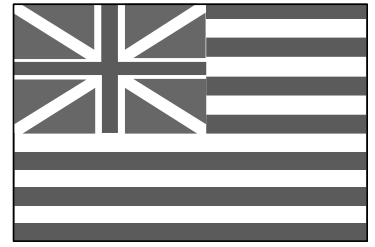




THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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Courtesy of George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation

Fielding Lewis - The Life of a Public Servant

by Trip Wiggins

As we come to the end of the 275th anniversary of the founding of Fredericksburg we take time to look at another larger-than-life personality in our colorful colonial era, Fielding Lewis.

I have a confession to make. Now, before I blurt it out I must say that I have been a student of U.S. history for most of my life. OK, here goes. When I moved here 12 years ago and was asked if I visited “Kenmore” yet, I didn’t even know what “Kenmore” was (other than a line of appliances by Sears). But it got worse. I’d never heard of Fielding Lewis or his second wife, Betty “sister of George” Washington. I guess I supposed George was an only child. She wasn’t in the history books I’d read!

In the intervening decade I have visited “Kenmore” many times and have learned a great deal about the lives of Fielding and Betty Lewis. (Their granddaughter was the wife of the minister of my church!) Fielding was far more – at least locally – than just the First Brother-in-law. [Does anyone remember Billy Carter?] Come; let’s journey through the life of Mr. Fielding Lewis, Esquire.

While some claim Lewis a Scottish name (and rightly so), our Lewis family comes from the heart of Wales – in the Brecon region. We begin our journey with Fielding’s g-g-grandfather, Robert Lewis. *Robert* immigrated to Virginia about 1635 and patented 2700 acres along the banks of Poropotank Creek in Gloucester and New Kent Counties. He and his wife had at least 3 sons, *John*, William, and Edward. John, born in New Kent County, was Captain of the militia and a county justice. The family was moving up the social ladder. John and wife Isabella had at least one son, *John* (1669-1725) who established the family as one of the most powerful of the region by becoming appointed a Councilor to Governor Edward Nott in 1705. He owned in excess of 10,000 acres in both Gloucester and New Kent Counties. This John was known as Col. Lewis, Esquire – due to his position on the Governor’s Council.

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.



2003 RCHS OFFICERS

- President:** Trip Wiggins
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- Vice-President:** Al Piercey
pierceyunderthehill@yahoo.com
- Secretary:** Catherine Bell
scot.forlife@verizon.net
- Treasurer:** Myra Wiggins
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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



Hello All and Happy Holidays!

The hectic Fredericksburg 275th celebration is coming to an end. Just one more major event for us – First Night on December 31st! As we wrap up the 275th, I'd like to thank you all for our tremendous involvement during this city's celebration. It was fun!

As a part of the 275th I have chosen to focus on the lives of two of Fredericksburg's more famous citizens. First, a founder of our community, Henry Willis, and for this issue and the next another underrated public servant, Fielding Lewis. He was much more than George's brother-in-law! I hope you find him as interesting as I have.

The school year is about half over and although we've been active in schools the bulk of the school activities is yet to come. Stay tuned.

And finally a "thank you" to all of you who have made this organization what it is – from our veterans to our newest colonists who joined as a result of our most

successful Open House. YOU are RCHS. It is truly a pleasure to live in 18th century Fredericksburg with you all. Merry Christmas!

Now, I will tend to my hands after making all of those wonderful wreaths!

I remain,
Your most humble and obedient servant,
Trip

**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 Tina Buchanan 898-2113. We rehearse at St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne St. Our next rehearsals are:

- December TBA
- January 9 & 23
- February 13 & 27
- March 12 & 26

If you just want to learn the dance of the period, you are also most welcome to come and join us on the above mentioned Friday evenings.

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 13 - George Washington's Birthplace National Monument
- Dec 13 & 14 - Stratford Hall Candlelight Tour
- Feb 21 - George Washington birthday celebration. Ferry Farm
- March 27 - March Muster
- April 24 - Scottish Block Party & Colonial Children's Festival
- May 22 - Spring Tea



EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

Ongoing - Through February 16, 2004.
Colonial Williamsburg - DeWitt Wallace

Decorative Arts Museum. The Language of Clothing showcases Colonial Williamsburg's superb collection of antique clothing, featuring garments ranging from masterpiece court gowns to maternity wear. Discover how clothing offers clues to understanding people of the past.

