A photograph of a brick building with a tree and yellow daffodils in the foreground. The building is made of red brick and has several windows with white frames. A large tree trunk is visible in the middle ground. In the foreground, there are several yellow daffodils with green leaves, growing in a bed of brown leaves. The sky is blue and clear.

GUNSTON GRAPPEVINE

spring 2012

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*On the Cover: After the warmest winter on record, spring came early to Virginia. Gunston Hall was decorated with these daffodils before the Ides of March.*

### Important Dates

**Monday, June 4, 9:30 a.m.**—

Docent General Meeting & Luncheon, Ann Mason Room

**Tuesday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.**—

Guides Meeting, Ann Mason Room

**Saturday, June 9, 8:45 a.m.**—

Christy Hartman Myers Writing Workshop, Ann Mason Room & other locations on the plantation

**Tuesday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.**—

**George Mason Day**•Celebrate the 236th anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights with a wreath laying ceremony and remarks from Delegate Scott Surovell; reception to follow.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST REGENT OF GUNSTON HALL

The Regents of Gunston Hall met for their semi-annual meeting over the weekend of April 13-16. With the departure of David Reese as Director, Mark Whatford, who has served as our librarian, archivist, and IT specialist, agreed to step in as Acting Director. New Jersey Regent-at-Large Sara Hill is heading the search committee which will choose a successor to Mr. Reese.

Over the past year the Regents have been working hard at a 360° analysis of Gunston Hall. We have worked closely with the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Commonwealth of Virginia Board of Visitors in an effort to make our work more transparent and understandable to the public. In addition, we have engaged the services of outside professionals in order to understand the issues as objectively as possible.

We are happy to share with the community, the legislature, and most particularly the many devoted supporters of Gunston Hall Plantation, initiatives which are well underway.

**Education:** With unanimous agreement that education is a fundamental component of Gunston Hall's mission, we and the office of the Secretary of Education recognize that Gunston Hall can strive for a more sophisticated and advanced level of educational programming than ever before. Technology, a focus on STEM education, and a site brimming with opportunities are factors that will guide our search for a qualified Director of Educational Programming. We look forward to the input of our succeeding director in the selection of this person.

**Educational Advisory Board:** The Board of Regents welcomes and embraces the suggestion of the Board of Visitors that in building new educational programs we include the voices of educators in the community and beyond, who can share the wisdom of their hands-on experience. Input can come from educators in schools as well as other institutions and include government, history, civics, and the arts.

**Educational Outreach:** Our Education Committee recognizes economic and logistical obstacles which limit the opportunity of many students and schools to enjoy field trips and onsite education. The Committee is exploring ways in which Gunston Hall can fund transportation, bring programs to the schools, provide distance learning, and find other creative ways to assist.

**Employee Resources:** The Governance Committee is working with the Commonwealth of Virginia and other Virginia museums in order to make available to all employees user-friendly employee handbooks. As the complication of having both Commonwealth and private employees at Gunston Hall has made this a challenge, we are focused on fully addressing the needs and rights of all employees.

**Community Outreach:** There are many events currently on the calendar and we anticipate many more to come. Gunston Hall wants to welcome

all who are interested in learning about George Mason and his contribution to the cause of human rights. Employees, Regents, and volunteers cherish and wish to share this magnificent historic site. We look forward to welcoming all who can come on June 12<sup>th</sup>, George Mason Day, celebrating the anniversary of his signing the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

**Guidebook:** Many have asked for a new guidebook which will be available in the museum shop shortly. Renowned photographer Steven Brooke, engaged by Director Reese, spent three recent days at Gunston Hall; his remarkable work will be included in the new guidebook as well as other promotional and educational items we can offer.

**Financial Transparency:** The finances of Gunston Hall have always been public. However, an inability to easily and accurately access this information has led to false and inaccurate reporting of those finances. We welcome the opportunity for everyone to easily and accurately see the factual reality: that reduction in funding by the Commonwealth of Virginia has been dramatic; that Regents and other private sources have raised inordinate amounts of funds to protect the treasure that is Gunston Hall; and that Director Reese cultivated substantial grant monies resulting in priceless capital improvements.

**Board of Advisors:** The Board of Regents can and should benefit from advice offered by individuals with expertise in areas relevant to the Plantation. We look forward to restructuring our advisory committee to include individuals in the areas of historic preservation (particularly architectural), landscape architecture, fine and decorative arts (specifically American), historic site or museum management, American history, African American history, a Mason descendant, an individual with legislative expertise, and a member of the local community.

**Museum Standards:** Accreditation by the American Association of Museums is highly coveted and difficult to achieve. Gunston Hall can be proud to have attained and maintained this precious status. As we move forward with new ideas, plans, and initiatives, regard for this most important standard will always be honored.

I would like to pay tribute to the docents, volunteers, and most especially the employees of Gunston Hall. Of the many individuals who have worked diligently for the betterment of this Plantation through difficult times, they deserve huzzahs from all of us for their loyalty, dedication, and generosity of spirit. They are, indeed, the magnificent face of Gunston Hall.

