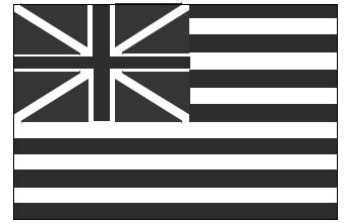




THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 9 Number 4

www.rchsinc.org

June 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 10 Tavern Night at Eileen's
July 2 4th of July Event Spotsylvania Courthouse
4 Port Royal 4th Celebration

August 19-20 Godspeed Event, Aquia Landing

September 16 Fall Tea, 1:00-3:00
23 Tavern Night at Eileen's
30 Welsh Festival, 10:00-4:00

October 21 Scotchtown Tea
28 Cemetery Tour, 11:00, 12:45, 2:30
29 Cemetery Tour, 12:00, 1:45, 3:30

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS BALLS, FAIRES AND SUCH 2006

October 14 James Monroe Ball, Fredericksburg, VA,
7:00 p.m. to ?

October 21 Yorktown Ball, 1781, Williamsburg, VA,
7:00-11:00 p.m.

November 4 Jefferson Ball, Richmond, VA

JUNE DANCE PRACTICE DATES

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

June 9 - English Country Dance
June 16 -English Country Dance
June 23 - Dance Canceled
June 30 - English Country Dance



TAVERN NIGHTS IN OLDE TOWNE FREDERICKSBURG

Save the following dates for "Tavern Night at Eileen's"

June 10, 2006

September 22, 2006

December 16, 2006

Enjoy an evening of 18th century music, entertainment, gaming, fine food, and merriment at the historic Chimneys hosted by the owners of Eileen's. Please contact Lyn Padgett to receive details as they become available. Period attire required. Contact Lyn at lyn.padgett@usmc.mil with questions.

2006 RCHS OFFICERS

President: Sandra Piercey
starshine702001@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Catherine Bell
scot.forlife@verizon.net

Treasurer: Dennis Buchanan
buchanan@wwlnk.net

Secretary: Cheri Bland
dand@nwc.net

*He that can compose himself, is wiser than he that
composes books. Poor Richard's Almanac*

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.

HISTORY COMMITTEE NOTE

The RCHS History Committee is up and running. The members include Mr. Trip Wiggins (Chairperson), Mr. Brian Lewis (Recorder) and Ms. Lyn Padgett. The first event we are planning will be a "Afternoon/Evening" of Gaming. If you have suggestions concerning this event (e.g., preferred dates and times, potluck/no potluck, specific games you would like to see, suggested locations, etc.) please let Lyn know. We would like maximum participation from our membership since we seldom get to do these types of activities just for our own enjoyment. Contact Lyn at lyn.padgett@usmc.mil.

THE RULES OF CIVILITY

#17 - Be no flatterer; neither play with any that delight not to be played with.

#18- Read no letters, books or papers in company; but when there is a necessity for doing so, you must ask leave. come not near the books or writings of another, so as to read them, unless desired; nor give your opinion of them unasked. Also look not when another is writing a letter.

from

The Pennsylvania Evening Post
January 22, 1776

RAN away from the subscriber on the twentieth of this instant, a Scotch servant woman, named BARBARY ABERCROMBY, about twenty-seven years of age, of a fair complexion, middle sized, had on, when she went away, a home made jacket and petticoat of dark brown with one blue shallon petticoat. Whoever takes up the said servant and delivers her to the keeper of the workhouse, shall receive FIFTEEN SHILLINGS reward, and reasonable charges.

JOSIAH HIBARD, *East Whiteland, Chester County.*
N.B. She crossed the Middle Ferry Sunday afternoon.

VOCABULARY LESSON

From *The Vulgar Tongue, Buckish Slang and Pickpocket Eloquence*

ALDGATE. A draught on the pump at Aldgate; a bad bill of exchange, drawn on persons who have no effects of the drawer.

ALE DRAPER. An alehouse keeper

ALL-A-MORT. Struck dumb, confounded.

ALE POST. A may-pole.

ALL NATIONS. A composition of all the different spirits sold in a dram-shop, collected in a vessel, into which the drainings of the bottles and quartern pots are emptied.

