

# Gunston GRAPEVINE

spring 2013



the newsmagazine for the Gunston Hall community

## A NEW SPRING AT THE OLD PLANTATION

**S**pring, a time of renewal and of new growth – the programming at Gunston Hall proves this true.

Our program flourishes with new life. Inside this issue of the Grapevine you will read about and see photographs of the engaging public and educational programs offered to our visitors.

We want to lure new visitors while sustaining and growing our core audiences. Gunston Hall exists to educate and inspire all people about the work of George Mason, life in 18<sup>th</sup> century America, and the crucible of importance centered on the founding of the United States of America. How those times and people affect our own is our challenge to study, engage with, communicate and make relevant. History matters and it shapes who we are today. And, we want our visitors to have fun while they are here or visiting us on-line.

In January, we launched an updated, easier to use website with Facebook and Twitter talk-back components and we added focus to our on-line store. In February our annual and sterling “Seeds of Independence” program featured the intertwined stories of African Americans on Mason Neck with a Seeds-produced film on Gladys Cook Bushrod, and historian Terry Dunn laid out research on family lines of enslaved people owned by Mason descendants.

The revitalized Archaeology Symposium was well received and attended. Eight new Docents and one new Education Manager (Lacey Villiva, featured on page 5) received a two-week intensive education on all things Gunston and graduated in March. None too soon, as our excellent school programs subscribed to capacity just as our

graduating class was ready to pitch-in. The Liberty Lectures this year featured three noted historians speaking about aspects of women in the Early Republic.

March and April really started to bloom with a full-moon night for the first Mason Neck Moonlight Hike. The pace continued with an Open Hearth Cooking Class, another of the superlative programs at GH. We are well-known and recognized for our hearth kitchen and skilled hearth cooks – you have to try their cuisine, and many of our visitors do. A wine festival was another nicely-lubricated first on a perfect April afternoon enjoyed in the Swan Garden Courtyard. Programs offered in previous years repeated such as Architecture in the Afternoon, and Gunston Hall Conversations where our living history players dressed in period attire discuss the issues of the day – the 18<sup>th</sup> century day. We served as a camping venue for Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scout leaders on three separate weekends. A perfect blustery day served well our hundreds of visitors for the annual Kite Day Festival.

Two new, or almost new, weekend festivals were pure knock-outs for all involved. The meadows of Gunston were filled with hundreds of vehicles and automobiles on April 28 as a part of the Britain on the Green classic car event. Gunston used to host car show competitions and

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#### **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.**

*About the cover: The Capital Triumph Register brought their club's 16<sup>th</sup> annual car show to Gunston Hall on Sunday, April 28. Joining these Triumphs and Lotuses were nearly 200 other cars, including, MGs, Austin Healeys, Jaguars, Rolls, Bentleys, Minis, and Land Rovers, filling the lawns at Gunston Hall. While this was their first show at Gunston Hall, the club hopes to make this an annual visit.*

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that tradition went away more than 19 years ago. We are proud to welcome it back.

The weekend of May 3 through May 5, the fields were filled with a wholly different competition – The American Revolution – re-enactors were on-site camping, parading, skirmishing, dancing, eating, praying. The Revolution was most definitely alive and on George Mason's doorstep and in his Deer Park, and all around the campus. These events are best described as WOW!

Many other exciting initiatives are crackling through Gunston. In this issue Dave Shonyo reveals our most exciting archeological discovery in years – the burying ground of Newtown. Don't miss Paul Inashima's beautifully researched article about land patents in this neck of the world and learn more about the death of George Mason and likely causes researched by Claudia Wendling.

The excitement at Gunston through programs and

## A LOST MASON BURYING GROUND HAS BEEN FOUND

**By Dave Shonyo Staff Archaeologist**

George Mason recorded the death in 1757 of his fifteen-month-old son William in a margin of his family Bible. He noted that William "...was buried at the Family Burying Place at Newtown." Newtown was the plantation established by Mason's Grandfather, George Mason II. The site of the Newtown house is about 1,500 feet north of the Gunston Hall mansion, in what is presently a much overgrown, wooded area.

In the early 1890's, Kate Mason Rowland visited Gunston Hall for the purpose of gathering material for several magazine articles and a two-volume biography of Mason. In the latter she wrote, "New Town'...has passed away utterly; the very name of it is unknown in the neighborhood today. And recent owners of the land have ruthlessly ploughed up the old graveyard, one of the old tombstones having been left leaning against a tree in one of the fields."

It is not clear whether Rowland actually knew where the Newtown burying ground was located. However, at least since the time of her visit, it has been lost - first under a plowed field and then under a forest that replaced the field.

Newtown has a claim to fame in addition to being one of the earliest historic sites in Fairfax County: it is the probable birthplace of George Mason. For this reason there in interest is making the site suitable for interpretation to

research feels palpable. While all of this is happening, the Strategic Planning Committee and our Board of Regents plan the next five years. The Search Committee for a new Executive Director should have exciting news in June. Gunston relies on our Regents, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Staff, Volunteers, Docents, and Community to fulfill our mission in concrete and multi-layered dimension. We are a reflection of making history come alive, making it meaningful.

On Saturday, May 25, fifty-one new Americans were sworn-in as citizens in front of the Mansion. This is the kind of first that making history meaningful is all about. Our partner in this endeavor is the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and our generous sponsor, The National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Washington, D.C. Society. We aspire to be about the best of America. With your help, we are definitely on our way.

**By Patrick Ladden, Interim Director**



*Dennis Johnson uses ground penetrating radar to pinpoint the location of the Newtown burying ground. He was able to map 15 gravesites.*

*(Photo by Patrick Ladden)*

the public. To that end, we have begun clearing part of the Newtown area and examining it from an archaeological perspective.

While conducting a surface reconnaissance, Paul Inashima, an archaeological consultant to Gunston Hall, made an intriguing discovery. Amongst the brambles and

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other forest undergrowth, about 250 feet south of the site of the Newtown house site, lay two shallow depressions in the earth. They were side by side and just about the size and shape one would expect of graves. Could these be part of the long lost burying ground?

