



French & Indian War Foundation

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

PO Box 751, Winchester, Virginia 22604

www.FIWF.org

Volume 17, Issue 2, Spring 2022

A Weekend in Wardensville

By Marc Robinson

In the Potomac Highlands, a short drive away from the Lost River State Park and the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests lies the small hamlet of Wardensville W. Va. Chartered in Virginia in 1832 and a population of only around 300 residents, Wardensville and Hardy County has a rich Colonial and French and Indian War Heritage.

Originally part of the Northern Neck Proprietary, in 1719, the town of Wardensville and the surrounding area was inherited by Lord Thomas Fairfax. The town is named after William Warden an early settler on the Virginia frontier. William received a parcel of land from Lord Fairfax on June 4, 1750.

On April 9th and 10th, at the invitation of the Mayor of Wardensville, Ms. Betsy Orndoff-Sayers, French and Indian War Foundation Board Member, Eric Robinson and Col. James Wood II Chapter, VASSAR

Past President and Foundation member, Marc Robinson, led a group of historical reenactors in sharing the local colonial history with the residents



of the town and surrounding area.

During the French and Indian War, hostilities between the English and the French and their Native American allies led to the building of a string of fortified outposts along the South Branch and

Capon Valleys as well as the length of the Shenandoah Valley. One of those fortified outposts was Warden's Fort, named for William Warden.

While the weather during the weekend was "brisk", the turnout was strong. Many families with young children joined the activities and enjoyed the colonial presents in Eric's "Treasure Chest" for partaking in the various youth games provided by Brad and Holly Cole and other historical educators.

Military units such as George Mercer's Company of the Virginia Regiment led by Tony Elar, Jr. and members of Rutherford's Rangers such as Mark Buhl and Jeff Pennington demonstrated to the audience various military techniques and strategies used in the French and Indian War on the frontier. While Board Member Eric Robinson showed the gathering eighteenth century weaponry and usage, Board Member Marc Robinson shared with the county residents the story of "Claypool's Rebellion" that occurred during the Revolutionary War in Hardy County not far from Wardensville.

The attendees especially enjoyed watching expert craftsmen Jay and Leigh Ann Ouellette from Stone House

History. The woodworking projects made by Jay are highly prized in the community and the hand-woven tapes made by Leigh Ann are exquisite.

When thinking of the town of Wardensville one must not forget its connection to George Washington. As a young man George surveyed William Warden's land and as commander of the

Virginia Regiment during the French and Indian War soldiers and rangers of his Regiment patrolled in the local valleys. Despite all those efforts it was not possible to stop all raiding as in 1758 William Ward and a Mr. Taff were killed by Indians and the Fort was burnt.

Eric and I are looking forward to next year's trip to Wardensville to spend more time with good friends and share the history of the Virginia Frontier

during the French and Indian War.



Our year is well under way and we are grateful that it is possible to again hold events in-person. We hope that we will be seeing you at one or more of our events this year.

First in that regard was the 2022 celebration of the 290th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. By all accounts the event was a rousing success made more so by being able to greet our members in person again. The event, held at the Winchester Brew Works, was sold out. Everyone in attendance received a commemorative tankard (see the January newsletter for an image of the tankard), 2 slices of pizza prepared by Claudio's Pizzeria and 2 tankards of Fort Loudoun Lager brewed especially for the occasion by the Brew Works. Mercer's Company again held a muster at the Fort site to commemorate President's Day and members of the company joined the GW birthday celebration to mingle with the attendees and provide a festive atmosphere. A good time was had by all making way for the possibility of reprising the event in 2023.

Our next major 2022 events will be Fort Loudoun Day, May 14, and the 20th Anniversary Celebration at the George Washington Hotel, May 15.

Fort Loudoun Day this year will be significantly different from past events with more emphasis on the F&IW era and the role of the fort in that era rather than just the fort itself.

The 20th anniversary event will feature a lunch and lecture by Carl Ekberg (always a treat) dealing with events leading up to the fateful day of July 4th, 1754. Details for the 20th celebration can be found on our website under Events. We hope that many of you will be able to join us to commemorate this milestone in the history of our organization.

For later events, you will be receiving notifications for opportunities as the details are finalized and as the times approach. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer some 'outings' to historic locations similar to what were offered in the past.

On another note, we continue our efforts toward retiring the loan on the Baker-Hardy house. To this end, as announced at the Annual Meeting and reported in the January newsletter, the principal fundraiser for 2022 will be the raffling of a reproduction of an 18th century Lancaster-style longrifle. The fund raiser, as of mid-March, is already a success as we are well into the black. That this is possible so early is because of the donation of the Stanford longrifle by the estate of a deceased member of the Foundation, Robert Roughton, a rifle collector and member of the Kentucky Rifle Association and the Contemporary Longrifle Association as well as our own organization. We are extremely grateful for this generous donation.

