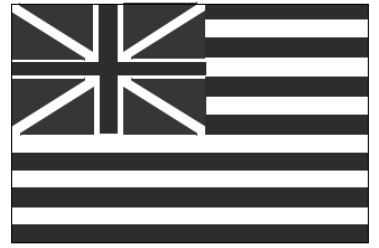




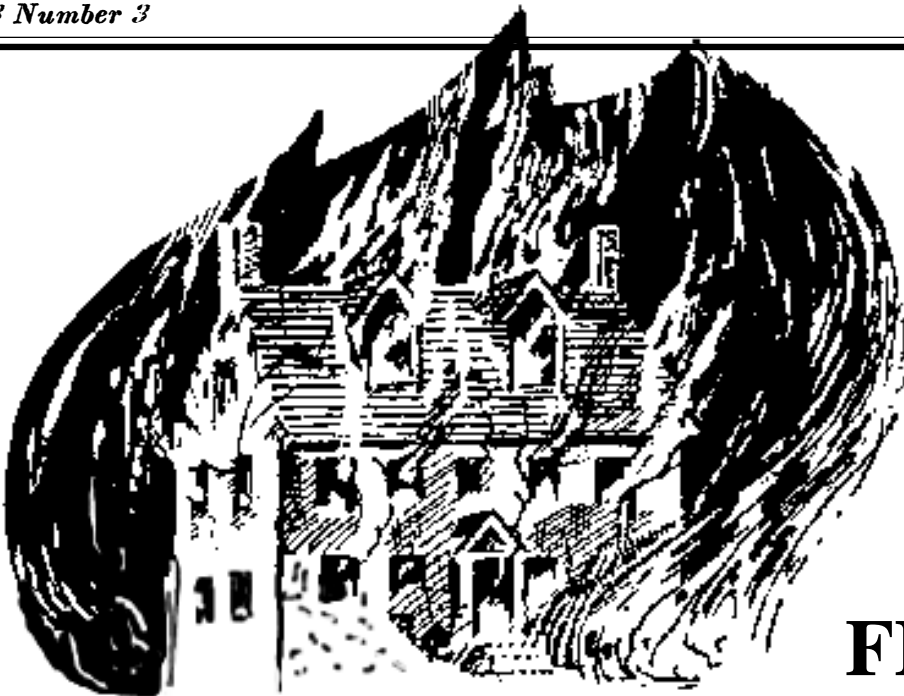
THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 3 Number 3

May/June 2000



FIRE!!

by Trip Wiggins

Fire has always been a major concern of any town, especially so in Colonial days with little to no fire fighting equipment or trained fire departments. Just read about how the fire that erupted on Good Friday, 1788 in New Orleans destroyed most of the city. (Since it was a religious holiday, no bells were to be rung - not even to call a fire alarm!). Similar, but of far less magnitude, fires broke out in Boston and New York in 1794 and 1796 respectively.

Clearly something had to be done along the Rappahannock where towns were growing. Up to this time Fredericksburg had been spared the calamity of a large fire, but in these modern times when would their luck run out? From the Fredericksburg Court of Hustings we read:

“Resolved, that Gen’l Weedon, Messrs. Sunderland and Eddry be a committee to collect the lower subscriptions of the Town to raise Two Fire Companies agreeable to an act passed the last session of the [General] Assembly.

“We the Subscribers whose names are underwritten do oblige ourselves to become members of one of the Fire Companies to be established in the Town & Corporation of Fredericksburg Union.

June 25th 1788”

With this simple resolution Fredericksburg, now some 60 years old, finally got a fire department - or did they?

Prior to the revolution fires were fought in a community fashion. A fire erupts, the town/church bells are rung and all able-bodied men respond with buckets. (They probably knew that living at the edge of the wilderness in small, wooden dwellings, everything they owned could go up in smoke in a matter of minutes.) And since all lighting was by candle or oil lamps - fires were a constant danger; you are your neighbor’s fire department.

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.

