

THE ADVOCATE

HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC



Spring
2022

www.historicportroyal.com

Spring Greetings from Historic Port Royal President Carolyn Davis

The jonquils are in bloom and the Museum of American History in Port Royal is again open, every Saturday from 10-3pm, and by appointment. Special tours are available call 804-370-5285 for more information. Visitors learn the stories behind our historic objects, paintings, and portraits, and of the people that called this land their home. HPRI is composed of a Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers, and a wonderfully supportive membership. We run on 100% volunteerism, donations, grants, fundraising, and memberships.



Over the winter, I appointed Cleo Coleman as Bylaws Committee Chair. Cleo and three other HPRI members were tasked with reviewing our Bylaws, last reviewed and adopted in 2009. The 2022 draft report was recently presented to the Board and approved with minor changes and updates. The next step is for the Committee to

present the draft to the Membership for approval at the Spring quarterly meeting on April 26th. Please mark your calendars now so HPRI can be well represented. Thanks go to Elizabeth Heimbach, Bonnie Cannon and Kerri Hollard for working so diligently with Cleo on this review.

Speaking of Bylaws, ours state that prior to the October quarterly meeting of even numbered years, the president shall appoint a Nominating Committee whose duty is to receive nominations and/or appoint candidates for election to the Board of Directors. I have asked Jim Heimbach to chair this committee. Members Michelle Darnell and Johnny Davis will work with him. Please reach out to them if you, or someone you know, are interested in helping further the work of HPRI. Elections will be held at the October 25th membership meeting.

We are excitedly planning "May History Days," a special week in which the Museum and School will be open 4 consecutive days starting **Thursday, May 12th** and culminating in a Saturday of fun and activities on the Museum and School Grounds on May 14th, and a special Sunday opening on May 15th. We will also participate in Belle Grove



Plantation's Antique, Vintage and Collectables Market and Auction on May 14th. You will hear more about these and other area May events in the months to come. In addition to all of this, a committee is thinking about how we might celebrate Independence Day this year. Let us know if you want to help with these events, or at the Museum. Volunteers are much appreciated!

And speaking of volunteers, I thank Bill Henderson and Mike Newman for volunteering at the Museum on Thursdays for several months in 2021; and Lee Ramsey who built the rustic fence out front for our flag and banners. Eleonore Spears, a faithful docent and gardener cleaned up the flower beds and planted some new bulbs. Trish Parker has researched every pattern of White House china in our collection and can share this wonderful information from

memory. Last, but not least, I must thank Johnny Davis and Bill (again) for their hard work on the Museum and School grounds this winter, which included gathering several truckloads of limbs and yard debris, and a new paint job on the bench in the museum yard. We are so blessed.

The next membership meeting will be on Tuesday April 26th 7:00pm at the Town Hall. Plan now to join us. The membership must review and approve the revised Bylaws. Make sure we have your email or mailing address so we can keep you posted on meetings and events to come!

WE NEED YOU!



There are two very important membership meetings coming up that will require membership vote!

April 26 - Revised Constitution and Bylaws will be presented for approval by the Membership.

October 25 - Nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term.

Mark your calendars - Your Vote Matters!



The Fox Tavern

Work is beginning at the Fox Tavern! The new owners, Bryon and Jonni Hower, and sister Terri, just closed on the historic house on Lot 26 this month, and have already started repairs on the building and upgrades to the grounds. Knowing that restoring the Tavern where *the* George Washington lodged and ate on three occasions is a huge undertaking, this family is up to the challenge. The Hower's invited HPRI President Davis and Secretary Holland for a tour of the Tavern, built about 1754. Ms. Hower pointed out all the wonderful 18th and 19th-century paneling, doors, mantels, and plank flooring that will eventually be restored. But first things first - septic, plumbing, HVAC, and siding to protect the 18th-century timber construction. In the meantime, the family will take on interior projects like cleaning, plaster and paint removal. While the task before them may seem daunting, the Howers and Terri look forward to making Port Royal their home. And we are so excited to have them and help them in any way we can!

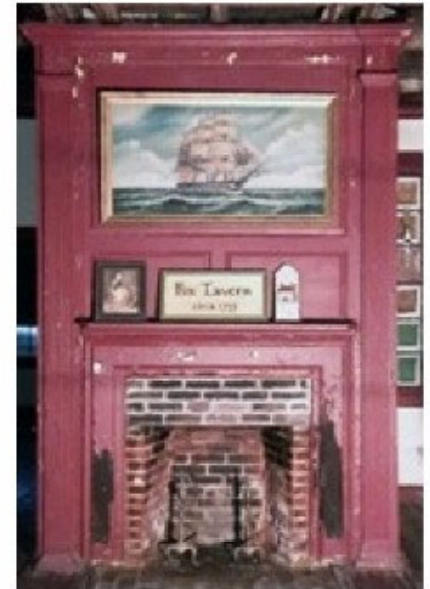


The Fox Tavern, a bit mor recent!

The Fox Tavern, as it appeared in 1966 when owned by William T. Powers (Rev. Ralph Fall photograph collection, HPRI).



Six-panel door entrance at the rear of the central hall.



Hearth and mantle in the front tavern room.

