

Autumn 2012

Gunston Grapevine



The newsmagazine of Gunston Hall

NEW MISSION STATEMENT FOR GUNSTON HALL

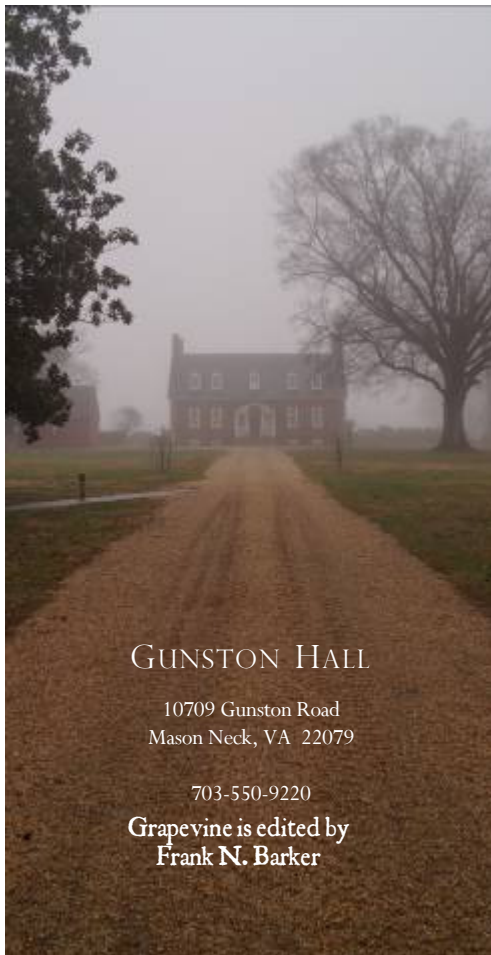
At its October meeting the Board of Regents adopted a new mission.

To utilize fully the physical and scholarly resources of Gunston Hall to stimulate continuing public exploration of democratic ideals as first presented by George Mason in the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights.

To realize the rich potential of the new mission and to harness resources and establish revitalized goals and priorities, a strategic planning process kicked-off in November. The strategic planning effort, guided by a sixteen member Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) chaired by Vice Regent Hilary Gripekoven has begun meeting.

The week after Thanksgiving, stakeholder groups were convened for their input on organizational Strengths and Weaknesses, as well as external Opportunities and Threats. Stakeholder groups included community groups, staff members, and volunteers, as well as Regents, Board of Visitors, and the Virginia Secretary of Education's office. The work of the SPC is being facilitated by Bryan & Jordan, LLC, a cultural institution and museum planning consulting firm based in Richmond.

During the next six months, a great deal of analysis and planning will yield a five-year plan to lead Gunston Hall into the future. Stay tuned for updates and if you have questions or comments, please contact me.
Patrick Ladden, Interim Director



In This Issue

PLANTATION CHRISTMAS	3
MAURICE POUND WINES	4
BEES IN WINTER	7
A TOMBSTONE MYSTERY	8
RASPBERRY PLAIN	9
LANDSCAPE NEWS	10
NOTICES	11
COLONIAL DAY	13

On the cover: Young visitors on a school field trip explore the kitchen yard in November. The well is always a source of fascination to children used to the joys of indoor plumbing. Left: Early December has brought nothing more inclement to Gunston Hall than several foggy mornings.

A LOOK AT CHRISTMAS PAST



Plantation Christmas on December 8 brought over 530 visitors to Gunston Hall to celebrate.

Visitors could listen to beautiful music from the Shiloh Baptist Church Choir, John the Fifer, and Tasker's Choice, and join in with impromptu caroling with Sylvia Tabb-Lee portraying Nell, a slave.

They could sip syllabub in the hearth kitchen or sip warmed cider in the kitchen yard. Our guests could ride in a carriage or take a hay ride, thanks to Tamarack Stables. They could warm themselves by bonfires and wander into the 18th century to converse with George Mason and members of his family.

Yarn was spun in the laundry house and yarns were spun around the fires.

And St. Nicholas even came to visit.

George Mason and Santa and syllabub. It just doesn't get any better than that.



Top left: The carriage circles by the land front entrance. Top right: Sylvia Tabb-Lee talks to visitors near the schoolhouse. Center left: Martha Nelson dips out a pitcher of mulled cider from a steaming cauldron in the kitchen yard. Above right: Janice Grogin spins in the laundry. Right: Some of the ladies in the hearth kitchen serving up 18th century delicacies. From left: Donna Boulter, Sue Hodes, Margaret Meath, Renée Mahoney, and Sandy Galetta.



