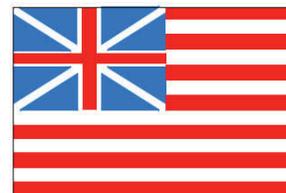




The Rappahannock Gazette

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

Nov. 14 - Scotchtown Fall Festival.
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. EC: Lyn Padgett, 540/841-7275.

Nov. 15 - DRMI Annual Holiday Open House: 12:30-4:00 p.m. EC: Trip Wiggins, 540/371-3906.

Nov. 29 - Cutting O' The Greens:
9:00 a.m. EC: Catherine Bell, 540/659-5646.

Dec. 3 & 4 - Wreath Making: 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. EC: Catherine Bell, 540/659-5646.

Dec. 5 - Distribute Wreaths: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EC: Trip Wiggins, 540/371-3906.

Dec. 5 - Scotchtown Holiday Open House. 6:00-9:00 p.m. EC: Lyn Padgett, 540/841-7275.

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

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

Nov. 13 - Open

Nov. 27 - Open

11TH ANNUAL WREATH SALE

Order your fresh cut mixed-greenery wreaths today. They are hand-crafted by members of the Society and are available for only \$15 each.

Trip and Myra Wiggins are taking your advance orders until November 28th. You can call them at 540/371-3906, e-mail Trip at tripwig@cox.net or Myra at myrawig@cox.net.

Wreaths will be available for pickup between 9:00 a.m. and

12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5th, at the George Street entrance of St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg.

This will be the main fundraiser for the Society in 2009 so your support is greatly appreciated.

Please tell your friends and family members about this offer. They'll be glad you did!



Photograph by Naomi McPherson.

Another wreath is ready for the 2008 sale.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society Nominating Committee, after careful consideration, is pleased to recommend the following Slate of Officers for the upcoming year 2010.

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

Elections will be held at the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in room 300 of St. George's Episcopal Church, Fredericksburg. At that time, the floor will be open for additional nominations. All members of the Society are encouraged to attend and vote!

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Sturgeon
Nominations Committee Chairperson

OFFICERS CORNER

President's Report

Please join me in welcoming Jami and Ted Borek to RCHS. We're always delighted to welcome new members!

There will be no Business Meeting in December.

The annual RCHS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300. The floor will be open for additional nominations before we elect our officers for 2010. All members are encouraged to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Table with 2 columns: Balance Type and Amount. Rows include August, September, October, and November Beginning Balances.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Historic Cemetery Tours:

On October 31st, RCHS members led three tours with a total of 53 people—great turnout! Too bad the weather didn't cooperate on November 1st. A big thank-you goes out to our volunteers. Special thanks to Kitty Taylor and Jo Buchanan for the wonderful refreshments.

Saturday, Nov. 14

Scotchtown Fall Festival:

Scotchtown was the home of Patrick Henry, orator of the American Revolution and the first governor of Virginia from 1771 to 1778. Scotchtown was Mr. Henry's home when he rode to St. John's Church to give his "Give me liberty or give me death" oration.

The Scotchtown Fall Festival will

celebrate the harvest to colonial crafts, games, food, AND RCHS. The focus will be on colonial trades and crafts. This is a wonderful opportunity to work on further development of the persona you want to work on or get ideas!

As a special treat we will be provided lunch cooked over an open hearth, in part, by the kitchen (continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

apprentice—our very own Jo Buchanan. Jo will be performing in her first apprentice performance in the kitchen dependency. Bring your period eating and drinking utensils.

Periodically we will all be demonstrating dancing and teaching the visitors to dance.

The dress for the event is “undress” (fitted jackets and petticoats, day gowns).

Those wishing to carpool may meet at the Lee's Hill Shopping Center (in the Food Lion parking lot) at 8:45 a.m.

If all this is not enough to attract you, there is more: As a participant you will have the opportunity to explore how the Henry family and later residents of Scotchtown used elements of ornament and simplicity in their clothing to make statements about themselves. More than two dozen historic garments and accessories will be on display, including pieces from the collection of Mary Doering as well as rarely exhibited pieces from the Preservation Virginia collection.

