

MENOKIN



AFIELD

Francis Lightfoot Lee's
MENOKIN
c. 1769

A periodic newsletter chronicling the preservation of Menokin

The *Glass Concept* Draws Interest From National and International Architecture Firms

In September, we had the pleasure of hosting the Northern Neck Land Conservancy's annual Boots and Barbecue event. The cool, autumn Sunday brought 350 guests to the Menokin lawn where we enjoyed the best fried oysters, local produce and barbecue this side of the Rappahannock. The event marked a celebratory end of a busy and exciting summer at Menokin as the Foundation moves ahead with the Glass Concept. Here is an update for our Friends...work that could not have happened without your support!



In June, the Menokin Foundation issued a Request for Qualifications to teams interested in developing a proposal for the Menokin Glass Building Project. We were delighted that eleven teams, all of whom have a high degree of competency and represented American and European firms, submitted their qualifications.

Teams were evaluated on their evidence of professional, technical, and practical skills; and their ability to work collaboratively to address the complex preservation, design, performance, and construction challenges inherent in this project.

The Trustees and Advisory Council members selected three teams out of the eleven contenders to submit proposals on implementing the Glass Building Project. The leadership of the three teams will bring significantly different approaches to the project, while also being capable of seeing the project as a whole. Their proposals are due in December 2011 and based upon those submissions a team will be selected in early 2012 to implement

the Menokin Glass Building Project. The team will include such professionals as architects, engineers, structural glass engineers, museum leaders, contractors, landscape architects, lighting designers, and others needed to design this internationally ground-breaking project. The Menokin Foundation recognizes that there is a range of approaches that can be taken to turn the concept into reality, and is seeking teams who will meet that challenge. We are looking for the most appropriate set of solutions — solutions that meet the Menokin Foundation's vision, mission, and goals for the project; solutions that can be both feasible and fundable.

We will keep you up-to-date on the selection process, and are now pleased to share with you our five-year timeline:

- 2012: The team will complete the preliminary design and create models and drawings. We will expand our Advisory Council of experts to include leaders that will fully develop programs to make us a "go to" place for interpreting historic sites around the world. We will determine construction costs more clearly when the design, models and drawings are completed.
- 2013: Our expert team will complete construction documents, and we will complete planning for programs to tell all the wisdom the site has to offer on so many subjects.
- 2014: We will complete stabilization of remaining areas of Menokin and make the house ready to integrate with glass walls.
- 2015: The Glass Building Project will be ready to begin.

We welcome your input and questions! Please feel free to contact Sarah at spope@menokin.org or by phone at 804-333-1776.

Taylor Murphy
President, Board of Trustees

Sarah Pope
Executive Director

What's The Buzz?

The Menokin Foundation is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous grant from the Dominion Foundation to fund its 2011/2012 lecture series.

The Dominion Virginia Power Lecture Series at Menokin began in September 2011 and will extend to the spring of 2012.

Menokin Executive Director Sarah Pope commented, "This grant allows us to bring quality educational programs to the Northern Neck and furthers our vision to become a recognized learning center for natural and heritage resource conservation. We are delighted to partner with the Dominion Foundation." The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Dominion Resources, parent company of Dominion Virginia Power.

The lectures, which take place at the Martin Kirwan King Visitors Center at Menokin, will spotlight a variety of topics. "Dominion is pleased to sponsor this educational lecture series," said Virginia M. Board, president of The Dominion Foundation. "The hands-on learning offered at Menokin encompasses not only architectural preservation but also offers students and the public a rare insight into the history of environmental stewardship in the Commonwealth."

In addition, experts from Dominion's energy conservation group will present information on ideas and methods for sustainable and green energy.

There is no fee associated with the lecture series, but registration is required. Call 804-333-1776 or email us at menokin@menokin.org for more information.

Here's the lineup



November 5, 10:00 am to noon

"Learn How to Geocache and Have Fun Using High Tech to Treasure Hunt," presented by Charlene Talcott, Chief Ranger— Interpretation & Education Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Belle Isle State Park.



November 9, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

"Pox and the Covenant: Franklin, Mather, and the Epidemic that Altered America's Destiny," presented by Tony King, historian and author.



