

Fall/Winter 2025

THE

NEWS FROM STRATFORD HALL

# Chronicle



Five Years of First Africans Day

Virginia Resolved: Celebrating the Lee Resolution

Christmastide, 2026 Lectures & More!

# President's Message



Welcome back to another edition of *The Chronicle*, the premier news source from Stratford Hall—delivered right to your doorstep! I'm thrilled to share with you many exciting moments from a productive year. We celebrated the 249th anniversary of Richard Henry Lee's Resolution for Independence at *Virginia Resolved*, a new signature event held on June 7. A citizenship ceremony for over a hundred young Americans, conversations with Richard Henry Lee on the Great House Lawn, and musket and cavalry demonstrations in the Oval sparked a new era for civics education and living history at Stratford Hall.

Revolutionary excitement did not stop there and educational events rolled right into a gorgeous autumn season here on the Northern Neck. Dr. John A. Ragosta gave an inspiring keynote address at the *NNK250 Discovery Symposium: "We the People"* followed by fascinating local research panels on October 3 & 4. Then, on October 19, the enduring generosity of Lee Circle donors brought the Museum of the American Revolution's *First Oval Office Project* to Stratford Hall. The Semiquincentennial spirit is high, and local children learning about General George Washington's replica Revolutionary War encampment at the home of the Lee family was a sight we won't forget anytime soon.

Another signature event, *First Africans Day*, celebrated its fifth year on July 26 by welcoming renowned researchers and performers to our Historic Preserve. Pulitzer Prize-winner Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black and the KanKouran West African Dance Company truly elevated this unique opportunity to honor the lives and the cultures of the first African ancestors enslaved at Stratford Hall, as well as their descendants. As we look back at even more successful events this year like September's *Wine & Oyster Festival*, we're already prepared for what's next this winter—*Christmastide* on December 13 and the *Annual Lee Lecture* with Dr. Edward G. Lengel on January 18. I'm hoping you'll join us and be a part of this phenomenal time for public history.

With warm regards,

*Karen L. Daly*

Karen L. Daly  
President



## Welcoming Our New Staff



### Ethan Burgess, Director of Communications

Ethan graduated from Longwood University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. His career in public history began when he took up a part-time role as a Historic Interpreter—and was eventually promoted to Site Manager—at the Rising Sun Tavern Museum in downtown Fredericksburg. After working a few member services jobs, he returned to museum administration at Washington Heritage Museums in 2022 as Membership & Office Manager. He then developed his communication skills at the University of Mary Washington as Assistant Director of Admissions Communication and began his journey with Stratford Hall in June of 2025. In his free time, he enjoys reading both literary and genre fiction, educating at living history events, and volunteering with Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M.



### Hunter Peal, Director of Education

Hunter grew up in Southwest Virginia, where her love of learning and history began with her grandparents and their shared adventures to historic sites across the region. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a focus in Archaeology from East Tennessee State University in 2017. After graduation, Hunter worked as an interpreter for Virginia State Parks at the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park before moving to Virginia's Northern Neck. In 2018, she discovered a new passion for colonial history while working part-time as an interpreter at George Washington's Ferry Farm. She later earned a Master's-level certification in Special Education and spent seven years teaching students in the areas of math and history—subjects that remain close to her heart. Hunter joined Stratford Hall as Director of Education in August 2025. When she isn't at work, she enjoys reading, baking, exploring small towns throughout Virginia, and convincing her husband to join her on spontaneous adventures across the Old Dominion.

# Virginia Resolved



On June 7, 2025,  
Stratford Hall  
commemorated the  
249<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Lee Resolution  
for Independence

In partnership with



**A** brand-new signature event at Stratford Hall not only celebrated the Lee family's contributions to the American Revolution, but sparked countless moments of civic engagement and history education interest for first-time visitors. Among the nearly 800 visitors who joined us in commemorating Richard Henry Lee's 1776 Resolution for Independence, we were excited to host 100 young Americans as they became United States citizens. We owe immense thanks to the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services, Norfolk Office as well as the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution for their collaboration in such a spirited ceremony. Richard Henry Lee, portrayed by Frank Megargee of Colonial Williamsburg, engaged with visitors both during and after the citizenship ceremony. His charisma and keen memory for detail brought his Resolution for Independence to life, two hundred and forty-nine years after the fact.