With thanks and appreciation,  
Wylie Raab, PA Regent

### The Gunston Hall Board of Regents

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## SOMETIMES, A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS THE MURRAY SISTERS, PART 2

**By Frank Barker, Education Department**

The last issue of this publication described the recent acquisition of this copy of a 1794 painting of the Murray sisters.

Further information on the painting has come forth and the painting turned into a docent trip to the portrait to the storage room and a presentation at the January docent meeting.

As this information was presented only to docents and certain staff members, the Grapevine staff has decided to share the findings with the rest of the Grapevine subscribers.

Eagle-eyed reader subscriber Janet Pease

started the process in this emailed response to our last issue: "Is not the new Mason portrait a copy of the same portrait that was conserved by Colonial Williamsburg, and is the basis of their portrait conservation exhibit? The exhibit has been on display in the central reception/restaurant/stairway area for several years, and is a wonderful illustration of the conservation process."

That original portrait, painted in 1794 by Bouché (incorrectly spelled in the December issue) is, indeed, the one conserved and displayed in Williamsburg.

Additionally, it is the basis for a fascinating online exhibit called "Conserving the Murray Sisters." You can visit that by clicking

[http://www.history.org/history/museums/online\\_exhibits.cfm](http://www.history.org/history/museums/online_exhibits.cfm) .  
Go look. I'll wait. Seriously. Go!

Now, let's take a look at the cast of characters of this portrait and see what kind of connections we can find.

Three people are portrayed: Sarah (Sally) Scott Murray (1775-1854) and her sister, Anna Maria Murray (1776-1857) are on the left and a bust of Dr. Upton Scott (1722-1811) appears on the right.

Who are they?

The sisters are the daughters of Dr. James Murray and his wife Sarah of Annapolis.

Sally is 19 when the portrait is painted. In three years, she will marry Edward Lloyd V. The couple will eventually have six children.

Edward Lloyd will become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Governor of Maryland, then a U.S. Senator.

The Lloyds lived at the family ancestral estate, Wye House in Talbot County, Maryland.

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 4)

Lloyd was an ardent defender of the institution of slavery throughout his political career.

A young slave named Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, who grew up on one of Lloyd's plantations, would later describe the treatment of slaves in the early 19th century and, in particular, the cruelty of Lloyd's overseers.

That slave would write under the name he took after he escaped slavery. He was Frederick Douglass.

The second sister in the painting, Anna Maria Murray is 18 at the time. In two years she will marry John Mason, a son of George Mason of Gunston Hall. The couple will eventually have 10 children. John will have a varied professional life to include businessman, planter, land speculator, banker, and militia general.

Anna Maria Murray Mason was described in 1796, when she was 20, in a letter written by a neighbor, Mrs. Benjamin Stodert. "She is a charming woman—not so much in her face, as in her whole deportment—her face tho' quite pretty enough for she has charming eyes and fine teeth—and plays delightfully and sings really sweetly—her face...is not as pretty as I expected, but she has sufficient reason to be satisfied with it...her sister I imagine is more a beauty to please the Ladies than Mrs. Mason is, for Miss Murray looks all *amiability*, very pretty too."

The Masons lived in Georgetown, on a property at the corner of what is now 25<sup>th</sup> and L Streets and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

They had a summer home on Analoatan Island (now Theodore

Roosevelt Island) in the Potomac near Georgetown.

Their final home was a mansion built in the 18th century called Clermont, near today's Mark Twain Middle School off Franconia Road in Fairfax County. This home was later purposely burned down as it had been used by the Union army as a smallpox hospital during the Civil War.

The third individual in the painting is represented by bust of Dr. Upton Scott, a prominent physician in Annapolis. He, perhaps, commissioned the painting and according to one source, was the godfather of the two sisters. Sally Murray's middle name is Scott.

Dr. Scott was born in Ireland in 1722 and came to Annapolis to become physician to Maryland Royal Governor Horatio Sharpe. Dr. Scott became a renowned consulting physician throughout the colonies. He was the first president of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland.

In 1760, he built a home on Shipwright Street in Annapolis for his bride Elizabeth Ross. The lavish interiors were created by a young carpenter and joiner named William Buckland, recently released from indenture by George Mason of Gunston Hall.

In the painting, the sisters are bringing flowers to Dr. Scott. This is very appropriate as he was also a renowned botanist, raising rare plants and shrubs in his garden and greenhouse. He was known for sharing plants, cuttings, seeds, and gardening tips to other gardening aficionados.

A frequent visitor to Dr. and Mrs. Scott's home was Mrs. Scott's grand-nephew, one Francis Scott Key, who would become a prominent lawyer and achieve

even greater fame for a little poem called "The Defense of Fort McHenry." Set to music, the poem is, of course, better known as "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Key's wife was Mary Tayloe Lloyd, the sister of Edward Lloyd and sister-in-law of Sarah Murray Lloyd.

Key wrote his poem from a British frigate in Baltimore harbor while on a mission to free a prisoner of war. He had a letter to the British commander from the American Commissioner of Prisoners.

The writer of that letter was General John Mason.

