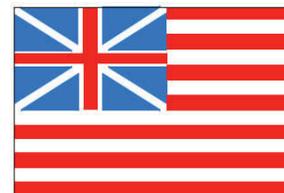




The Rappahannock Gazette



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. 27 - Events Committee Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Chair: Lyn Padgett, 540/841-7275.

Feb. 2 - Business Meeting: Mary Washington House. 7:30 p.m. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Feb. 23 - Rehearsal for March 7 Event: 7:00 p.m. EC: Lyn Padgett, 540/841-7275.

Mar. ? - Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Location TBD. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Mar. 7 - Presentation for Smithsonian Travel Group: 1:00-2:00 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

Jan. 15 - Open

Jan. 29 - Open

Feb. 5 - Demo

Feb. 12 - Open

2010 OFFICERS ELECTED

The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is pleased to announce its officers for 2010.

President:	Sharon Brunacci
Vice President:	Catherine Taylor
Treasurer:	Joyce Matherly
Secretary:	Elaine Sturgeon

BUSINESS MEETING CHANGES

St. George's Episcopal Church has asked that we either change the day of the week that we meet for our monthly business meeting or move to a different location altogether. That is why the Calendar of Events does not list a date or location for the March business meeting. Our next business meeting will be at the Mary Washington House (1200 Charles Street, Fredericksburg) on Tuesday, February 2nd. At that time, we will discuss the future meeting day and location. Trip Wiggins is coordinating this effort. If you will be unable to attend the February meeting, please contact him with your preference for meeting day and/or location (tripwig@cox.net or 540/371-3906).



At the Annual Business Meeting, it was voted that we would continue having a 45-minute business meeting followed by a presentation on a topic related to the 18th century for the months of February, March and April. Lyn Padgett is coordinating this effort. If there is a topic you would like to learn more about or you would like to present a topic to the group, please contact Lyn (540/841-7275 or lypadgett@hotmail.com). The success of this endeavor will depend on your input and participation.

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

President’s Report

Please join me in welcoming Anita Goss, Jennifer Sustar and the Gilchrist family (Craig and Laura, and their children Laura and Michael) to RCHS. All of them have been attending our English Country Dance classes and we’re delighted they have joined the Society!

Our next business meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd will be at the Mary Washington House.

I’d like to thank Linda Pool for her service as Secretary in 2009. Thank you for stepping up and volunteering!

Sharon Brunacci

Treasurer’s Report

December Beginning Balance:	\$6,682.25
January Beginning Balance:	\$7,609.56
Joyce Matherly	

E V E N T S C O M M I T T E E

**Tuesday, February 23
Saturday, March 7**

**Rehearsal and Presentation for
Smithsonian Travel Group:**

Society members have been asked to give a short presentation on Colonial dress and have chosen to do a reverse strip. Gentry, middlin and lower sort period attire will be represented. Volunteers will run through the program on Feb. 23rd (rehearsal) beginning at 7:00 p.m. (location TBD). The event is at the Fredericksburg Inn from 1:00 to

2:00 p.m. on Mar. 7th. If you are interested in participating, please call Event Coordinator Lyn Padgett at 540/841-7275.



**Wednesday, Jan. 27
Events Committee Meeting:**

The next RCHS Events Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 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.



Upcoming Events

Please put the following on your calendar for the months ahead.

Saturday, May 8 - Historic Dumfries Virginia Charter Day

Saturday, June 5 - Lees and Independence at Stratford Hall Plantation

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

**Tuesday, February 23
Fredericksburg Christian School:**

RCHS has been invited to teach dance and deportment and we are seeking volunteers to participate.

Our Dance Mistress will teach

“The Morning Gazette”— a simple dance that 4th graders learn very quickly. We’ll demonstrate the dance and then invite the children to join in.

If you would like to volunteer,

please contact Sandra Piercey (814/490-6580 or starshine702001@yahoo.com).

This event will be at the Stafford campus of Fredericksburg Christian from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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).
Dance Mistress: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168 or miselaineus@yahoo.com.

Classes:

Jan. 15 - Open
Jan. 29 - Open
Feb. 5 - Demo
Feb. 12 - Open
Feb. 26 - Open



STRATFORD HALL'S CANDLELIGHT TOUR 2009

Once again our esteemed dance troupe was engaged to perform in the Great Hall of the Manor House for Stratford Hall's annual candlelight tour (December 12th). However, this year the tour was lessened from Friday and Saturday evening to just Saturday. The tours were spaced about every fifteen minutes between 4:30 and 8:00 p.m., and each one was fully well attended.

After giving a short explanation to each of the tours as to what the guests would be observing, the dancers (elegantly attired in their 18th century finery) moved through the formations of their dance quite deftly to the refrains of the two musicians Lauren Smith and Doug Marshall. All was executed in the very dimly lit space that replicated candlelight most effectively.

Although we were all quite tired after the event, everyone thoroughly enjoyed dancing in the very hall where the 18th century Lee family and their friends once danced; it took us all right back in time. All of us are already looking forward to the 2010 tour for which we've already been engaged. We really treasure our partnership on this event with Stratford Hall and their staff.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS

When I first joined RCHS, I didn't know how to sew and had no idea where to begin. Sandra, Myra, Jo, Tina, Catherine, Elaine and others came together and helped me. They had busy lives but gave freely of their time. With so many people working together, I had my first outfit pretty quickly. I was able to avoid the mistakes they had made. And I've used what I learned to dress my family and help others. But the point that I want to make is having many people involved, each doing a small part, was so much more effective than me trying to do it on my own.

Fundraising is an essential aspect of membership in RCHS. While a small number of dedicated members worked tirelessly to cut greens, gather materials, assemble wreaths and distribute them for our 2009 fundraiser, I'm disappointed that many more of you chose to not participate. The members who volunteered had to work harder and longer because you were not there. We need the support of all members. Please plan to give it in 2010.

