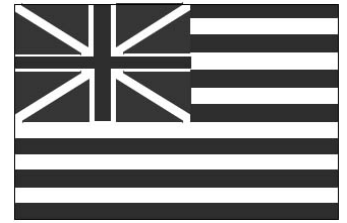




THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 9 Number 7

www.rchsinc.org

September 2006

CALENDAR OF EVENTS BALLS, FAIRES AND SUCH 2006

September 9 Historic Dumfries 18th Century Tavern Night
15 Fall Tea Set Up, 7:30 p.m.
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.

SEPTEMBER DANCE PRACTICE DATES

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

September 15 - Tea Set Up
September 22 - English Country (Demo)
September 29 - English Country (Open)



OTHER AREA EVENTS

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.)

Wise Sayings

If you would not be forgotten
As soon as you are dead and rotten,
Either write things worthy reading,
Or do things worth the writing.



Work as if you were to live a hundred years,
Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.

Benjamin Franklin

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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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

VISIT THE RCHS WEBSITE www.rchsinc.org to see photos of RCHS events and events calendar. Submit photos to mistress@chateauwhite.com. Web-mistress, Jenny-Rose White

PUBLICIZING RCHS EVENTS: Event Coordinators are responsible for publicizing the event of which they are in charge. 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. Questions? Contact Tina at Purrs4me2x@yahoo.com.

RCHS BUSINESS CARDS: Would you like your own RCHS business cards to hand out at events? E-mail Tina at Purrs4me2x@yahoo.com for more information!

The Virginia Gazette
(Purdie & Dixon)
July 2, 1772 pg 3 col 1

ALL Persons having Demands against the Estate of Roger Dixon, late of Fredericksburg, deceased, are desired to make them known, and they who are indebted to the said Estate are advised to make ready Payment, either by Mr. Oliver Towles, Attorney at Law in Spotsylvania (whom I have empowered to act in these Affairs) or to JOHN DIXON, Administrator, with the Will amended. It has been reported (and I fear this Report will prove detrimental to my brother's distressed Family) that his debts exceed the value of his personal Estate, and that, dying intestate, his lands would be liable for none but English Debts, but I hereby assure those whom it may concern, that there was a Will found, and proved, wherein he directs the sale of all his Lands (except his wife's Dower, the Houses and Lots where he lived, and his new Mill near Fredericksburg) the Produce of which will be applied, together with the Debts, as fast as they can be collected, for the Payment of his just Debts, which I must acknowledge amount to a large sum of Money, but after the nicest Inquiry we were able to make, his Credits will exceed them by many Hundred Pounds. Delay in the Debtors, and too hasty Demands from the Creditors (which I earnestly desire both will avoid) are the only Things likely to hurt his Family, in whose Names I address the benevolent Creditor in the Words of that Suppliant Debtor: Have Patience with me and I will pay thee all.

Note: Mr. Dixon was a local land developer and merchant. He seems to always be buying lots on speculation in Fredericksburg, and alas died before striking it rich. He also ran a mill in the area to grind corn or wheat. He built his home on lower Caroline Street.

Submitted by Trip Wiggins

THE RULES OF CIVILITY

- #23 - When you see a crime punished, you may be inwardly pleased; but always show pity to the suffering offender.
- #24 - Do not laugh too loud or too much at any public spectacle lest you cause yourself to be laughed at.

VOCABULARY LESSON

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

ANGLING FOR FARTHINGS. Begging out of a prison window with a cap, or box, let down at the end of a long string

APOSTLES. To manoeuvre the apostles, i.e. rob Peter to Pay Paul; that is, to borrow money of one man to pay another

APPLE CART. Down with his apple-cart; knock or throw him down.

APPLE DUMPLIN SHOP. A woman's bosom

APPLE-PYE-BED. A bed made apple-pye fashion, like what is called a turnover apple-pye, where the sheets are so doubled as to prevent any one from getting at his length between them, a common trick played by frolicsome country lasses on their sweethearts, male relations, or visitors.

EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7:00 p.m. in St. George's Elsie Lewis Room

September 27

October 25

November 15

Katie Williams, Events Committee Chairperson

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 MUCH-REQUESTED RECIPT

BEE T ROOT OR CRIMSON BISCUIT

½ pound beets
¼ cup butter at room temperature
yolks of 2 large hard-boiled eggs
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon orange-flower water
1 ½ cups flour
scant 1/8 teaspoon cloves
Pass beets through the fine blade of a food mill or puree in a blender. You should have about ½ cup puree.
In a large bowl, cream butter and egg yolks. Beat in sugar.
Stir in lemon juice and orange-flower water into beet puree. Blend thoroughly with creamed butter.
Stir in flour and cloves. Stir with a fork, then kneed dough gently just until flour is absorbed.
Chill dough until cold through. When you start to roll out only take out what you are going to roll - leave the rest in fridge.
On a floured board (use a lot mom says -you can brush it off after they are done), roll out dough to ¼ inch thickness.
Cut out 2'' rounds or shapes of your choice.
Bake on a greased baking sheet at 275' for 15 minutes, or until bottoms are pale orange around the edges.
Cool on a rack. Store in airtight container.

**Richfood brand beets make bright pink biscuits.*

Submitted by Miss Tina Buchanan

RUN-AWAY ADVERTISEMENT

January 11, 1777

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Marketstreet, Philadelphia, a SCOTCH SERVANT GIRL, named Janet Campbell, of a low stature. She has on, and took with her, a black long gown, printed short ditto, striped linsey petticoat, a new blue oil cloth umbrella, with sundry other articles. It is supposed she is skulking about the barracks. Whoever secures the said servant, in the workhouse of this city shall have ONE DOLLAR reward.

Robert McNair

from
*"The 'Gospel'
According to Fithians"*

Wednesday, May 25, 1774

Small Blisters are broke out all over my body, attended with an intolerable itching. They call it the Prickly heat and say it is very wholesome. It may be so, for everything I can tell, but it is very troublesome.

Philip Vicars Fithian

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



Dear Membership,

It is unbelievable how fast time passes! Summer is nearly over and school will be beginning soon. As school begins the RCHS schedule accelerate. September and October is getting very full. We have planned our Fall Tea, The Monroe Ball and the Cemetery Tours as the biggest events of our fall. I know very well how one's schedule gets full, but please think of our activities and please do what you can to become involved.

This is a very good time to encourage and recruit others to join our group. Reflect on all the reasons you joined and spread the wealth with your friends. We are fun, we help the community, we educate many, and we socialize. The eighteen-century is a very interesting time. This is evident in the number of books written on the subject lately. Look at the excitement of Yorktown's 225-year anniversary and the 400th Celebration of Jamestown! Interest in the 18th Century is growing and activities are sprouting up all over. We will perhaps never see this again in our lifetime.

Your humble servant

Sandra Piercey

Things You Should Know **THE FRENCH & INDIAN WARS**

submitted by Trip Wiggins

It is now 2006 and we are at war in southwest Asia (Iraq and Afghanistan). Just fifteen years ago we fought the first Gulf War. We all remember the headlines in the newspapers, the images on TV of the long buildup and the brief war. We probably have friends or relatives who fought there.

Now go back to 1773. Just as now, fifteen brief years before, we were enveloped in a struggle. This time it was against the French and her Indian allies. Just as today, we would certainly know local residents who fought in that horrific and bloody affair. We also would have probably remembered the stories that appeared in the Virginia Gazette.

To make your character a little more "fleshed out" we offer a brief look at the French and Indian wars on this the 250th anniversary of that long war.

Note I said wars and not war. That is because there were several that culminated in the one in the 1750s that you probably know something about.

Why were they fought? The outcome would determine which country would win the right to control the land west of the Appalachians.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries both France and Great Britain wanted to expand their holdings in North America, mainly for trade. The land between the Blue Ridge and the Mississippi River and from Canada to the Gulf Coast was ripe for the fur trade and furs meant serious money in the waiting markets of Europe. While Great Britain concentrated her colonization along the eastern seaboard, the French went up the St. Lawrence River and eventually down the Mississippi ending at New Orleans.

