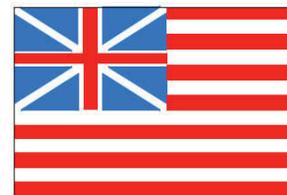




The Rappahannock Gazette



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

Mar. 14 - Sewing Circle - English Gowns: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EC: Catherine Taylor, 540/775-0852.

Mar. 20 - Virginia Farm Bureau Women's Conference. 7:00 p.m. Fredericksburg Hospitality House. EC: Lyn Padgett, 540/841-7275.

Apr. 6 - Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Mary Washington House. Chair: Sharon Brunacci, 540/659-2080.

Apr. 10 - Exhibit Tour: "Our Face to the World." James Monroe Museum, 10:00 a.m. EC: Naomi McPherson, 540/752-4979.

Apr. 18 - Mock Tea Tasting: Mary Washington House. 1:00-3:00 p.m. EC: Elaine Sturgeon, 540/785-2168.

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

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

Mar. 12 - Open

Mar. 26 - Open

Apr. 9 - Demo

Apr. 16 - Open

"OUR FACE TO THE WORLD"

Members of the Society are invited to a tour of the exhibit "Our Face to the World: The Clothing of James and Elizabeth Monroe" on Saturday, April 10th, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library is located at 908 Charles Street in Fredericksburg. On-street parking is available.

The exhibit is the culmination of nearly four years of intensive work assessing and conserving the 48 pieces in the collection.

Meghan Budinger, Assistant Director & Curator, will lead our tour, sharing information on what the costumes, including the wedding gown Elizabeth Kortright wore when she married James Monroe in 1786 and the suit he wore while Minister to France,

have taught us.

Space is limited so please contact Event Coordinator Naomi McPherson at 540/752-4979 or e-mail nana4979@comcast.net early to reserve your spot.

One lucky member attending the event will receive a copy of the exhibit catalog pictured below.



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

President's Report

Please join me in welcoming Kathleen Danyluk, Colleen Danyluk's mother, as a new member.

Our next business meeting is on Tuesday, April 6th, at the Mary Washington House. All are welcome to attend.

Sharon Brunacci

Treasurer's Report

February Beginning Balance: \$8,954.20

March Beginning Balance: \$9,079.20

Joyce Matherly

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

**Saturday, March 20
Virginia Farm Bureau Women's
Conference:**

On Saturday, March 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, we will be performing a three-class (gentry, middlin and lower sorts) reverse strip. Event Coordinator is Lyn Padgett (540/841-7275).

**Events Committee Meeting:**

The April Events Committee Meeting will be rescheduled and an e-mail with the date and location will be forthcoming. Please call Lyn Padgett at 540/841-7275 if you have questions.

**Sunday, April 18
Mock Tea Tasting:**

On April 18th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Mary Washington House, we will sample tea items and plan for entertainment for the RCHS Spring

Tea on May 15th. Event Coordinators Catherine Bell (540/659-5646) and Elaine Sturgeon (540/785-2168) will be sending out an e-mail with further information concerning this meeting.

**Saturday, April 24
Remembrance Day at the History of
Culpeper Museum:**

On Saturday, April 24th, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., we will perform dances of the 18th century. This is the first time RCHS will be participating in this event so we would like to have a large number of our group in attendance. If you can volunteer or would like further information, please call Event Coordinator Elaine Sturgeon at 540/785-2168.

**Saturday, May 1
Colonial Dames XVII Century:**

We will be demonstrating and teaching English Country Dance for the Colonial Dames XVII Century on Saturday, May 1st, at 1:30 p.m. (location TBD). Dress for this event is "dress." If you are interested in participating or have questions about attire, please call Event Coordinator Lyn Padgett at 540/841-7275.

**Saturday, May 15
RCHS Spring Tea:**

At St. George's Episcopal Church, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Our favorite event—we need cooks, servants, "Mothers" and entertainers. If you don't care to volunteer in one of these positions, consider buying a ticket and joining us for tea. Stay tuned for details from Event Coordinators Catherine Bell and Elaine Sturgeon.

