Stop and consider the landscape of your own home for a moment. How has it changed over the years? Have you added a walkway, garden or fence? Have you removed other elements such as an old shed or barn?

At Stratford Hall, surprisingly little documentation exists about additional buildings, formal and informal gardens, or how the yards that once surrounded the Great House were utilized by members of the Lee family and the Plantation’s large African-American community.

For Dr. Douglas Sanford, chair of the Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington, and his field crew, the mystery of the landscape at Stratford Hall is more like a giant jigsaw puzzle and each summer more pieces of the puzzle are unearthed.

For the past four seasons, the field school has examined the area on the southwest edge of the Oval field. The area was first identified as a potential archaeological site by Fraser Neiman in the 1970s when he supervised a plantation-wide survey project at Stratford Hall. Without any period documentation to suggest what the site may have been, Neiman conjectured that it could possibly have been slave quarters.

They have made some intriguing discoveries. During the first year, the field school unearthed the brick-lined cellar of an 8’ x 16’ frame structure dating from around the mid-eighteenth century. Subsequent field schools excavated most of the basement and located large holes for the massive posts that once supported an adjacent 16’ x 20’ structure. Students also uncovered an early ditch, which likely separated the main house complex from the agricultural activities to the south. By the end of the 2006 field school, other large post holes were discovered across the plantation road, including a complex of buildings.

This year the field school continued work investigating the triangular area across the plantation road. They have found two buildings so far, including what appears to be
Executive Director’s Report

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the 2007 version of the Stratford Hall/Monticello/University of Virginia teacher’s seminar has just drawn to a close, prompting reflection on the role of this program and others in Stratford Hall’s educational series.

For many teachers, the seminar is a transformative event in their lives. These are not just my observations, but backed up by the many thank-you notes we receive from teachers who participate in the program. One wrote, “I feel so honored to have been a part of the Stratford Hall/Monticello seminar. It was a fantastic experience. I felt appreciated as a professional educator and I am very grateful for that as well. This learning experience will make me a better teacher.”

In the next few years, we will be initiating a series of additional seminars, many of them intended for the general public, which will allow us to bring the history of America and Virginia to people in new and more compelling ways.

Beyond these seminars, Stratford Hall also has plans to institute a news series of environmental programs that use our 1,900 acres and over two miles of Potomac River waterfront to provide fun and engaging educational opportunities that will enable our daily visitors to understand the changing use of the land and biodiversity from pre-historic times to the present day.

These programs are also indicative of what is special and unique about Stratford Hall. We are not just about one man or one event, but a family over four generations and a landscape that can tell a story of hundreds of generations.

In an age when we focus obsessively on the present, framed as it is by transient events and television news cycles, it is important for us to look back over what French historians call the *longue durée*—the long term. Only through such a perspective can we truly understand the past and, more importantly, understand how what may appear today to be significant events fit into the continuum of history.

If you are interested in being part of our work, and we hope you are, we encourage you to become a member and check our website for the most up-to-date information on all the new programs and events. We hope to see you here at Stratford Hall.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Reber
Executive Director

Books Being Sought for duPont Library Collection

The Jessie Ball duPont Memorial Library at Stratford Hall is seeking a copy of the following books to add to its collection. If you wish to donate a book on the list please contact Judy Hynson at jhynson@stratfordhall.org or at 804-493-8038 ext. 8572.

### American Artifacts of Personal Adornment
- *By Carolyn L. White.* Published 2005.
- **Chinese Export Porcelain in North America** by Jean McClure Mudge. Published 2000.
- **English Vernacular Furniture 1750–1900** by Christopher Gilbert. Published 1991.

### Pewter at Colonial Williamsburg
- **By John D. Davis.** Published 2003.
- **Pewter at Colonial Williamsburg** by David Barquist.

