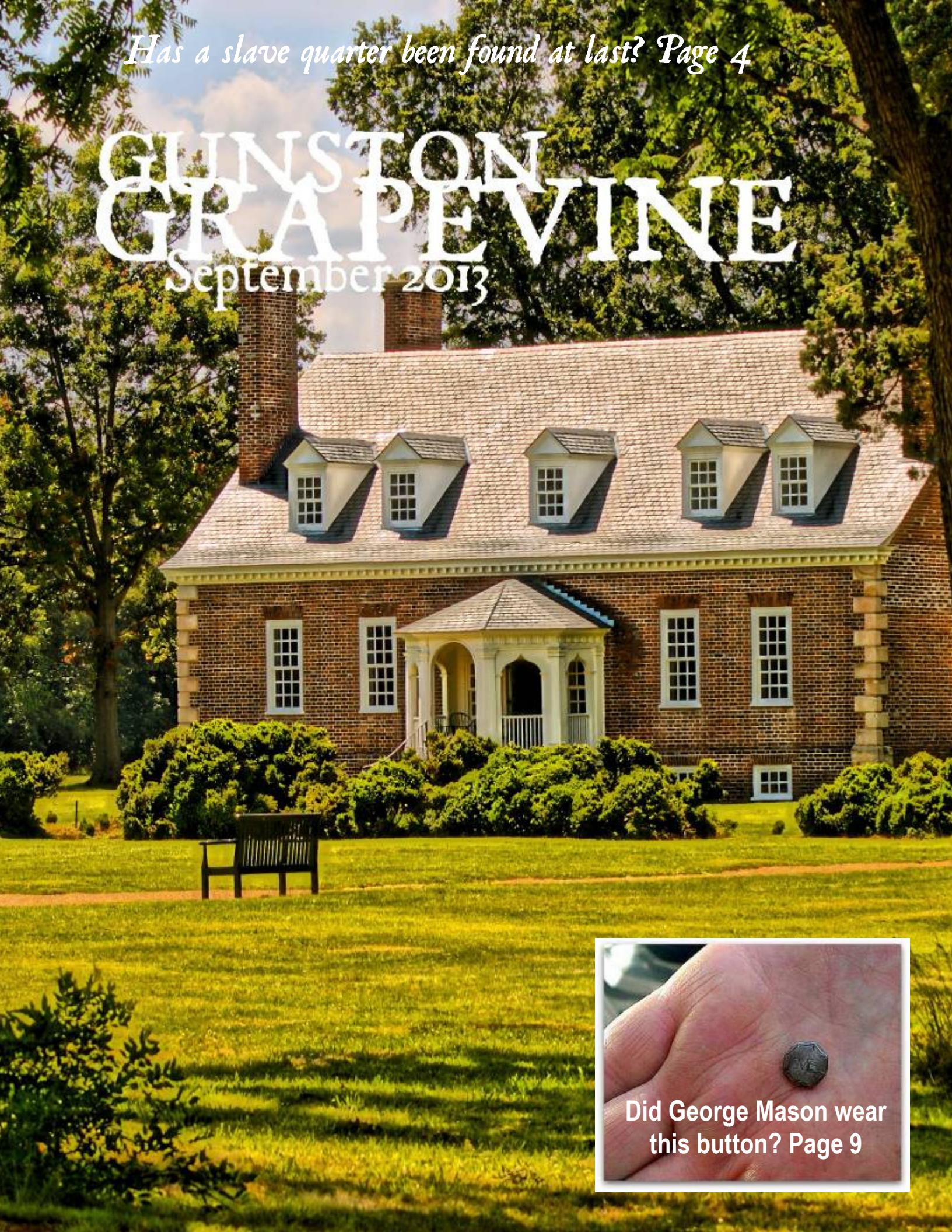


Has a slave quarter been found at last? Page 4

GUNSTON GRAPEVINE

September 2013



Did George Mason wear
this button? Page 9

IT IS A GREAT DAY AT GUNSTON HALL!

Scott Stroh, Executive Director



WHILE SERVING AS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER OF FLORIDA BACK IN 2010, I had the good fortune of meeting Pat Croce.

