This year’s annual report features the vintage collodion wet plate photography of Mr. Robert Szabo. He has produced these stunning images using an original 19th-century camera and equipment. The front cover image shows the Great House as viewed through the lens of his camera.

Stratford Hall preserves the legacy of the Lee family and its plantation community, inspires an appreciation of America’s past, and encourages commitment to the ideals of leadership, honor, independent thought and civic responsibility.

This annual report of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association covers the period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.
Stratford Hall dedicates this annual report to the memory of Mr. Iredell Iglehart and Mr. Matthew Simmons
"We went to Stratford; walked in the garden, sat about two hours under a butifull shade tree; and eat as many figs as we could…"

Lucinda Lee, 3 Oct. 1782
As President of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, it is my privilege to thank you for your interest and contributions to Stratford Hall. As you read through this Annual Report, you will realize that you have helped create a lot of excitement at Stratford. Many people have made generous contributions to support the goals established by a dedicated staff and Board of Directors. Thank you for helping us keep history relevant.

This year we have seen a number of goals from our Lee Heritage Interpretive Plan come to fruition. The first major completed project was the restoration of the Southwest Outbuilding. This historic structure now contains two exhibit spaces and an orientation space where visitors begin their tours of the Great House. After considerable research, it is being interpreted as a workshop where skilled 18th-century craftsmen on the plantation would have worked. Members of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association found and donated many antique tools and then traveled to Stratford to help build a reproduction workbench based on a period one used in East Hampton, New York, now in Winterthur Museum. You may remember the horse mural from previous visits; to everyone’s delight it has been restored and preserved by Scott Nolley from Richmond, Virginia.

The reconstruction of the Northwest Stair Passage, a large multi-year project, returns the northwest rooms of the main floor and ground floor to the period of “Light Horse Harry” Lee. Again, hours of research were needed to determine, among other details, where to place partition walls and how to support the steps. Work is now beginning to restore the adjacent parlor.

These are some of the first significant restoration projects to the Great House since the 1930s. Be aware that, when you visit, you will find construction underway. You will want to plan another visit to see our progress as these projects move forward.

Wise people remind us that the study of history is necessary in order to make intelligent decisions for the future. This year we began two major projects. Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker, Architects of Albany, New York, is developing an Historic Structure Report to combine past and new research in a format that will help us make better informed restoration decisions and ensure an accurate interpretation of the architectural details in the Great House. A cultural landscape study is being conducted in partnership with the University of Georgia and The Jaeger Company of Atlanta to document the evolution of the landscape at Stratford in order to make responsible decisions regarding future land use, reconstructions, and garden design. These studies will help us make Stratford a place where history comes alive; where, as you hear their stories, you can picture many Lees who at great risk helped to found and shape our country.

Our educational programs continue to attract students of all ages to Stratford. From grandparent/grandchild summer camps to programs like the Northern Neck Cultural Landscape Symposium and the Robert E. Lee Symposium on Civil War History, our educational offerings continue to be well received. In addition to these mainstay programs, we launched The Lee Institute in May 2010 where Professors Charles Hill and John Lewis Gaddis of Yale University’s International Security Studies Department led an interactive discussion with participants on the topic of “Grand Strategies: International Insecurity in the Post-Pax American World, a Grand Tour of Dangerous Places with Special Emphasis on Afghanistan and Terrorism.” We are proud to be able to offer such quality educational programs and symposia.

As we strive to make each visitor’s experience more meaningful I hope you will plan to visit Stratford Hall soon and see firsthand the positive impact your donation has made.