GEORGE MASON AND THE MAN WHO *WOULD* MAKE WINE MAURICE POUND AND HIS COLCHESTER WINERY

By Paul Y. Inashima
Consulting Archeologist

GEORGE MASON WAS “NOT fond of giving Recommendations”¹ and did so rarely over the course of his life. Yet, during the fall of 1759, he would endorse two gentlemen, William Buckland² and Maurice Pound.^{3,4}

The former had recently overseen the completion of Gunston Hall. The latter had begun a wine making venture in the new town of Colchester near Mason’s ferry.

Of Buckland, Mason noted that he was a man of “a very good Character” and “an honest sober diligent Man, & I think a complete Master of the Carpenter’s & Joiner’s [trades].”

Of Pound, he noted that “he has the Character of a very honest industrious Man” and “is capable of producing good Wine.”

Of William Buckland’s career, much is known and has been written.

Of Maurice Pound’s fate, much less is known and much of that, speculative.

Who was Maurice Pound? Where had he come from? How had he fared in his Colchester venture? What would become of him in later years?

Mason thought of him as a native of Germany.³ However, Pound was actually a native of Switzerland and had come from the northern, German speaking Canton of Schaffhausen.⁵ When he first arrived in Virginia has yet to be determined. Nevertheless, he likely had followed the familiar

route of the early eighteenth-century Swiss emigrants who had fled religious intolerance in their homeland, traveling through Germany to Holland and, then, sailing from Rotterdam to Philadelphia.

Once in Pennsylvania, Pound had made his way to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia by the summer of 1751.⁶ During the following summer, he purchased three tracts of 130, 320, and 360 acres in Augusta County.⁷

Six years later on September 9, 1758, Pound purchased two adjacent half acre lots for £12 current money from the Trustees of the port town of Colchester.⁸ Each of his lots measured 132 by 165 feet.

His deed contained the stipulation

(Continued on page 5)



Blauburgunder



Colchester



1760



German Wine Press

VINTNER MAURICE POUND (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

that ownership of the lots could be seized from Pound on the two year anniversary of his purchase “as if this Deed had never been made” if he failed to construct on each lot a brick or well framed wood structure of, at least, 20 by 20 feet with a stone or brick chimney. Along one side, Lot 18 fronted a street which would become Old Colchester Road.⁹ Along another side, Lots 18 and 26 fronted a side street which would later become known as Wine Street. Along the opposite site, they abutted interior Lots 20 and 27. Along one side, Lot 28 fronted a side street which would become known as Fairfax Street.

After a year, Pound had managed to build one structure on Lot 18, which according to Mason met the requirements of the law,³ and to plant a vineyard on his lots. (Archaeological excavations done during the 1980s by George Mason University, however, indicate that the building measured only 12-3/4 feet by 12 feet rather than the required 20 feet square.¹⁰)

Pound had planted European varieties, most likely including Blauburgunder.¹¹ During this time, Mason appears to have kept an eye on the progress of Pound’s labors and to have come to appreciate his efforts.³

To assist Pound, Mason circulated a subscription in October 1759 to raise funds to purchase a “Winepress & other Conveniencys” needed to further Pound’s venture. George Mason (£10), Thomson Mason (£20), Charles Green (£15), Daniel French (£10), George William Fairfax (£20), George Washington (£15), and the brothers, Spence (£10) and Benjamin Grayson (£18), joined in the subscription.^{3, 12} Perhaps to see how the vines had survived the winter, the funds were not provided until the end of May 1760.¹³ Charles Green and Benjamin Grayson placed liens on

Pound’s two lots, ostensibly “in Trust for all.”^{3, 13, 14}

Barely three months into the five-year loan, Pound was pressured into making an early harvest and pressing of his grapes. This premature harvest had prevented his grapes from attaining their full maturity. Nevertheless, he managed to make “upwards of 129 gallons [2 hogsheads¹⁵] of merchantable wine.”^{5, 16} Shortly afterwards around the time of the two year anniversary of his deed (September 9, 1760), the Colchester Trustees exercised a taking of his property, apparently for failing to meet the conditions of his deed.¹⁷

After the taking, Pound’s Lots 18 and 26 were conveyed by the Trustees to Benjamin Grayson and Charles Green, respectively. The unfortunate consequences of the Trustees’ action for Pound were that he was deprived of the money he had paid for the lots; his investment and labor in the structures and vineyard by which he had improved his property; and his security for the loans obtained through Mason’s subscription.¹⁸

A month later on October 16, 1760, Pound sold two of his tracts in Augusta County for a sum over £200.¹⁹ Whether this was done in an effort to recover his vineyard or for some other purpose has not been determined. Regardless, sometime afterwards, he departed Fairfax



County and returned to his remaining tract in Augusta County.²⁰ “Through

certain affairs,” he moved to Red Lion Hundred in New Castle County, Delaware, and “transplanted his vines thereto in March, 1765.”⁵ At his new vineyard, he made “150 gallons [2.4 hogsheads] of good wine” in the fall of 1767 and advertised that it would be for sale the following spring.^{5, 11} In the following years, he made 100 gallons [1.6 hogsheads] in 1768 and 305 gallons [4.8 hogsheads] in 1769. Throughout his new venture, Pound made sure that “all [the wine was] made before witnesses.”

