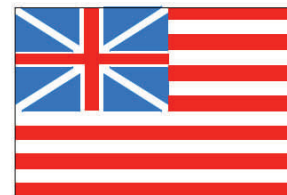




The Rappahannock Gazette

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

Jan. 17 - Celebrate Religious Freedom: 12:30-4:00 p.m. EC: Lyn Padgett, 703/432-0957.

Jan. 25 - Sewing Circle - Slopers: 12:30-4:00 p.m., St. George's Church, Faulkner Hall. EC: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Feb. 3 - Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m., St. George's Church room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Feb. 22 - Sewing Circle - Sack Back Gowns: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., St. George's Church, Faulkner Hall. EC: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Mar. 3 - Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m., St. George's Church room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

2009 OFFICERS ELECTED

The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is pleased to announce its officers for 2009.

President:	Sharon Brunacci
Vice President:	Catherine Taylor
Treasurer:	Joyce Matherly
Secretary:	Linda Pool

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

Jan. 23 - Open

Feb. 6 - Demo

Feb. 13 - Open

Feb. 27 - Open

MAKE A SLOPER

A sloper is a bodice that is fitted to your body. Society member Elizabeth McDowell will lead a class in making slopers on Sunday, January 25 from 12:30 until 4:00 p.m. in St. George's Faulkner Hall. Men and women are invited to attend.

- Quilting ruler
- French curve
- Fine point felt tip marker
- ½ yard of interface material
- Women: stays and a shift
- Men: an old T-shirt you don't mind cutting up

Please bring the following items with you:

- 2 yards of muslin (ironed)
- Sewing pins
- Pencil

At the end of the day, you'll have a paper pattern you can use to make a garment or to adjust another pattern so the bodice of a gown or waistcoat will fit you properly.

RCHS COMMITTEE NOTES

OFFICERS' CORNER

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 3

Events Committee Meeting:

The next RCHS Events Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 at 6:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300. For more info, please call Lyn Padgett at 703/432-0957.

SEWING COMMITTEE

In addition to the Sloper class on January 25 (see page 1 of this newsletter), we will sew sack back gowns (Pet-en-l'air or Robe á la Française) on February 22 and English gowns (Robe á l'Anglaise) on March 22. In preparation, you must purchase your pattern (call for recommendations) and all of the materials needed, wash and press your fabric (if applicable) and then cut it out. If you are bringing a sewing machine, please have it threaded and ready to use. The purpose of the event is to provide members with guidance on how to sew your own gowns. More information will be in next month's newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Brunacci at

540/659-2080.

NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE

The 2009 Attire Guidelines are now available as a Microsoft Word document. If you need a printed copy, please contact Sharon Brunacci at 540/659-2080.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Personalized RCHS business cards are available to hand out at events. Please contact Greg Brunacci at 540/659-2080 or gbrunacci@comcast.net to request yours.

President's Report

Please join me in welcoming Mike Cecere, Janet Edson, Beverly Ellis, Alex and Nancy Long and Joseph and Marjorie Steen to RCHS. We're delighted to have you back as members!

The next RCHS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300.

Treasurer's Report

December Balances

Beginning:	\$5,603.83
Ending:	\$7,342.76

Due to liability concerns of the corporation, your membership must be current in order to participate in RCHS 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). Dance Mistress: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168 or miselaineus@yahoo.com.

- Classes:**
- Jan. 23 - Open
 - Feb. 6 - Demo
 - Feb. 13 - Open
 - Feb. 27 - Open
 - Mar. 6 - Demo
 - Mar. 13 - Open
 - Mar. 27 - Open



Illustration by John G. Hill, 1773. From the British Library.

LET'S MEET OUR NEIGHBORS:
CHARLES DICK, GENTLEMAN

By Trip Wiggins

We began our look at Charles Dick in our last issue. We traced his life and career from his birth in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1715 to his merchant days in Fredericksburg. We now look at the closing days of the war and of this remarkable life.

As the war dragged on, Fielding Lewis' health deteriorated and Dick found himself running the gunnery almost by himself. Of course he was still also a justice in the county court. He was busy. At the Gunnery, things were going bad with a lack of money to keep the place operating. In January 1781 Dick wrote to Gov. Jefferson, "I never intended to resign the Business of the Factory [Manufactory], as I had such a considerable share in its formation &c, and the pleasure of its thriving to such a Degree for the public Benefit; could I been even but allow'd a bare Maintenance for my fidelity and Services, But True it is! I am now providing and contracting for the proper Materials and Provisions for the Factory on my own credit and Interest, for nobody will trust the Public a farthing, and I shall have more Honour to be under your Excellency and Council's (sic) Appointment and Directions, not doubting but I shall be supported with Money to carry on the Business with pleasure and benefit to the Public." Alas, Charles and Fielding continued to fund the operations out of their own shrinking pockets. Lewis, James Hunter and Dick were never repaid by the state nor were their heirs. They all died heavily in debt.

