As part of the ongoing effort to enhance the visitor experience at Stratford Hall, the Slave Quarters were reopened to the public on October 15, featuring new exhibits and activities that will educate and engage visitors of all ages.

In the West Slave Quarter, new museum exhibits now fill the reconstructed stone quarter that originally housed “home farm” slaves (domestic workers and other skilled laborers). This project has been in the research and development phase for close to two years, drawing upon period documents, archaeology, and current scholarship. New exhibit text panels feature information on slave life here at Stratford and artifacts that were found in archeological digs in the area.

The west room depicts the domestic space of an enslaved gardener named Anthony (he appears in a 1776 estate inventory) and other skilled male workers. The east room is furnished to represent a female-dominated household, specifically a woman named Nelly and her daughter Mary. Nelly and her child Mary appear in a 1776 estate inventory, and we find Mary again in a 1782 slave list with the descriptor “blind” after her name. What was life like for Mary? That’s just one topic we touch upon in these new exhibits.

The East Slave Quarter marks an important step in making Stratford Hall more family-friendly and increasing the capacity of the school programs. The east room was restored and left unfurnished as a dedicated education space. The west room is a hands-on activity area for children. The centerpiece of the room is a custom-made discovery chest funded by Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Price of Richmond. Nine drawers are filled with books, dolls, fossils, colonial games, fake food, and a tea set for children to take out and play with. Child-sized furniture, musical instruments, a colorful rug, and costumes will provide our youngest visitors with the opportunity to learn more about the Lee family and what life was like at Stratford.
Eighty guests from 19 states, Washington, D.C. and Great Britain were honored during the Lee Circle donor recognition event held in mid-October at Stratford Hall. Harriet Stephens, Director for Arkansas and her husband, Warren Stephens, Stratford Finance Committee member, served as the chairmen for this year’s event. Highlights of the event included Friday evening cocktails in the Great Hall, dinner and dancing on the Oval in front of the Great House, and a talk in the Great Hall by presidential historian Richard Norton Smith on Saturday morning.

Mr. Smith, current Scholar-in-Residence of History and Public Policy at George Mason University, is a presidential historian and former head of six presidential libraries. He is a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and appears regularly on C-Span and “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” as part of the show’s roundtable of historians.

The Lee Circle, established in 2006, recognizes Stratford’s most generous donors who contribute $5,000 or more annually. The circle concept refers to the circle of Lee family and friends who had a direct hand in the development of our country. Members share a dedication to preserving our nation’s heritage and have a keen commitment to education. By becoming a member of the Lee Circle, you will have an opportunity to join an extensive group of men and women with varied interests and occupations who share a similar love of their country and preservation of its history.

This generous group of donors supports the restoration, research and preservation of the Great House and other facilities at Stratford Hall. Important assistance is also provided for on-going educational programs for school children, teachers and the general public.

The 2011 Lee Circle event will be held on October 14-15, 2011, and Stratford’s Director for Georgia, Kathy Hendricks, and her husband Pete Hendricks will serve as Chairmen. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Lee Circle, please contact Moira Holdren, Director of Development, at 804-493-8038 ext. 8920 or email mholdren@StratfordHall.org.
May 7 & 8, 2011

CONCERT and COACHING

ON THE OVAL

at Stratford Hall

Coaching has been a Stratford Hall tradition for nearly 40 years. It is an occasion to see glorious coaches pulled by teams of horses as well as...

Antique cars
Heritage breed animals
Sheep herding demonstrations
Tailgate competition
Artisans
Crafters
Gourmet food vendors

and an opportunity to help preserve Stratford Hall’s vital place in history.

For more information visit www.StratfordHall.org
Fredericksburg Friends of Stratford committee held a “Bourbon and Boxwood” reception in September at the home of supporters Lee and Charles Rowe. Chris Morin served as Chairman of the event. More than 150 friends came out for a lovely evening which included Stratford Hall-grown boxwood bushes and Bowman VG 90 bourbon. Phillip Watson, horticulturist and landscape designer, was also on hand to discuss his work and sign copies of his book, Pleasure Gardens.

A special thanks to StellarOne Bank and A. Smith Bowman Distillery, as well as the Rowes and the Fredericksburg Friends of Stratford Committee for making this event so successful and continuing to raise funds to support the operation of Stratford Hall.