Visitors of all ages had the opportunity to not only witness cavalry drills portrayed by the 1st Continental Light Dragoons and the 4th Continental Light Dragoons, but meet the riders and pet the horses, too! The living history activities continued throughout the Historic Area, including musket demonstrations, traditional eel pot weaving, 18th-century foodways in the Historic Kitchen, and Colonial music in the Great House. The Society of the Lees of Virginia shared information on Lee family genealogy and a student art show featured works from Westmoreland High School. In the Visitor Center, we were pleased to premiere the third video in a three-part series on the Revolution-era Lee family—made possible with support from Americana Corner's Preserving America Grant program and the Comegys Bight Charitable Foundation. The excitement is only getting started as we prepare to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Lee Resolution on Sunday, June 7, 2026. We hope that you will add Stratford Hall to your Semiquincentennial plans!



Join us for Virginia Resolved  
on **Sunday, June 7**,  
a VA250 Signature Event





Representatives of the DAR and SAR presenting the Colors.



Richard Henry Lee, interpreted by Frank Megargee of Colonial Williamsburg, explaining his Resolution for Independence.



The Citizenship Ceremony conducted by US Citizenship & Immigration Services, Norfolk Office.



Ampersand performing the best Colonial hits in the Great Hall.



New U.S. citizens pose on the Great House Lawn.



Premiere of the third video in our three-part series on the Revolution-era Lee family in the Visitor Center.



Ramrods being used by a SAR musket drill team in preparation for the next volley.



In the shade of the Oval tree line, visitors engage in a Colonial history crash course with a member of the SAR.



One of the Light Dragoon reenactors holding her regiment's banner.



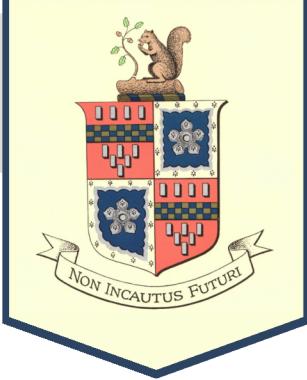
Harold Caldwell giving an 18th-century cooking demonstration in the Historic Kitchen.



Brad Hatch, a member of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe, demonstrates how to make a traditional eel pot.



Steve Bashore, a traditional miller, prepares to grind a batch of corn in Stratford's Gristmill.



# Futuri Society

**A**s part of our ongoing efforts to recognize those who are shaping Stratford Hall's future through legacy giving—and to inspire others to join them—we are proud to celebrate the remarkable generosity of **Mary Wilson**, member of the **Futuri Society** and Director for Kentucky. Her planned gift reflects her deep commitment to Stratford Hall's mission and ensures its sustainability for generations to come.

“

When I first saw Stratford Hall over 20 years ago, I was amazed to find this unique and important historic site hiding in plain sight on the Northern Neck. As a member of the board of directors, I've been going back at least twice a year ever since. And I learn something new with each visit. Seeing Stratford and knowing its history can give us a deeper understanding of who we are as a nation. It's an experience I wish everyone could have. Since the vast majority of Stratford's funding comes from private donations, those of us who know Stratford and appreciate its importance are the only ones who can ensure that Stratford is preserved for future generations. This is why I have made Stratford one of the beneficiaries of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT).

I first learned about a Charitable Remainder Unitrust from our financial advisors at R.W. Baird & Co. I was able to put appreciated assets into the CRUT that will fund several bequests at the time of my death. Those assets could then be sold and reinvested without paying capital gains tax, and so far the new investments are growing nicely. I take out a percentage each year to supplement my income, and at the time of my death the remainder will go to several charities I have designated as beneficiaries.

I paid no tax on the proceeds of the investment plus I received a substantial tax deduction in the year I set up the CRUT. It's likely that at the time of my death I will have received payouts equal to or greater than my original investment and the remainder (which will be paid out to various charities) is also likely to be equal to or greater than my original investment. So along with substantial tax benefits, the CRUT provides annual income and funds my bequests. It's definitely a win-win. There are various ways to structure the benefits to meet your needs so ask your tax advisor if this would work for you.

In the meantime, I'll be giving away the required minimum deductions from my IRA, another great way to avoid paying taxes while supporting your favorite charity.

