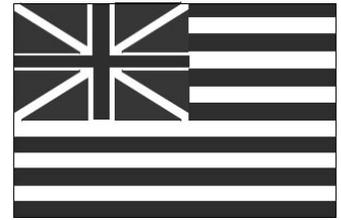




THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 9 Number 5

www.rchsinc.org

July 2006

A SPECIAL TOUR FOR RCHS MEMBERS!

Paula Gorsuch of the Fredericksburg Area Museum has graciously offered to give us a tour of the "British Heritage American Style: Decorative Arts in the Rappahannock River Region, 1730-1860" on exhibit now! Please meet by the William Street door under the canopy at the museum at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11. We will have our tour with light refreshments, then back to Faulkner Hall for the July meeting! See the website <http://www.famcc.org/> for more information on the exhibit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS BALLS, FAIRES AND SUCH 2006

- July 2 4th of July Event Spotsylvania Courthouse
- 4 Port Royal 4th Celebration
- 12 Dumfries Summer Camp
- August 19-20 Godspeed Event, Aquia Landing
- September 9 Historic Dumfries 18th Century Tavern Night
 - 16 Fall Tea, 1:00-3:00
 - 30 Welsh Festival, 10:00-4:00
- October 14 Monroe Ball, (practice 1:00-3:00)
 - 21 Scotchtown Tea
 - 28 Cemetery Tour, 11:00, 12:45, 2:30
 - 29 Cemetery Tour, 12:00, 1:45, 3:30
- November 30 Wreath Making
- December 1 Wreath Making
 - 2 Wreath Sales
 - 10 Scotchtown Holiday Open House (?)
 - 31 First Night (tentative)



Remember: 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.

JULY DANCE PRACTICE DATES

*in the Family Room of St. George's
unless otherwise noted*



- July 14 - English Country (Open)
- July 21 - English Country (Demo)
- July 28 - English Country (Open)

OTHER AREA EVENTS

- August 12; Jane Austen Ball, Gatsby's Tavern, Alexandria
- September 22; "Tavern Night at Eileen's" (see Dec. 16)
- October 21; Yorktown Ball (1781) Williamsburg, 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- November 4; Jefferson Ball, Richmond, Virginia
- December 16; "Tavern Night at Eileen's" (Period attire required. Contact Lyn at lyn.padgett@usmc.mil with questions.)

2006 RCHS OFFICERS

- President: Sandra Piercey
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- Vice-President: Catherine Bell
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- Treasurer: Dennis Buchanan
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- Secretary: Cheri Bland
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*Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are
something to do, something to love, and something
to hope for.*

--Joseph Addison

The purpose of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is to bring regular together persons interested in preserving and perpetuating the heritage and culture of the colonial era in and around the Rappahannock River Valley of Virginia; to conduct historical research of persons, places and 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 forbears in this area.

MEDIA COMMITTEE NOTES

RCHS WEBSITE UPDATE: It is my pleasure to announce that the online photo album is now complete! The album is now filled with pictures from RCHS events from 2003 to the present. Visit www.rchsinc.org to view them today! Do you remember an event that you don't see represented or a picture you would like to be added? Send them in! E-mail your photos to mistress@chateauwhite.com or (if they are large files) place them on a CD and deliver them to Jenny-Rose or Tina at dance class. Thanks! Your humble web-mistress, Jenny-Rose White

PUBLICIZING RCHS EVENTS: Event Coordinators are responsible for publicizing the event of which you are in charge. However, the Media Team is happy to publicize your event, if you provide your event details 90 days prior to the event to the Media Team. The web site provides the most up to date information for RCHS. Questions? Contact Tina at Purrs4me2x@yahoo.com.

RCHS BUSINESS CARDS: If you find you need your own RCHS business cards to hand out at events, please email Tina at Purrs4me2x@yahoo.com with the pertinent information, i.e. phone number, email address, and photograph of yourself (or your card can be printed with the RCHS logo). You will be provided with the file on a CD and business card stock so you may print them out at your convenience. If you do not have access to a computer, please let us know and we will arrange to have your business cards printed for you.

Thank you,
The Media Team

from
"Our Country's Founders"
by William J. Bennett

Benjamin Rush to John Adams, July 20, 1811- remembering when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

"Dear Old Friend, The 4th of July has been celebrated in Philadelphia in the manner I expected. The military men, and particularly one of them, ran away with all the glory of the day. Scarcely a word was said of the solicitude and labors and fears and sorrows and sleepless nights of the men who projected, proposed, defended, and subscribed the Declaration of Independence. Do you recollect your memorable speech upon the day on which the vote was taken? Do you recollect the pensive and awful silence which pervaded the house when we were called up, one after another, to the table of the President of Congress to subscribe what was believed by many at that time to be our own death warrants? The silence and the gloom of the morning were interrupted, I well recollect, only for a moment by Colonel Harrison of Virginia, who said to Mr. Gerry at the table: "I shall have a great advantage over you, Mr. Gerry, when we are all hung for what we are now doing. From the size and weight of my body I shall die in a few minutes, but from the lightness of your body you will dancing in the air an hour or two before you are dead." The speech procured a transient smile, but it was soon succeeded by the solemnity with which the whole business was conducted."