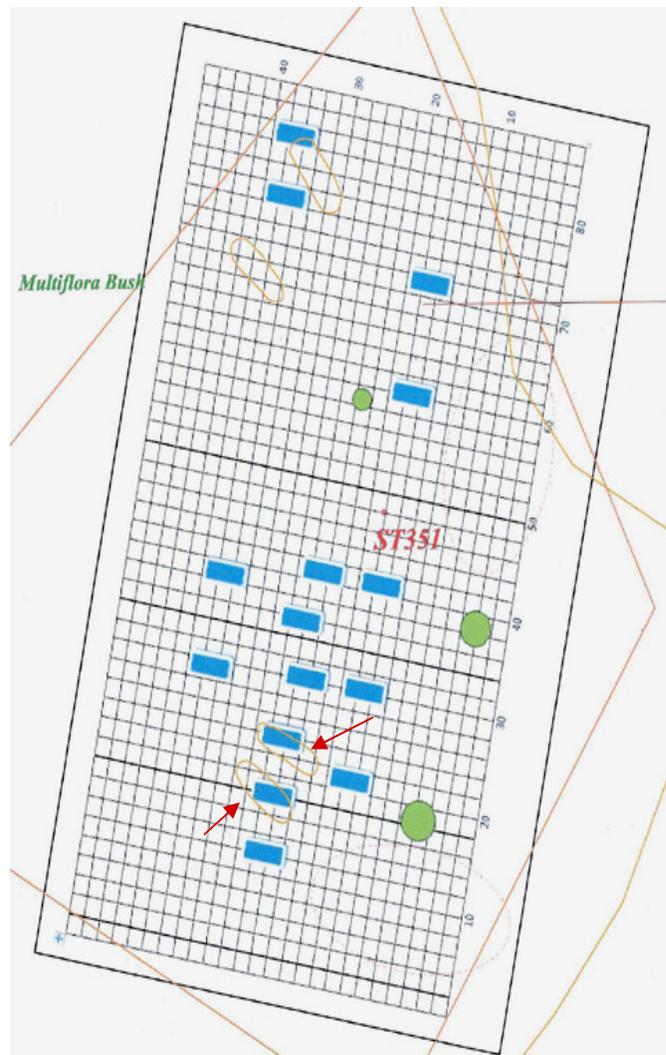
Paul, along with Gary Knipling, a Gunston Hall neighbor and advocate, proceeded to clear about 6,000 square feet of area around the depressions of all but the largest trees. Dennis Johnson, former President of Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc., brought in some ground penetrating radar (GPR) equipment that he helped develop. The results of the radar survey are shown in the accompanying diagram.

The fifteen graves indicated by the radar survey are all aligned in the same direction and are arranged in rows of varying lengths. There can be little doubt that this is the Newtown burying ground. But, who are all of these people?

Only one burial is known to be documented, and that is the infant William. Mason referred to this as a *family* burying place, which strongly suggests that other Masons and Mason kin preceded William here. There is some, rather tenuous, evidence that Mason's father was buried here after his drowning death in 1735. And, if that is the case, it seems reasonable to surmise that Mason's mother would have been brought here after her death at Chopawamsic in 1762.

Jeremiah Bronaugh leased Newtown from 1731 until his death in 1749. His tombstone currently resides at Pohick Church, but Jeremiah does not. It is likely that this is the tombstone that Rowland saw leaning against the tree during her visit. This would make Bronaugh another candidate for a Newtown burying ground occupant. Bronaugh's wife, Simpha Rosa Ann Field Mason Bronaugh was a maternal aunt of George Mason and was living at Gunston Hall at the time of her death in 1761. It is quite probable that she was buried with her husband at Newtown.

Finally, Thompson Mason, the brother of George, requested in his will that his sons remove the body of his first wife, Mary, from Gunston Hall and reinter her at his home at Raspberry Plain. Mary died in October 1771, before the present family burying ground was established at Gunston Hall. So, Mary King Barns Mason was probably buried at Newtown. Whether her body was relocated



The graves detected during the ground penetrating radar survey are shown as blue rectangles. The red arrows indicate the depressions that first suggested that this was the location of the Newtown burying ground. The green circles are large trees. (Image by Dennis Johnson and Paul Inashima.)

to Raspberry Plain as requested is not known.

That leaves at least nine graves with unknown occupants. The number may grow yet larger because it is planned to survey an additional area adjacent to that already completed. In any case, the last resting places of a group of people who pioneered the settlement and development of this area have now been recovered from oblivion.

## NEW FACES AND NEW LOOK TO AN OLD FACE

### WELCOME LAUREN LACEY VILLIVA

Lacey Villiva joined our staff in February as the new Education Manager. She previously worked as Education and Outreach Assistant at Carlyle House in Old Town Alexandria.

Lacey received her Masters of Arts in Teaching in Museum Education from George Washington University (2011) and a Bachelor of Arts in History from

Mary Washington (2010). Her work experience includes The International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., and at the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop in Fredericksburg as a Docent and First Person Interpreter. Lacey is also an active Hearth Cook and Historic Interpreter.

*Lacey Villiva assumes her period persona during April's Colonial Day.*



### DOCENT CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATES

Eight new docents and one new Education Manager were thoroughly trained in all things Gunston Hall and George Mason during a two week boot camp that culminated March 8.



*Gunston Hall Docents' Association Class of 2013 on graduation day. Front row: Michele Moorhouse, Whitney Hassell, Linda Dameron, Susan Pederson, Mary Mansourimoaied, and Education Manager Lacey Villiva. Back row: Lynn Herklotz, Ann Elise Sauer, and Anne Pope Allen.*

### MASON BUST CONSERVED

Gunston Hall's George Mason bust at the Visitor's Center entrance received professional conservation treatment from Conservation Solutions, Inc. on March 22. Although protected from the elements by a colonnade, the skylight above has been a haven for insects, whose deposits have fallen on bronze George's head and shoulders, causing minor corrosion and dulling the finish.

Treatment consisted of a mild detergent wash and cold water spray, towel drying, and spot patinization with an artist's brush to reduce the appearance of corrosion. The conservators then applied a protective coating of hot wax, using a torch to heat the bronze to the point that wax would melt and flow on the metal. After the hot wax was brushed on and between all surfaces and cooled, Butcher's Bowling Alley Wax was applied and buffed to a like-new shine.

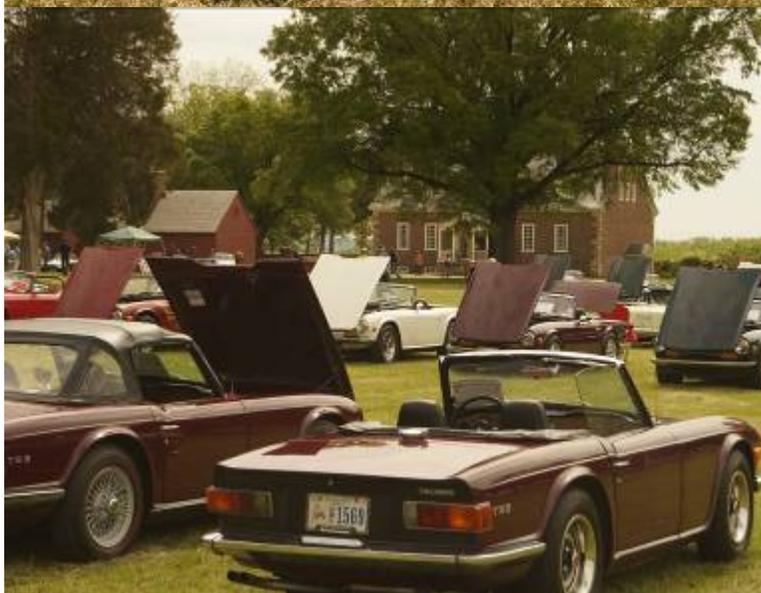
If you haven't visited the now dapper Col. Mason in a while, do stop by. He certainly understands the pain and price of beauty. And what makes shoes glide on those gleaming lanes at the bowling alley.