On November 11, 1768, Maurice Pound presented “two specimens of wine” before the American Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge in Philadelphia, the “one a year old” and “the other of this present vintage.”²¹ He, further, provided a certificate which proved that he “had cleared 12 acres of land, and planted therein 18000 vines; that upwards of 8000 of them are now growing, and about 2050 in a flourishing bearing state.”

“The Society, well pleased with the undertaking, . . . , voted him a premium of Ten Pounds, which was paid by the Treasurer.”

By 1769, Pound had “2500 vines (counted by witnesses) in a bearing state and, 10 000 young ones coming on.”⁵ Sadly, his physical and emotional efforts “having disabled himself, and brought himself very low” precipitated his death on November 18, 1769, leaving two sons, John and Jacob to continue his legacy.

(Continued on page 6)

POUND (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

Postscript

Despite the outcome of his first venture into viticulture, George Mason continued to pursue the possibility of establishing a domestic wine industry in Virginia. In 1774, he befriended and financially backed an Italian named Philip Mazzei, investing £50 for one share in his Virginia Wine Company.²² The Colle vineyard near Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Albemarle County had started with promise, but came to a premature termination with the start of the American Revolution. Mason received slips from Mazzei's vineyard for his own garden. In 1783, Mason received "a Bundle of Grape-Seeds" from Mr. D. Arrell.²³ In 1789, Mason requested that his son John send him "a few young Grape Vines, of good kinds; the Roots shou'd be carefully covered with Moss, or some such thing, or set in Boxes of Earth."²⁴

A hundred years after Pound's death, a section of land along the Delaware River in Red Lion Hundred was still referred to as the *VINYARD*.²⁵ In 1874, Colonial Edward Daniels, the then owner of Gunston, leased twenty acres "to two Swiss immigrants, for the purpose of starting a vineyard, and the manufacturing of wine".²⁶

Notes:

