



Fall 2004 Update

Experience Virtual Fairfield: The Interactive Site Tour is now available!

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The Fairfield Foundation announces the completion of its interactive and educational CD-Rom. Highlighting many of the discoveries that have occurred during three years of excavation and research, *Virtual Fairfield* is an exciting new way to learn about the foundation's work. Created with the support of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the hard work of graphics supervisor Nathan Miller, the CD-Rom contains pictures, maps, and computer models of Fairfield's architecture and landscape evolution.

This CD-Rom is now available for purchase from the Fairfield Foundation for \$15 plus \$2 shipping. Orders of 3 or more are only \$12 each.

Ordering Info:

- By email—

fairfield@ccsinc.com

- By phone—

804-694-4775

- By mail—

Fairfield Foundation

P.O. Box 157

White Marsh VA 23185

All proceeds support continued research at Fairfield.

The cornerstone of the site tour is a series of 3-D digital reconstructions of the manor house and surrounding buildings. The models are displayed in exacting detail, based on in-depth archaeological and architectural research. The CD-Rom is available for purchase (see left) and would make a great Christmas gift for someone interested in history, architecture, archaeology, or the ancestral home of the Burwell and Thruston families in Virginia.



Uncovering Fairfield's Slave Quarter Complex

This summer Fairfield proved to be a valuable teaching tool for both teachers and students from around the region. Archaeology is always a hands-on activity, and working at the slave quarter provided a great opportunity to instruct students, teachers, girl scouts, and the public in the methods, goals, and experience of excavation. Along with numerous volunteers who joined us in the field and lab, we welcomed several Virginia teachers and dozens of high school and college students from around the country. In May we worked with a crew of eight students from Lorain County Community College in Ohio. July brought many more eager students who were participating in Prof. James Whittenburg's American History Pre-Collegiate Summer Program through the National Institute for American History and Democracy at the College of William and Mary. They toiled in the hot sun and learned a great deal about the science of excavation, and the necessity of backfilling!

All of this help allowed us to expand the excavations around the slave quarter, located about 100 feet west of the manor house. Thinking we would just excavate a few more units to finish documenting our single, ephemeral slave quarter proved to be shortsighted. It became immediately apparent that we were dealing with at least two slave quarters, and the area has grown even more complex in the ensuing months!

The original slave quarter, identified in 2001, appears to be a small building, roughly 10 by 20 feet, with hearths at either end and a small sub-floor pit in the middle. No structural posts match the building, and the artifacts within the pit

suggest a date in the first half of the 18th century, or slightly earlier. Recent excavations have revealed further burned soils and possibly two additional sub-floor pits. One of these, measuring 3.5' square, is centered between two burned clay areas, denoting another quarter measuring about 10 by 20 feet, yet oriented perpendicularly to the previous structure and closer to the manor house. The artifacts within the pit suggest that this building stood in the mid-18th century, and likely replaced the earlier



Girl Scouts learn about archaeology and slave life at Fairfield.

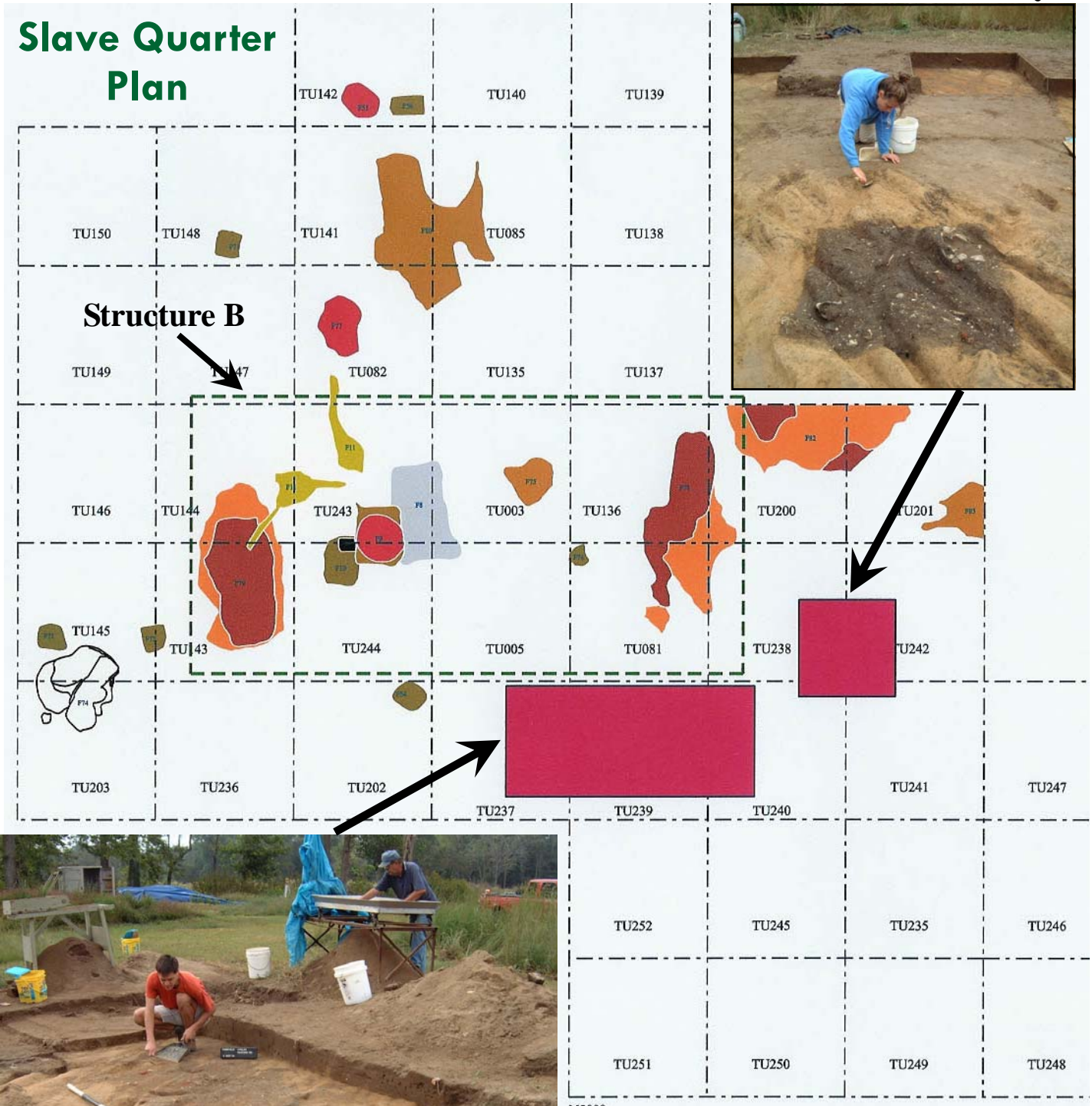
structure. It is unclear why the building orientation was changed, but this may point to more extensive changes in landscape design and use on the plantation. The third pit or cellar is the most mysterious. Measuring 4 by 9 feet and marked by an unusual quantity of furniture tacks found in the soil above it, this feature does not appear to match with any hearth areas or structural posts. This may have been a small pit building, a saw pit, a cellar under a lean-to structure, an unidentified non-domestic function, or even a piecost. Much testing remains to be done to determine the exact nature and age of these newly discovered features, but their presence suggests the possibility of multiple slave quarters and activity areas in this location.