Ongoing in 2003 - James Madison: Secretary of State in the Age of Expansion and Exploration. Montpelier. Presented in conjunction with 200th anniv. of Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Nov 15-Dec 19 - Market Fair Shop Sale. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Do your holiday gift shopping at the Farm Offices while helping to support the only privately operated National Park in the US. 10am-5pm.

Dec 6 - Everything But the Squeal. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. See how the family preserves their meat using salt & smoke, help dip tallow candles.

Dec 6 - Deck the Halls 2003. James Monroe Museum. Holiday decorating presentation with Jan Williams. 9:30a-12noon

Dec 6 - Annual "Celebrate the Holidays with the Monroes" Open House. James Monroe Museum. 4:30pm-6:30pm.

Dec 5 & 6 - A Plantation Christmas & Holiday Buffet. Gunston Hall. Step back in time to an 18th century holiday season on the plantation. 10am

Dec 7 - Holiday Luncheon Tea & Tour. Gunston Hall. Celebrate the holiday season with an elegant luncheon tea & special holiday tour of 12-2 or 3-5.

Dec 11 & 12 - Candlelight Mansion Tours & Garden Illumination. Gunston Hall. Visit George Mason's home made ready to welcome guests to an 18th century holiday party. Walk the paths of the plantation's garden illuminated by one and a half miles of white lights.

Dec 13 & 14 - Christmas Candlelight Celebration. Stratford Hall. Our most popular tradition. Enjoy refreshments & holiday music in the Visitor Center, the proceed to the Great House for a candlelight tour with costumed interpreters. Candlelight buffet in the Plantation Dining Room. \$

December 13 - Christmas at Popes Creek. George Washington Birthplace National Monument. The plantation is busy with activities as costumed interpreters prepare for the holidays. Lanterns & candles will light the buildings and walkways at dusk. Open until 7pm. FREE

Dec 14 - Wassail. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Gather in the Farm's orchard to wassail the trees with singing, dancing and chants to ensure a "howling crop."

February 21, 2004 - George Washington's Birthday Party 2004. George Washington's Ferry Farm. 10am-1pm Colonial era activities, games, make & take crafts and birthday cake!

February 16 & 22, 2004 - George Washington's Birthday. George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Both the Federal holiday and the actual birthdate of Washington are observed on these two days.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has submitted the following slate of officers for 2004. Elections will take place at the annual meeting in January. Nominations will be taken from the floor providing the consent of the nominee has been obtained prior to the meeting.

President Trip Wiggins
 Joe Steen

Vice-President Sandra Piercey
 Wayne Thompson

Secretary Elizabeth Wimmer

Treasurer Myra Wiggins
 Ray Locke

Vote will be by written ballot.

TIME TO PAY YOUR 2003 DUES

Please take just a moment to send in your dues for next year. Individual dues are \$10.00 and family dues are \$15. A family as defined in our bylaws "consist of two or more related persons, or members of the same household." We have a lot of fun activities coming up next year and don't want you to miss out on them! Due to liability concerns of the corporation, *your membership must be current* in order to participate in any events the group is asked to do. The address to mail to is PO Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823.

<----- WEB SITES FOR LISTED EVENTS

Frontier Culture Museum
www.frontier.state.va.us
Kenmore/Ferry Farm
www.kenmore.org
George Washington Birthplace National Monument
www.nps.gov/gewa
Gunston Hall
www.gunstonhall.org
Stratford Hall
www.stratfordhall.org
Citie of Henricus
www.co.chesterfield.va.us
Claude Moore Colonial Farm
www.1771.org

Lewis (con't)

John and Elizabeth had a large family (14 children) including *John (the eldest or III)* [1694-1754], Charles (of "Byrd" of Goochland County), and Robert (of "Belvoir of Albemarle County). John and Elizabeth are buried at "Warner Hall." With this next generation, as the mystery writers say, 'the plot thickens.'

John III married first Frances Fielding (ca 1700-1731). Brother Charles married Frances' half-sister, Mary Howell. With this, the Lewis family would have a tie to one of the founders of Fredericksburg – Henry Willis. Henry's daughter, Mary (1733-1813) married the son of Charles Lewis and Mary Howell, Howell Lewis (1731-1813).

