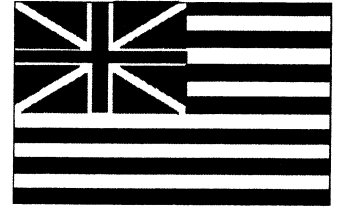




# **THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE**



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

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## **Calendar of Events**

For more information, please contact the Event Coordinator (EC) or Committee Chairperson.

### **Apr. 1 – Events Committee meeting:**

6:30 p.m., St. George's room 300. Chair: Lyn Padgett.

### **Apr. 1 – Monthly Business meeting:**

7:30 p.m., St. George's room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci.

### **Apr. 18 – Sewing Circle:**

6:30-9:30 p.m., St. George's Faulkner Hall. Work on riding habits. EC: Sharon Brunacci.

### **Apr. 25 – Sewing Circle:**

6:30-9:30 p.m., St. George's Faulkner Hall. Work on riding habits. EC: Sharon Brunacci.

### **Apr. 27 – Coaching Day at Stratford Hall:**

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EC: Elaine Sturgeon.

Looking Ahead...

### **Jul. 4 – Port Royal Fourth of July Celebration**

**Oct. 11 – James Monroe Fall Ball**, University of Mary Washington

*Reminder: Due to liability concerns of the corporation, your membership must be current in order to participate in these events.*

## **English Country Dancing**

English Country Dance classes are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Faulkner Hall, St. George's Episcopal Church.

Classes are open to the public (\$2 per class). Event Coordinator: Elaine Sturgeon, 540-785-2168.

**Mar. 28** – Open

**Apr. 4** – Demo

**Apr. 11** – Open

**Apr. 25** – Open

## **Education Committee Notes**

If you are interested in participating in educational programs at local schools, please contact Sharon Brunacci at 540-659-2080. Program dates are listed below:

**Apr. 10, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**(originally scheduled for Mar. 27):**

Colonial Dance demonstration at Odyssey Montessori School

**May 2:**

Colonial Dance demonstration at Grafton Elementary School

## **Media Committee Notes**

We have completed a list of the contents in each issue of *The Rappahannock Gazette* starting in 1999. A special thank-you goes to Myra and Tripp Wiggins for doing much of this work!

If you would like a copy, please contact Naomi McPherson at 540-752-4979 or by e-mail at [nana4979@comcast.net](mailto:nana4979@comcast.net). It will also be made available on the RCHS Web site.

The purpose of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is to bring 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.

### **Sewing Circle Information**

**Ladies' Riding Habit:** You may need to purchase the pattern in addition to the materials, so please call the Event Coordinator if you plan to make one. For the jacket and waistcoat (sizes 8-18), you'll need 3 ½ yards of 60-inch wide medium weight wool fabric and 3 ½ yards of 60-inch wide (or 5 yards of 45-inch wide) linen or linen/cotton in a matching or contrasting color for the lining. ½ yard of iron-on woven interfacing is optional. You'll also need 16 buttons (1-inch in diameter) for the jacket, 10 buttons (¾-inch in diameter) for the waistcoat, matching thread and button hole twist. To make the matching petticoat, you'll need about 3 yards of 60-inch wide medium weight wool fabric and 2 ½ yards of 1- to 1 ½-inch wide cotton, linen or wool tape in a coordinating color. Remember to wash, dry and press the linen fabric before you come. And if you have a sewing machine, bring it!

Note: The Sewing Circle scheduled for April 25 is tentative, depending on whether it is needed or not. Please let Sharon know in advance if you do.

### **April 27 – Stratford Hall Plantation's Coaching Day**

Submitted by Elaine Sturgeon

It's astounding how quickly three years have passed since we last attended Stratford Hall Plantation's Coaching Day; and April 27 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) is fast approaching.

As before, the focus of our scenario will be to demonstrate to the crowd what it would have been like to travel by coach in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We will do this by:

- (1) wearing attire appropriate for traveling: ladies in riding habits, brunswicks, cloaks, or just more sturdy, layered attire than for going about town

or visiting; men would wear similarly the same, cloaks, hunting or riding clothes, boots, spatterdashes, leggings, or heavier layered clothing (see Sewing Circle info). All of this should be accompanied by the appropriate accoutrements such as hats and gloves for both gents and ladies. If you're imaginative and can come up with such accessories as riding crops and the like, all the better.

- (2) setting up an 18<sup>th</sup> century food display. When traveling in the 18<sup>th</sup> century they would have stopped at the coaching inns or taverns for food and lodging. We'll create that by setting up our marquee tent with our period appropriate food display (there will be a specific menu and table layout).
- (3) using bits and pieces: traveling trunks, coaching and riding accessories such as saddles, coaching horns, hunt horns, and horse brasses display.