2000 RCHS OFFICERS

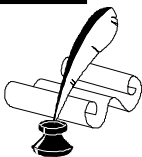
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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society continues to grow and become more visible at Fredericksburg area events. Thanks to the faithfulness and commitment of our members, we are able to participate in a variety of community activities to promote the colonial history of the area. In April RCHS assisted with the Easter Egg Hunt at Ferry Farm. We helped with games and crafts, adding a touch of colonial atmosphere in our period attire. In May, RCHS was a proud co-sponsor of the Annual James Monroe Scottish Block Party to celebrate Monroe's birthday, his Scottish heritage and the colonial times in which he lived and practiced law in Fredericksburg. We sponsored several Colonial representatives and activities and the Colonial Dance Team performed a series of period dances.

In March the Dance Team performed at the Annual Pub Night event at Fox Tavern sponsored by Historic Port Royal, Inc., for the Regional Conference for the Deaf at Germanna Community College in April, and the Fielding Lewis Market Fair sponsored by Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. in May. We have had a lot of fun but we have also provided numerous opportunities for folks to peek into another time.

We were privileged to have a wonderful guest speaker at our May meeting. Catherine Fullerton, from the Weems-Botts Museum in Dumfries provided a fascinating program about Mason Locke Weems, touching on his relationship with and writings about George Washington.

Hope to see you at the coming meetings. There are lots of fun things to come.

Diane

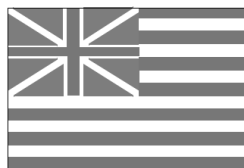
COLONIAL FREDERICKSBURG FACTS



1738 - Augustine Washington buys William Strother's farm and moves his family to the farm located on the Rappahannock River across from Fredericksburg

1823 - William Jones, owner of Chatham, builds a toll bridge at the site of the current Chatham Bridge

1742 - John Lewis opens his store (site of current CRRL). Had his own ships to bring merchandise to Fredericksburg



AMERICAN HISTORY TIDBITS

June 14, 1777 - Congress adopted Stars and Stripes

June 13, 1787 - Northwest Ordinance adopted by Continental Congress. Determined government of Northwest Territory north of Ohio River, west of New York; 60,000 inhabitants could get statehood. Guaranteed freedom of religion, supports for schools, no slavery

July, 1765 - The Sons of Liberty, an underground organization opposed to the Stamp Act, is formed in a number of colonial towns. Its members use violence and intimidation to eventually force all of the British stamp agents to resign and also stop many American merchants from ordering British trade goods.

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:

July 4 - Port Royal Independence Day Celebration

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 17 - African American Heitage Days.

Costumed interpreters demonstrate life & culture of colonial plantation slaves. *George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Pope's Creek)* \$2.00

June 17 - Saturdays in the Garden: Cooking with Herbs.

Monticello. Learn what herbs work with what foods, how to cultivate them, and creative ways to dry and preserve them. 9:30am. Garden Shop. \$10. 804-984-9822 to register.

June 17 - Hay Day 10am-noon & 2-3pm. Learn old hand mowing scythe techniques and how hay was made before horse drawn equipment. Weather permitting. *Frontier Museum of Culture. Staunton, VA*

June 17-18 - Plantation Community Weekend. *Monticello*. 10am-5pm. Sights and sounds of early 1800s. Costumed craftsmen interpret trades and domestic skills.

June 18 - Wheat Harvest. 1-4pm. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm Maclean, VA*. See how the farmer and his neighbors cut the grain, then join them to bind and stack the crop.

June 24 - Sat. in the Garden: Medicinal Plants Workshop. *Monticello*. 2hr class on cultivated and wild medicinal plants. 9:30am, Garden Shop. \$10. 804-984-9822 to register.

June 24 - Walk through the Gardens 1-4pm. Costumed staff share old-time growing methods, beliefs, and varieties. *Frontier Museum of Culture. Staunton, VA* \$

July 1 - Pickling produce. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Maclean, Va.* 1-4pm. Help prepare vegetables for pickling.

July 1 - Sat. in the Garden: The Natural History of Trees. 2hr walking tour explores natural history of *Monticello's* exotic and native trees. 9:30am, \$10. 804-984-9822.

July 1&2 - Revolutionary War Encampment. Rev War reenactment groups demonstrate camp life, drill, and musket fire. *George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Pope's Creek)* \$2.00

July 4 - Independence Day Celebration at Stratford Hall. Reduced admission.