Newcastle county, 4th Month 18th, 1776

FORTY SHILLINGS Reward.

RAN away last night, from the subscribers living near Brandywine bridge, two Irish servant women, One named MARGARET FERGUSON, about forty years of age, tall and lusty, stoops in her shoulders, and has short light or sandy coloured hair. The other named MARY CAULFIELD, twenty-four years of age, of low stature, but thick and strong built, with black or dark brown hair. Had on and took with them, one camblet riding habit faced with blue pelong, one old taffaty gown of a straw colour, one other cotton and linen gown of a light green colour, two calico and one linsey short gowns, three striped linsey petticoats, a black quilt, a gray coating cloak without a cape, each a black bonnet, one low and the other high heeled shoes. Any person securing the said servants so that their masters may have them again, shall be intitled to the above reward, and reasonable charges.

WILLIAM STARN, and JOSEPH TATNALL

THE RULES OF CIVILITY

#19-Let your countenance be pleasant, but in serious matters somewhat grave.

#20-The gestures of the body must be suited to the discourse you are upon.

VOCABULARY LESSON

From The Vulgar Tongue, Buckish Stang and Pickpocket Eloquence

AMBIDEXTER. a lawyer who takes fees from both plaintiff and defendant, or that goes snacks with both parties in gaming.

AMEN. He said Yes and Amen to every thing:he agreed to every thing.

AMEN CURLER. a parish clerk

AMES ACE. within ames ace; nearly, very near

AMINIDAB. a jeering name for a Quaker



NEWSLETTER 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 for publication by the 15th of the month prior. Committee chairpersons are especially encouraged to write reports of past and upcoming activities. The newsletter is distributed to and read by people with varying degrees of expertise. Articles should be accurate in detail, sources given (for factual information) and opinions of the writer must be clearly identified as such. This newsletter will be posted online, so be very careful about listing your sources and getting permission for reprints. Send articles to HRHDiana@juno.com.

Questions? Please contact a member of the Media Committee, Tina Buchanan, Elaine Sturgeon, Jenny-Rose White or Diana Farrar.

The spring of 1776 was very fast-paced in Virginia and elsewhere in the colonies.

1775 had been a big year. First, Lexington and Concord, and here in Virginia, Governor Dunmore had left Williamsburg with the gunpowder from the armory and was held up on a ship. He was enticing slaves to revolt and join the British cause to put down the rebellion and in return be emancipated.

With the Assembly out of session, the Burgesses took matters into their own hands and established the Virginia Convention, the only real acting legislative body in Virginia. It was still comprised of almost all of the former burgesses and continued to meet in Williamsburg under the direction of its president, Edmund Pendleton of Caroline Co.

In the spring of 1776, amid passionate speeches by a number of notables, Virginia became a leading voice calling for a total break from Great Britain and the formation of the United Colonies and went so far as declaring them free and independent states!

Below are a couple of articles as appeared in the Virginia Gazette (Purdie publisher) for May 17, 1776. The first talks about raising forces to aid the people in North Carolina.

The second is the outcome of the Virginia Convention in mid May, 1776. It's to give our readers an idea of what was going on in the colony on the eve of the Declaration of Independence. We hope you enjoy them. Note at the end of the resolution by the Convention, they raise funds for a party for the soldiers. Virginians did like a party!

Williamsburg, May 17

It was determined last Friday, in Convention, that 1300 minute-men and militia shall immediately march to the assistance of North Carolina, who are to compose two battalions, and to be commanded by the following gentlemen: 1st battalion, Samuel Meredith, esq; colonel, John Ruffin, esq; lieutenant-colonel, and Richard James, esq; major. 2nd battalion, Charles Lewis, esq; colonel, Haynes Morgan; esq; lieutenant-colonel, and John Glenn, esq; major. To be under the orders of the commanding officer of the continental forces in the Southern department, who is already set out to take command of the troops in Carolina, with the German battalion of regulars.

We have the pleasure to acquaint the publick, from good information, that the militia almost through the whole colony, particularly of the upper counties, are now well provided with arms and ammunition, and ready, at a call, to march to the relief of any part of the country which is invaded, or to assist their brethren in the neighbouring provinces.

