



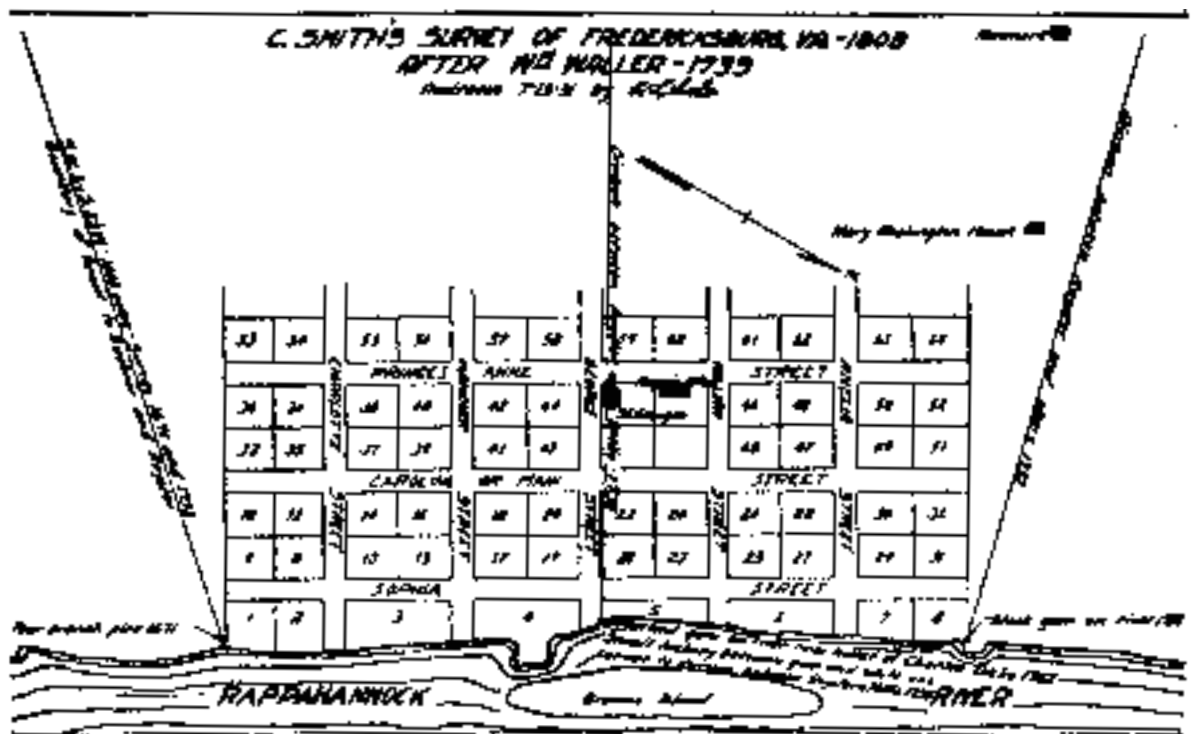
# THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



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

*Volume 4 Number 4*

*Fall 2001*



## The Streets of Fredericksburg

*by Trip Wiggins*

We walk the streets of Fredericksburg without giving their names a second thought. Caroline. Princess Anne. Sophia. (pronounced So-phi-a). Just names. But who were these people that are as old as the town itself? Come, let's explore. It will all be made (more than) abundantly clear.

To explain their origins, we must first look at the Royal family of England at the time Fredericksburg was settled. After all, we were an English colony and our fair city itself was named after one in that family.

That's right, Fredericksburg was named after royalty. Don't remember King Frederick? That's because there wasn't one. He died before his time (1751) and that's how England ended up with King George III instead of Frederick.

When the town was founded in 1728, the following streets were laid out. Parallel to the river were Sophia, Caroline and Princess Anne. Those running east-west, beginning with the one farthest south, were Charlotte, Hanover, George, William, and Amelia.

To understand the names, let's go back and take a good look at that family, and the names will become clear to all. We need to back up a bit and get all the "begats" sorted out. We'll start with Queen Anne who ruled from 1702-1714. She gave us the Act of Union (joining England and Scotland to form Great Britain), the War of Spanish

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 way of life of our forebears in this area.*



### **2001 RCHS OFFICERS**

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

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



As most of you already know, Diane resigned as President in June. Al Piercey succeeded her as president. Al was at Wooden Boat School in Maine in August so this is his first "President's Pen".

