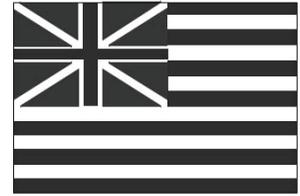




The Rappahannock Gazette

Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.



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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 25 & 26 - Cemetery Tours:** Fredericksburg. EC: Trip Wiggins, 540/371-3906.
- Nov. 4 - Monthly Business Meeting:** 7:30 p.m., St. George's Church room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.
- Nov. 8 - Harvest Festival, Scotchtown:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EC: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168.
- Nov. 9 - Downtown Retail Merchants' Holiday Kickoff:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. EC: Trip Wiggins, 540/371-3906.
- Nov. 30 - Cut Greens for Wreaths:** 9:00 a.m. EC: Catherine Bell, 540/659-5646.
- Dec. 4 & 5 - Wreath Making:** 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. EC: Catherine Bell, 540/659-5646.
- Dec. 6 - Distribute Wreaths:** 9:00-11:00 a.m. EC: Trip Wiggins, 540/371-3906.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

- Oct. 24 - Open**
Nov. 7 - Demo
Nov. 14 - Open
Nov. 21 - Open

18TH CENTURY CLOTHING

On September 6, a cold rainy Saturday, the members of RCHS were given the opportunity to learn about the evolution of clothing from 1740 to 1800. Jane Pease entertained and educated the men and women assembled with pictures and stories, examples of clothing, accessories and resources (recommended books) and her list of online resources. (If you were unable to attend, you may contact Elaine Sturgeon to request a copy of Jane's "A Selection of Websites of Interest to 18th Century Reenactors.")

Many members brought garments or attended the event in Colonial-period attire—allowing the workshop participants to see a variety of styles and construction

techniques employed.

Jane reminded us that RCHS values authenticity. "While we will never be 100%, we should make an effort to be," she said. She suggested that new members seek out the advice and opinions of more experienced members to avoid making costly mistakes.

Thanks go to Jane Pease,



Photograph by Naomi McPherson.

Elaine Sturgeon, Tina Buchanan, Sharon Brunacci, Elizabeth McDowell, Colleen Danyluk and Greg Brunacci for making this workshop possible.

R C H S C O M M I T T E E N O T E S

EVENTS COMMITTEE**Saturday-Sunday, October 25-26
Historic Cemetery Tours:**

Take a trolley ride and tour three of Fredericksburg's oldest cemeteries. You'll learn about those who have permanent resident status in St. George's Episcopal Church cemetery, the Masonic Cemetery and the Gordon/Washington cemetery near Historic Kenmore (and a few buried in cemeteries which no longer exist).

Tours will be given on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 12:45 and 2:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 1:00 and 2:45 p.m. We'll board the trolley in front of the Fredericksburg Visitor Center (706 Caroline Street). We are requesting a donation of \$4 per adult and \$1 per child under 10.

Volunteers—please plan to be at St. George's on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. We could still use a couple of folks to volunteer on Saturday. All that is required is be attired, lead the group through a cemetery and read a script. Before the tours, Trip will walk you around to point out the headstones and give you a copy of the script. Pretty low maintenance.

If you are interested and have not already signed up, please contact Event Coordinator Trip Wiggins at 540/371-3906 or tripwig@cox.net.

**Tuesday, November 4
Events Committee Meeting:**

The next RCHS Events Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300. For

more info, please call Lyn Padgett at 703/432-0957.

**Sunday, November 9
Holiday Kickoff:**

RCHS has been asked to sing at the Fredericksburg Downtown Retail Merchants' Holiday Kickoff from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Event Coordinator Trip Wiggins at 540/371-3906 or tripwig@cox.net.

**Sunday, November 30
Cutting O' The Greens:**

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual greens cutting day. The most fun you'll ever have wearing wellies. We assemble at 9:00 a.m. to convoy to Caroline County. The more we have, the faster it goes and those with trucks are thought of as royalty. Contact Event Coordinator Catherine Bell at 540/659-5646 or scot.forlife@verizon.net to sign up.

**Thursday-Friday, December 4-5
Wreath Making Days:**

Yesterday I wore my Halloween sweatshirt so naturally my thoughts turned to Christmas wreaths. Please check now with your work schedules so you have plenty of time to perhaps take one day off for our annual wreath making fundraiser. With no teas this year, we are in need of all hands to make this our best ever. We will work from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Call Catherine Bell at 540/659-5646 to get on the list.

**Saturday, December 6
Distribute Wreaths:**

RCHS will be distributing wreaths at St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.. If you would like to help, contact Event Coordinator Trip Wiggins at 540/371-3906 or tripwig@cox.net.