The portrait of the Murray sisters was painted in the garden of their parents' home in Annapolis. The Murray house is now the Annapolis Inn, an upscale bed-and-breakfast, where visitors can stay in the Dr. James Murray Suite with, according to the inn's website, "accommodations to satisfy your taste for sophistication, elegance, space and privacy."

Sally Scott Murray and Anna Maria Murray were both bridesmaids for Charlotte Hesselius, the daughter of artist John Hesselius. Hesselius painted the original wedding portraits of George Mason and Ann Eilbeck Mason.

Copies of these portraits painted in the 19th century by French artist Dominic W. Boudet now hang in the parlor at Gunston Hall.

## NEW BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE IN GUNSTON HALL LIBRARY

### Early America, the Revolution & the Early Republic

*Revolutionary Negotiations – Indians, Empires, and Diplomats in the Founding of America* by Leonard J. Sadosky

*The Citizenship Revolution – Politics and the creation of the American Union 1774-1804* by Douglas Bradburn

*American Frontiers – Cultural Encounters and Continental Conquest* by Gregory H. Nobles

*Indians & Englishman Facing Off in Early America* by Karen O. Kupperman

*Writing North America in the Seventeenth Century – English Representations in Print and Manuscript* by Catherine Armstrong

*A Nation of Speechifiers Making an American Public after the Revolution* by Carolyn Eastman

*The Negro in the American Revolution* by Benjamin Quarles

*The Reshaping of Everyday Life 1790-1840* by Jack Larkin

*The Darkest Day – The Washington Baltimore Campaign During the War of 1812* by Charles G. Muller

*Victory at Yorktown* by Richard M. Ketchum

*Tories – Fighting for the King in America* by Thomas B. Allen

*The First American Republic 1774-1789* by Thomas P. Chortlon

*Marriage in the Early Republic – Elizabeth & William Wirt* by Anya Jabour

*Clothed in the Robes of Sovereignty – The Continental Congress and the People Out of Doors* by Benjamin H. Irvin

*Unnatural Rebellion – Loyalists in New York City During the Revolution* by Ruma Chopra

*The Crucible of War – the Seven Years' War* by Fred Anderson

*The Science of Liberty – Democracy, Reason, and the Laws of Nature* by Timothy Ferris

*The Jacksonian Promise America 1815-1840* by Daniel Feller

*Reading Southern History – Essays on Interpreters and Interpretations* ed. by G. Feldman

*Good Wives Nasty Wenches & Anxious Patriarchs – Gender, Race and Power in Colonial Virginia* by Kathleen M. Brown

*Flight from Monticello – Thomas Jefferson at War* by Michael Kranish

*The Perils of Peace- America after Yorktown* by Thomas Fleming

*Plain, Honest Men – the Making of the Constitution* by Richard Beeman

*Braddock's March* by Thomas E. Crocker

*The Ohio Frontier 1720-1830* by R. Douglas Hurt

*The Rise of the Novel – Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century* by Ian Watt

*Tom Paine's America* by Seth Cotlar

*Sex Among the Rabble - Philadelphia 1730-1830* by Clare A. Lyons

*Sex and the Eighteenth Century Man* by Thomas A. Foster

*The American Revolution* by Gordon S. Wood

*Culture and Liberty in the Age of the American Revolution* by Michal Jan Rozbicki

*Before the Revolution – America's Ancient Past* by Daniel K. Richter

*Redcoats – the British Soldier 1755-1763* by Stephen Brumwell

*Liberty's Exiles* by Maya Jasanoff

### Slavery

*The American Crucible – Slavery, Emancipation and Human Rights* by Robin Blackburn

*The Making of New World Slavery 1492-1800* by Robin Blackburn

*The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery 1776-1848* by Robin Blackburn

*Transatlantic Slavery and Introduction – International Slavery Museum*

*The Slaveholders' Union – Slavery, Politics, and the Constitution in the Early American Republic* by George William Van Cleave

### Biography, Autobiography & Journals

*A Man Apart: the Journal of Nicholas Cresswell, 1774-1781* ed. by Gill & Curtis

*Incidental Architect – William Thornton* by Gordon S. Brown

*Paris on the Potomac* ed. by Field, Gournay & Somma

*Samuel Adams a Life* by Ira Stoll

*The Hemingses of Monticello* by Annette Gordon-Reed

*Samuel Johnson* by Jeffrey Meyers

*Revolutionary Founders* ed. by Young, Nash & Raphael

*The Jeffersons at Shadwell* by Susan Kern

*Founders* by Ray Raphael

*Unlikely Allies* by Joel Richard Paul

*Abigail & John* by Edith B. Gelles

*For Liberty & Glory – Washington & Lafayette* by James R. Gaines

*Nathanael Greene* by Gerald M. Carbone

*Friends of Liberty* by Nash & Hodges

*The Long Farewell – the Death of Washington* by Gerald E. Kahler

*A Passion for the Past* the Autobiography of Ivor Noel Hume

*Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf

*James Madison* by Ralph Ketcham

### Art, Architecture & Landscape

*Paris Life & Luxury in the Eighteenth Century* ed. by Charles Bremer-David

*Come In Have a Seat – Chairs of the Shenandoah Valley* by Jeffery S. Evans

*Domestic Views – Homes of the NSCDA* ed. by Kvalsvik & Seale

*Lost Plantations of the South* by Marc. R. Matrana

*Catesby's Birds of Colonial America* ed. by Alan Fedduccia

*Mantle Fielding's Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors & Engravers*

