# 1735 TIMES

Brought to you by the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, Inc.



VOLUME 11 | SUMMER 2023 | 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CHRISTCHURCH1735.ORG

# All Lifters at Historic Christ Church

As I began to write this article, it just happened to be Volunteer Appreciation month. These days there is a day or month to celebrate everything, but volunteers do have a history. The first recorded use of the word "volunteer" is seen in 1600, but we know that as long as humans roamed the world, then put down roots, there was someone willing to lend a hand. It's what we do. I guess not everyone though has the volunteer spirit, as the AP reports that Florida has a 16% rate of volunteerism, and topping all other states, Wyoming has a rate of 40%. I wouldn't trust these figures, as I believe we are not very good at patting ourselves on the back.

Here at the Foundation for Historic Christ Church we have over 130 volunteers, many of whom have been here for over 30 years. It's only been two years since I first saw HCC. It was love at first sight. I think we all feel that sense of belonging here, but it isn't just because it's such a venerable historic site. I believe it's because of all the generous, kind, and interesting people who are devoted to this place. They took me into the fold. And that is how we feel about everyone who joins our merry band. What do we all do while we are here?

#### We have:

- Researchers working year-round, either on specific projects, or answering questions for others
- Receptionists who are frequently the first friendly faces our guests see.
- A team who organizes school trips to HCC and brings history alive to young minds.
- Someone who takes care of our reproduction colonial clothing used for special events and tours.

- Those who provide fresh flower arrangements weekly, for the Church and for special events.
- A group who cares for our wonderful colonial style herb garden.
- Docents who love to share with our guests the beauty and wonder and history of all things HCC.
- Another team who thoughtfully stock our gift shop with books and gifts.
- Talented individuals who put out a smashing Volunteer Newsletter month after month.
- And dozens of folks who tend our libraries, write thank you notes, give special tours, keep track of news clippings, and show up when we need some extra muscle.

As my Dad would say "all lifters, not leaners."

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, and we always welcome new faces!

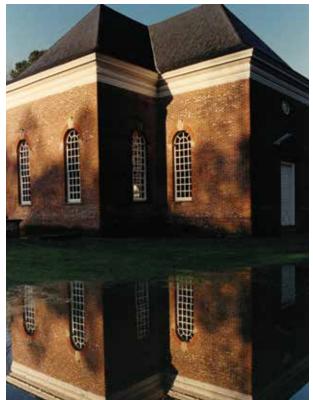
Laurie Goddin Volunteer Council Chair

P.S. I can't close without a volunteer joke:

King: *How many volunteers do I have for my evil army?* Squire: 384, my Liege

King: OK, round them up. Squire: Then, 400, my Liege

# Rising Damp Capital Campaign



In the fall of 2019, the National Park Service awarded the Foundation for Historic Christ Church (FHCC) a "Save America's Treasures" grant of \$337,500 to help fund the rising damp mitigation project. Total cost for the project is \$760,000. FHCC is still \$155,000 short of meeting this total.

The prestigious "Save America's Treasures" grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match. To date, FHCC has quietly raised from individual contributions over \$157,000 towards this match. FHCC has also received several grants to help fulfill this match: \$10,000 from the River Counties Community Foundation for the overall project and \$50,000 from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund for the archaeological and forsenic/aDNA analysis portions of the work.

Recently, The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation awarded FHCC a \$50,000 Challenge Grant. Like the "Save America's Treasures" grant, this challenge grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match for FHCC to receive the full \$50,000 in funding.

FHCC needs your help to raise the remaining \$155,000 to secure the full match from The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation and match the "Save America's Treasures" grant. Please consider making a gift to support this important project that will help preserve Christ Church for generations to come.







# Save the Date

Saturday, October 21: 4 p.m.

John H. Hunt II
Chesapeake History Forum
"Oyster Wars of the
Chesapeake Bay"

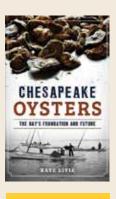
At last year's inaugural John H. Hunt
II Chesapeake History Forum, Library
of Virginia historian Gregg Kimball and
his band delighted a packed house
with "Virginia Roots Music with a Taste
of the Chesapeake." The multi-media
presentation featured photographs,
period recordings and live performances
in an evening of storytelling and musical
tributes to some of early twentieth-century
Virginia's seminal recording artists.

