

# French and Indian War Foundation

*"Preserving and Interpreting the Colonial History of Virginia's Frontier"*



PO Box 751, Winchester, Virginia 22604

www.FIWF.org

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## FORT LOUDOUN DAY LECTURE & DINNER EVENT

R. Patrick Murphy, Editor

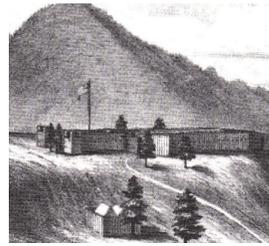
Fort Loudoun Day commemorates the beginning of construction of Fort Loudoun, George Washington's frontier fort in Virginia, and this year will be held on the grounds of the Baker Hardy-House at 419 N. Loudoun St., Winchester, on Saturday, May 20th. This important commemorative event has been expanded to include a lecture and dinner event on Friday, May 19th.

This event will take place at the George Washington Hotel ballroom, 109 E. Piccadilly St., Winchester, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be historian Erica Nuckles who will present a lecture entitled "Remarks on a March: Gender and Rank during the French and Indian War."

Ms. Nuckles will describe the remarkable physical and psychological journey of Charlotte Browne, a British widow and mother who left her children in London to serve as matron (i.e., head nurse) for General Edward Braddock's ill-fated expedition to the Monongahela in 1775 during the F&I War. A woman of what was then known as the "middling rank" (what we would call today middle class), Browne kept a journal of her experience that provides a unique, female perspective on the F&I War. While Browne's motivations and expectations were typical of a middling British woman during the mid-eighteenth century, her life was anything but.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Erica Nuckles is the Director of

History & Collections at Fort Ligonier in Ligonier, PA. She holds a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Wyoming; a M.A. in museum studies from the George Washington University, and is a doctoral candidate at the University at Albany, SUNY, working towards completion of her dissertation on Charlotte Browne's experience during the F&I War. Ms. Nuckles is an alumna of the 2013 Yale Public History Institute and has previously worked at Crailo State Historic Site; The Museum of the Colonial Dutch in the Hudson River Valley in Rensselaer, NY; the Carlyle House Historic Park in Alexandria, VA; the DAR Museum in Washington, DC; and the Bushy Run Battlefield in Jeannette, PA.



Fort Cumberland in 1755 where Charlotte Browne was matron or head nurse.

The entrée will be short ribs of beef with a demi glace and a full cash bar will be available. Seating is limited and advance, paid reservations are required by May 5th. Persons who did not receive an invitation may make a reservation by sending \$50 per person to French and Indian War Foundation, P.O. Box 751, Winchester, VA 22604. Please provide a contact number or e-mail address and indicate any special dietary requirements.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by David Grosso, President

The first quarter of calendar year 2017 finds the Foundation actively continuing our efforts to raise public awareness of the importance of the French & Indian War era in our country's history. To date we have sponsored two public events in 2017. The first was our annual celebration of the anniversary of George Washington's birth; this year the 285th. The second was a book signing and lecture at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. We have additional events in the works for later in the year of which we will keep you informed through our newsletter, e-mails, and event-related invitations. Our next major events will be around Fort Loudoun Day. Members should have received an invitation to a new event added this year to the Fort Loudoun Day activities, a dinner and lecture by an expert in the history of the colonial frontier. We anticipate that this will become an annual event in conjunction with Fort Loudoun Day itself.

The celebration of George Washington's birthday was well attended again this year. Everyone attending enjoyed the camaraderie of friends and fellow aficionados of history as well as the good food served from the kitchen of George's Food and Spirits in the George Washington Hotel. As has become traditional, we were again treated to several toasts to George's memory.

Our second event of the year, a combination book signing and lecture co-sponsored by and held at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, took place on Sunday, March 19. The event was held to honor two 2016 publications by local authors dealing with the history of Winchester and the French and Indian War era. The event was well received with at least 85 guests attending. The MSV graciously extended free admission to the museum for the day for Foundation guests.