ALLS. The five alls is a country sign, representing five human figures, each having a motto under him. the first is a king in his regalia; his motto, I govern all: the second, a bishop in pontificals; motto, I pray for all: third, a lawyer in his gown; motto, I plead for all: fourth, a soldier in his regimentals, fully accoutered; motto, I fight for all: fifth, a poor countryman with his scythe and rake; motto, I pay for all.

ALTITUDES. The man is in his altitudes, i.e., he is drunk.



MEDIA COMMITTEE NOTES

PUBLICIZING RCHS EVENTS

Publicity and the Media Team: Our president Sandra has asked us to come up with some guidelines on doing Publicity and how it is to be handled by the Media Team. We will be coming up with a standard format to be used for RCHS fliers. Event Coordinators are responsible for providing the Media Team with the information at least 90 days before an event if they would like the Media Team to provide the publicity. We can also provide the Event Coordinators with information if they would like to handle it themselves. Currently we are only using free advertising. If the Event Coordinator would like paid publicity to be arranged by the Media Team they need to take the necessary steps to get permission for that, and again provide us with the necessary information at least 90 days before the event. This allows us to meet deadlines established by the various sources we use, and also to get the information up on our RCHS web site. Our aim is to have the web site provide the most up to date information for our group. You may contact Tina at Purrs4me2x@yahoo.com.

RCHS BUSINESS CARDS

Need RCHS business Cards? Please email Tina at Purrs4me2x@yahoo.com with the pertinent information, i.e. phone number, email address, etc. You may include a picture of yourself, and if possible we will use that. Otherwise, the card will be printed with the RCHS logo. We will then provide you with the file on a CD and business card stock so that from that point forward you may print them out at your convenience. You would then just need to let us know when you need more card stock. If you do not have access to a computer please let us know and we will arrange to have them printed for you.

Thank you,
The Media Team

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.

A Day at Belmont



Two Gentlemen at Rosewell





A Day at Belmont

5 May 1773

My Dear Cousin Mary,

It has been so long since we have seen your lovely Face. I hope that this letter finds you well and also your Father. Please give him our respects. We have been quite busy as usual this time of year. Mother's back is plaguing her but it only slows her down for a few moments. She is such a remarkable woman — I am quite blessed that the good Lord has seen fit to leave her on this Earth so that we may have this time together. I had occasion to journey over the river to Belmont the Sunday last. After church we had been invited for tea and since it was not too far Brother had no objections. It is a lovely house and the weather was quite nice. There were four of us ladies in the party. I'm sure you remember Mrs. McGonagle, Mrs. Fitzefferie, and you may not have had the pleasure of meeting our new acquaintance Virginia Rose White. She is such a nice young lady. So skilled at the needle it puts me to shame but then you know I have never sewn a fine hand. She was most industrious in the afternoon and stitched on the front of her new gown. Also, Mrs. McGonagle had her niece Masie and she has grown so you would scarce recognize her! I just happened to have my mandolin with me so I was able to pluck out a tune but my friends did not seem much impressed — oh that we could have afforded lessons when I was young and not so old. My fingers do not seem to do what I want them to do. My teacher Mr. Marshall says that I am doing well but not to sound obstinate he is paid after all so I am quite sure he would compliment me! I would like to have someone to play with but alas none of our neighbors have any musical inclination whatsoever and somehow I do not think Brother's bagpipes and my mandolin would make any sort of pleasant sound together. We had a nice supper *à fresco* — quite sumptuous — baked chicken, stringed beans, assorted breads and cheeses, dried fruit and some lovely Madeira. I do not want to pass tales but Mrs. McGonagle seemed over fond of the Madeira. There was quite a lively game of Whist after supper. I was partnered with Mrs. McGonagle while Mrs. Fitzefferie and Miss White were partners. We made three points the first hand and then our luck ran away. I do not want to say that there was any sharp dealings going on but it seemed most unusual for our luck to turn so but that could also be layed at the seemingly bottomless glass of Mrs. McGonagle. But still in all it was quite a lively afternoon spent in the gayest of circumstances with warm friends — oh that life could be like that more often. We hope that we may be seeing you soon,

As ever, I remain,
Your Cousin and devoted Servant,
Christina Buchanan
Rollingwood House



SCOTS IN EARLY FREDERICKSBURG

By Trip Wiggins

When most think of Virginia and the people who settled here they usually remember one thing: the first ENGLISH colony in America. Does that mean we were all English? By no means. We were settled as an English speaking colony, but we were a British colony, not just English. By the 1700s Britain included the English, some Irish, the Welsh and of course the Scots. While it is true that the Tidewater area was inhabited primarily by the English, the same is not always true for other parts of the colony.