John III and Frances had at least four sons. The children, in order of their birth, were: Warner, *Fielding*, John (IV) and Charles. Following Frances' death on Oct 22, 1731, John III remarried in 1732 to the widow Priscilla Churchill Carter. She was the widow of Robert Carter of "Nomini" on the Northern Neck, and the daughter-in-law of Robert "King" Carter.

One more twist; Priscilla's two children by Robert Carter were Robert and Elizabeth. They were raised by John III and Priscilla but upon reaching his majority, Robert (1728-1804) inherited "Nomini" (and 70,000 acres) and was named a member of the Governor's Council. He also owned a residence in Williamsburg next to the Governor's Palace. It was this Robert Carter who hired a tutor from New Jersey in the 1770s by the name of Philip Vickers Fithian who kept a detailed journal of his days at "Nomini." Curiously nowhere in Fithian's journal is the Lewis family mentioned. Perhaps Robert and Fielding were not very close stepbrothers. John III and Priscilla had no children.

We are interested in the children of John III and Frances.

Warner, as the eldest, would inherit "Warner Hall" upon his father's death. Nothing is known of John (IV). Charles married Lucy Taliaferro of "Snow Creek" and established their home at "Vaux Hall" in Spotsylvania County (near the present Thornburg Middle School).

But our interest is with Fielding who made his appearance in this world at "Warner Hall" on July 7th, 1725.

Fielding, like his brothers, was born to a privileged family. His father owned a large amount of land and would also become a member of the Governor's Council in 1748. It is known that Warner attended school in England and is believed that Fielding, too, had a proper education.

Throughout the 1730s John III had been busy with shipping – purchasing at least one brigantine. Up to that time the family had been firmly established in Gloucester County, but now was the time to expand their presence.

In 1742, possibly desiring to get Fielding 'established' on his own, John III purchased 800 acres from Francis Thornton adjoining the northern edge of Fredericksburg (current Lewis street). On it he erected the Lewis store (today's library). [The law of primogeniture was firmly in effect so the eldest son would inherit the family estate – the others would have to make their own way through life.] John III would give Fielding his start as a merchant in the small but growing town of Fredericksburg.

1746 was a major year for young Fielding. The 21-year-old married his second cousin – Catherine Washington – daughter of John and Catherine Washington. (John was Augustine and Mildred's brother and Mildred was Henry Willis' 3rd wife.) A year later a baby was born to the new couple, John. He would be the only survivor of the 3 children Catherine bore Fielding. The Godfather for John was Fielding's friend and fellow newcomer merchant, Charles Dick.

The next two years brought some local prominence to young Fielding. First his father was appointed to the Governor's Council and Fielding was appointed as a Justice for Spotsylvania County, as was his friend Charles Dick. (Timing is everything.) He was now officially a "Gentleman." Then he built his own store on the corner of Lewis and Caroline Streets – across from the store his father built, and at the bottom of the hill from his family home. The store still stands and was recently restored. Life is good.

Alas, while Fielding was doing well in business and politics, his family took a sad turn with the death of his wife in February 1750.

Fielding wasted little time in finding another wife to care for his infant son and he had to look no further than his late wife's cousin – 16-year-old Betty Washington, daughter of Augustine and Mary. They were wed by the Reverend James Marye at the Washington home (Ferry Farm) on May 7th, 1750.

By 1751 Fielding expanded his business to include shipping and owned at least one ship of his own. Nine months following their nuptials, Fielding and Betty celebrated the birth of their first son, Fielding Jr. He was followed the following year by Augustine who was born in January 1752.

The following year was another good one for the Lewis family. Fielding was elected to the St. George's vestry (where he would remain for the rest of his life) and became a Mason at the local Lodge. Business was also doing well – well enough for him to purchase an additional 860 acres adjoining his local holdings. He now held the land loosely bounded by Lewis Street to "Carl's", and the river to Mary Washington College. Finally he expanded his enterprises by erecting a mill at Alum Springs.

1754 brought the death of his father. While the estate went to Warner, Fielding now had total ownership of the store operations and received an additional 400 acres.