Please consider joining us for a day of fun and learning. Give Event Coordinator Lyn Padgett a call at 540/841-7275 if you are interested in volunteering.



Sunday, Nov. 15
Downtown Retail Merchants Inc.
Annual Holiday Open House:

Society members will be meeting at St. George's Church at 12:30 p.m. to walk about the town and sing carols for the shoppers. Please contact Event Coordinator Trip Wiggins (540/371-3906 or tripwig@cox.net) for more information or to volunteer.

Sunday, Nov. 29
Cutting O' the Greens:

Now that the ghosts and goblins are behind us, and I'm sure for the most part all our Thanksgiving preparations are already made. Our 18th Century thoughts turn to the joyous season of Christmas, and our only fundraiser of this year—“wreath making.” With that in mind I would like to invite each and every member of RCHS to come out and join us November 29th for the cutting o' the greens. We meet at New Post Golf Range (9945 Tidewater Trail in Fredericksburg) at 9:00 a.m. to convoy to Caroline County. Bring your trucks and vans, work gloves, clippers and loppers and wear warm clothes and a good pair of wellies or boots to keep your feet dry.

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 3 & 4
Wreath Making:

That done we will make the wreaths at the Buchanan house (10609 Rollingwood Drive in Fredericksburg) on December 3rd and 4th from 9:00 a.m. 'til 9:00 p.m. or until we're finished. Whether you clip, bundle or wrap, you are desperately needed. The work is easy for everyone but tiring if we don't get a break. The more we have the merrier we all truly are. We provide holiday music, goodies for breakfast nibbling, lunch and dinner—what a deal. So there you have it, it's not pretty like dancing at the great hall in our finery, it's not genteel tea sipping with guests but it is our biggest and this year's only fundraiser. So please e-mail Catherine Bell at scot.forlife@verizon.net to volunteer as much time as you can over those three dates.

Saturday, Dec. 5
Distribute Wreaths:

People who ordered wreaths from RCHS will be coming to St. George's Church on December 5th between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to pick them up. If you would like to help, please contact Event Coordinator Trip Wiggins (540/371-3906) to volunteer.



Saturday, Dec. 12
Town of Bowling Green Holiday Celebration:

Society members have been asked to serve as hosts for tours of the Historic Bowling Green Courthouse from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. It is open for special occasions only. The dress will be “undress” and the town will provide a script that describes the history of the Courthouse.

We have participated in this venue before and all enjoyed their time in this beautifully preserved piece of history. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Event Coordinator Lyn Padgett at 540/841-7275.



Tuesday, Jan. 5
Events Committee Meeting:

The next RCHS Events Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in St. George's room 300. For more info, please call Lyn Padgett at 703/432-0957.

As an added note, these meetings are open to all members of RCHS. They occur just before the Business Meeting. All are welcome.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

English Country Dance classes are usually held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the Family Room of St. George's Episcopal Church. Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and 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:
Nov. 13 - Open
Nov. 27 - Open



ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE DEMONSTRATIONS

**Saturday, Dec. 5
Scotchtown Holiday Open House:**

This will be a program of dancing for the visitors to Patrick Henry's home, Scotchtown. The dress for this festive occasion will be "dress," evening finery.

We will meet to carpool at the Lee Hill Shopping Center (in the Food Lion parking lot) at 5:30 p.m. Please be sure to sign up for this event (sheets will be at dance class) or give Event Coordinator Lyn Padgett a call at 540/841-7275.

**Saturday, Dec. 12
Christmas at Stratford Hall:**

Meet to carpool at the Bottom Dollar grocery store on Route 3 at 2:45 p.m. Please call Dance Mistress Elaine Sturgeon at 540/785-2168 for details and to volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are due at the end of January. RCHS sponsors many fun activities and if you don't want to miss out on them, you will need to renew your membership. Due to liability concerns of the corporation, your membership must be current in order to participate in any events in which the group is asked to participate.

Society members will find a 2010

Membership/Renewal Application form and envelope within this newsletter. Please complete and sign the form—great time to update your contact information—and return it with a check for your dues. Individual memberships are \$10 for the year, family memberships are \$15.

Thank you for your support!