As many of you know, I grew up in Philadelphia and therefore my knowledge of Pat at the time was

solely based on my awareness of him having previously owned the city's professional basketball team, the 76ers. During his ownership, the 76ers enjoyed tremendous success and ended up in the National Basketball Association finals in 2001. While they lost to the Los Angeles Lakers, I remember with great pride and joy the tremendous regional- and city-wide energy and enthusiasm the team's success generated, much of it as a result of Pat's own contagious energy and enthusiasm.

When I met Pat, who in addition to having owned the 76ers, was and is a successful entrepreneur, author, and public speaker, he was passionately pursuing his personal interest in the history and popular culture of pirates. This interest originated as a child upon seeing the movie *Captain Blood* and in 2010 Pat was relocating and enlarging his Pirate and Treasure Museum from Key West to Saint Augustine, Florida (it is truly a phenomenal museum, check it out at <http://thepiratemuseum.com/>).

As a result of the museum's enlargement he was seeking additional artifacts for display and inquired about borrowing a number of shipwreck, pirate, and treasure related items from our vast archaeological collection.

Shortly thereafter, we completed the loan, but Pat and I remained in contact. We have continued to talk and visit as time allows, and I have learned a tremendous amount from him as a result of these interactions. In particular, I want to share one of the lessons I learned from Pat that continues to inspire, excite, motivate and drive me both personally and professionally.

About the cover: Gunston Hall on the riverside, on George Mason Day. If you listen carefully, you can hear the cicadas chirping and the U.S. Army Brass Ensemble performing on the other side of the house.

In 2000 Pat published the *New York Times* bestseller *I Feel Great and you will too!*. This book, a copy of which I keep on my desk, is amazing!

In the book, Pat discusses his personal journey and talks about the things in his life impacting and having an effect on his success. In so doing, he articulates a strategy for living, but also for working, that includes an emphasis on diligence and desire, ideas and innovation, ambition and balance, service and communication, teamwork and leadership, dreams and goals, and perhaps most importantly, energy and attitude.

One of the specific "strategies" Pat mentions in the book is starting each day by saying:

"I feel great and it is going to be a great day!"

After reading the book, I soon began starting each day by saying "I feel great and it is going to be a great day!" I posted the saying in my bedroom, put a sticky note with the phrase in my wallet, and taped it up behind the desk in my office. And it worked. It worked, among other ways, by reinforcing and refreshing the periods of joy and reminding me of and connecting me back to the joy in times of trouble or difficulty; while also motivating me to go forward and passionately pursue my dreams and goals.

It also worked because having spent time with Pat, I saw first hand that this phrase was really one big verb, full of action and energy, and that this "verb's" true power is in modeling and demonstrating your passion, enthusiasm, joy, and excitement on a daily basis. Very quickly I discovered the value of this intentional statement and pursuit, and I also very quickly realized that it not only changed my outlook and energy levels, but also those around me.

Since joining the team at Gunston Hall, this simple phrase has taken on even greater meaning. This progression is in part because I genuinely love Gunston Hall and being at Gunston Hall is so awesome and inspiring and rewarding that it is hard not to be joyful, energetic, positive, and enthusiastic every day.

But the increased meaning of this phrase is about more than personal satisfaction in my new job. It is born out of recognition of an incredible organizational opportunity and the

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power of possibility associated with our calling and our cause. It is grounded in my observations of a focused, passionate, talented, and dedicated team of individuals who share a common purpose, are driven to fulfill our mission, and who have fun doing so.

It is generated by an almost spiritual feeling when you walk the grounds, visit the mansion, contemplate Mason's writings and work, or simply sit in the garden.

It is produced by the daily excitement of new discoveries, new ideas, and new collaborations. And, finally, it is guided by knowing we, as an organization and as a team, have articulated a visionary plan for our future that focuses on education, engagement, collaboration, public value, and accessibility for the purpose of enriching and inspiring those we serve. This is great stuff!

TO OUR READERS

For the last couple of years, Gunston Grapevine has been published quarterly. But as this issue grew beyond 20 pages, we here at the Grapevine desk realized that we had a problem.

We had too many great things going on at Gunston Hall to report on in a single issue every three months. We had two choices. We could tell everybody to stop digging, stop having phenomenal events, stop inviting people to come visit...or we could publish more Grapevines.

