

THE ADVOCATE

HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC



Winter
Edition
2022

www.historicportroyal.com

Winter Greetings from Historic Port Royal.....

Where the lush green of summer and fall have suddenly disappeared under a thick blanket of white snow! Today the sun is already shining and people are cleaning up their yards....some with tractors and front-end loaders. Others like your president are staying in cleaning out files and reading books. Every time I read *Hidden Village* I learn something new. Today I was drawn to "The Powers' Home". Lot 26. I grew up knowing it was my grandfather's brother's home. It has been empty for many years but the rumor is that it is currently being sold to new owners who love the history of Port Royal and want to make it their home. I will share some of the home's history in this Advocate.



The Museum of American History on Rt. 301 is closed this month as we take a break, do some needed housekeeping and plan for the future. We will be open by appointment only in January and early February. Contact me at 804-370-5285 if you wish to visit the gift shop and see the Museum in person. There is never a charge, but we do appreciate your donations.

I want to especially thank those of you who have made end of the year donations. We appreciate being remembered. Your gifts help us pay our monthly bills which includes electricity, water, heat/AC, insurance, security, etc. Our PO Box is # 233, Port Royal, Va. 22535.

Speaking of bills, printing, postage and labor for the Advocate has increased greatly. I note that many organizations are going digital this year. The last issue had to be emailed because of a problem at the printer. This year we will move to digital on a trial basis to save both time and money. A few hard copies will be available at the Museum in February.

Now come with me as I take you on a visual tour of the Museum showcasing some of the newest items on display and a few that you might have missed:

4 scenes in a row of the new Sydney King painting: "Burning of Berkley Plantation 1622"





War of 1812 Officer's Sword
with ivory handle and brass eagle
(English made for American market)
referred to as
"Eagle Pommel Sword"



"MISHA" Official mascot of the
1980 Moscow Olympic Games-
gift to Herb Collins



"Visitors at Museum"
Herb Collins and Friend



Rare English Chippendale
Drafting Desk 1740-1750
Recently purchased by Herb Collins



Old Port Royal School "Where classes are smaller and masks are worn."



"History is made everyday!"

New Additions to White House China Room

(Note total of 123 pieces in the HPR White House China CollectionSM)



*Society of Cincinnati plate
Owned by G. Washington
At Mount Vernon*

This group was founded in 1783
"to preserve the cordial affection
subsisting among the officers of
the Continental Army who served
in the Revolutionary War."



*President Reagan and staff having lunch
with Mrs. Thatcher in the White House*



President and Mrs. Reagan



Reagan Presidential Plates

Showcasing Another Port Royal Home

The Fox Tavern

Lots 25-26 King street



A Recent View of The Fox Tavern!

In 1755 Captain William Fox secured a license to operate a tavern in his home on Lot 26. The lot had previously been owned by Captain John Micou and his wife Catherine Walker Micou. Capt. Fox's wife, Ann Roy Fox, managed the tavern while he was at sea. It became the most renowned tavern in Port Royal. Capt. Fox died in 1772 and his widow continued to operate the tavern.

Many citizens of the town opened taverns in their homes to accommodate wayfarers by river and land. They not only provided lodging for overnight with meals & liquors, but also food and stables for their horses. Taverns became centers for discussions of business, political events and the latest news. It was a busy place!

On January 14, 1760 George Washington, Col. Burwell Bassett and Mrs. Bassett (sister of Martha Washington) lodged overnight at this tavern paying a bill of 5 shillings. Two additional visits by Washington are recorded by Rev. Ralph Fall in his book HIDDEN VILLAGE. "It's spacious rooms and halls and fireplaces must have seemed commodious even to Washington when he slept and ate there."

After Mrs. Fox died in 1782 there were numerous owners of the property. Most notable were Ezra Bandler and his wife Julia who purchased both lots in 1857. He was a teacher at the Lyceum across the street & editor of the Fredericksburg Newspaper known as the "Port Royal Times and School Advocate". He was also postmaster 1854-58 in a building next door to his home between Lot 19 & 26.

In 1863 Lots 25 -26 were sold to Champ B. Thornton Jr. who later sold them to Dr. Hugh Morson, physician, and is wife Rosalie Lightfoot. Dr. Morson's

portrait is now the property of HPR and hangs over the mantle in the Medical Museum on King St. David Bernard Powers Sr. purchased this property in 1893. His son D. B Powers was a lawyer who made his office in the tavern building where several others had offices. At the death of the elder Mr. Powers, the property went to another son, William Thornton Powers who I knew as "Uncle Willie", brother of my grandfather Jim Powers. David Breonard Powers, who was a lawyer and Member of the Virginia House of Delegates had his law office in the Fox Tavern owned at that time by his father. He is thought to be pictured in the buggy with his sister Fannie in the picture above.



Fox Tavern in Earlier Days!



*David Breonard Powers
1875-1936*

Part 2 Next Edition

(as new owner takes possession!)

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 \$ _____

“Stories of White House China”



Reagan China and Pictures of It In Service

The Historic Port Royal, Inc. Quarterly Meeting will be held at Port Royal Town hall Tuesday, January 25th at 7 pm. All members and non members are welcome. After a business brief, our Board Secretary and Acquisitions Team Leader Kerri Holland will talk a bit about a few of the newer White House China dishes that the Museum has recently been gifted by Herbert Collins. These include dishes from the Wilson, Carter, Reagan and George W. Bush administrations. We will look at how and by whom the dishes were used and take a closer look at their designs. Also, we want to introduce you to the Society of Cincinnati porcelain dish that Herb surprisingly found and generously gifted to the Museum. Much of the research Ms. Holland will present is credited to Herbert Collins and Board Member Trish Parker.

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!