Martha Anne Jackson
Director for Delaware and President of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association
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Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Valentine
Two of the questions I occasionally hear are “Why is Stratford Hall running away from Robert E. Lee?” and “Why doesn’t Stratford Hall pay more attention to Robert E. Lee?” I don’t understand these comments, since from my perspective Stratford Hall has never run away from or ignored Robert E. Lee. After all, Stratford Hall was saved by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation. What is now called the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association remains Stratford Hall’s legal corporate name. Maybe this is the problem. Most people are aware that Stratford Hall was Robert E. Lee’s birthplace, and it was the property’s association with him that led to its acquisition by the Foundation in 1929. The majority of birthplace memorials, like George Washington’s birthplace just down the road from Stratford, focus exclusively on a great man (and occasionally, woman) who was born there. Unlike most of these birthplace memorials, Stratford Hall was home to a distinguished family that included two signers of the Declaration of Independence, a native-born governor of the Virginia colony, and one of the most distinguished military commanders to serve in the American Revolution.

The women who helped to ensure Stratford Hall’s preservation beginning in 1929 recognized the accomplishments of the many Lees who called Stratford Hall home. In its promotion of Stratford Hall’s virtues as a historic site, the early Board gave equal billing to the accomplishment of all these Lees, Stratford’s distinguished architecture and its association with Robert E. Lee. Influenced by the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, in the 1930s Stratford’s board deliberately removed the late 18th-century interiors that Robert E. Lee would have known and replaced them with a speculative version of the original circa 1738 design. Judging from these decisions, Stratford Hall’s focus has always been on the entire Lee family that lived here rather than on the single great man who was born here. If there really were any running away from Robert E. Lee, it began more than eighty years ago.

Next year our nation will begin a five-year sesquicentennial observation of the American Civil War. Robert E. Lee was one of the central characters in that conflict, and Stratford Hall plans to take advantage of this anniversary to bring new attention to Lee and his role in a war that killed the modern equivalent of six million Americans. It is our position that you cannot understand him without seeing where he was born and how he was influenced by the legacy of his father, brothers, cousins and uncles who also called Stratford home. Our popular Robert E. Lee Symposium on Civil War History will be expanded. In partnership with other regional museums, we will host a conference exploring home front issues here in the Northern Neck. Most importantly, we have begun a multi-million dollar restoration of the Great House. This project will reverse many of the decisions made in the 1930s and restore several of the rooms in the house to their late 18th-century appearances. We will introduce a new tour that will enable visitors to explore Stratford Hall at their own pace and in their own way. When all of this is completed, the Great House interior will appear much as Robert E. Lee would have known it. The restoration of the northwest stair, described in an earlier edition of this Journal, was the first major accomplishment of this effort. For those of you who may now suspect we are running away from the other Lees: fear not. This is all part of a grander scheme that will enable us to tell a more interesting, relevant and compelling tale about all the people, men and women, white and black, who lived and worked here.

As we leave 2010 behind, I am pleased to report that Stratford Hall has embarked on a new direction — one that will assure this special place has a new message for our visitors. This message will enable visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the Lees’ remarkable contributions to American history and the complex multi-racial world of eighteenth and nineteenth century-Virginia that was so much a part of our nation’s growth and history. To all of you whose names are listed in this report and who have made such generous contributions to support our efforts, we give our heartfelt thanks. We also hope that you will visit and see for yourself how your support assures that Stratford Hall will remain a useful and relevant attraction for 21st-century visitors.

Paul C. Reber
Executive Director
“I always think of myself as a rediscoverer of Stratford...a party of us...landed from the small presidential yacht Sylph at an apparently uninhabited section of the lower Potomac and Stratford appeared before us as we strolled inland,...”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1936
Overseen by the Director of Education, Ken McFarland, educational seminars and guided tours continued a tradition of excellence and scholarship. Stratford seminars have long become a hallmark of educational outreach here at Stratford Hall. This year was no different as the department continued to plan and coordinate exciting topics ranging from understanding the legacy and impact of American slavery to the softer “living legacy” of the gardens and grounds. Hundreds of attendees and participants over the years have always counted the seminars offered at Stratford as some of the most meaningful educational experiences of their lives.