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*Editor's Note: The area of Winchester was first settled about 1735. Frederick Town was founded in 1744 and Winchester was established in 1752. The 1755 Fry-Jefferson Map denotes Winchester as "Frederick Town or Winchester." The James Wood addition to Winchester was made in 1758. The naming of certain of the streets in the James Wood addition is an aspect of French and Indian War history that is often overlooked or misunderstood. The year 1758 was auspicious for the British in North America and for Winchester. On July 27, the British captured the fortress city of Louisbourg; on August 27, Colonel John Bradstreet captured Fort Frontenac; on November 24, General John Forbes captured Fort Duquesne; and that was the year in which Fort Loudoun was completed. Although many streets in Winchester are named for Civil War personages (e.g., Lee, Stonewall, Ashby, Mosby), most of the streets in the Wood Addition were named for French and Indian War leaders:*

- Amherst (Sir Jeffery—land commander at Louisbourg in 1758; Commander-in-Chief in North America, 1758-1763)
- Boscawen (Admiral the Honorable Edward—naval commander at Louisbourg; active against the French until his death in 1780)
- Braddock (Major General Edward)
- Loudoun (John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun; Commander-in-Chief in North America, 1756-1757)
- Stewart (most probably Capt. Robert—Virginia Light Horse, Braddock's campaign; left in command of Fort Loudoun when Washington became ill, November 1757 until spring of 1758; friend of Washington; but possibly Surgeon Robert Stewart who also served in the Virginia Regiment at Fort Loudoun)
- Washington (Colonel George, commander of the 1st Virginia Regiment and builder of Fort Loudoun)
- Wolfe (James—Brigadier General in America for Louisbourg campaign; Major General and commander at Quebec, 1759)

*The article that follows is the first in a series of brief biographies by FIWF Vice President Steve Resan of the F&I War leaders for whom these Winchester streets are named, with emphasis on their contributions to the British/American victory in that war.*

*For further reading on the early history of Winchester, see:*

- Frederick Morton, *The Story of Winchester in Virginia: The Oldest Town in the Shenandoah Valley* (Strasburg, VA, 1925; reprinted by Heritage Books, Inc.).
- Katherine Glass Greene, *Winchester Virginia and Its Beginnings: 1743-1814* (Strasburg, VA, 1926; reprinted by Heritage Books, Inc.).
- Garland R. Quarles, *Winchester, Virginia: Streets – Churches – Schools* (Winchester, VA: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1996).

## LORD LOUDOUN

By Stevan A. Resan, Vice President

Loudoun was a parish in East Ayrshire, Scotland. The Barony of Ayrshire was vested in the Loudoun family who built Loudoun Castle in 1186 (The first "Fort Loudoun"). The Barony passed to the Campbells in the reign of Scottish king Robert the Bruce.

Sir Hugh Campbell was created a Lord of Parliament with the title of Lord Campbell of Loudoun by James the VI in 1601. The added title Earl of Loudoun was bestowed by Charles I in 1633.

John Campbell became the fourth Earl of Loudoun and thus "Lord Loudoun" upon the death of his father in 1731. When John Campbell became Lord Loudoun, his military career was set, no matter that he proved himself incompetent. Money could buy choice positions in the army since commissions were for sale to the highest aristocratic bidder. So his title, his family money, and his connections, not his ability or brains, shaped his career.

The young earl showed his military prowess during the royalist uprising of 1745 when he led his men from one defeat to another. After losing almost all the men of his regiment in a battle, he received another regiment and lost again at Inverness, Scotland. After the loss of yet another battle he bided his time, sitting out the war until after the Battle of Culloden. It was said that he was "a pen and ink man whose greatest energies were put forth in getting ready to begin."

Ten years later, after Braddock's army was destroyed during the French and Indian War, due to his social standing and his attention to bureaucratic details, this "master of army paper work" was appointed to save British America from the French.

His unlikely selection can best be understood by seeing him as a representative of the British aristocratic class of the 1700s. He lived in an age when one's family name and title were the guarantees of power and privilege. No amount of stupidity, venality, or licentiousness could reduce the benefits of having been born into a noble family.

The assignment was not the most desirable. After all, he was assuming a command whose commanding general was killed and more than half of his army destroyed.

Lord Loudoun was given the title "Governor General of Virginia." He was not only the titular Governor of Virginia (a colony, as it turned out, he never visited) but also supreme commander of all the British forces in North America and superior in rank to all of the other colonial governors. By the time he was fired he had the reputation of being not only the most inept, the most incompetent, the most arrogant, and the most sluggish, but also the most tyrannical agent of the British crown that American colonials ever suffered under.

