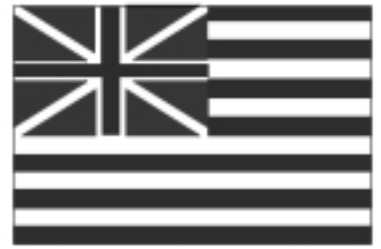




# THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



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

*Volume 6 Number 2*

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*Summer 2003*

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## Col. Henry Willis Fredericksburg's First Mover & Shaker (part 1)

*by Trip Wiggins*

The Willis name. They are everywhere in almost every profession. But when our town was founded, there were only a few in the colony. Most of these were descendants of Francis Willis of "White Hall" on the Ware River in Gloucester County. This Francis earned his estate the old English way – by inheriting it from his uncle, Col. Francis Willis.

Col. Francis Willis came to our fair colony in the mid 1600s, built "White Hall," became a burgess representing Gloucester County, and ended his career by being appointed to the Governor's Council under Gov. Berkeley. He retired in 1675, moved back to his home in England and in his will, proved 1691, left the Virginia estate to his nephew, Francis.

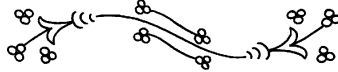
Francis, the nephew, had come to Virginia in the mid 1660s and lived at White Hall. Now it was his. Although not a burgess or member of the Council, this Francis was Captain of the Gloucester Militia. He married a daughter of the Lewises (probably of "Warner Hall" as it was situated next to "White Hall") and they had two boys – Francis and Henry.

This Francis (ca. 1685-1766) inherited "White Hall" following their father's death and had a career as a Gloucester County Justice, the Lt. Colonel of militia and a member of the House of Burgesses. Henry, our Henry, was born circa 1690/91 and was raised in Gloucester County with his older brother. Little is known of their education and early life but as sons of a planter they probably did not have a tough life.

Henry married three times, all to women he knew early in his life. According to his grandson, Byrd Charles Willis: "Col. Henry Willis was married three times. Among the attractive belles of the period were two cousins, Mildred Howell and Mildred Washington, and their friend Anne Alexander. They were gay



*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**



Wow is 2003 spinning by! It seems just last week that we had the Fall Tea and the wreath sales and here it is May already! And what you all have done to make this a memorable year already. After a couple of false starts due to events being snowed out, we are really running now.

The March Muster was a HIT. Thanks especially to Marjorie for organizing this terrific festival with little time to plan. Thanks also to the many hands who assisted on that lovely Saturday in March. A great way for Fredericksburg to kick off its 275<sup>th</sup> birthday bash.

Next came the delightful 275<sup>th</sup> Dinner at Fredericksburg Square. The evening was enjoyed by all – except those pesky musicians who decided to go on strike at a most inopportune moment. Reports from the gala attendees were all extremely positive on our personas, clothing, and dancing abilities.

Finally, through her contacts with March Muster, Marjorie touched base with an educational film company who chose us to portray typical colonial Americans in a new documentary about life in the colonies. Yes, a tape of the completed production will be sent to the Society.

And what else? Several new members, one new baby, one new wedding and too many events to count. Just hang on to your horse and let's gallop through the rest of Spring into Summer!

Finally, as we have been having far too much fun at our business meetings – leaving no time for a program – the May meeting WILL have a program on Virginia Land Transportation of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A program will be inserted about 4 times per year. Topics and/or volunteers are cordially welcome!

I remain,  
Your most humble and obedient servant,  
T. Wiggins

### **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:

May 9 & 23  
June 13 & 27  
July 11 & 25  
August 8 & 22

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:

May 10 - Market Square Faire - Children's event to be held in the Market Square behind the Fredericksburg Museum. (275th Birthday event)

May 17 - RCHS Spring Tea - St. George's Episcopal Church 1-3pm

June 7 - Join RCHS at Stratford Hall at the reenactment of the wedding of Cornelia Lee & John Hopkins (see events calendar)

June 21 RCHS dancers will be at Wilburn Gardens at 10am

Oct 18 - RCHS Afternoon Tea - St. George's Episcopal Church . 1-3pm

Oct. 25 & 26. Historic Cemetery Tours. Hosted by RCHS. (275th Birthday event)