July 4 - Independence day, Special Ranger Programs. *Pope's Creek*. Free

July 8 - Irish supper & stories. 6:30-9pm. Country fare served at the Scotch-Irish farm. Advanced tickets required. *Frontier Museum of Culture. Staunton, VA* \$

July 8 - Polk Salad and Dandelion Wine. Experience the world of wild, edible plants while walking through scenic & historic *Henricus Historical Park*. At 10:30, 1 & 3 pm. Free

July 9 - Big Woods Walk - Guided 2 hour walking tour of 200-acre old growth forest, designated as National Natural Landmark, and *Montpelier* landscape arboretum. 540-672-2728. \$

July 15 - Family Celtic Concert. 7-9pm. Bring picnic, blankets and lawn chairs. Tickets on sale at 6pm. *Frontier Museum of Culture. Staunton, VA* \$

July 15&16 - Summer 18th Century Market Fair. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Maclean, VA*. 11am-4:30pm. \$

July 29-30 - Jamestown First Assembly Day Commemoration
Join costumed interpreters in commemorating the nation's first legislative assembly at Jamestown in 1610. *Colonial National Historical Park, Jamestown, VA*. \$

See pg. 8 for web addresses for these places

Fire! (con't)

June, 1788. A fire department was organized. Although the stated goal was to combat fires, its real function, it seems, was to serve as a men's social club as most of its founding members (presumably signed up by Weedon & friends) were fellow tavern keepers and shop owners. In fact there is no mention in the local paper for the next several years that ANY organized fire company actually fought any of the fires that plagued our fair town. Accounts from the Virginia Herald for fires in 1792, '95, and '99 make NO mention of the fire company but DO give thanks to their "fellow citizens" for their exertions.

During our late Colonial period, Fredericksburg was visited by two large fires - one in 1799 and again with more destruction in 1807. This article will discuss the 1799 fire. A subsequent article will talk of the fire of 1807.

The Fire of '99

On the evening of Wednesday, April 3rd, 1799, a fire was discovered between James Brown's Silversmith shop and the house of William Smock. (This was on Charlotte Street between Princess Anne and Caroline; current location of the Visitor's Center parking lot.) In short order it destroyed all of the buildings on that block, including the home and printing office of Timothy Green, publisher of the Virginia Herald. The fire spread north along the west side of Caroline Street as far as George Street and jumped to the east side of the street before finally being extinguished. Although burned out of his business, Tim Green was still able to get a newspaper out on April 9th! It was a single sheet, printed front and back (instead of the usual four pages).

"FIRE!"

Between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening last [April 3, 1799], a FIRE was discovered to issue from between the shop of Mr. James Brown, Silversmith, and the dwelling house of Mr. Wm. Smock, which increased with such rapidity as to mock the utmost efforts of our citizens in their attempts to extinguish, until it had entirely destroyed the buildings where it commenced, and in its progress the dwelling-house occupied by Capt. J. Wheeler, the printing office of Messrs. Mercer & Field, the dwelling houses of Mr. John Lewis, & Mr. Wm. Pearson, that of the Editor hereof, together with his printing office and the building formerly occupied by Mr. William Herndon, as a billiard room, on the west side of the street. On the opposite side, its ravages were confined to that elegant range of Brick Buildings the property Messrs. Patton & Hackley, in the occupancy of Mr. Wiatt, postmaster, Mr. Donahough, Mr. C. Jones, Mr. R. Walker, Capt. J. Harris and Daniel Grinnan, Mr. Anderson, and Messrs. David & Ja's. Blair. At the latter buildings its progress was providentially arrested; had it taken further effort a great part of the lower end of the town, including the tobacco inspection, must inevitably have shared in the calamity.

How the fire commenced, whether by accident or design, we have not ascertained, altho' we have every reason to suppose the latter; two other attempts to fire the town within a week or two past near the spot from whence the flames were first seen to issue.

Fire! (con't)

In such a calamity it is impossible but there must have been great loss sustained besides the mere burning of the houses. No calculation has yet been made, as we understand - indeed from the dispersion of the property removed, we do not suppose any person can with accuracy state his loss.

The friendly and timely aid of the citizens from Falmouth, accompanied by their engine, we are indebted for the preservation of much real and personal property.

The above calamity, in which the editor has been so deeply involved, has delayed the appearance of the Herald, to the present time, and compels him to issue it in its present form."

