

# Fort Harrison

335 Main Street, Dayton, Virginia ■ [www.fortharrisonva.org](http://www.fortharrisonva.org)

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## Weaving the Story of Our Loom

*A chance visitor 25 years later provides heartwarming details!*

One of the interesting things about hosting events here at the Daniel Harrison House is that you never know who might show up with information about the Harrison family, the past restoration of the house, or even questions about our collection. At the completion of our second Colonial Trades Fair, the ladies who demonstrated on the loom that day handed me a scrap of paper with some contact information from one of our visitors. Following up on that little scrap led us to a wonderful collection of materials about the house where the loom originally was located as well as the three ladies who were weavers on the loom in the past.

The four harness loom in the Fort Harrison collection was donated in 1991 by John W. Wilson of Port Republic. Made mostly of oak and pine, our notes indicated it was from the Sandy Farm in Rockingham County and was constructed in the 1860s or 1870s. We also had two pictures – one of the Sandy Home near Mount Crawford and another of the Loom House where the loom was located. Other than a note that there was a hex sign carved into the main beam and that it was in excellent working order, that is pretty much all we knew.

That is until Ellen Kaylor, our Trades Fair visitor, offered to share what she knew about the loom, her ancestors and the Sandy family. The following is Ms. Kaylor's story about the three ladies who worked the loom.

Ms. Kaylor also shared with us "My Story of the Flax and Thread" written by Margaret Sandy Sayre which explains what happened to the basket of flax thread she purchased at the sale of the Sandy farm.

### The Sandy Family

By Ellen Kaylor

**Ellen Kaylor is a great niece of Lena, Annie and Maggie Sandy.**

**The three sisters grew up in the Spader-Sandy home near Mount Crawford, where the loom was a mainstay in their busy household.**

The Spader-Sandy log home was built in the early 1800s. The Spader land grant is dated 1801.

The three sisters were the last of the Spader-Sandy descendants to live in the home. They had life time rights to live and farm the property. When Lena, the last surviving sister, passed away, the



*Penny Hollabaugh of Luray assists young people willing to try their hands at the four harness loom during the 2017 Trades Fair.*

property was sold to a neighbor. The couple decided not to remodel the house at their age. The house was sold to a person who took it apart log by log, stone by stone. The home was reassembled in Charlottesville where it stands today.

Annie was the oldest of the three unmarried sisters. My mother said she was a good business manager. There is a lease agreement in my possession that attests to the fact. She worked outside and Annie and Lena had milk cows. They sold milk, butter and other items in Harrisonburg. They grew daffodils and sold them in spring.

Maggie, at the age of 21, left to care for a neighboring family. She managed the household of Cora and Jacob Lam and cared for their nine children. She did most of the cooking and sewing. She baked 42 fruit pies plus fancy pies for the family for just one week. In addition, bread, cakes, and cookies were made. She was considered by the Lam children as their second mother. After the last child married, she returned to live with her sisters.

Lena continued to live in the home until her death at 94 on Jan. 21, 1979. The house had electricity, but no running water, bathroom or central heating. Up until a few months before she passed, Lena

**continued on page 2**





Sarah Lena Catherine Sandy



Annie Virginia Sandy



Maggie Alice Sandy

*continued from page 1*

continued to have a garden, carry water from the spring house, and fill the wood box for heating and cooking.

The sisters were active members of St. Jacob's Spaders Lutheran Church. They taught Sunday School, directed Christmas and Easter plays, prepared communion, and were members of the ladies organization.

The three sisters were special to my mother and her six brothers and sisters. They provided small gifts, baked special foods, especially at Christmas, and spent time with them.

As a young girl, I remember them wearing their hair up as shown in the photos as young ladies. I thought they were three elegant, beautiful ladies whose kindness showed in their welcoming smiles.