The Annual Friends of Stratford Committee Retreat was held on September 23 at Stratford Hall. The meeting, sponsored by the Development Department, included in-depth discussions about committee fundraising events and activities. Executive Director, Paul Reber, spoke about the exciting projects and programs currently in progress, and presentations by Judy Hynson and Abigail Newkirk showed the wide array of research and education activities currently underway and planned for the coming year. Development staff, Moira Holdren and Regina Pitts, shared fundraising ideas and tools available to assist the committees with their important work. The event concluded with a special tour of the restoration projects in the historic area with Gretchen Goodell, Curator, and Phil Mark, Director of Preservation.

Attending this year’s retreat were: Kim Keleher, Alexandria; Susan Wallace and Janna Leepson, Blue Ridge; Betty Jo Butler, Essex; Caroline Natvig, Fredericksburg; Laura-Stuart Taylor, King George; Ann McLean, Richmond City; Bonnie Morris, Richmond County; and Lucy Jenkins and Anne Baker, Westmoreland. Stratford Directors, Mary Jane Brock and Martha Anne Jackson, were also in attendance. A sincere thank you goes out to all of our Friends of Stratford Committees for their dedication and hard work in support of Stratford Hall.

District of Columbia Friends of Stratford Committee and the History Department of American University will host a lecture by Sumpter Priddy, “Rediscovering the Federal Furniture of Washington, D.C. 1795–1820,” followed by a reception on Sunday, January 16, 2011, at 5 p.m.in the American University’s Katzen Arts Center Abramson Family Recital Hall. Tickets are $50 per person. The event is in celebration of the life of Nancy Flather, former Director for Washington, D.C., connoisseur of antiques, the decorative arts, and historic preservation. Special thanks to Flather & Perkins, Inc. Free parking is available under the Katzen Arts Center at Ward Circle and Mass. Ave, N.W., across from Main Gate. For further information please contact Regina Pitts at 804-493-8038 ext. 8919 or rpitts@stratfordhall.org.

Left: Members of the Friends of Stratford Committees take a tour of the restoration projects in the historic area during their annual retreat.

Right: Phillip Watson (left), guest speaker, and Jinxie Forbush at the Fredericksburg event held in September.
This motto appears beneath the Lee family coat-of-arms and is one we take quite seriously at Stratford Hall. It is a concept that we find particularly relevant in these uncertain economic times.

You, like many other longtime Stratford supporters we’ve heard from, are probably looking at various planning tools to secure your financial future. Visit our website or call the Development Office to find information about the planned giving opportunities available through Stratford Hall’s Futuri Society. Becoming a part of the Futuri Society allows you to incorporate your desire to support Stratford Hall into your overall estate plan.

We hope that you will consider the Futuri Society as a way to support Stratford Hall’s mission of preservation, education and research well into the future. A planned gift to Stratford can also provide you with lifetime income, reward you with a substantial income tax deduction, or reduce your tax burden and those of your heirs.

Estate planning options offered by Stratford include:

- Bequests
- Named Endowments
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Charitable Gift Annuities

To find out more about planned giving at Stratford Hall, please contact our Development Department at 804-493-8038 ext. 8919 or by emailing plannedgiving@stratfordhall.org. Stratford Hall can work with you and your legal team and/or your personal estate planning attorney to find an estate planning option tailored to suit your individual needs and the long-term goals of your estate.
Looking for a unique Christmas present? A special wedding or anniversary gift? The Stratford Gift Shop now has a variety of unique gifts that you will not find anywhere else.

New to the gift shop are one-of-a-kind hand-turned wooden bowls made from wood harvested at Stratford Hall. They are made by artist Kirk McCauley from North Garden, Virginia. These bowls come in a variety of sizes and shapes and were done in walnut, oak and dogwood.

Another Stratford gift shop exclusive is the Stratford Farm Table. These tables are reproduced from an early-19th-century model that would have been commonplace on the plantation. Built individually out of pine by W. Matthew Yeatman, Jr., the tables are available in four sizes — mini, small, medium and large — in traditional buttermilk paint colors.

Yeatman, from Westmoreland County, is the third generation woodworker in his family.

The Stratford Hall hand-hooked rug designed by Ann Bell Robb of Kedron Design also makes an excellent gift. Measuring two feet by three feet in size, the rug, made of 100% wool, features the Great House. The gift shop now has these in stock and ready to ship for $110 each.