The fire resulted directly in two deaths as noted in the same issue of the paper. Mr. George Hazelton, age 28, died following "his great exertions" involved with the fire (probable heart attack). Also, Mrs. Mary Anne Lewis, consort of Mr. John Lewis, died from the fire. Both died two days following the fire and both obituaries noted a tie to "the late fire." (John was the first son of Fielding Lewis and Ann was his fourth wife.)

Some thought the fire was deliberately set (including Mr. Green), others blamed wooden chimneys or stove pipes. Some even thought members of the fire company itself started it to provide some activity for the group. No cause was ever recorded.

What is very interesting is that NO Fredericksburg fire organization is noted in the newspaper but yet the Falmouth engine is named. Although the Fredericksburg company was formed in 1788, there exists doubt that it actually did anything before 1799. In fact, just days before the fire a notice ran in the paper announcing a meeting of the Fire Company at the "Market-House" to elect officers for 1799.

Following the fire, the politicians took out their quills and enacted new laws to combat "open fires" and "wooden chimneys."

From the Virginia Herald, Oct 8, 1802:

"If any person or persons shall be found carrying fire in this corporation in an insecure manner he or she shall forfeit and pay the sum of one dollar for each offense, one moiety to the informer and the other to the use of the corporation, to be recovered by warrant and if a Slave shall receive Corporal punishment at the discretion of a Magistrate, unless the owner of such slave will pay the aforesaid penalty of one dollar..."

"If any Chimney shall be discovered to be on fire in fair weather, the owner of such chimney shall forfeit and pay the sum of three dollars to be recovered in like manner, one moiety to the informer and the other moiety to the use [of the] Corporation.

"Approved and passed the 10th of August 1802.

David C. Kerr, Mayor"

By 1805 Fredericksburg actually had two organized fire companies - the VIGILANT and the ACTIVE. They now had an engine (housed at the Market House - the then City Hall) but still operated mostly as a social organization. To be elected to membership was an honor, and officer positions still went to notable town citizens (not necessarily based on abilities). Meetings focused more on feasting and fellowship than in

learning or practicing the latest fire fighting techniques. Luckily, in the years following 1799, few fires were of such magnitude that they required a professional fire fighting team. (Those would not be organized in the United states until mid-way through the 19th century!)

Everything was fine...until Oct.19, 1807 (To be continued)

For more, read "The Fredericksburg Fire of 1807" by Edward Alvey Jr., available at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library.

KID'S KORNER

SCOTTISH BLOCK PARTY

by Lauren Bailey, age 11

On May 6 my family and I traveled downtown to the James Monroe Scottish Block Party. It was the 72nd time this event has been celebrated here. James Monroe was the fifth president of the United States. This year he was portrayed by Jay Harrison. Jane Harding portrayed Mrs. Monroe. We do this event each year to share with families a view of Scottish and Colonial life.

At the party there are many exhibits and booths. At one table there was a colonial loom. Mr. Skip Nolan demonstrated how this was used in colonial times to produce clothing. At another table there was a colonial surgeon. On exhibit there was a bowl containing newly pulled teeth. Considering how some of the dental tools looked, I suggest we all go to the dentist more frequently. I learned that the most common thing the doctor had to deal with was injuries related to riding a horse - from falling off, to being stepped on, to breaking bones. Mr. Buchanan had a bee exhibit and showed us how the bees live and how he safely works with them. His friend had an exhibit of items she had made from bees wax. One of the items was a perfectly formed rose. There were also pictures of people covered with bees. That really made my skin crawl. There were two honeycombs on exhibit. One had honey in it while the other did not.

Some of the entertainment sources were the Mary Washington College Eagle Pipe Band and the Dancers. The Rappahannock Colonial Dancers and Fredericksburg Scottish Country Dancers demonstrated social dancing of the colonial era. The Glassco Family Singers returned this year and treated us to their beautiful singing. Also present were Sarah and Jim Lawrence, a father-daughter singing team that delighted us with songs of Scotland.

As some of you may know, I portray Jenny Washington, the daughter of Jack and Hannah Washington. While at the Block Party, I had the opportunity to meet my 4th grand nephew, Clifford Galloup. He was also one of the dignitaries, being a direct descendent of President Monroe. It was a funny feeling to meet one of the president's descendents as well as someone who is a relative of the person I portray.