Sandy home near Mt Crawford



Loom House on Sandy Farm. The four-harness loom at Fort Harrison came from this loom house



AT LEFT: Photos provided by loom donor John W. Wilson, Jr. in 1991. ABOVE (top) The Sandy home in better days, and (lower) the reconstructed house in Charlottesville



# "My Story of the Flax & Thread"

By Margaret Sandy Sayre

*Margaret Sandy Sayre is a niece of Lena, Annie and Maggie Sandy, and the aunt of Ellen Kaylor who happened by Fort Harrison's second annual Trades Fair in June. See story starting on page 1.*



My aunts Annie and Lena Sandy, daughters of Tilliam Raleigh and Mary Spader Sandy, grew flax in their garden. When the flax was ready, they cut it and hung it up in the loom house to cure until it was at the right stage for spinning. One time my Aunt Lena showed me how she spun the flax into thread. At the Sandy home-place sale, I bought the basket that had belonged to my Aunt Maggie. It was full of flax thread. Some of it was in circles, tied at two or three places to keep it from tangling, and some of it was rolled onto walnuts. The walnuts were full of holes where the squirrels had already eaten the kernels. I wanted to get this thread so that each family could have something that their aunts had grown. I crocheted thirteen doilies. I made one for each of my nieces and then one for my daughter Betty and one for each of my granddaughters and myself. I had all thirteen of them framed. I then made a small doily and inserted it into a paperweight for each of my nephews. I kept crocheting small doilies for paperweights until all of the thread was used up. I gave these to other members of the family.

The Sandy home-place was torn down and rebuilt on Brandywine Street in Charlottesville. Some of the family members went to see the home. I took my paperweight and left it at the home-place. When my brother Billy passed away, J. L. Kaylor helped settle the estate. JL gave Billy's paperweight to me.

Kevin Lam gave me a beautiful drawing of a loaf of bread with one slice cut from it sitting on a cutting board with a sheath of flax, some fruit and a little flower, the flower of the flax. Flax has been around for a long time. The Indians used the thread for sewing and fishing tackle.



## *A message from our President*

Dear Members and Friends,

This has been a very busy year at Fort Harrison. Our board members and volunteers have hosted a number of events for the public in order to highlight the many contributions that Captain Daniel Harrison and his family made to this frontier outpost in Western Virginia.

Aside from fund raising events, we sponsored a second successful Colonial Trades Fair in the Spring and also worked closely with the James Madison University Archaeology students in excavating for artifacts on and in the pasture near our property. In addition the house was open for tours on Fridays and Saturdays. Our Director, Pat Early, and longtime board member John H. Sipe, also arranged tours for school groups as well as Harrison and allied family descendants.

We are planning a number of new and interesting events for the coming year and you will be reading about them in future newsletters. The board members and officers want to thank each of you for your support and interest in preserving the Daniel Harrison House. **If you have not yet renewed your membership or are receiving this newsletter as a non-member, we hope you will join us as a "Friend of Fort Harrison". We need your financial support.**

Thank you and best wishes,

Jody Meyerhoeffer,  
President, Fort Harrison, Inc.

## *We couldn't do it without them!*

**A special thanks to our tour volunteers who greet and educate our visitors: Alex Banks, Daryl Batterman, Lee Early, Clive Hallman, Dan Michael, John H. Sipe and Phil Way.**

## *Love History? Then Teach History!*

**Being a tour guide at Fort Harrison is a great way to learn all about the history of this wonderful old house and the history of the Valley during the French and Indian War period.**

**If you are interested in joining our select group of talented guides, we will provide you with plenty of background reading to prepare your tour and lots of experienced advice. Many of our visitors are from other states and even other countries. But you would be surprised how many "locals" show up at our front door!**

**If you love history and would like to teach history, contact Pat Early at [fortharrisonva@gmail.com](mailto:fortharrisonva@gmail.com) for more information.**



# Water, Water Everywhere...

*When the Harrison family arrived in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1730s, one of the most important considerations in choosing a site for their farms was access to a good source of fresh water.*

Even before they claimed land and settled in the Valley, they set up a temporary camp along the Shenandoah River in what is now Page County. The men in the family probably spent some time exploring the area and choosing prime locations for their future land grants. Finding access to a strong spring was surely one of the factors they had in mind as they scouted the area.

According to J. Houston Harrison in *Settlers by The Long Grey Trail*, a well known history of the Harrisons, "Daniel Harrison finally settled on the Head Spring of the western branch of Cook's Creek, now Dayton." Here he built his substantial stone dwelling, which was passed on to his son Benjamin. This land was some five or six miles southwest of his older brother Thomas's holdings, on what was later known as the Warm Springs Turnpike. Cook's Creek would be used as the site for a mill and a distillery, as well as providing water for the Harrison family and their crops and livestock.

