



Waterford Foundation Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 3

Fall 2002

A Holiday Message from the President of the Waterford Foundation

The Waterford Foundation is moving into its 60th year, an accomplishment notable for both its length and its uniqueness as one of the first — perhaps the first — among local historic preservation organizations. We could not have done it this long, and we cannot effectively continue our numerous activities, without the strong financial and operational support of our members, volunteers and donors.

We are currently completing over \$300,000 worth of restoration, repair and upgrades to the historic buildings which the Foundation has acquired over many years to ensure that they are here to see and serve for another 60 years and a new generation of custodians, scholars, and visitors to Waterford. These funds came almost entirely from private and government grants and generous donations.

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New Trees Take Root in Waterford

A most generous donation of trees by two area residents marks the beginning of a strong effort to replace many of the trees in Waterford that have come down due to age and disease over the years. Dean Linderman funded the purchase of ten sugar maples, *Acer saccharum* 'Crimson,' and oversaw their planting by Chapel Valley nursery. Seven of the 8'+ tall trees were planted in the Bond Street Meadow and three at the Old School. Linda Porter, a grower in Hamilton, supplied the trees. In addition, Ms. Porter herself donated three Ginkgo biloba specimens, which were planted behind the John Wesley Church and also at the Old School. Both species over time will add much to the scenic charm of the village, in addition to providing shade from the summer sun and nesting sites for birds in the spring. Sugar maples also add glorious flame color to the autumn landscape, while the leaves of ginkgos, one of the most ancient of tree species, turn a bright yellow in the fall. Both are long-lived as well as drought and air pollution tolerant.

We extend our warmest thanks to Mr. Linderman and Ms. Porter for their generosity and foresight in making these gifts that will be enjoyed by all, residents and visitors alike, for many years. 🌳



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(President's Message cont'd)

The Foundation also continues its efforts to preserve and protect the village's environs and view-shed from inappropriate development. With the explosive population growth in Loudoun over the past few years, the effort to accomplish these activities through the purchase of neighboring properties and their subsequent resale as lots with easements that limit their use and maximize their suitability to the landscape has become both more difficult and more costly. We rely very strongly on the continued commitment and generosity of our members to help us in this endeavor, and ask that you consider making a special year-end contribution to the Foundation toward this activity. A form for that purpose is included in this issue.

As we begin the New Year, we note that the popular Waterford concert series will enter into its 9th year. It has already established its reputation as a venue for outstanding national classical talent. The date for the first concert has already been set: Sunday, March 23, 2003 at 4 pm. The program will feature the Mid-Atlantic Regional Finalists of the Metropolitan Opera.

In 2003 the very well received George Bentley Lecture Series enters its second year of hosting nationally acclaimed authors. Early in the year, Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of Ike and Mamie Eisenhower, will discuss her illustrious grandparents. And, coming out shortly, is a book that focuses on the African-American heritage and legacy of Waterford. The Foundation takes its education mission very seriously, and we are constantly identifying new opportunities to enrich public understanding of and appreciation for the contributions of those who shaped our past. Next October, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of Waterford's Homes Tour and Crafts Fair, and we have already started planning for what we hope will be a momentous "Diamond Jubilee Fair." Details will be forthcoming in future issues of our newsletter, but we ask you to note the dates of October 3-5, 2003 on your calendar now.

On behalf of The Waterford Foundation and those we serve, I thank you and hope you know how much we value your contribution and your commitment. The Board and staff join me in wishing you a very happy, healthy holiday season.



Cary Gravatt

New Foundation Book Explores Little-Known Civil War Theme

Inspired by the discovery of a dusty ledger in the library of deceased local historian John Divine, the Waterford Foundation's latest publication, ***Crossing the Line***, describes civilian trade and travel between Loudoun County, Virginia, and Maryland during the Civil War. The ledger turned out to be an official wartime record kept by the U.S. Customs agent at Point of Rocks, Md., and led Foundation members Taylor Chamberlin and James Peshek to explore a topic that has been overlooked by local and national historians alike. A CD-ROM containing

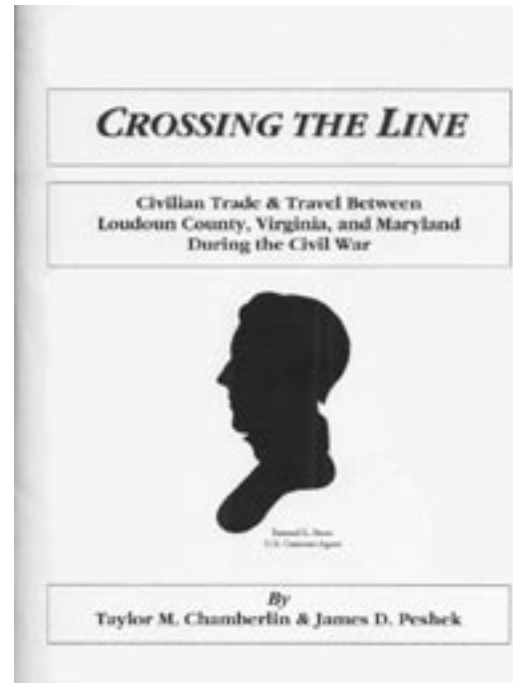
the more than 6,000 entries in the ledger has also been prepared to accompany their book.

At the beginning of the war, many loyal Unionists fled across the border from Loudoun into Maryland to escape conscription by the Confederates. Among these exiles was Waterford Quaker and farmer Samuel L. Steer, who left his family behind to seek safety and employment across the border. At the beginning of 1863, the Treasury Department hired Steer to establish a customs house at Point of Rocks, and he continued to serve at that post until the end of the war. Among his official duties, Steer kept a ledger to record the names of individuals who were permitted to carry food and other supplies back into Virginia, after paying the required customs fees.

