



French & Indian War Foundation

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

PO Box 751, Winchester, Virginia 22604

www.FIWF.org

Volume 18, Issue 2, Spring 2023

Early Valley Settlement: One Family's Contribution

By Scott Staub

On February 20th, the FIWF hosted a George Washington Birthday Celebration at the Winchester Brew Works on Cameron Street. For the second year, Brew Works owners Bonnie Landy and Holly Redding provided the Foundation and its guests a delicious beer called "Fort Loudoun Lager".

The event was all but sold out with nearly 100 guests attending. In addition to pizza from Claudio's Pizzeria, attendees received a commemorative stainless-steel mug and two pints of lager. Historian, Jim Moyer, provided a presentation that explained why George Washington actually has two birth dates! Originally, George was born on February 11, 1731, but when King George decreed (in 1754) that England and all of its colonies were moving from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, that date had to be retroactively changed to February 22, 1732. From all accounts, everyone had a very good time.

Middletown mayor Charles Harbaugh IV engaged the crowd with his portrayal of young George Washington and was on hand to accommodate many requests for pictures. Rebecca Meyle conducted a raffle for 10 growlers of Fort Loudoun Lager, and Donna Leight managed to sell books, prints and mugs, with the combined efforts raising hundreds of dollars for the Foundation.

Captain George Mercer's Company (under the direction of Tony Elar) conducted exercises at the Fort Loudoun site prior to the celebration and also drew quite the crowd.

Overall, the day's activities were a success and will likely be repeated again next year. Huzzah!



Photos above from Captain George Mercer's Company Exercises at Fort Loudoun site. Photos by Winchester Star photographer Jeff Taylor.

Cistern Work....Sifting the Spoils

Eric Robinson (FIWF member, reenactor & budding archaeologist) volunteered his services during the past few weeks to sift through a pile of dirt that was removed from around a cistern on the site of 419 N. Loudoun Street. The soil had to be relocated to the rear of the property in preparation for a Ground Penetrating Radar project, but Eric knew that the dirt might also have trace artifacts from yesteryear. He diligently sifted the soil and did find pieces of pottery and other items of interest. The artifacts have not yet been dated, but have been set aside for future study. The Foundation wishes to thank Eric for his volunteer work and keen eye in finding and securing these items."



The year began with the welcoming of a 'new' board member, Judy Bogner. While Judy is new to this board, she is not new to the foundation. She is a Life-Time member and was one of the founders of the organizations serving on the board during its formative years. Her understanding of the intentions of the founders of the organization will be invaluable as we plan for the future of the foundation. We are grateful for her willingness to serve again.

As has been a long tradition, our first event of 2023 was the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the 291st. This year the celebration was held on President's day in conjunction with a muster of Mercer's Company at the fort site (see accompanying article). Many thanks to Scott Straub, Rebecca Meyle and their helpers for making this another successful, fun event.

April will find us hosting an historic house tour to Springdale House on Valley Pike South of Winchester. The house built by John Hite dates to 1753. The grounds also include the remains of Hite's Tavern (frequented by George Washington). The tour will include a visit to the nearby historic Bartonsville Mill. The tour sold out early, but we hope to continue to offer members opportunities to visit other historic sites in the region on a recurring basis in the future. Stay tuned!

In May we will again host Fort Loudoun Day, May 13. Following the success of last year's commemoration, we will again place added emphasis on the F&IW era and the role of the fort in events of the time with some tweaks that we hope will improve on the presentation.

For later events, such as the re-creation of the 1758 election of George Washington to his first elective office from Frederick County, you will be receiving notifications for opportunities to join us as details are finalized and as the time for events approach. We hope to see you at one or more of these events. We will be continuing our outreach as well by attending various Colonial History events sponsored by other like-minded organizations throughout the region.

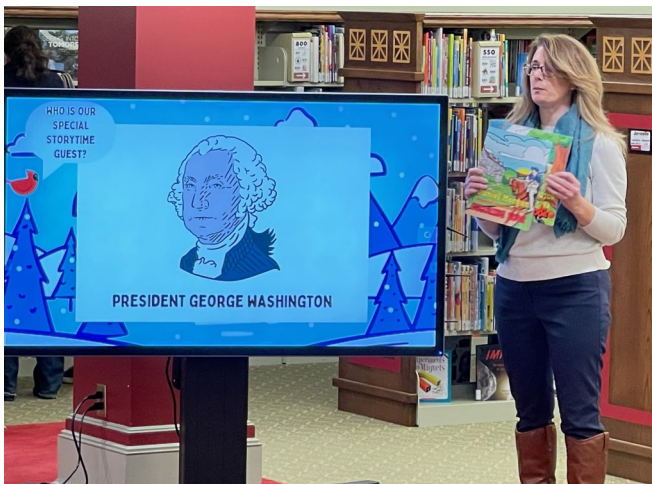
As always, we continue our efforts toward retiring the loan on the Baker-Hardy house. The last three years have seen major strides toward this goal. We feel that we are in sight of the end of this tunnel with the light growing brighter with each passing year.

In anticipation of the time when the house loan has been retired, we have begun developing plans for the Loudoun Street site. Last year we finalized a Strategic Plan for the Foundation that will serve as a guide for meeting the long-term goals of the Foundation over the coming years. This year we will begin preparation of a detailed site plan for the house and grounds which will no doubt be an arduous task. We welcome input from you, our members, for ideas regarding plans for the site as well as priorities for the plans as they evolve. If you have ideas you would like to contribute or wish to be more directly involved in these discussions, call, write, email or contact one of the board members to let us know.

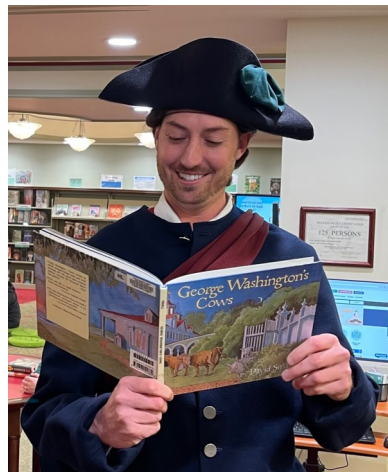
We look forward to your continuing support in 2023. Again, without your continuing participation and financial support in Foundation-sponsored events we would not be able to offer the programs that we do. THANK YOU!

George Washington Reading to the Children

Children at Handley Regional Library got to see a very special guest at their Family Time reading hour in February. Family Time is an early literacy program focused



Rebecca Meyle talking about George Washington



Charles Harbaugh reading to children at Handley and Bowman Libraries.



on school readiness skills for families of all ages (birth to 6 years old). A young George Washington showed up to read them a book entitled "George Washington's Cows". George, portrayed by Middletown's Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV, read the selection for the kids at Handley Library, and then traveled to Bowman Library in Stephens City to read for the children there. The guest appearance of George Washington was conceived and coordinated by Rebecca Meyle (member of the FIWF), and was well received by the attendees of the event. (Photos courtesy of Scott Straub.)

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

- Student \$ 15
- Individual / Family \$ 30
- Patron \$ 100
- Sustaining \$ 250
- Benefactor \$ 500

100 Soldiers—Lifetime Memberships

- Soldier \$ 1,000
- Captain \$ 5,000
- 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.

Our Corporate Contributors



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON

A Wyndham Grand Hotel



THE WINCHESTER GROUP

SAVE THE DATES:

May 13 - Fort Loudoun Day

Details coming soon

Fort Loudoun, 419 N. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA



June 10 - American Military Heritage Museum

9:00 - 5:00pm

811 Fairfax Pike, Stephens City, VA



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

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