### American Furniture History
- **English Vernacular Furniture 1750–1900** by Christopher Gilbert. Published 1991.

Lee Circle Event to Feature Revolutionary Scholar

The 2007 Lee Circle dinner will be held on Friday, October 19, at Stratford Hall. The dinner speaker for the black-tie event will be Gordon S. Wood, Alva O. Way Professor and Professor of History at Brown University. Dr. Wood is one of the foremost scholars of the American Revolution in the country. His books include *The Creation of the American Republic 1776–1787* (1969) for which he won a Bancroft Prize in 1970, *The Radicalization of the American Revolution* (1991) for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993, *The American Revolution* (2002), *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin* (2004), and his most recent publication *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different* (2005).

On Saturday, October 20, several presentations are planned: one regarding the recent discovery of some notable Lee letters, one regarding the current Lee-Grant exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society, and one regarding Stratford Hall and its current and upcoming plans for interpretation and expanding exhibits. Several activities and tours are also planned for attendees. The Lee Circle event will conclude with lunch on Saturday.

The Lee Circle was established to recognize those individuals, families, foundations or corporations who annually give $5,000 or above to Stratford Hall. Gifts to the Lee Circle provide essential support to Stratford Hall’s programs and help further its mission. The annual dinner event is a means of recognition of those who have contributed to the Lee Circle during the current year.

‘Celebration of an American Icon’ Lecture Series to Feature Final Speaker in October

Marc Leepson, author of *Serving Monticello*, will draw from his new book for a talk entitled “Desperate Engagement: The July 9, 1864, Battle of Monocacy and Jubal Early’s March on Washington.” The lecture will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, October 6, and is free of charge.

Leepson’s talk will complete the Robert E. Lee: 1807–2007: Celebration of An American Icon lecture series. The lecture series has featured speakers including Professor James I. Robertson Jr. of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Elizabeth Brown Pryor, Mary P. Couling, Associate Professor Peter S. Carmichael from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Professor Richard McCaslin of the University of North Texas.

Books from the feature speakers are available at the Stratford Hall Gift Shop including *Robert E. Lee, Commemorative Essays on the Bicentennial of His Birth* published by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association.

‘Celebration of an American Icon’ lecture series is being sponsored in part by the Lee-Jackson Education Foundation.

Stratford Hall Newsletter

People and Departments

The following staff appointments have been announced by Paul Reber, Executive Director. Gretchen Goodall has been named Curator. Phillip Mark has joined the staff as Director of Preservation. John Mulholland has been named full time to the gate keeping staff. Meghan Cooney has joined the staff for a one year internship as library assistant, and Darlene Sanchez as a part-time accounting assistant.

Coaching Day is April 27, 2008

Marked your calendar? Coaching Day is coming next April. So mark the date and come to Stratford Hall for this rare opportunity to see a spectacle that would have been an ordinary event in early America—colorful coaches being pulled by teams of horses. And it’s not too early to start putting together your team for the tailgating party!
**Pistol and Candle Snuffer Offer Glimpse into the Past**

**Editor's Note:** Stratford Hall hosted several interns this summer (see story on page 6) and the following is a look at two of the objects in the collection by interns Liz Limberg and Elizabeth Buhe.

While inventorying the Blue Room in the Great House, a silver-mounted pistol was found within the collections that “triggered” our curiosity, prompting further investigation. It turns out that this particular pistol is one of a pair and its match is located in the Library. The pistol was given to the collections as a gift in 1967 and was originally documented to be a Queen Anne type, but later described as a George II type during the 1980s.