Kimball plans to return in 2024 with a presentation on Virginia blues music, but in 2023 the program that honors long-time HCC volunteer and friend John Hunt explores the infamous "Oyster Wars of the Chesapeake Bay."



Join Chesapeake historian and author Kate Livie as she shares stories of money, mayhem and murder from the Oyster Wars. For 50 years following the Civil War to the turn of the century, oystermen and packing houses profited off the bounty of the Bay in a great oyster gold rush that created cities, sparked conflict, and transformed the Chesapeake's economy and culture. From shanghaied immigrant deck hands "paid off by the boom" to skipjack-and-Fishery Force gun battles on the Chester River, Livie will explore the fascinating history of the Bay's wildest era.

No talk on the
Chesapeake's
oyster wars would
be complete
without you
guessed it: oysters.
This special
evening includes
oysters and other
culinary delights,
local craft libations
and a book signing
with Livie.



Available in the HCC Gift Shop

# **Rising Damp Project Update**

Archaeologists have almost completed excavations around the church, and contractor Shawn Parsley has installed the first sections of the drainage system. Check out some of the highlights here:

"RT" Pipe – Part of the less glamorous and often unseen work of archaeologists is the time they spend washing and cataloging artifacts. On what archaeologist Katie Brauckmann described as a "dreary afternoon" in December 2022, the team made a "fun find" in the lab. Though they had noticed the "T" when the team initially uncovered this pipe fragment near the church, it was not until Jackson Stubbs washed it in the lab that they discovered both letters. The "RT" revealed the pipe maker to be Robert Tippett II, who operated out of Bristol, England from the 1680s-1720s. Thus far this is the only imported white clay pipe located at Christ Church that bears a maker's mark.





**Sprite Bottle** — When partially uncovered, archaeologists at first wondered if this might be a discarded bottle of Northern Neck Ginger Ale that somehow found its way to a spot by the west door. Once fully excavated, the bottle told a different tale. In 1966, the U.S. government and Coca-Cola launched "Golden Eagle," a promotion to encourage families to "See America" through visits to national parks and monuments. The program included a \$33,000 grand prize bottle cap sweepstakes, and bottle manufacturers embossed the names of 36 different national parks and monuments on the base of Sprite bottles. Christ Church's bottle, which has Everglades National Park on its base, likely was left by workmen laying the brick walkways during the Garden Club of Virginia's landscape restoration project in 1966-1967.



**Repointing** – Damage to interior paneling by John Carter's grave marker, moisture readings, and visible observation pointed to the northeast corner as one of the wettest areas around the church. In May 2021 archaeologists dug test units here down to the church's foundation, where they discovered significant mortar deterioration below grade. Fortunately, the mortar loss appeared only along the church's northeast walls, and this past March historic masonry conservators Kevin Nieto and Robert Hall (seen here) repointed this section using an appropriate lime-based mortar.



**Churchyard Features** – This drone image above the northeast corner of the church shows how archaeologists read soil stains and features to uncover historic landscapes. Each of the lightly colored, long rectangular features is a burial. All but the one closest to the corner of the church lie outside the drainage project area and will not be exhumed. The small soil stains mark postholes; the five round brick features are the remnants of scaffolding posts used during the church's construction.

Excavation Team – Archaeologists have identified 39 unmarked burials around the church. While most lie outside the project area, seven burials impact the drainage system and will be exhumed and reinterred in the churchyard following strict protocols under Virginia's Department of Historic Resources. Each set of human remains that produces a viable sample will be sent for forensic, biological and aDNA analysis to determine things like chronological age, biological sex, ancestry, skeletal and dental pathology, diet and other traits before being returned for reinterment. Here archaeologists (from left) Jackson Stubbs, Evan Cabral, Katie Brauckmann and Dr. David Brown join biological anthropologist Dr. Raquel Fleskes (center) outside the "hut" that protects burial exhumations from modern DNA contamination. Dr. Fleskes will undertake the aDNA analysis.