We're choosing the latter.

This issue has been cut in twain, and another issue will come out at the end of October. We may not always have enough news or time to publish every month, but we will see what happens.

Gunston Grapevine is an open forum. We welcome articles, ideas, questions, and comments from the whole Gunston Hall community, including staff, volunteers, docents, interpreters, regents, friends, and neighbors.

Keep the articles coming and if the news doesn't fit, we'll make a new issue!

Frank N. Barker, Grapevine editor

So, try it tomorrow morning. Then try it again the next day. Overcome your skepticism about the value and power of a simple phrase or rework the phrase into something you are more comfortable with saying. But do it. And repeat it. Why? Because it is true and the more you believe it, regardless of circumstance or condition, the more true it becomes. It is easy to say, believing it is a bit harder, but it is about attitude and the power of positivity.

In closing, I am very proud and pleased to say that at Gunston Hall our energy is high, our attitudes are strong and positive, our enthusiasm is infectious, and our passion, commitment, and dedication to a bright future are unquenchable and unconquerable. Truly, we feel great, we know it is going to be a great day, and it already is a great day at Gunston Hall!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at Gunston Hall soon. 

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Go to www.gunstonhall.org to see more about Gunston Hall and link to our blog, Tweets, and Facebook.

A SLAVE QUARTER, AT LAST?

Dave Shonyo, Staff Archaeologist & Carol Boland, Archaeology Volunteer

JOHAN MASON, IN HIS *RECOLLECTIONS*, mentioned two slave quarters in the vicinity of the Gunston Hall mansion.

One was to the northwest of the mansion and was called “Log-Town.” According to John Mason, “Here lived several families of slaves serving about the mansion house.” To the east of the mansion lay “... servant houses (in them days called Nigroe quarters).” That brief statement represents the sum total of what we know about those quarters.

No archaeological evidence has ever been found of either of the quarters. Well, possibly until now. We are currently excavating in an area to the east of the mansion, roughly between the formal garden area and the Director’s house. Everything that we are finding there is consistent with this being a slave quarter, although additional evidence is needed to make a definite determination one way or the other. Here, we would like to share with you some of the things that we have found that suggest that this site may represent a slave occupation area.

Pits. It was very common for earthen-floored slave quarters to have sub-floor pits. They were commonly called “hidey-holes,” and were used to store foodstuffs and to keep personal items out of sight. They were also sometimes used to house small shrines. We have now found and excavated two pits which are in very close proximity to each other. They are both circular, with one being a little over two feet in diameter and the other about six feet in diameter. The smaller of the two has a layer of small cobbles, about five inches

thick, in the bottom. The particularly interesting thing, however, is that the top layer of cobbles seems to have been arranged in a spiral (Fig. 1). We have not yet been able to find another feature of this kind mentioned in the literature.

The spiral is commonly used in traditional West African cultures as a symbol of ongoing life, and perhaps it retained a symbolic significance to the eighteenth century Virginia descendants of those people. Since no artifacts were recovered from the excavated portion of the pit, perhaps its use could be interpreted as spiritual in nature. Denied a way to express themselves spiritually and artistically, it seems reasonable to conclude that some slaves may have chosen to do so in secrecy using



One of the recently unearthed pits, showing the spiral pattern of cobbles. Are we looking at the remains of a slave quarter at Gunston Hall?

available materials.

The larger pit contains an abundance of artifacts, and may have served as a trash and garbage depository after it had out-

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lived its original function. The character of the artifact assemblage is quite different than any other deposit that we have seen on the plantation. Some of the unique artifact types are described below.

Post remains. Slave cabins seldom had masonry foundations. Normally they were plank or log structures anchored to the ground with posts. This kind of construction is called “post-in –ground” or “earthfast.” So far, we have found five post molds (i.e., the filled in holes once occupied by posts) arranged around the pits. They are in locations which may represent the outer walls of a structure that may have surrounded the pits. It should be possible to follow the post molds and determine the size and shape of the structure.

Artifacts. Overall, the assemblage of artifacts found in the larger of the pits is just what one would want to find in a slave occupation area. Some items, like stamped metal-covered buttons, have been found nowhere else on the plantation.