Upon carrying out further research and comparing this pistol to numerous others, the Queen Anne type appears to be more accurate. Without an evident maker’s mark, it is hard to determine the exact type, but as the Queen Anne Pistol has been described by prominent gun experts, such as Eric Goldstein and Mike Clark, this specific type portrays a promising match. The Queen Anne type was developed in the middle of the 17th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century and found popularly during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularly during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus the type was developed in the mid-18th century but found popularity during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714), thus

This pistol is rare, revealing a unique terminal covered with a silver grotesque mask, a nice walnut handle carved with shells, and a silver trophy ensemble mounted to the handle’s side. It also consists of Baroque and rococo designs that were imported from France and later adapted by English gun makers, who produced this distinctive pistol in London, England. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, well-groomed candles and shining candlesticks were indications of a privileged domestic life. Candles were the primary source of artificial light, and were made of a variety of materials that oftentimes burned quickly, necessitating that the candle be snuffed about forty times per hour. It was not until 1825 that a self-consuming plated candle wick was developed, so candle snuffers such as this one were used frequently to remove wick ends. These types of scissor-form candle snuffers were commonly part of a set: a chamber candle stick, a snuffer, and a conical flame extinguisher. This sterling silver snuffer was probably made for a right-handed woman, as the finger holes are fairly small, and the monogram would be upside down if held in the left hand. The snuffer bears the monogram “MEC,” and the maker’s marks suggest that it was made in Birmingham, England in the 1830s. It came into Stratford Hall’s collection in the 1970s as a gift from Miss Margaret Law.

**Honoring the Lees and Independence**

On Saturday, June 9, 2007, Stratford Hall celebrated the 231st anniversary of Richard Henry Lee’s resolution presented to the 2nd Continental Congress on June 7, 1776, making a motion to formally declare the independence of the colonies:

“Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and submitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.”

The resolution led to the writing and subsequent adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

During the day-long celebration, visitors to Stratford Hall received a copy of the original resolution and a video was shown in the Visitor Center’s Preservation Gallery of Richard Henry Lee as portrayed by Dick Cheatham of Living History.

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**Leadership and Life in Revolutionary America Seminar Continues to Help Teachers Better Educate Their Students**

Teachers from Massachusetts to Oregon and from North Dakota to Texas, as well as one from Great Britain, came to Stratford Hall to attend the 27th Leadership and Life in Revolutionary America seminar, which began on June 24. This valuable three-week course is designed to help school teachers develop expertise and lesson plans that enable them to effectively convey the principles and ideas that motivated Virginians to play a leading role in American independence.

The seminar opened with a keynote lecture by Rear Admiral Thomas E. Bass, III on Robert E. Lee as educator, which was followed by an overview of colonial Virginia history by Executive Director Paul Rehet. The first week of Stratford Hall-based activities ended on Friday, June 29, when the group left by bus for Yorktown, Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg.

During the final week of the seminar, the teachers also visited Gunston Hall and Mount Vernon, as well as Northern Neck sites such as Menokin, Mount Airy and Sabine Hall, the latter two providing a rare opportunity to visit highly important 18th-century dwellings that continue to be homes to descendants of the builders.

Leadership and Life in Revolutionary America is sponsored by Stratford Hall, Monticello and the University of Virginia. To encourage participation, this seminar is offered at very low cost with the burden of funding coming from the sponsoring organizations. Sponsorships are available at $5,000 to help offset these costs. For more information on the program, or to sponsor a teacher, contact Ken McFarland, Director of Education at 804-493-8038 ext. 1558.

**No Ordinary Run-of-the-Mill Gift Shop Here!**

If you haven’t visited the Stratford Hall Gift Shop recently then you should stop by and take a look at the new products and new displays. Included are hand towels, guest towels and pillows, enamel boxes, jewelry by the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution, serving pieces including platters and plates, potpourri, potpourri sprays, boxed notes, tea sets and new ties including those by Museum Artifacts. Also now in stock are the Lee Heritage Scarf. The handsome, hand-hemmed Lee Heritage Scarf, made in Lyon France, is 100 percent heavy silk twill and measures 36 by 36 inches. Its predominant colors of gold, red and blue on an ivory background echo those of the original Lee coat-of-arms registered at the College of Heraldry in England. The central motif features the Lee family coat-of-arms, surmounted by a squirrel crest and surrounded by the coat-of-arms of some of the historically prominent families that intermarried with the Lees. The price of this special edition scarf is $240, which includes shipping and handling. The District of Columbia Stratford Hall Gift Shop Committee had the scarves produced to raise funds to benefit the ongoing preservation of Stratford Hall.