**Saturday-Sunday, December 13-14****HFFI Candlelight Tours:**

We will be docent hostesses at the Sentry Box on lower Caroline Street. Tours will be given on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 6:00 p.m. We need a minimum of 10 people for each day, but the more we have, the more breaks we can have. Please call Catherine Bell at 540/659-5646 for more details.



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

OFFICER'S CORNER

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

President's Report

With 2009 just a few months away, we need three volunteers for our Officers' Nominating Committee. Contact Sharon Brunacci (540/659-2080) if you are willing to serve on this important committee.

The next RCHS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300.

Treasurer's Report

September Balances
 Beginning: \$7,461.06
 Ending: \$6,362.57

English Country Dance classes are usually 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). Due to the holidays and other events, some of the dates have been changed or cancelled. Dance Mistress: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168 or miselaineus@yahoo.com.

Classes:

- Oct. 24 - Open
- Nov. 7 - Demo
- Nov. 14 - Open
- Nov. 21 - Open
- Dec. 19 - Dance Social

DANCE EVENTS

Contact Elaine Sturgeon if you are interested in dancing at any of the following:

Saturday, November 8
Harvest Festival Scotchtown
 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6
Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center Opening
 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6
Scotchtown Holiday Open House
 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13
Stratford Hall Candlelight Tour
 4:00-8:00 p.m.

**RCHS BYLAWS: ARTICLE VII
 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1: A nominating committee, consisting of three members, shall be organized no later than the October meeting. The nominating committee shall select its own chairperson from among its members. The nominating committee shall prepare a slate of nominees to be voted on by the membership at the annual election meeting.

Nominations shall be mailed to the general membership no later than 30 days prior to election.

Section 2: Officers shall be elected each year by a majority vote of RCHS members present at the annual meeting. The term of the office shall be one year beginning at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3: To be eligible for office, a member shall have been a member in good standing for not less than six months.

Section 4: Nominations may be made from the floor provided the prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 5: Election of officers will be by written ballot unless there is only one nomination for each office, in which case a voice vote or show of hands may be used. If the slate as presented is affirmed, the Secretary may be instructed to enter a single vote for the slate, which will then be duly elected.

Section 6: Except for the President, to which the Vice-President succeeds, vacancies in office may be filled for the period until the next annual election by a majority vote at the next regular meeting of those present and eligible to vote.

(continued on page 8)

RCHS EVENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph by Sue Buchanan.

Clockwise from top: Catherine Bell, Elizabeth McDowell, Greg Brunacci, Ashley Brunacci, Dennis Buchanan, Sharon Brunacci and Michael McPherson dance at the historic Bowling Green Town Hall. Lauren Smith and Doug Marshall entertain guests in the garden at Mary Washington House. Mr. Duncanson (Trip Wiggins) and Mr. Weedon (Greg Brunacci) await visitors to the game tent. Tina Buchanan prepares to play her mandolin at Stratford Hall Plantation.



Photograph by Christina Buchanan.



Photograph by Naomi McPherson.



Photograph by Christina Buchanan.

24 September 1774

My Dear Cousin Mary,

It has been so long since we last heard from you. We hope that you and Dear Uncle Gilchrist are in fine health. There is not much News to report, and thank the good Lord we are all in good health. Brother's sons are growing quickly and into mischief as boys are want to do. Mildred Sue keeps the house running smoothly. Mother spent most of her summer in the Garden even though good ol' John – one of Brother's servants – was taking care of it. You know Mother, she loves being out of doors and is too strong willed to take advice on staying in from the heat and sun which you know in Virginia can be most strong. Mother is of a hardy nature though and seems none the worse for it.

We lately went into Town to Mrs. Washington's house. It tis such a nice well appointed home. There were several others making calls on her that day. Some of them you may be acquainted with and the others may be strangers to you. I believe you know Mr. And Mrs. Weedon? They were there but the children were not with them. Also Mrs. Matherly and Mrs. Blackwell who are new to the Town. They were seated with Mrs. Washington in her Bedroom with their hands much busy with sewing. Mrs. Weedon was taking tea with Mrs. Taylor in the parlor. It was most generous of Mrs. Washington to serve it so. The Widow Evans was there, but pour soul, her circumstances being greatly reduced her meager clothes were not much. Mrs. Washington is so kind to all who have such needs.

I was seated in the Garden even though the heat of the day was such that we moved about as the shade did with my music teacher Mr. Marshall. Also another one of his former students Miss Smith was there. I shall say she is much more accomplished on the violin for such a young age than I am on my mandolin but having come to it late in Life I feel that I am doing not so very bad. Mr. Marshall seems pleased at my progress, but then he is being paid from the legacy that our Dear Uncle Seftas left me so that may have to do something to do with his Compliments. Music has given me much pleasure in these past years being such is my constant Single state.