Indicative of this effort, Stratford Hall was named the 2009 recipient of the Virginia Council for the Social Studies’ Friend of Education Award at the opening meeting of its statewide conference held in Richmond in October. In announcing the award, Council President Diane R. Neylan noted that Stratford “has been very active in providing enrichment activities for the teachers and students of the Commonwealth of Virginia. A glance at your website shows the breadth of experiences available to all at Stratford Hall. The Board believes that your efforts to provide knowledge to teachers and hands-on learning experiences are deserving of this recognition.”

Stratford’s educational programs and events continue to make a difference in the lives of school age children and classroom teachers. Elementary school program attendance numbers increased 63% from the previous fiscal year. The interpretive staff hosted 21 school programs for 1,657 students and teachers. While we expected our attendance for these programs to decrease due to smaller school budgets and additional constraints on field trips, we were pleasantly surprised at our very high numbers.

During the year the interpretive staff rewrote and updated many of our school programs, adding more hands-on activities and basing the programs more closely on the Virginia Standards of Learning. These changes will be implemented in the next fiscal year. Along with these changes, Laura Lawfer worked with Bill Doerken, Coordinator of Special Programs, to expand the fossil program typically offered to our elementary school students. This expanded program was funded by a generous grant from PNC Bank, which offered stipends to four schools and money to purchase new equipment for the program. Our expanded fossils program was enjoyed by all four local schools who participated in it—Burrows Elementary School, Spotswood Elementary School, Battlefield Elementary School, and King George Elementary School.

Summer camps designed and coordinated by Bill Doerken offered a wide variety of activities including learning colonial trades, hunting for fossils on the beach, fishing in the millpond, and exploring art and music with professional instructors. There were a total of four camps offered in this fiscal year. The two grandparent/grandchild camps had a total enrollment of 32 participants. The intergenerational Elderhostel program had 21 participants. The camp staff thoughtfully perused the camp evaluation forms, not only for helpful suggestions for next year, but to reinforce the positive elements of our programs.

Stratford Hall hosted a three-day Symposium on Slavery for teachers on October 2-4, 2009. VCU Professor Emeritus Phil Schwarz, who formerly headed our two-week Seminar on Slavery, directed a program which brought in noted scholars and focused on the most up-to-date slavery-related literature. Keyed to the Virginia SOLs, the symposium was funded in part by a $5,000 Virginia Foundation for the Humanities grant.

The second Annual Northern Neck Cultural Landscapes Symposium, “The Art and Mystery of Building in Early Virginia,” was held on October 22-25. Dr. Camille Wells again served as faculty director for this residential symposium examining the manifold aspects of the historic architecture and landscape settings of Virginia’s Northern Neck. The program incorporated a stimulating mix of lectures and site visits, supported by a thoroughly researched and well-illustrated “guidebook” prepared especially for the symposium.

On October 28 and 29, we hosted a symposium entitled “Rediscovering the
Historic House.” The purpose of the symposium was to draw together representatives from a variety of diverse perspectives to consider changes to the current historic house tour model. Extensive visitor surveys and other evidence indicate that the traditional historic house tour model, where visitors are guided through a series of period rooms, does not appeal to a growing portion of visitors. Thanks to the support of the Chipstone Foundation, we were able to assemble a diverse panel of experts to consider solutions to this challenge. Included on the panel were Erica Donnis, from Reach Advisors; Kati London and Demetri Detsaridis of Area/Code Games; Tom Scheinfeld, Director of the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University; Brian Sturm from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, who specializes in storytelling and storytelling theory; Philip Kennicott, the cultural critic for The Washington Post; Phil Bigler, a former national teacher of the year and Director of the James Madison Center at James Madison University; Barbara Charles, an exhibit designer with the firm Staples and Charles; and Jonathan Prown, Director of the Chipstone Foundation. Also on the panel were Cary Carson, retired Vice President of Research at Colonial Williamsburg, and Kym Rice, Professor and Director of the Museum Studies Program at George Washington University.

