

1735 TIMES

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CHRISTCHURCH1735.ORG

The "Big Mo"

By Steven D. Harris, President



This year is nearly over. Where'd the time go? At the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, it went into building on the wonderful work of volunteers not just this year, but from years long past. Consider this 1971 citation from the National Trust

for Historic Preservation:

"Christ Church is of all extant buildings by far the most evocative of the great but vanished world of 18th century Virginia. That this evaluation remains true today is in no small measure a consequence of the unceasing dedication of this Foundation, which since 1958 has exemplified the ideal program and objectives for a preservation group."

In 2017, we have focused on building a solid infrastructure for organizational operations. The Board selected Doug Walker to be our new Executive Director. A phenomenally successful craft beer fest served as a gateway for many new visitors to come onto our campus, some of whom have since become volunteers and financial supporters. Production of a children's video has started, with completion anticipated before next season. A well-received lecture and music series also served to expand our reach into the community.

The 2017 season at Historic Christ Church formally ends with the beautiful Holly and Ivy celebration on December 4. But the important work of the Foundation goes on all year long. And,

truth be told, there's lots of momentum – the "Big Mo" – as we move into 2018.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your President during these exciting times. It's impossible to summarize everything in the works for 2018. But here are some of the new programmatic developments that are especially noteworthy:

- We have begun to address the concerns about rising damp in the church through some initial soil and hydrology testing.
- We will expand our "Hands on History" event for children into a 3-day camp in the summer.
- New exterior signage and a visitor's guide are in the works.
- And most significantly, I am pleased to announce that the state has added the Foundation to the American Evolution Digital Trail. We are among a select group of "significant historic and cultural sites that tell the story of the first 400 years of Virginia's dynamic history."

Yes, we've got the "Big Mo" – more exciting things to come!



UVA historian Elizabeth Varon examines the life of Union spy and Richmond abolitionist Elizabeth Van Lew (above) in our Sunday Speaker Series

2018 SPEAKER SERIES

"Equalled by few, excelled by none:"
Virginia Women in History

From Pocahontas to a Union spy in war time Richmond, our 2018 Sunday Speaker Series explores the profound ways women shaped Virginia history. Virginia Women in History opens March 25 with Helen Rountree, a noted scholar of the Powhatan Indians, who will discuss Powhatan women and English colonists in 17th-century Virginia. In April Cassandra Newby-Alexander of Norfolk State University looks at the experiences of black women in colonial Virginia. Mary Ferrari of Radford University joins us in October with the remarkable story of Mary Draper Ingles, who escaped captivity from the Shawnee Indians by traveling over four hundred miles back to Virginia. Elizabeth Varon of the University of Virginia wraps up the series in November with the fascinating tale of Elizabeth Van Lew, a Richmond abolitionist who spied for the Union during the Civil War. Each talk begins at 2:00 p.m. and features a wine-cheese reception and book signing with the author.

EXCITING TIMES

By Doug Walker, Executive Director



In June the Board of Directors appointed me Executive Director. I served as Acting

Executive Director since June 2016 and as Director of Finance & Administration since 2009. I am excited about this new opportunity and its challenges and thank the Board for their continued support.

2017 has been an active and successful year. I'd like to thank the volunteers for their incredible efforts, the thousands who visit our campus and attend our many events, the businesses who partner with us, our donors for their financial support and those who share our dedication to the mission of preservation and education of Christ Church and its legacy.

We have been busy planning and doing some exciting things. Robert Teagle is producing, directing and writing our Children's Video with a cast of talented volunteers. We anticipate a spring premiere.

Noted scholar and Research

Committee member Patrick Heffernan, Ph.D. is now a noted author. Read his amazing story on page 3.

Dr. Pamela A. Ward and the education committee have announced a three-day Hands-on History Camp for next summer and are working on a new interactive children's exhibition for the museum. Page 3 highlights our school programs, chaired by Carol Poundstone, who hosted 100 fourth graders recently for some exciting hands-on history lessons.