Our efforts over the next 7 months will include attendance at various Colonial History events in the Mid-Atlantic region to solicit participation in the raffle as well as reaching out to other like-minded organizations to offer the opportunity for their members to participate in the raffle. We are confident that the income from the raffle will contribute significantly toward lowering the remaining loan balance on the house.

In anticipation of the time when the loan has been retired and efforts to develop an educational resource center at the site can begin in earnest, the board is in the process of revising and updating the Strategic Plan that will serve as a guide for meeting the long-term goals of the Foundation. The goal of the board is to have the plan completed before the 2022 Annual Meeting where it can be formally presented to the membership.

We look forward to your continuing support in 2022. Without your financial support and participation in Foundation-sponsored events we would not be able to continue to offer the programs that we do. THANK YOU!

Come join us to celebrate Fort Loudoun Day

Saturday May 14

10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Flag Raising at 10:30

On May 18, 1756, Colonel George Washington wrote a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Adam Stephen requesting support from Captain Mercers, Captain Bells, and other Companies for 50 men skilled in masonry and carpentry to "carry on the work" of fort construction "with spirit and vigour".

419 N. Loudoun Street, Winchester, Virginia,
the site of historic Fort Loudoun.

Sponsored by

The French & Indian War Foundation and

Colonel James Wood II chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Join us for a look back into Winchester's history during the 1700's via re-enactments, tours, and children's activities. Meet George Mercers Company,

Col James Wood, Sons of the American Revolution Color Guardsmen, and an Indian scout.

Visit the Provincial and Ranger Camps to learn about the life of soldiers based at Fort Loudoun.

Stanford Flintlock Rifle that is being raffled will be on display.

F&IW era books and merchandise for sale.

EXCERPT FROM “a History of the Valley of Virginia” by Samuel Kercheval

Chapter VII, Pages 61-63, Indian Incursions and Massacres

After the defeat of Braddock, the whole western frontier was left exposed to the incursions of the Indians and French. In the spring of the year 1756, a party of about fifty Indians, with a French captain at their head, crossed the Allegany mountains, committing on the white settlers every act of barbarous war. Capt. Jeremiah Smith, raised a party of twenty brave men, marched to meet this savage foe, and fell in with them at the head of Capon river, when a fierce and bloody battle was fought. Smith killed the captain with his own hand; five other Indians having fallen, and a number wounded, they gave way and fled. Smith lost two of his men. On searching the body of the Frenchman, he was found in possession of his commission and written instructions to meet another party of about fifty Indians at Fort Frederick,* to attack the fort, destroy it, and blow up the magazine. The other party of Indians were encountered pretty low down the North branch of the Capon river, by Capt. Joshua Lewis, at the head of eighteen men, one Indian was killed when the others broke and ran off. Previous to the defeat of this party they had committed considerable destruction of the property of the white settlers, and took a Mrs. Horner and a girl about thirteen years of age prisoners. Mrs. Horner was the mother of seven or eight children; she never got back to her family. The girl, whose name was Sarah Gibbons, the sister of my informant,** was a prisoner about eight or nine years before she returned home. This intention of attacking Fort Frederick as of course abandonment.

Those Indians dispersed into small parties, and carried the work of death and desolation into several neighborhoods, in the counties now Berkeley, Frederick and Shenandoah. About eighteen or twenty of them crossed the North mountain at Mills' gap, which is in the county of Berkeley, killed a man by the name of Kelly, and several of his family, within a few steps of the present dwelling house of the late Mr. William Wilson, not more than half a mile from Gerardstown, and from thence passed on to the neighborhood of the present site of Martinsburg, the neighboring people generally taking shelter in John Evans' fort.*** A small party of the Indians attacked the dwelling house of a Mr. Evans, brother to the owner of the fort; but being beaten off, they went in pursuit of a reinforcement. In their absence Mr. Evans and his family got safe to the fort. The Indians returned, and set fire to the house, the ruins of which are now to be seen from the great road leading to Winchester, three miles south of Martinsburg, at the head of what is called the Big Spring.

The same Indians took a female prisoner on the same day at John Strode's house. A boy by the name of Hackney, who was on his way to the fort, saw her previously, and advised her not to go to the house, saying the Strode's family were all gone to the fort, and that he suspected the Indians were then in the house. She however seeing a smoke at the house, disregarded the advice of the little boy, went to it, was seized by the Indians, taken off, and was about three years a prisoner, but finally got home. The boy went to the fort, and told what had happened; but the men had all turned out to bury Kelly and go in pursuit of the Indians, leaving nobody to defend the fort but the women and children. Mrs. Evans armed herself, and called on all the women, who had firmness enough to arm, to join her, and such as were too timid she ordered to run bullets. She then made a boy beat to arms on a drum; on hearing which, the Indians became alarmed, set fire to Strode's house, and moved off. They discovered the party of white men just mentioned, and fired upon them, but did no injury. The latter finding the Indians too strong for them, retreated into the fort.