**By Susan C. Blankenship, Development Program Coordinator**



*The first step in cleaning George Mason's bust was to thoroughly wash his face. Then, with the heat of a blow torch, the statue received a hot wax treatment.*





***This was spring at Gunston Hall:*** (clockwise from top left) George Mason, portrayed by Don McAndrews, welcomes equestrians to the Mansion. Matthew Dowd entertains with Revolutionary music during the Kite Festival. A young re-enactor visits the Kitchen Yard. The Triumph section of the car show. A kite-flyer wrestles with his kite. The Kite Festival had a good steady breeze, but some kites took a lot of flying skill to avoid the kite-eating trees.



### MORE SPRING SCENES

*Left: Members of the Continental Line return fire at the Crown Forces during the Battle of the Deer Park on Sunday, May 5. The Patriots emerged victorious in the battle. Middle left: a young scholar on a school field trip tries her hand on a slate in the schoolhouse. Middle right: Anne Pope Allen, a new docent from the class of '13 escorts her group toward the Mansion in April. These fourth graders and their teachers from Columbia Elementary in Annandale came in period attire to celebrate their own Colonial Day. Bottom left: an American artillery piece defending Gunston Hall fires at the British. Bottom right: John the Fifer (John O'Loughlin) performs period music at one of the stations during spring Colonial Day on April 18. Gunston Hall was visited by 367 fourth graders from six elementary schools that day.*



LEGACY: THE BUSHROD *RESIDUE*

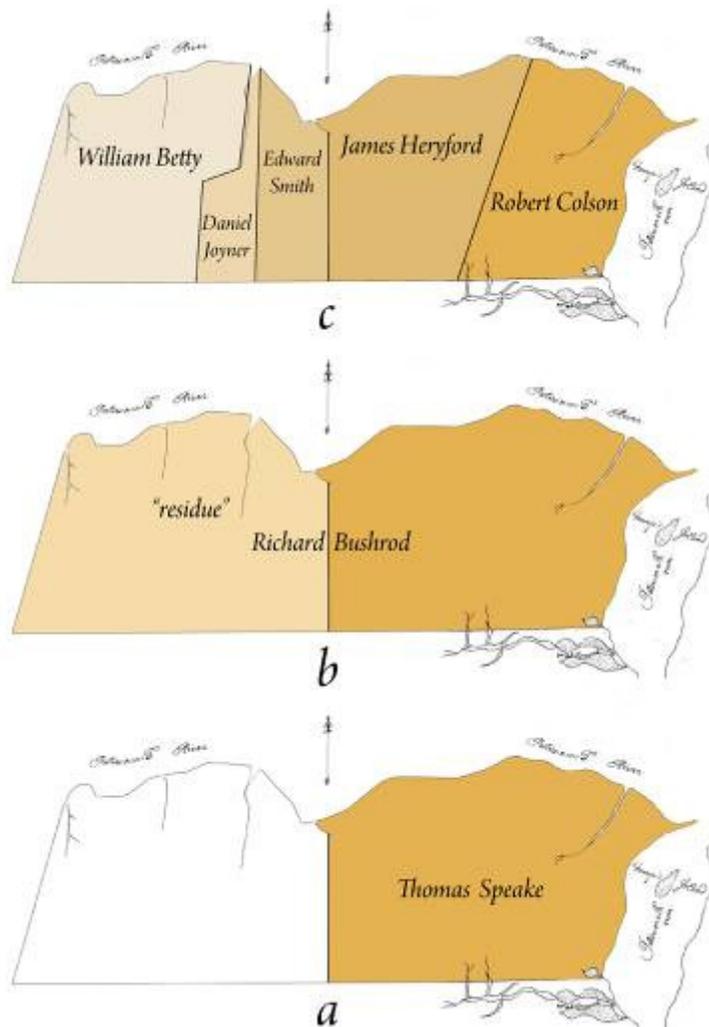
**By Paul Y. Inashima  
Consulting Archeologist**

Throughout the 17th century, Dogue Neck, the future site of George Mason IV's home estate, lay within the Virginia frontier. As a consequence, it was not until mid-century that the first attempts at patenting and settling lands within the neck were made.

These endeavors, as illustrated by Thomas Speake's patent, were often not successful. On Sept. 11, 1653, Thomas Speake (c. 1603-1659) obtained a patent for 1,000 acres which occupied the "heel" of Dogue Neck (Figure 1a).<sup>1</sup> Speake, however, was unable to settle and clear his tract within the three years allotted.<sup>2</sup> Thus, on October 4, 1657, the tract was patented anew to Thomas Brewerton.<sup>3</sup> Brewerton, likewise, failed to settle and clear his land within the three years allowed.

Hence, on Oct. 15, 1660, Richard Bushrod (1626-1668) obtained a new patent which included Speake's original grant as well as an adjoining 1,000 acres of *residue* (Figure 1b).<sup>4</sup> Bushrod, also experienced difficulty in settling his grant. On March 24, 1662, he requested and obtained a renewal of his patent.<sup>5</sup> Even with this renewal, Bushrod was unable to meet the provisions of his patent. So, on April 10, 1665, he received another patent.<sup>6</sup>

As no further renewals were requested by Richard Bushrod and no competing claims were filed for these patent lands, it can be assumed that he had satisfied the 1665 patent's provisions before its expiration. By 1666, the Virginia Assembly had clarified the provisions for settling and planting patent lands.<sup>2</sup> By satisfying these patent provisions, it can be surmised that he had managed to construct structures, raise livestock, and clear and plant, at least, an acre somewhere within his grant before October 15, 1669, the date of the end of third anniversary of his original patent. Most likely, as he himself never resided on his



grant, Bushrod had arranged either for a tenant or perhaps an indentured servant to settle the land.<sup>7</sup>

Richard Bushrod's 2,000 acre patent is of interest as his grant would later comprise a large portion of George Mason IV's home estate and, more particularly, as the *residue* would be the lands upon which Mason would build Gunston Hall.

Traditionally, following Robert Moxham's study, it has been held that Mason built on lands which had been owned by Edward Smith.<sup>8</sup> This conclusion, however, is incorrect as is documented in the following discussion.