December 7, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

"Robert Carter and the Manumission of Slaves at Nomini Hall in Westmoreland County," Peggy Garland, author.

For information on the rest of the speakers in this season's Dominion Lecture Series, visit us online at www.menokin.org.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

At the September meeting of the Northern Neck Garden Club, held at the Martin Kirwan King Visitor's Center at Menokin, everything was coming up roses....and dahlias, lantana



and zinnias. Menokin often plays host to other area nature lovers as well. Local groups such as the Master Naturalists, TREE, the Rappahannock River Wildlife Refuge and the Northern Neck Land Conservancy have used our facility for meetings and events over the years. Menokin is very pleased to be part of the natural resource conservation efforts in our community.



At its October 6th event, *The Dominion Lecture Series at Menokin* hosted "Falling Gardens of the Eighteenth Century Chesapeake Region" presented by Mollie Ridout, Director of Horticulture at Historic Annapolis.

Wealthy American colonists of the 18th century began designing the grounds around themselves to project their new wealth and power. Often when the dwelling house was newly built, the earth, clay, and rubbish removed for cellars and foundations were used to shape the terraced falls. Hills were intentionally cut into slopes and flats where owners and guests could walk. Each individual descent was referred to as a fall. The Menokin property includes the remnants of just such an 18th-century terraced garden.

This lecture was co-sponsored by the Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula and the Garden Club of the Northern Neck, and took place at Beale Memorial Baptist Church in Tappahannock.

John Ariail Remembered at Mulberry Dove Shoot

The Menokin Foundation would like to extend its deepest thanks and appreciation to the Mulberry Dove Shoot hosts, the family of John Ariail and host and Menokin Trustee John Guy for organizing this year's event to benefit Menokin. John Ariail was a founding Menokin Trustee and a lover of historic preservation. Participants in September's memorial dove shoot, which took place along the Rappahannock River near Menokin, made generous donations to Menokin in celebration of his life. The Foundation is indebted to the work of this man who helped build an organization to preserve and study the rich physical and natural resources of Menokin. The "band of brothers" who hunted with John Ariail and Martin King has supported the Menokin Foundation from its inception. We are grateful to their continued support of our efforts.



"The dove shoot is as much about fellowship as it is feathers. The post shoot event is downright social, with friends who see each other once a year and come from as far away as Massachusetts and south to Savannah. Great feasting, pulling pork, picking crabs, shucking oysters, grilling marinated and spice-rubbed dove washed down with great quantities of 'loud mouth' which waxes conversation and renews friendships. Oh! And always a little down home music."

- Andy Williams, Menokin Trustee and Dove Shoot Host



L to R: Andy Williams, John Guy, Terry Johnson, Shreve Ariail, Bishop Clay Mathews, Jay Ariail, Garrett Erdle

Top Right: 2010 photo of John Ariail, courtesy of Chris Cobb

Letter Sheds

Light on Locket...

Grant Aides in

Its Conservation

A 1794 letter from Francis Lightfoot Lee's brother, William, may be the key to unlocking the mystery of the exquisite locket found in the Menokin house site in 2009 by archaeologists. After the death of his wife, William Lee sent his two young daughters, Portia and Cornelia, to Menokin to be reared by their Uncle Frank and Aunt Becky. William's family had been living in Brussels and the girls went to London for a short period to live with family friends before departing for Menokin. William wrote to the family friends, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Thorp, asking for a memento by which Portia and Cornelia could remember them. William writes, "Our dear girls at Menokin are so



importunate to have a miniature picture for each of them of your self & good Mrs. Thorp...have them set in gold to wear as bracelets...or a locket...the form should be rather a long than a round oval not too sharp at the ends..." Could this be Mrs. Thorp on the locket? Did it once adorn the neck or wrist of young Portia or Cornelia Lee? With further research, we hope to definitively answer the questions. In the meantime, the locket will be stabilized for long term display through a generous grant from the Virginia Chapter of the Colonial Dames.

