Sultana Costume or Turkish Masquerade Dress** (right)  
Angelica kaufman's *Morning Amusement*, c. 1773  
(privately owned)

For more information check these websites:

<http://hal.ucr.edu/~cathy/masq.html>

<http://www.carnivalofvenice.com> - check the photo gallery on this one (links are in small print under the photo)

[http://www.venetia.it/s\\_carn\\_eng.htm](http://www.venetia.it/s_carn_eng.htm)

**THE BALL**

*by Lauren Bailey, age 10*

Earlier this month my family and I went to a big Colonial ball. This is what happened:

Early Saturday morning my family and I went to Colonial Williamsburg. We got to the hotel about 11.00. We then set off for the dance lesson. When we got there the room was very hot. I danced most of the dances but sat out a few. Our dance instructor was very nice and gave good instructions on how to do the dances. Now comes the good part.

After about 3 hours of milling around it was time to get ready for the ball. We first put on our shifts and stays, then the pocket hoops and shoes and finally the gowns. My mother and I got our hair done with no problems but my Dad, that's another story! He had a wig to put on, so when he got it out it was very messed up. After using about half a bottle of hair spray we got it in good shape.

At this ball we portrayed the John Augustine Washington family. I am Jane Washington, otherwise known as "Jenny".

*(con't on page 8)*

**MARTHA DANDRIDGE CUSTIS WASHINGTON (1731-1802)**

*by Diane Nolan*



**First Lady**  
1789-1797

George Washington, we all agree, was a great man and a great American. We learn about our first president from early childhood and celebrate his birthday with a national holiday. But, behind this great man there was a dynamic woman, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. Barely five feet tall, plump, pleasantly attractive, accomplished and well mannered, she is often referred to as the "Mother of our country".

Martha was born to Colonel John Dandridge and Frances Jones on June 21, 1731 at Chestnut Grove, the family's plantation home. She was the oldest of eight children. Martha was educated at home. Her mother taught her to do all the things a young girl of her station was supposed to know. She would become proficient in the social graces, dancing and music, be able to run a plantation in addition to learning domestic skills such as knitting, sewing, weaving, food preservation, menu planning, making medicines and raising children as part of her wifely duties. It is said that Martha had little interest in formal education which is evident in her few surviving personal letters as her spelling and grammar are poor and her handwriting is almost illegible. At age fifteen she made her debut in Williamsburg society.

At the tender age of eighteen, Martha married her godfather, Daniel Parke Custis, who was over twenty years older than she. They lived near Williamsburg at the Custis's estate which was called the White House. They were married for ten years and had four children, two sons and two daughters. Custis died at the age of forty-five, leaving Martha one of the wealthiest landowners in Virginia, owning over 20,000 acres, two homes, 200 slaves, and nearly 23,000 British pounds sterling.

The young widow was introduced to Colonel George Washington while visiting friends at their estate on the Pamunkey River. Colonel Washington was planning simply to stop by for a short visit, as he was on his way to Williamsburg on official business, but he was so taken by Martha that he decided to prolong his stay. Ten days later he proposed. Eight months and only four meetings later, they were married. The Washington's had no children and all four of her children by Custis died before her.

Martha, an Episcopalian, was deeply religious and spent a portion of each morning in devotions wishing never to be

disturbed during that time. She was an accomplished horse-woman and she loved to dance. She played the harpsichord, the spinet and enjoyed singing. Washington found such pleasure in her music that he gave her a songbook that was specially ordered from England: *The Bull Finch, A Choice Collection of the Newest and Most Favorite English Songs which have been set to Music and Sung at the public Theatres and Gardens.*

During the first sixteen years of their marriage, the Washington's divided their time between Six Chimneys, her estate near Williamsburg and Mt. Vernon, Washington's family estate.

In 1774, England retaliated to the Boston Tea Party by closing the port of Boston and the outraged colonists organized a General Congress in Philadelphia to discuss the matter and decide what to do. Martha was a strong supporter of the struggling colonies. Her support did not falter even when she learned that her husband had been asked to lead the American troops. After months of separation, Martha longed to join her husband and journeyed to Cambridge headquarters, arriving in December 1775. Acutely aware of the hardships that the soldiers were facing, upon her return to Mr. Vernon she set to work sewing and knitting. She had sixteen spinning wheels going steadily in the plantation workroom turning out material for the ragged Continental Army. She encouraged other wives to do the same. Martha made seven trips to Colonial headquarters during the war. She mended clothes, tended the sick and wounded and carried food to them from the provisions of Mt. Vernon. She courageously supported her husband and was by his side through the darkest days of the Revolution.

When she and General Washington returned to Mt. Vernon on Christmas Eve at the close of the war, she sought the peaceful plantation life she had always loved, but her husband had become too great a leader and the nation called upon him to be their president. Martha was now fifty-seven years old. She had served her country during the war and would now serve her country as First Lady. She had no precedent to guide her but she would be the model for those who would follow her.

Martha could not afford to accompany her husband to New York for the first inauguration in 1789. It is said that George had to borrow money to go. Later, she closed up Mt. Vernon and traveled to New York in her "Penn Coach" which had been given to her by the people of Pennsylvania in gratitude for her service and support during the war. Martha was surprised at the interest and attention given 'Lady Washington'. Her only public speech was a simple, "Thank You" given at a reception in her honor. For eight years she cheerfully bore the burden of public life and duty while longing for her plantation home.

The Washington's did return to Mt. Vernon in 1797, at the end of the President's second term, but they had only two years together there when, in 1799, her beloved George died.

Martha died just before her seventy-first birthday. She and George lie in a vault at Mt. Vernon.