After Richard Bushrod's death in 1668, his estate was left to his wife and

five then minor children: Richard (c. 1655-c. 1686/1687), Thomas (1662-1698), John (1663/4-1719/20), Apphia, and Dorothy.<sup>9</sup> How his estate was distributed is indicated, in part, by a deed written in 1689.<sup>10</sup> This deed recounts that the lower two-thirds of his 2,000 acre patent (1,400 acres) was bequeathed to his sons, Thomas and John, and that this portion was commonly known as "Hallowing Point."

In the deed, John passed ownership of his portion to his brother Thomas. The deed, unfortunately, makes no reference to the upper one-third (600 acres by subtraction) although it can be surmised that this third went to the eldest son and namesake, Richard.

On Sept. 7, 1686, Thomas Bushrod sold to Robert Colson for 40 shillings sterling and 6,000 pounds of tobacco and cask a tract of 300 acres of land known as "HOLLAN POINT."<sup>11</sup> Later on Dec. 14, 1687, Thomas Bushrod made a new deed with Robert Colson for 40 shillings Sterling and 8,000 pounds of tobacco in cask. (Table 1; Figure 1c).<sup>12</sup> This transaction increased the land purchased to 400

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acres. In 1718/9, a new survey made for Francis Cofer found that the parcel contained 520 acres.<sup>13</sup>

By 1687, Thomas Bushrod had acquired control of the upper one-third (600 acres) of the original patent which included the land upon which Gunston Hall was later built. Thus on Dec. 6, 1687, (recorded on Feb 8, 1687/8), he sold to Daniel Joyner 200 acres for 4,000 pounds of tobacco in cask (Table 1; Figure 1c).<sup>14</sup> A hundred acres lay within the “eastern” edge of the upper one-third bequest, and a hundred acres lay within the “western” edge of the lower two-thirds bequest.

Subsequently on Oct. 10, 1688, Thomas Bushrod sold to Edward Smith 300 acres for 7,000 pounds of tobacco and cask (Table 1; Figure 1c).<sup>15</sup> His land was described as “on ye South side of POTO-MACK RIVER near adjoining to or upon a small creek begining ye Lower most bounds of a parcell of land sold . . . to DANIELL JOYNER & now in ye tenure of ye said DANIELL JOYNER or his assigns and from thence running down along ye River side to a small branch whereon formerly and usually have been INDIAN CABINS . . .

. . . and soe running up the said Branch untill it comes to meet with ye said BUSHROD back line bearing ye same breadth at ye head line as on ye Rivers Course from Creek to the said Branch.”

On Sept. 9, 1689, Thomas Bushrod sold to James Heryford 600 acres for 13,000 pounds of tobacco in cask (Table 1; Figure 1c).<sup>16</sup> This tract was described as lying between the lands of Robert Colson and

Edward Smith. In 1695, the tract was surveyed by Theodorick Bland and was found to contain only 474 acres.<sup>17</sup> A later survey by John West, Jr. dated November 17, 1759, found that the tract contained 508 acres.

Although who purchased the remaining or uppermost portion of Bushrod’s *residue* is at present undocumented, it is suspected that this individual was William Betty. In his will made on June 29, 1715, and proved on Nov. 14, 1716, George Mason II bequeathed his son Nicholas “all the Land which I bought of EDWARD SMITH, JAMES JOYNER, and WILLIAM BETTY.”<sup>18</sup> Since the locations and sizes of the first two properties are known, it is reasonable to assume that a 500 acre parcel occupied the upper end of the *residue* and that this parcel belonged to William Betty.<sup>19</sup> Moreover, it is likely that Thomas Bushrod had sold this tract to Betty in 1686 as pages 7a and 8 during the fall of 1686 are missing in the *Stafford County Deed and Will Book* and as the two land transactions immediately following those pages were sales by Thomas Bushrod to John Glendining of a 300 acre tract on Nomini Bay<sup>20</sup> and to Robert Colson of the 300 acre tract at Hallowing Point.<sup>11</sup>

When George Mason II may have acquired some or all of the properties which had been sold out of Bushrod’s *residue* lands is indicated in a grant first noted by Robert Moxham.<sup>21</sup> In Thomas Ousley’s (Owsley’s) patent dated November 15, 1694, his land is described as “beyond the land of Col<sup>o</sup> Speake since Busrodes [Bushrod’s], now in tenor [tenure] and occupation of Captain George Mason.”<sup>22</sup> Ousley’s patent referred apparently to Bushrod’s 1,000 acre *residue* as the 1,000 acres originally patented to Thomas Speake had been sold previously to Colson and Herford. (Unfortunately, the Stafford County records between February 1692/3 and November 1699 are missing.)

Notes:

1. *Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 3 (1652-1655), pg. 68. Thomas Speake’s patent was described as containing “one thousand acres of Land Situate lying and being in Potomack river Opposite against the Miompes Island bounding East and North on Potomack river west on the Maine Woods South on a great Marsh to the place it Began.” Today, the patent’s orientations of east, north, west, and south are more commonly thought of as south, east, north, and west, respectively. Due to its prominent location at the corner of Dogue Neck, Speake’s grant was often used as a point of reference for subsequent patents (e.g., John Gosnell, July 15, 1657 (*Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 4, pg. 125); Peter Smith, July 15, 1657 (*Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 4, pg. 174); Thomas Moulton, July 15, 1657 (cited in *Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 5, pg. 496); John Thomas, April

Table 1. The Relative Value of Dogue Neck Lands Sold from Bushrod’s Patent in the Late Seventeenth Century.

Dogue Neck				
Purchaser	Date Made	Acres	Price (Pounds of Tobacco)	Price per Acre (Pounds of Tobacco)
William Betty	prob. 1686	500	unknown	unknown
Daniel Joyner <sup>14</sup>	12/6/1687	200	4000	20
Robert Colson <sup>12</sup>	12/14/1687	400	8000 & 40 shillings	20
Edward Smith <sup>15</sup>	10/10/1688	300	7000	23
James Herford <sup>16</sup>	9/9/1689	600	13,000	22

Note: Although later surveys increased the size of Colson’s property and decreased the size of Herford’s, the total acreage of these two tracts which comprised the lands originally patented by Thomas Speake remained approximately 1,000 acres.

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4, 1671 (*Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 6, pg. 355)).

2. A provisional clause was included in all patents requiring the land be planted and seated within three years (William W. Hening 1823:244, *The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of the Laws of Virginia*, Vol. II, R. & W. & G. Bartow, New York). It was not, however, until the October 1666 session of the Virginia Assembly that “what should be accounted sufficient seating and planting” was defined. During that session, it was declared “that building an house and keeping a stock one whole year upon the land shall be accounted seating; and that clearing [sic], tending and planting an acre of ground shall be accounted planting” and that as long as the quit rents were paid, “noe land shalbe [sic] adjudged to be deserted.”