**Drainage Pan Installation** – Installation of the subsurface drainage system began along the northwest corner of the church, where archaeology determined no burials impacted the project area. In March, contractor Shawn Parsley of Parsley's SiteWorks, LLC laid the first run of gutter pans that underpin the system. Fabricated of glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC), the pans slope at 1/8 of an inch to 1 foot, using gravity to carry water from around the building to drainage lines running from the west and south doors. Waterproof membranes that tie into the brick foundation below grade along with a series of filter fabrics, an AirDrain geocell mat, and a layer of sand topped by grass comprise the rest of the system.



#### **2022 Annual Giving**

The Foundation has hundreds of good friends, business sponsors, and organizations, near and far, who evidence their commitment to the preservation and interpretation of Historic Christ Church through their annual financial support. We send our appreciation to all for their generosity in empowering the Foundation to fulfill its mission.

1735 Society \$5,000 or more Benefactors \$2,500 - \$4,999 Guardians \$1,000 - \$2,499 Patrons \$500 - \$999 Associates \$250 - \$499 Friends \$100 - \$249 Affiliates \$10 - \$99

If your name, or the name of a family member, is given incorrectly anywhere in this report, please contact the Foundation office so that it may be corrected for future publications.

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> Patricia Raehn Colonial Beach, Virginia

Historic Christ Church & Museum | ChristChurch1735.org

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#### Rappahannock Community College May 7, 2011 – Zullo wedding of

Last August, Historic Christ Church & Museum hosted a free public viewing of History Half Told Is Untold, the inspiring film about First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, one of the nation's oldest black churches. The film traces First Baptist's history from its founding in 1776 by free and enslaved blacks to its 245-year anniversary in 2021.

Joining HCC&M's Robert Teagle after the movie were (from left) Nat Brown and Craig James from the Let Freedom Ring Foundation, whose mission is to protect and preserve the historical prominence of First Baptist Church.

2022 Grants

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Foundation for Historic Christ Church

#### **2022 Passages**

#### **Services of Holy Baptism**

September 8 – Mary Emelie Kimes Sullivan

#### Services of Holy Matrimony

Uctober 1 – Ana Rebecca Bice and Daniel Glen Haskovec November 19 – Nancy Gatewood Butcher Brown and Wyatt **Snead Ramsey** 

#### **Interments**

January 8 – O'Hanlon R. Lashley January 15 – Naomi P. Urban January 21 - Robert Lee Stephens, Sr.

April 9 – Anne Lyons Flinn April 16 – Nancy S. Galloway April 19 – Thomas Wilhelmsen April 28 – Samuel E. Monroe, III June 18 – Ann Logan Johnston October 20 – Mary Anne Duffy Jacobs October 29 – Virginia Wagener October 29 – Lt. Col. Henry Paul La Force, Jr. October 29 – Jean Dunnavant La Force November 12 – Richard A. Lillquist

March 26 – David Bresett

April 5 – Heather H. White

#### 2022 Deaths -**Foundation Volunteers**

Mrs. Mary Grafton Yagel

Mrs. Joy Young

William G. (Bill) Brandt, Jr. Dr. Steven (Steve) F. Glessner Receptionist Nancy S. Galloway Herb Garden Barbara P. Frisbie Docent Virginia Peck Wagener Docent, Research

#### **Financial Statements**

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

Assets:		Liabilities & Equity:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$84,304	Liabilities	\$49,650
Investments	\$4,888,844	Equity:	
Other Current Assets	\$25,677	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$7,580,195
Land, Buildings, & Equipment	\$2,343,364	Restricted Net Assets	\$1,093,275
Total Assets	\$7,342,189	Net Income/(Loss)	\$(1,380,931)
	Total Net Assets		\$7,292,539
		Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$7,342,189