In 1782, following the death of Lewis, Col. William Davies praised Dick's efforts to Governor Thomas Jefferson, noting that most of the arms in the state's magazines had been repaired by Mr. Dick "who had, against great obstacles, repaired 637 stands (guns)." It was at this time he was also involved in the local transition government as part of the Corporation Council, a precursor to the city council. (In 1782, the town of Fredericksburg became an independent town, no longer the county seat of Spotsylvania.) Yes, he was elected to the new town council, a position he held until his death. He could not get away from public service.

His home was modest for people of means. He was thrifty as evidenced by his household furnishings described as adequate but not extravagant, with a few exceptions. Most notably his personal mahogany desk, two elegant looking-glasses (mirrors), and an 8-day clock valued at 26 pounds. His library held more than 115 books—a sizable library for the time. It had a wide range of subjects from religion, law, the arts, science and history.

On 23 November 1782 he petitioned the Virginia legislature for a suitable replacement as he was too ill to continue. It never happened. He updated his will on December 4 and probably died shortly thereafter as he was noted as deceased in the January Town Council minutes on 9 January 1783. He was 67. His health, like Lewis', had been deteriorating for several years. His death was probably from a severe Asthma attack. No obituary has been found. Where he is buried is anyone's guess. I would expect St. George's churchyard, but there is no record. There is a Masonic cemetery in town, but it wasn't established until a year after Dick's demise. As his real property was his home in town, he may be there, but it was a standard city lot (1/2 acre) and with house and out buildings, not much room for a family cemetery. So where? We may never know.

What happened to his wife, Mary? Again, we just don't know. She is listed on deeds with Charles in the 1760s but is NOT in his will dated 1779, so is presumed to have died by then, but there is no paperwork to this end.

As to his children:

Dates are tricky at best for this region during that era. There was only one recognized church, St. George's [Church of England—now Episcopalian]. All of the church records for the time were lost in a fire during the Civil War. The county court marriage records for Spotsylvania County are fairly good for 1722-1750, then there is a gap until 1795. There were no newspapers in Fredericksburg until 1786. Two of the four surrounding counties had their court houses

(continued on page 4)

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burn, so records are not plentiful. There were no official birth or death records kept by the county/city until the late 1800s. What we do know:

* Alexander, (b. 1753; died March 17, 1785 [Probate records]), unmarried. Will in Fredericksburg. During the Revolution he commanded First Virginia Company of Marines (appointed February 1776). That November, they sailed on the brig *Mosquito* for the West Indies to prey on enemy merchant shipping and obtain supplies for the war effort. In this endeavor, he and many of his men were captured by the British, briefly imprisoned in Barbados, and sent to Gosport, England, and prison. Remarkably, he escaped, made his way back to Virginia, and joined the 2nd Virginia Regiment (army) as a Major and continued serving in the war. With the death of his father, he left the army and returned to Fredericksburg to try to keep the gunnery in operation, but it was too late. All support (in the form of money and manpower) had been removed by the state, and the operation ceased by May 1783. In 1783 he formed a mercantile partnership with one of Fielding Lewis' sons, John. It was a failure. By 1784 he was drowning in debt of his own and his father for their service to the revolution (paid by their own small fortunes). As with the others, there is no record of his burial location, but it is probably local. According to "The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution," Alexander was known familiarly as "Swany Dick." I have no idea why.

* Mary, born ca. 1754-55. Married first, ca. 1772, Francis Taliaferro of "*The Mount*" in Caroline Co. They had one son, Charles Champe Taliaferro (ca. 1773-1832) who is noted in Alexander Dick's will. Charles died unmarried. Francis Taliaferro (ca. 1751-1773) was the youngest son of John and Ann (Champe) Taliaferro of *Dissington* (Caroline Co.). Say's a biographer of the Taliaferro family, "there were so many Francis Taliaferros in this generation as to make identification difficult; beyond the mention of his grandfather's (Champe) will, ..." When our Francis' uncle (also Francis) died in 1768, our Francis got *The Mount* and *Haymount* (next to *The Mount*). Both are located on "Skinker's Neck" in Caroline Co., Virginia. It appears that a suit was put forth against the estate by another heir who thought he should have claim to the estate. It dragged on for nearly 60 years and drug young Charles Champe Taliaferro into court.