John Harrison settled at the "Big Spring" now called Lacey Spring, on what was then known as the Indian Road, later the Valley Pike and presently called Route 11. According to J. Houston Harrison, "his house is said to have stood on the little knoll, overlooking the spring, which rises to the north or west of it, and over which the Valley Pike now runs".

Thomas Harrison, later the founder of Harrisonburg, settled on the Great Wagon Road, about seven miles south of his brother John. This location was the Head Spring of the East Fork of Cook's Creek. His first land patent included this area, now presently part of Court Square in downtown Harrisonburg. The Thomas Harrison House located to the southeast of the spring also has a spring in the cellar. In the 1700s, the house was located along the Long Grey Trail.

Local historian John W. Wayland mentions: "On Thomas Harrison's land at the site of Harrisonburg was a cluster of springs. Two of them, the best ones, were near together. It may be that Harrison built his first log cabin by the larger of these two, that one that still runs out in a strong underground stream from the west corner of Court Square; but when he constructed his substantial stone house he built it over the second spring, which is 40 rods due south

of the one on Court Square. Many old houses were built over springs. Others were connected with a water supply by underground passages."

**Source:** *Historic Harrisonburg, John W. Wayland, page 10.*

In her later recollections of the town of Harrisonburg, Maria Carr mentioned the Harrison House and its water supply:

"The first going N. on the W. side of the street, was a stone house with two rooms on each floor, and a basement. Under the house was a beautiful spring."

**Source:** *Maria Carr recollections in Wayland, Historic Harrisonburg, page 10.*

Jeremiah Harrison's chosen location, called the "Half Way House" by Reverend John Craig, was to the west of the future town of Harrisonburg, near the intersection of the Rawley Springs Turnpike and the road to Mount Clinton, or about half way between Harrisonburg and the Muddy Creek community. In 1759, Jeremiah patented 18 acres of land "at the Great Spring on the Head of the South Branch of Linville's Creek".

Samuel, the fifth and final brother, settled on land at Krotzer's Spring, now Linville. The family soon moved from the area in the aftermath of Braddock's defeat, or as Chalkley indicates "Harrison came first and settled on Linville's Creek. About the time of Braddock's defeat (summer, 1755) Harrison went to Carolina." The family later returned to Augusta County, now the county of Rockingham.

The fact that the Harrison home plantations were always centered near springs, brings up the question "How were springs and water sources protected during times of possible attack by Indians and other raiders?"

Dr. Lawrence J. Fleenor, of Big Stone Gap and historian for the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association, comments on how important the location of a spring could be in choosing a place for a fort or fortification on the frontier:

"It was an invariable requirement that a good reliable spring be located within easy rifle shot from every frontier fortification. This was to insure that an individual going out of the fort for water could be covered by rifle fire from within the fortification. As a practical effect, every frontier fortification in the region was located no more than about 75-100 yards from a good spring."

**Source:** *Lawrence J. Fleenor and Dale Carter, Big Stone Gap Publishing.com, "To Define a Topographic Map – Scott's Station – The Location of the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail", 2001.*

In other situations, access to the water source might be protected by a covered passage of some type. A thorough description of the construction of blockhouses which were scattered throughout Rockbridge County includes this detail concerning their water supply:

"In all instances the walls and door were bullet-proof against the weapons of that age, the windows were too narrow for a man to crawl through, and there were loopholes in the walls... A spring or other water supply was always within easy distance. In some instances the water was reached through a covered way, which was practically a narrow tunnel, high enough for a person to pass through."

**Source:** *"A History Of Rockbridge County" by Oren Morton, pages 66-67.*



Fort Dinwiddie, said to have been located on Jackson's River, five miles west of the Warm Springs (in present day Bath County), was built where Indian attacks could be expected, being only six miles from the eastern foot of the Allegheny Mountains. A description of the fort follows:

"The structure of all these forts seem to have been nearly the same – a stockade made of logs placed closely together endwise in the ground. Within the enclosure thus made, there was a blockhouse. In Fort Dinwiddie there was an underground passageway, covered with logs, from the blockhouse to a spring located within the stockade, sufficiently high to allow a man to walk within and carry water without being fired upon by the Indians."