#### **Statement of Cash Flows**

Income:		Expense:	
Contributions & Grants	\$304,372	Program	\$434,204
Visitor Fees/Donations	\$10,282	General & Administrative	\$79,047
Events Income	\$22,714	Fundraising	\$9,015
Bayne Center & Gift Shop	\$8,345	Depreciation	\$89,952
Burying Ground	\$36,611	Total Operating Expense	\$612,218
Other Income	\$8,509		
Total Current Income	\$390,833	Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$(1,159,546)

The books of account of the FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH, INC. are maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements of the Foundation are audited or reviewed annually by Forvis LLP, Certified Public Accountants and Advisors and garner unqualified opinions. Copies of the most recent audit report and of the federal tax return (Form 990) are available for inspection at the Foundation office.

Net Income/(Loss)

#### **Board of Directors and Staff 2022**

Mr. Edward G. Feddeman Mr. Michael W. Bombay Mr. Leonard R. Hoerneman Mrs. Anne F. Warner

President Treasurer Secretary

#### **Directors:**

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Dr. Kathleen P. Galgano
Mrs. Margaret W. Gibson
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Stevenson, ex officio, Suffragan
Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal
Diocese of Virginia

Mrs. Valencia K. Verburg Mr. Stevenson T. Walker Mrs. Jill M. Worth, *Immediate Past President* 

#### Advisors:

Mr. Robert A. Cornelius Mr. David A. Jones Dr. Carl R. Lounsbury Dr. Kathleen P. Moeller Mrs. Ronnee R. Taylor Registered Agent:

\$(1,380,931)

#### Registered Agent:

Jessica R. Haynie, Esq.

#### Staff:

Mr. Robert J. Teagle Ms. Paula D Stallard Mrs. Debra P. Byram

#### **Volunteer Council 2022**

**Education Group Tours Receptionist Coordinator Volunteer E-Newsletter** Chair Laurie M. Goddin Dr. Kathleen P. Galgano Marilyn T. Loomis Shirley B. Crockett Dr. Kathleen P. Moeller **Corresponding Secretary Flower Committee Herb Garden** Research Cynthia J. Johnson Dr. Kathleen P. Galgano Karin L. Lamb Valencia K. Verburg

Docent CoordinatorGift ShopHistorianSchool ProgramsLaurie M. GoddinGail E. KniselyMiriam F. MacCarthyWalter D. Kolos

Historic Christ Church & Museum | ChristChurch1735.org

# Historic Christ Church and the Oceans?

Patrick Heffernan, PhD

Students of history know that many of its events, like those of the present day, are the result of people coming together in ways none of them expected. The appearance of Historic Christ Church in a recent episode of Drain the Oceans, a television series created by National Geographic, is a good example of just such an event. How did landlocked Historic Christ Church find itself featured in a televised documentary having something to do with oceans?

It did so because three persons, who independently had acquired a common interest, were brought together. In 2013 Historic Christ Church & Museum (HCC&M) was honored to host Alan Taylor, a winner of two Pulitzer Prizes in history, for a visit. At that time the second of his prizes was yet to be earned for his just-published book, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*, which contains an absorbing account of the flight of slaves from the Corotoman Estate during the War of 1812. I was then thrilled by Camille Bennett, the Executive Director at HCC&M, who proposed that I meet and spend some time together in the Research Room with Professor Taylor during his visit. We did so and were quickly off and running in conversation on the nuances of the plantation and the flight of the slaves from it.

That led to Professor Taylor asking if I could get to Monticello three days later for the launch of his book. He wished to introduce me to someone with a special connection to the story. I made the trip – and at the foot of the auditorium stage before his speech he introduced me to Tina Dunkley, a descendant of one of the sixty-nine enslaved

people who fled from Corotoman. Knowing that Tina was deeply intent on learning all she could about her relative, I handed her an envelope containing a copy of a Corotoman document from 1813, which she had never seen. In it her enslaved relatives Ezekiel Loney, his wife Nelly, and their daughter China are named together for the first time in an historical record.