*American Furniture 2010* by Luke Beckerdite

*Silversmiths to the Nation Fletcher & Gardiner 1808-1842* by Fennimore & Wagner

*Charles Deas and 1840s America* by Carol Clark

*The Georgian Home in America and Britain* by Steven Parissien

*Domestic Architecture of the Early Colonies and of the American Republic* by Fiske Kimball

*Saving Monticello – Rescuing the house that Jefferson Built* by Marc Leepson

*Georgetown Houses of the Federal Period* by Davis, Dorsey & Hall

*A Treatise on the Decorative Part of Civil Architecture* by William Chambers

*The Furniture of John Shearer 1790-1820* by Elizabeth A. Davidson

*Virginia Silversmiths, Their Lives and Marks 1607-1860* by Catherine B. Holan

*The Archaeology of Plantation Life* compiled by N. Honerkamp

*Timeless – Masterpiece American Brass Dial Clocks* by Frank L. Hohmann

*Treasures from the Libraries of National Trust Country Houses* by Nicholas Barker

*American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century* by Ann Leighton

*Fields, Hedges and Ditches* by Nigel Harvey

*Historic Sites in Virginia's Northern Neck & Essex County* ed. by T. Wolf

*They Called Stafford Home [Stafford Co. Va.] 1600-1865* by Jerrilynn Eby

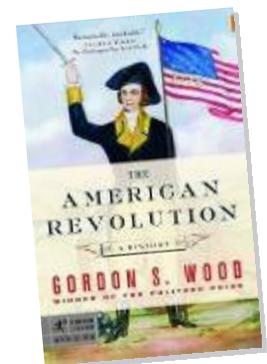
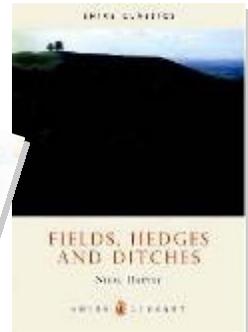
*The American Pewterer – His Technique & His Products* by Henry J. Kaufman

*American Axes* by Henry J. Kaufmann

*Art of Coppersmithing* by John Fuller

*The Early Paper Money of America [5<sup>th</sup> ed.]* by Eric P. Newman

*The American Enlightenment – Treasures from the Stanford University Libraries*





RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE LIBRARY/ARCHIVES  
 Potomac Aqueduct. Hydrographic survey of the Potomac River near Georgetown. Survey made in the fall of 1832. Published 1836.

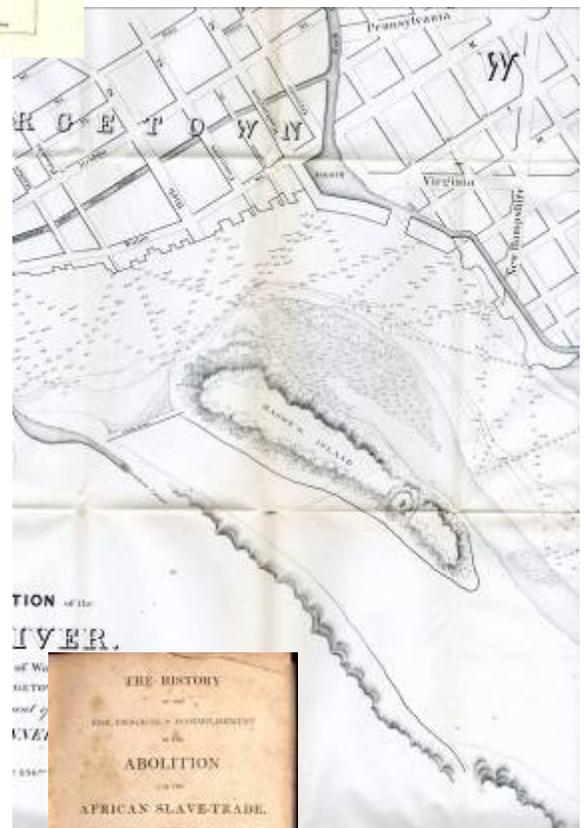
A nice large scale survey “shewing the position of the [proposed] aqueduct, its connection to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal on the North bank, and with the Alexandria canal on the South bank of the river.”

Analostan Island, home of John Mason, is identified in the lower right hand corner. The Mason foundry [not shown in this image] is identified on the map across the river.

Potomac River: Improving the Georgetown Channel

Chart of the Head of Navigation of the Potomac River Surveyed 1857. Published 1858.

A large chart that details the Potomac River from the Aquaduct to Long Bridge. Among the features identified are Mason’s Island [formally Analostan] with the former home of John Mason marked on the island.