Myra reminded me that as president of RCHS I was expected to contribute a "presidents message" to the newsletter. As you know I became president more or less by accident. I missed the very first meeting under my reign because I was off to wooden boat school. Then I missed the second meeting because my mom was in trouble in Arizona and I had to help her. I followed that up by missing a couple of dance practices and a dance demonstration due to illness. It wouldn't be too far out of line for my loyal membership to ask for my resignation due to my lack of interest.

Of course I do not have a lack of interest. I have always been interested in the colonial period as all of us are and I have grown to love and respect the members of the RCHS. I was one of the very early members of the group Jim Getz started and when that fell apart I was in on the beginning of RCHS and became president when the president resigned. It is important for all of us to remember the frailty of human organizations and the sensitivity of human feelings. So here is my message to you all (stolen entirely from Bill & Ted and their excellent adventure) "be excellent to each other".

Now what in the world do I have to do to prepare for the next meeting?

### **AREA EVENTS**



- Dec 1-31. A Colonial Christmas. Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center.** Experience 17th and 18th century holiday traditions.
- Dec 1-Jan 6 - The Holidays at Mount Vernon.** See the mansion adorned for the holidays. The third floor will also be open for tours during this time.
- Through Feb 28 - African American Heritage Program. Mt Vernon.** In observance of Black History Month, Mt Vernon offers a moving wreathlaying and brief presentation at the Slave Memorial site throughout the month of February. Also this year, on Sat and Sun only, a ceremonial program of African American music, singing and story telling about slave history.

### **RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY DANCERS**



*We are looking for people who will be dedicated to coming to rehearsals, getting the proper attire together and be available when we have a commitment to do a demonstration. This will be a team striving to develop a level of expertise in this type of dance over time. For anyone who wants to be on the demo team, contact Elaine Sturgeon, coordinator 540-785-2168 or Diane Nolan 540-373-7651.*

**Dec 31 - First Night at St George's Episcopal Church  
 9pm and 10pm**

### **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:*

**Dec 31 - First Night--RCHS members will be strolling the streets of Fredericksburg in period attire and first person if you have one. The dancers will also be dancing (see above).**

## ELECTION TIME AGAIN

It's time for electing officers for the 2002 year. The voting will take place at the **January meeting, which will be held on the 2nd Tuesday** instead of the 1st Tues since the first Tues is New Year's Day. The slate is as follows:

**President - Trip Wiggins**  
**Vice-President - Bob Bailey**  
**Secretary - Catherine Bell**  
**Treasurer - Al Piercey**

Please come to the meeting and show your support for these folks. Nominations will be accepted from the floor provided that the person has first given their consent.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Please accept my apologies for being so slack in getting the newsletter out lately. The last one published was the May/June issue. It has been a very hectic year for me and the time has slipped away from me. With that in mind, Trip and I have decided that it is probably best to publish the newsletter quarterly instead of bi-monthly. They will be Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall issues. As always, I welcome your articles and input. Without it I wouldn't be able to publish the newsletter at all!



## WREATH MAKING

Once again this year, the annual wreath making weekend was a huge success. It is traditionally held the first weekend in December. A number of the members spent the day Friday, Nov. 30 at the Nolan's making up wreaths for the pre-orders we had taken as well as trying to get ahead for the crowd on Saturday. The weather Sat. was great..in fact it was a bit warm..but no one is complaining after noting the rain the following Sat. Everyone kept busy making wreaths and swags all day. By 1:30pm we were having to turn people away. Just so you will realize our progress, the first year we did this, we profitted \$411. The second year \$745 and this year the count at the time I'm writing this was \$1065. There was still a little to be collected, but this is a tremendous increase in just 3 years!! We had people who walked down Caroline St. when we weren't in the same place as last year because they knew we would be somewhere and they wanted to purchase their wreaths from us. It's great to be seeing the same people return. Next year, plan on coming down and helping. It's lots of fun. If you don't have period attire, we can usually round up something for you.

## Streets (con't)

Succession (also known as King Philip's war as he was the King of Spain), established horse racing in England, and who executed the last witch. She and her boring husband, George of Denmark, had 18 children - none of which survived to adulthood. This made her the last of the Stuarts. What was England to do?