Interestingly, one of the neighbors who made a deposition was Mr. Edmund Pendleton. Pendleton was a lawyer, a burgess, a member of the Continental Congress—in short, a powerful person in the making of the United States. Francis and Mary were probably married shortly after December 12, 1771—the date when Mary Dick stood as Godmother to one of Fielding Lewis' sons, as recorded in the Family Bible. Fielding's brother, Charles, also married a Taliferro. They appear in many of the prominent families of the time. Quipped John Randolph, Attorney General for Virginia up to the Revolution, about how all of the prominent Virginia families were so intertwined by marriage, either "by blood or marriage, we are almost all related, or so connected in our interests, that whoever of a stranger presumes to offend any one of us will infallibly find an enemy of the whole." We also know that a ferry was in operation across the Rappahannock River from "*The Mount*" to "the land of Landon Carter [at *Cleve*] in the County of King George" in the 1770s and rates were established by the legislature in 1779 as follows: "2p[ence] for a man, 1p for a horse, for each Coach, Waggon and the wagon thereof the same as for 6 horses." Mary married second, Sir George Peyton (ca. 1720-1790) of *Isleham*, Gloucester [present Mathews] Co., Virginia. At his death he owned 1,690 acres in Gloucester Co., 51 slaves, and 16 horses. Sir George and Mary had one infant who died. Mary died on 4 November 1807 (Virginia Herald). At the time she was living with her son Charles in Caroline Co., probably at "*The Mount*."

* Eleanor (Nelly), born ca. 1757. Married James Mercer probably 4 June 1772. She died on March 28, 1780. (She should be buried here in Fredericksburg, but there is no record of her grave.) James Mercer (1736-1793) was the son of John Mercer of "*Marlborough*" in Stafford Co., Virginia. James' mother was Catherine (Mason) Mercer. When her parents died, John and Catherine became guardians for Catherine's brother, George Mason IV (1725-1792). James graduated from William & Mary College and became an attorney. He became one of the most distinguished lawyers in Virginia. He was a burgess for Hampshire Co., Virginia. (You could run for election in any county you owned at least 50 acres in.) In 1775 he ran and won from Spotsylvania County. Fellow burgesses with him: George Washington, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Pendleton

and Richard Henry Lee. When war erupted, he stayed in Virginia helping to form and run the state government under a set of Virginia Conventions (1775-76). He was probably instrumental in this position to obtain for Dick the job as superintendent of the gunnery in Fredericksburg. (Remember, not only was Dick his father-in-law, but also Mercer’s father’s brother-in law!) In 1779 Mercer was appointed to the Continental Congress, but resigned before the end of the year to become the head judge for the General Court in Fredericksburg (1780-89). In 1789 he was appointed to the Virginia Court of Appeals (today’s Virginia Supreme Court), a post he held until his death. He’s buried in the cemetery of St. John’s Church in Richmond, Virginia, in an unmarked grave. As a local Fredericksburg attorney, he was the attorney who drew up the Last Will and Testament of his neighbor and friend, Mary Washington (1708-1789), mother of George. One of his other legacies is the Fredericksburg Academy, a school erected at the site of the old gunnery shortly after it ceased operations in 1783. The school was established by an act of the Virginia Assembly in May 1782 to provide public education. His Fredericksburg home, “St. James,” a modest wooden dwelling, is still in Fredericksburg and an active residence and open twice a year to the public. James and Eleanor had four children, John Fenton, Mary Eleanor, Lucinda and Charles Fenton. We’ll meet James Mercer in a future article featuring our neighbors.

This then was the life of Charles Dick. Not born to wealth and power, he, nevertheless earned his rank in society through outstanding public service and because of his efforts, we enjoy the fruits of liberty here in Virginia and America. He was one of a countless group of the original “Greatest Generation” who gave all that this nation might succeed in breaking the ties with Great Britain and boldly striving out on its own. Mr. Dick, we thank you.

Virginia Gazette, 21 July 1768, pg 3 col 4
 Charles and other local merchants desired to open a road to Augusta County to develop the Hot Springs near Staunton. What better way to raise funds than through a Lottery! It failed.