It is notoriously difficult to find slave quarters that were located in the vicinity of the plantation “big house.” Not only are the remains of buildings without masonry foundations very hard to find, but the artifacts are very similar to those found in association with the non-enslaved residents of the plantation. There may be some differences, however, in the ceramics and the food remains.

Ceramics. The slaves may have used the same types of ceramic items as the plantation master’s family, but they usually got them after the latter no longer had any use for them. Sometimes a group of slaves would get “hand-me-downs” of out of fashion ceramic tableware. That may explain the character of the ceramic component of the artifacts from the large pit. The most common ceramic type from the pit is white salt glazed stoneware. This is

followed by tin glazed wares (probably English Delftware). Tin glazed wares had been around since the 1670’s. They were replaced on fashionable tables in the 1740’s by the much more durable white stonewares. Then, in the 1760’s, everyone who was anyone replaced the latter with creamware table settings. There are a very few shards of creamware in the deposit, indicating that creamware was present on the plantation at the time these artifacts accumulated. Thus, at that time the tin glazed and white stoneware items were probably old and out of fashion. It is entirely possible that they represent hand-me-downs used by slaves.

Food remains. When the domestic slave quarters at Mount Vernon were excavated a number of years ago, it was found that the slaves were apparently allowed to supplement their diet with fish and game that they obtained for themselves. If this were true at Gunston Hall as well, then it should be reflected in the food remains in the slave occupation areas. There are a great many bones in the large pit deposit. Most of the large bones have been broken, presumably to obtain marrow. A detailed analysis of the bone has not yet been made, but among pig bones are what almost certainly deer bones and large numbers of small mammal bones. This is quite different from the deposits associated with the mansion kitchen. Also different is the huge number of fish scales and bones. One kind of scale is particularly indicative of slave food remains. An eighteenth century guest of Washington at Mount Vernon remarked in his memoirs that the slaves consumed gar, but non-slaves did not consider them eatable. If the same situation obtained at Gunston Hall, gar scales should be a rarity in the mansion kitchen deposits, but be present in a slave occupation area. That is exactly what we have found: numerous gar scales in the pit fea-

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ture but only a couple in the kitchen deposits.

A special grouping. Four artifacts were found in close association with each other at the bottom of the large pit. The items are two pieces of petrified wood, a Mason bottle seal and a cowrie shell (Fig 2). This may be part of a cache of ritual items. The cowrie is particularly interesting because of its apparent rarity. A book published in 1996 stated that, at the time, only three cowrie shells had been found in archaeological settings in North America. In 2003, one was found at Monticello. It was excavated from the bottom of a sub-floor pit in the remains of a slave cabin.

Cowrie shells were highly significant items in West African cultures. They were considered symbols of fertility, childbirth and wealth, and were used in divination. It is assumed that some of them made their way across the Atlantic with slaves. Today cowries in an archaeological setting are always associated with slaves.

* * * *

As of this writing, the excavation of the site and the research of the findings are ongoing. Each of the indicators of a slave quarter that we have mentioned here, plus others that we have found, taken individually can be explained in some other way. However, the whole suite of findings, taken together, point quite strongly to a slave quarter. Additional findings may finally permit us to declare that we have a slave quarter at Gunston Hall. 🌸



(Several individuals have contributed, and continue to contribute, to research on findings that our excavations have produced. Jim Duncan has done a considerable amount of work on the possible origin and significance of the cobble spiral. We hope a separate article on this will materialize in the near future. We are also indebted to Paul Inashima and Claudia Wendling for the information that they have unearthed as part of their researches.)



THOMSON MASON IN SEARCH OF A WIFE, 1773

Mark Whatford, Deputy Director

The following is an excerpt from a previously unpublished letter in the Gunston Hall Archives detailing George Mason's younger brother Thomson's request to be introduced to an amiable maid or widow...The letter is to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer.