Enter the Act of Settlement. This act was signed in 1701 by King William. (William, of William & Mary fame, was the husband of Queen Mary the daughter of James II, and also the son of Mary the sister of James II, making William and Mary 1st cousins! Of course William's father was also William of Orange and Queen Mary's sister was Queen Anne. Confused yet?) The act gave a great deal of power to the Parliament after a century of fighting with the King. It provided for several things including: a guarantee that all future monarchs MUST be members of the Church of England (Protestants and Catholics were fighting for control of the crown; Protestants won). By the way it also stipulated that the monarch could not leave the country or get England involved in a war without the permission of Parliament; no foreigner could hold land or office in England; and that judges could not be discharged by the King - that too could only come from Parliament. So who would the new king be? Hang in there, it gets more confusing than the court challenges of the Bush-Gore election!

The choices were few. Anne's father was James II, a staunch Catholic. Although Anne embraced Protestantism, her brother, James did not and was known as the first pretender. He would come back to try his hand at reclaiming the throne as would his son, Charles (as in "Bonny Prince..."). But now we are stuck with a replacement for Anne in 1714.

One of the other clauses of the Act of Settlement stated that since the monarch had to be a Protestant, the next in line would be Sophia, Electoress of Hanover or her heir. Why her you say? Let's look. Sophia's ancestry is monarch laden. Her grandfather was James I (VI), King of England and Scotland from 1603-25. His son, Charles had started the English Civil War, but it is with his daughter that we are concerned. Elizabeth was James' daughter. She married Frederick, Elector of Palatine (now part of Germany). He became the King of Bohemia and ended up starting Europe's Thirty Years War! They had a daughter, named Sophia who also married well - to Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover. So, taking away the Catholics in the family, Sophia is next in line to inherit the throne.

Their son, George Louis Augustus, born 1660 in Hanover and raised a Protestant, became the Elector of Hanover. He married his cousin, Sophia Dorothea of Celle (Zell) [also in current day Germany]. All was going well until his mother, Sophia, died in 1714, a few months before Queen Anne. So the crown was to fall on George Louis Augustus, great-grandson of James I, and Elector of Hanover; now as George I. The Germans come to England (and have stayed ever since!)

George I never really wanted the job, but he was stuck with it. He never attempted to learn any English. He was described as having little taste for the arts, seldom read, phlegmatic, lazy, dull-witted - but loyal to his close friends. He chose some wise advisors including Robert Walpole as the first Prime Minister of England. (The King didn't care to learn English so it was too hard to run the meetings with his government ministers, so chose Walpole to run the meetings as the chief or *prime*

## Streets (con't)

minister.) What occurred during his reign? A massive financial crisis (South Sea Bubble) and a rebellion with the "pretender" (Jacobite rebellion of 1715). Additionally, two English authors published a couple of books, "Robinson Crusoe" and "Gulliver's Travels". George and Dorothea had two children - Sophia (this is the last, I swear) who married Frederick William I, King of Prussia. (Their son was "Frederick the Great".) Their second child was George, born in 1683 in Hanover. George and Dorothea were not a happy couple and George I eventually banished her (and in turn found several mistresses).

In 1727 George I dies and the crown goes to his only son, George II. (Note that this occurs about the time we are establishing Fredericksburg.) George II marries Caroline of Ansbach. She is a beauty and one of the brains behind the crown. George, like his father, was not all that interested in running England. He was arrogant, vain, ungracious, rather stupid and obstinate - but a pretty good leader. He, like his father, was surrounded with good advisors. One being Walpole, the other being his wife, Caroline. When Walpole was replaced, it was with William Pitt - another excellent advisor. Where George was not much liked by the English, his wife was loved by all! (A portrait of her hangs in the Court House in Caroline county.)

What did George II do? He put down another Jacobite rebellion (by Bonnie Prince Charlie) in 1745, led the country through the war with France (the Seven Years War) greatly expanding the British Empire and making her one of the first Superpowers [actually Pitt did most of this], and abolished witchcraft as a crime. He patronized Handel and his music. He was also the last ruler of England to lead troops in battle. Although he loved his wife, he never-the-less continued in father's footsteps and had numerous mistresses.

George and Caroline had a palace full of kids. Note their names as all are related to Fredericksburg. There was (in order of birth) Frederick Louis (first born, so crowned Prince of Wales), Anne, Amelia Sophia Eleanor, Elizabeth Caroline, George William, William (Duke of Cumberland), Mary, and Louisa. All were born in Hanover.