- Sentiment expressed in letter from George Mason to Richard Henry Lee recommending his neighbor, Martin Cockburn, dated August 13, 1778 (Lee Paper's, University of Virginia, Charlottesville).
- George Mason's statement of endorsement for William Buckland, dated November 8, 1759. Original owned by Daniel R. Randall, Annapolis, Maryland. Photostat copy in the Library of Congress.
- George Mason's solicitation for a subscription to a loan agreement for Maurice Pound, dated October 1759. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia cited in Pamela C. Copeland and Richard K. MacMaster 1989:102, *The Five George Masons*, Board of Regents of Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia.
- Maurice Pound was an anglicized version of his name. In historical documents, he was variously referred to as Morrice, Morris, and Morrise. George Washington's *Ledger A* implies that originally his first name may have been Moritz. Augusta County land records suggest his last name may have been Poutz.
- Pennsylvania Chronicle*, November 20 to November 27, 1769.
- Maurice Pound was resident in the Shenandoah Valley as early as the summer of 1751 (signature as witness on a power of attorney from Christophel Francisco to his son Stophel dated August 15, 1751, *Augusta County Deed Book* 3:469 abstracted in Lyman Chalkley 1912-1913, Vol. 3:297-298, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County, 1745-1800*, Rosslyn, Virginia).
- On July 2, 1752, Pound purchased tracts of 360 acres and 320 acres from Christophel Francisco (*Augusta County Deed Book* 3:440, 444 abstracted in Lyman Chalkley 1912-1913, Vol. 3:305). Pound was resident in the county at this time as a deed to Patrick Wilson dated July 2, 1752 references the "land Morrise Pound lives on" (*August Deed Book* 3:411 abstracted in Chalkley 1912-1913, Vol 3:411). On August 19, 1752, Pound purchased 130 acres of land from James McCarral (*Augusta County Deed Book* 4:448 abstracted in Chalkley 1912-1913, Vol. 3:305).
- Fairfax County Deed Book* D1:633. Maurice Pound may have been resident on Dogue Neck earlier as suggested in George Mason's subscription notice that he had "settled at Colchester in the said County [Fairfax] about three years since [October 1759] on two Lotts" and in John Poun's, possibly Pound's, signature as witness to a deed transaction between John Heryford and William Bayly dated August 16, 1757 (*Fairfax County Deed Book* D1:104-105). John was the name of one of Maurice Pound's sons.
- Edith Sprouse 1975:159 (Figure 37), *Colchester: Colonial Port on the Potomac*.
- Ann M. Palkovich 1988:293-306, "Asymmetry and Recursive Meanings in the 18th Century: The Morris Pound House" in *The Recovery of Meaning* edited by Mark P. Leone and Parker B. Potter, Jr., Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Blauburgunder (also known as Spätburgunder or pinot noir) was a late ripening varietal commonly grown in Schaffhausen. Information on the varietals grown by Pound and when they were ripening is provided in Pound's advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, November 23 to November 30, 1767 which mentioned vines "transplanted from Europe" and wine "made this Fall." The date of the advertisement implies that the pressing had occurred in late October or early November, which in turn suggests late ripening varietals.
- Theodore J. Crackel, editor, *The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition*, Charlottesville, Virginia. Colonial Series (7 July 1748 - 15 June 1775), Volume 6 (4 September 1758 - 26 December 1760), pp. 368-370 [page 369 not denoted]. The names in the list in Crackel differ from those in Copeland and MacMaster 1989:102 in omitting Thomson Mason and in interpreting Chas. to be Charles Green rather than Charles Broadwater.
- George Washington's *Ledger Book A: 1750-1772*, pg. 100, loan to Moritz Pounds dated May 27, 1760.
- The subscriptions were secured by a mortgage on Pound's lots made to the Reverend Charles Green, Clerk, and Benjamin Grayson, Gentleman (recorded on missing *Fairfax County Deed* D1:708 and noted in *Fairfax County Court Minute Book: 1756-1763*, pg. 474, Court held June 17, 1760).
- Queen Anne's Standard Wine Gallon was instituted in 1707 (*Reports from Commissioners* 1873, Volume 38, Appendix VI:35-36, Great Britain House of Commons). It contained 231 cubic inches. By law, 63 gallons constituted a hogshead; 126 gallons, a butt or pipe; and 252 gallons, a tun.
- At the rate paid by George Washington (*Ledger Book A:56*) for a pipe of wine on June 16, 1759, Pound's pressing would have been worth around £23. The amount of wine pressed was what might be expected from a 1/2 acre vineyard (e.g., George Husmann, 1866, *The Cultivation of the Native Grape, and the Manufacture of American Wines*, Geo. E. Woodward, New York; Coddington Vineyard, England in 2006).
- Fairfax County Deed Book* E1:158. In a deed from Benjamin Grayson to Hugh Blackburn and James Scott and Company of Glasgow dated June 8, 1762, it was related that Lot 18 had been "conveyed to the said Benjamin Grayson by the Trustees of the said town [Colchester]." Lot 26 likely had been conveyed to the Reverend Charles Green. Although the two reconveyances may have been recorded in the papers of the Trustees, they were not officially documented in the deed books of Fairfax County. It is unlikely that the taking occurred after the anniversary date, as after that date the Trustees inaction would have implied that Pound had met his obligations to improve the lots. The vineyard on Pound's former Lot 26 may have been the source for Reverend Green's gift to George Washington of "55 cuttings of the [so-called] Madeira Grape" which Washington planted on March 21, 1763 (Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, editors, *The Diaries of George Washington*, Volume I:1748-1765, page 315).
- Curiously, at the termination of the five-year loan period, only the heirs of the two subscribers, Benjamin Grayson and Reverend Charles Green,

(Continued on page 7)

POUND (CONCLUDED)

(Continued from page 6)

who had benefitted from the Trustees' taking sued for repayment. They sued first in court on March 30, 1769 against Maurice Pound (*Virginia Gazette*, August 24, 1769) and after his death again in court on December 20, 1770 against John Pound as his son and heir (*Virginia Gazette*, June 20, 1771). The other subscribers, as had George Washington (*Ledger Book B:9*), likely had written Pound's loan off. Even Spence Grayson who had been a subscriber and who was representing Benjamin Grayson's heirs failed to join the suit against Pound. The taking apparently had been a messy affair as two decades afterwards, Fairfax County was still taxing Maurice Pound deceased and subsequently his heirs for what were by then described as "two unimproved lots" (*Fairfax County Tax Book 1782-1798*). Sprouse (1975:182) has interpreted these listings as indicating that the Pounds paid taxes on the lots over this span. It appears more probable, however, that the listings merely reflected entries for those thought to own the lots and not payments. Indeed, most of the listing lacked entries for assessed values and taxes. The 1782 listing, however, indicated that Morris Pound deceased was responsible for two lots in Colchester which were valued at £30 and for which 6 shillings tax was due.

19. Pound sold his 130 acre tract to John Peter Gully or Gaily, signing the deed as Maurice Pound of Fairfax (*Augusta County Deed Book 9:5* abstracted in Chalkley 1912-1913, Vol. 3:364). He sold his

360 acre tract to Henry Pirgy for £154 (*Augusta County Deed Book 9:9* abstracted in Chalkley 1912-1913, Vol. 3:364).

