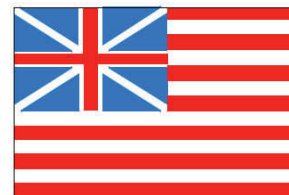




The Rappahannock Gazette

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

- Apr. 19 - Sewing Circle - Sack Back Gowns:** 12:30-9:00 p.m., St. George's Church, room 300. EC: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.
- Apr. 25 - Stratford Hall Director's Meeting:** 7:00-10:00 p.m. EC: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168.
- Apr. 26 - James Monroe Birthday Tea:** 2:00-4:00 p.m. EC: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168.
- May 5 - Business Meeting:** 7:30 p.m., St. George's Church, room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.
- May 9 - Dumfries Charter Day:** Weems-Botts Museum. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. EC: Lyn Padgett, 540/841-7275.
- May 17 - Marine Corps Historic Half:** 6:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EC: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

- Apr. 10 - NO CLASS**
- Apr. 17 - Open**
- Apr. 24 - Open**
- May 1 - Demo**
- May 8 - Open**

SEWING CIRCLE

With assistance from Kitty Taylor, Sharon Brunacci and Jo Buchanan, several society members are shown working on their Pet-en-l'air or Robe á la Française, also known as Sack Backs. These photos were taken in February.

(Clockwise from top) Cristy Collins, Linda Pool and Kitty Taylor confer on sewing instructions. Lyn Padgett sews her bodice lining. Joyce Matherly transfers pattern marks to her fabric.



Photos by Naomi McPherson.

RCHS COMMITTEE NOTES

OFFICERS' CORNER

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 5

Events Committee Meeting:

The next RCHS Events Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300. For more info, please call Lyn Padgett at 540/841-7275.

SEWING COMMITTEE

Sunday, April 19

Sewing Circle - Sack Back Gown:

At the request of the members who worked on Sack Back Gowns at the Sewing Circles in February and March, work will continue on these projects starting at 12:30 p.m. in room 300. Remember to bring everything you need, including your shift and stays. If you have questions before the event, please contact Kitty Taylor at 540/775-0852.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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. 24, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: Colonial dance program at Grafton Elementary.

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

President's Report

The next RCHS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300.

Treasurer's Report

On January 1, 2009, we had a balance of \$7,342.76.

January Ending Balance: \$8,052.76

February Ending Balance: \$8,538.48

March Ending Balance: \$8,073.48



To be SOLD, METAL boning coated in white plastic for pocket hoops. Each roll contains 10 yards. Four rolls are available and are being sold at cost for \$21.00 each. Whoever has a Mind to purchase, may apply to Denise at 540/710-6169 or ivbeavers@verizon.net.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

English Country Dance classes are usually held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in Faulkner Hall, St. George's Episcopal Church. Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. (this is a time change) and are open to the public (\$2 per class). Dance Mistress: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168 or miselaineus@yahoo.com.

- Classes: Apr. 10 - NO CLASS Apr. 17 - Open Apr. 24 - Open May 1 - Demo May 8 - Open May 22 - Open Jun. 5 - Demo



Costume Model: ©Pittier ca. 1758. (Paris) Selva-Ardin.

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

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

Apr. 11 – Colonial Candle-Making: National Colonial Farm.

Accokeek, MD. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Hands-on workshop where you'll learn about wicks, waxes, and uses of candles in the 1700s. Visit www.accokeek.org for info. \$

Apr. 13 – 18th Century Clothing Workshop: Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean.

6:00-8:00 p.m. Learn about the basics, trace patterns and receive advice. Go to www.1771.org for information. Reservations required – e-mail kcannon@1771.org. \$

Apr. 18 – Dairy Day: Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Visit the farm family as they make soft cheese and churn butter, weather permitting. Go to www.1771.org for information. \$

Apr. 19 – Architecture in the Afternoon Tours: Gunston Hall.

2:00 p.m. 90-minute tour explores the mansion, including the cellar. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for more information. \$

Apr. 19 – 1759 Conversations: Establishing Gunston Hall.

3:30-4:30 p.m. Learn about life in the early days for the Mason family and the community that supported them. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for more information. \$

Apr. 20-25 – Spring Opening of St. James' House.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Tour an 18th century gentlemen's cottage. Go to www.visitfred.com events calendar for info. \$

Apr. 23-26 – Annual 18th Century Market Fair, Fort Frederick State Park, MD.

For info, go to http://www.friendsoffortfrederick.info/market_fair.htm. \$

May 3 – Salting Fish: Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Visit the farm family as they clean and salt down their yearly catch of fish, weather permitting. Go to www.1771.org for information. \$

May 3 – Architecture in the Afternoon Tours: Gunston Hall. See description for April 19 event.

May 3 – 1759 Conversations: Establishing Gunston Hall. See description for April 19 event.

May 9 – Colonial Candle-Making: National Colonial Farm. Accokeek, MD. 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Hands-on workshop where you'll learn about wicks, waxes, and uses of candles in the 1700s. Visit www.accokeek.org for info. \$

May 10 – Free Mother's Day Tours: Gadsby's Tavern. 1:00-

5:00 p.m. Visiting mothers can tour the historic tavern and City Hotel for free. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

May 9 – Dumfries Charter Day: Merchant Park. 11:00 a.m.-4:00

p.m. Celebrate the town's 260th anniversary. Call 703-221-2218 for info. FREE

May 10 – Mother's Day Tea and 18th Century Fashion Show,

Gunston Hall Plantation. "World of Women" plantation tours are at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., tea is at 2:00 p.m. Reservations required. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for info. \$

May 15-17 – Drummer's Call: Colonial Williamsburg. Fife and

Drum units from around the country perform a Military Tattoo on Market Square. Visit www.history.org for info. \$

May 16 – 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. \$

May 16-17 – Spring 18th Century Market Fair, Claude Moore

Colonial Farm: McLean. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Go to www.1771.org for more information. \$

May 17 – Architecture in the Afternoon Tours: Gunston Hall. See description for April 19 event.

May 17 – 1759 Conversations: Establishing Gunston Hall. See description for April 19 event.

May 25 – Memorial Day Ceremony at the Masonic Cemetery of 1784. 904 Charles Street, Fredericksburg. 12:00 noon. To honor those buried here, followed by a solemn procession to Hugh Mercer Monument. Visit www.visitfred.com events calendar for info. Free

May 30 – Spring on the Plantation: George Washington Birthplace. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Enjoy 18th century activities and demonstrations such as tobacco planting and blacksmithing. Visit www.nps.gov/gewa for info.



Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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

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

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 6
Stratford Hall's Resolution for
Independence

Sunday, June 28
Spotsylvania Stars and Stripes
Spectacular

Saturday, July 4
Port Royal Fourth of July
Celebration

Saturday, September 19
Our Living Legacies: Mary
Washington House

Saturday, October 10
James Monroe Fall Ball

Saturday, October 31-Sunday,
November 1
7th Annual Historic Cemetery
Tours

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

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 RCHS, P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 or e-mailed to nana4979@comcast.net.

Copyright 2009 RCHS. The content of *The Rappahannock Gazette* is the property of RCHS, its members and contributors. RCHS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.