**Source: *Frontier Forts in Bath County, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume 2, 1893, page 106.***

The passageway mentioned above may have been the one constructed by Peter Hog. In 1756, he described such a structure to George Washington in the following letter excerpt:

"On the whole I believe they are only Spies But that we may expect a Visett soon. I formerly desired yur concurrence to Lineing & Covering the passage to the Water as it would be attended with some Expenche. But you did not give me any Answer as it is absolutely Necessa(ry) in case the Garison is Attacked I have Sett abt it in as frugal & imperfect a way as I can to make it anser the End".

**Source: *Peter Hog (at Fort Dinwiddie) to George Washington, May 14, 1756.***

The people of Allegheny County were also covering access to their water source:

"It was necessary that the water supply be near, and the approach to it was sometimes by a covered way that was virtually a tunnel."

**Source: *A Centennial History of Allegheny County" by Oren F. Morton, 1923, page 32.***

In the early Massanutten area of what is now western Page County, the first settlers to the area, many of German descent, continued a tradition from their background of building vaulted stone cellars that were used for cold storage. Some of these cellars, such as the ones at Fort Egypt and Fort Rhodes originally had access to springs in these underground rooms.

**Source: *Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement, Edward A. Chappell, American Philosophical Society, Volume 124, Feb. 1980, pages 44-45.***

Many fortifications, such as Fort Frederick in Maryland and Fort Loudoun in Winchester, insured a constant water supply by sinking a well within their stockaded area.

Obviously, a dug well was the most secure water source if protected inside a fort or other structure. But if a well was not available, these first settlers to the Valley used their ingenuity and hard labor to guarantee a source of water for the needs of their growing communities.

**Note: More information on the Harrisons and details on their property locations and acreages can be found in: *Settlers by The Long Grey Trail, Harrison and Allied Lines by J. Houston Harrison, 1935.***

HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY



## Celebrate Groundhog Day with Fort Harrison's famous **BRUNSWICK STEW!**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018**

**Reserve your stew NOW and pick up on Feb.2.**

**COST: \$8.00 per quart**

*PLEASE NOTE: It has been rumored that Fort Harrison President Jody Meyerhoeffer battled it out with a HUGE groundhog and that the groundhog has now disappeared! Jody now says we need to sell more stew. Hmmm.....*

**Mail this form to:**

**Fort Harrison, P.O. Box 366, Dayton, VA 22821**

**Orders must be received by January 26, 2018**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

Qty of quarts @ \$8 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost \_\_\_\_\_





Autumn archaeology primarily focused on the current front yard of Daniel Harrison's home, continuing a process started months earlier. The general area shows up in the aerial view of GPR results as one containing "anomalies."

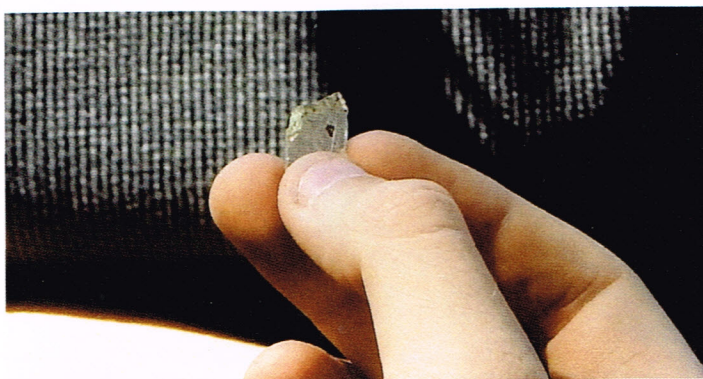
# Archaeology

## AUTUMN UPDATE

By Rachel Bergstresser



ABOVE: Dr. Dennis Blanton (right) works with students excavating the site with the newly found structure. BELOW: A glass fragment found in that location.



This fall, students enrolled in JMU's Historical Archaeology course, once again have completed field work in the pasture area to the front of the Harrison house. The field work was under the direction of Dr. Dennis Blanton and myself, a senior archaeology student at JMU.

I have adopted the intriguing question of structure orientation for my honors project, which grew out of results from previous fieldwork. My project specifically seeks to determine whether the main (front) entrance to the house was relocated from the northerly-facing side to the southerly-facing side, in conjunction with the decision to enlarge the structure with an addition to the north side. If that hypothesis proves to be true, my ultimate goal is to answer why the main entrance to the house was relocated.

This season's investigation was limited to the pasture area since previous findings indicate that what is now the front yard of the Harrison house might be the original rear yard. Excavation consisted of four small square units, placed where artifacts seemed to be most abundant. Every unit excavated this fall produced artifacts and even more exciting were the features we discovered.

