



Winter 2004/5 Update

General Assembly Grant kicks off Fairfield Capital Campaign

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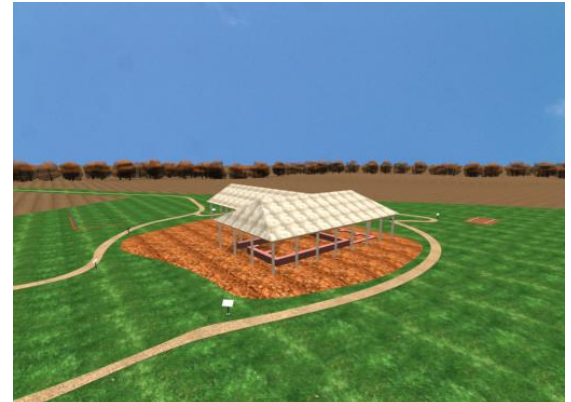
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Membership News

Welcome to New and renewed Members

Hello again! Welcome to our new members who have helped make the year a success and, as always, many thanks to continuing members. As you can see this newsletter is a little behind schedule, but there is plenty of news to share nonetheless.

This spring has been a very active time for fundraising, and we have the honor to announce that the Virginia General Assembly has challenged us with a state appropriation to aid our work at this important site. We will use the \$12,500 grant to secure other funds and donations that will allow us to launch a multi-year program of excavation, research, and stabilization. The first phase of this project involves excavating much of the destruction rubble around and inside the manor house in order to study the architecture of the house as well as the artifacts the last occupants lost in the fire of 1897. The funds will also support the construction of a protective structure covering the ruins. Our goal is to complete fundraising for the first phase of this project and begin excavations in spring 2006. You will



Digital view of the protective structure that will cover the Fairfield manor house.

here much more about this project in future newsletters.

Our goals this summer are more modest. With the aid of several interns and the generosity of a number of groups who have returned year after year, we aim to complete work around the slave quarter complex. Beginning in May with Jennifer Williams and students from Lorraine County Community College in Ohio, we will excavate several more test units and begin sampling the two pit features discovered last year. All are welcome to join us so call and set up a visit this summer.

Fairfield Facts:

Nov. 21, 1885: John Cooke, owner of Fairfield, advertised in the *Gloucester Mail*: "Desirable Farm FOR RENT, I offer for rent a desirable farm known as "Carter's Creek," containing 300 acres of land, with a comfortable brick dwelling of eight rooms and all necessary outbuildings. Terms easy."



Fairfield Voyages to Merry Ol' England

In January, Fairfield co-directors Dave Brown and Thane Harpole, along with graphics supervisor Nathan Miller and volunteer Brown Mims III, ventured to York, England for the 2005 Annual Conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology. After presenting recent

research on the African-American community surrounding post-bellum Fairfield, we took in the sights and sounds of this wonderful English city. We recommend you make the trip some day and spend some time in the York Minster (left), and wandering the walled city.

New Fairfield Exhibit at the Gloucester Museum of History



Portions of an 18th-century scale and coin weights, similar to those above, were found at Fairfield.

Long-time volunteers Bob and Lisa Harper have recently completed an array of museum exhibits on the second floor of the Gloucester Museum of History charting the archaeology and history of Gloucester County. Bob and Lisa put in a tremendous effort to complete this project, and we all congratulate them on their efforts.

One of the highlights is an updated exhibit on Fairfield.

Originally installed as part of a senior project by Gloucester High School student Lindsay Braisted in 2002, the exhibit has allowed visitors to the museum to learn about one of Gloucester's major plantations. Now within the expanded exhibit space the information on Fairfield can contribute to museum visitors' understanding of the importance and broad scope of Gloucester



17th-century coin weight on display in the new Fairfield exhibit.

County history. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Gloucester Museum of History recently, we recommend a return trip. Housed in the 18th-century Botetourt Building, and adjacent to the historic court house green, the museum is a real asset for the Gloucester community. With wonderful restaurants and shops nearby, it is the perfect compliment to day long tour of Gloucester County. Make it part of your next trip to Fairfield.



Fragment of a 17th/18th-century scale arm that is being conserved for placement in the exhibit.

Volunteer Profile: Bob, Lisa, Victoria, William and Kimberly

Bob and Lisa Harper have been helping the Fairfield Foundation since its inception in 2000. Along with Lisa's children, Victoria, William, and Kimberly Respass, the group has contributed nearly 1000 volunteer hours washing, digging, sorting, and numbering artifacts at the foundation's archaeology lab at the Rosewell Visitor Center. Directors of their own excavations, the Windsor Archaeological Project, investigating the home of botanist John Clayton in Mathews County, the husband and wife team have still found ample time to help out at Fairfield when we've needed them most. We owe a great deal of thanks to them for their hard work, advice, and support. Our success is ensured by their help.



Kimberly, Lisa, Victoria, and William help pick through artifacts at volunteer lab night. Lab nights are every Tuesday night from 6-9 at the Rosewell Visitor Center.