## 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.

**1st Sunday of month Apr-Oct - Slave Life Tours. Gunston Hall Plantation.** Tour museum, outbuildings & slave quarters. 12, 1:30 & 3

**2nd Sun of month Apr-Oct. World of Women Tours.**

**Gunston Hall Plantation.** Explore what it was like to be a woman- gentry, middling or enslaved. 12, 1:30 & 3

**3rd Sat of month Apr-Oct. Behind the scenes Farmyard Tours. Gunston Hall Plantation.** Learn about 18th century crops from the Farm Manager as you tour the pasture and farm yard. 12, 1:30 & 3

**4th Sat of month Apr-Oct. Hidden History Landscape Tours. Gunston Hall Plantation.** 12, 1:30 & 3

**May 17 - Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company & Conversation. Ferry Farm.** 10-11:30.

**May 17 & 18 - Reenactment Commemorating the British Raid on Stratford. Stratford Hall.** Costumed reenactors march in formation, answer the call to arms, fire artillery rounds, set up camp and conduct medical demonstrations.

**May 17 & 18 - Spring 18th Century Market Fair. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 11am-4:30pm. First Market Fair of the season. Dance & sing songs. Purchase herb and flower plants & shop for the latest fashions.

**May 31 - Turkeys, Bluebirds & Butterflies. Ferry Farm.** 10-11:30. Families explore the Natural World of Ferry Farm through fun, hands-on activities.

**June 7 - Federal Wedding and High Tea. Stratford Hall Plantation.** Witness the reenactment of the wedding of Cornelia Lee & John Hopkins at 11am & 2pm. Following the wedding High Tea will be served in the Council House, followed by entertainment. High Tea by advance reservation only- \$37/person. Call 804-493-8038 before June 1

**June 7 - Herbal Remedies. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 1-4pm. Learn the difference between decoctions, infusion, plaisters and poultices & how they were used to treat the maladies of the 18th century.

**June 15 - Wheat Harvest. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 1-4pm. See how the farmer & his neighbors cut the grain, then join them to bind and stack the crop.

**July 4 - Celebrate Independence Day. Stratford Hall.** Join in honoring the only two brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence: Richard Henry & Francis Lightfoot Lee. Reduced Admission.

**July 4 - Independence Day. Geo. Washington Birthplace National Monument.** Fee Free Day.

**July 5 & 6 - Revolutionary War Encampment. Geo. Washington Birthplace National Monument.**

**July 5 - In the Cool of the Day: an evening event. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** Help the farm family complete their day of work before settling down for a bit of amusement.

**July 19 & 20. Summer Market Fair. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 11am-4:30pm. Only at Market Fair can you catch up on the latest news from the frontier and trade stories while enjoying local ale & porter at the Tavern.

**Aug. 2 - Pickling Produce. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 1-4pm Help prepare veg. for pickling as the farm wife shows you how she combines salt, water, and homemade vinegar to preserve her summer crops.

**Aug. 2 - African-American Slavery Day. Geo. Washington Birthplace National Monument.** Costumed interpreters will demonstrate the life and culture of enslaved African-Americans.

**Aug 17 - Tobacco Harvest. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.** 1-4pm. Help the farmer clean the leaves, and watch how he cuts & splits the stems. Help gather and hang them to cure.

**Aug 25 - Founder's Day. Geo. Washington Birthplace National Monument.** All National Parks are free on this anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service.

**Oct. 3-4 - Costume Symposium. Beneath the Fashions and Behind Closed Doors: Underwear and Bedchambers of the 18th Century. Gadsby's Tavern.**

**June 1 - Intro to Dance: Workshop & party. Frontier Culture Museum.** 9am-4pm. Day long course exploring the types of traditional dance popular with people in 17th century England, 18th century Germany & No. Ireland, & 19th century America. Evening "dance party" held from 7-9pm.