My Dear Sir

Raspberry Plain 22 Sept 1773

[Letter delivered by Mason's Superintendent Capt. Millar with the introduction concerning a number of business matters]

So much for Business. And now my old friend, how have you been this long time? Words cannot express how glad I should be to see you; for I look upon you to be a kind of Phenomenon, an honest Courtier. But what are you doing? Making money fast, I know; upon which, and your several promotions, I sincerely congratulate you. But do you not think, that it would now be a good way, to employ some of your leisure Hours, in making children, to give that money to? Believe me, if you could form any conception of the [word?], the heartfelt satisfaction, of being the father of a promising son; you would be a married man in less than a week, but if you are obstinately bent against tasting the pleasures of matrimony yourself, for gods sake recommend me to some amiable maid, or widow of your acquaintance; for I like you at present live upon the public, and am heartily tired of it; but as the Lady I marry, must be very handsome, moderately rich, exceedingly good natured, sensible, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc, I expect to hug a widower's Pillow the remainder of my life, which in that case, I shall most ardently pray may be no longer that till my sons come of age, for the solitary life I lead at present, by no means suits a man of social Disposition. Write to me by Mr. Millar, and believe me to be my Dear Sir

***Your sincerely affectionate
Thomson Mason***

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer (1723-1790) was born of Swedish and English descent at Coates Retirement (now Ellerslie) estate, near Port Tobacco in Charles County, Md. As an adult he came into possession of a large estate near Annapolis, called Stepney, where he lived most of his life. He never married.

As a young man, Jenifer served as agent and receiver-general for the last two proprietors of Maryland. He also filled the post of justice of the peace in Charles County and later for the western circuit of Maryland. He became a member of the provincial court and from 1773 to 1776 sat on the Maryland royal governor's council.

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Despite his association with conservative proprietary politics, Jenifer supported the Revolutionary movement, albeit at first reluctantly. He served as president of the Maryland council of safety (1775-77), then as president of the first state senate (1777-80). He sat in the Continental Congress (1778-82) and held the position of state revenue and financial manager (1782-85).

Although he was one of 29 delegates who attended nearly every session of the Constitutional Convention, he did not speak often but backed Madison and the nationalist element. He died at the age of 66/67 at Annapolis in 1790.

Thomson Mason (1733 –1785) was a prominent Virginia lawyer, jurist, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Mason was a younger brother of George Mason IV, Mason was born at Chopawamsic plantation in Stafford County, Virginia on August 14, 1733. He was the third and youngest child of George Mason III and his wife Ann Stevens Thomson.

Mason was educated at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia and then studied law at the Middle Temple in London. In 1757 he returned to Virginia, but not before signing an indenture with a young carpenter named William Buckland for his brother. On his return he was a slave dealer c.1760/62, was elected a burgess in the House of Burgesses representing Stafford and Loudoun counties from 1766 to 1775, in 1778 Mason was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and served only briefly before serving as one of five judges in the General Court. From 1779 to 1783, Mason was elected a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and served as chairman of the Committee on Courts of Justice.

Mason married Mary King Barnes, the only daughter of Colonel Abraham Barnes and his wife Mary King, in 1758. He and Mary had four children: Stevens Thomson Mason (1760–1803), Abram Barnes Thomson Mason (1763–1813), John Thomson Mason (1765–1824), and Ann Thomson Mason Chichester (1769–1817).

Mary died on October 21, 1771, in Prince William County and was interred in the Mason family graveyard at Gunston Hall and later moved to Thomson's home Raspberry Plain upon his death.

Six years later, on November 23, 1777, Mason married for a second time to Elizabeth Westwood Wallace. He and Elizabeth had four children: Dorothea "Anne" Anna Thomson Mason Hirst (1778–1822), Westwood Thomson Mason (1780–1826), William Temple Thomson Mason (1782–1862), and George Thomson Mason (?--1873).

Thomson Mason died on February 26, 1785, at Chopawamsic at the age of 51. 🌸



Is Gunston Hall ablaze? Is that a hat flying through the air? Go to page 10 to discover what's happening.

DID GEORGE MASON WEAR THIS ON HIS SLEEVE?

Dave Shonyo Staff Archaeologist

ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS I have the privilege of handling objects that were once used by George Mason and his family.

Although these are usually only broken fragments and show the ravages of over 200 years spent underground, I am always left with a special feeling of connection with that time when George Mason was master of Gunston Hall. However, I have often hoped that we would eventually find something a little more; something personalized.

It appears that such an item has now been found. It is the button bearing the initial “M” shown in the accompanying photos. The button was uncovered by long-time archaeology volunteer Donald Ward while excavating in an area that may hold evidence of a slave quarter.