Mr. Duncanson, the Merchant from Falmouth, was there as was Miss FitzEfferie. I was most glad to see her as it had been some time since we had any good Conversation. It was such a Delightful day and the good Lord blessed us with safe Travels home. Please write soon so that we may know all is well with the good Family.

Your loving Cousin,

Christina

Rollingwood House

RACING NOTES

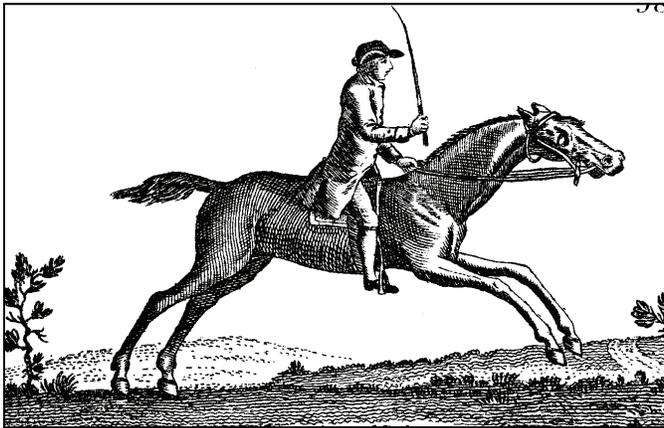
FREDERICKSBURG, *October 12.* On Tuesday the 4th Instant the Jockey Club Plate, of 100 Guineas was run for here, and won by William Fitzhugh, Esqr's. bay Horse Regulus, carrying 10 Stone, Mann Page Esqr's bay Horse Damon, 9 Stone 6 Pounds, Alexander Spotswood Esqr's bay Horse Eclipse, 7 Stone 10 Pounds, William Fitzhugh Esqr's bay Horse Master Stephen, 9 Stone 6 Pounds, Moore Fauntleroy Esqr's bay Mare Shepherdess, 9 Stone 6 Pounds, threw her Rider. William Brent Esqr's bay Horse Figure, 8 Stone 10 Pounds, Bets at Starting, five to four Damon against the Field, and three to one against any single Horse; even Bets that Regulus was distanced.

On Wednesday a Give and Take Purse of 50 l. [pounds] was run for, and won by the Honourable John Tayloe Esqr's bay Mare Single Peeper, (got by Yorrick) carrying 8 Stone, Benjamin Grymes Esqr's bay Mare

Miss Spot, 9 Stone 3 Pounds, Walker Taliaferro Esqr's gray Gelding Valiant, 7 Stone 8 Pounds, Alexander Spotswood Esqr's bay Gelding Fearnought, 9 Stone 3 Pounds, Charles Jones Esqr's bay Horse Regulus, 9 Stone 7 Pounds, Mr. Proctor's bay Mare Jenny Bottom, 9 Stone 7 Pounds, Robert Slaughter Esqr's black

Horse Ariel, 9 Stone 2 Pounds, Peter Presley Thornton Esqr's bay Horse Cameron, 8 Stone 7 Pounds, Even Betting.

On Thursday the 6th the Town Purse of 50 l. was run for, and won by William Fitzhugh, Esq; of Chatham's gray Mare Kitty Fisher, carrying 8 Stone 10 pounds, Mr. Proctor's black Gelding Whitefoot, 9 Stone 6 Pounds, Mann Page Esqr's bay Horse Damon (paid double Entrance) 9 Stone 6 Pounds, Monte Fauntleroy Esqr's bay Mare Shepherdess (paid double Entrance) 9 Stone 6 Pounds, Mr. William Smith's bay Horse Why Not, 10 Stone, Bets at Starting, Kitty Fisher



against the Field.

On Friday the 7th the Town and Country Purse of 50 l. was run for, and won by William Fitzhugh, Esq; of Chatham's Chestnut Gelding Volunteer, carrying 10 Stone, Peter Conway Esqr's gray Mare Mary Gray, 8 Stone 10 Pounds, Alexander Spotswood Esqr's Chestnut Gelding Sterling, 8 Stone

10 Pounds, Mr. Thomas Minor's Sorrel Horse Fearnought, 10 Stone, Robert Slaughter Esqr's black Horse Ariel (paid double Entrance) 9 Stone 6 Pounds, Bets at Starting, Volunteer against the Field.