**June 21 - Spirit's Fire: A Celebration of Midsummer's Eve. Citie of Henricus.** Celebrate the arrival of summer with the people of th Citie of Henricus. Gather round the great fire as herbs are burned to drive away evil spirits. Registration required by June 20. \$5 adults; \$4 seniors & children under 12. 804-706-1340

### <----- WEB SITES FOR LISTED EVENTS

Frontier Culture Museum

[www.frontier.state.va.us](http://www.frontier.state.va.us)

Kenmore/Ferry Farm

[www.kenmore.org](http://www.kenmore.org)

George Washington Birthplace National Monument

[www.nps.gov/gewa](http://www.nps.gov/gewa)

Gunston Hall

[www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org)

Stratford Hall

[ww.stratfordhall.org](http://ww.stratfordhall.org)

Citie of Henricus

[www.co.chesterfield.va.us](http://www.co.chesterfield.va.us)

Claude Moore Colonial Farm

[www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org)

and social and very popular with the beaux. One of the beaux was Henry Willis, a youth of impetuous character and determined will. He courted all three belles at once and was so impartial that they declared he did not know his own mind. He courted them as maids and married them as widows.” (Mildred Howell was actually Mildred Lewis, widow of John Howell.)

His first bride was Anne Alexander Smith, the widow of John Smith of “Purtan.” The wedding took place on November 2, 1714. She brought one son to the marriage, John Smith IV who died as a bachelor. Henry and Anne had six children. (Information on all Henry’s children is at the end of part 2.)

That same year also saw Henry appointed as Sheriff of Gloucester County; his political career had begun.

It was these early years that Henry starting getting into the career track that suited him best. As he would not inherit “White Hall” – it going to his older brother – he had to rely on some other talent to make it in the world. I suppose the best occupation title associated with Henry was that of an entrepreneur. He found deals and built upon them. Wealthy he never was except in land.

He got his start by winning a seat in the House of Burgesses in 1718 representing Gloucester County (with his brother as the second burgess). He was bestowed the title of Gentleman. Here he found a fast-paced life with deals always going on somewhere and as a burgess he would be in the middle of what was happening. Land deals, contracts to build government buildings – just what he was interested in, and he made the best of it.

Eight years into this always-exciting career a proposal for a town in Spotsylvania County was presented and soundly shot down. Virginians weren’t keen on towns yet. The plantation was still the seat of power! 1726 also brought sad news for Henry as his wife, Anne died following the birth of their sixth child.

He did not long remain a widower. Gentlemen with households of children needed a mother and Henry spent little time in securing his second. This time he had his sights set on young Mildred Lewis, who was also a new widow. She was the widow of both John Howell and Dr. John Brown. Henry and Mildred were married on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This union also produced several children: John [yes a second son named John!], Elizabeth, Ann, and Isabelle.

By 1727 Henry was becoming a name in Spotsylvania County and although he didn’t yet live there he won a seat in the Assembly representing Spotsylvania. (As long as you owned at least 100 acres in a county, you could run for election!) Additionally as many of the justices of Spotsylvania had had enough of government and quit, there were numerous openings for justices and Henry was given an appointment.

1728 was a busy time for Spotsylvania and the area soon to be known as Fredericksburg and Willis was in the thick of it. First he was appointed a temporary auditor to examine the accounts of His Majesty’s Quit Rents. In so doing he found many patents about to lapse and commenced

buying 10,000 acres in the “little mountains” of Spotsylvania County. He divided up the lands, sold it off and made a tidy profit. Spotsylvania was growing and so was Henry Willis.

Although some consider him the founder of Fredericksburg, he was more of a behind the scenes worker who wanted to see the town created as there was money to be made in a bustling port town. As a member of the Assembly he voted for the creation of the town which was approved in March 1728 and was appointed one of the town’s seven Trustees to oversee the sales of the leaselands lots. (Still in the middle of the action!)

In 1729 he moved his growing family to some land he purchased in Spotsylvania (in today’s Westwood subdivision). He finally had a home here.

This same year brought a huge problem to the trustees of the almost non-existent town. The Charter founding the town stated that the trustees had 6 months to lay out the streets and another 6 months to sell the 64 lots (covering 50 acres). If this was not done, then the leaselands would return to their former owners – Messrs. Royston and Buckner. By the fall of 1728 the lots and streets had been laid out but with the spring of 1729 there remained many lots unsold (only 5 were sold) at £2 per acre and time was running out fast.

