Over the years, the Menokin Foundation has conducted extensive research on the techniques and materials used to build this treasure. We have never faltered from our original vision that the house has more to teach us as a collapsed building than as a traditionally restored historic house museum.

Just as all fine craftsmen leave clues about their involvement with a creation, so the builders of Menokin left theirs. Newly completed research by cultural landscape team partners, Allan Brown and Reed Hilderbrand, has brought us closer to knowing who these people were that built Menokin. Brown’s research strengthens our case that William Buckland was involved in the design and construction of Menokin. He was joined by two other Williams — William Wright, the chief brick mason, and William Waite, stone mason.

Interestingly, Brown found a reference to William Waite in a 1774 journal entry by George Washington. Washington dined with a “Mr. Wm. Waite” at Mount Vernon, on the same day that he made his first payment for an order of more than 700 feet of stone. Waite, as well as Buckland and Wright, worked throughout Virginia and Maryland and for numerous founding fathers.

In learning more about our “three Williams,” their stories are added to the continuing story we are telling about this house, its landscape and its people.

In reflecting on these craftsmen, and on those who have since dedicated so much valuable support—both financial and intellectual—to the preservation and interpretation of their work, it occurs to me that by doing so, we all become the Builders of Menokin.

With each gift, every volunteer hour, each time you share information about Menokin, you leave your mark on this remarkable project for current and future generations to learn from and appreciate.

Thank you for being a current-day Builder of Menokin. Without you, the Menokin Project cannot be successful. We ask for your continued support and hope you will invite new builders to join us.

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
President
“What some people see when they look at Menokin is a collapsed house, an old ruin, a testament to the perils of ignoring preservation. What the staff and Board at Menokin see, however, is a cutting-edge preservation opportunity.”

So began a December 3, 2014 post by Meghan O’Conner published on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s blog, Preservation Nation. With over 17,000 followers, Preservation Nation brought our story to a wide ranging audience and the post received wide ranging comments on our plans to use structural glass to re-imagine Menokin as it once stood.

I’m glad to see the conversation and passion that the Menokin Glass Project sparked through this blog post. Our project has been a local, grass roots effort here in Virginia’s Northern Neck, but we’ve also had the opportunity to consult with leaders in the preservation community to tackle the challenging questions of: How do we best protect what remains of Menokin? What can be Menokin’s unique contribution to the world? How do we sustain this National Historic Landmark site for the future? In 2015, we enter the final stages of the planning phase of this project and we continue to seek out the views of the community.

Museum planner, Jeanne Vergeront, on her blog Museum Notes recently wrote about the importance of cultivating an experimental mindset within museum teams (http://museumnotes.blogspot.com/).

She writes:

“An experimental mindset is a proclivity to question, rethink options, and make changes. An attitude and outlook, it is a readiness to wonder, question, challenge, test-and-retest, and reinvest lessons learned into new efforts. More than an ability to ask questions and run small studies, it is a typical and frequent response to challenges, obstacles, and opportunities. With questions of “what might happen if...?” and confidence that there are more options than the most obvious course or what was done previously, a disposition to try and test supports evidence-based decision making, challenges perspectives, and delivers new possibilities.”

We—the Menokin Foundation staff, Board, and volunteers—strive to maintain an experimental mindset as we chart the course for Menokin’s future. After all, the anchor of the Menokin story is the Declaration of Independence, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and his compatriots—the ultimate success story on the benefits of having an experimental mindset! As always, I invite you to contact me with your own thoughts about the work of the Menokin Foundation and the future of our National Historic Landmark at: spope@menokin.org.

Sarah Dillard Pope
Executive Director

Executive Director Sarah Pope speaks to the large assembly of friends and donors who attended the Country House, City House exhibit opening event in November.

The Menokin Glass House Project exemplifies the “experimental mindset” called for by Museum Planner, Jeanne Vergeront.

Sarah Dillard Pope
Executive Director
Menokin is buzzing this year — on the trails and in the house!

Find out how we are working to make Menokin and Cat Point Creek more accessible to the Public and what new work is happening with the Glass House Project.

National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program Grant:

As part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program, Menokin was awarded a $99,000 grant from the National Park Service to improve its road to Cat Point Creek, and create a turnaround and handicapped accessible parking at a soft launch to the creek. The grant also provides funding for a new website and on-site signage for Menokin’s trails, which will illustrate Menokin’s important ecosystems and the role Cat Point Creek plays in the Chesapeake Bay’s watershed. This work will take place in the spring, and the road and landing will be ready to use just in time for the warm weather. Make plans to come to Menokin with your canoe or kayak and take a look!

MENOKIN IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL PARKS TRAVELER’S 2015 ESSENTIAL PADDLING GUIDE

Glass House Project and Stabilization of the Menokin Ruin:

Work on the Menokin Ruin has commenced, and will continue throughout 2015. In February, our preservation team arrived on site to assess and adjust the shoring that supports and stabilizes the ruin in its current state. Preservation architects assessed and mapped areas of masonry in need of repair before new construction can start, and drawings and measurements were taken to inform the design of the new construction to come. The team also spent several days scanning Menokin and creating a detailed metric survey of the ruin in its current state. The metric survey will be used by the preservation and new works architects in determining the final design and engineering of the stabilization phase of the Glass House Project.

See more about this work on page 6.
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**SAVE THE HOUSE**

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The Menokin Foundation has established two new, exclusive giving circles that offer creative giving options and special recognition.

Contact the Development Office to learn more about the Builders Circle and the 56 Signers Society.

By pledging your support, you ensure the success of the Glass House Project and the sustenance and growth of Menokin’s programs and community outreach.