A SCHEME of a LOTTERY,	
<i>For raising the sum of nine hundred pounds, To make a road over the mountain to the Warm and hot springs in Augusta county.</i>	
1 Prize of £ 1000 - - is - -	£ 1000
2 - - of - - 500 - - is - -	1000
4 - - of - - 250 - - is - -	1000
5 - - of - - 100 - - is - -	500
50 - of - - 50 - - is - -	2500
----	-----
62 Prizes.	£ 6000
4938 Blanks.	
6000 Tickets at 20s - - - -	£ 6000
15 per cent to be deducted from the Prizes.	
The Said LOTTERY will be drawn at <i>Fredericksburg</i> , under the management and Direction of Messrs. <i>Charles Dick, Charles Yates, John Stewart, Henry Mitchell</i> and <i>John Glassell</i> , of whom tickets may be had.	

(continued on page 6)

C H A R L E S D I C K ’ S H O U S E

The Little White House Bed and Breakfast at the Charles Dick House (1107 Princess Anne Street in Fredericksburg) is located in one of the oldest residences in Fredericksburg. According to Paula S.

Felder (<http://www.nnht.com/pages.asp?pg=Fred4>), “It was originally one story and faced Caroline Street and his store, which [Charles Dick] reached by steep stone steps.”

(continued from page 5)

Sources:

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 Eby, Jerrilynn. "Laying the Hoe." (2003)
 Felder, Paula. "Forgotten Companions: The First Settlers of Spotsylvania Co. and Fredericksburgh Town" (1982, revised 2000)
 -----"Fielding Lewis and the Washington Family – A Chronicle of 18th Century Fredericksburg" (1998)
 -----"Two Generations of Mercers," *Free Lance-Star*, 7 Aug 2004
 Fall, Ralph (ed.). "The Diary of Robert Rose" (1977)
 Farley, Kitty. "The Charles Dick House," *Fredericksburg Front Porch*, Feb 2003
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 Garnett, James Mercer. "Genealogy of the Mercer-Garnett Family" (1910) [on-line]
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 Stewart, Robert Armistead. "The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution." (1934)
 Taliaferro, Henry G. "John Taliaferro of the Mount (c.1691-1763)" *The Virginia Genealogist*,

Vol 48, April-June, 2004 and July-Sept 2004

Virginia Herald (Fredericksburg Newspaper), Friday, Nov 6, 1807
 Vestry Minutes of St. George's (1726-1817)
 Various Internet Family Genealogy Web Sites
Virginia Gazette (<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/VirginiaGazette/>)
 Wikipedia for James Mercer and James Mercer Garnett

Charles Dick's Library:

Book List of Charles Dick

[Herman] Moll's Geography 2 vols
 [multi. authors] Universal History [from the earliest accounts to the present time] 18 vols
 [Thomas] Salmons' geographical grammar
 [John] Locke's essays 2 vols
 [Commodore George] Anson's voyages
 [Dr. John] Scott's Christian Life 1 Bible
 [--- Harris] Life of King William, 2 sets 2s each
 Bradley's Gardening
 Longham's merchant
 [Dr. William] Salmon's Dispensatory
 Shaftsbury's church work, 3 vols
 Duchess of Marlboro, Life of, 1 vol
 The Spectator 5 vols [periodical published by Addison & Steele 1711-12, 1714; sold as a bound set later in the 18th century]
 [Jonathan] Swifts Orrery [Orrery was the biographer of Swift]
 [Daniel Defoe's] Tour through Britain 3 vol
 [Henry] Fielding plays
 Don Quixote 1 vol

[David] Hume's Essays 1 do
 Modern History 4 vols
 Pliny's Letters, 2 vols
 [Patrick] Gordon's Geography
 The Guardian vol 1 [periodical published by Addison & Steele, 1713-1714]
 Love Letters, do
 [Richard] Steele's miscellaneous 1 do
 [William] Gordon's accountant
 [Thomas] Hales Husbandry 4 vols
 Burns' Travels, 1 do
 Epaminon's morals 1 do
 [Jonathan] Swifts works 10 do
 Grand Tour 3 vols
 5 Spanish books
 4 old maps
 Montague's Essays, 1 vol
 The Spectator 4 do
 [Alexander] Pope's Homer 2 do
 Dunham's Physic Theology
 Jurist Letters 3 do
 [Alexander] Pope's works 3 do
 maps bound 1 vol
 [Giovanni Marana's] Turkish Spy, 1 do [Novel]
 [Daniel Neal's] Neil's History of New England 2 vol
 [Joseph] Addison's works 2 vols
 Abridgement of Virginia Laws, 7 odd volumes different authors (some by John Mercer)
 Burnett's Theory 1 vol
 a parcel of pamphlets
 an account of the cause of the rupture between France and England in 1754
 [John] Locke's works 1 vol.