The Cultural Resource Committee under Betsy Woods' leadership is developing our first visitor guide and corresponding campus signage to enhance guided and self-guided tours. We're looking at the development of a virtual tour for our online visitors or as an app for those smart phones that seem to be attached to everyone's hands these days.

Russell Mait and the Preservation Committee are working with soil scientists and engineers to identify the causes of the "rising damp" threatening Christ Church and to develop plans to mitigate it. The soil studies have been completed. Read more on page 4. An archaeological dig connected with this project presents special opportunities for research and public "dig" days.

Dr. Kathleen Galgano and the Research Committee are exploring ways to share their research and our collections through our website. A new on-line blog will allow our researchers to interact with fellow researchers everywhere. Researchers blogging researchers – that's truly exciting!

Gift Shop manager Gail Knisely is stocking the shelves with creative new items, many locally sourced, that will attract the eye of tourists and locals alike. The Gift Shop is becoming a destination!

2018 brings a traveling exhibition from the Library of Virginia "Virginia Women In History" that complements next year's interpretive theme. We are looking at new temporary exhibits for the museum possibly using large flat screens which provide multiple interactive displays in the same space as a static wall exhibit and best of all, exhibits can be changed out quickly.

This is all happening due to the efforts of our community of talented, dedicated and hardworking volunteers and the support of our donors, business partners, grant organizations, and the thousands who visit our campus and events. Thank you!

We welcome all to join us. Tour, shop and enjoy our special events. Visit our website often and connect with us.

2 Children's Video Production

3 Patrick Heffernan Scholar and Author

4 Preservation 2018 Calendar



"THE HOLLY & THE IVY"

A Traditional Carol Sing
Monday, December 4, 2017 – 3:30 pm

Celebrate the season at Historic Christ Church & Museum with traditional songs, carols, and music. Join in this seasonal songfest in the beautifully "greened" church. Featuring members of The Chesapeake Chorale and the Christchurch School Cantorion. Dress warmly. Refreshments follow in The Bayne Center.