So, in colonial times did our town have many Scottish immigrants? Yes. Too many to count! Most of the merchants were Scots; as were the doctors, tavern keepers - the list goes on. We'll concentrate first on the merchants, as they were the ones who really made Fredericksburg a bustling port town.

Why Virginia? Why Fredericksburg?

Why were the Scottish merchants interested in a small port town like Fredericksburg? Tobacco! Europe needed tobacco and the tobacco came from the American Colonies. Did you know that by 1772, tobacco accounted for 80% (by value) of all American imports to Scotland! And where did it come from? Predominantly - Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. From 1772-1774, 50% of all Scottish shipping tonnage to North America was to Virginia and Maryland! In 1771 Scotland imported 47 million lbs of tobacco. The Scots were actually bettering their English neighbors. (By 1768 Scottish trade amounted to 50% of ALL the British trade and it remained there until the American Revolution. They knew what they were doing!) Tidbit of 1773: Of 44,000 Hogsheads (Hhds) of tobacco imported to the River Clyde (the river serving Glasgow), 35K or 79% - came from VIRGINIA! Virginia was Scottish country.

Why were the Scots so dominant? Speed. Since their ships followed the northern trade route (past Ireland), the distance was shorter and the winds better - so they got here faster (2-4 weeks faster). [The English preferred to go south from London to the mid-Atlantic and pick up the gentler trade winds to the west.] What it meant was that in a typical year the Scottish ships could make 2-3 round trips to Virginia while the English could make 1-2. More tobacco purchased and more goods sold = more £ in their pockets. End result - Glasgow was the tobacco marketplace capitol of Europe.

Remember also that when I say "Scotland" I really mean Glasgow, as "the Clyde" was the river that serviced Glasgow and its smaller port cities of Greenock & Port Glasgow. This region accounted for 90% of the Scottish trade.

What were the great trading ports of Britain? In rough rank order for the mid- to late 18th century: London - Glasgow - Whitehaven - Liverpool - Bristol and several lesser ports.

The Scots generally traded on their own in Virginia while the English tended to cater to the largest plantations. (In today's marketing terms, the English were more like Macy's or Nordstrom's whereas the Scots were the Wal-Marts and Targets of the times. They catered to the masses.)

The biggest advantage the Scottish traders had was not just speed but money. As Thomas Nelson of Yorktown wrote to Samuel Athawes, a London merchant, in 1769, about the Scots monopolizing the tobacco trade, "...certain it is they give more real money than you can do; and by having their Factors here, who are always buying against the arrival of their ships, they make two voyages in a year..." Why could they pay more? Their shipping costs were much less than those of London.

One of the largest Glasgow firms was William Cunninghame & Co. He had 14 stores in Virginia catering to small planters. Most were concentrated where the tobacco inspection stations were located on all four major rivers in the colony. One was in Fredericksburg and another was across the river in Falmouth.

Tobacco Inspection Stations

Not much happened following Fredericksburg's establishment in 1728 until 1730 when the Assembly got tired of accepting the second (and inferior) tobacco crops for planter's taxes and customs duties. They passed an act requiring all tobacco to be inspected by the Crown and established 70 inspection stations throughout the colony. (The inspection also produced better tobacco and generally the planters made more money on smaller yields - a win, win proposition for the planters and the Crown.) Wherever the inspection station was located became busy places and in no time merchants and taverns flocked to them to make a shilling or two. Local Henry Willis, our Burgess (and a non-Scot), was instrumental in seeing that two of these inspection stations were located in Fredericksburg and Falmouth. Of the merchants, they tended to be the more adventurous Scots, the English preferring to stay in the Tidewater region.