When he finally set sail for North America in 1756, already months overdue, he took with him wine, silverware, dinner plate, and other "essentials" such as two secretaries, a surgeon, nineteen horses, three coaches, seventeen personal servants, and two women, one of whom, Jean Masson, was his mistress. During his stay in the



John Campbell, fourth earl of Loudoun (1705-82). Shown here as painted by Allan Ramsay perhaps fifteen years before he was appointed commander in chief in North America. Courtesy of the National Galleries of Scotland. Reprinted from Fred Anderson, *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*, p. 144.

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*"The French and Indian War Foundation preserves and interprets the colonial history of the Virginia frontier."*

### Goals

- Raise public awareness about the war and its consequences through public lectures and tours, as well as publication in the media.
- Collect and conserve primary documents relating to the war.
- Identify, document, preserve and interpret French and Indian War era landmarks in the backcountry of the mid-Atlantic colonies.
- Cooperate with privately and publicly owned French and Indian War fort sites in research, promotion and preservation activities.

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## ON THE ROAD TO THE MONONGAHELA: INTRODUCING FORT EDWARDS AND THE FORT EDWARDS FOUNDATION

By Charles Hall  
and Robert Flanagan  
Fort Edwards Foundation

We fellow historians, members of The Fort Edwards Foundation, living in Hampshire County, WV, are in historically serendipitous circumstances: We celebrated the 250th Anniversary of Hampshire County's founding, along with the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the French and Indian War, just 12 years ago. To date we continue the celebrations on the anniversary of Major General Edward Braddock's campaign against French Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburgh, PA. ("Celebration," *per se*, may not be the most fortunate term to describe war and failed military enterprises, but we're stuck with it.) These public observations of long-past events continue, as the French and Indian War was of a duration of seven-to-nine years, worthy of remembrance. It has required many years and extensive research and documentation to bring this war to its rightful place in history.

The Fort Edwards Foundation has been an active participant in these anniversary activities, and in May 2005 enacted a critical event. Foundation past president, Charles Hall, organized an observance at the Forks of Capon, a site where Braddock's two regiments made camp during their march to Fort Duquesne. After passing through Bloomery Gap, the force made camp at the Forks, before moving westward to Will's Creek, a site which, upon fortification, General Braddock named Fort Cumberland, and then ever westward toward the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers into the Ohio. Though his objective was Fort Duquesne, Braddock's disastrous engagement is known as the Battle of the Monongahela, for it occurred near that river some six or so miles from Fort Duquesne.

Foundation members and friends, historians, 18th century reenactors, and interested history buffs joined in a tribute to the men and women of this first appearance of British Crown troops in America and their ambitious campaign to safeguard the frontier



Persons interested in the French and Indian War often tend to think of New France only in terms of Québec, Montréal, and the St. Lawrence River Valley, forgetting French presence in the Mississippi River Valley, New Orleans, St. Louis, and the forts and trading posts on the Mississippi River tributaries. FIWF is fortunate indeed to have as one of its long-time board members the person who is arguably the leading authority on 18th Century New France in the South and West: Illinois State University Professor of History Emeritus Carl J. Ekberg.

Dr. Ekberg received his B.A. and M.A. in history from the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University. Interestingly, he is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineers' Topographic Computer School

Carl's career straddles two centuries. In the twentieth century, he was a prolific published author and the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the following:

- *The Failure of Louis XIV's Dutch War* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1979).
- *Colonial Ste. Genevieve: An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier* (Gerald, MO: Patrice Press, 1985). For this work Carl received two important prizes: the Alf Heggoy Prize, awarded by the French Colonial Historical Society, for the best book on French colonial history, 1986; and the Gilbert Chinard Prize, awarded jointly by the Society for French Historical Studies and the Institute français de Washington, D.C. for the best book on Franco-American Affairs for 1986.
- In 1987 he received the Award of Superior Achievement in Scholarship presented by the Illinois State Historical Society and the following year he was a lecturer at the NEH Summer institute, "Transatlantic Encounters," at the Newberry Library.
- *Nicolas de Finiels' Account of Upper Louisiana*. (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1989) (trans. & co-ed.).
- *Excavations at the Laurens Site: Fort de Chartres I* (Springfield IL.: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1989 (co-author). That same year Carl was awarded a College of Arts and Science Research Lectureship by Illinois State University.
- In 1995 Carl received the Harry E. Pratt Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for "Agriculture, *Mentalités*, and Violence on the Illinois Frontier" for the best article in *Illinois Historical Journal* for that year.
- *French Roots in the Illinois Country: the Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1998). For this work Carl received the Kemper and Leila Williams Prize, awarded jointly by the Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Historical Association, for the best book on Louisiana history published in 1998.