Cost: Two (2) non-perishable items per person for the Northern Neck Food Bank

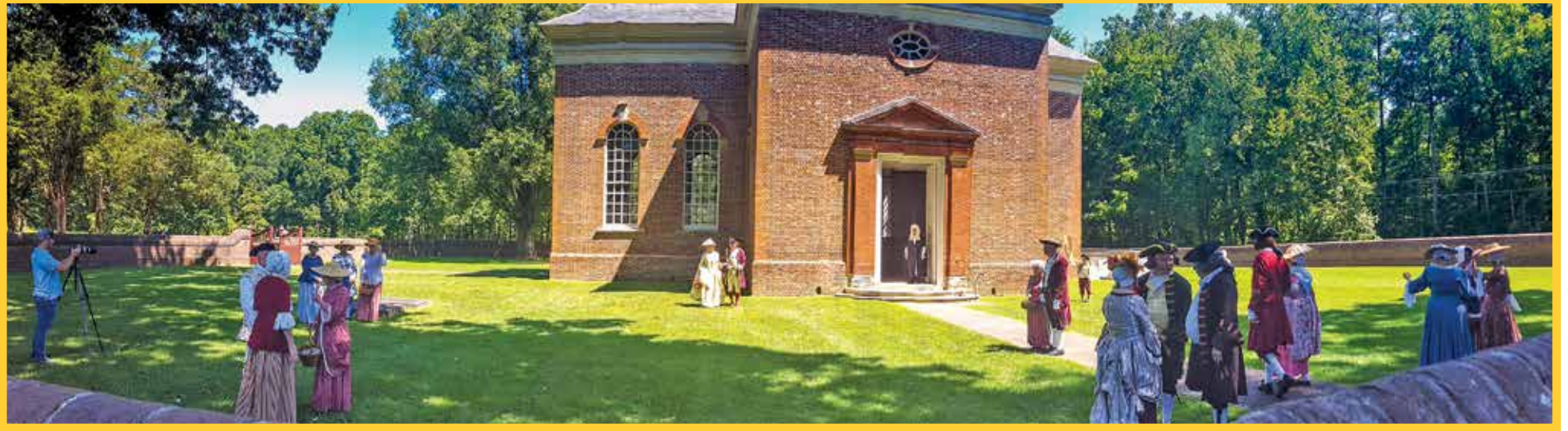


420 Christ Church Road · Weems, Virginia 22576
ChristChurch1735.org · 804-438-6855

Children's Video PRODUCTION at HCC&M

More than twenty volunteers heeded the call on June 24 to help recreate a colonial churchyard scene and church service during filming for our children's video. Funded by a generous gift from volunteer Susan Stuart in memory of her husband, Col. James R. Stuart, Jr., the video features narrator Hailey Didion (granddaughter/great-granddaughter of volunteers Kathie Galgano/Marge Page) strolling among the colonial crowd as she transports children back to the year 1735. Volunteers portrayed everyone from the minister and clerk to wealthy tobacco planters and lower to middling parishioners. Costume Chair Pam Ward outfitted the actors with period costumes loaned by volunteer Regina Thek or selected from HCC&M's collection. Filming also took place at Colonial Williamsburg and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown to portray the many trades people (free, indentured and enslaved) who built Christ Church and to show life on a typical Virginia farm at the time.

FILMING ON CAMPUS, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG AND YORKTOWN



Vaughan Crittenden (above, far left) captures volunteers as they recreate a typical Sunday in the churchyard.



Richard Thek portrays a colonial planter placing an advertisement on the church door while minister Pete Knight looks on.



CHILDREN'S VIDEO IN FINAL PRODUCTION TO PREMIERE IN SPRING

Vaughan Crittenden of Riverdale 24 Productions is completing the final edits of our children's video. Thanks to a generous grant from volunteer Susan Stuart, HCC&M is producing an orientation video that contrasts life in 18th-century Virginia with life today. Join us for a premiere party in the spring to celebrate!



HAILEY DIDION, NARRATOR

FOUR GENERATIONS OF A HCC&M FAMILY



It's a family affair. Four generations gather after filming: (from left) Reese Didion joins her sister Hailey with their great-grandmother Marge Page, mother Amy Didion, and grandmother Kathie Galgano.



Colonial Williamsburg carpenter Ayinde Martin.

Richard and Regina Thek are pictured right.



Patrick J. Heffernan, Ph.D., Scholar and Author

COLLECTION Spotlight

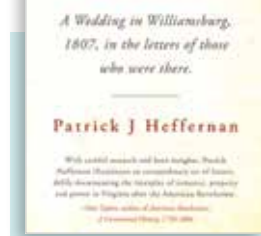


What began with a request to see a few records has turned into a new passion. Patrick Heffernan just wanted to know who had lived on the land before him. He never intended to become a historian of Christ Church and colonial Virginia.

In 2010 Patrick and his wife Karin purchased property along the Corotoman River. Curious about its history, Patrick used county records to trace the land back to part of the Corotoman estate. At that point, Patrick recalled, “Corotoman was little more than a name to me.”

Seven years later, Patrick has become an expert on Corotoman, a newly published author and a scholar who is using ground-

breaking databases to uncover the lives of the plantation’s enslaved and indentured populations.



the plantation’s enslaved and indentured populations.

Want to learn more? Visit our Research Page at christchurch1735.org/research for links to the *Corotoman Slave Histories* and *Corotoman Servant Database*.

On Palace Green: A Wedding in Williamsburg, 1807, in the letters of those who were there – available through Amazon.com or in the HCC&M Gift Shop.

“What led me to knock on the door at Christ Church was wanting to learn more about Corotoman.” Patrick said. That first knock led him to join the HCC&M Research Committee and a pursuit of historical research that has taken him from William and Mary to the University of Virginia to the Library of Congress.

Patrick is no stranger to libraries. He earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of London before spending three decades in education, including seven years as a Lecturer at Homerton College, Cambridge University. At HCC&M, his investigations moved quickly from reviewing historic maps of the Corotoman estate to reading (literally) hundreds of letters from Corotoman’s heirs, Dr. Charles Carter, Charles’ sister Mary Walker Carter, and Mary’s husband, Joseph Cabell—Thomas Jefferson’s friend.

