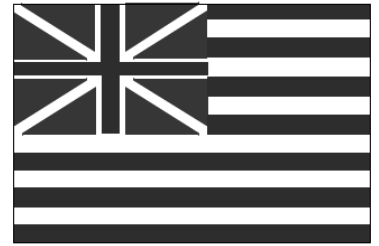




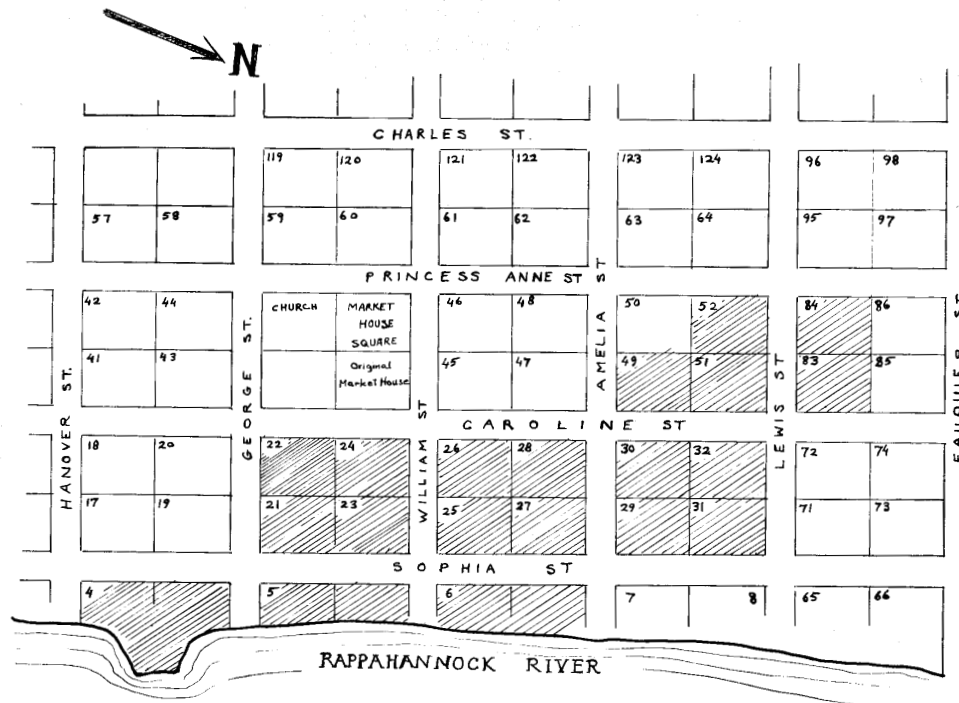
THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 3 Number 5

September/October 2000



Map showing area devastated by the Fredericksburg fire of 1807 (drawn by Bulent Atalay)

FIRE!! Part II, The Fire of 1807

by Trip Wiggins

1807. Fredericksburg now enjoyed two fire companies – the Vigilant and the Active. No longer did the town have to rely on able-bodied men to bring buckets, form a “fire brigade,” and attempt to douse a large fire. We now had ORGANIZED fire companies.

Unfortunately being elected to a fire company was more of a step up the social ladder than the basis of a professional fire fighting force. They were primarily social organizations. Eating, drinking, socializing and just being a member of the company was far more important than learning how to fight a raging blaze. After all, following the fire of 1799, we now had stricter guidelines on fire prevention – so major conflagrations were a thing of the past. Our last major fire was in 1799 – 8 years ago.

Oct. 19th – a Funeral

Such was the setting when Mr. William Stanard died in mid October, 1807. As was the custom of the times, the body of the late Mr. Stanard was lying in state on October 19th in the parlor of his house located on the northeast corner of Princess Anne and Lewis streets. This was the home built by Mr. Fielding Lewis in the 1750s who handed it down to his son George, who sold it to Mr. Carter, who in-turn sold it to Mr. Stanard.

At the Stanard home, food was being prepared in the kitchen for the guests at the funeral. The day was windy and dry – the town was engulfed in a drought that made the buildings “tinder dry” and a strong wind was blowing from the northwest. A reliable report of the time indicates that a spark from the Stanard chimney was the culprit that started the greatest fire in Fredericksburg’s past.