So who were OUR early Scots?

The following is only a representative look at local Scots and by no means a complete list. Some are known to many; some to only a handful of historians. Let's take a look at some.

William Livingston was a dance & music instructor who also opened the first theater in Williamsburg. Following the theater's financial collapse in 1723, Livingston and his wife, **Susannah**, moved up the Rappahannock and opened a tavern near the location of the current "Barefoot Greens." They were probably the first permanent residents in what would become Fredericksburg in 1728. Why here? Probably because it was the "fall line" - the furthest up the river that an ocean-going ship could travel to make deals with local tobacco planters who rolled their crop to the river awaiting pickup. If tobacco was going to change hands here, it might be a good place to build a tavern and make some of that tobacco money for himself. William died in 1729 but his wife continued running the tavern until her death in 1745. Besides the tavern (also known as a coffee house), she was the area "doctress" (there were no doctors in the area yet), and, when St. George's opened its doors on George Street in 1734, its first Sexton. She also operated a "publick roeling house" (a

tobacco warehouse). Quite a businesswoman, especially in an age when women were little more than property of their husbands!

By 1732 Fredericksburg still had a miniscule population but large enough to support a Scottish tailor – Mr. **William Frazier**. His widow and son – Frances & James – bought Lot 50 (NE corner of Princess Anne & Amelia streets).

About 1740 **John Allan** arrived from Hamilton, Scotland. He almost single-handedly developed the northern end of town into a Scot's town. Practically all inhabitants north of Amelia Street were Scots and he owned and sold much of the land. He was a Trustee of the town (no City Council until 1782) and purchased the tobacco warehouse on Lots 9 & 10 (Executive Office Bldg & Parking Lot). Warehouses were critical to the planters as the tobacco had to be kept dry until it was inspected and shipped. By 1746 he was also the "overseer of the streets" and had to keep the road open to the public ferry (foot of Wolfe Street) for wheeled carriages. John had probably come over as a Scottish Factor but set up his own independent merchant business in town.

In 1745, John Allan bought 10 acres on the west edge of town from fellow Scotsman William Hunter and laid out 8 lots in an angled line created by the east-west division line between the Willis and Royston properties and the back line of the town. "Allan Town" remained a part of the town's layout for the next century. In the early 1800s, Charles Yates bought up the property and "straightened out" the line. Today's "Federal Hill" – build in old Allan Town – reflects the lot's original angled offset. Allan Town generally is the area bounded by: Princess Anne to Kenmore, George to Charlotte streets. Allan purchased the Smith track including Embury Hill, which is roughly bounded today as that land between Route 1 and Salem Church, and Route 3 south to halfway to Harrison Rd. John Allan died in 1740 and it was his last request to be buried on his Fall Hill plantation.

John's brother, **James**, was a joiner, or a fine carpenter – primarily a furniture maker. James inherited Lot 64 from his brother's estate and built his house there – 1106 Princess Anne Street (the Willis' family home today). [It remains the oldest house in Fredericksburg.] He too was a Trustee and eventually outdid his brother, becoming a member of the Spotsylvania County Court. (Fredericksburg was the county seat.)

A tavern keeper – **John Gordon** emigrated from Scotland in 1721. He became a tavern keeper in Germanna (the original county seat and HOME of Gov. Spotswood). When the courthouse was moved to Fredericksburg, he brought his tavern to the new town, as there was always money to be made in a tavern next to a courthouse. (Remember a tavern offered drink, food and lodging – a hotel, restaurant and bar.) His tavern was located on the north side of William Street between Sophia and Caroline (antique shops now). It was THE place in town. Although John died in 1750, his wife Margaret continued running the tavern. Their two daughters – Catherine "Kitty" and Isabella – married in the 1760s to George Weedon and Dr. Hugh Mercer, respectively. Weedon took over the tavern operations and eventually renamed it Weedon's Tavern. It remained "the toast of the town." The Mercers resided on

Lot 50, the former home of John Allan, and the former lot of the Fraziers.