3. *Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 3, pg. 68. The reassignment of this grant to Thomas Brewerton was noted as an annotation to Speake’s patent.

4. *Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 4 (1655-1664), pg. 450. In Bushrod’s 2,000 acre patent, it was noted that 1,000 acres of Bushrod’s grant had formerly been patented to Colonel Speake and had been “by him deserted.” Bushrod’s patent, also, included 1,000 acres of “residue new taken up.” Interestingly, the description of Bushrod’s 2,000 acre grant was the same as Speake’s 1,000 acre grant.

5. *Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 5, pg. 14. “The said Land being formerly granted unto Richard Bushrod by patent dated the fifteenth of October One thousand Six hundred and Sixty and upon the reasonable petition of the said Richard Bushrod order was granted unto him for renewing the said patent by a new grant as of said Order Dated the twenty fourth of March One thousand Six hundred and Sixty two.” Curiously, the 1662 renewal is included among patents dated to 1665 and on the page before Richard and Thomas Bushrod’s 300 acre patent made on April 10, 1665. In 1662, Bushrod was resident in Gloucester County (*Westmoreland County Deeds and Wills: 1653-1671*, pp. 181-182).

6. Sparacio, 1989a, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1686-1689*, Antient Press, McLean, Virginia (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part I*, pg. 98a). On November 7, 1688, a copy of a patent from Sir William Berkeley to Richard Bushrod for 2,000 acres dated April 10, 1665 and attested to on April 24, 1665 was recorded in the Stafford County court records.

7. An intriguing possibility is that Richard Bushrod may have relied upon an indentured servant named William Betty to settle his grant. According to the Indentured Servants’ Bristol Database, Betty arrived in Virginia from Ireland with a ten year indenture which began on October 22, 1666 ([www.virtualjamestown.org](http://www.virtualjamestown.org)). Unfortunately, the database is silent as to the patron to whom Betty had been bound. Another indentured servant, George Betty, who arrived 5 years earlier may have been a brother or other relative. In both cases, no occupation was listed. It is possible that this William Betty is the same Betty who is mentioned in George Mason, II’s will of 1716 (*Fairfax County Land Causes, 1812-1832*, pp. 13-15). That Betty signed documents with a mark is consistent with his original status as an immigrant of modest means (e.g., list of subscribers to grievances against “Strange Indians,” Ruth and Sam Sparacio, 1987, *Stafford County Order Book, 1691-1692*, Antient Press, McLean, Virginia (*Stafford County Order Book, March 11, 1691/2-May 10, 1692*, pg. 253-253a)).

8. Robert Moxham, 1975, pp. 6 and 13 reference note 13, *The Colonial Plantations of George Mason*, Colonial Press, Springfield, Virginia.

9. Richard Bushrod’s children were named in his brother Thomas’ (1604-1677) will (*York County Deeds, Orders, Wills &c. 6:5*, made December 18, 1676 and proved April 24, 1677). John Bushrod was born on January 30, 1665 and died on February 26, 1719 ((inscription on his tomb at Bushfield; *Westmoreland Deed and Will Book 6:624*, will dated January 26, 1719 and probated March 30, 1720). Richard Bushrod’s widow married Dr. Henry Whiting of Gloucester (*Ancestral Records and Portraits*, 1910, Vol. II, pg. 450, Grafton Press, Publishers, New York). John Bushrod was confirmed on April 20, 1698 by the Northumberland County Court as the executor of his brother Thomas’ will (*Northumberland County Court Order Book, 1687-1699*). This Thomas Bushrod’s will was transcribed in John A. Washington, 1974, “Will of Thomas Bushrod, Northumberland County, Virginia, 1698,” *Virginia Genealogist* 18:55-60.

10. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, 1989b, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1689-1693*, Antient Press, McLean, Virginia (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part II*, pp. 141a-142). Unfortunately, the court records of Gloucester County, where Richard Bushrod may have been residing at his death and where his will may have been filed, were destroyed by a fire in 1820 (Library of Virginia, 2012, “Burned Record Counties,” <http://www.lva.virginia.gov>).

11. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, 1989a, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1686-1689*, Antient Press, McLean, Virginia (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part I*, pp. 9a-10). This deed described the tract as “that peice of land called or knowne by the name of HOLLAN POINT being in the Ffreshes of the POTTOMAC RIVER containing Three hundred acres of land and bounded begininge first at HALLOWING POINT and runing downe POTTOMACK RIVER according to the meanders of the same to a marked poplar the most Westernmost Corner tree of the whole Devident from thence up along the back line North West to a marked tree on the back line aforesd form thence East North for the dividing line to the River syde soe finally downe the said River to the first begininge.” Note that the orientations in this document agree with those used today.

12. Sparacio, 1989a, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1686-1689* (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part I*, pp. 72a-73a). The deed described property as “all that tract of land commonly called HOLLAND POINT containinge four hundred acres and bounded begininge at HOLLING POINT & runninge West to a small Poplar standing by a small branch side by side of a Great Marsh thence N along the back line to a marked Hickory standing neare a Great Branch from thence North to a Sicke more standing by a Pocoson by the River syde thence South along the River to the aforesaid Pointe beinge the first begininge.”

13. *Northern Neck Grants* No. 5, pg. 192.

14. Sparacio, 1989a, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1686-1689* (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part I*, pp. 75-76). The sale from Thomas Bushrod of Westmoreland County to Daniell Joyner of Stafford County was made on December 6, 1687 and recorded on February 8, 1687/8. The tract was described as “two hundred acres of Land Lyinge & beinge in the County of Stafford & upon the Southsyde of Pohick Creeks mouth beinge part of a Divident of Two thousand acres granted to Ric. Bushrod by Pattent bearinge Date ye 15 October 1660—begininge at a white oake at ye Little Creeks mouth & Running a mile in ye woods at a Small Red oake & up the back Line 100 poles to a marked hickory thence to a Chesnut Oake upon ye Creeke . . .” In a legal case between Martin Scarlett and Captain John Martin, it was

noted in a deposition taken on July 15, 1692 that Daniel Joyner was about 42 and his wife Mary, about 43 (*Stafford County Order Book, 1689-1693*, pg. 256a, abstracted in Ruth and Sam Sparacio, 1988, *Stafford County Order Book, 1692-1693*, Antient Press, McLean, Virginia). This same case indicates that both Daniel Joyner and Edward Smith were occupying their properties in 1692.