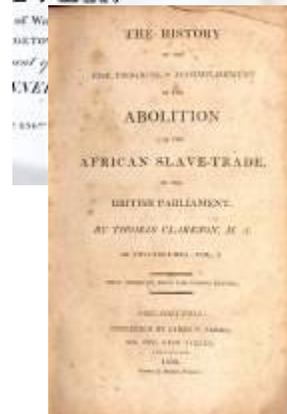


Donations to the Library

Mrs. James T. Norman, a former Regent of Gunston Hall, has donated to the Library a two volume set of the American first edition [1808] of *The History of the Rise, Progress, & Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade* by Thomas Clarkson. These volumes also have a dedication from James P. Parke to the Kentucky Abolition Society 1817. Parke was the Philadelphia publisher of this edition.

One of the volumes has a torn copy of the famous image “Stowage of the British Slave Ship ‘Brookes’ under the Regulated Slave trade Act of 1788.” This image played an important role in the British abolitionist movement.

Mrs. Frederick W. Martin, our Regent from Massachusetts, donated a copy of *Descriptive Guide Book of Virginia Old Gardens* by the Garden Club of Virginia [1929]. The volume has a description of the grounds of Gunston Hall with an image of the river side of the mansion.



## A “DEAR JOHN” LETTER FROM THE ARCHIVES

Below is the text from a previously unpublished letter from George Mason to his son John then working in Richmond, Virginia. This letter has been referenced in research papers on Gunston Hall. Highlights of this letter were presented to the Docents at their meeting in the fall.

**Mark Whatford, Librarian/Archivist**

Dear John,

Gunston Hall June 18<sup>th</sup> 1792

Since yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, I have had no letter from you nor heard anything of you; except that your Brother George<sup>1</sup> tells me, you are loading another ship inconjunction with Mr. Alexander<sup>2</sup>, Your first, I presume, is by this time ready to sail.

I hope your business upon James River will not detain you there much longer; as I think it high time we should do something with respect to our intended town at Rock Creek Ferry<sup>3</sup>; more particularly as I wish to have the plan completed & the Business in some forwardness, before the meeting of our assembly next fall; as a means of defeating their application to condemn ground on this side the river, for their projected Bridge at the Rocks. By what I can understand Mr. Ellicot<sup>4</sup> will be the properest person we can employ to plan and lay off the town.

Pray let me know if you have heard anything & what; from Mr. J. Brent<sup>5</sup>, about the Cypress Scantlin<sup>6</sup> & whether you have any certainty of its being sent up soon; for if we don't get it shortly Vanghan<sup>7</sup> and his workman will be out of employment. I am really apprehensive that Mr. Brent is too careless & innattentive a man, to place any manner of confidence in.

I am anxious to hear how your brother Tom<sup>8</sup> is going on, whether he attends diligently to Business, & avoids the Disapations of the town; whether he is learning French & what prospects he is like to make to make in it; and what sort of company he keeps at his leisure hours. And if you find him guilty of any imprudent or improper conduct, I beg you will talk with him freely & advise him upon the subject – it is at this time of life, that young men stand most in need of the consul & advice of their nearest and best friends.

We have lately inoculated<sup>9</sup> at Gunston [in two sets] 49 of our negroes; mostly children: the first set consisting of 27 are now recovered from the Disorder; which they have had in the most favorable manner I ever saw; except one negro child of about eight months old; who was (?) full, occasioned by his mothers keeping him constantly in her arms; he did not appear however to be in any danger from it, until the late sudden change of wheather; which happening just at the time of the eruption, struck the pock in; & the child [died?]<sup>10</sup> the day after: the other set has not yet broken out. – No doubt your Brother George will inform you that his three eldest children<sup>11</sup> have had the small pox very favorably, & are now quite recovered: his youngest child has not been inoculated<sup>12</sup>, but was carried down to Chotank<sup>13</sup> out of the way of infection. Mrs. Mason<sup>14</sup> is in a fair way of Recovery; the Bone seems to have been properly set & the fracture is now united<sup>15</sup>; tho she is still confined to her Bed. She desires to be kindly remembered to you & Tom.

I am, dear John, your affecte Father

G. Mason

P.S.

I inclose you an account settled with Mr. David Ross<sup>16</sup>

When I was upon the Virginia convention in 1788;

with an order on him for the Balance, which you will please to receive for me.

<sup>1</sup>George Mason V 1753-1796 eldest child of George & Ann.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Alexander is a very intelligent Man, & well acquainted with Business. He resided many Years in France, & is perfectly acquainted with that Country; but he is a Scotchman; & has the character of an artful designing Man; with this Caution, I think he may be serviceable to you; and if it does not [in] any way interfere with his own interest, I make no Doubt will take Pleasure in being so; and I think his Acquaintance is well worth you cultivating. –July 12, 1791 letter to John Mason from GM.

<sup>3</sup>Est. in 1738 crossing the Potomac to the mouth of Rock Creek, acquired by GM and by 1748 it had moved upriver above Mason's [Analostan] Island.

*(Continued from page 8)*

<sup>4</sup>Joseph Ellicott or his brother Andrew, both well known surveyors.

<sup>5</sup>John Brent of Norfolk, VA.

<sup>6</sup>Mason ordered cypress scantling ...for the columns, rails, balusters, etc.. for the piazza , steps and chimneypieces of Thom-son Mason’s house Hollin Hall.