The first day of the symposium began with a tour of the Great House and grounds. The panelists were divided into three groups and asked to develop some new ideas for presenting the story of the Lees and their plantation community, focusing on three ideas: desire, boundaries, and senses. The second day of the symposium was open to the public. Nearly one hundred museum professionals and other interested participants were in attendance and were treated to a series of fascinating presentations by the panelists on their ideas for improving the tour model at historic house museums. All these presentations were made available as a podcast on our website.

Historical Haunts, Stratford's annual Halloween program, was held the last Saturday in October. The program featured a host of activities, refreshments, and a ghost tour of the Great House.

On December 3, 2009, our historic gardens consultant, Don Haynie, offered the first of what is to become an annual how-to offering designed to help participants learn the techniques needed to produce various forms of holiday arrangements. This premier program, a colonial wreath-making workshop, provided morning and afternoon duplicate sessions with a get-acquainted lunch option. A uniformly proud set of wreath makers left with handsome decorations for door or table.

Christmas at Stratford on December 12 gave visitors the chance to experience the Great House as it would have been during the Lees’ time. An expanded program during the day included a Santa Claus for children in the Visitor Center.

Director of Interpretation and Programs, Laura Lawfer, coordinated the extremely well-received Second Annual Robert E. Lee Symposium on Civil War History. Offered each January following the celebration of Robert E. Lee’s birthday, the symposium, dedicated to the further study of General Robert E. Lee’s military career, explored the tone and impact of one of America’s defining historical moments, The Battle of Gettysburg. Amid the winter Pennsylvania hills, historians and scholars Dr. Peter Carmichael and Dr. Gary W. Gallagher led a rapt group of attendees around the scenes of the past struggle.

In February we celebrated Black History Month with guided walking tours of the historic grounds and reflections from local historians and educators. The walking tour used a series of locations that combine archaeological and architectural evidence, documentary history, and an appreciation of the plantation landscape to foster an African-American perspective on Stratford.

On February 27, 2010, Stratford Hall became a geocache site as part of the Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail. There are more than 30 sites in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., that are taking part in this first-of-its-kind adventure. The new Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail is a unique journey through American history and across the landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay region. Intended to complement and promote the congressionally-designated Star-Spangled
Banner National Historic Trail, the Geotrail commemorates the dramatic chain of events, people and places that led to the birth of our National Anthem during the War of 1812. The first-of-its-kind, multi-state initiative is sponsored by Friends of Chesapeake Gateways, the Maryland Geocaching Society, and the National Park Service.

Monticello’s curator of plants Peggy Cornett began the program for the March 20, 2010, “Plants from the Past: A Living Legacy for our Gardens and Yours.” Dennis Whetzel, nursery manager at the Thomas Jefferson Historic Plants Center, then discussed rose propagation and offered historic plants for sale. Don Haynie closed the program speaking on the herbs of medieval gardens, showing the debt owed Europe’s monasteries for preserving ancient gardening traditions.

On March 26, Jon Bachman assumed the new office of Coordinator of Educational Events. It was deemed important that one position concentrate on the planning, coordination and implementation of events at Stratford. Jon’s background in both media development and education seemed a perfect fit. He would work closely with Laura Lawfer and the retiring Director of Education Ken MacFarland to acquire the necessary skills to continue the pattern of outreach and educational excellence.

“Grand Strategies: International Insecurity in the World, a Grand Tour of Dangerous Places with Special Emphasis on Afghanistan and Terrorism” was presented by Professors Charles Hill and John Lewis Gaddis of Yale University’s International Security Studies Department at the inaugural Lee Institute held on May 12 and 13. This program was made possible by the generosity of Robert T. Isham, Jr. The Lee Institute provides an opportunity for participants to interact with some of our nation’s great thinkers on the significant issues of our time. Professors Hill and Gaddis, along with Professor Paul Kennedy, devised Yale’s Grand Strategies, one of the premier international security programs in the world. The program is now known as the “feeder” for up-and-coming young professionals in the State Department and the Pentagon. It is a two-semester, calendar-year interdisciplinary graduate-level seminar offered jointly by the Yale Departments of History and Political Science and the Yale School of Management. Yale’s Brady-Johnson Program on Grand Strategy seeks to revive the study and practice of grand strategy by devising methods to teach that subject at the graduate and undergraduate levels, by training future leaders to think about and implement grand strategies in imaginative and effective ways, and by organizing public events that emphasize the importance of grand strategy.