This research would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of a number of our



Thanks to the archaeologists from Mount Vernon and Monticello who helped find the second quarter at Fairfield.

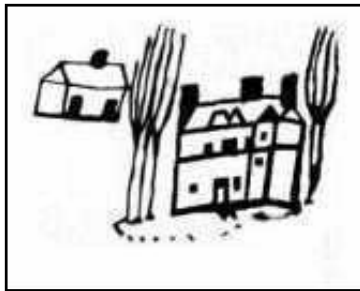
archaeological colleagues. Mount Vernon's archaeological staff and field crew joined us for two exciting and eventful days in October, and several archaeologists from Monticello have made it down on multiple occasions to join in the fun of digging coastal plain soils, and aid us in uncovering the history of Fairfield plantation.



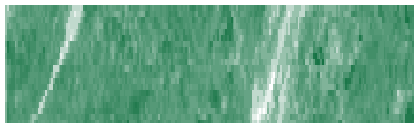
The map above shows the features that have been found around the slave quarter at Fairfield. The first quarter, Structure B, was identified in 2001 and, is outlined by a dotted line above. It now appears that this building was short-lived, and replaced by a similar building oriented perpendicular to the first, around a small, square cellar, pictured above. A larger, 4' by 9' cellar (shown at left) appears to represent a third building or addition to Structure B, serving a function we do not yet understand.

**THE FAIRFIELD
FOUNDATION, INC.**

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1847 Sketch of Fairfield



Part of an English stoneware jug sticking out of the newly discovered subfloor pit. Stay tuned as we uncover more of this near-complete vessel.



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.

Volunteer Update and Membership News

Volunteers are the fuel that make Fairfield GO! In 2004, more than 250 volunteers contributed over 2035.5 hours, helping to wash artifacts, and dig plowzone and features, while learning about the past. That tops 2003's total of 1415 hours AND 2002's total of 1630 hours! Without their help we would never have had as successful a year as we did. In appreciation for all of their hard work, 11 volunteers earned memberships (25+ hours), 3 earned a free Fairfield hat or t-shirt (75+ hours), and 1 earned an inaugural Fairfield trowel (125+ hours). And for the first time, Deb Durbin earned a free dinner with Dave and Thane to thank her for over 370 volunteer hours. Thanks!

Thanks to everybody who generously donated your time and money to Fairfield during 2004. The Fairfield Foundation relies on this generosity in order to accomplish its important goals. All gifts are welcome and also tax deductible. The membership levels are included below, and can also be found on the website. 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

Hilarie Hicks
Meghan Fureymore
Derek Wheeler
Melanie McPherson
Beatrix Arendt
Kimberly Respass

Friends

David L. Peebles
Jennifer and Derek Williams

Carter Creek Society

Henry and Bernice Rowe
J. Goodwin Bland, in honor of his father Burton M. Bland
Julia King
Gary Fetzer

APVA Northern Neck Branch

Lewis Burwell Society

Fred L. Brown Charitable Foundation