— *Mary Wilson, Director for Kentucky*



*Mary and Sandy Wilson at the Lee Circle Weekend.*

*Please note that the gift planning information in this article is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. We encourage you to consult your own advisors before making any giving decisions. If you have already included Stratford Hall in your estate plans, please let us know so we may welcome you to the Futuri Society. For questions and assistance on becoming a Futuri Society member please contact Laura Fortsch, Vice President of Advancement, by email at [LFortsch@StratfordHall.org](mailto:LFortsch@StratfordHall.org) or at (804) 493-1974.*

”



# FIVE YEARS OF FIRST AFRICANS DAY

Archival records show that on July 26, 1738, approximately seventy enslaved West Africans consigned to Thomas Lee of Virginia arrived in the south Potomac aboard the *Liverpool Merchant*. Some helped to create and sustain what would become Stratford Hall, others were sold to neighboring plantations. Each year, we remember these “first Africans” and honor all the ancestors once enslaved here by commemorating their lives, cultures, contributions, and resilience.



Storyteller Valerie Davis discussing Ghanaian history and culture in the Council House in 2021.



Descendants honor their ancestors in the African American Cemetery in the 2022 Opening Ceremony.



The African Diaspora Ensemble, including Slam Stewart, Becky Stewart and Tanyah Dadze, lead the 2023 drum circle.



Ehianeta (Ehi) Wilfred Obinyan and a Kuumba Dance Ensemble dancer during his 2024 art exhibition.



The KanKouran West African Dance Company poses in front of the Great House in 2025.

## First Africans Day 2025

On Saturday, July 26, more than 200 Stratford Hall visitors took the opportunity to experience the "rich cultural heritage" of West and Central Africa and the African diaspora—as Denise Smith, African American Descendant Coordinator, tells it. This was certainly true for her grandson, Ezra, who rolled up his sleeves and took on the challenge of 18th-century cooking with experienced living historian Dontavious Williams in the Historic Kitchen. A signature event in its fifth year, First Africans Day centers the legacies of Africans and African Americans enslaved at Stratford Hall and welcomes the return of their descendants, who honor their ancestors here.

Visitors leaving the Historic Kitchen, where they learned about enslaved cook Caesar, were met by the electrifying rhythm of drums. The KanKouran West African Dance Company brought the Great House Lawn to life in a way never seen before. Founded in Washington, D.C. in 1983 to preserve and promote traditional West African culture by providing quality entertainment and educational programs, KanKouran has performed around the world at countless venues. The expressive dancing and vibrant colors of traditional West African attire allowed visitors of diverse backgrounds to encounter, some for the first time, the rich cultural heritage of West Africa. From living history at the Payne Cabin with Hope and Willie Wright, and a genealogy workshop in the Council House with Bessida Cauthorne White, to drumming with Slam Stewart in the West Yard, visitors were offered multiple opportunities to reflect on and commemorate the lives and legacies of generations of Africans and African Americans enslaved at Stratford.



Stratford Hall was delighted to welcome as its first ever official keynote speaker for First Africans Day, Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black. This was her first book tour stop in Virginia for her 2025 Pulitzer Prize-winning history *COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War*. Dr. Fields-Black shared with a rapt audience the little-known story of the Combahee River Raid, drawing on 175 US Civil War pension files of the regiments of Second South Carolina Volunteers, including Harriet Tubman's own file. Dr. Fields-Black expertly told the revelatory true story of Tubman's 1863 raid behind Confederate lines, a daring operation that meant freedom for 756 enslaved people in a single day. A line wrapped around the room for the book signing.



The day culminated in a Closing Ceremony at the Stratford beach, where attendees gathered for a solemn moment of memory and gratitude. Cheyney McKnight presided over the ritual, and each attendee read aloud the name of one of the Africans and African Americans known to have been enslaved at Stratford. A slip of paper with that name was then woven into a bamboo raft adorned with flowers, and McKnight and younger members of the descendant community walked the raft out into the Potomac and set it afloat. In many West and Central African traditions, water represents a passage to the ancestral world. The raft bearing names symbolizes the crossing over from slavery to freedom and embodies the ongoing engagement of the living with their honored ancestors.