The late 1750s saw the outbreak of the French & Indian War. Fielding and Charles Dick were assigned duties as Commissaries for Virginia troops – providing supplies for the men in the field from their headquarters in Fredericksburg. Fielding and Betty also had their third child, a son, Warner who died with Augustine in 1756. 1757 brought another son, George, into the family.

Fielding was getting closer with his now-famous brother-in-law, George, who commanded the Virginia troops. Both were local Masons, Fielding a landowner in Frederick County by now – traveled there in 1758 to cast his vote for George for Burgess. George won. Fielding was also appointed the legal guardian for George and Betty's younger brother, Charles. Fielding found himself at the head of the Washington family acting on behalf of the absent oldest son, George. He was living local and could take care of matters whereas George was running Mount Vernon and traveling to Williamsburg as a burgess.

With the war over, Fielding in 1760 successfully ran for Burgess himself for Spotsylvania County – where he would serve until the end of the decade when he chose to leave state politics. He had earned the title “Esquire.” He and George often rode together to the capitol and grew closer. Fielding was appointed to two powerful committees – Propositions & Grievances and Trade. On the committees, he worked with the truly great minds of the day: George Wythe, Robert Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Edmund Pendleton, William Fitzhugh and Francis Lightfoot Lee. Quite a company to work with.

During his tenure as burgess, Virginia – and the colonies – was faced with the Stamp Act and the Townsend Acts. He was assigned to a committee to draft “a humble address to His Majesty, to represent the Great Distress of this colony for want of sufficient circulating medium for the purpose of trade and commerce.” (Virginia lacked paper money!)

Even as a burgess he was still active locally as Justice, Vestryman and now the County Lieutenant of Militia (*Colonel* Fielding Lewis). His family was growing but so were the deaths of his children. By the time he left the Virginia Assembly, Betty had bore him 10 children – three of whom they had already buried (probably in St. George’s cemetery).

The 60s also brought Fielding success and failure in new ventures. First, he along with George Washington and several others invested heavily in a partnership to drain the Great Dismal Swamp (just south of Norfolk) and develop the land. It was a bust. But in that same decade Fielding, in a noble effort, launched the Bray School in Fredericksburg. The school was founded by Lewis and the Reverend James Marye to bring education to the free black and slave children of the area. Talk about a radical, liberal idea in a staunch slave-holding region! While it started off well, soon attendance began dropping as more and more planters opted out until the school was forced to close in 1770. He was a couple of centuries ahead of his time.

Earlier I noted that it appeared that Fielding and his stepbrother, Robert Carter, were not all that close. But in slavery they had a bond. Fielding with his passion for education for all and Robert in his efforts to secure freedom for slaves. Robert, in 1791, drew up the necessary agreement that freed all 500 of his slaves – the largest private emancipation of slaves in U.S. history!

As a businessman, Fielding was noticing a change in the tobacco prices and made his move to the commodity of the future – wheat. He had over 3000 acres in cultivation on his Frederick County holdings and introduced his brother-in-law to wheat farming.

Fielding made a good impression on everyone he met. Level headed, moderate – he was an ideal arbitrator. The 70s would tax his skills. First, with the Rappahannock flood in 1770, he was appointed by the Assembly to appraise the damage along the Rappahannock to the tobacco crop (the tax base of Virginia). The following year his mediator skills were put to a new test when the Assembly asked him to arbitrate a new boundary between Stafford and King George Counties. The old line roughly followed Rte 218/US 17 from Dahlgren to Hartwood; the new one ran north-south along Muddy Creek in Passapatanzy.

By now he was comfortably wealthy from his business and shipping ventures (owning at least 3 ships). He enrolled 2 sons into the College of New Jersey (Princeton) where they attended with young James Madison. While wealthy, he still lived very modestly – although he did purchase a post-chaise to travel about in. And he loved good wine and Madeira. He – and several other Fredericksburg-area families – began taking summer excursions to the baths at Berkeley Springs. Many ended up buying lots and building summer cottages – including the Lewises.

Where the 60s brought tension with the acts imposed by Parliament, the 70s looked to bring outright war. Fielding was approaching 50 and was a rock in his community and church.

Meanwhile, to the north in Boston, things were getting out of hand following the “Tea Party” in December 1773. Colonies formed Committees of Correspondence to keep track of what was happening throughout the colonies.