(con't on page 4)

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

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

THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



It's official!!! Tax exempt status has been approved for RCHS. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our treasurer, Myra Wiggins, for the many hours of research and work she has put into this project. Our incorporation and tax exempt status opens many doors and opportunities for us.

On Tuesday, September 5th, I attended an open house at Ferry Farm sponsored by the National Park Service. The purpose of the meeting was to get input from elected officials and the public on the managing of George Washington's boyhood home.

The property is one of three primary domestic residences of George Washington. Washington spent his childhood, from 1738-1754, in Stafford County. The property was owned by his family for 36 years. Located in the area were Washington's house, kitchen garden, dairy, storehouses, barns and other out buildings.

I was pleased to learn that the park service purchase of a conservation easement on Ferry Farm will ensure that the land is never developed, and that all development and construction plans for the site must be approved by the park service. The purchase also ensures that the property will always be used as a historic site and educational attraction and that the park service will have the right to protect the natural, cultural, archaeological and ecological features of the site.

I introduced our society, expressed our interest in the 18th century significance of Ferry Farm and pledged our support for any activities, programs, and projects they might sponsor which focus on this period of our history.

If you are a member of RCHS and have not attended meetings, I would encourage you to mark your calendar now and plan to attend each first Tuesday of the month. Our programs are very good and we have many events coming up that you don't want to miss.

Diane

COLONIAL FREDERICKSBURG FACTS

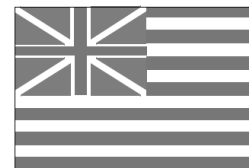
Feb 1727 House of Burgesses establishes the town of Fredericksburg on the Royston-Buckner tract.

1805 - Hugh Tennant Mercer (Dr. Mercer's son) operated a ferry across Rappahannock River (vicinity of City Dock)

1743 Charles Dick opens store on SW corner of Lewis & Caroline St. Fielding Lewis becomes his apprentice the following year. Dr. William Lynn, a Doctor of Physick from Scotland, opens business & residence on NE corner of George & Caroline streets. (Goolrick's)



AMERICAN HISTORY TIDBITS



c1710 -In contrast to sober dress of Quakers, colonial fashions were often extravagant. High heels, stiff stays, and large curled wigs worn by both men and women. Men's coat skirts stiffened with buckram, ad sleeve cuffs often reached elbows. Invention of hoop in England in 1711 governed styles in America for many years. Originally these hoops were flat, projecting only at sides. Over them were worn layers of skirts, and sacque, or overdress, was hung on top. Women's hairdress was characterized by "tower" or "commode." From top of this tower "lappets," or lace pendants, hung down alongside face.

c1730 -Great craze for white stockings for men and women set in, replacing vari-colored hose of 17th century. These were made of thread, silk, cotton, or worsted and were supported by means of ornate garters. Often name of gentleman of the lady was woven into her garter with a "posy." White hose worn until end of century.

1764 -Spinning and carding machinery invented by James Davenport of Pennsylvania. On Feb. 14 patent was granted and Davenport founded the Globe Mills in Philadelphia. In 1796 installed plant in Kensington, Pa

1781-18th century French traveler to Annapolis reported on splendor of this Southern city. Fine women, elegant horses, coaches, sumptuous dinner and balls. He noted that "A French hair dresser is a man of importance among them, and it is said, a certain dame here hires one of that craft at a thousand crowns a year salary."