After five years, First Africans Day has really come into its own. It gives visitors an opportunity to experience a rich cultural heritage in a tangible way. It's also a time to reconnect with friends and family. Stratford Hall grows in meaning every year for the descendants, local community, historic interpreters, and performers who come to remember and to celebrate.

— Denise Smith, African American Descendant Coordinator

Join us on **Saturday, July 25** for our 2026 First Africans Day event, sponsored by

**WELLS FARGO**





Tanyah Dadze and Cheyney McKnight lead the Opening Ceremony.



Hope and Willie Wright interpret the Payne Cabin, giving visitors a first-person perspective of life for the enslaved at Stratford Hall.



Shiloh Baptist Church raises the crowd's spirits high with song and prayer to start the day.



Slam Stewart teaching African music style and rhythm during an African Diaspora Ensemble drum circle.



Harold Caldwell providing hands-on tobacco education at the Southwest Outbuilding.



Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black giving her research-packed keynote lecture to a full Council House.



A member of the KanKouran senior dance company on the Great House Lawn.



Dr. Fields-Black signing her 2025 Pulitzer Prize-winning COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War.



Joshua Allen playing an African ox flute in the West Yard.



Dontavius Williams engaging open mic participants with his awestriking storytelling skills as part of his Chronicles of Adam.



Bessida Cauthorne White answering questions and giving advice on how to recognize and share family treasures.

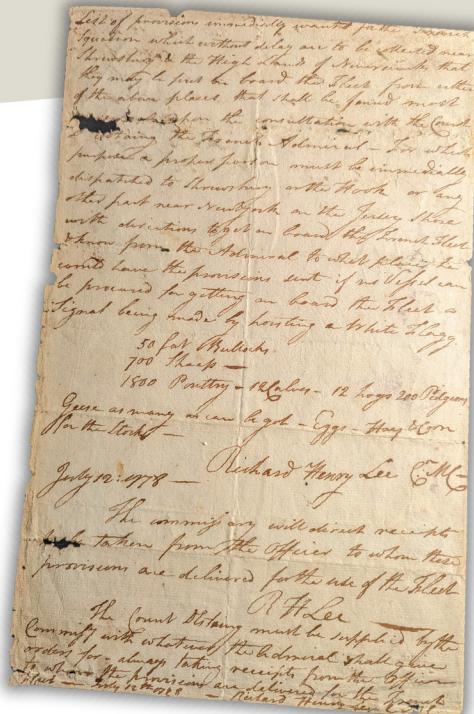


A bamboo raft woven with the names of all those who were enslaved at Stratford Hall being prepared for the Closing Ceremony.

# Sneak Peek: Fall 2025 Robert E. Lee Special Collection



Fresh from collections storage, historic artifacts are now on display in the Robert E. Lee Special Collection at the Stratford Hall Visitor Center. These include Lee's epaulets from his US Army Corps of Engineers uniform, a pair of unique Damascus steel pistols, and even a keepsake hair clipping from the mane of his horse, Traveller. Be sure to stop by the exhibit on your next visit to see these and other one-of-a-kind artifacts!



Vote to support this document's preservation at [VAMuseums.org](https://VAMuseums.org)



VIRGINIA  
ASSOCIATION  
of  
MUSEUMS

*Richard Henry Lee  
provisions the First  
French Fleet, 1778*

**2026 FINALIST**  
Virginia's Top 10  
Endangered Artifacts

**T**his July 1778 wartime manuscript bearing Richard Henry Lee's signature and initials details the provisioning of the first French squadron under the command of Jean Baptiste Charles Henri Hector, the comte d'Estaing, and poised to support American independence efforts. d'Estaing will attempt a blockade of English vessels in New York bay under the command of Admiral Richard Howe in July 1778. The provisions Richard Henry orders here are to be collected near Shrewsbury and Navesink, New Jersey for transfer to the squadron. Richard Henry acts here as Chair of the Marine Committee, which, prior to the Board of Admiralty, oversaw all naval affairs. Richard Henry sat on this committee with Silas Deane of Connecticut, who in 1778 was co-commissioner with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee to the French court. The Lees accused Deane of war profiteering and Congress recalled him from France. He returned to America with the very squadron here provisioned by R. H. Lee. A month later in August 1778, Deane accuses Arthur and William Lee of sundry wrongdoings before Congress—all charges were unproven. All the while Richard Henry is managing both his own estate Chantilly and assisting the widow of his deceased brother Philip Ludwell Lee in the management of Stratford. This document's paper has become fragile, with separations along the folds, small holes that obscure portions of text, and areas of edge chipping, soiling, toning, and foxing. Conservation treatment is needed to stabilize and preserve this remarkable link to America's revolutionary diplomacy and the enduring legacy of Richard Henry Lee. Votes can be cast each day through February 20, 2026!