20. In the index to his *Ledger Book B*, George Washington noted that Morris Pound resided in Augusta County. In a deed from Patrick Weaver to George Weaver dated October 15, 1765, the tract was referenced to "corner Morris Pound whereon he lives" (*Augusta County Deed Book 12:283* abstracted in Chalkley 1912-1913, 3:434).

21. Peter Stephen DuPonceau, "Historical Account of the Origin of the American Philosophical Society," read October 15, 1841, in *An Historical Account of the Origin and Formation of the American Philosophical Society Held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge*, 1914:3-142, The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. DuPonceau places the meeting as November 25, 1768; however, a contemporary article in the *Providence Gazette*, December 10, 1768, places the meeting on November 11, 1768. The meeting on November 25, 1768 featured the receipt of "the beginning of an essay on the cultivation of the vine, the planting of vineyards, and the making of wine" by one of the Society's corresponding members. This was probably Edward Antill whose "An ESSAY on the cultivation of the Vine . . ." was completed and forwarded on May 10, 1769. Notice of Pound's achievement reached overseas as *The Belfast News Letter* published an extract of the Society's meeting on February 21, 1769.

22. George Mason's involvement in the venture extended beyond a mere financial backing. Philip Mazzei was to write that he considered Mason "one of the most valuable friends I ever had." Enclosure in a letter from Mazzei to Thomas Jef-

erson, March 8, 1782 (cited in Robert Rutland, 1970, *The Papers of George Mason*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, II:680 from the Mazzei Papers at the Library of Congress). Copeland and MacMaster 1989:103-104.

23. In a letter written to his son George Mason, Jr. dated January 8, 1783, Mason reported that "I have since received from Mr. D. Arrell . . . a Bundle of Grape-Seeds & c. but for want of exact Endorsations upon all the Papers, I am at a Loss to know the different kinds of Grapes, & which are the best worth cultivating" (transcribed in Robert Rutland, 1970, II:760).

24. From a list of sundries attached to a letter to John Mason dated July 31, 1789 (transcribed in Robert Rutland, 1970, III:1167).

25. D.G. Beers, 1868, *Delaware City, Red Lion, New Castle Co., Del.*, Pomeroy & Beers, Philadelphia.

26. *Evening Star*, April 1, 1874.

Image credits: 1. Modified image of Coddington Vineyard, United Kingdom (Bob Embleton 2006).

2. Spätburgunder cluster (J. Hicks & Family Winery [Germany] 2011). 3. George West, Surveyor, *A Plan of Colchester Town*, June 1754 (reproduced in Edith Sprouse 1975:17). 4. Detail from *Fairfax County in 1760: An Interpretive Historical Map*, Beth Mitchell 1977, Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, Fairfax, Virginia. 5. Wine press at the winery in Niemcy, Rheinland-Pfalz (Julo 2008).

Grapes on Page 5 Photographed by Harry Peterson-Nedry, Chehalem Winery, Newberg, OR. With permission from Wikipedia

BEES IN WINTER

By Mark Whatford, Librarian/Archivist

We currently have five hives on site with each theoretically holding 20,000 to 30,000 bees.

With the cooler weather here the hives will be internally cooling down to about 55 degrees, and they stopped raising brood once the hive cooled down below 93 degrees.

Our Master Beekeeper, Michael Chick, will be swap-

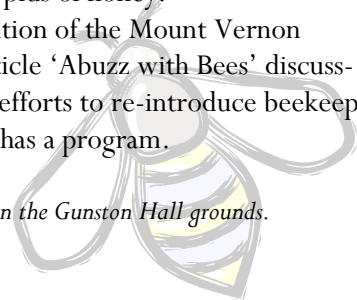


ping out the current frames with frames that are full of honey. The drought this year did not allow the hives to produce enough honey to get them through the winter. Each hive needs 50 to 90 pounds of honey to over-winter.

The hive can start back up as early as January and in mid-February the bees will go out looking for pollen with the maples blossoming. By April or May the hives start to produce a surplus of honey.

The Winter 2012 edition of the Mount Vernon Newsletter has an article 'Abuzz with Bees' discussing Mount Vernon's efforts to re-introduce beekeeping. Monticello also has a program.

The five honey bee hives on the Gunston Hall grounds.



THE TIMES-MIRROR AND THE MYSTERIOUS TOMBSTONE
A MASON MYSTERY

By Alanna Dvorak
Times-Mirror Staff Writer

For years, an abandoned tombstone lay in the basement of the historic *Loudoun Times-Mirror* building, shrouded in mystery. No one knew how the tombstone arrived in the basement, or why it was there. But thanks to some sleuth work from the Loudoun County Museum, we finally know a little bit more about the who.