Sharon Brunacci
President

SCOTCHTOWN FALL FESTIVAL

Aspects of Colonial life were well represented by members of the Society at the Scotchtown Fall Festival last November. Jo Buchanan worked with Ann Reed to prepare a hearth-cooked meal for the volunteers. Eve Blackwell led the group in a couple of card games but lost many hands to Sue Buchanan. Sandra Piercey set up shop as a milliner, Naomi McPherson (letter writer) gave passers-by the opportunity to write with a quill pen and Lyn Padgett offered “customers” a cup of tea and other items. Dennis Buchanan and John Jacobson joined Dance “Master” Elaine Sturgeon in leading the ladies in English Country dances. Lyn would like to express her appreciation for all their efforts in researching roles and pulling together displays.



Photographs by Naomi McPherson.

CAROLING IN DOWNTOWN FREDERICKSBURG

Society members entertained shoppers along Caroline Street for the Downtown Retail Merchants’ Annual Holiday Open House. Dressed in period attire and singing period carols were (left to right) Sharon Brunacci, Naomi McPherson, Laura Gilchrist, Anita Goss, Michael Gilchrist, Michael McPherson and Trip Wiggins.



Photograph by Stephanie Pool.

Photograph by Dennis Buchanan.



Photograph by Naomi McPherson.

Photograph by Dennis Buchanan.



Photograph by Naomi McPherson.

OUR 2009 FUNDRAISER

(Clockwise from top left) Elaine Sturgeon, Tina Buchanan and John Bell stay busy making greenery bunches. Jo Buchanan, Dennis Buchanan and Jim Eppes do the same. Trip Wiggins and Catherine Bell assemble wreaths. On Saturday, Trip Wiggins and Eve Blackwell attended to supporters who braved the cold, rain and snow to pick up their beautiful wreaths from St. George's Episcopal Church. Tesa Bell assembles a wreath. Elizabeth McDowell carries a completed wreath. Sue Buchanan assembles a wreath while son David Buchanan watches.



Photographs by Naomi McPherson.



Photograph by Jane Pease.



Photograph by Dennis Buchanan.



Photograph by Jane Pease.

**S T R A T F O R D
H A L L
C H R I S T M A S**



Photograph by Dennis Buchanan.

(Clockwise from top left) Linda Pool and Bettie Brezee assist Stephanie Pool with her feathers. Tina Buchanan, John Jacobsen and Laura Gilchrist dance. Cristy Collins and Catherine Taylor chat. Naomi and Michael McPherson and Jane Pease dance. Shown in their elegant attire is Catherine Taylor, Jane Pease and Dan McMahon, and Tina Buchanan and John Jacobsen.



Photograph by Jane Pease.



Photograph by Jane Pease.



Photograph by Jane Pease.

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

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

Ongoing until March 2010 –

“Our Face to the World: The Clothing of James and Elizabeth Monroe”: James Monroe Museum. The complete collection includes gowns, suits, vests, hats, gloves and other accessories and is on display for the first and last time since undergoing conservation and stabilization. Visit www.umw.edu/jamesmonroemuseum/exhibitions/default.php for more info. \$

Jan. 17 – 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. 19 – Open House: Stratford Hall Plantation. In honor of General R.E. Lee’s birth, free admission. See www.stratfordhall.org for more info. FREE

Jan. 26 – Great Lives Lecture: Thomas Jefferson. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Alan Pell

Crawford, author of *Twilight at Monticello*. Visit www.umw.edu/greatlives/default.php for info. FREE

Jan. 28 – Great Lives Lecture: Blackbeard. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Carter L. Hudgins of the UMW Department of History and American Studies. Visit www.umw.edu/greatlives/default.php for info. FREE

Feb. 13-15 – Presidents Day Weekend: Colonial Williamsburg. Delve into the lives and influences of three Virginia-born presidents—Washington, Jefferson and Madison. Visit www.history.org for info. \$

Feb. 13 - Birthnight Banquet and Ball: Gadsby’s Tavern. Set in the year 1799, evening includes English country dancing, dessert collation and reenactors. Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

Feb. 15 – Free Birthday Tour: Mount Vernon. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington’s 278th birthday. Visit www.mountvernon.org for info.

Feb. 15 – 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. FREE

Feb. 15 – Open House: George Washington Birthplace. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.. In honor of George Washington’s 278th birthday, enjoy living history demonstrations by the 4H Heritage Club and free admission. Visit www.nps.gov/gewa for more information. FREE

Mar. 16 – Free Birthday Tour: Montpelier. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. In honor of James Madison’s 259th birthday, enjoy free admission to Montpelier. Go to www.montpelier.org for more information. FREE

Mar. 16 – Great Lives Lecture: Queen Victoria. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Gillian Gill, author of *We Two: Victoria and Albert*. Visit www.umw.edu/greatlives/default.php for info. FREE

WANTED: INAPPROPRIATE PERIOD ATTIRE

If you’ve been involved in Colonial reenactments or living history for a long time, you may have a few items of clothing in your closet that no longer see the light of day. They may not qualify as “period appropriate” based on the Society’s high standards. Or maybe you just don’t like them anymore.

Mary Washington House wants your “cast offs,” and you can earn a tax-deduction for your gift. Please contact Myra Wiggins (540/371-3906 or myrawig@cox.net) for more information.



Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

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

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

2 0 1 0 D U E S A R E D U E

If you haven't already, please take a moment to complete and sign the 2010 RCHS Membership/Renewal Application form included with your November/December newsletter and return it with a

check for your 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 for 2010 are due at the end of January.

Thank you!

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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