<sup>7</sup>Carpenters working on Hollin Hall?

<sup>8</sup>Thomas Mason, (1770-1806) youngest child of George & Ann.

<sup>9</sup>Inoculation or variolation- introduction of a smallpox scab into an incision usually in the arm or hand. After an incubation period smallpox ensued but with fewer pustules, less scarring and a much reduced fatality rate 2% vs. 15%. Inoculation by cowpox was not introduced until 1798.

<sup>10</sup>Letter damaged and word missing.

<sup>11</sup>George VI, William Eilbeck, & Elizabeth Mary Ann Barnes

<sup>12</sup>Ann Eilbeck

<sup>13</sup>Chotank near [?] Chotank Creek off the Potomac west of Fredericksburg in then Stafford County

<sup>14</sup>Sarah Brent, (c.1730-1806) second wife of GM

<sup>15</sup>Leg fracture

<sup>16</sup>Mr. David Ross is well acquainted with all the merchants upon James River, & is generally thought to understand Commerce better than any Man in the State; he is a Man of uncommon Penetration, and Depth of Understanding & Judgment; by which he acquired immense possessions; but is said to be very much in Debt. He is a very plain Man in his Manners; and I have always found him a very friendly Man; but he too is a Scotch Man. –July 12, 1791 letter to John Mason from GM.

*Fourth graders write in 18th century style in the schoolhouse.*

*Docent storyteller Debbie Bullock spins a yarn in the mansion cellar.*



## GUNSTON HALL VISITORS DESCRIBE THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Kindergarteners and first graders from Blessed Sacrament School in Alexandria came to visit April 23. When they returned to school, they summed up their time at George Mason's plantation and shared their thoughts with us.

On our trip to Gunston Hall we learned...

- ◆ In the old years there were no bathrooms—only pots.
- ◆ There was no electricity.
- ◆ They had 9 children.
- ◆ The letters were different and very fancy.
- ◆ They got their cloth from the wool.
- ◆ The house had 8 chimneys.
- ◆ They didn't have automobiles, only horses and carriages.
- ◆ No kitchens! Only outside.
- ◆ And, no TV!
- ◆ They had to get water from the well and the children had to carry it.
- ◆ George Mason wrote the Virginia laws.
- ◆ George Mason grew tobacco, and the children only got 2 sets of clothes.
- ◆ Gunston Hall is on the Potomac.
- ◆ They had to get guns and kill animals to eat.
- ◆ Paper was very, very expensive.
- ◆ When the boys were really little they wore dresses.
- ◆ The kids had to eat in a different room from the parents.
- ◆ They used the cards to make wool.
- ◆ The kids didn't have many toys.
- ◆ They were messy and wore big napkins.



*Students from St. Bernadette School in Springfield help prepare spices in the hearth kitchen during their field trip on April 24.*

Our favorite stops on the tour were "looking in the well, seeing the bedroom, climbing the steep winding staircase, seeing the schoolhouse, the cellar with the clothing and flax, writing with slate on a chalk board, seeing the kitchen and learning it was outside the main house, seeing the mansion and all the rooms, being near the water, seeing the bedrooms and lots of beds in several rooms, learning they had red fabric on the wall, seeing the fireplace in the kitchen and learning they cooked on it, listening to a story, and seeing the models inside the museum.

From Cami, Sara, Stephen, Monica, Emma, Heather, Jackson, Jack, Kurt, Dani, Violet, Maddie, Bridie, Lane, Charlotte, Michael, James, Clare, Sophia, Alex, Sophie, Helena, Mia, Anna, Gianna, Lorelei, Jude, Julia, Riely, Aida, Kate, Charlie, Harry, and Mrs. Molino and Mrs. Senia.

# GUNSTON HALL By the NUMBERS

During the  
**2011-2012**  
School Year

GUNSTON HALL PLANTATION  
was visited by

**7052 students**

*on 256 field trips*

Preschool through college

from as near as **Gunston Elementary**

**2.7** miles away to as far way as **Johannes**

**Gutenberg University** of Mainz,

Germany, **4065** miles away



*Left, an artist's rendition of Gunston Hall by third grader Leyla, from Sidwell Friends School.*

## FOUND FORK NO LONGER ON DISPLAY IN 'LITTLE PARLOR'

### By Emily Morris, Curator

I took a trip to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation on May 25.

I sought to learn more about the bone-handled iron fork discovered in the kitchen yard by Gunston Hall's archaeology department last summer. I learned that it is a very utilitarian object that would have been used in the kitchen or among servants or slaves, rather than in George Mason's "Little Parlor," where it has been displayed since last summer.

Conservation issues provide another reason for the fork's removal from the Little Parlor. The fork is an archaeological object, and as such, it is more susceptible to corrosion.

The iron had already begun to

crumble before I made the trip, and that was another concern.

Emily Williams, the Conservator of Archaeological Materials at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, also noted that the object should be taken to a conservator to be desalinated, as the salt that remains on the object since its discovery causes the object to corrode further. It will be desalinated soon, and meanwhile, I have placed it within a hollowed piece of foam within an airtight plastic container, as I was advised.