**2010 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION
for the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.**

Yearly dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families living in the same household. If you joined RCHS on or after September 1, 2009, you will not have to pay dues for 2010.

Please complete and sign, then enclose a check payable to Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc., in the proper amount and mail to P.O. Box 7823, Protonburg, VA 22404-7823.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Cell Other Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Your Special Interests:
 School (SOS) Programs Colonial Dancing Living History Sewing
 Educational Programs Research Newsletter _____

Membership:
 New Membership or Renewal
 Individual (\$10) or Family (\$15)

For Family Memberships:
 Name: _____

Work Cell Other Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Your Special Interests:
 School (SOS) Programs Colonial Dancing Living History Sewing
 Educational Programs Research Newsletter _____

(We hereby grant The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc. ("RCHS") the right to use my/our picture, words, name(s), and video footage of me/us on the RCHS Web site, newsletter and promotional materials. (We hereby release RCHS from all liability resulting from these uses.)

Member's Signature: _____

Member's Signature: _____

Use reverse to include additional family members.

T W E L F T H N I G H T C E L E B R A T I O N

Submitted by Lyn Padgett

In the 18th century, the Twelfth Night or Epiphany Eve marked the conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas, that started on December 25th. It was a Christian holiday celebrating the visit of the Magi to the Holy Infant. The Twelve Days of Christmas were celebrated with balls, hunts, and festive dinners and parties. The harvest was gathered and stored, the weather was cold, the courts and government were closed, the fall slaughter of meat completed. In short it was a slow time of the year and what better way to pass the time than in celebration with your friends, relatives, and neighbors.

In colonial Virginia the Twelve Days of Christmas

were the most popular times for weddings since business and agricultural ventures decreased, by necessity, during this time of the year. Both Colonel Washington and Mr. Jefferson were married during this time of the year. Epiphany for many also marks the first day of Carnival and the count down to Lent.

It seems we at RCHS have instituted a Twelfth Night tradition of our own. The ever gracious Mr. and Mrs. John Bell have once again extended their fine hospitality to the membership for the Second Annual RCHS Twelfth Night Celebration on Saturday, January 9, 2010. Please reserve this date on your calendar!

The cost of the evening will be \$8.00 per person to cover the cost of the intermission heavy

hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Call Catherine Bell at 540/659-5646 after Thanksgiving to reserve your slot.



Photograph by Naomi McPherson.

Our hostess, Catherine Bell.

M E D I A C O M M I T T E E

RCHS Web Site:

RCHS has an active presence on the Internet at www.rchsinc.org. If you have pictures or other content you would like to add or would like changes made to the site, please submit your request via e-mail to RCHS Web Mistress Myra Wiggins at myrawig@cox.net.



Be Green:

You can help the Society save money and get your copy of *The Rappahannock Gazette* a little sooner by opting to receive it as a PDF delivered via e-mail. Many members have taken advantage of this opportunity and you can, too. Just send your request to the Editor at nana4979@comcast.net.



Business Cards:

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



E D U C A T I O N C O M M I T T E E

RCHS was started as an Educational Not-for-Profit to benefit the Fredericksburg area. One of the ways is by visiting schools, especially the 4th graders who are studying the Colonial Era. We put on two types of programs.

1. We portray the people who lived in Fredericksburg and the surrounding area. We talk and demo our trade and wares and

how it relates to the politics of the time (our relationship with the demands placed on us by the King of England).

2. We teach the students a dance and about deportment very much the same as it would have been taught in the times.

We are in need of persons who feel that they could reach out to the youth in some small way.

You will be fully rewarded for a little bit of effort. Please contact Education Committee Chairperson Sandra Piercey (call 814/490-6580 or e-mail starshine702001@yahoo.com) if you have questions and feel that you would like to explore this endeavor.

E D U C A T I O N A L P R O G R A M S

RCHS has been invited to Fredericksburg Christian School and Grafton Elementary School in 2010.

These events are where we teach a dance to each student. Our Dance Mistress teaches "The Morning Gazette"—a very simple dance that 4th graders learn very quickly. Our members demonstrate the dance and then invite the children to join in. This

is always a rewarding time for both ourselves and the students.