On the Day before the Races, Farmers Seiden and Taliaferro appeared Candidates for the Premiums offered by the Jockey Club for the largest and fattest Beef, when one Half was adjudged to Mr. Seiden for the Fattest Bullock, and the other Half to Mr. Taliaferro for the largest; and each Carcass did Honour to its Feeder, for never was better Meat brought to any Market. The Premium for Mutton was adjudged to Farmer Fitzhugh of Marmion, whose Meat for its Excellence in Kind had no Equal.

Reprinted from *The Virginia Gazette*, printed by Alex Purdie and John Dixon on October 20, 1774, page 3, column 1.

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

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

Oct. 24-25 – Dumfries’ Haunted Heights Ghost Walks. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 30-45 minute walking tours start every half hour. For info, see www.historicdumfries.com. \$

Nov. 4 – Secret of the Chocolate Maker: Colonial Williamsburg. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Witness the process of 18th century chocolate making. Visit www.history.org. \$

Nov. 8 – Scotchtown Fall Festival and Restore Virginia Workshop. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Enjoy demonstrations of cooking, weaving, woodworking and preservation techniques, colonial games and crafts. See www.apva.org/scotchtown for info. \$

Nov. 8-9 – Brothers-In-Arms, Colonial Williamsburg. Explore the lives of free and enslaved people of color during the Revolution. Visit www.history.org for info. \$

Nov. 15 – Colonial Foodways: National Colonial Farm. Accokeek, MD. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 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 for more information. \$

Nov. 20 – Winter Traditions Workshop, Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Explore the customs of 18th century Wassail and Christmas celebrations. Go to www.1771.org for information. Reservation required. \$

Dec. 2 – Secret of the Chocolate Maker: Colonial Williamsburg. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Witness the process of 18th century chocolate making. Visit www.history.org for info. \$

Dec. 5 – Christmas Open House: Rising Sun Tavern. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas. Go to www.apva.org for info. Free

Dec. 6 – Annual “A Monroe Christmas” Open House, James Monroe Museum. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Tour the decorated galleries. For info, see www.umw.edu/jamesmonroemuseum. Free

Dec. 6 – Grand Opening of the Catherine W. Jones McCann Center, Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For info, see www.fredericksburgareamuseum.com. Free

Dec. 6-7 – Christmas at Scotchtown. Saturday: 6:30-9:00 p.m.; Sunday: 1:00-4:00 p.m. See the house decorated for the holidays by the Ashland Garden Club. Call 804/227-3500 for info. \$

Dec. 7 – Grand Illumination, Colonial Williamsburg. 4:45-7:00 p.m. Herald the Christmas season with candles, fireworks and music. Visit www.history.org for info. \$

Dec. 7 – Candlelight Tour of the Mary Washington House. 4:00-7:00 p.m. Christmas open house will feature an evening of candlelight tours and refreshments. Go to www.apva.org for more information. Free

Dec. 12-13 – Christmas at Stratford Hall. Be transported back to

the festive holiday times of the Lees. RCHS will be dancing in the Great House. Visit

www.stratfordhall.org for info. \$

Dec. 12-13 – Plantation Christmas, Gunston Hall. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Experience the hospitality of an 18th century plantation. See www.gunstonhall.org for info. \$

Dec. 13-14 – 38th Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes, Fredericksburg. See www.hffi.org for info. \$

Dec. 13 – Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 5:00-9:00 p.m. Tour Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and Old Presbyterian Meeting House by candlelight. See www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Dec. 14 – Wassail, Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Wassail the apple trees with singing, dancing and chants to ensure a good crop. Go to www.1771.org for info. \$

Dec. 28 – A Washington Christmas, Geo. Washington Birthplace National Monument. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The Memorial House will be decorated for the holidays and filled with colonial music. See www.nps.gov/gewa for info. \$

Dec. 31 – First Night at the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop: 8:00-10:00 p.m. Hear about popular treatments of the day. See www.apva.org for info. \$





Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 7823
Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823

**Visit our Web site:
www.rchsinc.org**

R C H S B Y L A W S

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Section 7: If an officer is found to be unable or unwilling to perform the duties and responsibilities of office, he or she may be removed by a majority vote of members at a regular or called meeting.

Section 8: There shall be no usage of absentee balloting. Only those

members present at the time of the vote shall be able to cast votes at the annual meeting.

Nominations will be listed in the December issue of *The Rappahannock Gazette* and mailed to the general membership no later than December 5, 2008. Please

note: There is no Business Meeting in December.

The annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

N E W S L E T T E R G U I D E L I N E S

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.

Any member may, and is encouraged to, submit articles for publication. Committee chairpersons are especially en-

couraged 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 newslet-

ter should be addressed to the Editor, c/o RCCHS, P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 or e-mailed to nana4979@comcast.net.

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