The problem arose from their claims. The British claimed all land west of their colonies while the French claimed all land drained by the rivers they explored. Obviously there was to be a huge overlap in the claims and no World Court to arbitrate the matter.

Besides the land claims, there were also several underpinning issues including religion and fishing rights. Great Britain was a protestant country while the Roman Catholic Church dominated France. Finally both countries claimed the right to fish off the coast of Newfoundland - even today a major fishing region of the world.

The time was ripe for conflict between these two European "Super Powers" (although that is a 20th century term). War erupted - 4 times! Yes, there were four French & Indian Wars! The first three started on the European continent and spread across the Atlantic to North America. The last - the one many of us are most familiar with - began here and spread back to Europe as the "Seven Years War" - the first true "World War."

King William's War (1689-1697)

The names of the first three conflicts come from the British sovereign of the period. It actually started in Europe as the War of the League of Augsburg. It erupted in the colonies when French and Indian forces attacked New York and the New England colonies. It ended in 1697 - not with a cessation of fighting here, but rather with the Treaty of Ryswick in Europe.

Queen Anne's War (1702-1713)

The peace didn't last long. War again erupted in 1702. This war grew out of the European struggle known as the War of the Spanish Succession. Spain also took part. The French and her Algonquin allies attacked the New England colonies while the Spanish unsuccessfully attacked South Carolina.

The Treat of Utrecht was signed in 1713. By its terms, France gave up the Hudson Bay region, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia.

King George's War (1744-1748)

This was the American portion of the European war known as the War of Austrian Succession. (Yes, there were many and varied alliances between warring nations.) Again, fighting concentrated in New England and its treaty returned to France the fortress at Louisburg on Cape Breton Island, which the English had captured. It did nothing to settle the disputes between the British and the French over North America. So, again a peace was called for on paper but all knew that there would be more conflict before the matter was finally resolved.

By 1750, the British controlled the east coast of North America from Georgia to today's Maine (New England colonies). They had built and populated many towns close to the coast and their civilization all but stopped at the Appalachian Mountains due mainly to a lack of roads and waterways into the interior.

At the same time, France had dominated Canada (New France) and Louisiana and had established a trading network down the St. Lawrence, Ohio and Mississippi River valleys. Holding onto these valleys meant they controlled the land west of the Appalachians.

But England did not want to stay "locked" into the narrow strip comprising the east coast. They, too, wanted to expand into the trans-Appalachian frontier for growth of settlements and trade. The stage was set for a power struggle between archenemies Britain and France.

The French could see the handwriting on the wall as the British continued expanding their holdings further west so in 1749 they sent surveyors followed by soldiers into the eastern end of the Ohio valley erecting a line of forts along the Allegheny River and driving out the English traders. They also began making alliances with Indian tribes who

jumped at the chance to drive out the British who continually stole their lands and pushed them aside. To England these preparations by the French were an act of war.

Of course the colonies were not united and most legislatures did nothing. Not so in Virginia¹. Here, Lt Gov. Robert Dinwiddie, in 1753, sent his envoy, 21-year-old George Washington across the mountains with a message for the French - LEAVE! The French ignored the order.

Dinwiddie responded to the French refusal by sending soldiers back with orders to build a fort to protect British traders near present-day Pittsburgh. Almost as soon as it was finished, the French attacked, drove off the defenders, and enlarged the now-renamed fort - Ft. Duquesne.

Before word of the defeat reached the Governor, he again sent Washington, now in command of Virginia troops, to reinforce the fort. In early 1754, Washington and his force of 150 left Virginia and soon came under a skirmish attack. They built a makeshift fort (Ft. Necessity) and soon were attacked by a force that outnumbered the Virginians four to one. They surrendered and soon returned to Virginia. In London, Horace Walpole wrote, "The volley fired by a young Virginian in the backwoods of America set the world on fire." The opening battles of the French and Indian War had begun.