The name on the tombstone is easily discernible; it belonged to John M. McCarty, who was born in 1795 and died in 1852. Beyond that, little was known about our mystery man.

According to Liz Whiting, president of the Loudoun Museum Board of Trustees, McCarty was none other than founding father George Mason's grandson; the middle initial stands for Mason. McCarty's mother, Sarah (known as Sally) was Mason's sixth child, who married Daniel McCarty in 1778.

McCarty resided at Raspberry Plain, which neighbored Selma Plantation, both near Leesburg. Selma was owned by McCarty's cousin, Armistead Mason (additionally, Mason's sister and McCarty's brother were married). The two were close friends. This was quick to change.

Mason, a Democratic-Republican, was a rising political star, serving in the U.S. Senate from 1816 to 1817 before resigning to challenge Federalist Charles Fenton Mercer for the U.S. House of Representatives seat.

During Mason's Senate service, he introduced a bill allowing Quakers to avoid military service by paying a \$500 fee. A Federalist, McCarty opposed the bill and publicly criticized Mason.

McCarty voted against his cousin during the election and with no secret ballots, everyone knew. Mason accused McCarty of being too young to vote (at the time, the voting age was 21) and a fight reportedly broke out. Mason ultimately lost the election.

The two then proceeded to exchange barbs via the local newspaper, *The Genius of Liberty*.

Time appeared to be healing the wounds, but Mason was persuaded to pursue a duel at the urging of none other than future president Andrew Jackson, who found himself on the same stagecoach as Mason when both were returning to Washington from Richmond.

Though McCarty tried to avoid the duel, ultimately, the two men settled on fighting in Bladensburg, Md. (famous for the duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr), due to Virginia banning dueling in 1810. The two settled on pistols for weapons. The duel took place Feb. 6, 1819. Mason died instantly, and McCarty was severely wounded, losing use of one of his arms.

McCarty married Lucinda Bell following the duel and had three children, though both his sons predeceased him. McCarty was originally interred at the Episcopal Cemetery on Church Street in Leesburg (the same cemetery as Mason) after his death in 1852. However, his daughter exhumed the body and reburied it in Richmond years later.

From there, his Leesburg tombstone made its way to Purcell and Littlejohn, a pharmacy in Leesburg. Pharmacists used the stone to mix prescriptions. Later, the tomb stone was given to Harry Harrison, for whom Harrison Street is named. Then, the history of the tombstone becomes muddled, until it showed up in the basement of the *Times-Mirror* building, where it was used in the 50s during typesetting.

But the paper has decided to relinquish the tombstone to the custody of the Loudoun Museum, where it can be properly displayed.

To see the tombstone, visit the Loudoun Museum, open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. To visit McCarthy, go to Bladensburg, where he is said to remorsefully haunt the grounds where he killed his cousin.

This article is reprinted with permission of the writer.



The tombstone of George Mason's grandson John Mason McCarty 1795-1852

Times-Mirror Staff photo/Andrew Sharbel

MORE ON THE MASONS OF RASPBERRY PLAIN

By Brian and Frank Barker

The preceding article was called to the attention of the *Grapevine* editor by his brother, Brian Barker of Aldie, Virginia. The brothers teamed up and found some more information on the Mason-McCarty relationship. Here is the result of their efforts.

Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron granted the title to the 322-acre Raspberry Plain property to blacksmith Joseph Dixon in 1731. In 1754, Loudoun County's first sheriff, Aeneas Campbell, purchased the "houses, buildings, orchard, ways and watercourses" of Raspberry Plain. Under Campbell's ownership, the property became the site of Loudoun County's first jailhouse.

When George Mason III died in 1735, leaving no will, all his holdings went to his eldest son, George Mason, who would later build Gunston Hall.

As the widow, Mrs. Ann Thomson Mason, apparently did not want her other two children to feel slighted in their inheritance, she saved enough money to make a land deal known as the "Wild Lands" purchase.

Eventually, she bought 10,000 acres in Loudoun County that extended north from Leesburg, up the current Route 15 corridor. She divided the land between her daughter,

Mary, and her son, Thomson.

In 1760, Thomson Mason added to his property in Loudoun by purchasing the Raspberry Plain acreage from Aeneas Campbell.

Thomson of Raspberry Plain was a Burgess in the Virginia Assembly and one of the first trustees of Leesburg. His first wife, Mary King Barnes Mason, died in 1772. Remarrying years later to Elizabeth Wallace, he fathered two more sons.

When Thomson died in 1785, the Raspberry Plain estate was deeded to his eldest son, Stevens Thomson Mason. He would be elected U.S. Senator from Virginia in 1796 and would father three sons, including the ill-fated Armistead Thomson Mason.