Here Henry, as trustee, performed an emergency rescue mission. He appeared in court in May, 1729 with two receipts for £50 each, one signed by John Royston and the other by Mrs. Sarah Buckner. The fifty acres were Paid In Full.

Where he came up with the money he never said, but without his 11<sup>th</sup> hour action, the town would have probably disappeared that year. (It must be remembered that Royston and Buckner were established Gloucester families, as were the Willises.)

By 1730 the Crown was getting tired of the planters using their first crop to export for a profit while paying their taxes and the church levy with the inferior second crop. So the Assembly passed a law regulating tobacco by requiring 70 inspection stations to be built throughout the colony. One of those inspection stations was to be placed in Fredericksburg and Falmouth to be overseen by one inspector.

Next, and possibly as a result of the first action, Henry was appointed in charge of a project to alter the main road going by Fredericksburg and have it placed at the back of the town. In order to get tobacco to the inspection stations and the wharves, you had to have a road to transport the hogsheads. Thus were born Lafayette Blvd, Sunken Rd. and Hanover Street.

Finally in that same year Henry returned from Williamsburg with a commission from Gov. Gooch, that of the Lt. Col. of the Spotsylvania militia. He had received his title of “Colonel.”

The 1730s continued a wild ride for Henry. 1731 brought him (with William Strother and John Chew) the official tobacco inspector jobs for Fredericksburg. This also provided a salary of £40 per year. (Burgesses and Justices served without pay.) He also was elected to the vestry of St. George’s and appointed its Senior Warden. (The church was

not yet located in Fredericksburg.) But he had only begun to get active in the town's life.

In 1732 he purchased an acre of land from the estate of William Williams (through Williams' son James) at the south end of the town (along the river at the foot of modern Wolfe Street). Here he built two tobacco warehouses and a wharf and was contracted by the vestry to build both the Mattaponi and Rappahannock churches in St. George's parish. The latter would be located in Fredericksburg on the site of the current St. George's. He also purchased property in town – lot 62 – from Moseley Battaley, an attorney in the area. Finally, he was contracted by the court to build a ducking stool for the town.

Oh yes, he rented his home in town for the use of the court which had relocated from Germanna to Fredericksburg in 1732; the cellar of which served as the town's temporary gaol [jail]. Did Henry maneuver that move as a Burgess? Very likely – it would help the town survive and GROW, meaning more people, contracts, and money! Alas, it is unrecorded, but a decade later people were still trying to get the move 'null and void' to get it out of Fredericksburg and to its current location on route 208. The petitioners claimed that the court had been moved to Fredericksburg "by some misrepresentation and artful management." Sounds like our boy all right. Of course he was contracted to build a permanent courthouse and prison.

Colonel William Byrd of Westover paid a trip to Fredericksburg in 1732 on his way to the mines and of course had something to say about this one-man dynamo whom he had the opportunity to observe up close as he stayed at his home during his brief visit. As to Willis' position in the community, Byrd said he was "the top man of the place." On the personal side, Byrd went on in his diary, "I was obliged to rise early here that I might not starve my landlord, whose constitution requires him to swallow a beefsteak before the sun blesses the world with its genial rays." Yes, Henry was a big man – most accounts put him over 300 lbs.

He was starting his real estate ventures; planning for the future. He purchased lots 30 & 32 in town. And he wasn't only looking in town. He purchased 200 acres in "Massaponax Swamp" and 250 acres just south of the town.

End of part 1. Henry Willis was just too important to our community to have his life pared down to a few neatly-typed pages. Tune in next time for the thrilling conclusion.