UPCOMING EVENTS



Now through Feb 28, 2001 - Shipbuilding in Colonial Virginia. Nine-month exhibition traces the shipbuilding industry from the colony's earliest days through the Revolution. Examples of tools used in design & construction exhibited along with paintings, prints, maps etc. *Yorktown Victory Center*

Oct 7-8 - Fall Fiber Festival & Sheep Dog Trials. Display, demonstrations & workshops focused on the fiber arts. *Montpelier.*

Oct. 7 - Straw into Gold: From Flax to Linen. Transform bundles of dry stalks into gleaming fiber. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm.* 1-4pm

Oct. 7 - 18th Century Tavern Days. Living History Foundation. Music, dancing, food, shopping. *Falls Church, VA.*

Oct. 19-21 - What Shall I Wear? Dressing the First Families. Annual Costume Symposium. *Gadsby's Tavern.*

Oct 21-22 - 18th Century Market Fair. Warm yourself by the fire and enjoy the splendor of fall with crisp local apples, warm savory meatpies and hearty bread. Let entertainers, tradesmen, and the militia amuse and educate you. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm.* 11am-4:30pm

Oct. 21-22 - Yorktown Victory Celebration. Weekend encampment to mark the 219th anniversary of Yorktown victory. *Yorktown Victory Center.* Also, special programs, tours, and artillery demos at *Yorktown Visitor Center.*

Nov. 23-25 - Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia. Explore the 17th & 18th century culinary practices of Virginia. *Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center*

Oct. 28 - Hearth Cooking. Learn the basics of cooking 18th century delicacies over an open hearth in the kitchen outbuilding of *Gunston Hall.* Call 703-227-2261 to register.

Nov 4 - Preparing for Winter. Help the farmer strip cured tobacco leaves and roll them into bundles for transport. Card some wool and help cut out a garment for stitching. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm* 1-4pm.

Nov. 19 - Threshing Day. Help beat the seeds away from the stalks, watch the chaff fly away as you winnow the grain. *Claude Moore Colonial Farm.* 1-4pm.

WEB SITES FOR ABOVE EVENTS:

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
www.nps.gov/gewa

Montpelier
www.montpelier.org

Yorktown/Jamestown
www.nps.gov/colo

Claude Moore Colonial Farm
www.1771.org

Jamestown Settlement
www.historyisfun.org

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
www.history.org

NON-PROFIT STATUS INFORMATION

We have received notice that RCHS has been approved for non-profit status. What this means to us is that anyone wishing to donate money to our organization will now be able to take the donation as a tax deduction. "Donors may deduct contributions to you only to the extent that their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances." If someone makes a donation to us and receives good or services in return, that person may only take a deduction for the amount over the valued price of the goods or service. We are also required to furnish a written statement for donations over a certain amount (it is in the paperwork I received).

This does not mean that we are exempt from paying state sales tax. That comes under a totally separate thing. We are currently investigating how to go about getting someone to introduce the legislation so that we may also be exempt from paying

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:

Oct. 7 - Historic Port Royal House Tour
Oct. 21 - Kilmarnock Heritage Festival
Nov. 16 - King George Historical Society

RCHS ACTIVITIES

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

- Oct. 21 - Harvest Festival at Ferry Farm. Members will be assisting with activities.
- Nov. 4 - Historic Dumfries Tavern Night. Join in the fun.
- Nov. 18 - "Gentry" workshop at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria. Sponsored by the Living History Foundation.
- Dec. 2 - Annual Christmas Wreath Making. Time and Place TBA.
- Dec. 5 - Dinner at Brock's Riverside Grill. Colonial attire required. Dutch treat.

COLONIAL HISTORY YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Albany Congress of 1754

We've all seen the picture either as a woodcut or a flag with the proclamation "JOIN, or DIE." It depicts a snake cut into eight sections, one for each colony/region of Colonial America (S. Carolina, N. Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and New England). It was created long before the Revolution. Where did it come from?

In the 1750s the French were establishing their presence in English America. They were encroaching from Canada. Additionally the Iroquois were growing discontent with the English over trade and land policies. The British government, facing an almost certain war with France, ordered the colonies to settle the complaints of the Indians. They may be needed when war erupts. Albany, New York was the site selected for the discussions.