His three daughters, Mary, Emily, and Catherine, were guests of the White House on many occasions and considered the "belles of the ball."

Mary married Benjamin Howard, Governor of Missouri; Catherine married the honorable Thomas Barry and Emily married her cousin, William McCarty, brother of John Mason McCarty.

As you learned in the previous article, Senator Mason's son, Armistead Thomson Mason was shot and killed by his cousin (and brother-in-law), John Mason McCarty, in a duel at the Bladensburg dueling

grounds in Maryland, 1819. McCarty lived at nearby Strawberry Plain, the home and jail of Aeneas Campbell, which had been parceled off from the Raspberry Plain property.

Thomson Mason's Raspberry Plain mansion was destroyed in 1910, but a rebuilt mansion is on the property today and serves as an event venue.

These people are known to be buried in the Mason family burying ground at Raspberry Plain:

- ◆ Thomson Mason (1733-1785).
- ◆ Mary King Barnes Mason (died 1771), first wife of Thomson Mason and mother of Stevens Thomson Mason.
- ◆ Stevens Thomson Mason (1760-1803), son of Thomson Mason
- ◆ Armistead Thomson Mason (1787-1819), son of Stevens Thomson Mason

Sources

Copeland, Pamela C., and Richard K. MacMaster. *The Five George Masons: Patriots and Planters of Virginia and Maryland*. Charlottesville: Published for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall by the UP of Virginia, 1975. Print.

"Raspberry Plain- History." *Raspberry Plain-History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Dec. 2012.

"Raspberry Plain." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Aug. 2012. Web. 18 Dec. 2012.

ANOTHER MASON MYSTERY!

WHERE CAN YOU FIND THIS IMAGE OF GEORGE MASON?

- A. ON GEORGE MASON'S TOMB.
- B. AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S PATRIOT CENTER.
- C. INSIDE THE U.S. CAPITOL.
- D. OVER THE FIREPLACE IN THE PALLADIAN ROOM OF GUNSTON HALL.
- E. ON A 1920S ERA POSTCARD OF GUNSTON HALL FOR SALE IN THE MUSEUM SHOP.

Answer on page 14



BOXWOOD UPDATE PART 2

By Mark Whatford

We received the soil test results from the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and, as expected, our soil pH was below the optimum range of 6.2 to 6.8 coming in at 4.76!

We also had almost no magnesium present in the soil, which can cause boxwood leaves to turn a bronze color. We have applied our first application of dolomitic lime to raise the pH, but this will be over a two year period, applied once in the fall and again in the spring. Mr. Batdorf [Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Curator of the National Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum] had not seen such low pH levels for boxwood in many years, although he did remark we have very good soil for boxwood culture.



BULB PLANTING FOR A COLORFUL SPRING



Docents Diane Altenburg, Rosemary Romine, Mary Chapman, and Mary Lu Chatelier plan their plantings with Mark Whatford during a planting session in November.

Several docents have added “Historic Gardner” to their résumés as they have planted thousands of tulip and daffodil bulbs into the Gunston Hall landscape this fall.

The bulbs, ordered by Archivist Mark Whatford, include several cultivars of heirloom 18th and even 17th century tulips.

Bulbs were planted in the Visitors’ Center courtyard and in the fields near the woods.



A marker in the courtyard loam shows where a 17th century variety of tulip is planted. In the spring, this marker should be overshadowed by the large scarlet petals of Amiral de Constantinople, one of only two varieties of parrot tulips from the 1600s still in existence.

JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE:

TWO SYLLABUB RECEIPTS FROM OUR FAVORITE AMERICAN ORPHAN, AMELIA SIMMONS

To make a fine Syllabub from the Cow
Sweeten a quart of cyder with double refined fugar, grate nutmeg into it, then milk your cow into your liquor, when you have thus added what quantity of milk you think proper, pour half a pint or more, in proportion to the quantity of fyllabub you make, of the fweetest cream you can get all over it.

A Whipt Syllabub

Take two porringers of cream and one of white wine,

grate in the fkin of a lemon, take the whites of three eggs, fweeten it to your taste, then whip it with a whifk, take off the froth as it rifes and put it into your fyllabub glaffes or pots, and they are fit for ufe.

Simmons, Amelia. *American Cookery, Or, The Art of Dressing Viands, Fish, Poultry, and Vegetables: And the Best Modes of Making Pastes, Puffs, Pies, Tarts, Puddings, Custards, and Preserves: And All Kinds of Cakes, from the Imperial Plumb to Plain Cake, Adapted to This Country, and All Grades of Life.* Hartford: Printed by Hudson & Goodwin for the Author, 1796. Print.