## Spotsylvania Tavern Prices

### *From Spotsylvania Court Order Book (1769-1774) March 10, 1773 (pp. 236-37)*

	<u>£</u> <u>s</u> <u>d</u>
<i>A Hot diet with small beer or sider</i>	1 3
<i>A Cold diet with d<sup>e</sup></i>	1 0
<i>Lodging in a feather bed with clean sheets</i>	6
<i>D<sup>e</sup> in a flock bed with clean sheets</i>	4
<i>Pasturage or stablage night or day with fodder or hay</i>	6
<i>D<sup>e</sup> for 24 hours</i>	7½
<i>Corn or oats the Gal.</i>	6
<i>West India Rum the Gal.</i>	8 0
<i>Northwar's Rum the Gal. (or Continental?)</i>	5 0
<i>Peach Brandy the Gal.</i>	8 0
<i>Apple d<sup>e</sup></i>	8 0
<i>Gennin Madeira Wine the Qt.</i>	4 0
<i>Vondona or Western Island Rum the Qt.</i>	2 6
<i>Lisbon Wine the Qt.</i>	3 0
<i>Virginia Wine d<sup>e</sup></i>	4 0
<i>Claret imported in bottles</i>	4 0
<i>Port Wine the Qt.</i>	3 0
<i>Sider the Qt.</i>	6
<i>English Strong Beer, Porter, or Ale the Qt.</i>	1 3
<i>Virginia Strong Beer the Qt. Bottled</i>	1 0
<i>D<sup>e</sup> out of the cask the Qt.</i>	7½
<i>D<sup>e</sup> Ale the Qt. Bottles</i>	7½
<i>Small beer the Qt.</i>	3¾
<i>Arrack made into P<sup>m</sup> the Qt.</i>	3 0
<i>Old leane Spirits made into P<sup>m</sup> the Qt.</i>	1 3
<i>Toddy with Soal Sugar the Qt.</i>	1 0
<i>Ale out of the cask the Qt.</i>	6

Notes:

Sider is Hard Apple Cider

d<sup>e</sup> is ditto (repeat of above)

Northwar's Rum, I believe, comes from New England

Gennin is genuine?

Vondona is ?

P<sup>m</sup> is Punch

Searched back to 1755 and found no similar information.

Spotsylvania is missing books for 1765-1768.

# SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrott



It's been a while since I have on an outing with my master. It would be interesting because somehow the world outside the house has turned white but when the door opens a cold wind blows in. I hope we can do something today. Oh good my master is sitting down at his secretary. Whenever he does that he works with papers and ink and that takes a while. My master is picking up the ink bottle and I make the sound he makes when he pulls out the cork "uuurk". He always smiles at me when I do that. Now he pulls the cork and makes the sound, uuurk. Then I ask him "what's ya doing?". He smiles and says "mind ya business".

My master works for a while on several papers. While he works he whistles and I concentrate on the sounds he make so I can learn his songs. My master uses a very big feather to make black marks on the paper. The feather is white and much bigger than mine. Would my feather make black marks too? I pick up one of my feathers and jump down on my masters shoulder. No matter what I do he just keeps working even if I nibble very softly on his ear. Maybe if I...

Sugar jumps down on the big white feather and spills ink on the page.

Oh oh, my master is upset. He jumps up and puts me back in my cage and locks the door. My master looks at the paper he was working on and shakes he head. He looks at me and says "well I guess you helped me so I will give this to you".

I like it. Would you like to see it?

*My Dearest Mother*

*5 January, 1775*

*I take my pen in hand to tell you of my success in establishing my business here in Fredericksburg. You already know that I was to move into my Popham Street ad*



"Good sense is a Thing all need, few have, and none think they want."

-Benjamin Franklin



## RULES OF CIVILITY

### 5th Rule of Civility:

If you cough, sneeze, sigh, or yawn, do it not loud, but privately; and speak not in your yawning, but put your handkerchief, or hand before your face and turn aside



## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

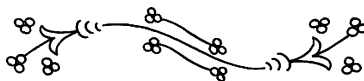
We have had a number of new memberships since the last newsletter and would like to welcome everyone. Sulvia Bibby and her daughter Kay Portmess came to our October tea and decided to join. A number of people from our dance class on Friday evenings decided they were having so much fun, they joined: Elizabeth McDowell, Brad & Julie Smith and their family, John Jacobsen (who comes up from Richmond). Anne McGrath emailed me for information and subsequently sent in her membership. Jane Pease has been visiting our events for some time now and has joined. Jane is also a member of the Living History Foundation in Northern Virginia. Mike Varmette joined us during the March Muster event that we participated in as part of the Fredericksburg 275th Birthday events. RCHS had the opportunity recently to participate in the filming of the first of a series of educational videos. During the course of the day, Al Piercey was walking in town and Ken Drews stopped Al to talk with him and decided to join. And John Douglas Hall also joined us that day. John (who portrays James Madison) has been at events that we have attended and was also available during the filming of the educational video and joined RCHS. 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.