Deb Durbin Returns to Fairfield:

Deborah Durbin, a rising junior at Mary Baldwin College, will be returning to Fairfield this summer to research the women of Fairfield Plantation. Through the generous support of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), Deb will work with the Fairfield Foundation staff and humanities scholars from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) to create an exhibit on the lives of women who lived at Fairfield throughout its history. The exhibit is planned to open in 2006 during Women’s History month at the Gloucester Museum of History.

Deb will also create SOL-related lesson plans that will bring her research into the classroom. The lesson plans and digital version of the exhibit will be distributed to local schools and the public through CD-Rom. This project is one of many public outreach initiatives undertaken by the Fairfield Foundation during the past four years.

Deb was an intern with the Fairfield Foundation during the summer of 2004. She worked over 350 hours with volunteers and the foundation staff, developing donor lists, conducting historical research, and, of course, helping dig in the field. She was also responsible for co-authoring the grant proposal which secured funds from the VFH. We can’t wait to have her back and look forward to developing the next exciting exhibit on Fairfield.

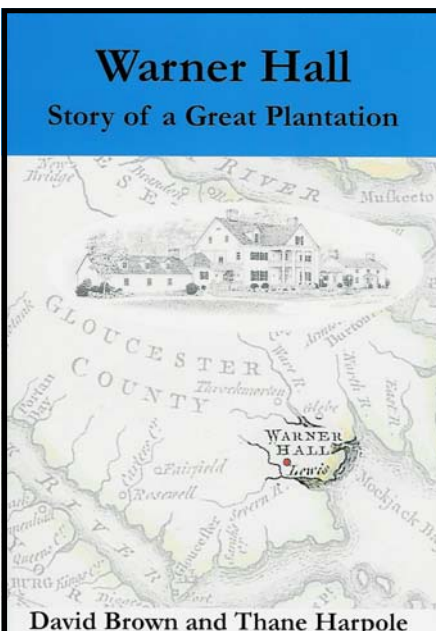


New Book on Archaeology in Gloucester: *Warner Hall: Story of a Great Plantation*

Fairfield Foundation co-directors Thane Harpole and David Brown have recently published their first book on history and archaeology in Gloucester County. Focusing on the historic plantation of Warner Hall, the book compiles the results of significant historic research and archaeological excavations on this National Register of Historic Places property. Warner Hall was the home of the

Warner and Lewis families and is connected with some of the most important historical events and individuals in Virginia history, including George Washington, Robert E. Lee, and Bacon’s Rebellion. It even includes Mrs. Clarke’s famous cocoa-nut ball recipe (worth the purchase price alone).

The book was produced with the support of Troy and Theresa Stavens, owners and proprietors of the bed and breakfast. They began the restoration of the plantation in 1999 and have consistently supported archaeological research at their home and throughout the county. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards future historic preservation projects at Warner Hall and throughout Gloucester County.



Warner Hall: Story of a Great Plantation is now available for purchase from the Inn at Warner Hall for \$12 plus shipping. Orders of 10 or more are only \$10 each.

Ordering Info:

- By email—

info@warnerhall.org

- By phone—

1-800-331-2720

- By mail—

The Inn at Warner Hall
4750 Warner Hall Road
Gloucester VA 23061

All proceeds support historic preservation in Gloucester County.

**FAIRFIELD
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1847 Sketch of Fairfield



Too far away to visit?
Too busy to get to Gloucester?
Don't forget to buy your
copy of the Fairfield
Plantation Interactive Site Tour.
This CD-Rom is available for
purchase from the Fairfield
Foundation for \$15 plus \$2
shipping. Orders of 3 or
more are only \$12 each.
Ordering Info:
fairfield@inna.net
(804) 694-4775

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

Your generous contributions are making possible our exciting and important excavations, our work with high school and college interns and other groups, and soon a book on the first years of excavation and research at Fairfield. Thanks to everybody who has generously donated time and resources to the Fairfield Foundation during its first years.

Gifts of any size are welcome, and are fully tax deductible. 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+

The Fairfield Website is currently under reconstruction.
Check Us Out Later this Summer at
www.fairfieldfoundation.org

Welcome to New and Renewed Members

Basic

Ann Wilkinson
Missy Wilkinson

Family

George and Kay Lewis
Susan Edwards
Rodney and Karen Lorence
Anne and F. Leon Joyner

Friends

Warren Chauncey
Gene Hardin
Theresa Denby

Carter Creek Society

Bart and Emily Barbee (Victory
Foundation)
Herman Burwell
Charles L. Burwell
Dr. Lockert B. Mason
Col. Cecil W. and Nina Page
E. Randolph Turner, III

Landmark Society

Timothy and Janet Brown
Lee Haacker
Betty Leviner

1694 Society

Mrs. Rachel L. Mellon
David Peebles

Lewis Burwell Society

Harry Wason