15. Sparacio, 1989a, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1686-1689* (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part I*, pp. 97-98). This deed was recorded on October 10, 1688. Edward Smith died sometime before February 16, 1697/8 as by that date his widow had remarried (*Will of Ann Scarlett*, the mother of Lettice Smith nee Scarlett). He left three minor children: William, Edward, and Katherine. Burr Harrison, their mother’s second husband, assumed legal guardianship of these children in 1700 after his wife’s death (Ruth and Sam Sparacio, 1987, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1699-1709*, Antient Press, McLean, Virginia (*Stafford County Record Book, November 1699-November 12, 1709*, pg. 63); *Stafford County Will Book Z:149*, October 9, 1702).

16. Sparacio, 1989b, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1689-1693* (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part II*, pp. 142-143). This deed was acknowledged by Captain George Mason and was recorded on December 12, 1689.

17. The Theodorick Bland and John West, Jr. surveys are cited in Beth Mitchell, 1977, pp. 38-39, *Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia*.

18. George Mason, II’s will was made on January 29, 1715 and after his death was recorded on November 14, 1716 (*Fairfax County Land Causes, 1812-1832*, pp. 13-15). George Mason, III and Nicholas Mason had been named by their father as co-executors of his estate. By the time of the recording of the will, Nicholas had himself died leaving George Mason, III as the sole executor. George Mason, III received little in his father’s will as he had come of age earlier and had been given goods and properties at that time. The James Joyner mentioned in the will was likely a son or other close relative who had inherited the land after Daniel Joyner’s death.

19. William Betty died in 1700 as indicated by an outcry or auction which was held on October 13, 1700 to dispose of his estate (*Stafford County Will Book Z*, pp. 49-50). The sale included household goods, a plow, cows, calves, hogs, a mare, a colt, etc. and garnered 10,847 pounds of tobacco. At a court held on March 11, 1701/2, a number of bills outstanding to William Betty’s estate were presented (*Stafford County Will Book Z*, pp. 136-137). The bills included one from William Page for two coffins for Betty’s wife and daughter who had preceded him in death and one from John Beavers for Betty’s own coffin. Page’s petition noted that the “Worshipful Court having taken care of the said orphans & their estate,” and indicates that other minor children had survived.

20. The first part of the deed from Thomas Bushrod to John Glendinning is truncated by the missing pages 7a and 8 (Sparacio, 1989a, *Stafford County Deed and Will Book, 1686-1689* (*Stafford County Deed Book D, Part I*, pp. 8a-9)). This deed, however, is referenced in a later property sale from John Glendening to Henry Thompson which took place on December 15, 1688 (Sparacio, 1989a (*S.C. Deed Book D, Part I*, pp. 140a)).

21. Robert Moxham, 1976, pg. 6.

22. *Northern Neck Grants* No. 2, pp. 58-60.

23. The maps in Figures 1 and 2 are based on the descriptions contained in the patents and deeds as well as

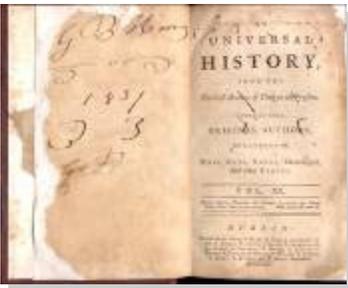
(Continued on page 11)

## BOOKS, BEES, BOXWOODS, BIRDS, AND BUGS

### COMPLETION OF CONSERVATION OF GEORGE MASON'S BOOKS

**W**e have completed the conservation of the 17 books owned by George Mason held in our Library/Archives.

This project, begun in 2011, was carried out by the Cat Tail Run Bookbindery in Winchester, Virginia. Cat



Tail run has also conserved volumes owned by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Carroll of Carrollton and John Wilkes Booth's diary for Ford's Theater.

The majority of Mason's volumes conserved are

from a multi-volume set titled *An Universal History From the Earliest Account of Time to the Present* published in Dublin in 1745. The majority of volumes have George Mason's signature with the date 1747. These are, we believe, his earliest extant signatures. These volumes were purchased by the Rev. James Scott, December 24, 1762, as written on the fly leaf.



These volumes were donated in 1964 with the story that they had been sitting in a barn. From their original condition, this was very apparent. These volumes have been conserved using funds from the Mary Rhoda Montequé Porter bequest.

### BEE UPDATE

Of the five hives on site, two did not survive the winter. The bees did not starve, but succumbed to the cold as the colony was not large enough to regulate the temperature in the hive. Two swarm traps have been set up to capture colonies looking for new homes. If successful, these additional colonies will be placed in hives by the reservoir.

A swarm in May is worth a bale of hay.

A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon.

A swarm in July ain't worth a fly.

- 17<sup>th</sup> century bee-keepers proverb



*One of the newly planted boxwoods is thriving on the garden side of the Mansion.*

### BOXWOOD UPDATE

Dr. Richard Ryan of Mason Neck, a local boxwood aficionado, has been supervising the cleanup and replanting of new boxwood in the allée.

Dr. Ryan has also taken a number of cuttings to root for future planting. The cool wet spring has also been beneficial for the success of the newly planted boxwood. We will also be planting additional boxwood and adding another application of lime to raise the soil ph in the fall.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Dr. Ryan for his time and expertise in helping our historic boxwood survive for another generation to enjoy.

### MASON NECK EAGLE FESTIVAL

Gunston Hall was represented at the local Mason Neck Eagle Festival April, 21, at Mason Neck State Park. We provided children's games, handed out flags, and promoted our upcoming events with the help of Linda Hartman and two Young Guns in period attire.

Michael Chick, our Master Bee-Keeper, came by and talked about, well, bees, with a number of props. Thanks to Michael, Linda and the Young Guns for their time to help promote Gunston Hall. The attendance at the festival was estimated at 3,000.

**By Mark Whatford  
Deputy Director**

### THE BUGS ARE BACK!



*A cicada from the East Coast brood of 17-year cicadas rests on the kitchen yard fence. This brood, which last visited in 1996, would also have emerged in 1792, the year George Mason died.*

*(Continued from page 10)*

on the plats in Francis Cofer's March 14, 1718/19 patent and in the survey conducted in 1759 for John Herriford. The orientations used in Figure 1 are based on the orientations used in the Speake and Bushrod patents.

## GEORGE MASON: HIS ILLNESS, DEATH, AND FUNERAL

By Claudia J. Wendling, Archaeology Volunteer

Recently, I came across a letter written by James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson that sparked my curiosity because George Mason's death is discussed.

There is no mystery about the date George Mason died, the place of his death, or the location of his burial. However, beyond these basic facts, it appears that not much else is known or perhaps it was just not a subject matter that received as much attention by writers as did his life. However, obituaries, funeral accounts, letters, wills, etc. can give us insight into a person's life – help us fill in some blanks.