## LETTERS FROM FRIENDS

*My Dear Mary, We were so sad that you were unable to join us but can understand that it is a long journey from Orange. As you know the Laydes of Madam Fitzeferie's Dance class assembled at her "Town House" on the fifteenth day of January to help our sweet Friend and fellow Dancer Jennifer Watson prepare for the arrival of her first Child. There was much Tea drunk and a surfeit of Foods. And of course much Genteel conversation and much advice was offered to the new Mother. She was gifted with two linen Pilches; a whole cloth linen and flannel Quilt; two caps - one white, do. with blue ribbon; a white linen Frock; a Blue Velvet Pudding Cap; a Hodge-Podge and a good Book; a beautiful silver Cutlery set; a white cotton receiving Blanket; precious leather Booties, and Madame Fitzeferie gave her a silver Rattle - her Dance classes must be doing very well indeed! Jennifer had some difficulty with her carriage so she did not arrive till well after the appointed time but we had commenced the Festivites - who could resist good Food and Tea! But arrive she did and things went along after that. We hope to see you soon. May the good Lord keep you and Bless you.*

*Your Friend,  
Christina Buchanan  
Rollingwood House*

*Fredericksburgh, Colony of Virginia*



*April 1, 1773  
Virginia Gazette*

*GRANVILLE County, NORTH CAROLINA,  
FEBRUARY 10, 1773.*

*Departed this Life, in the fiftieth Year of his Age, THOMAS LOW THIMBLE, after a long Series of Drunkenness. It may with Truth be said, that no Man ever died less regretted: The Sound of his last Trumpet gave a general Joy to all his Friends, as well as those who had the Misfortune to be of his Acquaintance. Take Heed, ye Sons of Bacchus, that when Death comes with his Summons you may not be caught napping; as, you see, was the Case with Mr. Thimble.*

# “Tay” The Nectar of the gods” Part One

by Tina Buchanan



There are several popular myths on the origin of “tay” as a beverage. Shen Neng, an emperor of China, discovered the drink after leaves from a bush fell into a pot of water that was boiling. The aroma so enticed him he drank it. The other more visceral tale has a Zen Buddhist from India, Bodhidharma, arriving in China. In order for him to prove his faith he would meditate for several years without sleep. He found himself dozing off after five years so he cut off his eyelids. They fell to the ground and from them grew tea bushes. This legend could have developed from the monks consuming tea to stay awake during their long periods of meditation. Tea drinking spread from China to Japan by the fifth century A.D. Japanese Buddhist priests studying in China are credited with bringing home the seeds of the plant in 1191. “Better to be deprived of food for three days than tea for one” ~ Chinese proverb. Tea came to the West at the beginning of the seventeenth century via a Portuguese Jesuit, Father Jasper de Cruz. Portugal, with her advanced navy had been successful in gaining the first right of trade with China. They transported their tea to Lisbon, and the Dutch ships took it to France, Holland, and the Baltic countries. When Charles II was in exile in The Hague he acquired the habit of drinking tea so when he was restored to the throne he introduced the new, expensive habit to the English court. So enraptured was Charles with tea that when he married the Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza in 1662, he got several cases of tea as part of her dowry. In an attempt to please Charles II the English East India Company brought small gifts of tea from Europe for Catherine in 1664 and 1666. In 1669 all imports from Holland were prohibited, tea included, giving the English East India Company a monopoly on tea.