From here Patrick began to examine the enslaved and indentured servants who lived and worked at Corotoman, from John Carter’s settlement of the property in 1652 to its sale out of the Carter family in 1862. He began with the enslaved community, using estate inventories, tithables lists and other records to uncover some 4,000 references to 1,200 enslaved people who lived on the plantation over those two centuries. He followed this

with research on the indentured servants and a detailed account of the transition from them to enslaved laborers as the workforce at Corotoman.

Patrick compiled his extensive records into two searchable databases that are now accessible from the HCC&M website. Knack, the company who developed the database software Patrick used, was so impressed by his work that it ran a feature article about his project on its website (<https://www.knack.com/case-studies/christ-church>).

Returning to Mary Walker Carter and Joseph Cabell, Patrick found in the letters they and their friends and family members exchanged a rich account of Cabell’s courtship and marriage to Mary in 1807. Published this year, Patrick’s *On Palace Green: A Wedding in Williamsburg, 1807, in the letters of those who were there* reveals the hopes, concerns and love of a cast of characters that included St. George Tucker and other prominent Virginians.

For Patrick, who also serves as a docent and has done extensive research on David Miles (marker lies at the crossing in Christ Church), the work has been extremely rewarding. For most of these enslaved persons identified in his Corotoman Slaves Database, for example, Patrick notes “we have gained a good idea of their lifespans. For many, we have learned of family relationships or events from their lives. Set against the complete silence surrounding the lives of most slaves, these findings are remarkable.”

Remarkable might be just the word to describe the work Patrick is doing here at HCC&M.



Flagon - London 1720-21
Thomas Folkingham

In July 1720, Robert Carter sent London merchant William Dawkins two hogsheads of tobacco levied by the vestry of Christ Church Parish to purchase communion silver. Acting as churchwarden, Carter directed that the “Church plate” cost £20 or “thereabouts” and include a flagon and communion plate engraved with “Christ Church Parish Lancas[te]r County & ye Date of the Year.” Carter authorized Dawkins to charge his account for any costs not covered by the revenue from the two hogsheads, which Carter noted had sailed aboard his ship *The Carter* and were marked “CCP.”

Today this flagon and communion plate, along with a paten and chalice, shine proudly in the museum in the Carter Reception Center. Housed in a beautiful, vertical case located on access with the museum entrance, the silver is a favorite stopping point for visitors.

That the silver survived is yet another remarkable chapter in Christ Church’s history. Captain William Tell Chase and his family used a wooden box (also on display in the museum) to guard the silver in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. At some point the silver made its way to a local bank vault, where it remained until 1988 when it was first displayed in the museum.



Communion Plate - London 1695-96
Sam Hood

It is always a challenge how to present history to 21st century children so they don’t see it as a chore but fun. School children who visit HCC&M participate in several hands-on stations to learn about the history of Christ Church and life in colonial Virginia. My wife Regina and friends Patti and Bill Voigt are members of a Revolutionary War reenacting group (First Maryland Regiment of the Continental Line). Each fall we join the School Programs docents and lead several hands-on activities that bring this history to life.

If we tell children that we are going to school today at Historic Christ Church they are not likely to be too interested, but if we say that we are going to play games like our great, great grandparents did, wear some “cool” style clothing, march with a musket (wood), and get a turkey for Sunday’s dinner, these activities increase the children’s interest level. Then while they are having “fun” we introduce material about the life style, the issues of living (survival), and the choices one must make to enjoy life.

On October 26th we hosted



A Hands-On History Experience by Richard Thek

100 Northumberland Elementary School 4th-grade students, teachers and parents. After a brief introduction, the students break into six groups, rotating between different stations such as brick making, architectural drawings, and tours of the church and museum. This is our fifth annual program we have done at HCC&M, and each time we learn a little more from the children and hopefully they go home with a deeper appreciation of the past as well as some tools to deal with today’s issues.

