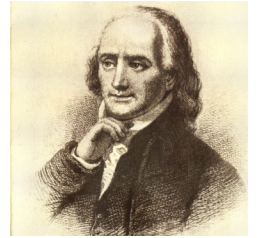


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Menokin Celebrates Francis Lightfoot Lee's 271st Birthday and Virginia Archeology Month on October 14th

Warsaw- The Menokin Foundation will hold an open house on Friday, October 14, 2005 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in celebration of Francis Lightfoot Lee's birthday and Virginia Archeology Month. Menokin is located at 4037 Menokin Road, approximately 4 miles northwest of Warsaw.

The open house will feature a team of building conservators and archeologists from the John Greenwalt Lee Company who will be working on the Menokin ruins, October 10th to 21st. Guests will learn what this team of experts has discovered and their methods for stabilizing the ruins. The John Greenwalt Lee Company is an Annapolis-based building conservation firm. Team members have worked on historic buildings along the East Coast, including the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis and Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.

Visitors can also walk the trails that lead from the Menokin ruins to Cat Point Creek. Cat Point Creek is a focal point of the Menokin property and played an integral role in the habitation of Native Americans and early colonists. During Francis Lightfoot Lee's lifetime, a trade landing existed on the Creek within site of the manor house. Terraced gardens, which can still be seen today, led from Menokin to Cat Point Creek. These features are of particular note for this year's Archeology Month theme, Archeology on the Edge: Environmental Archeology in Virginia.

The Menokin Foundation's partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also be featured at the open house. They will provide information on the many species of wildlife that inhabit the property. Over half of the Menokin property, by deed of easement, is now part of the Rappahannock River Wildlife Refuge.

Guests will be able to view the reassembled 18th century "best chimney piece" from Menokin now on display in the King Conservation and Visitors Center. A new storage barn, next to the Conservation and Visitors Center, is currently being constructed to house the original Menokin woodwork and the architectural elements extracted from the ruins.

Menokin, a National Historic Landmark, was the home of patriot Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his wife Rebecca Tayloe Lee. The Menokin Foundation currently owns and manages the property, and acquired the house and 500 surrounding acres by gift in 1995. The property is open for tours Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and on weekends by appointment.