The gift shop also continues to have a very good selection of books. Among the new books are Elizabeth Brown Pryor’s Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters, and Being Dead & No Excuse, The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral by Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays.

In addition, the Gift shop sells products from the Stratford Hall Grist Mill as well as Route 11 Potato Chips, Dominion Root Beer and Ginger Ale. Be sure to visit the gift shop on September 22 during the Northern Neck Food and Harvest Festival and register for a free Holiday Gift Basket.

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Interns from France, Turkey and the U.S. Work On a Variety of Projects During Their Summer Stay

Six interns took on a variety of projects this summer including working in collections, marketing, researching the West Garden as well as providing assistance on a daily basis to full-time staff. We are very grateful to Matt and Ellen Simmons for their support of this program.

Elizabeth Buhe, from the Chicago area, is an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay double-majoring in French and History. She worked on a research project on the consumption habits of the Lees while they lived at Stratford Hall.

Marjorie Favre, a resident of Paris, is studying for a master’s degree in Touristic Valorization of Cultural sites at the Sorbonne and was sponsored by the French Heritage Society. She assisted staff with a variety of activities and prepared a PowerPoint presentation covering the wide array of programs and amenities offered by Stratford Hall.

Elizabeth Headley, from Kinsale, Virginia, is an undergraduate at Randolph College in Lynchburg. Elizabeth worked on a project updating the inventory of the Blue Room.

Sarah Hewitt, from King George, Virginia, is an undergraduate at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. She worked on several marketing related projects including researching and creating a driving brochure of historic sites and attractions in Westmoreland County.

Making Summer Dreams Come True Through Adventure Camps

Stratford Hall’s summer camp was a great success. Yet, we recognize that many children in the Northern Neck were unable to attend due to financial reasons. Although Stratford Hall set the cost to only cover camp expenses, we are thrilled to report that some relief may be at hand for Summer 2008. Thanks to the kindness of a generous donor, we have received seed money to establish a Stratford Camp Fund to provide help to children who would otherwise not be able to enjoy that enriching summer camp experience. Such assistance will cover all or part of the expense for campers who meet a set of “need” criteria.

Further, some people have expressed regret that although they would love to enroll their children in the camp, a variety of circumstances (in addition to finances) make that unlikely. This scholarship fund provides a way for these friends of Stratford Hall to at least make it possible for other children to make their summer camp dreams come true.

The educational components of the Stratford Hall Adventure Camps, for children ages 8–12, are intended to correlate with and support the Virginia Schools’ Standards of Learning. The camps are conducted primarily by experienced professional educators. It is expected that children will grow intellectually as well as socially in the summer camp programs—while having a memorable, fun-filled summer experience.

The Lee motto is “be not unmindful of the future,” a reminder that this fund, for the purpose of brightening the futures of our bees and guls, would be smiled upon by the many past generations of that Virginia family.

Anyone interested in supporting this worthy endeavor should send their contributions to (checks made payable to “RELM’S”):

Summer Camp Scholarship Fund
c/o Bill Doerken, Coordinator, Special Programs
Stratford Hall
483 Great House Road
Stratford, Virginia 22558

Educational Activities at Stratford Hall Abound for All Ages During the Summer

Summer interns at Stratford Hall included (from left to right): Marjorie Favre, Elizabeth Buhe, Elizabeth Limburg, Sarah Hewitt, Cigdem Pakel and Elizabeth Headley.

Elizabeth Limburg, from Green Bay, Wisconsin, is an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. She worked on several research projects in collections including examining the trading of plants and crops between George Washington and “Lighthorse” Harry Lee.