The information provided by the CWF Metalwork and Archaeological teams proved invaluable.

While in Williamsburg I met with Ron Hurst, Vice President of Collec-

tions and co-author of *Southern Furniture 1680-1830*. We discussed the possibility of having furniture loaned from CWF that would echo the objects owned by George Mason and his family.

We also conversed about paint colors in the downstairs chambers. Hurst, who interned at Gunston Hall, and later worked with [former curator] Susan Borchardt on the Gunston Hall Room Use Study, confirmed that the paint colors in the Chinese Room, Mother's Chamber, and the Little Parlor are proven through paint analysis to be original to Gunston Hall, and he strongly advised against repainting them.



*Curator Emily Morris shows the current location of the fork unearthed last summer by the Archaeological Staff. Emily, the newest member of the Gunston Hall staff, joined us in February.*

*According to Miss Morris, "Having spent much my lifetime in Fairfax County, I grew up knowing the excitement of Colonial Day at Fairview Elementary, and trips to Williamsburg, Philadelphia, and historic homes were always a thrill. While at Hollins University, I embarked upon my first internship at an historic house museum: the Nathaniel Russell House in Charleston, SC. From then on, I decided the decorative arts field was the way to go.*

*That led to an internship at Mount Vernon's Education Center in my senior year, and my enrollment in the Smithsonian-Corcoran's History of Decorative Arts M.A. program.*

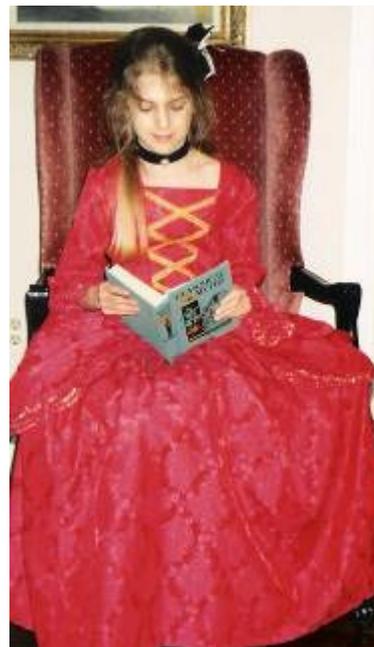
*I've been fortunate to experience many decorative arts related adventures—completing the 2010 Summer Institute at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, NC. My research there was mentioned in*

*the May/June 2011 issue of The Magazine Antiques.*

*I hope to make Gunston Hall a livelier place where visitors can learn about 18th century colonial life and Gunston Hall through temporary exhibits and lectures where new ideas are expressed.*

*I am currently arranging the annual Decorative Arts Symposium, as well as a temporary exhibit celebrating the Hertle Centennial which will be on*

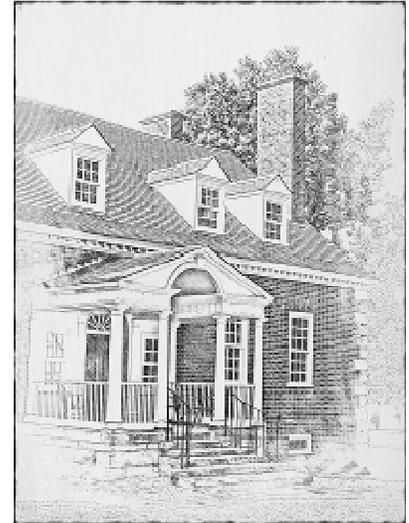
*view in the Visitors' Center by October. There is always something new to look forward to at Gunston, and I am so thrilled to be a part of it." Left: Future curator Emily Morris in the costume she wore to Colonial Day at Fairview Elementary on March 5, 1997.*





**A Visit from the Fairfaxes**

*The Honorable Hugh Fairfax, top left, with family visiting Gunston Hall, May 24, 2012. Hugh is the brother of Nicholas, the 14<sup>th</sup> Lord Fairfax of Cameron. Hugh first visited Gunston hall in 1978 with his mother and remarked that he had fond memories of that visit and Gunston Hall has remained one of his favorite places.*  
 Photo by Mark Whatford



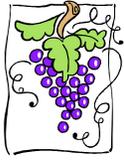
**New Docents from the Class of 2012**

*Five new docents were trained in February and March and have joined the roster of the Gunston Hall Docents' Association. Kathy Miller, Ann McWhirt, Sharon Rasmussen, Sheila Fletcher, and Susan Sager have all been giving tours to school groups since March. In addition, Ann and Susan have joined the Historic Foodways program after a day's training as hearth cooks.*



*I ventured out one warm Saturday and cleaned and rehung nine Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) boxes around the grounds of Gunston Hall. Built and painted iron-oxide red by then groundskeeper, Buck Jarusek in 2003/4. Eastern Bluebirds typically have more than one successful brood per year. Other common names of the Bluebird are Wilson's Bluebird, Blue Robin, Common Bluebird, Blue Redbreast, American Bluebird, and Blew Bird. Cleaned boxes will have a 12 penciled on the left side. If any additional boxes are found please give me a call. Mark Whatford, Acting Director*





## Ask Grapeman!

Dear Grapeman,  
Whenever I take a school group through the garden to the point to look out at the river, I get questions about what we can see on the other side. It looks like some kind of white structure down by the shore and there is something up on the hill...a house maybe. What are we looking at?