The annual Lees and Independence event was held on June 5. Visitors were treated to an array of offerings: lectures by living history interpreter Frank Megargee of Colonial Williamsburg, a talk by Dr. Albert H. Tillson Jr., on his newly published book, *Accommodating Revolutions: Virginia’s Northern Neck in an Era of Transformations, 1760-1810*, children’s activities, costumed living history members of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, and capped off with a concert by the 380th Army Band on the lawn in front of the Great House.

Our Partners In Education:
- Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation
- University of Mary Washington
- PNC Bank
- Virginia Museum of Natural History
- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
- Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network
- Chipstone Foundation
“Yet at the end of this long wall...was formed of the same structure, a pig pen; Perhaps its best description is 'twas one end of the wall shaped to an octagon.”

Charles Carter Lee, “Virginia Georgics,” 1858
“Stratford, the seat of my forefathers, is a place of which too much cannot be said; whether you consider the venerable magnificence of its buildings, the happy disposition of its grounds, or the extent and variety of its prospects.”

Thomas Lee Shippen, 10 Sept. 1790
The Preservation Department was able to finish two large projects this past year. The first project completed was the reconstruction of the Northwest Stair. This has been a large multi-year project that marks the first significant restoration to the Great House since the 1930s. The restoration returns the northwest rooms of the main floor and ground floor to the period of “Light Horse Harry” Lee. The second completed project was the restoration of the Southwest Outhouse. This historic structure now contains two exhibit spaces and an orientation space that is used to start the tours of the Great House. With the completion of these two spaces the Department began to work on a number of other projects.

The first new project that we began was the completion of a Historic Structures Report (HSR). Stratford Hall hired the architectural firm of Mesick, Cohen, White and Baker to complete this detailed report on the complete history of the Great House. The HSR will bring together the historical documentation and architectural evidence into one concise report that will help guide us as we work to continue the restoration, refurnishing and reinterpretation of the Great House. Another project that was started was restoration of the two stone Slave Quarters that are located in the Historic Area. This work began in preparation for one to be used as educational space and the other to be refurnished and reinterpreted as a Slave Quarter.

In May, the Department celebrated Preservation Month with a special preservation-focused tour that was held in conjunction with Mother’s Day activities.

The Department also had another successful summer internship program. The two preservation interns were Erin White, a graduate student at Northwestern State University, and Jess Warren, a student at Belmont Technical College. Erin and Jess helped a great deal with the restoration work on the Slave Quarters.

Director of Preservation, Phil Mark, also contributed to the formation of a Historic Preservation Certificate program at Rappahannock Community College. This will be a one-year program to prepare and educate local students to be active members of the preservation community. Stratford Hall hopes that by contributing to this program there will be more local community members who can contribute in some way to the mission of Stratford Hall. Phil Mark will also be an instructor for the program.

Partners in Preservation:
- Pritzlaff Preservation Fund
- Morgan Foundation
- Cabell Foundation
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
“Purchase no implement at fancy cost, nor those in working which there’s labour lost…”

Charles Carter Lee, “Virginia Georgics,” 1858
This past year, the Collections Department continued moving forward in collections management, research, object conservation, and exhibit projects. We are working to bring our collections into the digital age and have plans to transition to new database software this year, as well to continue using social media (Facebook) to help publicize the treasures of our collection. It is our distinct hope to soon be at a place where we can make our collections available to a wider audience through our website and other channels.

Conservation
A number of pieces in the collection received conservation treatment this year as part of larger exhibition projects. Many friends of the collections have been assisting us in our efforts to raise much-needed funds for object conservation, including Mr. and Mrs. Peter Irving Channing Knowles, Ann Bellah Copeland, Peter and Robert Mahony, and Catherine Davis.