# An Introduction to Beech Leaf Disease Prevention & Treatment

Stratford Hall Historic Preserve proudly protects its historic buildings, gardens, and grounds from all kinds of threats...even microscopic ones! Beech leaf disease (BLD) has recently been detected in the tree line of the West Yard in the Historic Area. Four trees that were planted in the East Garden in the 1920s are now vulnerable to infestation, including the large beech tree between the Historic Kitchen and the Great House.

## **What is beech leaf disease?**

Originally from Japan, BLD is caused by tiny nematodes named *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*. Think of them as nearly-invisible worms. They have little effect on Japanese beech trees, but have caused concern in North America since being detected in Ohio back in 2012. Now affecting thirteen states, the worms migrate from infested leaves to vegetative leaves in the late growing season every year. Then, they reproduce and feed on those leaves during the winter months. Their unwelcome stay is made evident by deformed textures and dark spots on otherwise healthy canopies. Those buds then die out and can't leaf out in the spring. Diseased beech tree saplings can die within five years, while mature trees will take much longer.

## **What can be done?**

Bartlett Tree Experts has researched BLD and offers prevention treatment involving a root flare injection of specialized insecticide in the Summer. Research has shown that a single injection treatment of the insecticide will last two growing seasons, preventing the worms from migrating to the tree and infesting healthy beech leaf buds.

## **What more can be done to protect the tree?**

Additionally, Bartlett Tree Experts has recommended considering lightning protection for this beech tree. It's an important landscape feature and shares close proximity with the Great House and Historic Kitchen. Lightning protection would include leads being installed from the crown to the trunk and then to a grounding rod nearby. Lightning that strikes the beech tree will find a direct path into the ground and away from the structures. It's a precaution that aids not just the integrity of our cherished grounds, but our preservation efforts as well. Even with lightning rods already in place to protect the buildings in the Historic Area, mitigated lightning strikes can still cause electrical damage to the fire suppression and security systems inside.

Visitors and local Northern Neck residents enjoy Stratford Hall's natural beauty year-round. Beech trees in particular have been present on the grounds since the time of the Lee family. Our team and our partners follow all the best practices to protect our landscape features for future generations' study and enjoyment, and we look forward to sharing updates with you on this project's planning.

*Beech tree leaves along the West Yard infested with BLD. These leaves have lost photosynthetic capacity and the tree is vulnerable to twig dieback next season.*



*Beech tree near the Great House and Historic Kitchen, threatened by BLD.*

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

Support efforts like this with your unrestricted gift on **December 2!** Visit [StratfordHall.org/Donate](http://StratfordHall.org/Donate)



*Tuff Luck Band takes the stage for some Sunday afternoon classic rock and blues.*



**N**early 3,500 festival-goers from across the Mid-Atlantic strolled onto the Oval on September 20 & 21 for the return of one of the Northern Neck's most cherished outdoor events—the Stratford Hall Wine & Oyster Festival. What makes this a can't-miss tradition for so many people, from both near and far? After two decades, it's hard to say with so many memorable late-summer moments. Between sipping on wine tastings in view of the Great House, grabbing a plate of bacon-sprinkled oysters for your friends back at the picnic blanket, browsing dozens of artisan vendors in a cool breeze, and watching your younger family members fly past on a barrel train ride, no moment is wasted here.

Of course, it's no festival without local musicians getting passersby to sing every word to a song. Whether it's a circle of camping chairs or one of our private party tents within perfect earshot of the stage, everyone gets to call a piece of Stratford Hall's grounds home for the day. A place to snack on some oysters and uncork that new wine bottle while listening to the classics. This year, the Saturday performance lineup had Tommy Filkoski, Tropical Johnson, One Trick Pony, and Dave "Smitty" Smith & Friends. The Sunday lineup of Erin Wallace, Chauncey Fortune Band, and Tuff Luck Band kept the party rolling until the very end of the weekend. Overnight visitors who made the most out of their journey only had a short walk back to our cozy log cabins and guest houses.