Aside from a couple of deep scratches, the button is in very good condition. It is made of pewter or a similar alloy. The button itself and the ring on the back were

cast as one piece. The “M” has been incised into the metal, but the decoration around the edges appears to have been molded in. It is quite small, being slightly over one centimeter in diameter. The small size and the octagonal shape indicated that this was a sleeve button – what we would more likely call a cuff link. It would have originally been joined by a link to another button of similar shape.

The button was found in a layer of soil that had been disturbed by cultivation, so artifacts from the eighteenth century were jumbled together with artifacts from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. So, its relative position in the soil is of no help in dating the button. Early buttons are, in fact, difficult to date.

We do have a couple of clues, however. First of all, cast rings (or “shanks”) did not appear until 1750. Secondly, the octagonal shape was not being made after 1760. The fact that the button was probably made between 1750 and 1760 makes George Mason IV the most likely original owner of the sleeve button. 🌸





No conflagration at Gunston Hall, but it was a great way to cool off Cub Scouts on a very hot afternoon. Hundreds of Cubs from the Colonial District of the National Capital Area Council came to Gunston Hall for a day camp the week of June 24. On Wednesday, members of the Gunston Fire and Rescue Station dropped by to entertain the boys and hose them off. Many shirts and hats went airborne as the boys enjoyed the water...and the subsequent mud.



On a somewhat cooler (and dryer) June afternoon, Gunston Hall commemorated the June 1776 ratification of George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights. Left: members of the Gunston Hall Historic Interpreters Society Janis Harless, Don McAndrews and Doug Cohen talk to visitors from the 21st century. Above: two young visitors are entertained by members of the U.S. Army Brass Ensemble during the George Mason Day festivities.





Left: Docents Mary Mansourmoaied and Sheila Fletcher and Education Manager Lacey Villiva take careful notes as they learn to become hearth cooks at a training session in June. Below left: In August, 25 teachers gathered at Gunston Hall for Teachers' Day Out to learn more about the life and time of George Mason. Here, teacher/presenter Ross Bosse talks to fellow educators in the Hertle Library. Below: Nancy Mason (portrayed by Janis Harless) and George Mason (Dan McMahon) welcome young scholars to the annual Christy Hartman Myers Writing Workshop in June.



GEORGE MASON IN THE BIG APPLE DID GEORGE AND JOHN GO TO NEW YORK CITY?

While looking through John Jay's digitized papers at Columbia University's web site, I stumbled across a letter of introduction written to Jay by George Mason, Jr. on July 23, 1787, on behalf of his father and brother John. George Mason, Jr. had been well-acquainted with John Jay, and his wife Sarah, while they were in France.

In May, 1787 George Mason brought his 21-year-old son, John, with him to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia to promote his business career, but that had not gone well. Hence, the need to visit John Jay, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, whose contacts abroad could prove beneficial to the young John.

During the convention recess – July 27 to August 6 – George Mason and John traveled to New York City, where they were feted, with other luminaries, at a dinner hosted by Jay at his home. Among those present were Alexander Hamilton, John Paul Jones, General Henry Knox, Richard Henry Lee, his younger brother Dr. Arthur Lee, the President of Congress, the Mayor of New York, and the Spanish ambassador.

An article will follow in a subsequent Grapevine discussing this trip more fully.

Jerry Foster, Archaeological Volunteer

PUBLICK NOTICES: AUTUMN EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Gunston Hall Docents' Association General Meeting
Monday, September 9, 10 a.m. in the Ann Mason Room

Guest speaker: Susie Orr, FCPS elementary social studies specialist

Gunston Hall Guides Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 p.m. in the Ann Mason Room

Special Naturalization Ceremony
Saturday, September 14, 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Gunston Hall, in partnership with the Washington District Office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, invites you to celebrate with naturalization candidates as they become U.S. citizens. Sponsored by the NSCDA, DC Society. Seating is limited; admission until 1:00 p.m. is free.

Mason Family Burying Ground Talk and Tour
Saturday, September 21, 2-3 p.m.

Staff Archaeologist Dave Shonyo will give a brief talk on the history of the Mason Family Burying Ground followed by a tour. Regular admission. \$25 Family Admission. Friends free.