Frederick was the heir. He was married in 1736 to Augusta of Saxe-Gotha. The music at their wedding was written and played by Handel. Frederick was not liked by his family and it was mutual. He was very independent minded and wanted to do his own thing. He too had many affairs. When his mother, the Queen, died in 1737 among her last words were that she "would never see that monster again." I guess marriage really settled him down, for Frederick and Augusta were described as happy. The Prince and Princess of Wales lived in Kew where he loved to raise plants and flowers. Such was the start of the Royal Botanical Gardens! They had 8 children, the oldest (and therefore heir to the throne) was George. In 1760 he would become George III on the death of his grandfather, George II. George III married Charlotte of Muehlenburg Streilitz (another German) in 1761. They had 15 children; the eldest became George IV. George became the first English born Hanoverian King.

Of George II's other children: William became an accomplished soldier commanding the Cold Stream Guards and

rising to Lt. General. He died in 1765 of a blood clot. Anne married the Prince of Orange and lived in Holland. (William of William and Mary fame also came from Orange!) Anne ruled Holland as regent during the minority of her son. Amelia was intended to become the wife of her cousin Frederick the Great, but alas, he married another. She never married, and when she died at age 75 she still had a miniature portrait of Frederick. Elizabeth, her mother's favorite child, was a sickly person throughout her 44 years but still was active in church and charity work. Finally, Mary married Frederick II of Hesse-Cassel (another German). George died as an infant.

There was one other person of note. George III had a brother (among his 7 siblings) who was Edward, Duke of York. (George despised Edward for the latter's uninhibited, notorious, and quite public, affairs). Edward was a promising naval officer who died unexpectedly in 1767 in Monaco. On his deathbed he wrote to his brother, now King, asking for his forgiveness. They say George cried when he read the letter.

Now back to the streets. According to the map of the town (done by C. Smith in 1808 but based on William Waller's original survey of 1739) the streets when the town was initially laid out were Sophia, Caroline, Princess Anne, Charlotte, Hanover, George, William and Amelia. Sophia was then named for - take your pick - Sophia, mother of George I, Sophia wife of George I or Sophia daughter of George II. Caroline was named for the wife of George II. Princess Anne and Amelia were sisters of George II while William was his brother. Hanover is for the House of Hanover - the dynastic name of the family and the region from where they came. George was named for George II, the sovereign at the time the town was founded. Finally there is Charlotte. In his book on the street names of Fredericksburg, Edward Alvey states that Charlotte was named in honor of George III's wife, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. This name is also on the 1808 copy of the 1739 map. Only one problem with this - Charlotte didn't marry George III until 1761. So, in 1728 she was NOT part of the family at all (as George III and Charlotte weren't even born yet!) I presume that the street (if there really was one) did not get named until the second round of streets came in in the 1760-80s. It was during this period that Wolfe, Pitt, Charles, Prince Edward, Princess Mary, Princess Augusta, Fauquier, Hawke, Dixon, Lewis, Prussia and Winchester streets were formed.

As to these: Wolfe was after General James Wolfe, the hero of Quebec in the French & Indian (Seven Years) War; Pitt was Prime Minister William Pitt (the Earl of Chatham), Prime Minister during the Seven Years War; Charles (for either Charles I - who produced the English Civil War and was arrested, tried, and executed, or his son, Charles II who gave us Habeas Corpus, the great plague and fire of London); Fauquier, Francis Fauquier, Royal Governor of Virginia from 1758-1768 (described by Jefferson as the ablest governor who had ever served in Williamsburg); Hawke, Admiral Edward Hawke, British admiral who won sweeping victories against the French in the Seven Years War; Dixon, Roger Dixon, prosperous and prominent pre-revolutionary Fredericksburg merchant, commissioner and Burgess, who lived at the corner of Caroline and Dixon but not in the present house; Lewis, for Fielding Lewis able commissioner, Burgess, and manager of the Fredericksburg Guntery

whose home (now known as Kemore) still stands in town; Prussia after that region of Germany where George II's sister's husband (Frederick William) and son (Frederick the Great) ruled; and Winchester, named for that town in England that was the one time capital of the Saxons and the location of Winchester Cathedral.

Then there are Princess Mary and Princess Augusta. Never heard of them? That's because the names no longer exist - but the streets do. Roger Dixon purchased many lots from Henry Willis' estate in 1752 at the south end of town about the same time Fielding Lewis was developing the north end of town. On the west side, between the two was Allan Town, named after its developer, John Allan, whose home still resides at 1106 Princess Anne street. Well, the Dixon lots were at the south end of Caroline, Princess Anne and what today is Prince Edward and Charles streets, only Prince Edward and Charles streets didn't physically connect that far south. So they were named (presumably by Dixon) as Princess Augusta [the continuation of Prince Edward] and Princess Mary [Charles]. Augusta was probably named for Frederick's wife, Augusta, Princess of Wales. Likewise, Mary was another child of George II and Caroline. Eventually Allan Town was straightened out and Prince Edward and Charles were extended to their current southern boundaries and the name of Mary and Augusta were discarded and forgotten.