In Memorium

Helen Marie Taylor,

January 25, 2022

Ms. Taylor was a lifetime member and friend to HPRI. She was a political activist, a public servant, and an advocate for historic preservation. Ms. Taylor lived in her Richmond home on Monument Avenue. During the 1960s, 70s, and more recently, she was an outspoken advocate for the

preservation of the historic Monument Avenue landscape. She was proud of her service to her country as a presidential-appointed U.S. Representative to the United Nations from 1986-1987, and previously as the Ranking U.S. Delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Ms. Taylor also loved Orange County. She served as President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation from 1979 to 1993, and co-founded the James Madison Museum, which focuses on the history of U.S. presidents James Madison and Zachary Taylor; She was related to both. Ms. Taylor will be remembered for her passion for arts, culture, history, and preservation, and her fervent patriotism.



Sandra Margaret Burke

November 24, 2021

Ms. Burke of Bainbridge, Washington, attended Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia, to pursue her love of Architecture and Historic Preservation.



While at school, she learned of Herb Collins's family home Green Falls. With his help, Ms. Burke nominated Green Falls for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Her work was submitted in 1993. Green Falls was registered in 1997. Her preservation efforts and friendship will be remembered fondly.

The original nomination form for Green Falls can be found on the Virginia Department of Historic Resources at: <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/016-0034/>.

What's New at the Museum?



Portrait of Zachary Taylor, 12th President (1849-1850); born near Gordonsville, Orange Co., Virginia. As a commanding officer in the US Army, he would share in the toils of army life among his men, often camping amid his men. Because of his often-slovenly appearance and unpretentious demeanor, he was affectionately nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready". He became a household name after leading US forces to victory in Buena Vista during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). Commissioned and donated by Herb Collins.

The eagle pommel saddle, circa 1830. Likely a Militia officer's saddle, it has a high English seat and little adornment. The three brass leather keepers attached to the back of the seat were added later and suggest that the saddle was used during the Civil War, as well. Found by Bill Henderson and donated by Herb Collins.



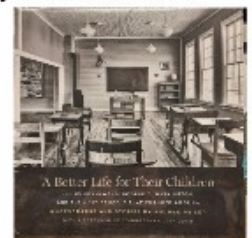
This style of students' desk, circa 1880, was designed to be placed single file. The writing surface, equipped with a hole to hold an ink well, is attached to the back of the folding seat. In the ironwork the brand name "Eclipse" is scrolled. Donated by Mayo Carter.



A new exhibit in the Museum chronicles past and current HPRI restoration projects with illustrations and artifacts:

- The late 19th-century eight-sided meat house, moved in 2017. Restoration completed in 2018 with thanks to Herb Collins.
- The Port Royal Museum of Medicine, formerly the medical office of three Port Royal doctors from 1851 to 1985. Donated in 2001 by the Stehl family. Restoration and furnishing completed in 2015 with thanks in part to Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Town of Port Royal, Caroline County, and Herb Collins.
- The Murray House, built in the latter half of the 1700s. Building donated in 2017 by the late Jim Madison and family. Restoration is underway thanks to funds provided by the Silver Companies and Herb Collins.
- The Lyceum and Masonic Lodge, built 1854. Deeded to HPRI by the Powers-Holloway family in 1997. Building stabilized and roof replaced by 2000. Planning and fundraising begun again in 2017 thanks to Flippo Family Foundation, Atlantic Heritage, and HPRI's Lyceum Committee.
- The Old Port Royal School, moved and restored by The Old Port Royal School, Inc. and Ruritans by 1995. Now maintained jointly by The Old Port Royal School, Inc. and HPRI, and the stage for a wonderful education program organized and run by Cleo Coleman

A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America. Includes interior and exterior building photographs and stories by Andrew Feiler; a foreword by the late Congressman John Lewis, who attended a Rosenwald school in Alabama; and essays by preservationist and Rosenwald Program historian Jeanne Cyriaque, and Director of African American Cultural Heritage at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Brent Leggs. \$28.00 in the Museum bookstore.



HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL HELP US RESTORE ONE OF VIRGINIA'S OLDEST & MOST BEAUTIFUL PORT COMMUNITIES!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone: () - _____

To join, please complete this form and mail it with your check to:

Historic Port Royal, Inc.

P.O. Box 233 Port Royal, VA 22535

(804) 370-5285

www.HistoricPortRoyal.com

Type of Membership

please check one

- Individual (1 year / \$25)
- Family (1 year / \$45)
- Lifetime (Individual or Family) \$300
- Corporate (\$500)
- Additional Donation of \$ _____

Mark Your Calendar!

On Saturday, May 4th, HPRI will host a special History Day on the Museum and School grounds. Visitors can learn about the past from History reenactors, interpreters and craftsmen. The Museum and School will be open for tours during the event. Walking tour pamphlets for the Historic District will be available inside. The event will be from 10am to 3pm.

And if you have never had the time to visit the Museum and School on a Saturday, you're in luck! Both will be open to visitors from Thursday May 12th to Sunday May 15th from 10am to 3pm. If you wish to volunteer with HPRI, and help make this a great weekend, please call us 804-370-5285; or email HistoricPortRoyalVA@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



HPR Membership Meeting is April 26th 7pm at Town Hall

The revised Constitution and Bylaws will be presented for approval by the Membership. After business, HPR volunteer Trish Parker will present some of her research on the White House China Collection. She will share many interesting details and anecdotes about these pieces of political history that you don't want to miss.

Thank you new and renewed members:

Harry Buckner Family (New)
Thomas Carr Family
Champe Corbin (Life)
Michelle and Bret Darnell

Paul Delgadillo
David Duke
Philip and Kay Fitzhugh
Don Shelton

Gladys Fortune Family
Jackie Gaumer Family
Ercle Herbert
Regina Moriarty

Historic Port Royal, Inc

P.O. Box 233

Port Royal, VA 22535



Please Note: The printed date on your address label will tell you when your HPR membership expires!