*Fort Frederick was commenced in the year 1755, under the direction of Gov. Sharp, of Maryland, and was probably finished in 1776. It is still standing on the Maryland side of the Cohongoruton. It's location is not more than about twelve miles from Martinsburg.

**Mr. Jacob Gibbons was born 10th Sept. 1745.

***Evans' fort was erected within about two miles of Martinsburg, a stockade.

French & Indian War Foundation 20th Anniversary Celebration

May 15 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

We invite you to join us for a Special Event

at The George Washington Hotel
103 E. Piccadilly St. Winchester

1:00pm - Lunch

2:00pm Lecture by Carl Ekberg,
“George Washington Gets Lucky, July 4th, 1754”

Cash Bar and Silent Auction during the event

\$30 Members, \$35 Non-Members

For tickets, go to FIWF.ORG/Shop to purchase by credit card, mail check to FIWF, P.O. Box 751, Winchester VA, 22604,

Contact us at FIWF419@gmail.com or 703-307-6696 for additional information.





French & Indian War Foundation

is pleased to raffle a

Stanford Flintlock Longrifle

In Celebration of our 20th Anniversary

This magnificent contemporary flintlock longrifle was made in the style of 18th century gunmaker Isaac Haines of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Haines was a 'grand master' gunmaker of the Lancaster school who made longrifles from 1772 to 1792. He is known for his 'Lancaster-style' flintlock longrifles produced during the 'Golden Age' of the Pennsylvania Longrifles, 1775-1825.

The contemporary flintlock longrifle was made by George Stanford, a native Virginian who lived in Strasburg, VA. Stanford was an avid collector and historian with a national reputation for building fine, collectible, Pennsylvania/Kentucky longrifles. He loved the artistic detail found on many longrifles and was a member of the Kentucky Rifle Association and the Contemporary Longrifle Association.

As a raffle participant, you have the chance to own an important American longrifle created by a skilled craftsman. The 50 caliber piece includes a 48" rifled barrel, curly maple stock, relief carving, silver inlay, and engraving. It is in mint condition and is one of Stanford's finest longrifles. A truly captivating piece of American art.

Raffle Cost: \$25 per ticket OR 5 for \$100 (a \$100 purchase will include a 1-year FIWF Membership)

How to Purchase: On our website at FIWF.org/shop & at selected events

Drawing to be Held: French & Indian War Foundation 2022 Annual Meeting, Nov 2022 (see website calendar for updates)



Your raffle participation promotes the
French & Indian War Foundation's Mission to

"Preserve and Interpret the Colonial History of Virginia's Frontier".

Raffle proceeds will be used towards paying off the Fort Loudoun property loan, allowing for advancement of long-term foundation goals.

Disclaimer: Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Longrifle will be distributed through licensed dealer, in compliance with federal and state laws and applicable local ordinances. If winner is ineligible to receive the prize under relevant state, federal or local laws and regulations, the prize will be forfeited without refund, and a new raffle winner will be selected. Any taxes are the sole responsibility of winner.

Membership

YES, I wish to become a member of the French and Indian War Foundation and play an important role in supporting the educational goals and preservation of the sites associated with this conflict on the American frontier.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Annual Dues

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student | \$ 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual / Family | \$ 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining | \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | \$ 500 |

100 Soldiers—Lifetime Memberships

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Soldier | \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Captain | \$ 5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Colonel | \$ 10,000 |

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization

Mission

"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.

We encourage high school and college History students to participate with all activities.

- I will volunteer my services
- I would like to make a Donation _____

Please forward this form to:

The French and Indian War Foundation
P.O. Box 751
Winchester, VA 22604

www.FIWF.org

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Call for Committee Members!

If you have ideas, time or resources we need your help. If you could serve on any of the above committees, please email fiwf.dsg@comcast.net.

The Board of Directors currently meets at 3:30 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of the month. Meetings are hybrid conducted both in person and via Zoom .

Early American Artifacts?

Do you have any **early American artifacts** (1700's) you'd consider donating to the French & Indian War Foundation? Canon balls, survey chains, compasses, power horns, tools, house wares, coins, art, etc. These artifacts would be displayed at our events, and eventually, in our Fort Loudoun interpretive center, helping us tell the story of Virginia's Frontier.

Contact us at FIWF419@gmail.com.



Our Corporate Contributors



SAVE THE DATES:

May 14 - Fort Loudoun Day, Winchester, VA

May 15 - 20th Anniversary of the French and Indian War Foundation,
Winchester, VA

June 11 - American Military Heritage Museum, 9:00-5:00, Stephens City, VA

June 18 - Fort Harrison Trade Fair, 10:00-4:00, Dayton, VA

July 23 - Washington's Election to House of Burgesses, 1758, Walking Mall,
Winchester, VA

September 24 - 5th Annual French and Indian War Weekend, Abrams Delight,
Winchester, VA

October 15 - Shenandoah Heritage Village Tour & Lunch, Luray, VA

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