OCTOBER

Beer Tasting with the Brewmasters of Bluejacket
Saturday, October 5, 5-8 p.m.

Why should history be dry? Join us for a beer tasting in our courtyard with the brewmasters of Bluejacket. Enjoy a sunset tour of the Mansion and grounds. Reservations required, must be 21 years of age or older to attend. Purchase tickets here <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/gunhal/event/36891/>

Archaeology Day & History Hike
Saturday, October 12 Noon to 4 p.m.

Screen for artifacts with archaeologists and hike to the remains of Lexington Plantation. Regular admission. \$25 Family Admission. Friends free.

Semi-Annual Board of Regents Meeting
Saturday, October 12-Monday, October 14



Halloween at Gunston Hall
Saturday, October 26 4-7 p.m.

A family friendly event with story tellers, pumpkin painting, treats, face painting and Burial Ground tours by lantern light. Regular admission. \$25 Family Admission. Friends free.

Hearth Cooking Class I
Saturday, October 26 & Sunday, October 27

Employ 18th-century hearth cooking techniques and recipes to make period dishes. Offered in partnership with the Fairfax County Adult and Community Education Program. \$125 fee includes tuition and materials. Register for class by phone at 703-658-1201 or online at www.fcps.edu/aceclasses. For information, call 703-658-1222.

Gunston Hall Mission

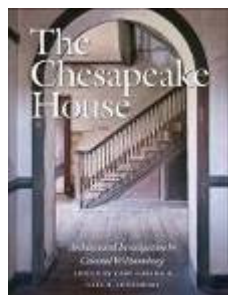
To utilize fully the physical and scholarly resources of Gunston Hall to stimulate continuing public exploration of democratic ideals as first presented by George Mason in the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights.

Symposium - Preserving the 18th Century in the 21st Saturday, November 16, 9-4 p.m.

To mark the Virginia Year of the Historic House and 100 years of preservation at Gunston Hall, this symposium will focus on historic structures and modern preservation efforts. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from a number of well-known historians, architects, and preservation professionals.

Open to the public and professionals. \$65 attendees, \$50 Friends; after October 30, \$75 attendees, \$60 Friends. Light breakfast and box lunch included. Reservations required.

Featuring presentations by Carl Lounsbury, Judy Peterson [Marblehead Architecture Heritage], Sarah D. Pope [Menokin], and Mark Wenger.



For more than thirty years, the architectural research department at Colonial Williamsburg has engaged in comprehensive study of early buildings, landscapes, and social history in the Chesapeake region. Its painstaking work has transformed our understanding of building practices in the colonial and early national periods and thereby greatly enriched the experience of visiting historic sites. In this beautifully illustrated volume, a team of historians, curators, and conservators draw on their far-reaching knowledge of historic structures in Virginia and Maryland to illuminate the formation, development, and spread of one of the hallmark building traditions in America architecture.

WHAT'S NEW AT GEORGE MASON'S GUNSTON HALL



New Intern

Lydia Blackmore has joined the staff as a Curatorial/Archives Intern. Lydia earned a BA from William & Mary, an MA from Winterthur/University of Delaware, and a Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Delaware. Lydia will be here each week on Thursdays and Fridays.

New Barriers

A Plexiglas barrier has been installed at the doorway from the Central Passage to the first floor Bedchamber. This opens up the room and circulates air better.

Another Plexiglas barrier is in the doorway of the Hearth Kitchen. Visitors can easily see what's in the kitchen, hearth cooks will no longer have the old iron barrier to dodge, and docents can easily lead student visitors into the kitchen with no obstacles.

Finally, a third Plexiglas barrier has been installed in the Laundry, replacing the old, bent gate that was held together with wooden spoons and luck.

New Furniture Movements

The tea table and china that had been in the downstairs Bedchamber has been moved to the upstairs southeast Bedchamber. We can continue to interpret that the bedchambers were more than sleeping spaces; they could be used for eating a meal, for entertaining, and for guest accommodations.

New Location for the Old Kitchen Key

The key to the hearth kitchen door is now in the cellar key box for all guides to use. Guides are reminded to be careful when locking and unlocking; do not force it. Be kind. Be gentle.

Coming in the October Grapevine "Codger & Davy" and "The Birds of Gunston Hall"