This year, we had over 300 people attend the Scottish Block Party. Young and old seemed to really enjoy themselves. We look forward to partnering with the James Monroe Museum again next year for the 73rd version of this community event.

CLAUDE MOORE COLONIAL FARM

From time to time as I discover things and places of interest, I try to let everyone else know about it also. I have found the website for "the Farm" (<http://www.1771.org>) and have been very impressed with the site as well as the goings-on around the Farm. So I am including information from the website in this issue in the hopes that some of you will check it out and the visit the Farm to see what's going on up there also. (Editor)

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run is a living history museum which portrays family life on a small, low-income farm just prior to the Revolutionary War. This privately operated National Park, located in McLean, Virginia, has served more than one million visitors since it opened, and is host to increasing numbers each year -- now approximately 50,000 persons annually.

In addition to self-guided tours of the working Farm, groups participate in the *Colonial Experience*, a hands-on educational program featuring the use of a collection of reproduction period items and a structured craft session in which each student produces their own 18th century artifact using the tools, materials, processes and techniques of the colonial period.

The popular *Environmental Living Program*, and eighteenth-century encampment, involves a more intensified experience. This multi-disciplinary, curriculum-based program, offers students the opportunity to learn history, environmental science, and agricultural practices and processes through the cultural laboratory of the 18th century farm. School, scout and family groups make their own 18th-century clothing, plan their own menus and work projects, and then spend three days and two nights living and working at the 18th-century Environmental Living Center at Turkey Run - a true living history experience.

Both children and adults sleep on straw in linen tents, cook meals over an open fire and learn skills necessary to life in Virginia in 1771, such as spinning wool, woodworking, leather working, candle making, butter churning, bread and cheese making, sewing and kitchen gardening. These programs have proved so effective that the local schools have incorporated the Farm's programs into their curriculum of studies.

Throughout the season, The Claude Moore Colonial Farm hosts seven eighteenth-century special events, typical of those a farm family would have experienced and enjoyed. On the third full weekend of May, July and October, thousands of visitors join the Farm family and period craftsmen, entertainers and merchants in an 18th-century Market Fair. On the third Sunday in June, visitors help gather and bind the wheat and, in August, help cut tobacco and hang it in the barn to dry. By November, the harvests are complete and visitors help the farm family finish the fall chores, including threshing and winnowing wheat, and making yeast cakes. The winter solstice heralds the Christmas Wassail, which highlight the Farm's apple orchard with dancing and caroling.

SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrot



SUGAR AND THE FLOUR MILL

Sometimes my master goes back and forth between a ship's captain and a miller at one of the flour mills and sometimes he gets coins from the captain and gives coins to the miller and then all day long wagons go to the flour mill and load barrels and take them to the ship. I really don't understand it. Why would anyone give away nice shiny coins. I saw what was in the barrel once and all it was, was flour. It was white and dusty and it tasted bad and it wasn't sweet at all.

Once when we went to the flour mill, we went inside to talk to the miller and I met a pretty girl. She liked me. She took me all over the mill. It was very noisy and scary all the time and it was so dusty it made me sneeze over and over again. In one place there were lots and lots of seeds. There were so many seeds that they spilled out all the time into a big turning stone, but I don't know what happened to the seeds because this white stuff called flour is all that came out and went into a huge barrel. The girl was showing me the barrel and I sneezed so hard I fell off her hand and into the barrel. She got me out but I was so covered with flour that I looked like a white bird instead of my usual pretty red. When we went back to my master he said "Where is my pretty bird? I don't want this ugly white bird!" I yelled really loud and finally my master took me back.

When we got home my master put me in my cage and I was never so happy to be in my cage! I still was covered with flour so I started to wash myself. But instead of washing the flour off, it turned into white mud that stuck to my feathers. The more I washed the uglier I got. The nice girl who works for us tried to scrub me up but I didn't like that at all, and I am afraid that I am never going to be pretty again.

A little later one of the wagons brought a barrel of flour to our house. I screamed as loud as I could to warn the girl who works for us that we shouldn't let the barrel in the house because all it had in it was flour but she didn't understand and she told them to put it in the corner of the kitchen. You would think people would be smarter than that!

What a day!!

