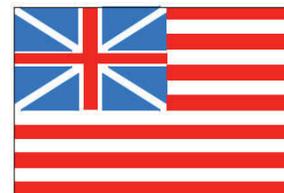




The Rappahannock Gazette

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

May 17 - Marine Corps Historic

Half: 6:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EC: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

May 30 - Children's Miracle Network at Bloom:

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EC: Kitty Taylor, 540/775-0852.

Jun. 2 - Business Meeting:

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

Jun. 6 - Resolution for Independence, Stratford Hall Plantation:

2:00-6:00 p.m. EC: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168.

Jun. 13 - Special Meeting:

4:00-6:00 p.m., St. George's Church, room 300. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Jun. 14 - Sewing Circle - English

Gowns: 1:00-6:30 p.m., St. George's Church Family Room. EC: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

May 29 - Open

Jun. 5 - Demo

Jun. 12 - Open

Jun. 26 - Open

THANK YOU

In addition to the personal satisfaction of sharing a bit of Colonial Virginia's culture and history with each other and the public, Society members also receive thank-you letters and cards from those we serve.

One such letter came from John Pearce, Director of the Friends of the James Monroe Museum. Dated April 27, 2009, it expresses appreciation for

RCHS's participation in President Monroe's birthday celebration. "We are grateful to have you as friends and supporters, and we look forward to having you as part of many more museum events!"

On the bottom he wrote "Dear All, you're wonderful! Thank you!" in his own hand.



Friends of the James Monroe Museum

908 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401-5810
 E-mail: JamesMonroeMuseum@jmm.edu ♦ www.jmm.edu/jamesmonroemuseum
 Phone (540) 654-1043 ♦ Fax (540) 654-1106 ♦ TTY VA Relay Center (800) 828-1120 or 711
 An Historic Property of the University of Mary Washington

April 27, 2009

The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society
 P.O. Box 7823
 Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the James Monroe Museum, I want to thank RCHS for participating in our celebration of President Monroe's 251st birthday! The costumed hostesses at the tea table were charming and your performance of the eighteenth-century dances beautiful.

Please extend our thanks to Catherine Bell especially for her leadership and her entertaining commentary on the dances - and for encouraging our guests to join in! I know that those who did so truly enjoyed the experience.

We are grateful to have you as friends and supporters, and we look forward to having you as part of many more museum events!

Sincerely,

John Pearce
 John Pearce
 Director

*Dear All, you're wonderful!
 Thank you! J.*

John Pearce direct telephone/voicemail: (540) 654-2112
 John Pearce direct e-mail: jpearce@jmm.edu

O F F I C E R ' S C O R N E R

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Please join me in welcoming Patricia and Cary Chen to RCHS. We're always delighted to welcome new members!

Tuesday, June 2

RCHS Business Meeting:

The next RCHS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300.

Saturday, June 13

Special Meeting:

I am calling a special meeting to be held on Saturday, June 13, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing how we would like RCHS to evolve.

Since RCHS was formed approximately 10

years ago, I feel the time has come for us to review our goals and objectives.

This is the only business we will discuss.

Email or call me with specific items you would like to talk about regarding this topic.

My email address is

IEmbroider4u@verizon.net and my telephone number is 540/659-2080.

I would like to have as many of our members to participate as possible, so please put this on your calendar.

Sharon Brunacci
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

April Balances

Beginning: \$8,050.05

Ending: \$8,158.09

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

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Sunday, May 17

Marine Corps Historic Half

Marathon:

6:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in front of Goolrick's Pharmacy at 901 Caroline Street. Event Coordinator Sharon Brunacci (540/659-2080) has done a wonderful job of incorporating RCHS into this event. Never danced a Half Marathon before? Here is your chance. You can volunteer to come for all or part of this event. We will be dancing, dancing, dancing.



Saturday, May 30

Children's Miracle Network:

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Bloom store on Route 2. This is a first time for RCHS to participate in this event and a very worthy cause! The Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals. We will be joining in this effort by providing instruction in 18th century games and dancing. We need more volunteers even if it is just to help set up and take down the tent.

Please give Event Coordinator Kitty Taylor a call and volunteer (540/775-0852).



Tuesday, June 2

Events Committee Meeting:

The next RCHS Events Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. in St. George's Faulkner Hall. For more info, please call Lyn Padgett at 540/841-7275.