In the spring of 1774 Virginia’s Governor “pro-rogued” the Assembly (sent them home). They defied him and continued to meet as the Virginia Convention where they adopted an Association “forbidding exporting as well as importing” English goods. Local committees were appointed to enforce the boycott.

In Fredericksburg in May 1774, the committee was appointed with Fielding as its Chairman. His committee consisted of many of the town’s leading citizens: Charles Dick, Dr. Charles Mortimer, Charles Washington, William Woodford, William Porter, James Duncanson, George Thornton and Charles Yates.

On June 1st Rev. Marye preached a sermon and the ladies of the town sealed their tea vowing not to open it until the King’s oppression in Boston was lifted. The town also began raising money for the besieged citizens of Boston – whose port was closed.

1775 saw an increase in tensions culminating with the Battles of Lexington & Concord in Massachusetts and in Virginia Gov. Dunmore’s Gunpowder Plot. We were at war! The counties formed Committees of Safety to prepare for war. Again Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania turned to Fielding to lead the efforts – which he did.

While tensions were rising, Fielding still hoped to avoid war and was building for his family’s future. He began building his mansion at the western edge of town. It was a 2-story Georgian, today known as “Kenmore.” (No, he never called it that. “Kenmore” was added by later owner, and Scottish immigrant, Samuel Gordon.) His holdings in town were now over 1100 acres. The 70s brought Virginia to war and more personal grief in the Lewis household. Sons Samuel and Charles died in 1774 and 1775, respectively. Wealth did not guarantee good health. But Betty had also given Fielding yet another (and last) son – Howell, born in 1771. The Lewis family now had 6 surviving children – Fielding Jr (now married and moved away), George, Betty, Lawrence, Robert and Howell and from his first marriage, John.

Next issue, the conclusion as Fielding and Fredericksburg face War!

SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

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



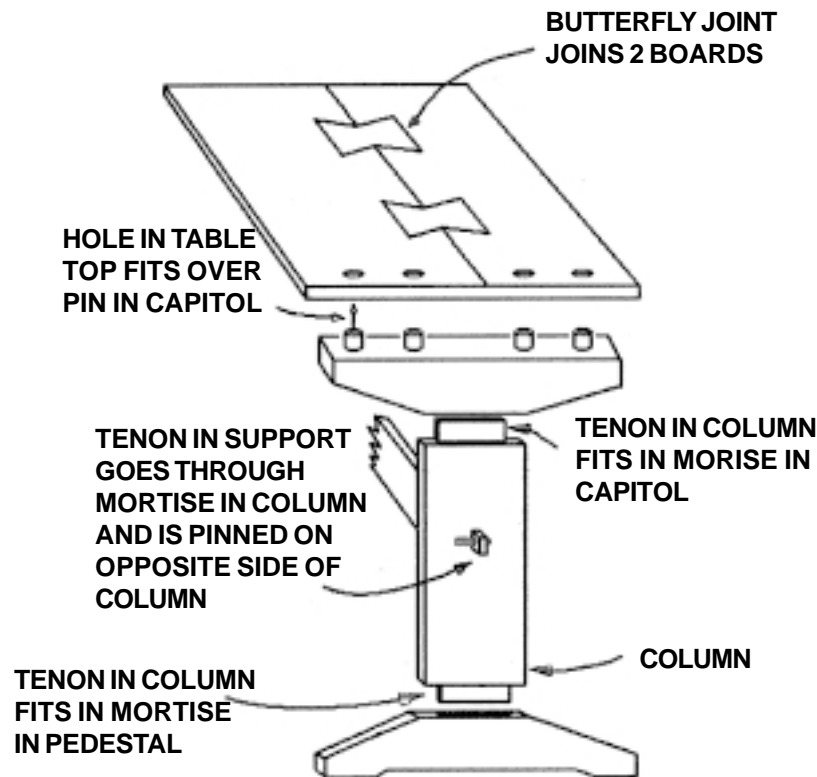
Sugar and the Furniture Maker

My master and I went to the furniture maker to order a table. We had so many floods in our house the table in the kitchen just fell apart and the bound woman said she wouldn't cook any more until she had a good table. Of course she always fed me even if she didn't feed my master.