Cigdem Pakel, from Turkey, is a doctoral student at American University in Washington, D.C., where she is studying American History. Her project consisted of researching the West Garden.

Elizabeth Headley, from Kinsale, Virginia, is an undergraduate at Randolph College in Lynchburg. Elizabeth worked on a project updating the inventory of the Blue Room.

Sarah Hewitt, from King George, Virginia, is an undergraduate at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. She worked on several marketing related projects including researching and creating a driving brochure of historic sites and attractions in Westmoreland County.

Friends of Stratford held a hands-on Science Focus School visit Stratford Hall for the Educational Adventure Program; members during a program to highlight the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown; teachers taking part in the Leadership and Life in Revolutionary America seminar discuss the architecture of the Great House with Calder Loth of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; participants take part in one of the two Grandparents camps; Professor Richard McCaslin discusses Robert E. Lee’s experience in the Mexican War.

TOP ROW: Students from the Arlington Science Focus School visit Stratford Hall for the Educational Adventure Program; Friends of Stratford held a hands-on Members Only Archaeological Program; graduate students from American University spent a week at Stratford Hall taking a museum management class taught by Executive Director Paul Reber.

MIDDLE ROW: Teachers taking part in the Leadership and Life in Revolutionary America seminar discuss the architecture of the Great House with Calder Loth from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; participants take part in one of the two Grandparents camps; Professor Richard McCaslin discusses Robert E. Lee’s experience in the Mexican War.

BOTTOM ROW: Dr. Douglas W. Sanford from the University of Mary Washington gives a presentation on the Cliffs Plantation; Willie Balderson portrays Anas Todkill, one of Captain John Smith’s crew members during a program to highlight the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown; children take part in activities during the Friends of Stratford Day picnic.
Northern Neck Food and Harvest Festival Takes Place on September 22

Celebrate the fall season with a fun festival for the whole family. Taste some of the Northern Neck’s finest wines from Ingleside Winery in Westmoreland County, Belle Mount in Richmond County, Athena in Northumberland County and Oak Crest in King George County.

Eight museums will also be on display at the Festival, including George Washington Birthplace Association, A.T. Johnson High School Museum, Menokin and the Richmond County Museum, Mary Ball Washington Museum, Northern Neck Farmers Museum, Reedville Fisherman’s Museum and the Essex County Museum.

Children will enjoy a petting zoo, hayrides, puppet show, colonial games, crafts and educational programs. The Stratford Grist Mill will also be in operation, and Dr. Douglas Sanford and students from the University of Mary Washington will be available to discuss findings from their archeological digs in the Oval area this summer.

Local food vendors will be on hand, and you can also visit the Log Cabin Dining Room for a sit-down meal. Be sure to register for a Holiday gift basket at the Gift shop and check out all the new offerings.

Admission for the event is $5 per adult and $3 per child, which includes parking. Great House tours are not included in the event admission price. Admission for Friends of Stratford members is free.

Sponsorship for the Festival is being provided by Peoples Community Bank.

Archaeological Dig
(continued from front cover)

a substantial 40’ x 20’ structure. Dr. Sanford thinks it is possible to find yet another building in this complex as well.

As Dr. Sanford and his crew continue to put the jigsaw puzzle together slowly and carefully one piece at a time, a picture of a landscape that changed with the needs of the occupants of the Great House continues to emerge. He suspects that some time around the American Revolution these buildings on the Oval were removed and planted in crops and plowed until the 1930s.

As changes occurred in the Lee family and changes were made structurally in the Great House, there were changes made in the overall landscape. And just as the Great House has a vibrant and compelling story to tell, so does the landscape. It is, and has always been, a work in progress.

Find out more about the discoveries of the dig during the Northern Neck Food and Harvest Festival on September 22 as Dr. Sanford and students from the University of Mary Washington will be on hand to discuss their work on the Oval site.