The unit furthest southeast yielded our most interesting finds, and supports the notion that the orientation of the stone structure was altered. We found a large quantity of artifacts including ceramic fragments, building materials, and animal bone fragments. Among the interesting artifacts are kaolin clay smoking pipe fragments, a prehistoric projectile point, a straight pin, and a silver button. Most significantly,





*“Fort Harrison continues to captivate archaeology students and the public with its rich history and provoking questions about the changing orientation of the stone structure.”*

within this unit we documented a large stone, a drastic change in soil color, charred wood, and a portion of fire-altered soil – all suggestive of the location of a previous structure. More suggestive still is the fact this occurs immediately adjacent to the possible hearth identified last season.

Analysis of our findings are in progress, to be followed by interpretive reports. I will be continuing to evaluate these findings alongside our previous findings, toward answering my question. Some field work may be done in the following weeks regarding the previously mentioned unit, with the possibility of defining the boundaries of the structure.

Fort Harrison continues to captivate archaeology students and the public with its rich history and provoking questions about the changing orientation of the stone structure. Additional archaeology can ultimately determine the nature of this area and its connection to the past.



Photo by Richard Martin

At Dayton's Autumn Celebration October 7, students were on hand to dig for spectators, providing a great learning experience.

## Autumn Celebration Brings the Crowds

Fort Harrison's grounds were buzzing with activity at the 38th Annual Dayton Autumn Celebration on October 7th. Our visitors enjoyed shopping for handmade crafts and other good buys from our many talented craftspeople, both inside and outside the house.

As always, Cliff Rohrer's Old Fashioned Kettle Korn was a popular treat. Many folks flocked to the Fort Harrison tent to enjoy some of our Famous Brunswick Stew, by the bowl or by the quart. Despite our hardworking cooks try to make enough stew to last until lunch time (maybe an early lunch!), once again we were out of stew by 10:30 AM.

In addition to lots of shopping opportunities, our Archaeology students from JMU were excavating in the pasture next to our fence. This Public Archaeology Day, under the direction of Dr. Dennis Blanton, was a wonderful chance for our visitors to learn about the field of archaeology and to answer questions about JMU's ongoing study of Daniel Harrison and his family.

Artifacts continue to appear in this area of the pasture, just to the south of the original limestone part of the house. JMU's excavation continues to reveal a very likely possibility that what we consider the front door of the house, which faces toward downtown Dayton, was in actuality Daniel Harrison's back door. There is also revealing evidence of at least one building close to our fence line, which could be a small cabin or other outbuilding which was part of the original Harrison settlement.





Triad Engineering moves the GPR equipment in straight lines on the property, monitoring "anomalies" under the surface, while Dan Michael (right) of Valley Engineering monitors the direction. The spring that provided water to Fort Harrison is at the extreme left, surrounded by green fencing. Left to right in the background, Lee Early, Cliff Rohrer and John Sipe are on hand for the learning experience.



On June 13th Triad Engineering, an engineering firm located in Winchester, came to Fort Harrison to examine the grounds using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). The area examined included our property inside the fence, as well as the Koogler property which surrounds it.

Ground Penetrating Radar is a geophysical technology that uses radar pulses to image the subsurface. Without disturbing the soil, GPR uses electromagnetic radiation in the microwave band (UHF/VHF) to detect reflected signals from features underground. This technology is used in applications including archaeology, construction of buildings and highways and even historic battlefield surveys.

The GPR found some "anomalies" in the pasture south of the house, in the "back (south) yard" near the large tree and in the pasture coming uphill from the spring towards the cornfield.



In addition to the GPR work, a drone was flown over the entire area. We now have a bird's eye view of the house, our fenced in yard, and the grounds surrounding the house.

A drone (above) is readied for its flight over the GPR area. Below is part of the drone's aerial view showing concentrations of some anomalies that were identified. Anomalies may be evidence of foundations of old structures, pit privies, and other widely ranging possibilities.

The Board of Directors sends a special thank you to Dan Michael of Valley Engineering in Mt. Crawford for arranging this technology to be used for the first time at our historic site. Hopefully, modern technology like GPR can assist us as we continue to learn more about the Harrisons and their contribution to the early settlement of the Shenandoah Valley.



The drone flight also yielded an incidental aerial view of Fort Harrison.