The delegates - representing all of the colonies north of New Jersey - failed to reach accord over the Iroquois issues, but did come to agreement on other items of note. These included a defensive plan against the French, choosing a single superintendent of Indian affairs, and a Crown control for Indian lands acquisition. Additionally, a delegate from Pennsylvania, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, proposed a plan for colonial union where the colony's external affairs would not be handled individually by each colony but rather by a grand council elected by colonial assemblies and a president-general appointed by the Crown. The plan, known as the Albany Plan,

was never approved by the colonial assemblies and therefore never sent to Parliament for vote and incorporation. It did, however, set the precedent for an American union. Twenty years later the thoughts of the Albany plan would be resurrected in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the Continental Congress, and would still have Dr. Franklin as a delegate from his home colony.

As to the flag with that snake, it was a contemporary illustration that succinctly summarized the plan for union put forth at the Albany Congress. It, too, would again make its appearance in twenty years, then with ALL of the colonies represented, and not against the French, but against the Crown.

NOTABLE COLONIAL PERSONS

LYDIA BARRINGTON DARRAGH (1729-1789)

Lydia was a Revolutionary war heroine, a nurse, and a midwife. Her claim of note occurred in December, 1777 for a single act for her country. A room in her home in Philadelphia was being used by British soldiers during the occupation as a council of war chamber. Lydia overheard of a plot to launch a surprise attack against Washington's troops at Whitemarsh, a few miles north of Philadelphia. She took it upon herself to warn Washington, and her son who was serving in Washington's army. However, to get there she had to cross British lines. How would she do that? She took with her an empty sack and told the soldiers that she had to go and fetch flour. She walked 13 miles and eventually met a soldier guarding the American camp where she told all that she had heard. Armed with the new intelligence, Washington was ready when the "surprise" came. The British, seeing that the trap had not sprung, but rather that the Rebels were awaiting them, decided not to fight and returned to the confines of Philadelphia. Washington encamped his army in winter quarters in nearby Valley Forge.

BOAT COMMITTEE

After quite a long spell and much anticipation, the boat committee is finally active again. Al and a couple of other members have begun work on "our" boat. They have been doing some preliminary work and should be ready to start putting the hull on in September. This will be a long awaited dream for some of our group. They could always use more help. If you are interested in building a boat as it was done in Colonial times, contact the editor at 540-371-3906 and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.



SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrott

Sugar is on vacation with his master this edition, but will be back next issue.



The Fire (con't)

The Fire's beginning is best described by an eyewitness who also worked for the Mutual Assurance society (the local insurance company). He had rented the brick building on the northwest corner of Lewis and Caroline streets (the Lewis store) and sent a note to the main office in Richmond on the 20th.

"Sir - I fully intended to have written you last evening but I was so agitated that I was not capable of putting pen to paper yesterday. About 12 o'clock I was sitting with the corpse of William Stanard when the alarm of fire was given. I ran out of the house and discovered the roof of the house over my head was in a Blaze, supposed from a spark out of the Chimney."

The house went up quickly but they managed to save poor old Mr. Stanard's body for future burial. (Where he is buried, I don't know.) Since his home was located atop a hill at the north end of town, and the wind was from the northwest, the flames were quickly spread to the heart of the little town. A small house across Lewis street from Stanard's house went next, followed by a warehouse below it. (Luckily the house built by Charles Dick, in the middle of the east side of Princess Anne St. between Lewis and Amelia, was left untouched - and remains to this day a jewel in the center of town!)

Once the fire reached Caroline street, it roared down destroying everything in its path on the west side of the street. One building here remained undamaged - that of the Henderson store on the southwest corner of Amelia and Caroline -today known as the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop. The Apothecary shop had been out of business for some 30 years, but the building that housed it, on the opposite corner of the intersection, was reduced to ashes in minutes.

Crossing to the east side of Caroline street, the inferno continued down Caroline street to George street and east to Sophia street where it finally stopped at the river. In all, over seven blocks were destroyed!

To make matters worse, much of the town was at the horse races at "Willis Field" - just below the current National Cemetery. By the time the citizens and fire companies could respond to the crisis, the fire was really out of control.

The fire companies proved to be inadequate for the conflagration as the newspaper pointed out, "...the incompetency of the engines to perform their offices with full effect...". Most people lost everything. Within four hours, a great portion of the town lay in ashes.