Dr. Ekberg continued his research and writing into the present century, and has continued to receive important recognition for his efforts:

- *Louis Bolduc: His Family and His House* (Tucson, AZ.: Patrice Press, 2002).
- *François Vallé and His World: Upper Louisiana Before Lewis and Clark* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2002). For this work Carl was the recipient of the Kemper and Leila Williams Prize, awarded jointly by the Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Historical Association, for the best book on Louisiana history published in 2002.
- *Stealing Indian Women: Native Slavery in the Illinois Country* (Urbana, IL University of Illinois Press, 2007). That year he was awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques.
- *A French Aristocrat in the American West: The Shattered Dreams of Delassus de Luzières* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2010).
- In 2014 the French ambassador to the United States presented Dr Ekberg with the **Médaille des Valeurs francophones, a signal honor!**
- *St. Louis Rising: The French Regime of Louis St. Ange de Bellerive* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2015) (co-author with Sharon Person). For this latest work Carl and his co-author were awarded the 2016 Missouri History Book Award for superior original scholarship in a book pertaining to the history of Missouri and its people by the State Historical Society of Missouri.

FIWF is fortunate indeed to have such a renowned scholar and author as Dr. Carl J. Ekberg on its board of directors.

The following is a fragment from my files of an article from a Winchester newspaper<sup>1</sup> and, although not bylined, is believed to be authored by Katherine Glass Green in the first quarter of the 20th century as an excerpt from her 1926 work entitled *Winchester, Virginia and its Beginnings: 1743-1814*.<sup>2</sup>

Of particular significance are the segments of the narrative regarding the final destruction of Fort Loudoun. Noting that North Loudoun Street had been cut through “the timber and hill” earlier, it was not until 1843 that the street “received its first overseer and work.”<sup>3</sup>

“Bushels of minie balls, broken swords, shells, and other fragments of the utensils of defense have been seen on the hill within the memory of people still comparatively young,” the author continued. “But before the street was graded the warplant [sic] had become the site of educational institutions. About 1830 the Reverend Joseph Baker established on Fort Loudoun a flourishing Baptist academy, which lasted until his death in 1855.”<sup>4</sup>

“The logs from the old stockade were used in various ways. Mr. David Hamilton built a tool house with some of them. Upon the erection of the John Kerr public school building, Mr. Hamilton stored the logs in the cellar of his home. During a bitter winter, when Mr. Hamilton was in Florida . . . Mrs. Hamilton, unable to obtain fuel, was obliged to use many of the historic logs. The next winter she asked Mr. John Nall whether he would exchange some toys for pieces of Fort Loudoun wood. That versatile genius gladly did so, and the exchange was made again at the next Christmas. He says, ‘Now I believe I am the only one in town who has any pieces of that wood.’ Mr. Nall made the gavel presented to [the] Fort Loudoun [Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution] by Mr. William Spotswood White, a treasure almost too precious to be used. The gavel is a striking illustration of the fulfillment of the prophecy, that the spear shall be beaten into the pruning hook, since it is a very fitting symbol of the pruning necessary in the culture of the mind.”<sup>5</sup>

The author of the newspaper item erroneously reported that the house purchased by John W. Darlington in 1886, the Baker-Hardy house, was built in 1853, instead of about 1837 by Reverend Joseph Baker, and that the house was north of the fort, although the “famous Washington well is in the yard.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Although not otherwise identified, the newspaper is believed to be the *Winchester Star*.

<sup>2</sup> Katherine Glass Green, *Winchester, Virginia and its Beginnings: 1743-1814* (Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing House, 1926; reprinted, Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2007). Green was a descendent of Winchester founder James Wood and became an owner of the southern portion of the Fort Loudoun site on the west side of North Loudoun Street. *Editor's note: the portions of the newspaper article quoted by historian Baker are found at pp. 91-92 of Green's book.*

<sup>3</sup> An unimproved road had been cut through the fort prior to 1813.