Meet the Advisory Council

DAVID G. WOODCOCK, CHAIR

COLLEGE STATION, TX



David Woodcock received his professional degree in Architecture and a Diploma in Town and Country Planning

from the University of Manchester, England. He has taught at the University of Manchester and the Kent Institute of Art and Design in Canterbury, England. He was a Fulbright Teaching Fellow at Texas A&M University from 1962-66, and returned to the Architecture faculty in 1970. He was promoted to Full Professor in 1976, and served a total of eleven years as head of the department. In 1977 he founded the historic preservation education and research program, now the Center for Heritage Conservation, serving as Director until 2009, and was named Director Emeritus in 2010. He was named a Distinguished Professor by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture in 1991, and elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 1991. In 2004 he was elected to the College of Fellows of the Association for Preservation Technology International, for which he served as President in 2000 and 2001. He was named a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2004. He served as chair of the AIA Historic Resources Committee in 2009. The National Council for Preservation Education presented him with the James Marston Fitch Preservation Education Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. He retired from teaching in May 2011, and continues practice as a Historic Preservation Consultant to a variety of institutional and private clients.

REID FREEMAN

NEW YORK, NY



Reid Freeman is a registered architect in the State of New York, a founder of Barker Freeman Design Office, based

in Brooklyn, and a principal at James Carpenter Design Associates (JCDA) in New York City that specializes in structural glass building design and construction. His work experience includes eight years at Architecture Research Office, a winner of the National Design Award in Architecture, as a Senior Associate and time at Audrey Matlock Architects and Eisenman Architects as a designer. Reid has taught classes and studios in design and construction in the masters programs of architecture at Princeton University, Harvard University, and Tulane University for Architect's week. Since 2008 he has been a part-time faculty member at Parson School of Design teaching thesis design studio and construction technology in the masters of architecture program. Reid was JCDA's project architect / project manager for the recently completed 95,000 sq. foot expansion of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Current projects at JCDA include an addition to Bornholms Kustmuseum in Denmark and corporate sponsored research and new product development for day-lighting and new glass technologies. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University and a Masters of Architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

RICHARD B. GARLOCK

NEW YORK, NY



Rich Garlock is a Senior Associate and a Structural Engineer with Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P.

He has worked on a diverse set of projects in the US and abroad, during his 17 years with the firm, ranging from university lab buildings to high rise towers. He is currently on site Project Manager of the World Trade Center 4 Tower in New York City, which will reach 947 feet (290-m) upon completion. Rich has served as project manager for the firm's work at Princeton University. These include the Friend Center for Engineering Education, the School of Architecture addition and the Butler College expansion. He has worked on several of the firm's sustainable projects including the award-winning William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, which achieved a LEED-Silver Rating. Rich earned his Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University. Starting in 2004, he has been a Visiting Lecturer at Princeton University.

LUCY LAWLISS

COLONIAL BEACH, VA



Lucy Lawliss is the National Park Service Superintendent for two parks, George Washington Birthplace National

Monument (NM) in Virginia, and Thomas Stone National Historic Site (NHS) in Maryland. Lucy has more than 16 years of service with the National Park Service. She came to George Washington Birthplace NM and Thomas Stone NHS from a group of four historical parks in the San Francisco East Bay — Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, John Muir National Historic Site, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, and Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Monument. She began her career as the first historical landscape architect in the NPS Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta and built the cultural landscape program there. For ten years, she has served on the board and been co-chair of the National Association for Olmsted Parks and has also served on the board of Southern Garden History Society. Lucy is a registered landscape architect with undergraduate and master's degrees in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia, School of Environmental Design.

Legacy

Reid is a second generation Menokin volunteer, following his father, George Freeman, who served as a Menokin Trustee from 2004 - 2010.

CALDER LOTH

RICHMOND, VA



In a career spanning four decades, Calder Loth, as senior architectural historian at the Virginia Department

of Historic Resources, shaped the direction of historic preservation programs from survey and National Register listings to rehabilitation tax credits, review and compliance, and preservation easements. Calder is a long-standing member of the Virginia Art and Architecture Review Board. His expertise has shaped the preservation and renovation of many buildings including the Virginia State Capital and the historic executive mansion. He continues to give back to the preservation community as a staunch advocate and widely published author for "architectural literacy" giving lectures to museums, universities, and professional societies worldwide. In 2008, Calder received the first annual "Secretary of the Interior Historic Preservation Award" given by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. He has been an Honorary Trustee of the Menokin Foundation since its inception in 1994.