PUBLICK NOTICES

Thank you from the Museum Shop to the Docent Lady Bakers for their wonderful efforts and baking talents for their contributions to the first "market place" that we had on Plantation Christmas. Your Whoopie Pies and Sugar Cookies sold enough to cover the cost of the savory offering which were the turkey-cran biscuits from Mount Vernon.

The endeavor was a test and tested well!

Special thanks to Charlene Little and her son-in-law for his supercalifragilisticexpalidociously decorated BLING cookies!

Ho Ho Ho Huzzah!

Karen Bazzle, Museum Shop proprietor



Volunteers Needed for

Development and Marketing/PR

1. Friends Materials Packaging - Help is requested for set-up, photocopying, counting and boxing Friends of Gunston Hall materials. Heavy lifting required. Perfect for you bench-pressing *Grapevine* subscribers or your own or neighboring high school students seeking a place to fulfill mandatory volunteer hours for graduation.
2. Event Posting - As newspapers sadly fade away, the Internet is where most people seek leisure activity options. Armed with a user name and password, the much-appreciated volunteer will post short Gunston Hall event listings on free websites. This can be

done from your home.

3. Military Liaison(s) - The annual Ft. Belvoir Super Fair has been a very successful method of engaging military families. The rapidly-growing armed forces presence in this area provides an opportunity for ongoing outreach to this important audience. The willing volunteer(s) will be asked to help formulate an action plan and then carry it forward. We will be participating in the Blue Star program this summer, which should help place a visit to Gunston on every military family's summer activity list.

Interested parties please contact Susan Blankenship at 703-550-9220 or sblank@gunstonhall.org.

**Gunston Hall will close midday
on Christmas Eve & New
Years Eve and will be closed all
day on Christmas Day & New
Years Day.**

The offices will be closed
December 24-26 and
December 31-January 1.



COMING TO GUNSTON HALL'S ANN MASON ROOM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 2 P.M.

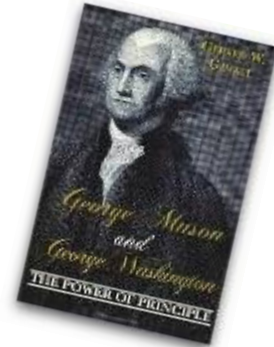
BOOK TALK AND SIGNING

Author Gerard W. Gawalt will speak about his new book *George Washington and George Mason: the Power of Principle*.

It is a unique book, combining narrative and primary documents to reveal the complex intertwined lives of George Mason and George Washington.

Reception and book signing to follow.

Suggested contribution.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 2 P.M.

SEEDS OF INDEPENDENCE

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT MEET ON MASON NECK: PATHWAYS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY

We will consider this process from two approaches. The first of these, a short film, will trace Mason Neck resident Gladys Cook Bushrod to George, a slave once owned by William Mason of Mattawoman, Charles County, MD. Contrastingly, Historian Terry Dunn will follow family lines of slaves owned by George Mason of Gunston Hall forward in time.

Suggested contribution.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 FROM 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

SMALL THINGS CONSIDERED: HISTORIC ARTIFACTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Archaeologists reveal recent discoveries in the Chesapeake region of the artifacts of everyday life. This seminar is open to the public and professionals.

\$50 Fee includes program, light breakfast, lunch, and Mansion tour; \$40 for Friends

of Gunston, FOFA, and individuals registering before February 8.



COLONIAL DAY OCTOBER 18

Nearly 350 school children visited Gunston Hall on Oct. 18 to learn about colonial life and the world of a Tidewater plantation in the 18th century.

Many docents and other volunteers were on hand to teach skills such as penmanship, deportment, food preservation, and laundry.

Left: Docent Sandy Galetta helps a fourth grader wrap dried herbs to make an herb bag. Right: At the Archaeology station a young visitor pieces together an artifact.



Left: Historic interpreter Ted Borek portrays Capt. Bouquet of the Militia. His musket firing was one of the highlights of the tour for many of the students. Right: Barbara Farner's grandson Thomas helps children guess the identity of colonial items at the Mystery Objects table. Thomas, who had been a docent since 8:30 that morning, was well-trained by Barbara, who has been a docent since 1978.



May your
own
Plantation
Christmas
be warm
and joyous.

Happy
Holidays
from
Gunston Hall



ANOTHER MASON MYSTERY! THE ANSWER

The bas-relief image of George Mason pictured on page 9 is inside The U.S. Capitol (choice c). This image is one of 23 marble portraits over the gallery doors of the House Chamber that depict historical figures noted for their work in establishing the principles that underlie American law. To learn more about it, and to see the other 22 images, visit the website of the Architect of the Capitol by going to this link.

<http://www.aoc.gov/capitol-hill/relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers/george-mason>