A final note on Sophia, William, Caroline, and Prussia streets. Following the revolution, the first three were renamed Water, Commerce, and Main, respectively. Some say they wanted to rid the town of royalty (but Princess Anne, Prince Edward, and George remained). Very odd. In 1935 the town decided that for tourism sake the former names sounded much more interesting than the latter, so the city council gave them back their original names. Prussia retained its name until America got involved in World War I. At that time the name was changed to its current Lafayette in honor of the town's most famous French guest.

So the truth is out. We were named for a dysfunctional royal family who never even visited (or probably even heard of) our fair little village. To find out more about the rest of the town's street names, please check out "The Streets of Fredericksburg" by Edward Alvey at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library.



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

On Friday, December 7 about 13 of us got together at Brock's for our annual holiday dinner. A good time was had by all. Period attire was optional, but worn by most. The evening started at 7:30p and we didn't leave until nearly 11. Good food, good company and good cheer!

## SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

*Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrott*

### THE WHEELWRIGHT



My Master gave me a piece of apple and, picking me up, headed for the door. Where were we going? We go to so many different places and I never know exactly what we will do next. We passed several people on the way and two of them had horses and one of the horses was hitched to a wagon. I said hello to the wagon horse and he rolled his eyes and snorted and shook his head.

After a while we came to a wagon that only had three wheels. There were two men working on the fourth wheel that was missing some of the spokes that connect the big round ring to the little round ring in the middle. They added more spokes until it looked like a whole wheel. Then they took a big circular strap of iron and held it up to the wheel and then they held it in the fire, then beat it with a hammer and made a big noise like clang clang clang! Then they put it in fire again and made it bright red like my feathers. Then they put the iron ring on the wheel and the wheel caught fire and they threw water at it and made a big fizzing noise. After the iron was cooled it was completely stuck to the wooden parts like it was one piece. I know because they tried to get it off and they couldn't. I guess they liked it because they put the wheel on the wagon and drove it off.

We started home when all of a sudden a flash of light made a huge BANG!!! My master started walking faster and pretty soon it started to rain very hard. The noise and bright light came again and again and it rained so hard that the drops bounced off of me and back up into the air again. We finally got home and got out of the rain but I have never been so wet in my life!

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

### RULES OF CIVILITY

1st - Que toutes actions qui se font publiquement fassent voir son sentiment respectueux a toute la compagnie.

Let all actions performed in public show some sign of respectful sentiment to the entire company.

"We are more thoroughly enlightened people, with respect to our political interests, than perhaps any other under heaven. Every man among us reads, and is so easy in his circumstances as to have leisure for conversations of improvement and acquiring information." Benjamin Franklin



## VIRGINIA SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*George Wythe*

The top-most signature of the Virginia delegation on the Declaration is that of George Wythe, Esq. Pretty good considering he missed all of the debates and the signing ceremony. But he was held in such esteem by his fellow delegates that they left room for the signature of the senior statesman from Virginia.

Like many of his fellow signers, the Declaration of Independence was not his "15-minutes of fame." No, George Wythe had an impact on many people throughout his 80 years.

George was born in Chesterville (now Hampton), Virginia in 1726 to Thomas and Margaret Walker Wythe (pronounced "With"). His father, a prominent local planter, died soon after his son's birth. His mother instilled in him a love of reading and learning.

After attending the College of William and Mary he studied law and was admitted to the colony's General Court bar in 1746. He began his practice in Elizabeth City and soon was partnered with John Lewis, son of the prominent lawyer Zachary Lewis. The following year, he married Anne, Zachary's daughter.

Their bliss was short lived as she died in the summer of 1748. That same year the 22-year old widower was appointed to the committee of Privileges and Elections of the House of Burgesses. His political career was getting started.

He was elected a burgess for Williamsburg in 1754 and soon remarried - to Elizabeth Taliaferro, daughter of planter and builder Richard Taliaferro. (The Georgian George Wythe house in Williamsburg was built by Richard and given to the young couple).

When the House of Burgesses sent Attorney General Peyton Randolph to England as its agent in 1753, the now 27 year old Wythe was appointed to Randolph's former post. Obviously people were taking note of the young burgess' abilities. Wythe resigned the post when Randolph returned two years later.