William Hunter came to Virginia as a representative of his family's merchant firm in Scotland. Like John Allan, he bought property from the Willis estate, but was more interested in commerce than land development. He sold many of his properties concentrating on a tavern and ferry at the foot of Wolfe Street. He married well, Martha Taliaferro, and rapidly rose in rank as a member of the county court. He was a Gentleman. (That was not an adjective; that was a Title denoting success and was only conferred on members of the County Court or higher office.) He died in 1754.

James Hunter. Actually there were two James Hunters who have been confused with each other over the intervening years. To distinguish one from the other while they lived here, they were known as James Senior and James Junior, also known as Old James and Jamie, respectively.

To make it more confusing, they were cousins. Junior (Jamie) was the orphan of William Hunter, spoken of earlier. Senior (Old James) was a nephew of William Hunter, and probably about 20 years older than James Junior. Old James took over the running of the ferry at the foot of Wolfe Street after William died. (William had run it for many years in the 1740s and 50s and had encouraged his nephew, James, to come to Fredericksburg from their home in Duns, Scotland about 1736, to assist him in the operation.) Old James then started Hunter's Iron Works/Rappahannock Forge in Falmouth with his brother, Adam. The Forge was instrumental in equipping Virginia troops in the Rev War with arms and metal accoutrements. Old James and his brother, Adam, were bachelors. When James died in 1785 he had amassed a tremendous estate encompassing 4 plantations in 3 counties, the Iron Works/Forge, and 284 slaves!

Jamie was an unsuccessful merchant who went back and forth between Virginia, England, and France through most of his life. In 1774, he married his cousin William's widow, Marriana. He had one lasting contribution, though, to the war effort. In 1776, James Jr. was named Commissary of Public Stores in Fredericksburg to assist in gathering much needed supplies for the army. He held this post for 2 years. Following the war, he failed at another merchant venture in Portsmouth and died almost broke 1788.

Well, we probably need to add something of George Washington; after all he's our most famous son. No, he didn't come from Scotland, but George Home did. Who, you ask?

George Home (some have Hume) emigrated in 1721 from Scotland on advice of his uncle who had come over (as a free man) a few years earlier. By the time George arrived, his uncle had died and was buried in Germanna. George stayed and studied to become a surveyor. He developed a close association with George Proctor and married his daughter, Elizabeth, in 1727. (The couple received 160 acres as a wedding gift from Proctor – near the NE corner of 4-Mile Fork.) As a surveyor he was doing well and was hired to lay out the town of Fredericksburg. (Home was the official surveyor for

Spotsylvania Co. in 1728.) A few years later he laid out St. George's Church. Later he moved to Orange Co. and again was the County Surveyor.

In the late 1740s Home was reported to have done some surveying assignments with the young George Washington in the Shenandoah Valley - teaching him the mystery of surveying. It was a tough life on the frontier and Home died in 1760 and is believed to be buried near the Rapidan River. He used William Hunter's store for his mail, but never really trusted his fellow Scottish merchants.

Robert & James Duncanson, merchants. Robert emigrated first, then called for his younger brother about 1750. Both were merchants, first working for others then later in business for themselves. They were founding members of the Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg. Their store was located about where the Unitarian Church now stands on Caroline Street - in the heart of the Scottish end of town. Robert was a close friend and fellow prankster with Dr. Sutherland, who you'll learn about in a minute. Robert died in the 1760s. James served in the French & Indian war as an Ensign in Virginia. James was appointed to the Committee of Safety in town in 1774 following the closing of the Port of Boston. Following the war he became one of the most successful merchants in the town and when he died in the 1790s he was one of the wealthiest men in the region.

Dr. John Sutherland. A jovial Scotsman and accomplished physician. His name appears more often for his shenanigans in town with his fellow Scottish Masonic Lodge brothers and drinking! He was a colorful individual indeed!

Dr. Hugh Mercer, physic & apothecist and soldier. He is probably almost as well known by Fredericksburg citizens as George Washington. He was born in NE Scotland, educated in Aberdeen, Scotland and served as a medic for the Scots at the Battle of Culloden. Following the loss he came to America and established a medical practice in western Pennsylvania. During the French & Indian War he led troops as an infantry officer and rose to Colonel. Moving to Fredericksburg in 1760 he had a busy medical practice until the onset of the Revolution. He again donned the uniform fighting for Virginia and was serving as a Brigadier General when he was killed on the battlefield at Princeton, NJ. He married the daughter of fellow Scotsman John Gordon. Of his descendants, two notables are Gen. George S. Patton and songwriter/singer Johnny Mercer.