Something that made 2025 memorable, especially for our Friends of Stratford members who know our events well, was that we had a record number of wineries and vendors. Sixteen of Virginia's best wineries brought their "A game" for the dedicated sommeliers who get their Early Bird tickets each year, and the length of the Oval was lined row to row with over forty artisan vendor, nonprofit, and sponsor tents. None of which would be possible without our amazing festival sponsors. Save the dates for September 19 & 20, 2026, and we'll save you a wine glass!



#### PLATINUM SPONSORS



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#### GOLD SPONSORS



#### BRONZE SPONSORS



#### Wineries & Cideries

Briede Family Vineyards  
Ditchley Ciderworks & Farm  
Estate at White Hall Vineyard  
Front Four Cellars  
General's Ridge Vineyard  
Good Luck Cellars  
Horton Vineyards  
Ingleside Vineyards  
Lake Anna Winery  
Lazy Days Winery  
Mattaponi Winery  
Philip Carter Winery  
Rogers Ford Farm Winery  
Three Leg Run Winery  
Wind Vineyards  
Zoll Vineyards



#### Oyster Growers & Food Trucks

Amiee's Sandwiches  
Bright Eyes Concession  
Gregory's Grill  
Healthy Harvest Food Truck  
Nomini Bay Oyster Ranch  
Relish on the Run  
Salty Bob's Oyster & Seafood  
Sara Festivals  
Tilly's Homemade Ice Cream

#### Breweries & Distilleries

Adventure Brewing Co.  
Al Pugh Distributing Co.  
Copper Fox Distillery  
Ice House Brewery  
KO Distilling  
Springfield Distillery  
Virago Spirits

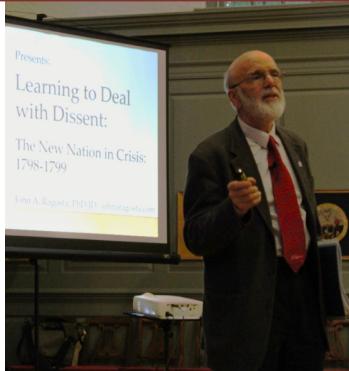
#### Vendors & Entertainment

Advanced Integrative Medicine  
Aim-Hit-Go  
BentOutOfShapeSilvery  
Blonde Creative Co.  
Boso Foods LLC  
Bravenly Wellness  
Bristlesand Design  
Chocolate Moonshine Gourmet Fudge  
Friends of the Rappahannock  
From Scratch by Lane  
Fruit of the Spirits  
Garrett's Marina  
Handwoven by Design  
J&J Farm  
J-Art, Inc.  
Jedichick Creations  
King William Alpacas  
KMW Creations  
Knot Just Wood  
Life in the NNK  
Mariasthingamajigs  
Mediterranean Basil Salt  
Memory Lane Car Club  
Mia Bella's Candles with Dianna Hayes  
Mija's Designs  
Northern Neck Clay Company  
Northern Neck Master Gardeners  
Northern Neck Sauce  
Outside the Lines  
Paul's Barrel Train Rides  
Pony Riders Mustang Club  
Queen of Shadetzz & Groovy Jewlez  
Repedet Designs LLC  
RJM Designs  
Sandy's Creations  
Secret Beach Boutique  
Smoky Mountain Scents  
Stratford Hall Paleo Volunteers  
Susan Guillotte, Author  
Sweet Like Sugar LLC  
T.C. Crafts  
This-N-That  
Those Were the the Days!  
TK Creations  
Victory 7 Mustang Club  
Virginia Osprey Foundation  
Westmoreland Lions Club  
Whitley's Peanuts

Save the Dates

Sept. 19 & 20  
2026

# NNK250 Discovery Symposium October 3 & 4, 2025



**Dr. John A. Ragosta's keynote lecture on Patrick Henry launched this year's theme, "We the People."**



**Phil Mark, Senior Director of Preservation, led a behind-the-scenes tour of the Great House.**



**Seven panelists presented fresh Northern Neck research and archaeology discoveries.**



*This event was planned in collaboration with the Northern Neck 250 Commission and made possible in part by a grant from the VA250 Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities.*