At this time coffee houses were popular. There were patronized solely by men and they were no place for women who valued their reputations. One would go to a coffee house to read newspapers, hear the latest trade news, and to see friends (gossip). Things have not changed much these 300 odd years other than we women may go with no fear of damaging our reputation! Coffee houses soon gave way to pleasure gardens, which were attended by men and women of all classes. The tea garden came in like a vision of paradise: tree-lined avenues, lantern-lit walks, music, dancing, fireworks, and good food accompanied by a fine cup of tea. “The most famous and long lasting of the eighteenth century tea gardens were the Vauxhall Gardens. They were built on a site now occupied by the Tate Gallery. On warm summer evenings, the music of Handel, the leading show-business star of the era, could be heard among the pavilions, arcades,

and supper rooms. The rival, Ranelagh Gardens, was situated where the annual Chelsea Flower show is now held. The gardens contained a boating canal, a Chinese pavilion, and a central domed rotunda. In 1765, the nine-year-old Mozart performed there.”

Sources:

Four Hundred Years of Invention

Web sites:

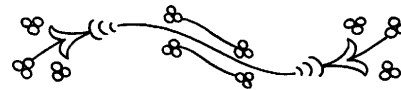
[www.bramahmuseum.co.uk](http://www.bramahmuseum.co.uk)

[www.panix.com](http://www.panix.com)

[www.twinnings.com](http://www.twinnings.com)

[www.stashtea.com](http://www.stashtea.com)

Part 2: Tea Comes to the Colonies – among other things



## The Virginia Gazette

July 23, 1767. Number [63]. Page 3, Column 2

Fredericksburg, July 15, 1767.

Just imported in the last Ships from London, a new and well chose Assortment of Goods, among which are, RIBBANDS, Laces, Gauzes, Fly Caps and Lappets, Egrets, Silk and Leather Gloves and Mitts, a large Quantity of Ladies Hats, Bonnets and Cloaks, French Wax and Jet Bead Necklaces, red Morocco Leather Pocket-books, Silver mounted, with Instruments for Ladies and Gentlemen, fine printed Lawn Pocket Handkerchiefs, Variety of Silk Ditto, striped Satin for Gentlemens Waistcoats, both black and white fine Beaver Hats for Ditto, a Parcel of exceeding good Irish Linens, great Variety of Silver Shoe and Knee Buckles, Garnet and Bristol Stone Sleeve Buttons, with many other Articles in the Millinery and Jewellery Way too tedious to mention. The above Goods were bought from the best Hands, and are to be sold at a reasonable Advance, but for ready Money only, by CATHERINE RATHELL.



## QUOITS



An old game, Quoits goes back to about the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A “Quoit” is a disc with a hole in the middle; or a large ring 6-10 inches in diameter. The quoit is thrown over a “Hob” or pin sticking about 6-8" out of the ground. The modern-day American variation of the game is horseshoes.

**Equipment Needed:** 2 Hobs; 2 or more quoits per player.

### Play:

Drive the two hobs into the ground about 15-30 paces apart. (Distance is strictly up to the players – there is no “official” distance.)

Players stand at one hob and toss their quoits at the other hob. The players will agree beforehand whether one will toss all of his/hers before the opponent tosses or whether the two players will toss alternately.

### Scoring:

After all quoits are tossed, walk to the other hob and determine who’s quoit is closest to the hob. Closest quoit gets 1 point. If a player has more than one quoit closer to the hob than all of the opponents quoits, then they will receive 1 point for each hob closer than those of the opponents. This is known as “Cutting Out.”

If a player succeeds in “ringing” the hob with a quoit (so that the hob passes through the hole in the quoit), he is awarded 2 points.

Play continues to some mutually agreed upon score.

Source: Walter Nelson, [The Merry Gamester](#) (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**Deadline for submissions to the next issue of the newsletter is July 8, 2003.**



**May 10**  
**Market Square Faire**  
**10 am- 4 pm**  
**Market Square adjacent to the Fredericksburg Area Museum**

Come join us for birthday cake and travel back in time to see how children lived in four important times of our history.

**August 2**  
**Bluemont Celebrates Old-Time Fredericksburg**  
**4-9 pm Maury Stadium**

Enjoy an afternoon and evening with on old-fashioned community gathering and picnic featuring music and dance from the many rich cultures of Fredericksburg’s 275 year history.

**September 20**  
**Fredericksburg Big Band Concert**  
**5:30-7:30 pm Market Square adjacent to the Fredericksburg Area Museum**

Take pleasure in an evening of music held in Market Square, the original market place when Fredericksburg was established.