In the elections of 1758, Wythe again won a burgess seat - this time representing the College of William and Mary. At the next elections in 1761 he was returned as a burgess, now representing Elizabeth City county.

He was an opponent of the Stamp Act and drafted the remonstrance to the House of Commons to protest the tax. He, like Randolph, opposed the tax but also opposed the fiery outbursts of freshman burgess Patrick Henry. Throughout the turbulent 1760s and into the 1770s Wythe remained on close relations with governors Fauquier and Lord Botetourt.

During Fauquier's administration, William Small of the College of William and Mary introduced Wythe to a young man intent on studying the law and Wythe soon took him on as a student. The youth's name - Thomas Jefferson. The

Declaration of Independence would be the final exam for Jefferson, and George Wythe's signature of approval must have made Jefferson quite happy indeed.

In 1760, like many of his social status, Wythe was elected to the Vestry of his church - Bruton Parish. In 1768 he was appointed to William and Mary's board, elected as Williamsburg's mayor, and appointed clerk for the House of Burgesses! In 1770 he was named trustee of the new public hospital.

He continued serving in the House of Burgesses until elected as a delegate to the historic 2nd Continental Congress in 1775. Though 50 years old when the war erupted, he proposed to fight in the war, but his service was to be serving his government.

Another Virginia delegate, Richard Henry Lee, introduced the resolution calling for independence, on instructions from the Virginia Convention. During the debate on the issue of independence Wythe was in Virginia assisting in the drafting of the new state constitution - largely written by George Mason.

Following his service with the 2nd Continental Congress he was, in 1777, elected speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and two years later accepted an appointment as professor of law at the College of William and Mary, a position he would hold until 1789. It was the first such professorship in the nation.

His dear Elizabeth died in 1787. During the Constitutional Convention of 1787 he served as a delegate from Virginia and wrote the rules for the convention but did not participate in the debates. He was also a co-designer of Virginia's state seal. A foe of slavery, he freed many of his slaves, one of whom, Lydia Broadnax, opted to gain employment with her former master.

Following his tenure at William and Mary he was appointed in 1791 as judge of Virginia's Court of Chancery in Richmond. While a judge he tried to cripple the institution of slavery. He ruled that Virginia's Declaration of Rights included African-Americans when it said "all men" were born free and equally independent. He was too far ahead of his time and his ruling was overturned on appeal. He served as Chancellor until his death. While in Richmond he opened a private law school. Among his many students, besides Jefferson, were James Monroe, John Marshall, and state's rights advocate Henry Clay.

As a Democrat-Republican presidential elector in 1800 and 1804 he had the pleasure of helping twice elect his former student Thomas Jefferson as President and saw John Marshall become the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Now in his 70s, Wythe made out his will leaving most to his only heir, his grandnephew George Wythe Sweeny, and generous amounts to two of his former slaves, Matthew Brown and Lydia Broadnax. Sweeny was heavily in debt and needed money. He poisoned his great uncle and Brown while at Wythe's home on a visit. Brown died quickly but Wythe lingered for several days - long enough to rewrite his will. Sweeny was acquitted of murder. The evidence was circumstantial. The only possible witness would have been Lydia, but Virginia law made it illegal for a black to give testimony in court against a white man! George Wythe was buried in St. John's church cemetery - the same place that Patrick Henry gave his famous "Liberty or Death" speech some 30 years before.

“No man ever left behind him a character more venerated than George Wythe,” wrote Thomas Jefferson. “His virtue was of the purest tint; his integrity inflexible, and his justice exact; of warm patriotism, and, devoted-as devoted as he was to liberty, and the natural and equal rights of man, he might truly be called the Cato\* of his country.” Fifteen minutes of fame? No. More like 80 years worth.

To learn more:

Whitney, David. Colonial Spirit of '76. 1974

Faragher, John. The Encyclopedia of Colonial and Revolutionary America. 1990

Colonial Williamsburg web site

\*Cato (Marcus Porcius Cato, 95-46 BC, steadfast defender of Roman Republicanism.)



## MERCER BIRTHDAY PARTY

Genevieve Bugay called to invite us to a birthday celebration all day on Sunday, January 13. Let's all go out and support the Apothecary Shop and enjoy some food, fun and fellowship!



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](mailto:MyraWig@aol.com). Copyright 2001 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.

## 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>](mailto: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.