There were those in the colonies who knew we needed to start acting as ONE rather than 13 separate colonies if we were going to defeat the French. One was printer/publisher Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia who was a delegate to the Albany Congress, which met in Albany, New York in June and July 1754. In all, seven colonies sent delegates. Franklin introduced his curious picture of a snake cut into 8 pieces representing regions of the colonies with the motto "Join or Die." He got the idea from an old tale about snakes that said a snake cut into pieces could survive if the pieces were put back together before sunset.

Although Franklin pleaded for the colonies to come together, they balked and instead turned to the mother country, England, for their protection. In London, Parliament received word of Washington's surrender. They urged the colonies to strengthen the ties with their Iroquois allies and began readying a military force to sail for America under the command of Gen. Edward Braddock. When he arrived, Braddock took as his local advisor young Washington and set out to capture Ft. Duquesne. He would do it with British regular soldiers. He held a low opinion of the colonial militia, and few were volunteering especially in Quaker Pennsylvania.

He and his force of 1800 began their march in April 1755. They were ambushed by the French and Indians not far from the old Ft. Necessity. The British took heavy losses - not expecting the tactics of the French. The French and her Indian allies had not followed the prescribed European "rules of engagement" - that of lining up in long opposing lines on the field of battle and shooting it out. Instead, the French

had adopted the tactics of the Indians - hiding behind rocks and trees for protection while pouring a hot volley against the British troops.

For two hours the battle raged until the British ran from the field. They had lost nearly 2/3 of their troops including Braddock, who was mortally wounded.

For the next two years the French controlled the Ohio valley.

In 1756 the war expanded with fighting occurring on both the European and Asian continents. The first true World War had begun. Before it was over, more than 800,000 soldiers would die (and countless civilians massacred by Indians on the North American frontier).

Britain's new Prime Minister, William Pitt, desired to end the war and decided on concentrating his energies on where it started - North America. He sent more troops and equipment to America and gradually the war shifted to the British favor. By now the colonies knew of the real threat of the French and her marauding allies and enlistments shot up. The militias were answering the call - leading the pack was Virginia.

1758 was a banner year. Ft. Duquesne fell (and left in command of Col. Hugh Mercer). Also falling to the British were the forts at Louisburg and Frontenac in Canada. In 1759, French forts at Crown Point, Niagara, and Ticonderoga (all in New York) also fell to British and Colonial forces. With the fall of Quebec in the fall of 1759, all supply lines were cut off for the French troops in the interior and the war was virtually over.

The icing on the cake was the fall of Montreal in 1760. The French capitulated in North America.

As one of the war's last gasps, Spain joined France as an ally, but the Spanish fleet turned out to be no match for the superior British Navy.

To pay her Spanish ally for services rendered, France gave Spain most of Louisiana and part of what is today Florida.

The war formally ended in 1763 with the Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, France gave most of its Canadian lands to Britain and gave up its claim to most lands between the Blue Ridge and the Mississippi River. Britain also received Florida from Spain and India from France. The treaty marked the end of an era and confirmed the emergence of Britain as the strongest power in Europe.

The War and the Fredericksburg Connection

So how was Fredericksburg impacted by this war in far-off western Pennsylvania, Ohio territory and Canada?

Aside from Fredericksburg's own, George Washington, leading the Virginia regiment to victory, Fredericksburg and her citizens were key to the victory.

In 1754, Gov. Dinwiddie appointed Fredericksburg merchants Charles Dick and Robert Jackson to organize a supply system

for the gathering Virginia forces. Dick set it up at his warehouse at the foot of William St. Although appointed by the Governor, the Assembly did not approve these appointments. The Gentlemen in Williamsburg were not yet keen on the idea of war.

Later that year, in October, the Assembly started getting more involved in the war effort and called for a draft of "vagrants" to fill the ranks. The draft was not popular and demonstrations took place in Petersburg and Fredericksburg in December. Following Braddock's disastrous defeat, the colonials started supporting the war and the Assembly approved more funds for the war effort.