(continued on page 3)

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

(continued from page 2)

Saturday, June 6

Resolution for Independence:

Our next event at Stratford Hall Plantation is the Resolution for Independence, where we will do our usual outside set-up: tent, chairs, tables, games, etc. We will do children's games, some dancing, gaming for ourselves, talking with and entertaining the public. You are encouraged to bring some hand sewing, an instrument to play or anything else of that nature that you think might add to our impression.

The attire will be 1776 and all classes will be appropriate.

RCHS is not sponsoring a large food display so please bring snacks and drinks for you and your family. Don't forget your period appropriate containers, etc.

The event is open to the public starting at 3:00 p.m. We'll do our usual car/van pool from the Ferry Farm Walmart, leaving at 12:00 noon so we can be there at 1:00 p.m. to get set-up. That will give us an hour to relax. We are welcome to stay for a concert by the 29th Army Band at 7:00 p.m.

We need as many as possible to help out with this event and would really appreciate your participation. Stratford Hall is a lovely historical site and if the weather cooperates, we'll guarantee you a really good time.

If you think you can participate or have any questions, please contact

Elaine Sturgeon, the Event Coordinator, at 540/785-2168 or miselaineus@yahoo.com.



Sunday, June 28

Spotsylvania Stars & Stripes Spectacular:

Event Coordinator Tina Buchanan is seeking volunteers to participate in this activity, which starts typically around 2:00 p.m. when we start to set up the tent. It will end approximately at 6:00 p.m. We are welcome to stay for the fireworks. Please let her know if you would like to attend. If we don't meet a minimum number by June 1, we will not participate. Please contact Tina Buchanan at purrs4me2x@yahoo.com or 540/898-2113.



Saturday, July 4

Port Royal Fourth of July Celebration:

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on the grounds of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Event Coordinator: Trip Wiggins (540/371-3906).

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

SEWING COMMITTEE

Sunday, June 14

Sewing Circle - English Gown:

Sew your Robe á l'Anglaise, also known as an English gown, starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room of St. George's Church. Kitty Taylor will be leading the group through each step of construction using the J.P. Ryan pattern. In preparation, please have your bodice lining fabric and other materials washed, pressed and ready to cut out.

Remember to bring everything you will need, including your pattern, shift and stays. If you are bringing a sewing machine, have it threaded and ready to use. You'll benefit from having someone there to help fit you. If you have sewing-related questions before the event, contact Kitty at 540/775-0852. For other questions, please contact Event Coordinator Sharon Brunacci at 540/659-2080.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

With RCHS programs for the 2008-2009 school year behind us, the Education Committee is seeking a new Event Coordinator for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are interested in volunteering (or have questions), please contact Sharon Brunacci at 540/659-2080.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Members can receive *The Rappahannock Gazette* as a PDF by e-mail. Send your request to the Editor at nana4979@comcast.net.

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

By Naomi McPherson

This past Friday, my husband and I got to dance in the Family Room of St. George's Church for the very first time. It's a large space with lovely wood floors and lots of room for dancing.

As usual, we enjoyed learning new English Country Dances from Dance Mistress Elaine Sturgeon and socializing with those in attendance. Afterwards, we gathered at a local eatery for fellowship and refreshment. But you don't have to dance to join in the fun!



(Clockwise from top) Class participants await instruction. Sandra Piercey and Elizabeth McDowell form an arch. Lynne Eppes and Jo Buchanan enjoy visiting before the class starts.



Photographs by Naomi McPherson.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

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

- Classes:**
- May 22 - CANCELLED
 - May 29 - Open
 - Jun. 5 - Demo
 - Jun. 12 - Open
 - Jun. 26 - Open
 - Jul. 3 - Demo
 - Jul. 10 - Open
 - Jul. 24 - Open



Costume Exhibit: 1753. ©Pete Stutz-Austin

HOW TO MAKE A SLOPER

By Naomi McPherson

Earlier this year the ladies of RCHS had the privilege of learning how to make a sloper from Society member Elizabeth McDowell. The following notes are from that class.

You will need a piece of muslin that is long enough to go from the top of your shoulder to your natural waist four times. Two yards of 45-inch-wide muslin worked for me (a thank-you goes to Catherine Bell, who provided fabric for many of us to use, including me). If you are long waisted, you may need more fabric.

Fold your fabric in half across the grain so the selvage runs up and down, then cut the fabric on the fold. Repeat with each of the two pieces. Now you have four pieces of muslin. Two will be used to create the sloper (front and back). Two will be used to verify that your pattern works to make a fitted bodice.