I liked the furniture maker's shop. It was warm and it smelled good like fresh wood. My master showed how long and wide the table should be with his arms and the furniture maker made marks on a board. Then my master said he wanted to be able to take the table apart and move it upstairs in case we had another flood. The man said he could make a trestle table and he showed us how quickly he could put it together and take it apart with one he already had. He showed us a drawing of how the table was made like a puzzle with mortise and tenons and pegs and butterflies and using a little glue made out of milk. I wasn't sure about the butterfly thing until he showed us an example and the butterflies were really pieces of wood but he must have been wrong about glue made out of milk because everyone knows milk is not sticky.

Well now they started talking about how to pay for the table. This always takes a long time because no one has much money and so they have to decide if a table is worth so many yards of cloth or barrels of tobacco or wine or this tool or that tool. Of course my master is a factor and deals with ship captains all the time so there are lots of things he can get. While they were talking I went to look at the glue because anybody could tell you that milk is not sticky. I jumped in the glue pot and it was the worst mistake I ever made. I got glue all over my feathers. My master took me home and the bound woman washed me over and over and I never heard so many tsk-tsks in my life. I have never looked so ugly in my life. I will never get close to milk again!!!

TRESTLE TABLE



LETTERS FROM FRIENDS

My dear Friend Mary,

Mother and I so enjoyed your recent visit. It was a shame that you could not stay longer but we understand it is a long journey back to your home Greenway. You did miss a lovely evening of festivities. Our friend Morag McGonagle of whom you are acquainted did open her home for a convivial night for her Friends and Family. We were fortunate in that Captain McGonagle was in port. He was called away early in the evening. Mrs. McGonagle related to us that his crew had been involved in a ruckus at Mr. Weedon's Tavern. They not only destroyed some property but assaulted Mr. Weedon as well. I am certain that the Captain had to pay a dear price to secure their release. He had not returned when we finally had to part company for the evening. As per the usual circumstance Mrs.



McGongale served a most sumptuous meal. There were all sorts of Meats and Vegetables. As you know the collation of Desserts was where my attention did lay! She had Trifle in the Scotch style and it was most delightful. There was a hot Punch and it seemed a never ending pot of "Tay". There were games of Whist and Dancing after Supper with of course Mrs. Fitzefferie leading us in the latest Dances from England. We also took time in the evening to view the Eclipse. Her house is situated such that we had a stunning view. Our Dr. Mercer was in attendance and he gave us a studious

dissertation on the Event. He is not only a learned physician but a scholar as well. Later in the evening Mrs. Fitzefferie related an amusing anecdote that had occurred earlier in the day when she paid a visit to the shop of Mr. Lewis. She had been seeking a plump breasted chicken to cook for her Dinner the next day. There was a Spanish gentleman, a Mr. Martinez, from Popes Creek Plantation, who was looking for plump breasts as well and chanced upon Mrs. Fitzefferie in her search. She said they exchanged an amiable discourse while he was searching for plump breasts as she had already secured hers. She has the most amazing adventures! We are concerned as to your upcoming surgery. I understand your Dr. Fraser studied at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, as did our Dr. Mercer so we are assured of his competency. We pray that unlike St. Paul the good Lord will see fit "to remove this thorn from thy flesh."

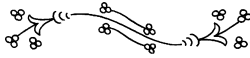
*Your affectionate Friend,
Christina Buchanan
Rollingwood House
Fredericksburgh, Colony of Virginia*



BYLAW CHANGE

As noted in the last newsletter, there was a vote at the October meeting to eliminate the term limits for officers.

The motion affects Article III, Section 2 which reads- "The officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected. The term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected." and Article VII, Section 2 which reads- "Officers shall be elected each year by a majority vote of RCHS members present at the annual meeting. The term of the office shall be one year beginning at the close of the meeting at which they are elected."



Chocolate

It's winter and what could be more tasty or warming on a cold morning than a hot cup of chocolate.

Chocolate came to Europe by Spanish explorers to the new world, the best coming from Central America. By 1700 it was a hit throughout Europe and came back to the American colonies. Before the colonists started obtaining their own chocolate from the West Indies, most came from Europe packaged into rolls or cakes of solid chocolate. It was served from a vessel resembling a coffeepot but with a hole in the lid through which a notched rod known as a mill was inserted to mix the liquid and to stir a head or froth onto it. Although its popularity in Europe was waning in the later half of the 18th century, it was still quite popular here in Virginia. Lord Botetourt's inventory of 1770 listed 3 chocolate pots, four mills and 24 lbs. of chocolate.