Sources:

*Lady Washington* by Dorothy Clarke Wilson

*First Ladies* by Kathleen Prindiville

*The World Almanac of First Ladies* by Lu Ann Paletta

## THE CITIE OF HENRICUS

While a friend was visiting a few weeks ago, she asked if we had ever been to the Citie of Henricus (pronounced Hen-Ree-Cus). We hadn't even heard of it, much less visited it. So we got on the internet and looked it up to see just what we had been missing. Our friend had been impressed when she visited the site. Here is what we found when we searched the web site.

The 1611 Citie of Henricus, located in the 32-acre Henricus Park, is the site of Virginia's second successful English settlement. The Citie, now being reconstruced, enables visitors to travel back 400 years to relive the life and hardships of those first settlers. Visit the small, timber-framed buildings of wattle and daub that served as homes to the settlers. Witness history coming alive as costumed interpreters tend gardens, cook, work at domestic and carpentry crafts, play early 17th-century music and protect this important wilderness outpost of English life in the New world. The Historical Park is part of the 842-acre Dutch Gap Conservation Area, which offers many other educational and recreational activities. Henricus Park is a partnership between The Henricus Foundation and the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, with assistance from the city of Richmond.

The Citie of Henricus and Visitors Center and Museum Store have season hours as follows:

March 11-December 10, 2000

Citie -- Open 10am-4:30pm weekdays and 10am-5pm weekends, closed Mondays

Visitors Center -- Open 10am-5pm daily, closed Mondays

For group tours, please call (804) 706-1340

Get a feel for what it was like when the first English settlers moved to America by taking a trip to the 1611 Citie of Henricus.

Visitors can watch a living history unfold before their eyes when they set foot on the grounds where Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan, the Rev. Alexander Whitaker and John Rolfe walked, talked, ate and celebrated in ceremonial song and dance. Henricus keeps the Colonial past alive. Reenactors wearing garb from three centuries ago - beards and ponytails, britches and bonnets - demonstrate the tools early settlers used in tending gardens, establishing dwellings and protecting their loved ones.

Here, Sir Thomas Dale, a leader of the Jamestown party charged with establishing a safer, healthier location, founded Henricus. Built in 1611 along the James River -- on territory inhabited by the Appomattucks tribe and where Pocahontas grew up -- Henricus was the second English settlement in the New World. Harsh battles were fought with the Indians when the English first arrived in America. It was the marriage between Pocahontas and John Rolfe that helped bring a peaceful coexistence between the two warring factions.

The Henricus Historical Park offers organized educational and specialized programs and activities for all grade and age levels. Our educational programs are directly correlated with the state's Standards of Learning and include social studies, geography, life sciences and the environment. Upon request, specialized programs can be designed to meet the specific needs



of a visiting group. The Citie also has introduced additional programs for organizations such as scouts, preschools, and various youth and adult organizations. Outreach and off-site programs, lectures and presentations are available by reservation for your organization, club or civic association. Details: Henricus Foundation, (804) 796-2674.

Visit their website for more information, including a schedule of events throughout the year of what seems to be very interesting topics and events. (editor)

<<http://www.co.chesterfield.va.us/Tourism/Henricus.htm>>

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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 18<sup>th</sup> Century Virginia with our area of concentration 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 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 in 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.
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 15<sup>th</sup> of those months. In order to do that I will need any submissions by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month. You may mail to the PO Box, or email me at <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.

The Ball (con't)

My mother was Hannah Bushrod and my cousin was portraying John Augustine's brother, Charles Washington. My uncle, George Washington, could not make it this time for he was on travel...But, Grandmother Washington was there.

It took about an hour to get ready but it was worth it. When we entered the ball room the first thing I saw was many brightly colored gowns twirling around the room and children darting here and there. After we had gotten past the dancers and I was taking my cloak off I was asked to dance. I danced about 5 dances out of 20.

After about 10 dances there was a snack break. As they pulled back the curtains there were 2 tables filled with luscious hors d'oeuvres. One table had sweets and the other had heavier snacks.

While we were there I met some kids from Louisa County. While our group only has a few kids, their group had at least 15 children! After I had gotten to know them we all had a lot of fun making up our own dances and pretending we were people from the past. When the ball was over we were very sore, so we went back to the hotel and went to sleep.

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## Irish Stew

<<http://personal.globalnetisp.net/edkennedy/IrishStewA.htm>>

Irish stew in the old days was not made with lamb unless you were of the gentry. Lamb was too valuable for the poor farmer to put on his own table. A male kid goat had little commercial value and therefore was more apt to find itself on the farmer's table. Today lamb is much easier to find and probably more acceptable to most people. There is no rule that says that you must explain the meat to your guests - it's simply Irish Stew.

3 pounds neck of kid goat (lamb)

12 medium potatoes

4 large onions, sliced

1 sprig thyme

2 cups water

salt and pepper to taste

The original way to do this dish: *Start with a bastable oven (the old Irish term for a Dutch oven or tortierre). Peel the potatoes and slice 1/3 of them thinly, leaving the rest whole. The goat neck is cut into 8 or 10 sections and any excess fat removed.*

*A layer of sliced potatoes is placed in the bottom of the bastable oven, then a layer of onion, and the goat neck. Season with salt and pepper and add the thyme. Layer the rest of the onion and cover with the whole potatoes. Season again and add the 2 cups of water. A thick paste of flour and water is used to cover all and the lid placed on. Hang over the fire and let simmer for 2 1/2 hrs. Coals or burning turf are left on the lid to heat from the top. When done, remove from the fire, remove the paste cover (throw to the hens) and serve.*

In today's kitchen use any oven-proof pot or casserole and omit the paste covering. Cover the pot with aluminum foil and then a very tight lid (to keep the steam in). When served, you will see that the sliced potatoes have disintegrated and thickened the stew. The whole potatoes will have retained their shape.