A Docent

Dear Docent,  
First, a geography check. That bit of water that we can see from the left side of the garden, looking almost due east, is the Potomac River. Way to the left, hidden by trees is Gunston Cove, the inlet to Pohick Bay, where Pohick Creek empties into the river.

Directly across the river from Gunston Hall is

Charles County, MD.

Through the magic of a 300 mm zoom lens, Grapeman has solved the mystery of the unidentified objects on that far Maryland shore. One sign. One subdivision. The sign, in case you are going boating, reads "WARNING: DO NOT ANCHOR OR DREDGE."



## WHERE WAS EVERYONE IN 1787?

As we take our guests through Col. Mason's home and talk about 1787, we may want to mention who is in residence. Though many of the family have grown up and moved out, George and Sarah are far from alone.

The patriarch, **George Mason**, will turn 62 in December. His wife **Sarah Brent Mason** is about 54. His first wife, **Ann**, died in 1773. George and Sarah will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary in April.

**George Mason V** (referred to as George Mason, Jr.) is 34. He and his wife Elizabeth Mary Ann Barnes Hooe are probably now living at Lexington plantation with their toddler Elizabeth and infant George Mason VI.

**Ann Mason**, known as Nancy, is 32 and still living at Gunston Hall. She will marry in two years.

Thirty-year old **William Mason** is also still living at home. He will marry and move out a year after his father's death in 1792.

**Thomson Mason**, 28, is still living at Gunston Hall, along with his wife Sarah McCarty Chichester & 2-year-old Thomson. Ann Eilbeck Mason will be born at Gunston Hall this year. Their home, Hollin Hall, is under construction and they will move in 1788.

**Sarah (Sally) Mason McCarty**, 27, is now living at Cedar Grove on Mason Neck with husband Daniel. They lost a daughter in childbirth in 1785, but still have 4 children, including year-old George Mason McCarty.

**Mary Mason Cooke**, 25, is living at West Farm in Stafford County with her husband John and two-year-old Million. John Travers Cooke, Jr. is born early in 1787.

**John Mason**, 21, is an apprentice to a Quaker merchant William Hartshorne of the firm of Harper & Hartshorne in Alexandria. Later in the year, John will travel to Philadelphia with his father for the Federal Convention, but John will return to his apprenticeship before the Convention is adjourned.

**Elizabeth (Betsy) Mason**, 19, is still living at Gunston Hall and will continue to do so until her marriage in 1789.

The youngest of the children, **Thomas Mason**, 17, is away being tutored by Reverend Robert Buchanan, the rector of Aquia and Pohick churches, who lives on Passapatanzy Creek in King George County. Joining him there is George Graham, Sarah Brent Mason's nephew. He is also 17.

So the nine people living in the house throughout 1787, include **George, Sarah, Nancy, William, Thomson, Sarah, Thomson, Jr, baby Ann, and Betsy**. From May through September, Col. Mason was in Philadelphia and he was in Richmond serving in the House of Delegates from November 1787, until after the first of the year.



# GrapeShots



Dear Docent,

I like the bedrooms because it was pretty. I like Gunston Hall so much. I like the curly stairs.

Kaitlyn, Grade 1

Dear Docent,

My favorite part of the field trip was being inside the school house. I thought it was interesting that George Mason wanted his sons and daughters educated.

If I ever get the chance, I would go back to Gunston Hall and use the slave staircase and try out George Mason's bed.

Thanks for the tour!  
Meghan, grade 4

Dear Docent,

Thank you for having us at Gunston Hall. Even though I know a lot of things about George Mason, most of what I learned about him was taught by you. I like how you put the excitement in explaining.

Sincerely,

Maurice, Grade 4

The kid with the red shirt who talked about Brazil

Dear Gunston Hall friends,

Thank you for assisting me and my class during our time at Gunston Hall. It was by far one the most historic field trips I have ever had.

Thank you,  
Philip, Grade 4

Dear Docent,

Thank you for the wonderful tour of Gunston Hall. I really enjoyed the lookout where you can see Maryland.

I can't wait to tell my family about the wonderful tour! When you guided us I felt very relaxed and interested. I learned a lot of new things thanks to you. One of the most interesting things was how George Mason's office looked out over the river to see if any ships went by.

Sincerely,

Macky, grade 4

Thank you Gunston Hall Friends,

I really enjoyed the tour. I especially loved the school house and the touch museum.

John, grade 3

I loved the school house. Because it was fun. My faverit thing was the basmint.

Paige, Grade 1

Dear Guides,

Gunston Hall was fun! I liked the school, bedrooms and the old chalk.

Thank you,

Safa, Grade 1

Dear Docent,

Thank you for the awesome tour. You are a good tour guide. I learned so many things about George Mason. I was interested about the well because it looks so shallow but it's really deep.

George Mason is like me because I'm crazy over symmetry! Obviously George Mason loves symmetry because his house is practically a piece of symmetry!

Attí, Grade 4