Moments later Professor Taylor stepped up onto the stage and Tina and I took our seats. In this way the three of us were brought together by a single historical event that had claimed our attention. And that is precisely what has now



Search for National Geographic - Drain the Oceans, Series 6, Episode 5: Invasion USA on Prime Video or Disney+ to see Tina and Patrick at Historic Christ Church.

led to Historic Christ Church appearing on Drain the Oceans, broadcast in English-speaking countries around the world.

Tina Dunkley, Patrick Heffernan

review some of the documents

Corotoman in April 1814.

related to Tina's ancestor Ezekiel

Loney and his family's escape from

and director Steve O'Hagan (right)

But the oceans? It turns out the series is broadly concerned with maritime historical events and uses dazzling technology to digitally 'drain away' any body of water (lake, river, swamp, etc.) covering a sunken ship or structure. In the episode in which Christ Church appears, the Chesapeake Bay is digitally drained to reveal Fort Albion, built by the British on Tangier Island during the War of 1812 as their base of operations. It was there that Ezekiel and many other refugee slaves from Corotoman spent their earliest days as free persons. For them, the evils of enslavement were drained away.

# Digital Resources Expand at ChristChurch1735.org

Over the past quarter century, the internet has revolutionized how historic sites share research materials with the public. Historians, curators, archaeologists, genealogists and other scholars can now access manuscripts, photographs, images, and other primary sources with the click of a mouse instead of the turn of a microfilm reel or a visit to the archives.

Historic Christ Church & Museum's digital presence has followed suit with the additions of primary sources, transcriptions, searchable databases and other tools to its online research room. Through the painstaking efforts of volunteers Dr. Patrick Heffernan and his wife Barbara, scholars can now comb through extensive databases on the hundreds of enslaved and indentured persons who lived and worked at Corotoman from

the mid-seventeenth century to the mid nineteenth or search the processioning records from Christ Church Parish, 1711-1783.

Outside scholars have also contributed to HCC&M's online collections. Several years before his passing, archivist Ned Berkeley (1937-2020), who served as the University of Virginia's first Director of Special Collections, invited HCC&M to host *The Diary, Correspondence and Papers of Robert "King" Carter of Virginia, 1701-1732*, a remarkable site that provides a window into early Virginia through Ned's annotated transcriptions of Carter's diary, letters, estate inventory and other papers.

This past year, HCC&M partnered with Dr. John Melendez-Barden to host his dissertation "Flushed With Notions of Freedom: The Growth and Emancipation of a Virginia Slave Community, 1732-1812" (Ph.D. Dissertation, Duke University, 1993), one of the best sources on Robert Carter III's 1791 Deed of Gift. Dr. Melendez-Barden's meticulous research includes a collection of appendices and key biographical data (citing primary sources) that provide valuable information on the family relationships, surnames, occupations, residences, emancipation certificates, and other important records from the lives of the more than 500 enslaved persons who gained their freedom through Carter's deed.

Other online sources include a transcription of the will of Edward Nickens, a free black resident of Christ Church Parish who died in 1735; the register for Christ Church Parish 1852-1889; and the two earliest surviving vestry books for Christ Church Parish (1739-1786 and 1832-1869).



The Christ Church Parish register (1852-1889) records marriage, burial, baptism and confirmation dates for white and black parishioners, including some enslaved people in the years just before the Civil War. Documents like this can help fill important gaps for genealogists and other researchers.

To learn more about HCC&M's online sources visit ChristChurch1735.org/research





Archaeologists often recover mere fragments of objects, but even the smallest artifact can tell a story. Such is the case with this green seal found in the excavations at Robert "King" Carter's Corotoman mansion. Though it resembles seals Carter used to personalize his wine bottles that bore his initials, name and date, or even the family crest, this seal was not crafted uniquely for Carter, nor did it adorn one of the nearly 900 wine bottles in Corotoman's cellar when the house burned in the winter of 1729.