Looking for a tie, scarf or pendant? The gift shop has a few Lee Heritage Scarves left in stock. This attractive and uniquely designed scarf was inspired by an equally beautiful piece of artwork produced by Dorothy Mills Parker, editor of Lee Chronicle, in the 1930s. This handsome, hand-hemmed scarf was made in Lyon, France, and is one hundred percent heavy silk twill and measures 36 inches by 36 inches. Artist Janet West Garrett, a member of the District of Columbia Friends of Stratford Committee, designed the scarf and the committee produced the scarf as a fundraiser for $240 each.

For men, there is the Vineyard Vines Necktie with a Squirrel Motif. This handmade tie is of one hundred percent silk comes in either cornflower blue or raspberry for $65 each.

The gift shop also carries a wide variety of Stratford label preserves, dressings, and products from the Stratford Hall gristmill, including grits, yellow and white corn meal, and pancake flour. And be sure to check out the special items on the gift shop’s website including the exclusive limited edition Stratford Jewels collection. You can reach the gift shop at 804-493-8038 ext. 9796, or visit StratfordHall.org.

Among the many unique items the Gift Shop sells are hand-turned bowls made from wood harvested at Stratford as well as products ground at the gristmill.

Shopping for a unique gift? Then Stratford’s Gift Shop is made to order!
Robert E. Lee Symposium on Civil War History to focus on Chancellorsville

Third annual symposium to be held on January 28-30, 2011

This year’s symposium, sponsored by Stratford Hall with support from the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation, will explore what many historians believe to be Lee’s greatest victory — the Battle of Chancellorsville. During the first week of May 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson led the dramatically outnumbered Army of Northern Virginia to victory.

Noted historians Dr. Peter Carmichael and Dr. Gary W. Gallagher will lead this year’s symposium through discussions, lectures and battlefield tours. The Friday night dinner and lecture, “Robert E. Lee: A Modern 19th-Century Warrior” by Gary Gallagher, will be open to the public for a cost of $50.

On Saturday, following the Chancellorsville battlefield tour and discussion, the symposium will move to the rural community of Guinea Station. There in a small plantation office, Jackson died of complications from his accidental wounding on the evening of May 2, 1863. Leaving the Jackson Shrine, the tour ends with a return to Stratford Hall and dinner.

Dr. Peter Carmichael, symposium faculty director, is Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. Carmichael earned his Ph.D. in history at Pennsylvania State University in 1996. Some of his published works include The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion; Lee’s Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram; and Audacity Personified: The Generalship of Robert E. Lee.

Gary W. Gallagher is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia. He received his Ph.D. in 1982 from the University of Texas at Austin. He taught for twelve years at Penn State University before joining the faculty at the University of Virginia in 1998. Some of his published works include Stephen Dodson Ramseur: Lee’s Gallant General; The Confederate War; Lee and His Generals in War and Memory; The American Civil War: The War in the East 1861-May 1863; Lee and His Army in Confederate History; and Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten: How Hollywood and Popular Art Shape What We Know About the Civil War.

The fee for the symposium is $450 per person in a double room (mutual requests only), or $550 per person in a single room. This includes two night’s lodging at Stratford Hall, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings, a box lunch on Saturday, and dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings. There is also an option for those who live nearby and choose to commute from home. The cost of joining us for the lectures, tours, and a Saturday box lunch as well as Friday and Saturday night dinners is $250.

For more information about the symposium and a complete schedule, visit StratfordHall.org.

Dr. Peter Carmichael leads a discussion on the battlefield during last year’s Robert E. Lee Symposium on Civil War History.
January 15
Family Winter Walk
Join local naturalists and educators as they explore the woods, fields and pond to look for birds and other wildlife. Bring your camera, sketch book, and curiosity. Program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost of admission is a Grounds Pass, $5 for adults and $3 for children. Free to Friends of Stratford members. Weather permitting.

January 19
Robert E. Lee’s Birthday
Celebrate Lee’s Birthday with us. Free admission. Enjoy a tour focused on Lee’s early years at Stratford and on his family’s contributions to American history.

January 28–30
Robert E. Lee Symposium on Civil War History
Join noted historians Pete Carmichael and Gary Gallagher and learn about the pivotal Battle of Chancellorsville. Visit the battlefield where the South lost one of its greatest strategists... “Stonewall” Jackson. See article on page 7 of this issue.

February 25
The History of the Spirituals: An Evening with Calvin Earl
Calvin Earl, nationally recognized educator and musician, will share his thoughts on the African American Spiritual as a National Treasure, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cost of admission is $10 per person.

Save The Date
May 7 and 8, 2011
Concert & Coaching On The Oval