*Lee Circle donors were proud to welcome the Museum of the American Revolution's First Oval Office Project to Stratford Hall for a weekend of revolutionary activity.*

*General George Washington's original sleeping and office tent from the Revolutionary War is on permanent display at the Museum in historic Philadelphia.*



**Stratford Hall was home to Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee III, who gave the famous "First in war, first in peace" eulogy for George Washington.**



**Every part of the camp was interactive and based on extant materials from the Revolutionary War.**



**George Washington's Life Guard interpreters were prepared for all kinds of questions.**

## Fall Family Fun Day November 1, 2025



**Tractor wagon rides around the Oval are a local favorite each fall.**



**Families painted and took home over 70 pumpkins!**



**A set of lawn bowling pins ready for the next game.**



**This event was made possible in part by a gift from The Tidewater Foundation.**

# 2026 LECTURES

Register at [StratfordHall.org/Events](http://StratfordHall.org/Events)



## Annual Lee Lecture

"The Road Home: Light-Horse Harry Lee's Return from the Revolutionary War."

by Dr. Edward G. Lengel

Sunday, January 18 at 2 p.m. | Stratford Hall Council House | \$10



## Black History Month Lecture

on *Plantation Goods: A Material History of American Slavery*  
a finalist for the 2025 Pulitzer Prize in History

by Dr. Seth E. Rockman, Brown University

Sunday, February 8 at 2 p.m. | VIRTUAL | \$5



## Women's History Month Lecture

on *Only the Clothes on Her Back: Clothing and the Hidden History of Power in the Nineteenth-Century United States*

by Dr. Laura F. Edwards, Princeton University

Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m. | VIRTUAL | \$5

## More Upcoming Events

Register at [StratfordHall.org/Events](http://StratfordHall.org/Events)

**SAT. FEBRUARY 7** Valentine's Dinner

**SAT. APRIL 4** Easter Eggstravaganza

**SAT. MAY 2** Brews & BBQ Festival

**SUN. MAY 31** Archives Tour

## 2026 Guided Fossil Excursions



**SUN. MAY 3**

**SUN. JUNE 21**

**SAT. JULY 18**

**SUN. AUGUST 16**

**SAT. SEPTEMBER 26**

**SAT. OCTOBER 10**

# Christmastide



**Saturday, December 13  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Adults & Children Ages 14+  
**\$25**

Children Ages 6-13  
**\$12**

Children Ages 5 & Under  
**FREE**

Friends of Stratford Members  
**FREE**

**M**ake your holiday season historic at Stratford Hall! Come enjoy our annual traditions in the Great House, complete with authentic decorations and Colonial-era music by Ampersand. Warm up in the Historic Kitchen for storytelling and cooking demonstrations by expert living historian Dontavius Williams. Ever toured our candlelit grounds during twilight? Our tractor wagon rides are perfect for your guests and family as you explore the Historic Preserve. Enjoy a 10% holiday discount in the Gift Shop and remember to make your own tin-punch ornament before you leave! Purchase tickets in the Visitor Center or online at [StratfordHall.org/Christmastide](http://StratfordHall.org/Christmastide) until 4 p.m. on December 13.



## *Holiday Sip & Shop*

**Friday, December 12, 4 – 6 p.m.**  
(Friends of Stratford Member Exclusive)

Join us for an exclusive Friends of Stratford holiday shopping experience with festive food & beverage tastings and a 20% discount throughout the store. Reserve your spot at this special event by phone **(804) 493-8919**, or by emailing **[RPitts@StratfordHall.org](mailto:RPitts@StratfordHall.org)**. Come for shopping, and stay for dinner!

# Christmastide Dinner

**Friday, December 12 at 6 p.m.**

*(Friends of Stratford Member Exclusive)*

**Saturday, December 13 at 6 p.m.**

**\$99 per person** (includes meal, tax, and gratuity)

*Reservation required, limited availability. A maximum of six guests are welcome per reservation.*

*Wine, beer, and cocktails will be available for purchase with a valid ID.*

*Reserve your table in the Stratford Hall Dining Room at StratfordHall.org/Christmastide.*

## 1710 TAVERN

### Appetizers

Plated Fried Goat Cheese & Cranberry Stick,  
Deviled Egg, Pickles & Olives

### Soups

Oyster Stew alla Rockefeller  
VA Select Oysters, Amish Cream, Bacon Lardon, Garlic,  
Spinach & Parmesan