One large conservation project this past year was the treatment of the 19th-century horse mural in the Southwest Outbuilding. The conservator, Scott Nolley of Richmond, Virginia, uncovered parts of the mural that had been purposely painted over in the 20th century — including a rather fancy tail. Funding for this project was made possible by the Hally Baker Conservation Fund, Society of the Lees of Virginia.

Exhibits
In October 2009, we reinstalled The Lees of Stratford gallery and premiered two new exhibit cases in the Visitor Center — On the Way to Stratford and Miocene: A Window on Time.

Collections staff also began using a temporary case to display thematic exhibits, the first being a special flower-themed exhibit in time for our March 20 gardening program.

In the Historic Area, seasonal scenarios were installed in the Great House and select outbuildings through the year. The majority of staff time surrounded the research, planning, implementation, and installation of new exhibits and historic room interiors in the Northwest Stair Passage, Southwest Outbuilding, and Slave Quarters. In April 2010, visitors were reintroduced to the Southwest Outbuilding as part of the Great House tour, and can now enjoy new exhibits on Stratford as a plantation, as well as view a period workshop and servants’ chamber. Exhibits are set to open in the Slave Quarters in October 2010.

Internships for 2009-2010
During the academic year, we welcomed two interns: Kathryn Marshall focused on creating an emergency preparedness plan for Stratford Hall, and Melissa Woodard began to organize, photograph, and research archaeological artifacts & digs from the 1930s to the present. During the summer of 2010, we welcomed curatorial intern Brenda Hornsby Heindl, who worked on a new furnishing and interpretation plan for the Kitchen (Southeast Outbuilding).

Acquisitions
- Untitled (Great House with Birds), by George W. Bowman, undated. Gift of Castis Glover on behalf of Molly Spencer [2009.014a&b]
- Untitled (Three Ducks in Flight), by George W. Bowman, 1997. Stratford Hall Collection [2009.016]. These drawings were completed by Night Watchman George W. Bowman on the reverse of a collage of tour tickets and gifted to board members and staff members of Stratford Hall in the late 1990s.


Two fake slave tags. Stamped “Stratford Hall Plantation 1833” and meant to imitate period slave tags. Gift of Dr. James L. Holland [2010.003]


Tea or writing table, Tidewater Virginia or North Carolina, walnut, 1770-1790. Purchase, Caroline Ryan Foulke Fund [2010.005]

Tools. Collection of six tools for display in Southwest Outbuilding. Gift of (the) Mid-West Tool Collectors Association [2010.013]

Plumb square, two steel bits, and one steel shell bit. Gift of Neil W. Bobnert [2010.014]

Shaving horse, double bevel caliper, and draw knife. Gift of Herbert M. Caudle [2010.015]


Chisel, two gouges, and tri-square. Gift of Paul C. Reber [2010.018]

Loans

Signed letter from George Washington to Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee III, 20 October 1794, iron gall ink on laid paper. Courtesy of Fitzhugh B. Lee [IL2009.008], direct descendant of Henry Lee through his son Sidney Smith Lee


Our Partners in Collections:
- Caroline Ryan Foulke Fund
- Universal Leaf Foundation
- Richard & Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust
- National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Virginia
- Society of the Lees of Virginia
- The Mid-West Tool Collectors Association
- Otter Island Foundation
Southeast Outbuilding (Old Kitchen)

“(...) the pile of fish and crabs which were towards dinner time dropt from a tumbrel cart under the shade of a large pear tree between the house and kitchen...”

Charles Carter Lee, undated manuscript
Research

2010 Archaeology Field School
This year’s field school in historical archaeology—jointly funded by the University of Mary Washington’s Center for Historic Preservation and Stratford Hall—returned in May to the Ham House field where previous excavations had revealed structural postholes for an earthfast building. This structure, which shows evidence of internal storage pits, was possibly a slave quarter associated with the domestic complex near the south end of the Oval. Dr. Douglas Sanford, Director of the Center, two crew members, and nine students spent five weeks excavating selected parts of the site. Their discoveries about Stratford’s mid-to-late eighteenth-century landscape will help to interpret the disparity of colonial building practices across the plantation.