On recall there were many young people reluctant to dance, but after we had them join in and learn the dance, they were the first to ask to repeat the dance again.

If you like to feel that you have reached out to our youth, please consider volunteering to join us

for these events. I know at the end of the day you will feel that you enhanced these young peoples' lives in some small way.

Feb. 23, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.:
Fredericksburg Christian School,
Stafford Campus

May 7, all day:
Grafton Elementary School

R I C H A R D C H A R L T O N ' S C O F F E E H O U S E

On Friday, November 20th, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will celebrate the opening of Richard Charlton's Coffeehouse, "the only authentic 18th-century coffeehouse in the United States" according to their Web site.

Even if you cannot be there for

the opening, you can enjoy a virtual visit via the Internet. In addition to a slideshow of 18th-century coffeepots, you can read the history of Charlton's Coffeehouse and see videos that address the archaeology of the site, reconstructing the building and learning how to make that perfect

cup of coffee or chocolate. They even have a coffee bean game you can play and a Webcam set up to watch the coffeehouse.

Go to <http://www.history.org/visit/whatToSeeAndDo/historicArea/coffeehouse.cfm> and check it out!

E V E N T S O F I N T E R E S T I N T H E A R E A

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

Now through Nov. 29 – Historic Costume at Scotchtown, 1760-1830. More than two dozen historic garments and accessories will be on display. Exhibit included with admission to the house. Call 804/227-3500 for info. \$

Nov. 14 – Scotchtown Fall Festival. 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Celebrate the harvest with colonial crafts, games and food. Enjoy hearth cooking, candle dipping, spinning, wood carving, basket weaving, colonial dancing, graces and special guest Calvin Earls. Call 804/227-3500 for information. \$

Nov. 14 – Colonial Candle-Making: National Colonial Farm. Accokeek, MD. 1:30-3:30 p.m. You will learn about wicks, waxes, uses of candles in the 1700s and safety instruction at this hands-on workshop. Visit www.accokeek.org for information. \$

Nov. 21 – 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. 21 – “Chew the Fat,” Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Costumed interpreters make soap, candles and dubbin using lard (pig fat) or tallow

(beef fat). Go to www.1771.org for more information. \$

Nov. 21 – Late Harvest Ball: Gadsby’s Tavern. Set in the 1770s, the evening will feature a variety of English country dances, live music, dessert collation and gaming. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Dec. 2 – Winter Traditions Workshop, Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Explore the customs of 18th century Wassail and Christmas celebrations. Go to www.1771.org for more information. \$

Dec. 5 – A Monroe Christmas: Holiday Open House, James Monroe Museum. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Enjoy period music while you tour the decorated galleries. See www.umw.edu/jamesmonroe museum for info. Free

Dec. 6 – Rising Sun Tavern Christmas Open House. 5:00-8:00 p.m. Tour the tavern and enjoy 18th century entertainment and refreshments. Call 540/373-1569 for info.

Dec. 6 – Mary Washington House Candlelight Open House. 4:00-9:00 p.m. The home George Washington bought for his mother in 1772 opens for an evening of candlelight tours and refreshments. Call 540/373-1569 for more info.

Dec. 6 – Scotchtown Candlelight Tour. 6:00-9:00 p.m. See the house decorated for the holidays. Call 804/227-3500 for info. \$

Dec. 11 & 12 – 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. 12 – Christmas at Stratford Hall. 12:00-8:00 p.m. Enjoy children’s activities in the Visitor Center. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., visit the Great House to learn about Christmas in the 18th century. See www.stratfordhall.org for info. \$

Dec. 12 & 13 – Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Sat.; 3:00-6:00 p.m. Sun. Tour Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and the Apothecary Museum by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. See www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Dec. 13 – Wassail, Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 1:00-4:00 p.m. In the dead of winter the apple trees need encouragement to bear well during the coming year. Gather in the orchard to wassail the trees with singing, dancing and chants to ensure a “howling crop.” Go to www.1771.org for information. \$

Dec. 26 – 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. The plantation will be busy with demonstrations and activities performed by costumed interpreters. See www.nps.gov/gewa for info. FREE



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

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