Roasted Butternut Squash & Ginger Soup  
Butternut Squash, Crushed Ginger, Cream & Herbs

### Salads

Romaine alla Caesar  
Boquerón Anchovy, House-Made Caesar Dressing,  
Shaved Parmesan Cheese & Grilled Ciabatta Bread

Apple, Pecan & Bleu Cheese Salad  
Salad Greens, Honeycrisp Apple, Toasted Pecans,  
Blue Cheese Crumbles & Apple Cider Vinaigrette

### Entrées

Cornish Game Hen  
Creamy Pomme Puree, Herb Stuffing & Glazed Carrots

Roast Beef  
Tender Beef, Au Jus, Creamy Pomme Puree  
& Oven Roasted Brussel Sprouts

### Desserts

Grand Marnier Crème Brulee  
Fresh Fruit & Whipped Cream

Flourless Chocolate Torte  
Fresh Fruit & Powdered Sugar Dusting

# Order a Gift Basket from the Stratford Hall Gift Shop in Time for the Holidays!



These wonderful gift baskets, filled with Stratford products, are available from the Stratford Hall Gift Shop. Please use the convenient order form provided here or phone your order to (804) 493-1969. Custom Gift Baskets Available.

## Stratford Holiday Basket

*Includes a Virginia Petite Hamlet (avg. 2-3 lbs, fully cooked and boneless), Dijon Honey Mustard, Stratford Grits, and a Linen Stratford Tea Towel.*

\$135.00

## Pride of Stratford Basket

*Includes Stratford Cornmeal, Stratford Grits, Stratford Mug, Seasonal Loose-Leaf Tea, and a Linen Stratford Tea Towel.*

\$80.00

## Taste of Stratford

*Includes a 22 oz. can of Virginia Peanuts, Stratford Holiday Jam, and a Linen Stratford Tea Towel.*

\$70.00

## Stratford Variety

*Includes Stratford Grits, Pepper Jelly, and Apple Butter.*

\$35.00

## Stratford Custom Gift Basket

*The perfect gift basket is one you create. Choose from our festive selection of gourmet foods, unique gifts and artisanal treats to create a one-of-a-kind gift for everyone on your list. To get started exploring custom baskets, contact a Gift Shop associate at (804) 493-1969.*



## ORDER FORM

Mail to: Stratford Hall Gift Shop • 483 Great House Road  
Stratford, VA 22558 • (804) 493-1969

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	ITEM	PRICE (Ea.)	TOTAL
	Stratford Holiday	\$135.00	
	Pride of Stratford	\$80.00	
	Taste of Stratford	\$70.00	
	Stratford Variety	\$35.00	

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

VA residents add 5.3 % sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling add \$30.00 per basket\* \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Charge to:  Visa  MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
*Stratford Hall*

December 10 - last date to order for Christmas delivery.

\*Additional charge for oversized boxes.

10% FOS discount on "Stratford Holiday Basket" gift baskets. Orders must be placed via phone.

### Hours of Operation:

Monday & Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday- Friday: 12pm-5pm

Saturday & Sunday: 10am-5pm





*Stratford Hall*  
HISTORIC PRESERVE

WHERE THE VOICES OF  
AMERICAN HISTORY STILL SPEAK

483 Great House Road  
Stratford, VA 22558

## Holiday Operations

The Visitor Center, Grounds, Great House, and Gift Shop will be closed on the following Holidays:

- **Thanksgiving Day**
- **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day**
- **New Year's Eve & New Year's Day**

*Open for Grounds Passes*

## Winter Hours

### December 15 - March 15

#### Visitor Center and Grounds

Daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Great House Audio Tours

Thursday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Plus Holiday Mondays:*

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 19*

*Presidents' Day on February 16*

#### Gift Shop

Thursday - Friday, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Questions, comments and address changes should be directed to: Ethan Burgess, Director of Communications  
Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Stratford, VA 22558 or [eburgess@stratfordhall.org](mailto:eburgess@stratfordhall.org).  
To receive our e-newsletter, please subscribe on our website at [www.StratfordHall.org/Subscribe](http://www.StratfordHall.org/Subscribe).