Visitors to the Great House this summer may have at first noticed a floor board or molding missing, a small spot on the wall down to the bricks, then finally the scaffolding and plastic drop cloths and even furniture removed from an entire room.

“What is going on?” visitors would ask.

The answer: The Great House is talking.

This summer Stratford’s Preservation Department is managing the completion of a Historic Structures Report (HSR). The HSR is being completed by the architecture firm Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker Architects of Albany, NY.

Taking part in the project are Jeff Baker, Architect & Partner; Eric Gradoia, Architectural Historian, Jennifer Glass, Architectural Draftsperson, and Mark Wenger, Architectural Historian. Also assisting in the project is the Stratford Collections and Research Departments.

The team has been going from room to room, from the ground floor to the attic investigating the floors, ceilings, walls, doors and windows looking for changes. So far their findings have identified that there are two campaigns of Federal Period alterations, most likely one during Light Horse Harry Lee’s time and one later during Henry Lee IV’s time.

Additional findings include:
- the original treatment of the main exterior doorways has been determined; evidence of the size and character of the Federal North Portico has been found; and no evidence has been found to support the hypothesis that there were skylights in the East and West passages.
- The completion of the HSR should provide a better understanding of the Great House’s evolution over the years. While there is a good idea of how the spaces were used by the different generations of the Lees, even more knowledge that can be used during the restoration process is anticipated.

A draft report of the HSR is expected in October and the final report is expected to be finished by Christmas.
Executive Director’s Report

Who Owns the American Revolution?

Election years always bring about interesting debates and this year is no different. Amongst all the chatter over taxes, stimulus, wars and health care, we are once again debating the legacy of the American Revolution. Spurred on by the Tea Party, the country has witnessed renewed discussions over how the legacy of the Founders should be applied to our modern concerns about the role of government.

In a recent article in *The New Yorker*, historian Jill Lepore casts a rather jaundiced eye on the Tea Party claims for ownership of the Revolution’s legacy. She points out, correctly, that ownership of the Revolution has been in debate since the beginning. Federalists and anti-Federalists, Whigs and Jacksonian Democrats, the Union and even the Confederacy all laid claim to the Revolution. She argues that the current debate over the meaning of the Revolution began during the Bicentennial when politicians tried to use the celebration to advance their own agendas. It didn't help that 1976 was a presidential election year.

Rather than concentrating on more current events, it would be more useful to look at how the founders saw the Revolution. Not that it would necessarily provide more clarity over its meaning, but it may help better illuminate our current debates than examining what happened in the 1970's. If you lived through the 1970's as I did, I am sure you will agree that there is not much positive to say about those ten years. Just consider 1970's fashion styles.

Perhaps the founders would have said the same thing about the 1770's, but I don't think so. A perusal of their writings would convince you they were fully aware of the significance of their actions. Consider for a moment the audacity of their effort: starting a war with the world’s most powerful nation. And then there was rejecting a monarchy. In the 18th century, most of the world was ruled by monarchs. A democratic republic had not been attempted since Roman times, and then it didn't last too long.

So the debate really shouldn’t be about rejecting the British monarchy, but the form of government chosen to replace it. More specifically, the debate was over the meaning of a republic. In a classical sense, a real republic can only be successful when its citizens are prepared to subdue their own personal interests for the greater good of the nation. Arthur Lee, perhaps more than any other Founder save Samuel Adams, wrote eloquently about the need for the nation’s citizens to be virtuous republicans. Adams went even further, suggesting the new American nation become a “Christian Sparta.”

This view of a republic was contested by those who believed that the individual should be permitted to pursue their own self interest. This position was best expressed by Thomas Jefferson whose liberal ideas came into dominance after his election as President in 1800. It is this debate between republicanism and liberalism which is still at the center of our modern political discourse.

Note that the 18th century use of these terms has no relationship to our contemporary definitions.

In a way, the current political debates are an extension of an argument that began in 1770's. You can find a Founder to defend either position. In fact, there was disagreement among the Lees on which vision for American was appropriate. Arthur’s staunch defense of republicanism was not shared by his brothers. One thing is clear, though. The Revolution was not about taxes, or too much tax. As the historian Alvin Rabushka has so clearly documented, colonial tax rates were very low. Ironically, the average American paid three times more in tax after the Revolution as they did before.

Because of its contested nature, an honest answer to the question who owns the Revolution would be that we all do. This ownership implies an obligation - an obligation to think about this legacy carefully. We all too often fall in the bad habit of reducing our history to sound bites. Because this part of our history has such a dramatic role in our current affairs it merits a more thoughtful approach. Stratford Hall is one of those places where this legacy can be explored. The Lees grappled with these difficult questions right here, and we encourage our visitors to think about the legacy the Lees have left us and its impact on our world.