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

18th CENTURY CLOTHING NOTES

This column is intended to inform the present day reader of the clothing styles worn not only by the fashionable well-to-do, but by folks of every station for everyday activities as well as on important occasions. These notes will concern primarily clothing worn in Virginia, but will include comments on fashions, materials and articles of clothing which originated elsewhere and were imported or copied here.

Most Sorts of Jewellery

While many Colonial portraits do not show jewelry being worn, evidence exists through sellers' advertisements and household inventories at the time of death that jewelry is not altogether uncommon.

Many types of stones are currently used in jewelry. John Paul Grimke, a jeweler in Charlestown, South Carolina, advertises brilliant and rose-cut diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, rubies, amethysts, garnets and topazes. However, many people cannot afford jewelry with real stones, but this does not mean that they cannot have jewelry that looks like real stones. In the 1730s George Frederic Strass perfected the formula for transparent, high quality glass that could be cut and faceted the same way as diamonds. Cheron successfully imitated emeralds, rubies, topazes and sapphires. These imitation jewels were called paste. However, paste is not bought only by those who cannot afford the real thing. Even the most fashionable people wear it-especially in the daytime when it is considered unfashionable to wear diamonds or emeralds.

Both real stones and paste often have their color enhanced through the use of foil. Most settings have closed backs so that you cannot see through the stones. This allows the jeweler to set the stone or paste with a piece of colored foil behind it. Thus clear paste can be made to look like rubies and amethysts.

Not all jewelry has either stones or paste. Pearls are also quite fashionable. As with gems, pearls are also imitated. Fresh water pearls from Scotland and Ireland are used, if not too gray, and a cheap variety is the *coque de perle* from the periwinkle, rather than the oyster. Pearls are imitated in wax and Diderot describes the making of artificial pearls in France. They are made from a tube of opalescent glass that is cut and blown into a round pearl. They are colored using an extract from the scales of the small fresh-water fish called the ablette. After soaking in hot water for half a day, the scales yield a pearly coloring matter. This is blown into each pearl, which is then graded. The pearls are filled with melted wax and then the hole for the string is made.

Jewelry can be worn from head to toe. Women often wear pins in their hair or caps and men can wear a pin on their hat in place of a cockade.

Earrings are often seen advertised for sale, in inventories and on women in portraits. Some men, especially sailors, also wear earrings in their pierced ears. There is a common belief that pierced ears prevent and cure sore eyes. American sailors feel that those who had pierced ears have been around the Horn and seen the world. Most often, though, women are the ones seen wearing earrings. Earrings are often made with detachable parts. During the day, a woman could wear the top part of the earring that is attached to the earwire. This piece could be a simple stone, paste or pearl in a

setting with a solid back, or it could be a cluster of stones or pearls. Round clusters with a central stone and smaller stones around it are quite popular, as are floral designs. When evening comes or for a more formal occasion, the woman might often add a pendant or two to the earring. These pendants are often teardrop shapes and may have a central stone of teardrop shape with smaller stones set around it to compliment the round setting of the top of the earring. Pearl drops are often large teardrop shapes.

Necklaces are also quite common. In 1759 the *Lady's Magazine* advised that a "single row of large, round white beads on a black ribband will be found very becoming". These beads may be the fake pearls spoken of earlier. These pearl chokers are usually fastened at the back of the neck not by a clasp but by ribbons drawn through metal loops and tied in a bow. Many times the necklaces are not of large beads but of smaller (what we would consider "normal" size) pearls or beads. All the beads on a necklace are the same size rather than graduated. Necklaces are also worn in sets so that the lady could have four or more chokers on. However, beads are not always pearls or fake pearls. Smaller beads of coral and other stones are also worn-all tied at the back of the neck with a bow. Gold beads are also fashionable.

Beads are not the only type of necklace worn. A silk ribbon, often black, tied around the neck with the bow at either the back or the front is considered quite stylish. Ruffles of lace or silk are also worn. A long length of silk ribbon is also used as a necklace by hanging a pendant, cross, or enameled or painted miniature on it. This long ribbon is still tied close to the neck in choker fashion and then the pendant hangs down from there.