From: *William & Mary Qtrly*, 1st Series, Vol 18 (October 1909): pp. 112-13
 [Notes by Trip on Internet searches]

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

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

Ongoing – “British Heritage, American Style” and “George Washington and the Masonic Tradition” Exhibits:

Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center. Visit www.fredericksburgarea.museum.com for info. \$

Ongoing – “Quilted Fashions”:
DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, Colonial Williamsburg. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. daily. Call 757/229-000 or visit www.history.org/history/museums for info. \$

Jan. 14 – Re-opening: Weems Botts Museum, Dumfries. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Now open for tours on Sundays. For info, visit www.historicdumfries.com. \$

Jan. 18 – Open House: Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Celebrate Dr. Mercer’s birthday and learn how herbs, extracts, leeches and roots were used to cure what ails you. Call 540/373-3362 or e-mail hmas@apva.org for info. FREE

Jan. 29 – Great Lives Lecture: Patrick Henry. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Richard Schumann, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Visit www.umw.edu/greatlives/default.php for info.

Feb. 3 – Great Lives Lecture: James Monroe. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Dan Preston, author of *James Monroe: An Illustrated History*. FREE

Feb. 5 – Great Lives Lecture: John Marshall. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd

Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Jean Edward Smith, author of *John Marshall: Definer of a Nation*. FREE

Feb. 12 – Lecture on Paul Jennings: Montpelier. 4:00 p.m. Learn about the life of James Madison’s enslaved manservant and the first White House memoirist. Seating is limited. For info or to RSVP, call Beth Taylor by Feb. 6 at 540/672-2728 x441 or visit www.montpelier.org. FREE

Feb. 14-15 – Presidents Day: Colonial Williamsburg. Explore the lives and influences of Virginia-born presidents Washington, Jefferson and Madison. Visit www.history.org for info. \$

Feb. 14 – Breakfast with George Washington: Geo. Washington’s Ferry Farm. Join Colonel Washington for a hearty breakfast at 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. Visit www.kenmore.org for info. \$

Feb. 14 - Birthnight Banquet and Ball: Gadsby’s Tavern. Set in the year 1799, evening includes English country dancing, dessert collation and re-enactors. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Feb. 15 – Music for Washington’s Birthday: Gadsby’s Tavern. Join David Hildebrand with a musical performance and lecture on music popular with Geo. Washington. Shows at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Feb. 16 – Open House: George Washington’s Ferry Farm. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. In honor of George Washington’s birthday, enjoy free admission to his boyhood home. Visit www.kenmore.org for info.

Feb. 16 – Free Birthday Tour: Mount Vernon. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington’s 277th birthday. Visit www.mountvernon.org for info.

Feb. 16 – Parade Day Open House: Gadsby’s Tavern. Celebrate Presidents’ Day and the Geo. Washington Parade with a tour. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info.

Feb. 16 – Presidents’ Day Sale: Gunston Hall. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Enjoy \$4 admission. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for info.

Feb. 17 – Great Lives Lecture: Daniel Boone. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Robert Morgan, author of *Boone: A Biography*. FREE

Mar. 1, 8, 15 – Liberty Lecture Series: Gunston Hall. 3:00 p.m. “The Battle over the Constitution: Reading the 18th Century Constitution in the 21st Century.” Visit www.gunstonhall.org for info. \$

Mar. 14 – Jefferson-Madison Inaugural Banquet: Gadsby’s Tavern. 7:00-10:00 p.m. Set in the year 1809, enjoy a period-inspired banquet and program. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Mar. 27-29 – Lock, Stock & Barrel: The World of the Revolutionary Soldier. Valley Forge, PA. Visit www.friendsofvalleyforge.org for information. \$

Apr. 23-26 – Annual 18th Century Market Fair, Fort Frederick State Park, MD. For info, go to http://www.friendsoffortfrederick.info/market_fair.htm. \$



Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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

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

2 0 0 9 D U E S A R E D U E

If you haven't already, please take a moment to complete and sign the 2009 RCHS Membership/Renewal Application form included with your December newsletter and return it with a check for your dues. (If you joined RCHS after September 1, 2008, the dues you paid will also cover

2009 dues.)

Individual dues are \$10 and family dues are \$15. The address to mail it to is P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823. Dues are due at the end of January.

In addition to providing RCHS with up-to-date information, your

application form contains a release that gives RCHS permission to use your name and image on the RCHS Web site, newsletter and in promotional materials when signed. You may choose not to sign this release, but doing so may keep us from using your name and image.

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

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