Paul C. Reber
Executive Director
Despite a summer of unremitting heat, the fourth year of Stratford’s summer camps has concluded with nothing but wonderful reviews by the participants. As one grandchild said “it was wicked awesome!”

Stratford’s biggest camps asset is its interpretive staff. One Elderhosteler observed that “It is obvious that the staff is passionate about history and Stratford Hall—it was infectious.” Several grandparents were repeat campers, one for the third year, and many others, children and adults alike, insist that they will be back again next summer.

Most of the Elderhostel participants have been to many other such programs (as many as 20), and when they say that “this whole program was better organized than any intergenerational that I have attended,” Stratford must be doing something right.

Stratford is already looking forward to another exciting camping season in 2011. Our Elderhostel “camp,” which is now called a “Road Scholar” program, program #16283 will be offered July 18–22. Although this program is patterned after Stratford’s grandparent/grandchild camps and is conducted entirely by Stratford, information and enrollment is directly from Elderhostel: www.elderhostel.org or phone (877) 426-8056.

Our participants come to Stratford from all over the United States for this extended 5-day program.

Two sessions of our popular grandparent/grandchild camp will be offered, July 12–14, 2011 and August 2–4, 2011. Having two sessions will help to insure that folks will have an opportunity to enroll in one or the other to suit busy schedules, but early registration is recommended. Most of the spaces are filled by early spring. Contact Bill Doerken, Special Programs Coordinator, if you would like to receive a camp brochure, (804) 493-7700 or register on-line at www.stratfordhall.org.
Join our Growing Circle of Friends  
Become a Member of the 2010 Lee Circle  

Annual event set for October 15–16, 2010

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 our 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.

Lee Circle members are honored during a donor recognition event each fall. This year’s event will be held October 15–16 at Stratford Hall. We are pleased to have Harriet Stephens, Director for Arkansas and Warren Stephens, Stratford Finance Committee Member, as the chairmen for the 2010 event. This year’s event will be another festive and informative occasion beginning on Friday with dinner and dancing on the Oval in front of the Great House.

Richard Norton Smith will be joining us as our guest speaker on Saturday. 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. Between 1987 and 2003, Smith served as director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, Iowa; the Dwight D. Eisenhower Center in Abilene, Kan.; the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and the Reagan Center for Public Affairs in Simi Valley, Calif.; the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, Mich., respectively; and Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.


We invite you to join the 2010 Lee Circle and expand our circle of friends. Contact the Development Office at 804-493-8038 ext. 8919 or visit www.stratfordhall.org/give.
The Lee years at Stratford Hall spanned a period unmatched in importance in the history of music. This special program will examine what the Lees did hear (or could have heard) in Virginia, in other colonies, in Great Britain, and on the Continent.

Join us Saturday morning October 2, at 9 a.m., for a series of talks, including presentations on music of the Lee period by Charleston, South Carolina musicologist Nicholas Butler. Dr. Butler is the author of the recently published and widely praised history of Charleston’s St. Cecilia Society, Votaries of Apollo, and is highly regarded for his knowledge of musical tastes and trends of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The day will close with an afternoon musical program at 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Stratford Great House presented by the internationally acclaimed Four Nations Ensemble, one of our country’s premier groups specializing in historically informed music.

The Four Nations Ensemble takes its name from one of France’s most extraordinary institutions. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Louis XIV and Mazarin, in order to establish a centralized bureau for the arts to reflect the glory of Versailles and Paris in this golden age, created The College of Four Nations. “Four Nations” alludes to the four monarchies that were considered legitimate by the French crown: France, Spain, Austria and Savoy. François Couperin’s exquisite sonatas called “The Nations” allude to this “college” or French Royal “National Endowment for the Arts.” The Four Nations Ensemble, in its love for Couperin’s music has adopted the name as its own.

Four Nations harpsichordist Andrew Appel is joining forces with Stratford Hall staff to develop a very special program of “Lee music” for the occasion.

The cost for attending the full day’s program, including lunch, is $95 and $85 dollars for Friends of Stratford. The cost for attending the music program only is $30 and $25 for Friends of Stratford. Advance registration is required. For more information, or to register, visit our events page under “Visit” on our website at www.StratfordHall.org.

From Harry the Fiddler to Covent Garden: The Music of the Stratford Lees

Four Nations Ensemble will play special music program in the Great Hall
What’s Cooking?

Stratford’s original kitchen outbuilding was constructed circa 1740. Today it is the earliest surviving building on the property after the Great House. New research is focusing on the historic use of the building, the people who worked within the structure, and the foods prepared there.

Brenda Hornsby Heindl, summer intern at Stratford and recent graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, spent her summer reassessing the furnishings, room use, and interpretation of the Southeast Dependency/Kitchen building.