Put on your shift and stays. You will need a partner to do the next few steps.

Holding two pieces of muslin lengthwise, drape one across the front of your partner, the other across the back and pin at the shoulder where the joint is. Add additional pins so the fabric fits around your partner's neck like a crew neck T-shirt.



Bettie Brezee adjusts Naomi McPherson's fabric.

Pin the two pieces of muslin together along each side of your partner's torso, starting with a pin at the natural waist (the fabric should end at your partner's natural waist), under the arm and somewhere in

between. It should be quite snug. Add more pins so the fabric lies smooth across the front and back. You can adjust the pins at the shoulder if there is too much fabric.

Photograph by Naomi McPherson.



Sharon Brunacci, Kitty Taylor, Joyce Matherly, Lyn Padgett and Eve Blackwell await further instructions.

Using a washable fabric pen (to avoid marking the stays), draw lines on both sides of fabric indicating where the pins are. Between the shoulder/arm joint and just below the armpit, draw an arc to indicate where a sleeve would be attached. Also mark the shoulder and neckline.

Remove all the pins.

Now it is time for you to start working on your own sloper again.

Mark the two pieces of muslin with your name and "front" or "back."

To make the two sides even, fold your "front" fabric so the lines drawn on the left and right sides match up. Use the larger of the two to redraw the lines. Repeat with the "back" fabric.

Cut your fabric out following the lines. This is your sloper.

You can also make a sloper out of interface material, which is stiffer and unlikely to stretch, by tracing your muslin sloper.

Use your sloper to create a paper pattern.

Trace your sloper on pieces of paper. Using a French curve and quilting ruler, add a 5/8-inch seam allowance. Cut your pattern out.

(continued on page 6)

HOW TO MAKE A SLOPER

(Continued from page 5)

Use your pattern to create a fitted bodice.

Pin the pattern to your muslin and cut the fabric out. Ask your partner to pin the fitted bodice on you. If it fits with a 5/8-inch seam allowance, you will know that your sloper “works.”

In the future, you can use the sloper to adjust a paper pattern so it fits you correctly. You can use your fitted bodice paper pattern to create a garment.

(Clockwise from top right) Elaine Sturgeon cuts out her muslin. Lyn Padgett shows her sloper. Elizabeth McDowell prepares to make a paper pattern. Sharon Brunacci adds a seam allowance to her pattern. Elizabeth McDowell pins a fitted bodice on Katie Beavers.



Photographs by Naomi McPherson.

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

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

Ongoing – “Preparing for the Ball: Costume of the Early Nation”: Dumbarton House, Washington, DC. Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Visit www.DumbartonHouse.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 info. \$

May 17 – 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. \$

May 17 – 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. \$

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.

Jun. 6 – Prince William Resolves Day. Dumfries Community Center. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Join George Mason and Henry Lee as they debate the “Prince William Resolves, June 6, 1774.” Call 703-221-2218 for more info. FREE

Jun. 6 – Lees and Independence Celebration: Stratford Hall Plantation. 3:00-8:00 p.m. In 1776, Richard Henry Lee offered a resolution in Congress that led to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Includes Revolutionary Army encampment and 7:00 p.m. concert by the 29th Army Band. FREE

Jun. 6-7 – Colonial Living Experience, Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. Spend a weekend in an 18th century outdoor camp. Paid reservations are required. Go to www.1771.org for info.

Jun. 7 – Architecture in the Afternoon Tours: Gunston Hall. See description for May 17 event.

Jun. 7 – 1759 Conversations: Establishing Gunston Hall. See description for May 17 event.

Jun. 13 – 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 more information. \$

Jun. 18 – Hearth Cooking Workshop: Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Learn to prepare food over a fire. Go to www.1771.org for info. Reservations required; e-mail kcannon@1771.org. \$

Jun. 20 – “Living Well in the 18th Century” Workshop: Gunston Hall. 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Enhance your understanding of how to eat and serve gentry meals, live, work and communicate. Call 703/550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org for info. Reservations required. Includes lunch and program materials. \$

Jun. 21 – Free Father’s Day Tours: Gadsby’s Tavern. 1:00-5:00 p.m. Visiting fathers can tour the historic tavern and City Hotel for free. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Jul. 1 – Natural Dyeing Workshop: Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Turn plain natural fibers into lovely colors using ingredients found in nature. Go to www.1771.org for info. Reservations required; e-mail kcannon@1771.org. \$



Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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

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

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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