George Mason's descendant, Kate Mason Rowland, searched for information regarding his death and published what she learned in her book, *The Life of George Mason, 1725 – 1792*, Volume 2, published in 1892. Referencing "Gunston Bible" as her source, she supplied us with the following basic information regarding his death: "George Mason died at 'Gunston Hall' in the sixty-seventh year of his age, on the afternoon of Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 1792, and was buried by the side of his wife in the family graveyard on the estate."<sup>1</sup>

As to the cause of the death, she surmised, "his old enemy gout most probably," referencing a letter written to his son John on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August of 1792, in which Mason speaks of an illness.<sup>2</sup>

Specifically, in this letter George Mason explains his symptoms and illness as follows: "I am something better than when you left me; my Fevers have left me; but I am still very weak & low, and my Bowells [bowels] very much disordered."<sup>3</sup>

It is well accepted that Mason had gout because he speaks of it over the years in his correspondence, and gout was a common illness among the "well to do" Colonial Americans, but was gout the cause of his death as Kate Mason Rowland suspected?

This is where James Monroe's letter can help us out. Monroe wrote to Jefferson from Fredericksburg, Virginia, on October 16, 1792.<sup>4</sup> At this time in history George Washington was President of the United States and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the United States was about to reconvene in Philadelphia. In his letter, Monroe shared his news and thoughts of Mason with Jefferson as well as his plans for travel to Philadelphia:

You have before this I presume heard of the death of Colo. Geo. Mason wh.

[which] was abt. the 8<sup>th</sup> of this moth [month] of the gout in the stomach. His patriotic virtues thro [through] the revolution will ever be remembered by the citizens of this county, and his death at the present moment will be sensibly felt by the republican interest. We intended to have rested a day or two with him on our way, and this event will probably render us a day sooner in Phila [Philadelphia]. We expect Mr. Madison here tomorrow [October 17, 1792] to set out on the 20<sup>th</sup> together. We may possibly stay a day at Mount Vernon so that avoiding accidents we shod. [should] be in Phila. [Philadelphia] certainly by the 28<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>5</sup>

A letter from Thomas Jefferson to James Madison further substantiates a stomach illness or stomach gout as the cause of Mason's death. Jefferson's letter was written from Georgetown on October 1, 1792, and he tells Madison about his visit with Mason:

"I called at Gunstonhall, [Gunston Hall] the proprietor



(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

[George Mason] just recovering from a dreadful attack of the cholic [colic]. He was perfectly communicative, but I could not, in discretion let him talk as much as he was disposed.<sup>6</sup>

So, it appears that Kate Mason Rowland surmised right about the cause of Mason's death. Monroe was a friend of George Mason, so certainly he was in a position to have heard this news correctly from Mason's family and Jefferson was with Mason and had firsthand knowledge that he was suffering from stomach pain.

Regarding a funeral for George Mason, Kate Mason Rowland's books provide us with the following report:

There remains no account of George Mason's funeral, and unfortunately neither Washington nor Jefferson could have been present, as they had repaired to the seat of government in Philadelphia before his death occurred, Jefferson arriving there on the 5th. On the 1st of October he was with Washington at Mt. Vernon.<sup>7</sup>

Kate Mason Rowland also searched for death notices or obituaries for clues and found two but they did not mention funeral arrangements.<sup>8</sup> She would be pleased to know that there were several notices of Mason's death published in the papers of the day, but like the two she found they also do not speak of funeral arrangements. We are still left not knowing exact arrangements for his funeral, but hopefully we may learn more as documents are digitized and searched and attics are cleaned out.

Although we do not have information as to a time and place for Mason's funeral possibly we have candidates for attendees and we can rule out certain individuals not being there. Certainly, James Monroe and James Madison could have attended his funeral. We see from Monroe's letter that they had planned on visiting Mason on their way to Philadelphia and expected to arrive in Philadelphia on the 28th or 30th.<sup>9</sup> From a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to Thomas Mann Randolph we learn that James Monroe, Mrs. Monroe and James Madison arrived in Philadelphia on Nov. 1st, 1792.<sup>10</sup> It appears that they would have had the opportunity to attend his funeral and perhaps that is why they arrived a little later than anticipated in Philadelphia.

Jefferson arrived in Philadelphia prior to Mason's death, so he would not have attended and it appears that Washington could not have attended because he left for Philadelphia around the time of Mason's death. However, it is possible that Washington and his wife could have

called on Mason's family offering their condolences as they left Mount Vernon and headed on their way to Philadelphia. George Washington wrote from Mount Vernon, a letter to his sister, Betty Washington Lewis, dated the day Mason died – October 7, 1792, advising her of his and Martha's departure for Philadelphia the next day, but the letter does not mention Mason's death.<sup>11</sup> Perhaps, he wrote the letter earlier in the day (Mason died in the afternoon) or perhaps word had not yet reached him of Mason's death. Although his Presidential duties called him to Philadelphia, we know that he honored the memory of his friend, George Mason, in a letter written to James Mercer from Philadelphia on November 1, 1792. The last line of Washington's letter reads: "And I will also unite my regret to yours for the death of our old friend, and acquaintance Colo. Mason."<sup>12</sup>

Notes:

1. Rowland, Kate M. *The Life of George Mason, 1725 – 1792*. Vol. 2. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1892. Print. Google Book Search. Web. 20 Mar. 2013, p. 365.

2. Ibid.

3. Mason, George. Letter to John Mason, 20 Aug. 1792. Manuscript. Recipient's Copy, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va. Transcription: *The Papers of George Mason*. Vol. 3. ed. A. Rutland. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1970. 1271-73. Print. ConSource. 22 Jan. 2013. Web. 20 Mar. 2013 <http://www.consource.org/document/george-mason-to-john-mason-1792-8-20/20130122083252/>

4. Monroe, James. Letter to Thomas Jefferson, 16 Oct. 1792. Manuscript. *The Thomas Jefferson Papers*. American Memory. Lib. Of Congress. 20 Mar. 2013 [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jm010070\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(jm010070)))

5. Ibid.

6. Jefferson, Thomas. Letter to James Madison, 1 Oct. 1792. *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*. Ed. Paul L. Ford. Reprint ed. Vol. 7. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904. Print. Google Book Search. Web. 20 Mar. 2013.

7. Rowland, Kate M. *The Life of George Mason, 1725 – 1792*. Vol. 2. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1892. Google Book Search. Web. 20 Mar. 2013, p. 366.

8. Ibid, p. 365.

9. Monroe, James. Letter to Thomas Jefferson, 16 Oct. 1792. Manuscript. *The Thomas Jefferson Papers*. American Memory. Lib. Of Congress. 20 Mar. 2013 [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jm010070\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(jm010070)))

10. Jefferson, Thomas. Letter to Thomas Mann Randolph, 2 Nov. 1792. *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*. Ed. Paul L. Ford. Reprint ed. Vol. 7. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904. Print. Google Book Search. Web. 20 Mar. 2013

11. Washington, George. Letter to Betty Washington Lewis, 7 Oct. 1792. *The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition*. Ed. Theodore J. Crackel. University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2008.