After researching the restoration of the space in the early 1930s, Brenda read through original documents of the Lee family, period recipes, archaeological reports, and other eighteenth-century documents from the region. She also compared the kitchen to other eighteenth-century sites (intact and archaeological) such as the Shirley Plantation, Menokin, Kenmore Plantation, Mount Vernon, and Montpelier.

Brenda also traveled to Williamsburg, where she met with curators, archaeologists, and historic architects and architectural preservationists who helped her with assessing the context of an eighteenth-century kitchen. Because of Philip Ludwell Lee’s surviving 1776 probate inventory, as well as the strength of other Lee family records from that decade, Stratford is looking toward having a kitchen setting of the third quarter of the eighteenth century.

One of the most exciting things listed on the 1776 inventory is a chocolate stone! Chocolate was enjoyed as a beverage at Stratford, evidenced by the noting of a chocolate pot in the dining room in 1776. But it is rare to see a stone used for mixing chocolate in the records.

Did you know that Stratford’s kitchen may have had a large closet space located near the hearth? After examining pre-restoration photographs, as well as a 1763 document mentioning materials stolen from the “kitchen closet,” it seems likely, but further architectural research is needed to see if there is evidence for that closet!

In addition to the research going on this summer, Curator Gretchen Goodell has installed a new temporary exhibit on the kitchen outbuilding in the Visitor Center. The display includes some of the objects from the kitchen including an egg boiler, set of marked ladles and a skimmer, as well as other items from the Stratford collections.
Psychic Time Travel: *History Through the Eyes of Investigative Medium Laine Crosby*

**What Will The Spirits Reveal About Stratford’s Past?**

Journey back in time with Laine Crosby to days long gone. Learn about the life and times of the spirits of Stratford Hall who find this beautiful estate so difficult to leave. Listen to the stories not found in history books, and experience the past through Laine’s eyes, body, and soul.

You’ll learn about history from those who lived it, and you’ll enjoy her conversations with the dead, and what she has learned about the other side. Laine will share her stories of Jamestowne settlers, soldiers at Gettysburg, and slaves in her own house, the eighteenth century Maryland plantation she now calls home. Hear about her many adventures and see her ghost pictures on the big screen.

Laine grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and after completing her education, she worked in corporate America, juggling the work and mother dichotomy until she relocated to Maryland in 2004, and literally woke up one morning talking to dead people— and they talked back! Experience her fears, excitement and anticipation as she talks about the journey from her first profoundly clairvoyant experience to her everyday surrender and acceptance of life as she now knows it.

Laine works as an Investigative Medium on missing person cases, and with authors, historians, and archaeologists to help understand what history has not revealed. Laine is also a professor of business at Montgomery College in the Washington, D.C. area, and she and her husband and twins live near Rockville, Maryland. For more information, visit [www.LaineCrosby.com](http://www.LaineCrosby.com)

The Psychic Time Travel program will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, October 9, 2010 at the duPont Library. The cost is $8.00 per person. A reception will follow the program. Reservations will be accepted. For reservations or additional information, please email Jon Bachman at jbachman@stratfordhall.org or call 804-493-8038, ext. 1039.
Northern Neck Cultural Landscape Symposium Will Focus On “Shaped” Landscapes

Third Northern Neck Cultural Landscape Symposium will be held October 22–24, 2010

Stratford Hall’s third Northern Neck Cultural Landscape Symposium will focus on designed or “shaped” landscapes of the region...which in the 18th-century joined much of modern-day Northern Virginia with the counties considered “Northern Neck” today.

Presenters will include Monticello’s Peggy Cornett speaking on plants found in formal landscapes; Dennis Pogue of Mount Vernon, addressing greenhouses and orangeries; Mollie Ridout of the William Paca House in Annapolis examining the Chesapeake “falling garden;” former Stratford education director Ken McFarland, exploring British and Continental influences on American landscape configurations; and Sarah Dillard Pope, discussing recent landscape studies at Menokin, home of Francis Lightfoot Lee.

In addition, participants will enjoy a detailed update on the cultural landscape study now underway involving Stratford Hall, the University Georgia’s College of Environment and Design, and the Jaeger Company. Also, we will visit and examine first-hand the Stratford designed landscape, the highly important settings of Sabine Hall, Mount Airy, and Menokin of Richmond County, and the early terrain features at the George Washington birthplace site. The birthplace visit will be discussed by park superintendent, Lucy Lawliss. Participants will have the option of a Sunday visit to significant early designed Rappahannock River landscapes in and around Falmouth, Virginia.

The cost of the symposium is $180 for Friends of Stratford members, $190 for non-members. The cost includes meals and lodging at Stratford. The Sunday optional tour is $20 for FOS members, $25 for non-members. Advance registration is required. For additional information, please email Jon Bachman at jbachman@stratfordhall.org or call 804-493-8038, ext. 1039.
The Lee family’s Latin motto, Non Incautus Futuri, means Not Unmindful of the Future. Generations of the Lee family viewed their motto as a solemn charge to be aware of the impact their decisions would have on future generations.