Businesses lost included: the Royston tobacco warehouses on Sophia street, the "Bank house" (Bank of Virginia) located at the side of the present Shiloh (Old Site) church, Fisher's tavern (occupying the old building of Gordon's and Weedon's taverns of days gone by on the north side of William between Sophis and Caroline), and many small shops. Additionally, over 100 homes were lost.

In a letter to a business friend, Charles Yates described the destruction:

Fredericksburg, Va., Oct.22nd, 1807

Mr. Benjamin Wiltshire,
Walnut Grove, Va.

Sir: Yours of the 16th instant is received, and hath been forwarded to J.Y., who will then be prepared to load Mercury's wagon on his arrival at Germanna, and to start him immediately. I have nothing particular to say to you now that concerns my affairs, but with great concern you are informed of a destructive fire which broke out here last Monday in the house on the hill, formerly Colonel Edward Carter's, which was destroyed, and the flames spread upon the adjoining squares, which are totally consumed.

"On the right hand coming down the street as far as Mr. D[avid] Henderson's store, and on the other side from Messrs. Ross's large brick house, down the Main [Caroline] Street to Mrs. Heath's opposite Mr. Leavell's store house, including all from the street to the river, which, you know included Royston's warehouse, and consequently destroyed the hogsheads of tobacco which Mercury brought, and which Mr. Stuart said was equal to any he had ever inspected, its weight twelve hundred and thirty-nine pounds, net, and would have brought me one hundred dollars, but this is a trifling loss. It will cost me more a great deal to help the poor indigent sufferers. Those are not reduced to distress who have five thousand dollars left. The bank house was burned, but the money therein saved.

Your friend, etc,
Chas Y."

The City Acts to Assist the Homeless

Four hours was all it took to make hundreds of citizens homeless. There was no Red Cross to turn to, but there were the neighbors. On the day following the great catastrophe a meeting was called, chaired by Dr. Charles Carter, the mayor, to obtain relief for the sufferers. Individuals began offering help immediately. To collect and administer relief funds and work with the now-displaced citizens, a committee was formed of some of the town's leading citizens. They included Benjamin Botts, Dr. George French, Dr. Carter, Hugh Mercer, Jr., John Minor, Benjamin Day, William and John Smock, and Robert Patton.

Aside from their tremendous work done on behalf of the homeless of their city in the wake of the fire, these men were well known in the area. Patton, a Scottish immigrant and

leading merchant, married Gen. Hugh Mercer's daughter and would become the g-g-g-grandfather of World War II General George Patton. Mercer, the son of Gen. Mercer, was active in local affairs and would be the father of Gen. Hugh Weedon Mercer of the Civil War. Minor was a prominent lawyer, member of the House of Delegates, and would be a General in the upcoming War of 1812. Dr. French was a leading physician and an eight-time mayor of the town. Dr. Carter, the town's mayor at the time of the fire, was a descendant of Robert "King" Carter, and rendered valuable service in the yellow fever epidemic of 1803. William Smock was active in civic affairs and would be elected mayor in 1808. James Smock, also active in civic affairs, was appointed in 1805 to the hustings court as one of five commissioners to provide for the dependent poor of the town. Botts, also a member of the commission of the poor, was a lawyer of some note and became famous in later years as counsel to Aaron Burr when Burr was tried for treason. Finally, there was Benjamin Day.

Major Benjamin Day had served two terms as mayor (1790-1, 1804-5). He served in the Revolution as aide de camp to General William Woodford and Lord Sterling and as adjutant of the 2nd Virginia. He was a philanthropist, an active Mason (grand master for the Grand Lodge of Virginia), a vestryman at St. George's, and the primary force in the establishment of the Male Charity School in Fredericksburg in 1795. To say he was active in the community is a gross understatement! In his role on the fire committee he became the driving force and the one responsible for collecting, acknowledging, and distributing funds raised for the victims of the fire. Meticulous in his record keeping, he was actively involved until the committee was disbanded nearly 14 months later.