Robert Patton, merchant. Patton arrived here from Scotland sometime before the Rev War. When the war broke out he, like many other merchants, left the area, but upon its completion returned and resumed his merchant business. He married the only daughter of Dr./Gen. Hugh Mercer, Anna. He became a leading citizen of the town. His g-g-grandson was Gen. George S. Patton of World War II fame.

William and Robert Walker. Brothers who emigrated from Scotland probably around 1730. William (died 1750) was an undertaker (building contractor - built John Mercer's

"Marlborough," Charles Carter's "Cleve," and Lee's "Stratford Hall"). He was contracted by the House of Burgesses to rebuild the burned capitol building in 1748, but died before starting the project. Robert (d. 1777) was a joiner and chair maker (several of which were purchased by John Mercer, John Spotswood and other notable families of our region). Robert took young Spence Monrow on as an apprentice in 1743. William and John were primarily located in King George County. William also had a son, also named William, who became an accomplished joiner and chair maker in his own right. He operated his shop out of Fredericksburg.

Thomas and John Miller. From Sterling, Scotland; arriving in the early 1760s when both were probably teenagers. Thomas was a woodworker and chair maker. He probably made the chair in use by the Masonic Lodge (ca. 1774). He was later (1780s) a member of the newly-formed Town Council. John was a local merchant.

The Masonic Lodge. Organized Sept 1752 by local Scots and 3 visiting Scottish Masons. Most of the original members were merchants, traders or factors. The lodge bought land from a brother member and established the Masonic Cemetery (1784) where it resides today - at the corner of George and Charles streets.

William Allason, Falmouth merchant. Allason originally hailed from Glasgow and went into the merchant business first as a factor for a Scottish firm. His business brought him to Virginia where he eventually parted from his employer to try it on his own - in which he was quite successful. When the Revolution erupted and many Scots and English merchants headed home, he stayed in his adopted country and here he resided until his death in 1800.

Lt Gov Alexander Spotswood. A career army officer, Col. Alexander Spotswood was offered the post of Virginia Lt Governor and moved to Williamsburg to assume his duties. Among his accomplishments - he built the Governor's mansion in Williamsburg, created the counties of Spotsylvania and Brunswick, and founded an iron making operation along the Rapidan (at Germanna). Following his term as Lt Governor he built his personal mansion at Germanna and controlled land from there to Massaponax Creek, including a wharf for local planters to load their tobacco onto waiting ships bound for Great Britain. We could spend an entire article on this most-colorful entrepreneur, military man, adventurer, schemer, and politician. He and his wharf at the mouth of the Massaponax were indirectly responsible for the founding of our town.

John Harrower, tutor/indentured servant. Harrower came to the colonies in 1774 seeking a better life that what was offered him back home in Scotland. As he was educated, Wm. Daingerfield of "Belvedere" purchased his indenture and took him on as a teacher for his family. Harrower's intention was to earn enough money to eventually bring over his wife and children, but died in 1776 while in the service of Mr. Daingerfield before he could realize his dream. His journal is full of local people and happenings of the 1770s!

William & John Paul, tailor and mariner. William Paul probably arrived here in the 1750s or 60s and began a successful career as a local tailor. Among his friends/clients was the Brooke family of "Smithfield." His younger brother, John, visited when the Scottish merchant ship he crewed was in port. Later John added Jones as his surname and when the war broke out received command of a ship in the fledgling Navy. He chose as his ship's surgeon young Lawrence Brooke, of the family just mentioned, and who had studied medicine in Edinburgh. I have yet to find proof that John actually resided here for more than his normal short stays. He appears on no tax records for the area.

Later arrivals:

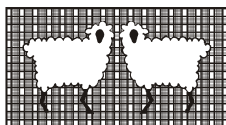
Basil Gordon, merchant (1768-1847); and brother **Samuel**, purchased Lewis mansion and named it "Kenmore"

James Somerville, merchant (1742-1798)

Eliezar Callender (probably of Scottish descent.), merchant and Rev War Navy Captain (ca 1738-1792)

David Henderson, merchant, city councilman, founder of the Charity School (ca 1750-1838) His store/home was the building now known as the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop.