<sup>4</sup> Baker purchased the major portion of the Fort Loudoun site on the west side of North Loudoun Street in 1837, extending from Peyton Street north to beyond the north side of Fort Loudoun. Baker died in 1855. See Norman L. Baker, *Fort Loudoun: Washington's Fort in Virginia* (Winchester, VA: French and Indian War Foundation, 2006), p. 65.

<sup>5</sup> The present reviewer was permitted the use of this gavel when addressing the Fort Loudoun Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in April 2007. The gavel stand was also made from Fort Loudoun wood. At least one residence in Winchester was built from hewn logs from Fort Loudoun in 1774. The house is identified as the Godfrey Miller, the elder, house at present 424 South Loudoun Street. See Baker, *Fort Loudoun*, p. 60.

<sup>6</sup> The Darlington family sold the Baker house to Anne Quirk Hardy in 1954, who, in turn sold it to the French and Indian War Foundation in 2002. See Baker, *Fort Loudoun*, pp. 71-72. The confusion is due to an apparent failure to locate the property boundaries through the land transfer records. Katherine Glass purchased the southern portion of the Fort Loudoun site, beginning at the southern end of the fort, which is now the Fort Loudoun housing complex, and where a marker was placed identifying it as the site of Fort Loudoun.

## LORD LOUDOUN

*continued from page 2*

Colonies he was notorious for his lavish dinner parties for entertaining his officers. Less than a month after Loudoun arrived in New York British Fort Oswego fell to the French. While encamped at Albany, Loudoun's most notable act was to issue an order putting the colonial militias under British commanders despite explicit agreements that the colonial troops would fight under their own leaders. This act led to a long period of political wrangling during which no fighting could take place.

Loudoun also insisted that the colonial governments quarter his troops by putting them up in their taverns and barracks, and if no room was available there, to force them upon private citizens in their homes. The British army at that time was made up of the scum of society who were known for their barbarity and brutality, and were rightly feared by the populace. Loudoun's insistence on this was an early warning to many that the King's subjects in the colonies did not have the rights of other Englishmen.

## BAKER-HARDY HOUSE UPDATE

The Foundation is fortunate to have stable tenants leasing a portion of our property at 419 North Loudoun Street in Winchester. Mr. and Mrs. Torres care for the house and grounds as if they were their own, and are always cooperative with the Foundation whether we are using the Resource Room for meetings or holding an event on the grounds. Their regular rent payments are vital in allowing us to retire the loan against the property, the balance of which now stands at about \$147,750. Donations toward this debt are always welcome!

By Jimmie Shipp, Treasurer

An outline of the northwest bastion of Fort Loudoun has been completed in the rear yard as an Eagle Scout project by Chris Will. We are working with the City of Winchester toward including additional outlining of the Fort in the Loudoun Street right-of-way as improvements are made over the next two years. The property contains the well that Colonel Washington had dug through solid limestone to supply the Fort, and the Foundation plans, as funds permit, further archaeological exploration of the well, along with construction of a period-appropriate structure around it.

# ON THE ROAD TO THE MONONGAHELA: INTRODUCING FORT EDWARDS AND THE FORT EDWARDS FOUNDATION

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settlers of the Virginia colony. Thanks to the generous invitation of Miss Sophie Powell, who owns the land embodying this historical site, the Foundation and guests, granted access, were pleased to present a program of commemoration on the actual ground trod on, marched on, slept on by General Braddock's 44th and 48th Regiments of Foot.

Wilmer Kerns, author of several books on Hampshire County genealogy, and co-author/editor of the 2004 publication, *Hampshire County, West Virginia, 1754-2004*, gave the invocation. This was followed by the welcoming of guests, and an illustrative talk by Charles Hall on "Braddock's Campaign and Its Effects." After closing remarks, a body of five reenactors, in period dress, fired three volleys in honor of Braddock and his army (roughly two-thirds of whom, including General Braddock, were killed or wounded in the disastrous campaign and battle). Attendees then enjoyed refreshments in the rain-threatened "Field of Braddock," and dispersed with a new-found sense of its historical significance.



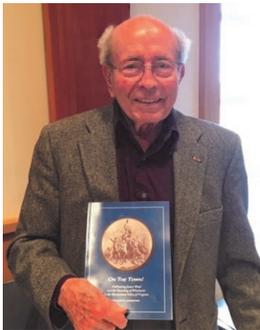
Fort Edwards Visitors Center on one of their annual Hampshire Family Frontier Day events

To understand the part Hampshire County played in such splendid history, visit The Fort Edwards Foundation visitor center on Coldstream Road in Capon Bridge, West Virginia. The center has a book section in the museum shop well-stocked with works on the history and figures of the French and Indian War. It is open beginning the third Saturday in June, until mid-October, on Saturdays and Sundays. Visit [www.fortedwards.org](http://www.fortedwards.org) for further information.