Contributions were not restricted to the local community but from throughout Virginia and other states. Money and badly needed material flowed in. In cash alone, over \$7,100 was raised and distributed, including a check for \$137 from the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. (In these days of high overhead for charities it is nice to note that less than \$100 of the money collected was spent on committee expenses!) Insurance claims were also submitted and paid. Still, Day had his hands full in determining who would get how much from his allotted cash balance. Choices were made and cash awarded to those in need. Slowly people got back on their feet and got on with their lives. It would take a lot more than a devastating fire to extinguish the spirit of Fredericksburg.

The Aftermath

Fire fighting preparedness took front stage rapidly. The city was partitioned into fire districts. Men were assigned duties to patrol their section and be vigilant for fires. Water tankers were procured and stored at the Market House. Chimneys were ordered to be swept and families were urged "to have fires extinguished as generally as the necessities of families will admit during the present dry and windy season."

Another recommendation for adequate water to combat fires was: "To have as many hogsheads and barrels as can be procured sit at convenient places before the houses & kept filled with water & to recommend it to the several inhabitants to keep all their kitchen vessels constantly

filled with water & for each family to keep an ax at some convenient part of the lot to be taken by the proprietor with his Buchett [bucket] or other water vessel to the place of danger in case of any further alarms."

The City Council also ordered an inspection of the condition of the town's fire fighting equipment and to ensure that the engine and equipment were "in a fit state" in their "usual room in the Market House." The engine was subsequently sent to Baltimore for repairs.

The mayor had an opportunity to publicly recognize those whose efforts during the actual blaze contributed to extinguish the fire. Many were slaves or free blacks, as many of them were not at the races when the flames erupted but rather in town and the first to respond. The mayor recognized the following by proclamation:
Sergeant Bruce; Corporal Grigsby; 3 of my men; Phil - Farish cook; Cornelius - Ferehougs; Moses Berry; Daniel - Pattons; Dick - G. Minors; Jenny Carter, Barras; James do, Walker; John Bass
(signed) J.C. Carter

Did any of these actually get a physical reward? It is unrecorded.

One person stood out and was awarded a medal for his extraordinary exertions. He was Edward Cox. Nothing more is known of him.

Businesses rapidly got back to the business of business. Mrs. Martha Fisher ran an announcement in the Virginia Herald on Oct. 27, just a week after the destructive blaze, saying that her tavern was open again, now operating out of the old Eagle Tavern at the upper end of town (the current Rising Sun Tavern).

Buildings sprang up, now more substantial than the ones destroyed. The town rebuilt itself. Strangely, the block on the west side of Caroline from Lewis to Amelia, was the last to be rebuilt - and not rebuilt for 90 years! Fredericksburg came back to life.

MEETING RECAP

RGHS met on Sept 5, 2000. Following our regular business meeting, Trip Wiggins gave a presentation on the different flags in Colonial times.

It was announced at the meeting that we have been approved for the non-profit status (see article in newsletter). We have been invited to do a program for Historic Dumfries Weems-Botts Museum on Dec 9 for an event they are having. We discussed wreath making which will be on Dec 2. The place for that will be announced in the November newsletter. This is our big fundraiser for the year (\$400 last year) so please turn out to help. If you can't help, but know where we can get some greenery free, let us know.

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.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We have two additional memberships this issue. They are Don & Janice Francis, and Nancy Hayden. Don has been helping with the boat. Nancy comes to us with a living history background. All are from Fredericksburg. Welcome!

FIRST PERSON INSTRUCTION

The Bailey's have graciously volunteered to help those of us who are interested in becoming more comfortable with first person impressions. The next "practice session" will be Sunday, October 8 at 4 pm. Bring snack/finger type foods. Please let Susan know if you plan to attend (540-785-9451).

FUTURE MEETINGS

October 3 - Al Piercey, Boatbuilding

November 5 - Skip Nolan, Colonial Militia

December 5 - No Meeting, we will be getting together for an evening of fun and dinner. Brock's Riverside Grill. Colonial attire required. Dutch treat.

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. Copyright 2000 RCHS. The content of the RCHS Newsletter is the property of RCHS, its members and contributors. RCHS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.