S E W I N G C O M M I T T E E

**Sunday, March 14
Sewing Circle:**

We will continue working on our

English gowns on Sunday, March 14th, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the home of Catherine

Taylor. Please call her in advance at 540/775-0852 to let her know you are coming and for directions.

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

On February 23rd, seven Society members taught the English Country Dance “Hole in the Wall” to six groups of children during Fredericksburg Christian School’s Colonial Day. We plan to do the same thing at Grafton Elementary on Friday, May 7th. If you would like to join us, please contact Sandra Piercey (814/490-6580 or starshine702001@yahoo.com).



Pictured left to right: Catherine Bell, Sandra Piercey, Elaine Sturgeon, Sharon Brunacci, Trip Wiggins and Catherine Taylor.

Photograph by Naomi McPherson.

E N G L I S H C O U N T R Y D A N C E C L A S S E S

English Country Dance classes are usually held 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:**
- Mar. 12 - Open
 - Mar. 26 - Open
 - Apr. 9 - Demo
 - Apr. 16 - Open
 - Apr. 30 - Open



Illustration by: ©1790 by 1793. Photo: Kana-Art

A P R I L 6 T H A N D M A Y 4 T H E D U C A T I O N P R O G R A M S

Sandra Piercey will continue the topic “18th Century Trades and Crafts: Supporting the RCHS Education Program” after the April 6th business meeting.

Building on the last session, Sandra will assist those of you who want further guidance in selecting or enhancing the “person” you would like to portray in our RCHS school and education programs.



Lyn Padgett will be presenting the topic “The History of Tea and Preparation for the RCHS Spring Tea” after the May 4th business meeting.

We are all very excited that our RCHS Spring Tea has been scheduled and confirmed for May 15th. To prepare for our tea, we will be learning about the history and social customs of “taking tea.”

If you have never been to an RCHS Tea, this is your opportunity

to learn how you can be an active participant. If you have participated in previous teas, this is your opportunity to share your enthusiasm for the event with our newer members. Please bring a tea cup, saucer and tea spoon. Tea and light refreshments will be provided. Please call Lyn Padgett (540/841-7275) if you have questions.

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

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

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. For more info, go to www.montpelier.org. 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

Mar. 20 – “Plants from the Past: A Living Legacy for our Gardens and Yours.” Stratford Hall Plantation. Visit www.stratfordhall.org for more information. \$

Mar. 25 – Great Lives Lecture: Marie Antoinette. 7:30 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium in Geo. Washington Hall, UMW. Speaker: Caroline Weber, author of *Queen of Fashion*. Visit www.umw.edu/greatlives/default.php for info. FREE

Mar. 27 – 4H Heritage Club Event, Geo. Washington Birth-

place National Monument. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 4H leaders and members will interpret colonial crafts like blacksmithing, spinning and cooking. See www.nps.gov/gewa for info. \$

Apr. 1 – Claude Moore Colonial Farm Opens: McLean. 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. This 18th century living history tobacco farm is open Wednesday through Sunday until mid-December, weather permitting. Go to www.1771.org for info. \$

Apr. 4 – 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. 7 – 18th Century Clothing Workshop: Claude Moore Colonial Farm: McLean. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Learn about the basics of 18th century clothing. Purchase linen fabric, trace patterns and receive advice on your own clothing projects. Go to www.1771.org for information. Reservations required – e-mail kcannon@1771.org. \$

Apr. 10 – 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. 10 – Scotchtown Hands-On History: Farm & Dairy Day. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Observe spring farm duties and learn how cow's milk was turned into butter and cheese in the 18th century. Call 804/227-3500 for info. \$

Apr. 11 – Gunston Hall Conversations. 2:00-4:00 p.m. Encounter George Mason's family members and neighbors and gain an insiders' perspective on the 18th century community. For info, visit www.gunstonhall.org. \$

Apr. 17 – Grand Ball: Gadsby's Tavern. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Presented in the 1780s, enjoy live music, dessert collation and “gaming.” Call 703/838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for info. \$

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 encouraged 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 newsletter 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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