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Spring 2015 | 5
Working in less than ideal conditions, these Menokin Project Team members spent four days in February outside in the cold and wind (note the attractive head wear) to add some urgently needed bracing to the remaining walls of Menokin’s office dependency. In addition, the metric survey of the entire structure, required by the architects and engineers on the project, is underway, as well as updating the evaluations on the conditions of the stone and the framing.

### Monday

**Bill Mowatt**  
The Downland Partnership

Bill Mowatt starts the laser scan at the house. Meanwhile, Oak Grove begins planning and implementing the new bracing for the office dependency.

### Tuesday

**Ward Bucher**  
ENCORE Sustainable Design

Ward Bucher takes rough measurements to inform the schematic design base plan. Meanwhile, archaeologists from Data Investigations test raker pit locations around the dependency.

### Wednesday

**Patrick Handler**  
Oak Grove Restoration

While Oak Grove continues office and house shoring, the metric survey of the office dependency begins.

### Thursday

**John Fidler**  
Preservation Technology

John Fidler and Ward Bucher map the masonry repair needs of the office walls to support the winter stabilization work by Oak Grove.
A Tale of Two Plantations
Lecture and Book Signing 3:30-5:00 pm
Location: Rappahannock Community College
Auditorium, Room W122
52 Campus Drive, Warsaw, VA
Reception 5:00-7:00
Location: Mount Airy
Mill Pond Road, Warsaw, VA
Speaker: Richard S. Dunn, author

The culmination of over 30 years of research compares the lives of enslaved peoples on two massive plantations—Mount Airy in Warsaw, Virginia, and Mesopotamia in Jamaica—and tracks the slave populations on the two plantations in minute detail. At Mount Airy, Dunn focuses primarily on those slaves owned by John Tayloe III, and then his son, William Henry Tayloe, from about 1809 up to the Civil War. An accompanying web site to the book presents mini-biographies of 351 members of four big Mount Airy slave families, including 141 people listed in the 1870 U.S. census. Mr. Dunn plans to emphasize that part of his research in the talk to our Northern Neck audience.

MARCH 31
Through Their Eyes: Photography
Lecture
5:30-6:30 pm
Speaker: Hullihen Williams Moore
Location: Octagon House, Washington DC

Professional photographer and Menokin Trustee, Hullihen Williams Moore, will lead a discussion around his photographs of Menokin and those from 1930 by photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston.

MAY 27
Historic Architecture
2:00-4:00 pm | $10 - Registration required
Speaker: Calder Loth

Retired Senior Architectural Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Calder Loth, will speak about the significance of the architecture and history of Menokin and other 18th Century Northern Neck homes.

JUNE 24
Return to the Flame or Retreat from the Heat: The New Wheel Order
2:00-4:00 pm | $10 - Registration required
Speaker: Stephen Glass

The New Wheel Order is a restoration and expansion of the notion of function in ceramic art. It involves the consideration of optical warmth as well as optical worth and regards function beyond mere utility. VMFA Resident Potter Stephen Glass will discuss these ideas and conduct a power point presentation of contemporary ceramic art.

JULY 29
The Grand Tour: “Spring Break” for the 18th-Century Man
2:00 - 4:00 pm | $10 - Registration required
Speaker: Elizabeth Cruickshanks

Take a grand tour through the art and culture of this era and see how the classical past came alive again in 18th-century Britain and France.

AUGUST 26
Face Value: Portraiture in American Art
2:00 - 4:00 pm | $10 - Registration required
Speaker: Margaret Hancock

Portraiture in American art ranges from folk to classical and from realism to impressionism. Delve into these stylistic variances with a visual exploration of painted portraits of Americans by Americans. Explore works in significant portrait collections across America, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Art, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

SEPTEMBER 30
The Photography of Hullie Moore
2:00 - 4:00 pm | $10 - Registration required
Speaker: Hullihen Williams Moore

Hullie will discuss his experiences photographing at Menokin, including how his study with Ansel Adams affects his work here. His presentation will include both prints and projected images.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

OCTOBER 9-10
Carpentry Conservation Workshop in partnership with Colonial Williamsburg.

☆ SPEAKERS ON THE ARTS This program has been organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is supported, in part, by the Paul Mellon Endowment and the Jean Stafford Camp Memorial Fund. Menokin is a community partner of the VMFA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to register for a lecture, please email us at menokin@menokin.org or call us at 804-333-1776.
MEET MENOKIN’S NEW TRUSTEES

Mrs. Lawler is a resident of Westmoreland County on the Northern Neck. She has served on the boards of several local organizations, including the Kinsale Foundation, St. Margaret’s School, The Haven Shelter and Services, and many others. Her work around the Northern Neck has helped to raise the profile of many organizations and grow their fundraising capacity through signature events and community fundraising. Mrs. Lawler lives in Sandy Point with her husband, John.

John H. Guy IV returns to the Menokin Board of Trustees after a brief hiatus. Mr. Guy acts as Deputy Executive Director and Director of Committee Operations of the National Petroleum Council (NPC), and serves on the Board of Trustees of Preservation Virginia, the Advisory Committee to Mount Vernon, the Advisory Board to Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), and as a Board Member of the Historic Alexandria Foundation. We welcome Mr. Guy, and his vast expertise in preservation issues, back to Menokin.

Katherine Dameron lives and works in New York City as a Managing Director for JP Morgan. She is graduate of St. Catherine’s School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Katherine is a member of the National Alumnae Board of St. Catherine’s School, the Board of the Hudson Valley Writers’ Center, and a former board member of Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation in London.