**October 10**  
**Colonial Potpourri**  
**7:30 pm St. George’s Episcopal Church**

A magnificent concert featuring musical selections from the early eighteenth century. The concert will feature James Hicks, organist and Music Director of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown, New Jersey.

**October 25 & 26**  
**Historic Cemetery Tours**  
**Saturday 10 am-4 pm; Sunday 1-4 pm**  
**Downtown Fredericksburg**

A true tour of our past. Cemeteries hold not only the remains our forefathers but also their secrets. Take a self-paced walking tour of some of our more beautiful and interesting cemeteries where costumed guides will be on hand to provide you with information on these hallowed grounds.

**November 1**  
**Franklin’s Glass Harmonica in Recital**  
**7:30 pm Trinity Episcopal Church**

A recital by renowned glass harmonicist Dean Shostak with harpsichord accompaniment. Mr. Shostak has been featured on NPR’s *All Things Considered*, NBC’s *Nightside*, and PBS’s *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*.

**November 15**  
**Washington/Lafayette Ball**  
**7-11 pm Great Hall at Mary Washington College**  
The rich heritage of Fredericksburg will be celebrated during this elegant evening in the Great Hall of Mary Washington College.

**December 31**  
**First Night**  
**6 pm- midnight Downtown Fredericksburg**  
Celebrate with us in the historic downtown district a night of revelry as we commemorate the end of our anniversary year and look forward to 2004.

The Virginia Gazette

July 26, 1770. Number 220. Page 4, Column 1

WILLIAM WADDELL, *Stay-maker*,  
HAS just opened shop in the town of Fredericksburg, opposite to  
Mr. William Reed's store, and as he has just imported from  
London a complete assortment of every thing necessary in that  
branch of business, he flatters himself that he shall be happy  
enough to give satisfaction to all Ladies who shall favour him with  
their commands, being determined to serve them on the easiest  
terms, and in the neatest manner.



The RCHS Newsletter 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 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@cox.net](mailto:myrawig@cox.net).  
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## Liberty's Kids

Through the eyes of two young apprentice reporters named Sarah and James, viewers of Liberty's Kids go on adventures in search of the real stories of the American Revolution. The show is produced using high-quality animation, creating an exciting world through which today's kids can experience characters, events and issues at the heart of the American Revolutionary War and the founding of the United States. Liberty's Kids is a revolutionary children's animated series that tells the story of the birth of democracy in America, told through the eyes of two teenagers and their young friend working in Benjamin Franklin's print shop.

This series is being shown on the PBS stations ([www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)). Trip has been watching it almost every day and thinks it's a really good show. It is geared for kids 7-12 (or those of us who think we are). It airs at 5:30pm M-F on WHUT - channel 32.

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In publishing these guidelines, I am aware that I have not been in compliance on my end for getting your newsletter out in a timely fashion. However, things have settled down at my job, which had been the primary reason. I am dedicated in 2003 to getting back on track and making this a regular publication again. I look back at past issues and can tell exactly what was going on in our group up until last year. However, I also know that without your submissions and ideas, I wouldn't be able to get the newsletter out. So, please, contribute ideas, articles, 2 or 3 sentences, pictures of events - anything helps.

Myra

### 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 articles(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. My target date to have the newsletter published is the 15th of January, April, July and October. In order to do that, I will need any submissions by the 8th of those months. You may mail to the PO Box, or email me at [myrawig@cox.net](mailto:myrawig@cox.net).
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 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.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
*for*  
**THE RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.**

P.O. BOX 7823  
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22404-7823  
PHONE 540-371-3906 or 540-373-7651

*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 7:30pm 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.

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:\_\_\_\_\_

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST:

BOAT BUILDING ( )                      RESEARCH ( )  
LIVING HISTORY ( )                      COLONIAL DANCING ( )

OTHER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

June 3

July 1

August 5

September 2

English Country Dance Lessons (Colonial Dancing):

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

Please join us!

May 9 & 23

June 13 & 27

July 11 & 25

August 8 & 22

September 12 & 26