Remember, we're being paid to do this event at an historical site so it's really important to be as period correct as we reasonably can be. Do your research and if you're not sure about some aspect of what you're putting together for your attire or otherwise, please ask some of the more experienced members of the group for advice.

You'll need to bring period correct eating utensils (plate, fork and knife, mug or glass) and folding chair (or something to sit on). Last time, it was very, very windy and cold so be prepared with some warm undergarments, etc.

Elaine Sturgeon is the coordinator for this event; please contact her with any questions you may have about your attire, contribution to the food display, or any of the set up (540-785-2168 or [miselaineus@yahoo.com](mailto:miselaineus@yahoo.com)).

### **Learning Links**

Submitted by Naomi McPherson

With so much available on the Internet, it's fun to check out new and old sites. I'll use this column to share what I've learned. Enjoy!

Historic Dumfries Virginia makes colonial toys and offers them on their Web site [www.historicdumfries.com](http://www.historicdumfries.com). Just click on the "Gift Shop" tab at the top of the page to check them out.

Colonial Williamsburg's Online Museum has an interactive exhibit titled "*Coins & Currency in Colonial America*" where you can learn about the money carried and used by people in the 18th century. Visit [http://www.history.org/history/museums/online\\_exhibits.cfm](http://www.history.org/history/museums/online_exhibits.cfm) today.

You can also listen to a "Behind the Scenes" interview podcast with Brenda Rosseau on *Colonial Costuming*. Go to <http://www.history.org/history/clothing/intro/index.cfm> for the link.

### **Events of Interest in the Area**

The following were gathered from various sources and are subject to change.

**Mar. 21 – George Washington's Gardener's House Grand Opening: Mount Vernon.** 11:00 a.m. This is the last of the original outbuildings to be restored. Go to [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more information. \$

**Mar. 28 – "All Manner of Useful Goods" Symposium:** George Mason University, Fairfax. 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For information and registration form, e-mail [susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-631-1429 before March 21 deadline. \$

**Mar. 29 – The Nimble Nightingale's Ball: Mary Baldwin College, Staunton.** 7:00 p.m. Featuring English country and early American dances from 1770-1820. For information, contact Irene Sarnelle at 540-887-7162 or e-mail [isarnelle@mbc.edu](mailto:isarnelle@mbc.edu). Registration due March 21. \$

**Apr. 2 – 18<sup>th</sup> Century Living History Farm Reopens for 2008.** Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run, McLean. Go to [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org) for more information. \$

**Apr. 6 – Tartan Day Special Exhibits: Hugh Mercer Apothecary.** 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. In celebration of Hugh Mercer's Scottish heritage. Go to [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org) for more information. Free.

**Apr. 16 – "Myths of George Washington Debunked" Lecture: Gadsby's Tavern Museum.** 7:30-9:00 p.m. Dr. Peter Henriques addresses myths. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for info. \$

**Apr. 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> Century Clothing Workshop: Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run, McLean.** 6:00-8:00 p.m. Go to [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org) for more information. Reservations required. \$

**Apr. 19 – Colonial Foodways: National Colonial Farm, Prince George's County, MD.** Costumed interpreters demonstrate what life was like for "middling" sort tobacco growing families in the late 1770s, preparing seasonally available foods using colonial implements and methods. Visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org) for more information. \$

**Apr. 19 – Grand Ball: Gadsby's Tavern Museum.** 8:00-11:00 p.m. Presented in 1780s, includes live music, desserts and "gaming." Call 703-838-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more info. Reservations required. \$

**Apr. 21-26 – Spring Opening of St. James' House.** 1:00-4:00 p.m. Tour 18<sup>th</sup> century gentlemen's cottage. Visit [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org) for info. \$

**Apr. 24-27 – 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair: Fort Frederick State Park: Big Pool, MD.** 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (closes at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday). Call 301-842-2155 for more info. \$

**Apr. 27 – Open House: James Monroe Museum.** 1:00-4:00 p.m. To celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Monroe's birth. Go to <http://www.umw.edu/jamesmonroemuseum/> for details.

### **Newsletter Guidelines**

Our time period and location is 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Any member may, and is encouraged to, submit articles for publication. 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/references must be 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. The editor has the final say on content, format and deadlines. Items for the newsletter should be addressed to the Editor, c/o RCHS, P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 or e-mailed to [nana4979@comcast.net](mailto:nana4979@comcast.net).

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