IN CONVENTION. Present 112 members. Wednesday, May 15, 1776.

Forasmuch as all the endeavours of the UNITED COLONIES, by the most decent representations and petitions to the king and parliament of Great Britain, to restore peace and security to America under the British government, and a re-union with that people upon just and liberal terms, instead of a redress of grievances, have produced, from an imperious and vindictive administration, increased insult, oppression, and vigorous attempt to effect our total destruction. By a late act, all these colonies are declared to be in rebellion, and out of the protection of the British crown, our properties subjected to confiscation, our people, when captivated, compelled to join in the murder and plunder of their relations and countrymen, and all former rapine and oppression of Americans declared legal and just. Fleets and armies are raised, and the aid of foreign troops engaged to assist these destructive purposes. The king's representative in the colony hath not only withheld all the powers of government from operating for our safety, but, having retired on board an armed ship, is carrying on a piratical and savage war against us, tempting our slaves, by every artifice, to resort to him, and training and employing them against their masters. In this state of extreme danger, we have no alternative left but an abject submission to the will of those overbearing tyrants, or a total separation from the crown and government of Great Britain, uniting and exerting the strength of all America for defense, and forming alliances with foreign powers for commerce and aid in war: Wherefore appealing to the SEARCHER OF HEARTS for the sincerity of former declarations, expressing our desire to preserve the connexion with the nation, and

that we are driven from that inclination by their wicked councils, and the eternal laws of self-preservation,

RESOLVED, unanimously, that the delegates appointed to represent this colony in General Congress be instructed to propose to that respectable body TO DECLARE THE UNITED COLONIES FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, absolved from all allegiance to, or dependence upon, the crown or parliament of Great Britain; and that they give the assent of this colony to such declaration, and to whatever measures may be thought proper and necessary by the Congress for forming foreign alliances, and A CONFEDERATION OF THE COLONIES, at such time and in the manner, as to them shall seem best. Provided, that the power of forming government, and the regulations of the internal concerns of each colony, be left to the respective colonial legislatures.

RESOLVED unanimously, that a committee be appointed to prepare A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, and such a plan of government as will be most likely to maintain peace and order in the colony, and secure substantial and equal liberty to the people.

EDMUND PENDLETON, president

(a copy)

John Tazewell, clerk of the Convention.

In consequence of the above resolution, universally regarded as the only door which will lead to safety and prosperity, some gentlemen made a handsome collection for the purpose of treating the soldiery, who next day were paraded in Waller's grove, before brigadier-general [Andrew] Lewis, attended by the gentlemen of the Committee of Safety, the members of the General Convention, the inhabitants of this city, &c. &c. The resolution being read aloud to the army, the following toasts were given, each of them accompanied by a discharge of the artillery and small-arms, and the acclamations of all present:

The American independent States.

The Grand Congress of the United States, and their respective legislatures.

General Washington, and victory to the American arms.

The UNION FLAG of the American States waved upon the Capitol during the whole of this ceremony, which being ended, the soldiers partook of the refreshment prepared for them by the affection of their countrymen, and the evening concluded with illuminations [sic], and other demonstrations of joy; everyone seeming pleased that the domination of Great Britain was now at an end, so wickedly and tyrannically exercised for these twelve or thirteen years past, notwithstanding our repeated prayers and remonstrances for redress.

And in that same issue of the paper, day-to-day life went on:

FOR SALE - TWO well improved lots elegantly situated on the main street in the town of Fredericksburg, formerly the property of William Houston. The terms of the sale may be known by application to mr. Thomas Towles of Spotsylvania, who is properly authorized to dispose of the same, or to the subscriber at Hampton, the proprietor thereof.

OLIVER TOWLES

[Mr. William Houston started out as a saddler but in 1768 he purchased the Long Ordinary, lot 41, on the northwest corner of the intersection of Caroline and Hanover Streets just behind the courthouse. He died in 1771. His son, also William, sold the Long Ordinary in 1775 to John Wigglesworth.]

Also in the summer of 1776, both James Hunter's Rappahannock Forge and Fielding Lewis' Fredericksburg Manufactory were in production and Hugh Mercer had recently been promoted to Brigadier General in the Continental Army.

Happy 4th of July! *(Submitted by Trip Wiggins)*



Sources:

Virginia Gazette (Purdie) May 17, 1776

Felder, Paula. "Fielding Lewis and the Washington Family" 1998, American History Co.

Crozier, William. Virginia County Records: Spotsylvania Co. (Orig 1905), Reprint 1990, Genealogical Publishing Co.

Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.
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Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

July 11

August 1

September 5

English Country Dance Lessons (Colonial Dancing): Please join us in St. George's Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg, VA (downstairs in Family Room)

July 14

July 21

July 28