Stratford Hall—A Cultural Landscape Laboratory
Stratford Hall has partnered with the University of Georgia and The Jaeger Company of Georgia to generate what has been described as “much more than a traditional Cultural Landscape Report” to provide the Board, administration, and staff in-depth information on the history and significance of the plantation’s overall landscape and its components. This research will provide direction for future preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, protection, and maintenance of important landscape features, including structures, gardens, roads and fences. Strategic planning for the project began in May and, in June, UGA grad student Tim Barrett arrived at Stratford Hall for a two-month internship to create an inventory of landscape components and meet with primary stakeholders in the project. Staff from UGA and The Jaeger Company spent a very hot week at Stratford in July doing on-site research. A selection of maps in the library’s collection have been sent to the Center for Remote Sensing and Mapping Science at UGA for scanning and plotting into GIS to show how the plantation landscape has changed over time. Ken McFarland, Stratford Hall’s liaison for the report, and Judy Hynson are writing the site history to assist the research for this multi-year project. A public website about the project is planned to go online in the fall.

Our Partners in Research:
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Georgia
- The Jaeger Company

Jessie Ball duPont Memorial Library

We are still seeking funding to make the library’s collection of rare books more accessible for research; this project involves completing a digital catalog of our rare books, making the catalog available online, and relocating the books for easier retrieval. Library volunteer Maurice Capone continued to transcribe selected manuscripts from the duPont Library’s collection of photocopies of Lee material from other collections—a slow, laborious process, but one that will facilitate researching those documents that are often difficult to read. Stratford Hall’s Director of Research & Library Collections began compiling a digital catalog for the photocopy collection and created additional pages to enhance Stratford’s website, including information about the two Lee brothers who signed the Declaration of Independence www.stratfordhall.org/learn/lees/signers.php. Images from the library’s collection of historic photographs were used in a new exhibit, “On the Way to Stratford,” which opened October 2009 in the Visitor Center.

Gifts to the duPont Library Collections

Books
- Life of Major General Henry Lee (1859) and The Treason of Charles Lee, Major General (1860) – Gifts of Mrs. Nathan VanMeter Hendricks III in honor of her husband.
- Liberty & Learning: The Essential James Madison by Philip J. Bigler and Annie Lorsback – Gift of Mr. Phil Bigler.
- Five-volume set of home gardening books – Gifts of Mr. P. Allen Smith.
- Two copies of a 1930s Stratford Hall brochure – Gifts of Mr. Bill Doerken.
- Research materials on Col. Cooper Winn, second Resident Superintendent of Stratford from 1945-1959 – Gifts of Mr. Ralph Lovett.

**Miscellaneous**
- A photocopy of an article on Robert E. Lee from a New Orleans newspaper printed soon after Lee’s death – Gift of Mr. Mark Ross.
- Stratford endowment campaign brochure from the early 1940s – Gift of Ms. Peggy Baggett.
- Watercolor of the Lee family coat-of-arms painted by Mrs. Edmund Lee Goldsborough, dated December 1900, and given to her cousin Miss Julia Lee – Gift of Dr. and Mrs. James C. Holland.
The Reconstructed Gristmill

“One acre situate in the county of Westmoreland and at both ends of an old mill dam near the said Lee’s landing...in the most convenient manner for a mill.”

Deed, Jean Waddy to Thomas Lee, 14 March 1743
The department worked with Optima Health, Virginia Tourism Corporation and 3M’s public relation firm to garner earned media throughout the year. Optima Health featured three Stratford employees in an ad campaign that included newspaper ads, billboards and television. A full page photo of Stratford Hall in the Virginia Tourism Corporation’s 2010 Virginia Is for Lovers Travel Guide was the result of a photo shoot the previous May.