## Young Girl's Sampler: a journey back in time

*Margaret sighed as she bent over her handiwork in front of a sunny window. These S's and T's and U's just won't come out right!! This was her very first try at creating her own sampler and she wanted it to be perfect. Her mother had spent many hours teaching her the skills she needed to be a good needlewoman. Now she must practice her skills and perfect them...but it was such a beautiful day – couldn't this chore wait for another time? Those large letters – T, U, V and W would surely become easier on another day... her friends were waiting outside. They were going for a walk around Court Square before dinner. So Margaret laid aside her embroidery and ran out to join them....*

Of course, we really have no idea what Margaret Harrison was thinking as she labored over her embroidery work. But it is easy to imagine that she struggled with some of the letters like u,v,w and x and decided to tear out the stitching and start over again...with thread that was just a little bit darker color. Could she have become frustrated with the task, set it aside and never come back to finish the larger letters at the end of the alphabet? Or did she remove the threads from her first try and never finish her work?

No matter the true history of our new early 19th-century sampler, created by Margaret Frances Harrison when she was about 10 years old, it is truly a masterpiece which we are proud to display here at the Daniel Harrison House. The sampler, dated around 1830, is another wonderful gift from Mrs. Margaret Harrison Sheehy of California, a descendant of Dr. Peachy Harrison, Margaret's father.

Samplers were sewn by school age girls to practice their needlework skills. Sampler designs were also a way to display their embroidery

talent to other people – maybe even to a prospective husband. The ability to use a needle was a necessity in the 18th and into the 19th Century. Women's hands were always busy – whether at the spinning wheel making flax thread, at the loom weaving rag rugs, or piecing together a beautiful quilt to display on a bed in her household.

Thanks to our two Margarets we have another wonderful artifact on display to educate our visitors as we continue to learn more about the Harrison family.

### *About the sampler's design*

Margaret chose to use a design known as the "Yellow House" sampler, which typically featured a centered yellow house, fence, a vine border and sawtooth band. These samplers, stitched generally between 1824 and 1845, are associated with the New Market Female Seminary. The Female Seminary was located at the corner of Congress and Water Streets in New Market, Virginia and was built circa 1780 to 1800.

The Harrison family certainly had ties to the Female Seminary in New Market. Dr. Peachy Rush Harrison (Margaret's brother), died in 1852. His wife, Mary Frances Rhodes Harrison, and their two daughters later lived at the Seminary, where Mary Frances died in 1899. She is buried in the "Lower Lutheran" Churchyard at New Market.

*Sources: In the Neatest Manner; The Making of the Virginia Sampler Tradition by K. Ivey, Settlers by the Long Grey Trail, page 397 and Virginia WPA Historical Inventory Project, 1937.*

1749  
Society of Fort Harrison

### MEMBERS

Alex & Pat Banks	Catherine Hildreth
Chester & Nancy Bradfield	Helen Craig Lynch
Dan & Nancy Brubaker	Joseph G. Myers*
John & Jackie Buchanan	Betty B. Rice
Betty Campbell	Jane W. Ritchie
Eleanor Canter	Joan Harvey Sipe*
Earl & Janet Downs	Ilene Smith
Jeff & Beverley Evans	Diane Stilwell
Diane Guzzi	William* & Bonnie Lou Wampler
Clive Hallman, Jr.	
Phyllis Weaver Hearn*	Charles & Judy Warren

*\*deceased*

### **"1749" Pledged Members**

Terri Denton  
Bill & Andrea Miracle

*The Board of Directors established the Society to honor those who have contributed \$1,749 to Fort Harrison. "1749" is the year Daniel Harrison built his home on Cook's Creek. You may become a member by making a lump sum payment or in smaller amounts over a 5-year period. Donations go into an endowment fund that secures the future of the house.*



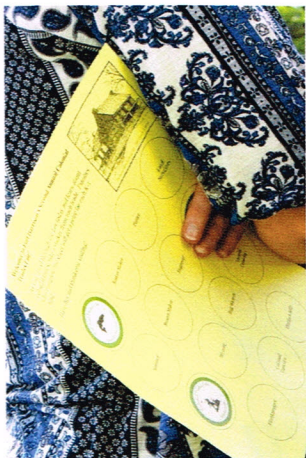


*Colonial Trades Fair!*  
*Enjoy these memories of 2017!*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*for the third annual fair*  
**JUNE 23, 2018**







Ray Pine



Tim Duff



Sallie Meffert



Mark Thomas



Vicki Mongold

## ADVISORY BOARD created for

# Historic Programming

Over the years, Fort Harrison has developed contacts with many people in the community who have volunteered their time and talents for events in the past and we hope for years to come.