Chocolate was particularly favored by sailors. LT Fitch of Connecticut was held prisoner in 1776 on board the British ship *Mentor*. He recorded in his diary for September 22 that he and his fellow prisoners were given a "Comfortable Breakfast of warm Chocholet, which was very agreeable, in our present Situation."

To make a pot:

1 cup water
1/4 ounce unsweetened baking chocolate
2 Tbsp. Sugar

Bring the water to a boil and shave the chocolate into the water. As the chocolate melts, add the sugar and continue to boil for a short time (3 or 4 minutes). Keep an eye on the pot, because the chocolate is inclined to boil over. If you wish you can add about 1/2 cup milk and boil it with the chocolate. Also, grating nutmeg on top of the chocolate can improve the flavor.

Source:

Hume, Audrey Noel. Food. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 1978.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

It's exciting for me to be able to keep this short column alive for it means that we as a group are growing. We have several new members to welcome in this issue of the newsletter also.

We have several new members this issue who have been friends and acquaintances for a while now and have joined for various reasons. Some want to be more involved in what we do and others join to show their support for our efforts in keeping the Colonial spirit alive, still other just want to receive the newsletter to keep up with the happenings. Whatever your reason, we welcome you and look forward to a long relationship.

Kim Kendal is no stranger to us. She has been coming to dance classes on Friday nights for almost 2 years. This year, however, she decided that she would like to participate in our events and joined last month. Kim Hoschar and Norma Jean Ek attended the Historic Cemetery Tours and then came to our Open House, deciding that this seemed to be a lot of fun. Blane Piper was a member of this group when we were the Rappahannock Colonial Group. When we split to form RCHS, he pursued his interest in Colonial Virginia Navy as a member of the crew of the *Dragon*. We're glad to have you with us again. Bill Henderson is co-chair for Historic Port Royal and has his hands full with that job. However, he noted that he enjoys the newsletter and would like to support our efforts. We also met the Bland family at our Historic Cemetery Tours. They had recently moved to Fredericksburg from Los Angeles. They attended our Open House and sent in their dues immediately. They are a very energetic, fun loving family and we are glad to have Dan, Cheri, Paul & Laura with us.

Again we would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone. We all are part of this organization for different reasons and our levels of participation are different. We hope that you will come to our meetings (held the first Tuesdays of the month at St. George's Episcopal Church-Faulkner Hall, 905 Princess Anne Street) so we can get to know you.

Deadline for submissions to the Winter issue of the newsletter is **January 15, 2003**. The meeting is on the 6th...just bring your submissions then or email me as you think of something or see something that would be good to add.

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT- Games in the Eighteenth Century



FARO

History: Faro is an offshoot of the older game of Bassett, popular in the time of Charles II. Faro started in mid 18th century France and soon was a hit all over Europe (and the American colonies) where it would retain its

popularity until the end of the 19th century. (King Louis XIV used it to “tax” those who he could not legally tax. HE was the dealer and the dealer is favored in this game of chance.

Players: Any number

Complexity: Simple

Equipment: a Faro table and a standard deck of 52 cards.

Table: The table is a rectangular table usually covered in green felt with the suit of Spades glued to the table for the “punters” (players) to place their wagers. The layout is in two rows. The lower row, left to right, is the Ace through 6; the upper row, left to right, is the King through 8. At the right end, just to the right and between the two rows is the 7.

Wagers: Wagers (chips or *checks*) may be placed by the punters on any single card, any two adjacent cards (bet placed between the two cards), or any adjacent 4 cards (bet placed in the center of the 4 card “quad” between the first and second row. The 7 is ALWAYS a single card bet.

The Play: The deck is either in a Card Box or face down next to the dealer. The punters place their wagers. The dealer discards the top card (*Soda card*).

The next card is the “first card” played. This is the dealer’s card. Any wagers on this card are lost to the dealer.

The next card is the “second card” or punter’s card. Any wagers placed on this card are won by the punters and paid by the dealer. These two card plays constitute a “Turn.” At the end of a turn, punters may adjust their wagers.

Play continues with the first card being the dealer followed by the second card for the punters.