Brooches and pins are seen in portraits holding bodices together, clasping up sleeves, decorating stomachers and holding neck handkerchiefs and cravats closed. As earrings are made of removable parts, brooches are often made to become necklace pendants or part of a necklace or bracelet. Floral sprays are one popular type of pin. A floral brooch owned by Eliza Lucas Pinckney made in the 1750s is of silver set with twenty-two diamonds, five almandite garnets, five emeralds, three rubies, one pink sapphire, one yellow sapphire and one amethyst. It is 1-7/8 inches long (item in the Charleston, South Carolina museum).

Bracelets are elegant and often have clasps set with miniatures or large flat stones such as agate. They are often of black silk ribbon. The wide band of ribbon (about an inch) is attached to the clasp that is worn on the top of the arm. These clasps are also attached to many strands of pearls or other beads instead of ribbon. Clasps are often fairly large ovals and many are painted with miniatures. Bracelets often come and are worn in pairs. Sometimes ribbons are tied around the wrists and worn with no clasps.

Although it is difficult to see rings in paintings, they are worn by both men and women. Rings are made with stones or are just metal bands with knots, bows, hearts and hands or similar conventions. Wedding rings are not universal, and they can be worn on any finger. Rings of all types are worn on any finger of either hand, and the index finger seems to be especially popular.

Men are not without their own jewelry. Buttons of gold or silver or set with stones are considered quite elegant. They also wear sleeve buttons (what we would call cuff links) that are either designed silver, steel, gold, or brass, or have paste or stones set in metal bezels. Bezel are stone settings that do not use prongs. They encase the edge of the stone in a continuous piece of metal. Sleeve buttons are usually about 1/2 inch in diameter and can be several shapes. Sleeve buttons have two buttons for each sleeve so that you can see them either from the front or back of the sleeve. The buttons are linked with either an oblong or "S" shaped loop. Loops are also sold by jewelers so that you can make your own sleeve buttons from clothing buttons.

Perhaps the jewelry that immediately comes to mind when you think of men is the watch and watch chain. Watches are not the sole province of men, however. Watches are almost exclusively contained in a paired case, also stated as a watch with a pair of cases. The watch's works are driven by a chain and are wound and set with keys. (A winding knob or setting knob was not found on the watch stem until after 1870).

Men wear their watches in pockets in the waistband of the breeches or trousers. They are attached to watch strings (fob) so the man had something to grasp when pulling the watch out of the pocket. Watch strings can be as simple as a woven ribbon or a single chain. The string is attached to the watch on one end and has the watch key attached to the other. Some watches use two keys—one for winding and one for setting. Besides the key, a wax seal or other decorative device may be hung from the ribbon. All watch strings have at least one key hanging from the end opposite the watch, as all watches need keys to be wound and set.

Watch strings made from chains could be gold, silver, gilt brass or fine, worked teal. Gilt brass is brass gilded with gold. Brass is not used for watch cases, watch strings or chatelaines without being gilded, although this gilding will eventually wear off. Links of the chains used for watch strings are medium to large.

Women wear watches suspended from their waists on a hook or chatelaine. A chatelaine was originally a hook and ring for holding keys worn by the mistress of the castle or house. It came to be made in many types and is used for holding watches or sewing cases, scissors, little charms or jewels, or keys. Chatelaines have a long tongue on the back that hooks over a waistband or belt. The front of the chatelaine has a badge that is either left undecorated or is pierced, molded or worked in a medallion. From the badge could hang various lengths of chain that have attachment hooks or rings at the bottom and often hold sewing tools. Chatelaines used to hang watches have the badge at the waist with several short chains from the middle of it attaching to another complementary, smaller badge. The watch is hooked to short chains coming from the bottom of the smaller badge. The watch key and perhaps a seal hang from longer chains that hang from the outer sides of the large badge.

Simpler types of chatelaines are the scissors hook and a hook with a large ring at the bottom of the badge for holding keys or sewing tools. These hooks also hang from the waist and the scissors hook most often holds a pair of scissors and a pincushion of some sort attached at either end of a ribbon or chain.