ERYL P. WENTWORTH

WASHINGTON, DC



Eryl Wentworth has served as the Executive Director of American Institute for Conservation since 2004, follow-

ing a museum career spanning over 20 years. Her most recent museum position, held for six years, was Director of The Octagon, Museum of the American Architectural Foundation, a museum of architecture and design and an 1801 National Historic Landmark. With an M.A. in anthropology and museum training and a background in conservation, she has supported the care of collections throughout her career by working with conservators to plan and implement major re-housing, storage, treatment, and exhibition projects and by securing federal and private foundation grants for preservation and conservation projects. She has served as a panelist for NEH challenge grants and preservation and access grants, along with IMLS conservation project support grants, and has served on the boards of both local and national nonprofit organizations.

MATT WEBSTER

WILLIAMSBURG, VA



Architectural Conservator and Manager of Architectural Collections for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation,

Matt Webster oversees work on over 600 structures, as well as the architectural fragments collection. Prior to this he served as the Director of Preservation at Drayton Hall where he oversaw the Architecture, Archaeology, Curatorial, Landscape, and Facility departments. From 2001 until 2006, he served as the Director of Architectural Restoration at Kenmore, the 1770s home of Fielding and Betty Washington Lewis. While at Kenmore he was responsible for the entire architectural research collection owned by George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation. Matt serves on the Board of Directors and as Director of Educational Programs for Falmouth Heritage Renewal in Falmouth, Jamaica, and travels there annually to teach the local population preservation trades.

JAMES ZEHMER

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA



James Zehmer is the preservation project manager for the University of Virginia. He oversaw the recent restoration of Pavilion X at the University.

James is currently overseeing the restoration of other historic buildings included in the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Lawn at the University of Virginia. Before coming to the University of Virginia, James worked on the Virginia State Capitol restoration team. James holds an undergraduate degree in architecture from the University of Virginia and worked for several years as a preservation carpenter before coming to the state capitol project. James also serves on the Menokin Foundation Board of Trustees.

Legacy

James joins Reid Freeman as a Menokin legacy, carrying on as a volunteer after his father, John Zehmer, who also served on the Menokin Board.

"Every time I come here, I learn something new."

"It captured my imagination."

"We do it because we owe a debt to this man..."

Hear more about why these Advisors give so much of their time and expertise to Menokin on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/rJfqMqAuvWI>.

We're All In Our Places, With Bright, Shiny Faces.

Menokin was pleased to host students of all ages and interests this summer.



Two groups of campers from the Richmond County Family YMCA Summer Camp program journeyed to Menokin to learn about the house, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and the native flora and fauna.

Their visit included a hike down the Menokin Trail to Catpoint Creek, a tour of the house site led by Menokin staff, and lunch in the shade of the walnut trees in the yard.



It was hard to tell who had more fun - the kids or Lightfoot, founding member of the Menokin Canine Corps.



A group of fifteen teachers from surrounding counties spent a day at Menokin earning recertification credits.

In addition to a tour of the house and the visitor's center, the curriculum included such topics as *Numbers in Nature: The Fibonacci Sequence*, *Travels with Phillip Vickers Fithian*, *Math in Architecture* and a lab on water testing.



The outer ring of ray florets in the daisy family illustrate the Fibonacci Sequence.



Earlier in the summer, students from around the US and Canada came to Menokin for a weekend workshop, *Lime Mortar Conservation and Techniques*.

Instructors from the University of Virginia, Mark Kutney (conservator), Wayne Mays (preservation mason) and James Zehmer (preservation project manager and Menokin Board member) provided information and instructions on building limes, mortar analysis, mortar matching, mortar making, wall preparation and pointing techniques, and repairing plaster using lime.



Horsehair is mixed with the plaster as a binding agent.



