



Spring 2004 Update

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Fairfield Facts:

- On September 26, 1648, Lewis Burwell bought a “black or dark colored mare with a white spott or starr on the forehead” for 3360 lbs. of tobacco.
- In a letter of July 23, 1703, Lewis Burwell II writes that he is alarmed by daily threats of ruin for not forcing his daughter to marry Governor Nicholson.

Hello again! Welcome to the new members who are joining us this year, and of course, many thanks to all the returning members. The last few months have been fairly quiet, but as the weather warms up we are preparing for an active summer.

Our excavations this summer will be focused on providing educational opportunities for several groups visiting and volunteering at Fairfield. Fairfield offers a great opportunity to instruct students, teachers, and the general public in the methods, goals, and experience of archaeology. As a relatively undisturbed plantation site, Fairfield has become a wonderful teaching tool for educators in Gloucester County and the Middle Peninsula. This has always been a driving goal of the Fairfield Foundation. We are constantly seeking new ways to bring this information to light in an



engaging and informative fashion and will continue to broaden our outreach to students, teachers, and visitors beyond our region.

As members of the Fairfield Foundation, we welcome and appreciate any comments or suggestions you have about how we can do our job better, and what you would like to see from Fairfield over the next year. As always, if anyone is interested in volunteering in the lab or with summer fieldwork please let us know. We can always use more help.

Archaeology at Fairfield: Just Horsing Around?

Three years of digging and researching at Fairfield have uncovered a consistent relationship between our four-legged friends and their human owners. From the earliest Burwell occupants to the last residents of the mansion, horses have been involved in both work and play, helping plow fields, pull carriages and win races at the local ordinary. A pony shoe (right) was found with other artifacts from Fairfield’s 1897 fire.



Archaeology Teacher Institute



In July, the Fairfield Foundation is teaming up with Historic Jamestowne (APVA) and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to host an inaugural teacher institute on Tidewater archaeology. This weeklong, intensive course

aimed at school teachers from throughout the region is a collaborative effort that we hope will continue for many years.

Participating teachers will receive instruction in archaeological field and lab methods, Virginia life and culture from the 17th through 19th centuries, and innovative methods for incorporating archaeology and history in the classroom. The week will finish with two days of hands-on excavations and lab work at Fairfield. This is yet another step in our efforts to involve visitors in the process of archaeology and share the information about Fairfield with students, teachers, and the public.

Summer Excavation Plans

In what has become an annual tradition, Fairfield will host several groups this summer during our excavations. The first is a new batch of students from Lorain County Community College in Ohio, led by Jennifer Williams. They will be spending three days at Fairfield during the last week of May.

specific areas prior to our sign installation. Signs for a site tour, sponsored by The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, will be placed at key points adjacent to the mansion, garden and other locations, helping guide people as they visit Fairfield.

In July we will be joined by another group of rising college students participating in the National Institute for American History and Democracy's Early American History Summer Program. For the third year in a row, Dr. James Whittenburg will lead his students to the site for a tour and brief excavation experience, and then students who are especially interested in archaeology will have the chance to join us in the field for a few more days of digging.

Also for the third year, Mount Vernon's archaeology team will be joining us for a few days of fun in the sun excavating portions of Fairfield's colonial garden. In addition, we hope to excavate



Mount Vernon Archaeologists excavating part of the garden in 2002.

New Discovery at Abingdon Parish Church

Recent excavations by DATA Investigations at Abingdon Parish Church have uncovered evidence of the late 17th- / early 18th-century churchyard wall and church. There are many connections between Fairfield and Abingdon Church. Fairfield is located in Abingdon Parish, and the Burwells were long-time members of the congregation. Lewis Burwell II donated the church silver in 1702. The Burwell tombs were also moved from Fairfield to Abingdon Church in 1911 to protect them from further deterioration.

The present church was built around 1755, but the archaeological remains of the previous church and churchyard walls lie immediately to the south.



William Byrd, while staying at Fairfield in 1709, noted that Abingdon was "the best church I have seen in the country."

The recent project investigated a section of foundation damaged by an uprooted tree, confirming that it was part of the original churchyard wall. Preliminary work may have also identified the size and exact location of the earlier church, constructed in the 1660s or 1670s. The early church and other features are largely intact and further excavations could yield a wealth of information about the 17th-century brick church.

Tony and Rob - Where are they now?

As many of you know, Tony Smith and Robert Haas have both moved on to other positions, but we still get them out to Fairfield for the occasional Dig Day. We thought it would be nice to update you on their current positions.

Rob is working at the James River Institute for Archaeology (JRIA) in Williamsburg. He works on a variety of excavations in the

region, and also enjoys a shorter commute. Tony is also working for JRIA on a long-term project to research and interpret Mount Pleasant, a large historic plantation above the banks of the James River in Surry County. Tony has the opportunity to continue doing the kind of excavation and research that he enjoys, while working much closer to his home and family.

**FAIRFIELD
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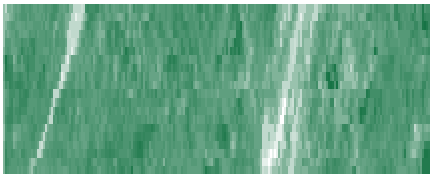
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1847 Sketch of Fairfield



Rob isn't in this hole anymore—but check out where he is now on Page 3.



The Fairfield Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to the archaeological study of the Burwell plantation in Gloucester County, known as Fairfield/Carter's Creek. The foundation has launched an extended investigation into all aspects of this colonial plantation, with the goal of studying, preserving, and presenting this new knowledge to the public.

Membership News

Thanks to all of our past members who have generously chosen to renew their membership, and welcome to all new members as well. Fairfield relies on the continued support of people like you in order to continue our educational and research goals.

Please pass on this information to anyone you know who may be interested. Thank you!

Annual Giving Levels:

Basic	\$15
Family	\$25
Friends of Fairfield	\$30 - \$99
Carter Creek Society	\$100 - \$499
Landmark Society	\$500 - \$999
1694 Society	\$1000 - \$2499
Lewis Burwell Society	\$2500 and up

Check Us Out On The Web at
www.fairfieldfoundation.org

Welcome to New and Renewed Members

Basic

Helen Mittelman

Family

Linda Bryson

Friends

George and Kay Lewis

Gene Hardin

Joanne Currey

Carter Creek Society

Ann Thruston Casper Scott

Mary T. Kincheloe in memory of Fanny Burwell Powell Turner

Jeffrey and Barbara Smigel

Herman and Sue Burwell