When staff from Historic Christ Church took the seal to an archaeologist in Colonial Williamsburg, she immediately identified it as a Piermont (Pyrmont) water bottle seal from Waldeck, Germany. Visible around the edge are the letters "PIERMO" and the letter "R" from "WATER." This spelling of Piermont around a small star dates this seal to about 1720; those spelled "PYRMONT WATER" encircling a crowned shield of arms date to the latter half of the eighteenth century.\*

Frederick Slare, a Fellow of the Royal Society who experimented with Piermont waters in 1717, argued they should be "looked upon to be most excellent, when they sparkle in the Glass, and give a brisk Tast to the Palate." Displaying such "Proof of their Briskness, as soon as the Cork was opened, and the Air was admitted," Slare commended Piermont waters for their "Strength and grateful Taste, and promising Vertue."

# Pyrmont Waters Is Dedicated To the most Excellent Sr. Isaac Newton, President of the ROYAL SOCIETY; And to the Excellent Dr. John Bateman, President of the College of Physicians; By FREDERICK SLARE, M. D. Fellow of the College of Physicians, and of the Royal Society.

Along with King George I and other "Persons of the highest Birth and Quality," Piermont waters found a champion across the Atlantic in Virginia. In July 1729, Robert Carter confessed to London merchant John Falconar that he had "grown so In love with the German spa [water]" that he requested Falconar to double his order from three to six dozen bottles. Like Slare, Carter believed these mineral waters could help restore his health from a series of lingering ailments. Following his London friends' advice, Carter happily reported that he drank "a great deal of Spa water."

\*Ivor Noël Hume, A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America, p. 61-62





Raise the Roof Returns September 23!

Join us September 23 from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. as we "Raise the Roof" at Historic Christ Church & Museum's 8th annual fall festival. Enjoy an array of craft beers, delicious BBQ or vegetarian fare, homemade ice cream, and live music. Your ticket includes a souvenir cup & two craft beer (or wine) tickets, one serving of BBQ (or veggie fare) with fixings from Willaby's, homemade ice cream from Short Lane Ice Cream and awesome music by the Rob White Trio and En'Novation, all at one of Virginia's most historic sites. Additional beverage and meal tickets

may be purchased at the event. Soft drinks & water provided. Please bring your photo ID and your own lawn chairs or blankets. No pets or coolers. Rain or Shine Event. Funds benefit preservation of Historic Christ Church (1735), a National Historic Landmark. Tickets \$60 for adults, \$20 under 21, and free for ages 5 and under. Visit ChristChurch1735.org to purchase tickets.



Connie Matthews Harshaw, President of the Let Freedom Ring Foundation, delivered the keynote address at the Foundation for Historic Christ Church's 65th Annual Meeting in May.



# Summer Interns

Two interns brought their talents and passion for history to HCC&M this summer. Lorelei Kelley (left) is a rising senior in high school and a descendant of the Kelley family whose burial plot lies in the north churchyard. Kayla Payne is a student in Virginia Commonwealth University's Graduate Certificate in Public History program.

The two helped digitize and organize HCC&M's extensive photograph collection. They also transcribed a 1770 deposition by Landon Carter (above) that contains important information on the Carter family, housing at Corotoman and Nomoni Hall, the Atlantic slave trade, interactions between Virginia planters and London merchants, and more.

Kayla, who earned her bachelor's degree from William and Mary in 2020, also transcribed and researched eight letters written by an unidentified "L. Carter" who was a Confederate POW at Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio, and she scanned and proofread transcriptions of Christ Church Parish's earliest surviving vestry books (1739-1786 and 1832-1869) to prepare them for publication on HCC&M's website.



Historic Christ Church & Museum welcomed back an old friend at this year's spring training program. Calder Loth, retired Senior Architectural Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, presented "Christ Church's Classical Forms and Details," an illustrated journey through the etymology, pattern-book sources and ancient origins of some of Christ Church's key architectural elements. Loth had previously spoken on Christ Church's brickwork and its English precedents (2003) and on Christ Church and Anglican architecture in Britain and her colonies (2006). Following his presentation in the Bayne Center, Loth led a tour inside Christ Church where docents joined him at the crossing for this photograph.





Since 1735, as it came from the hands of its builders

A Virginia and National Historic Landmark Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

#### Foundation for Historic Christ Church, Inc.

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