In 1755 Dinwiddie appointed Charles Dick as a Commissary to provide foodstuffs for the Virginia troops, which he duly set work on. Dick, also a personal friend of both George Washington and his mother (still residing on the farm across the river from town), often delivered letters between the mother and son when the latter was in Ft Cumberland.

Complementing Dick's efforts was Fredericksburg's Thomas Walker as the Commissary for meat. Both would spend much of their personal money on the war effort. As Dick later wrote, "I have sunk my money in the service in confidence that I should not suffer, instead of which I am denied my money, provisions, wagga [wagons], &c contracted by us...for which there are now suits commenced against me ... & not one farthing paid me for all I have done." (The same problems would plague him 20 years later during his efforts to arm the Virginians in the Revolutionary War.)

Fredericksburg was the hub of the supply operations. Ships laden with gunpowder and other provisions arrived frequently. In 1756 Gov. Dinwiddie wrote, "...I shall send directly to Fredericksburg 40 barrells powder, 500 small arms, with shott and flints." He also called up 1/2 of each of the county militia to rendezvous at Fredericksburg. The Spotsylvania militia, under the command of the county Lieutenant, Col. John Spotswood, assisted by John Thornton and Francis Taliaferro, arrived with 148 men in May of that year.

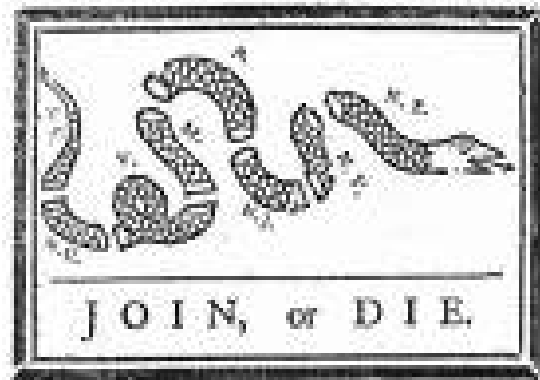
Most of the militia was sent home. Spotswood recommended Charles Lewis (Fielding's brother) for appointment as the Major of the militia - although they already had a Major. Sparks began to fly over the qualifications of several officers, including Spotswood himself. (The most important qualification to become an officer seemed to be what family you were born into - not unlike England at the time.) The end result - Spotswood and Lewis resigned. Spotswood was replaced with the down-to-earth, and highly competent leader, Fielding Lewis. Fielding had been recommended by John Thornton who himself was Betty Washington Lewis' cousin. Another coincidence - a year earlier Lewis had sold Thornton the old Lewis store (current Library site). The militia remained a "good old boy" society. By the time of Lewis' appointment the war was winding down and the unit saw no service in the conflict.

Although soiled by the Spotswood scandal, Charles Lewis appears to have served honorably during the conflict and wrote several letters to George Weedon during the war describing his experiences.

Other locals getting their start in the French and Indian War: George Mercer, aide-de-camp to Washington and son of John Mercer, Esquire, of Marlborough in Stafford; and Ensigns George Weedon, James Duncanson, and William Woodford. Weedon and Woodford would rise to Brigadier Generals in the Revolution.

Fredericksburg may have been many miles from the fighting and marauding Indian attacks, but it still served as a central point of debarkation and supplies for the Virginia troops involved in this first World War. Today few know about this turning point war but as citizens of our area of the 1770s you would have known first-hand of the war and how our fair town was involved in the great conflict.

I urge you, as you build an RCHS persona, to research your family carefully and see if you, too, had any French & Indian War veterans among family members.



1. Note: By 1750, Virginia was the largest British colony in North America with a population close to 450,000 - nearly twice the size of the next-largest colony (Pennsylvania). Perhaps as the largest, and the fact that they claimed land west of the Blue Ridge, Gov. Dinwiddie saw it as his duty to counter the French moves.

Sources:

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Felder, Paula. "Fielding Lewis and the Washington Family." American History Co. 1998.
Horowitz, David. "The First Frontier - The Indian Wars and America's Origins: 1607-1776." Simon & Schuster. 1978.
World Book Encyclopedia. 1987.

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:

September 5

October 3

November 7

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

September 22

September 29