Buckles are another common type of jewelry. Men wear buckles in their shoes, to fasten their neck stock and at the knees of their breeches, while women wear buckles on their shoes. Buckles are made from gold, silver, iron or brass and can also have stones or, more often, paste jewels set into them. Buckles for mourning are black to go with the rest of the mourning costume. Shoe, knee and stock buckles are all interchangeable from garment to garment, so that even if a man or woman has two or more pairs of shoes, they need only one pair of buckles. (Author's note: It is hard to find examples of 18th century jewelry set with gems, because people tend to have good stones reset as styles change. Mourning rings and other mourning jewelry are useful because they are dated and you know for certain that they are of the correct century. If you want to pursue styles of jewelry, you might want to go through old issues of *The Magazine Antiques* and art books that contain 18th and early 19th century paintings and portraits. A look through *Colonial inventories for your area* might help you to see what was commonly owned. As always, moderation is wise.)

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Mitton of Pork

8 ounces of bacon *(see note)

1 1/2 pounds of thinly sliced pork loin (cooked chicken could be substituted)

6 ounces force'd-meat (see below)

salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1/2 teaspoon ground mace

The force'd-meat is made with bread and would be called a stuffing or dressing today. It is made as follows.

2 cups bread crumbs

1 onion, minced

1/2 teaspoon sage

1/2 teaspoon savory

broth to moisten

salt and pepper to taste

*The bacon referred to here is the English style, nearly all lean bacon. Using this or the American style bacon works but the appearance may put some off as it will have a lot of white fat on the outside of the finished dish. The 18th C. "bacon" would have just as likely been thin sliced ham.

Line a 7-inch round dish with thin sliced bacon. Reserve some for the top. Lay in a layer of pork and one of force'd-meat in alternating layers. Season each layer with salt, pepper, and mace.

When the dish is full cover with layer of bacon and press down. Place on a tray (for spills) and bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Place a heavy weight on the Mitton and leave till cold. Turn out of dish, slice and serve.

If you use ham instead of bacon, the tray for spills is probably not necessary. Intended as a cold dish, I find it difficult to not eat it hot from the oven.

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

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

1. Our time period and location is 18th Century Virginia with our area of concentration Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River Valley. The Rappahannock River Valley covers from the ford of the 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 on Colonial life and times as others, so in order to be as accurate as possible, please check your facts prior to submitting an article.
3. Sources/references must be given for factual information. This enables the reader to go to the original source for more information, gives credit to the source, and also lets the editor of the newsletter off the hook if the information is challenged. This includes information from the internet. If you write to someone for permission to reprint and receive it, I would appreciate a copy for my files.
4. Opinions of the writer must be clearly identified as such.
5. The newsletter is published every other month in January, March, May, July, September, and November. My target date to have the newsletter published is the 15th of those months. In order to do that I will need any submissions by the 8th of the month. you may mail to the PO Box, or email me at <MyraWig@aol.com>.
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.

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting was held on Tuesday June 6. Following our regular business meeting we discussed the proposed bylaws that had been given to members a couple of months ago. They were adopted, and I will be getting a copy to all members as soon as I make a few changes in the computer and get copies made. If you don't have a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, please let me know and I will include those as well. We are now well on our way to attaining our non-profit status. The incorporation was approved March 31, 2000. Now that the bylaws are adopted, I have some paperwork to do to get the application ready and let an accountant take a look at everything. Hopefully in 2-3 months we will have completed this process and will be officially a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It has been a long time coming and I for one will be glad when we have attained this goal.

WEB ADDRESSES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS SECTION

- Citie of Henricus
www.co.chesterfield.va.us
- Frontier Culture Museum
www.frontier.state.va.us
- Kenmore/Ferry Farm
www.kenmore.org
- George Washington Birthplace National Monument
www.nps.gov/gewa
- Montpelier
www.montpelier.org
- Yorktown/Jamestown
www.nps.gov/colo
- Fort Frederick
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/fortfrederick.html
- Gunston Hall
www.gunstonhall.org
- Stratford Hall
www.stratfordhall.org
- Monticello
www.monticello.org
- Claude Moore Colonial Farm
www.1771.org

NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome a new member. Jennifer Watson joined RCHS after finding us at the Fielding Lewis Market Days. Jennifer has been interested in history for quite a while. We want to welcome her and look forward to getting to know her better.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- July - NO MEETING
August 1 - Dean Lewis from the Claude Moore Colonial Farm
September 5 - Al Piercey, Period Boat Building
October 3 - Skip Nolan, Colonial Militia

The RCHS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September, & November. 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@aol.com. Copyright2000 RCHS. The content of the RCHS Newsletter is the property of RCHS, its members and contributors.