From the magnificent view of the Potomac River to the formal gardens and quiet nature trails, Stratford is a great place to stay for a weekend getaway or relaxing retreat.

Overnight accommodations are available on the Plantation in either the Cheek and Astor Guest Houses. The Cheek is tucked away in a serenely wooded setting, offering 15 guest rooms and a spacious central living room with beautiful views of the Plantation. The Cheek also features a fully equipped kitchen and large deck for outdoor relaxation. The Astor is a quaint and inviting log cabin offering five guest rooms. The Astor features a comfortable common living area with a cozy atmosphere, as well as a fully equipped kitchen and dining area with an outdoor deck. All rooms in each house have their own private bath.

The Plantation Dining Room is also open daily, serving traditional southern fare in a rustic log cabin with fireplace or on the large enclosed back porch for grand views of the Plantation with year-round comfort.

So why not make your next trip to Stratford an overnight stay? After spending the day exploring the Plantation, shopping the Plantation Store and feasting on traditional southern cooking, there’s no better place to unwind than in one of Stratford’s lovely guest homes. To make your reservation, please call 804-493-8038 today.

The Path of Honor: From Stratford to Lexington—

The Robert E. Lee Educational Series To Feature Five Civil War Scholars

From January through May, five well known Civil War scholars will take you on the fascinating journey of General Robert E. Lee, from his birth at Stratford Hall through a lifetime of leadership that built the legacy he still holds today.

This free educational lecture series serves as a prelude to the statewide 200th Anniversary Celebration of his birth in 2007. Sponsorship for the series is being provided by the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation.

Seating is limited, so please e-mail info@stratfordhall.org or call 804-493-8038 to reserve your spot today. A limited number of overnight accommodations are also available by advance reservation.

On Saturday, January 14, join us for special activities in celebration of Robert E. Lee’s Birthday. Al Stone, a masterful portrayer of Robert E. Lee, will recreate the moment of General Lee’s decision whether to remain loyal to the Union or go to the aid of his native Virginia. Stone’s presentation will take place at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. There will also be a free children’s tour at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., featuring various points of interest relating to Lee’s childhood at Stratford. In addition, each child will receive a book and other printed material. A special exhibit will display original Robert E. Lee letters, along with Grant’s “Terms of Surrender” and Lee’s “General Order #9.” Period music will be provided by Evergreen Shade. Sponsorship for this event is being provided by the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation.

Gift Basket Winners

All visitors to Stratford who sign up in the Visitor Center guest book are eligible to win a free gift basket containing items from Stratford’s gift shop. Drawings are held at the end of every month.

Please join us in congratulating the following winners!

July
Kenneth L. Johnson, Washington, NC

August
Don & Gail Black, St. Leonard, MD

September
George Leypoldt, Upper Marlboro, MD

October
Linda Ashbury, Lees, DE

November
Alvin & Wilma Bonar, Butler, KY

Winter Hours

Stratford is open to the public 7 days a week. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Great House tours (on the hour) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Plantation Gift Store shopping from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Plantation Log Cabin Dining Room is open daily for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Dining Room will be closed from January 4 to January 13, 2006 for scheduled maintenance.
Dr. Robert E. Lee, the Virginia Tech professor who has written extensively on the history of the Civil War and the era of the Confederacy, will present "Robert E. Lee and the Leadership of Character," the third lecture in the Path of Honor Educational Series on Saturday, April 1, at 2 p.m.

On Sunday, April 3, at 2 p.m., "Patterns in Command: Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee" by William C. Davis of Virginia Tech and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies will be the topic of the fourth lecture in the Path of Honor Educational Series.

Effort Brings Success

Through years of normal attrition, the existing flock had dwindled to a single lonely bird. The University of Georgia Regents Professor of History Emory Thomas will examine 21st-century perceptions of General Lee in his talk, "Robert E. Lee Right Now," the fifth and final lecture in the Path of Honor Educational Series on Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m.

Seven young Golden Seabright chickens have just arrived at their new home in the Stratford stables. This replacement project began last January as a contribution of Bill and Betsy Doerken. The children of Sally Lee Cox, descendants of Robert E. Lee's brother, Sydney Smith, have placed five Lee family documents on indefinite loan at Stratford. Two of these letters were written to Sydney by his mother Ann Hill Carter Lee, and one was from Robert E. Lee. The Robert E. Lee letter to Sydney, whom he teasingly called "Rose," can be viewed on the Stratford web site as the Document of the Month.