On January 17th just ten days after his wife, Rebecca Tayloe Lee, died, Francis Lightfoot Lee passed away at the age of 62. I always pictured that date as the cold and lonely end of Menokin Plantation. With no children to carry on, I saw Frank Lee lying in his bed alone, peacefully waiting to follow his wife. This picture, however, is missing the 36 other men and women who were living on the plantation that day. For Lee's slaves, January 17th was a beginning.

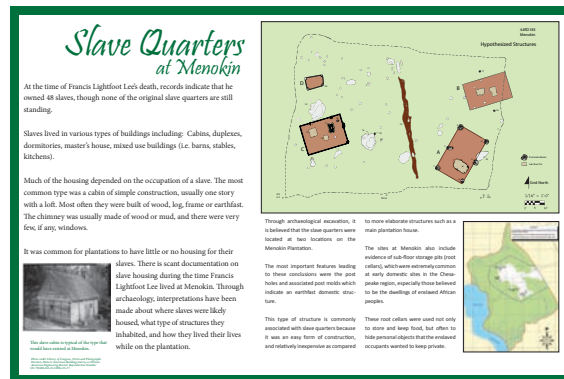
There are two main ways to trace a slave population: following the plantation or following the weakly-linked chain of owners. Three years ago I decided to follow the plantation, mainly because the paper trail was sturdier. I could easily trace the slaves by their assigned plantation name through the inventories the Tayloe family kept from 1808 to 1861. These records gave me the names, ages, skills and families of Menokin's slaves, allowing me a peek into their lives.

Following the plantation, however, had a major drawback. John Tayloe II gave Menokin Plantation to his daughter, the newly married Becky Lee, and her descendents. When Frank and Becky died childless 28 years later, Menokin Plantation returned to the Tayloe family, but the Menokin slaves did not. Where did Lee's slaves go, those 36 men and women who were there on January 17, 1797?

My quest began with Lee's will. It states that his nephew, Ludwell Lee, would receive Menokin's slave population upon the couple's death.

If Ludwell had been a wealthy man with a stable plantation, the will would have been the end of my search. The 36 slaves that left Menokin would have remained for the most part at Ludwell Lee's Belmont plantation in Loudoun County. But Ludwell was, instead, a poor man with expensive ambitions. To finance the building of a mansion at Belmont, trust records dated 1816 and 1828 show that Ludwell went into tremendous debt, using the Menokin slaves as collateral. Rippon, the carpenter, was thirty when Ludwell Lee first listed him as security for his debt, along with Rippon's wife, Franky, and four-year-old son, Tom. They, along with 22 other men, women, and children, most likely passed to his debtors, and the rest were given to Ludwell Lee's nine children and thirteen grandchildren who scattered widely.

Menokin slaves could have ended up in Georgia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, or even in Rinkobing, Denmark with an ambassador's wife. I did not pursue the trail in Denmark, but I did comb slave schedules, deeds, wills, and census records for counties across the United States. I even made an ill-fated attempt to sneak into the present-day Belmont Country Club for a look at the mansion that ruined Ludwell Lee. After my journey, however, the lives of Menokin's 36 still remain mostly shrouded in mystery. Unattached to a plantation, Menokin's slaves left Belmont and scattered in hundreds of directions. We can only guess at their destinations.



Menokin Will Partner with American University Students to Develop Programs to Enhance the Glass Concept

The Menokin Foundation's vision is to become an internationally recognized learning center for heritage and natural resource conservation through innovative scholarship and technology.

The Foundation is currently in the planning stages of its "Saving the Past with Glass Concept" that will use structural glass to reestablish the functional volume of the missing sections of Menokin while also preserving the original 18th century fabric. Throughout this process, The Menokin Foundation wants to engage, educate and interact with its constituents during the planning and construction phases of the glass project. In that vein, the Menokin staff is pleased to announce that Sarah Pope, Executive Director, will be working with American University students in the *HIST 730 Public History Practicum: Best Practices in Historical Interpretation* class during the 2012 spring semester to develop an interpretive plan for the 500 acre site.

The objectives are to: 1) articulate the appropriate interpretive themes; 2) outline stories that can be told under those themes; 3) develop interpretive products for telling those stories to the public, and suggest interpretive tools for the Menokin Foundation to pursue in the future.

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