The Monongahela observances are typical of Fort Edwards historical examinations.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Wilbur S. Johnston,  
author of *On The Town!*

Wilbur S. Johnston, a resident of Winchester, published *On the Town!*, which celebrates James Wood and the founding of Winchester. Norman Baker, Foundation Historian, published *Braddock's Road: Historical Atlas*. The book is a companion work to his earlier book *Braddock's Road: Mapping the British Expedition from Alexandria to the Monongahela*.

In addition to guests being able to meet the authors, the event included a lecture, "Thomas Jefferson in Paris," by Dr. Carl Ekberg a long-time Foundation board member. Dr. Ekberg is an honored historian with 10 books and monographs recounting the history of the French in colonial North America. The lecture took guests on a walking tour of Paris along a path taken frequently by Jefferson during his years in France. An added bonus was an account of a tour taken by Jefferson through the wine country of central and southern France. Ever the raconteur, Dr. Ekberg used anecdotes from

Jefferson's journals to provide insights into the man, his thoughts, and eccentricities that are not typically found in text books or monographs dealing with his contributions to the founding of our country.

**Save the Date: May 20, 2017.** Fort Loudoun Day will be held on the grounds of the Baker-Hardy House at 419 North Loudoun Street, Winchester, on Saturday, May 20, 2017. This will be the traditional celebration of the commencement of the construction of Fort Loudoun by Colonel George Washington in 1756. There will be re-enactors, book sellers selling books relating to the F&I War period and the colonial frontier, and a flag-raising ceremony at noon in which the Union Jack is hoisted above the site of Fort Loudoun. This will be the day following the *Fort Loudoun Day lecture and dinner event* on Friday evening, May 19th. See the related article describing this event in detail.

An additional note: if you have not received e-mail notifications from the Foundation in the past year and would like to receive them in the future, please contact us by e-mail at [fiwf.dsg@comcast.net](mailto:fiwf.dsg@comcast.net) and we will add your name to our growing e-mail contact list. Be assured that we will not share your e-mail address with other organizations or with commercial entities.



Norman L. Baker,  
author of *Fort Loudoun: Washington's Fort in Virginia; French & Indian War in Frederick County, Virginia; Braddock's Road: Mapping the British Expedition from Alexandria to the Monongahela; and Braddock's Road: Historical Atlas*

Work at The Fort is moving steadily along through this mercifully mild winter. The front façade has been painted, historic window sashes are being restored, condo units are being framed, and the trades are busy running wires, ducts, and pipes within. The two-story scaffolding is finally down, leaving The Fort's Loudoun Street façade looking visibly rested and refreshed.



Oyster shells found under southeast corner of The Fort at the site of an oyster house

Artifacts continue to be found in the form of bottles, bones, and buttons, and interestingly, oyster shells. Research indicates that a structure at the corner of the main building at The Fort originally served as an oyster house in the early 1800s. According to L. Adolf Richards of *The Winchester Star*, "At the Fort's original site there was a tall, yellow building. The building was constructed of logs and was occupied by Mr. Thomas Brown and his lovely wife. They used the building as an oyster house." The original chestnut log floor joists and a handful of oyster shells are all that remain to tell the tale. In the meantime, Stan and Jan Corneal are currently working with Rachel Hite to develop a website, blog, and Facebook page for The Fort, so fans and interested parties can follow along with its progress.

A talented father-son team of amateur archeologists is working to recover artifacts from The Fort as the conversion proceeds. Louis Moore of Front Royal, VA, manages a research and materials testing laboratory in Sterling, VA. He has been searching for and collecting prehistoric through Civil War era relics since he eyeballed his first arrowheads and musket balls as a child on the family farm in Flint Hill, VA. His son, Ian Moore of Sperryville, VA, is a sophomore attending Rappahannock County High School. Ian is an avid searcher of colonial to Civil War era relics as well as Indian lithic artifacts.



Twelve pounder cannon balls



Grapeshot

*"Preserving and Interpreting the  
Colonial History of the Virginia Frontier"*

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