At any time between Turns new players may join the game or old players may withdraw from play.

There is no formal end – it’s all based on if you win or lose. When the last card is turned, any remaining wagers on the table go to the dealer.

Calling the Last Turn: As an *option*, punters may bet that they know the last three cards to be played and the order in which they will be dealt. (Suits are unimportant.) Just prior to the last three cards being dealt from the deck punters have the option of making this bet. Wagers are paid as follows:

If he calls the three cards in order he is paid 4:1.

If two of the cards are the same (e.g., 2 Jacks), he only wins 2:1 on his bet. This is called a *Cat*.

If all three cards are the same (e.g., 3 Sixes), the Turn may NOT be called.

The Cue Box or Case Keeper: Cards that have been played may be tracked by an abacus-type device called a *Cue Box* or *Case Keeper*. For each card denomination (e.g., King, 2, etc.) there are four beads on a shaft. As one is played, the bead is moved to the other end. This way players and dealer knows what has been played to give all an opportunity to correctly wager on the last Turn. If a *Cue Box* is not used, punters may keep track on a sheet of paper.

Sources: Hoyle; Seymour (The Complete Gamester, 1734); Nelson (The Merry Gamester, 1998)



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 being Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River Valley. The Rappahannock River Valley covers from the ford of the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers down to the Chesapeake Bay. Our particular interests lie in the areas of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George, and Caroline counties.
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 quarterly in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. You may mail to the PO Box, or email me at myrawig@cox.net.
6. The editor has the final say on content, format and deadlines, I try to keep the newsletter to no more than 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 issue.
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. So please let me know if you have a particular interest.

Annual Wreath Sale

Big thanks to all of you who gave up some of your time to cut, make and sell MANY wreaths this past weekend. We ended up selling about what we did last year – but, oh what a good time we had at Tina and Jo's on Thursday and Friday and downtown on Saturday. Our carolers even got a tip for their impromptu singing!! (And not to forget Tesa's traveling kitchen!) Feast your eyes on the pictures of many smiling workers. Only 12 months until we do it all over again!!



LOTS OF FUN HAD BY ALL!! Join us next year.



The RCHS Gazette is published quarterly in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. 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, PO Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823. *Items for the newsletter* should be addressed to the Editor c/o RCHS or emailed to myrawig@cox.net. Copyright 2003 RCHS. The content of the RCHS Gazette 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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
for
THE RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 7823
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22404-7823
PHONE 540-371-3906

The purpose of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc. is to bring together persons interested in preserving & perpetuating the heritage and culture of the colonial era in & around the Rappahannock River Valley of Virginia; to conduct historical research of persons, places & events relating to the Rappahannock River Valley in Colonial times, and to organize activities related to the Colonial era in an effort to educate the public about the ways of life of our forebears in this area. The time period of concentration is 1760 to 1820. Our business meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at Faulkner Hall, St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg.

YEARLY DUES:

INDIVIDUAL \$10.00
FAMILY \$15.00

TO JOIN, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW, SELECT A MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY, ATTACH A CHECK WRITTEN TO **RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.** IN THE PROPER AMOUNT, AND MAIL TO THE ABOVE PO BOX. Initial dues paid after June 30 shall be half of regular dues. If initial dues are paid in December, they will pay for the following year also.

DATE: _____ CHECK NUMBER: _____ AMOUNT: _____

KEEP THE TOP PART FOR YOUR RECORDS

Tear off and mail the lower part with your check made payable to **Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc., PO Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823**

DATE: _____ PHONE: H _____
W _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP: INDIVIDUAL \$10.00 NEW ()
 FAMILY \$15.00 RENEWAL ()

YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST:

RESEARCH () EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS () NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ()
LIVING HISTORY () COLONIAL DANCING ()

OTHER () _____

ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK ON PROJECTS? YES () NO ()

Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.
PO. Box 7823
Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823

Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Meets 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm at Faulkner Hall, St. George's Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg, VA
Please join us!

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Jan. 6 - Happy New Year!

Feb 3

Mar 2

Apr 5

May 4

English Country Dance Lessons (Colonial Dancing):

St. George's Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg, VA (downstairs in Family Room)

Bring the family for some old fashioned fun!

December TBA

January 9 & 23

February 13 & 27

March 12 & 26