A 3M window film product was chosen by the Preservation Department for use on the Southwest Outbuilding and the Great House. Director of Marketing and Public Relations Jim Schepmoes worked with staff and 3M’s public relations firm, the Antenna Group, to produce a news release. This release was picked up by all the business wires including cnbc.com, businessweek.com, msn.com, Comcast.com, TheStreet, Business Wire, Yahoo Finance, StreetInsider.com, Trading Markets.com and AlphaTrade Finance. In addition, Jim Schepmoes coordinated a video shoot by Window Film Magazine that conducted an onsite interview with Preservation Director Phil Mark.

The department also worked with numerous publications during the year including Southern Living Magazine, Architectural Digest, and Recreation News, as well as with Apograph Productions who is working on a Robert E. Lee film for PBS “American Experience” series. That show is expected to air in January 2011.

Travel websites continue to gain in importance as the “go to” place for people seeking information on attractions that interest them. The department increased Stratford’s exposure by providing copy and photos for two sites during the year, the Westmoreland County Tourism Council’s new website www.visitwestmorelandva.org and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Heritage Travel’s website, www.Gozaic.com.

The department also coordinated two events during the year, the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Oval sponsored by the Northern Neck Lodge #32 of the Fraternal Order of Police, and the 3rd Annual Northern Neck Food and Harvest Festival in September. Widely attended by hundreds of children and their parents, the Easter Egg Hunt was held on a picture perfect day and proved to be just about perfect with smiling children, delighted parents and baskets brimming with gifts and candy. The Harvest Festival drew hundreds of visitors to enjoy the fall season, vendors, music and wines from local vineyards. The event, though dampened a bit by rain showers, did not discourage the crowds. Hayrides, craftsmen and artisans, live music, a petting zoo and local vintners did much to drive away the rain.

Partners:
- Virginia Tourism Corporation
- Northern Neck Tourism Commission
- Westmoreland Tourism Council
- Peoples Community Bank
- Northern Neck Lodge 32 of the Fraternal Order of Police
Gift Shop
The Gift Shop featured new displays and layout and offered new merchandise throughout the year, including garden items and antiques. Our Stratford Hall rug designed by Ann Bell Robb of Kedron Design has proved to be very popular with customers. Books continue to be popular sellers with many titles on the Lee family and the Civil War. At the annual Lees and Independence event in June, the gift shop continued its long tradition of holding book signings. Albert H. Tillson, Jr., signed his newly published book, Accommodating Revolutions, Virginia’s Northern Neck in an Era of Transformations, 1760-1810.

Guest Houses
The Cheek Guest House, which has 15 rooms, and the Astor Guest House, which has six rooms, provided lodging for many retreats, educational events, family reunions, special events and weddings during the year. Both guest houses, as well as Director’s cabins, continued to make Stratford a visitor destination.

Meeting Facilities
Stratford Hall’s meeting facilities, including the Council House, Jessie Ball duPont Memorial Library and the Preservation Gallery in the Visitor Center, hosted numerous meetings, retreats, dinners and receptions during the year.

Plantation Dining Room
The Plantation Dining room served lunch for visitors while also providing meals for Stratford Hall events including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Robert E. Lee’s birthday, and Mother’s Day. In addition, the Dining Room provided catering services to many of the meetings, receptions, and dinners held at Stratford Hall throughout the year.

Mill
Stratford’s water-powered gristmill continues to produce quality products for sale in the Gift Shop, including white and yellow corn meal and grits. The Mill also serves as an important educational resource for school groups, special tours and for the general public as Stratford Hall continues the milling tradition begun by Thomas Lee in the 1740s.

Financials

Use of Funds

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Public Support and Revenue

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<td>Total</td>
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Contributors

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The Lee family’s Latin motto, “Non Incapeutics Futuri,” means “Not Unmindful of the Future.” Through the support of these committed Futuri Society members and their planned gifts in various forms, Stratford Hall’s goals of preservation, education and research can be sustained and furthered for the benefit of future generations.

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<td>$1,000 – $4,999</td>
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