Today, Non Incautus Futuri also contains a message for supporters of Stratford Hall: as philanthropists, you can actively help sustain the Lee family legacy and their ideals of leadership, independent thought, and civic responsibility. Through your support, Stratford Hall’s goals of preservation, education and research can be sustained and furthered for the benefit of future generations.

Charitable trusts, gift annuities, and bequests can benefit you, your family and your charity of choice. You and your family may benefit from substantial tax savings. Stratford Hall benefits by putting your assets to work preserving this special place and supporting our education programs.

As you think about estate planning, we hope that you will consider Stratford Hall as a beneficiary of your estate. 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. As a Planned Giving Donor, you will automatically be recognized as a member of the Futuri Society.

Joining the Futuri Society will help ensure that preservation, education and research can be sustained for the benefit of future generations.
Historical Haunts Returns for More Halloween Fun

A scary good time set for October 30, 2010

On Saturday, October 30, 2010, from 6–8pm, Stratford Hall will host its fourth annual Historical Haunts program. Activities include ghost tours of the Great House, pumpkin painting, various Halloween crafts, picture-taking with Frankenstein and a witch, and an 18th-century fortune teller. Halloween refreshments will also be available.

In the 18th-century, when the Lee family lived at Stratford Hall, it was common for them to use the Great Hall for parties, weddings, baptisms, and — you guessed it — funerals. On October 30, a “Lee family member” will be on view in the Great Hall before being laid to rest in the nearby burial vault. Visitors will view this wake during their ghost tours through the house.

This is a family-friendly activity that is suitable for children and adults of all ages. Please remember to bring along your own flashlights, as it does get rather dark at Stratford Hall at night. Adults and children 12 and older cost $5; children 6–12 cost $3; and children 5 and under are free. No reservations required. All activities will begin in the Visitor Center.

Join us for a spooky good time!

For additional information, contact Jon Bachman at 804-493-8038, ext. 1939, by email at jbachman@stratfordhall.org, or visit www.StratfordHall.org.
Order a Gift Basket from the Stratford Hall Gift Shop in Time for Christmas 2010!

These wonderful gift baskets, filled with Stratford products, are available from the Stratford Hall Gift Shop. Please use the convenient order form provided here, phone your order to (804) 493-8038 ext. 9796 or fax to (804) 493-0333. Custom gift baskets can also be ordered. Visit us on the web at www.stratfordhall.org!

**Stratford Dinner Basket – $65.00**
Includes a 3lb Virginia Hamlet (fully cooked and boneless), Vidalia Onion Mustard and Apple Chutney.

**Stratford Party Basket – $35.00**
Includes Stratford Sparkling Cider, Virginia Peanuts, and Pepper Jelly.

**Pride of Stratford – $35.00**
Includes Stratford Fruit Cake, Strawberry Preserves, and White Cornmeal.

**Breakfast Basket – $25.00**
Includes Stratford Grits, Pancake Flour, and Wild Berry Honey.

**Stratford Cornmeal Gift Box – $18.00**
Includes a 2lb bag of White Cornmeal ground at Stratford, Reproduction Seasoned Mini Corn Breadstick Pan and Booklet of Southern Cornmeal Recipes Compiled from the Family Archives of the Georgia Director for the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association.

Order Form
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Shipping & Handling add $12.95 per basket $ ___________
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Charge to:  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard
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Signature __________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, Inc. (RELMA)
Mail to: Stratford Hall Gift Shop, 483 Great House Road, Stratford, VA 22558

**December 15 — last date to order for Christmas delivery.**

Additional charge for oversized boxes and air service. No discount on gift baskets.
Calendar of Events
For more info visit StratfordHall.org

November 25
Thanksgiving Dinner
Join us for a traditional southern feast. This event is a sell-out every year, so make your reservations early! Dinner and lodging are available by reservation only. The dinner will have seating times at 12 noon and 3:00 p.m. Please call Lesley Brooks, 804-493-8038, ext. 8039 to make your reservations. Dinner costs $40.00 (ages 12 and up), $18.00 (children ages 6–11) and children age 5 and under are free. Tax and gratuity are included. This price includes a grounds pass. For more information, including the dinner menu, visit the website at www.StratfordHall.org.

December 7
Boxwood Tree Workshop with Don Haynie
Well-known garden authority and floral designer Don Haynie will lead two tree-making workshops at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Materials will be provided. Class size is limited to 15, so sign up early! Price is $30 dollars for Friends of Stratford and $35 for non-members. A box lunch is available for a separate charge.

December 11
Christmas at Stratford Hall
Experience the Lees' Great House as they might have known it during the holiday season, including live music and dance of the 18th century. Dinner and lodging are limited so make your reservations early.

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