Regina and Patti provide an experience of the clothes, toys and customs of the 18th century. The children learn courtesies and the importance of posture in that century as well as what kids did for fun

then and how they studied. They always have a great reaction when we teach them that boys and girls dressed the same until ages 5-6 in dresses. Regina made all the clothes the children tried on. They also play games of that century - the biggest hit is “Jacob’s Ladder”. Comments like “is it magic or how does it work” make the exercise great fun. The children ask many questions, indicating the teachers had prepared them well for the experience.

The military experience provided by Bill and me is a favorite. What is a pleasure to see is how quickly they learn how to drill, march and load their “toy” muskets in order to get those imaginary turkeys for grandma. We love being a part of this educational program.

Preservation Takes On: *Rising Damp*



From left: Preservation Committee Chair Russell Mait, architectural historian Mark Wenger and David Miles and his father David of Soil Evaluation Services perform soil testing in the churchyard on September 29th. FHCC is undertaking soil samples and a topographic survey to identify the sources, pathways and potential mechanisms causing the rising damp in Christ Church's brick walls. This critical research will guide us as we develop strategies for capturing and removing water from the building's perimeter.

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2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 26

"Freedom! Or Not?" Sarah's Story
7:00 PM

Co-sponsored with Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library. \$10

MARCH 5-APRIL 14

Virginia Women In History
Traveling Exhibition from the
Library of Virginia

Exhibit open daily.

MARCH 6, 7 & 8

Continuing Education Spring Workshop
for New and Returning Volunteers
8:30 AM - Noon

APRIL 29

Annual Kirking of the Tartan Service
12:30 PM

MAY 18

60th Annual Meeting of the Members of the
Foundation for Historic Christ Church
4:00 PM

MAY 28

Annual Memorial Day Service
11:00 AM

JULY 9-11

Hands-On History Camp
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Step back in time with this exciting three-day program in colonial Virginia history. Make a brick, write with quill pens, dig for artifacts, join a colonial militia, make a candle and more. To register, email rteagle@christchurch1735.org. For ages 6-12. Pizza Party on July 11. \$50 per child.

JULY 14

Raise the Roof Craft Beer Fest
1:00-6:00 PM

Our annual fun and fundraising event! Craft beers, featured vineyard, BBQ with fixings and more. Live music by Good Shot Judy and Bobby "Blackhat" Walters. \$45.00 per person.

AUGUST 4

Ice Cream Social
11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Family fun with tasty ice cream treats in a historic setting. Children of all ages welcome.

DECEMBER 3

"The Holly & The Ivy"
3:30 PM

Celebrate the season at Historic Christ Church. Admission is two non-perishable items for the Northern Neck Food Bank.

Sunday Speaker Series: Virginia Women in History

MARCH 25

Helen Rountree – "Powhatan Indian Women and the Jamestown Colonists"
Acclaimed historian Helen Rountree looks at Powhatan women and English colonists in 17th-century Virginia..

APRIL 15

Cassandra Newby-Alexander – "Afro-Virginians in the Colonial Period"
Norfolk State University historian Cassandra Newby-Alexander explores the world African and Afro-Virginian women made in the colonial period.

OCTOBER 7

Mary Ferrari – "Mary Draper Ingles"
Radford University historian Mary Ferrari recounts the incredible journey of Mary Draper Ingles, who escaped captivity by the Shawnee Indians with a perilous 400-mile trek.

NOVEMBER 4

Elizabeth Varon – "Elizabeth Van Lew: Richmond Abolitionist and Union Spy"
Join University of Virginia historian Elizabeth Varon as she reveals the incredible story of Elizabeth Van Lew, a Richmond resident who served as one of the Union's most important spies during the Civil War.

Tickets are available at christchurch1735.ticketleap.com or at the Foundation office. Ticket price is \$25 per person, per lecture. All lectures begin at 2:00 pm.



Since 1735, as it came from the hands of its builders
A Virginia and National Historic Landmark
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National Register of Historic Places

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