We have decided to put these talents to better use by organizing an Advisory Board for Historic Programming and Education. Members of the Advisory Board will be suggesting ways in which we can promote Fort Harrison, while also using our site as a place for skilled colonial era artisans to work, demonstrate, and educate people about their trades.

We know this will be a new step forward for the Daniel Harrison House, as we plan new educational events, workshops, lectures and other programming for our visitors and for the community.

Our new Advisory Board members are:

**Tim Duff:** Tim Duff and his wife Terry are the owners of Fair Lawn Farm, located near Monterey. Tim and Terry specialize in making delicious maple syrup, apple butter and smoked trout and cheese and enjoy teaching others these skills of the past.

**Sallie Meffert:** Sallie is a long-time member of the Fort Harrison Board of Directors and demonstrates hearth cooking during our Colonial Trades Fair. She and her husband Mike live near Bridgewater.

**Vicki Mongold:** Vicki has come back to Fort Harrison in the last few years to help organize the spinning and weaving demonstrations for the Trades Fair. Years ago, Vicki had connections to Fort Harrison when her daughter volunteered as a docent doing tours of the house.

**David Ray Pine:** Ray specializes in creating custom 18th-century reproduction furniture. Living nearby in Mount Crawford, Ray represents his trade as a cabinetmaker at our Trades Fair.

**Mark Thomas:** Mark's 18th-century trades include engraver, horner, metalsmith and gunstocker. He is also famous at Fort Harrison for gathering a crowd whenever he demonstrates the firing of his flintlock rifle.







*Fort Harrison, Inc.*

[www.fortharrisonva.org](http://www.fortharrisonva.org)

P.O. Box 366

Dayton, VA 22821

# Keep up the *MOMENTUM!*

## *Include Fort Harrison with your year-end donations!*

Mail your check today to Fort Harrison, P.O. Box 366, Dayton, VA 22821

As you consider charitable donations at this time of year, please consider adding Fort Harrison to your list. As this wonderful old house ages, it continues to need more maintenance to preserve the structure. The necessity of protecting the house and its furnishings continues. ***The need to educate people, especially students, about the history of the Shenandoah Valley and the founding of our nation has never been greater!***

As the end of 2017 approaches, here at the Daniel Harrison House we are thinking about all the events we have had this year and also planning activities for the future.

**Our second annual Colonial Trades Fair** attracted many more visitors and more tradespeople demonstrating their colonial trades. We continued to work closely with **Dr. Dennis Blanton and his JMU archaeology students** as they discovered even more interesting artifacts that educate us about the early Harrison years. **Surprise donations from Mrs. Margaret Harrison Sheehy**, including the sampler featured in this newsletter, led us to fascinating details about the family. **The Dayton Autumn Celebration** brought thousands of visitors to Dayton, and many purchased goods from our talented craftspeople. **Fort Harrison's Famous Brunswick Stew** was enjoyed by many – no matter how many gallons our wonderful cooks make, it is never enough! Volunteers assisted us with **our fundraising teas** this Fall and last Spring. Fort Harrison and the surrounding property was surveyed using **Ground Penetrating Radar**. We have a **new historic programming Advisory Board** which will help us plan for the future of the house and our goal of educating our visitors, both young and old.

**Plans for 2018** include a new exhibit about Dr. Peachy Harrison and his wife Mary Stuart Harrison. We plan to include medical instruments of the sort Dr. Harrison would have used in his medical practice as well as feature the needlework skills of his wife and daughter.

On Dayton Red Bud Day ( April 14th) we plan to have Dr. Peachy Harrison here to greet our visitors and teach about medicine in his era. On Ground Hog Day we will be selling Brunswick Stew as a new winter fundraiser.

***Your donation will make the difference as we keep the momentum going in 2018!***



*Fort Harrison's Board of Directors extends their sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who offered their time, energy and resources to support our many events this past year.*

*We appreciate your efforts as we continue to promote the Daniel Harrison House and the contributions of the Harrison family to our local history and to the settlement of the Shenandoah Valley.*