12. Washington, George. Letter to James Mercer, 1 Nov. 1792. Manuscript. *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741 – 1799*. American Memory. Lib. Of Congress. 20 Mar. 2013 [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw320169\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw320169)))



*The George Mason Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.  
Photo from National Park Service*

## MASON MEMORIAL AWARDED \$5000

**By Susan C. Blankenship, Development Program Coordinator**

The George Mason Memorial on the National Mall, a project of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America and the Gunston Hall Board of Regents, was recently awarded a \$5,000 Partners in Preservation contest grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express.

A panel appointed by the NTHP and American Express selected the 24 sites vying for a top prize of \$100,000. The National Cathedral was awarded first place, with Mount Vernon a close second.

Thank you to all who voted online; your support helped raise the profile of George Mason and his Memorial in Washington, D.C.



## FALL BULB PLANTINGS BRING APRIL FLOWERS

*In the last issue, we reported that volunteers were planting bulbs to beautify the plantation. Though the planting crew discovered that much of the ground, untilled for years, was cement-like, the bulbs thrived and tulips and daffodils emerged.*



## PUBLIC NOTICE: SUMMER EVENTS

**CHRISTY HARTMAN MYERS WRITING WORKSHOP** - For 4th and 5th Grade Aspiring Authors Saturday, June 8, 8:45am – 3:30pm

Students observe a scene depicting George Mason's return from the Philadelphia Convention. They look at that scene through the eyes of a journalist, a historian, a poet, a novelist, and an illustrator. Experts in each of these fields will guide the participants in creating their own stories and illustrations. Snacks, lunch and art supplies are provided. 36 spaces. Cost is \$15.

**GEORGE MASON DAY - Honoring the Author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights** Saturday, June 15, 2:30pm – 6:00pm

Description This day will commemorate the June 1776 ratification of Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights. Join the color guard in procession to Mason's tomb for a wreath laying; listen to distinguished speakers; savor samples from the hearth kitchen; and converse with characters from the past. A concert on the lawn culminates the festivities. Food available for purchase throughout the day. *Free admission for all.*

### FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 16, 9:30 – 4:30 Enjoy a visit to the historic Mansion where tours will highlight the role of George Mason as both patriot and widower parent to nine children. Regular Admission; Fathers and Grandfathers Free.

**SEARCHING FOR HISTORY'S MYSTERIES** Daily in July and August 9:30-3:30

Plantation Scavenger Hunt! Bring your family to solve a historic mystery at Gunston Hall. Young detectives and their adult companions complete a scavenger hunt during a child-friendly mansion tour. *Children \$5, adults free. Friends free. \$25 Family Admission.*

**ARCHITECTURE IN THE AFTERNOON TOURS** First and Third Sundays, July through October 2:00 P.M.

The 90-minute tour explores the Mansion's exterior and interior, including the cellar. Discover why Gunston Hall's carpenter/joiner William Buckland and master carver William Bernard Sears are highly regarded. *Regular admission. Friends free. Tour recommended for adults and young persons over 12 years old.*

**GUNSTON HALL CONVERSATIONS** Second and Fourth Sundays, July through October Noon – 4:00 P.M.

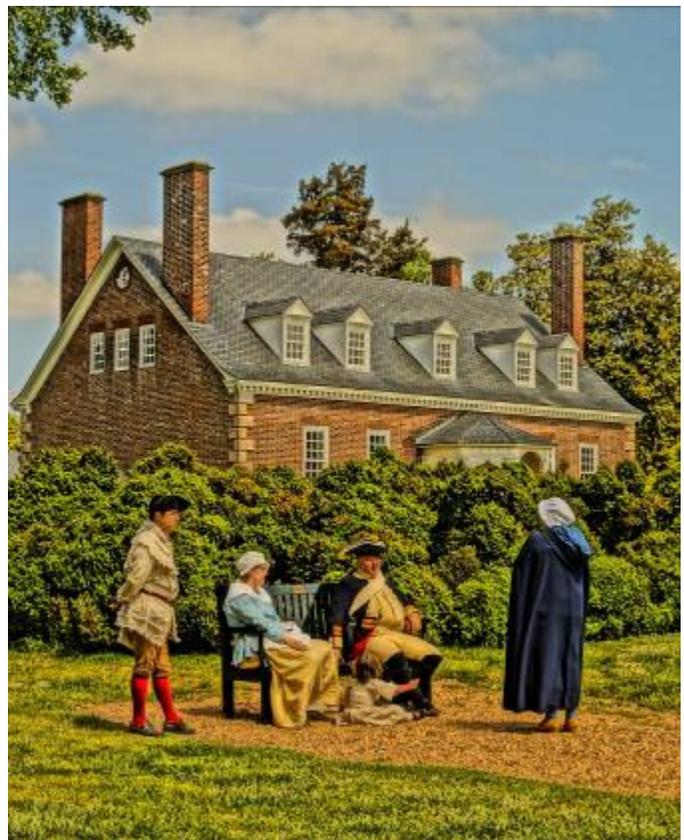
George Mason's family, friends, and servants discuss politics, play games, and perform domestic skills in 18th-century Virginia. The mini-program varies each session. *Regular admission. Friends free.*

**VIRGINIA FOLKLORE WITH EVE WATTERS** Sunday, July 14 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy a lively evening of Celtic harp, song, storytelling and an array of instruments as Ms. Watters leads an interactive journey back to early Virginia. *Regular admission.*

**TEACHERS' DAY OUT: AT HOME WITH GEORGE MASON** Wednesday, August 7 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Teachers spend an informative day devoted to the life and ideals of George Mason. They indulge in a behind-the-scenes plantation tour, examine Mason documents, and discuss strategies to make the patriot come alive in the classroom. *Open to all teachers for 10 re-certification points, \$25 fee covers materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Registration required at [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org)*



## GUNSTON HALL WELCOMES NEW CITIZENS TO THE UNITED STATES

Gunston Hall, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, and the Washington, D.C. Society of the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America held a Citizenship Ceremony for 51 new citizens on May 25.

Top Row: Left, Virginia State Senator Linda T.

“Toddy” Puller delivers congratulatory remarks. Center, attorney and Mason relation David Mercer delivers the keynote address. Right, a color guard from the Alexandria Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps presents the colors. Middle row: Left, Wylie Raab, First Regent of Gunston Hall, bids a welcome to all the new citizens in their native languages. Center, one of America’s newest citizens proudly displays her citizen-

ship certificate. Right, new citizens recite the Oath of Allegiance administered by Sarah Taylor, Washington District Director of the USCIS. Bottom: the ceremony is underway on the lawn at Gunston Hall.

