



Summer 2004 Update

Hello again! Welcome to our new members who help make every year a success and, as always, many thanks to the returning members.

This summer Fairfield continued to be a valuable teaching tool for both teachers and students from across the United States. The history and excavation of Fairfield plantation offers a great opportunity to instruct students, teachers, and the general public in the methods, goals, and experience of archaeology. Along with volunteers from the community who came out to help us excavate, we also welcomed Virginia teachers and high school and college students

The excavations this season are focused on the slave quarter area, where work in 2001 discovered a sub-floor pit flanked by two burned clay areas (possible hearths) dating to 1700-1750.

A fence line also runs through this area, presumably separating a kitchen midden from a cleaner yard area on the side facing the house. This year we've been sampling small features and expanding the excavation to the south, uncovering some new and intriguing features.

The Fairfield Foundation welcomes new ideas and feedback about the job we are doing and how we can better serve you. We can always use help and would welcome anyone who is interested in helping us with both field and lab work.

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Fairfield Facts:

- On May 24, 1764, Rebecca Burwell married Jacquelin Ambler, and their daughter later married John Marshall. Rebecca spurned the advances of Thomas Jefferson before her marriage to Ambler. Ironically, Marshall became one of Jefferson's harshest critics.

Volunteer Profile: Janet Brown

Fairfield has benefited from the help of numerous volunteers during the last three years, but few have been more valuable than Janet Brown. Though many of you do not know her, she is the secret behind much of our success. As Assistant Treasurer she keeps all the financial business straight, and is always looking for further ways to help. She has been there since the beginning, and has proven herself invaluable to everything we do.



In addition to all this, she bakes great cookies, and no non-profit organization could long endure without a few good cookies.

Volunteers such as Janet are the fuel that keeps us going. If you'd like to volunteer and help the Fairfield Foundation, email us anytime at fairfield@ccsinc.com.



Institute combines archaeology and education

In a week long course lasting from July 12 to July 16, four Virginia teachers participated in the first outreach program of the Virginia Institute of Archaeology Education (VIAE), a cooperative effort between APVA Jamestown Rediscovery, Colonial Williamsburg (CW), and the Fairfield Foundation. The course showed teachers how they can incorporate archaeology into their classrooms at almost every level.

The week started at the CW archaeology lab, where the teachers were given presentations on the history of the three sites. The week continued with a visit and workshop at Jamestown Rediscovery.

At the end of the week, the teachers had the opportunity to work at Fairfield. They divided their time between digging in the slave quarter area and discussing ways to integrate archaeology into their classes.

Dave to study Fairfield's slave quarter

Dave Brown will spend two and a half months cataloguing artifacts associated with Fairfield's slave quarter into the Digital Archaeological Archive of Chesapeake Slavery (DAACS) through a fellowship with the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. This will allow the Fairfield material to contribute to the broader analysis of colonial slavery along with sites from Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and Poplar Forest.

Starting August 16th, Dave will work in Charlottesville with the DAACS team and other scholars studying the colonial Chesapeake. His research will focus on issues of slave autonomy and the material reflections of master/slave relations on Virginia plantations. This will culminate with the Fairfield slave quarter collection appearing online and accessible around the world.

Go to www.daacs.org to learn about other slave quarters in the Chesapeake, and look for Fairfield's assemblage to appear in 2005.

VIAE participants Lynn McClary and Elaine Norman (above), and Michael Bell (below) screen soil from the slave quarter area.



Ohio students see the signs!



Students from LCCC pose in front of the Rosewell Lab.

For the second year in a row, Lorain County Community College sent down a crew of eight eager students to excavate at Fairfield. With their instructor Jennifer Williams, they came to Gloucester for three days, dividing their time between fieldwork and lab work. By the end of their trip they were introduced to basic archaeological

methods. At Fairfield, they assisted Dave and Thane with excavating test units in locations where interpretive signs are planned. The signs were funded through a grant by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and will hopefully be installed in 2005. Many interesting items were found, and the signs are now one step closer to installation.



Deb Durbin joins Fairfield for an internship

Deborah Durbin, a rising sophomore from Shippensburg, Pa., interned with the Fairfield Foundation this summer. The internship was part of the leadership minor she will earn upon graduating from Mary Baldwin College and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership, in Staunton, Virginia. She participated in Dr. Jim Whittenburg's first NIAHD program in 2002, and through his help was able to set up an internship with the Fairfield Foundation.

From May 29 to August 13, her internship covered the day-to-day process of running a non-profit historical preservation organization,

including research, fund raising, grant writing, community outreach, and excavation. She also studied the leadership skills Dave and Thane apply to their work on a regular basis. The primary object of her research was the women of Fairfield, including Lucy and Rebecca Burwell, who spurned, respectively, Virginia Governor Francis Nicholson and Thomas Jefferson, as well as the black tenant farmer living at Fairfield when the house burned in 1897. Her work will result in a grant proposal to the VFH with the goal of returning next year to continue her work with the Fairfield Foundation.



NIAHD students backfill (above) and screen artifacts (below).



The NIAHD strikes again!

Dozens of students sacrificed their chance to sleep in on a Saturday morning to try archaeology in July. Dr. James Whittenburg and the National Institute for American History and Democracy's (NIAHD) Early American History Pre-Collegiate Summer Program visited Fairfield for the third year in a row. This year the program was split into two three-week sessions, which allowed more students to visit Fairfield (over 75!) and participate in the excavations.

After being briefed by Dave on the history of Fairfield and the importance of the excavations an evening prior, the students were given a chance to travel to Fairfield themselves and experience archaeology on two Saturdays during their class. The students received instruction in the basics of excavation, screening and

backfilling completed areas.

During the third Saturday, a group of students digging in a unit of the slave quarter discovered large fragments of English stoneware, mixed with other artifacts and charcoal, indicating the presence of a nearby feature. They also recovered part of a ring with the jewel unfortunately missing. Their hard work, and that of the students before them, has helped the Fairfield Foundation learn more details about early 18th-century slave life.

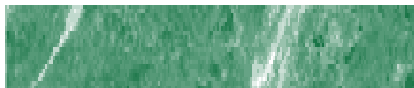
The interest we get is always refreshing, and several of the students have expressed interest in returning next year to volunteer or complete an internship. We can't wait to work with them and next year's NIAHD students in 2005.

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1847 Sketch of Fairfield



NIAHD students created a brick 'temple' at Fairfield to temporarily protect a feature.



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

Fairfield relies on the generous donations of people like you to fund excavations and implement educational programs that teach local school kids, college interns, volunteers, and the local community about the history of an important colonial plantation. We also benefit from volunteers who spend countless hours working with us on excavating, studying, and learning about Fairfield plantation and the people who once lived and worked there.

We enjoy sharing these discoveries and hope that you will continue your support of our endeavors. If you haven't renewed for the year, please

consider doing so—and if you know of others who would be interested in our work or volunteering, don't hesitate to pass along a copy of this newsletter (we'll send extras if you need them).

We appreciate your interest and involvement in everything we do at Fairfield. Stay tuned for even more discoveries in the fall.

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 +

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

Welcome to New and Renewed Members

Basic

Melissa Blevins, Jennifer Welch, Brown Mims III, Lauren Bauer, Lisa Harper, Victoria Respass, Deborah Durbin, Jennie Howe

Friends

Louise Nemecek
Grace Karish and her late mother Fanny Burwell Powell Turner

Carter Creek Society

Lynn McClary
Judith Hark
Betty Leviner
Carter Skinner
E. Randolph Turner, III

Landmark

Lynn and Bob Ripley

1694 Society

Rachel Mellon