Soldier, American Citizen is available at the plantation gift store along with many other Lee items.

On Saturday, January 21, at 2 p.m., Professor James L. Robertson, Jr. of Virginia Tech and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies will begin the educational series with his topic, "Lee and Jackson: A Partnership of Two Opposites." Robertson's new book for young adults entitled Robert E. Lee, Virginian Soldier, American Citizen is available at the plantation gift store along with many other Lee items.

On Saturday, February 11, at 6 p.m., enjoy a candlelit three-course dinner in the Plantation Dining Room with that special someone. Beer, wine and cocktails are available at extra charge. And on Saturday, February 25, at 7 p.m., Chef Bill Hall and the Stratford Hall "Krewe" invite you to a dinner and Mardi Gras Ball at 7 p.m., Chef Bill Hall and the Stratford Hall "Krewe" invite you to a dinner and Mardi Gras Ball. The letters are on loan from Sally Bland Lee, Sydney Smith Lee, Evelyn Meade Lee Griswold and Susanna Custis Lee Campbell.

On Saturday, February 18, at 2 p.m., the second lecture in the Path of Honor Educational Series will be by award winning professor Richard McCaslin of the University of North Texas, author of Lee in the Shadow of Washington.

Seabright Restoration Effort Brings Success

This replacement project began last January as a contribution of Bill and Betsy Doerken. Unfortunately, the project was delayed by numerous setbacks, including the loss of the first three groups. Golden Seabrights are exotic birds, which under even the best circumstances are problematic. However, the smaller, but vigorous fourth and final lot is going strong.

Seven young Golden Seabright chickens have just arrived at their new home in the Stratford stables. Through years of normal attrition, the existing flock had dwindled to a single lonely bird. The rare bantams are a popular, colorful aspect of the 18th century plantation life at Stratford, with a heritage dating back to the time of the Lees. They will be free to roam the historic area in daylight and conditioned to return to the more secure stable at night.

Falon Robertson, a fifth-grade home-schooler from Lancaster, was in charge of raising the chicks. Falon has won many awards in the poultry field and hopes to become a veterinarian. For a few days, Bill and Betsy will help Bonnie Moles to herd the chickens into the stable at night from countless hiding places in the dense boxwoods. They will soon learn to return to the comfort and security of the barn during the cold nights of winter, freeing Bonnie from a nightly game of hide-and-seek.

The children of Sally Lee Cox, descendants of Robert E. Lee's brother, Sydney Smith, have placed five Lee family documents on indefinite loan at Stratford. Two of these letters were written to Sydney by his mother Ann Hill Carter Lee, and one was from Robert E. Lee. The Robert E. Lee letter to Sydney, whom he teasingly called "Rose," can be viewed on the Stratford web site as the Document of the Month.

Robert E. Lee's letter to his brother was written during the Mexican War, dated the 4th of March, 1848. This letter gives insight to the happenings of both the personal and public sides of Robert's life during this time, and addresses topics such as the college choices of young relatives and news of the family and neighbors. It also gives insight to the military actions during the Mexican War, and reveals a bit of Robert's personality as he joks with his brother.

The Path of Honor: From Stratford to Lexington

The Path of Honor: From Stratford to Lexington—The Robert E. Lee Educational Series—will begin Tuesday, May 23, at 2 p.m. On Saturday, February 18, at 2 p.m., the second lecture in the Path of Honor Educational Series will be by award winning professor Richard McCaslin of the University of North Texas, author of Lee in the Shadow of Washington.

The Path of Honor Educational Series is a newsletter published quarterly by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of The Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, Inc. Editor: Jim Scheepers Editorial Assistant: Neva Folk Questions, comments and address changes should be directed to Stratford Newsletter 483 Great House Road, Stratford, VA 22558 info@stratfordhall.org phone: 804-493-8038 www.stratfordhall.org

The Robert E. Lee Memorial Association is a private, non-profit organization that has owned and operated Stratford since 1929. It is dedicated to preservation, research and education. The Association interprets to the public Stratford Hall and the plantation life of the Lee family, whose ideas and leadership helped shape democracy in the United States.