Yes, we had our fair share of Scotsmen. They were everywhere in the region and the colony. If you were sick - you visited a Scottish physician. If you needed to buy something - it was probably imported from Glasgow on a Scottish ship and purchased from a Scottish store here in town. Yes, we were a town heavily populated by Scottish immigrants who stayed here and helped turn an inspection station on a quiet river into a bustling town.



Sources:

Coakley, R. Walter. "The Two James Hunters of Fredericksburg." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol 56, No. 1, Jan. 1948.

Felder, Paula. "Forgotten Companions." *American History Co.* 1999.

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

Harrower, John. "The Journal of John Harrower 1773-1776." *Colonial Williamsburg.* 1963.

Leath, Robert and Tara Chicirida. Talk by Colonial Williamsburg Furniture researchers on chairs in the Fredericksburg/No. Virginia area. Given at the CRRL on 23 Mar 2005.

Mansfield, James. "A History of Early Spotsylvania." 1977.

Price, Jacob. "The Rise of Glasgow in the Chesapeake Tobacco Trade, 1707-1775." *William and Mary Quarterly*, Series 3, Vol 11

Soltow, J.H. "Scottish Traders in Virginia." *The Economic History Review*, New Series, Vol 12, No. 1 (1959)

Spode, Robert. "Wm. Allason: Merchant in an Emerging Nation." PhD dissertation, manuscript. 1973.

POETRY CORNER

WOMAN'S TRIFLING NEEDS

by *Mercy Warren (friend of Abigail Adams), 1790*



Woman's Trifling Needs

An inventory clear

of all she needs Lamira offers here;

Nor does she fear a rigid Cato's frown

When she lays by the rich embroidered gown,

And modestly compounds for just enough-

Perhaps, some dozens of more flighty stuff;

With lawns and lustrings, blond, and Mechlin laces,

Fringes and jewels, fans and tweezer-cases;

memory Gay cloaks, and hats of every shape and size,

Scarfs, cardinals, and ribbons of all dyes;

With ruffles stamped, and aprons of tambour,

Tippets and handkerchiefs, at least three score;

With finest muslins that fair India boasts,

And the choice herbage from Chinesan coasts;

(But while the fragrant hyson leaf regales,

Who'll wear the homespun produce of the vales?

For if 'twould save the nation from the curse

Of standing troops; or-name a plague still worse-

Few can this choice, delicious draught give up,

Though all Medea's poisons fill the cup.)

Add feathers, furs, rich satins, and ducapes,

And bead-dresses in pyramidal shapes;

Sideboards of plate and porcelain profuse,

With fifty dittos that the ladies use;

If my poor treach'rous has missed,

Ingenious T___I shall complete the list.

So weak Lamira, and her wants so few,

Who can refuse?-they're but the sex's due.

In youth, indeed, an antiquated page

Taught us the threatenings of an Hebrew sage

'Gainst wimples, mantles, curls, and crisping-pins;

But rank not these among our modern sins;

For when our manners are well understood,

What in the scale is stomacher or hood?

'Tis true, we love the courtly mien and air,

The pride of dress and all the debonair;

Yet Clara quits the more dressed negligee,

And substitutes the careless Polanee;

Until some fair one from Britannia's court,

Some jaunty dress or newer taste import;

This sweet temptation could not be withstood,

Though for the purchase paid her father's blood.

Can the stern patriot Clara's suit deny?

'Tis Beauty asks, and Reason must comply.

THE END

EVENTS OF INTEREST

June 10 at 6:00 p.m., June 11 at 7:00 p.m., June 17 and 18 at 7:00 p.m. both days: Fredericksburg Company at Kenmore. Plays originally performed in the 18th century will be performed on the lawn at Kenmore, the home of George Washington's sister, Betty and her husband, Fielding Lewis.

Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.
P.O. 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, Virginia. Please join us!

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

June 6

July 11

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

June 9

June 16

June 23 (canceled)

June 30