When Virginia joined the Confederacy, the Potomac River became an international frontier. Loyal Unionists in north Loudoun County found themselves cut off from family and friends, as well as from traditional markets in Maryland. Harassed by Confederate forces, scorned by their rebel neighbors, and isolated from their usual sources of supply, these people faced increasing hardship as the war dragged on for four long years. *Crossing the Line* details their struggles to reestablish their personal and commercial links to the North. Their successes and failures are set amid the political intrigue, smuggling, profiteering, and bitter personal feuds visited on them by an unwanted war.

Although Federal military and civilian authorities tried with varying degrees of success to keep disloyal citizens from making purchases in the North, there was little reason to extend this prohibition to the sale of forage and grain, which otherwise might have gone to feed the Confederate cavalry. Data uncovered by the authors in the course of research on this book show that a significant number of Secessionist farmers willingly sold their produce for Northern greenbacks, rather than accept payment in devalued Confederate script.

In relying almost exclusively on primary sources and unpublished materials, the authors provide a fresh, although at times unsettling, view of the war. Of special interest is the description of the disruptive role that the Loudoun Rangers and their captain, miller Samuel Means, played in this cross-border commerce. Particularly touching are a number of letters written by local inhabitants to President Abraham Lincoln and other



Federal officials to protest the closure of the border during the first half of 1864.

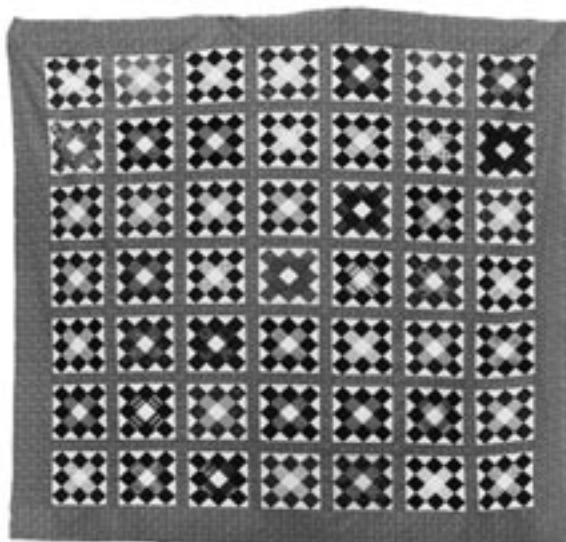
The first fifty pages of *Crossing the Line* describe the events and personalities that shaped cross-border trade and travel as the war unfolded. This is followed by a brief biography of Samuel L. Steer and a description of his customs ledger. The final third of the book provides an alphabetized index of names appearing in the ledger, as well as charts illustrating trade at Point of Rocks, a listing of civilians with special military permits, and a partial list of civilian crossings at Edward's Ferry.

Crossing the Line is being sold at \$10 and is available for purchase at the office of the Waterford Foundation and selected local bookstores. Those doing research on genealogy and local history will also want to use the accompanying CD-ROM, which may be purchased at the Foundation for \$15, or viewed at the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, VA. You may also use the form in this newsletter to order your copy directly from the Foundation; there is a \$5 shipping & handling fee per order for any number of copies sent to the same address. ➡

Second Street School Program benefits from the Generosity of the Waterford Quilters Guild (Again).

Once again, as it has previous years, the Waterford Quilters Guild has made a substantial contribution to the Foundation to support the Living History program of the Second Street School. Kathie Ratcliffe, who chairs the program, stated "this is one of several annual gifts received from the Guild over the years. The funds are used to repair furnishings at the school, including students' desks, and for much-needed maintenance chores. Last year, for example, the award was used to pay for the labor costs of painting the roof of the school, the paint having already been generously donated by Robert Thompson. The Guild's strong support for the school program is deeply appreciated." This year's donation of \$800 by the Guild was raised from the raffle of the quilt shown here at the October Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibits.

Thank you, Guild members, from all who benefit from the Living History program – and we are legion. 🍄



Waterford Fair Fares Well Once More

The weather threatened but didn't materialize, the economy threatened and probably had some effect; the Fair, while not a record one, was solid, happy, and most successful. As it has been for 59 years, it is the volunteers who carried us to our goals.

The Fair Committee particularly wants to thank the residents of the village. Most residents volunteer in some way, but all residents move their cars off the streets to fields for parking, have their houses shipshape, with flowers everywhere, and have a good natured response to noses pressed against the windows of their historic but still private homes. The village stands back, yet joins in enthusiastically, to allow the Foundation to have its days to stage this very necessary fundraiser. The families who open their homes for the House Tour make our Crafts Exhibit unique in terms of educational opportunity and warm hospitality.

We are also most grateful for the support given us every year by the business and professional community. Special thanks should be extended to BB&T, a new bank in our community which replaced F&M Bank. They not only continued the several contributions begun by F&M Bank, but added the loan of another credit card machine, which contributed to increased sales in the exhibit buildings.

Virginia Golf Cars, Inc. in Harrisonburg, VA made many a volunteer happy. The two golf cars they lent us were in

hot demand and enabled us to give a lift to fairgoers in need of assistance.

Our own Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company has been a faithful, generous supporter for years. For the last three years they have allowed the use of their park as a major exhibit area for craftspeople. Their Board deserves many thanks.

And then there are the 400 or so volunteer workers - 150 docents in the tour houses; 102 booklet page donors; nearly fifty hosts to craftspeople; hardworking chairpersons Jackie Gosses, Bruce and Jacki Merrihew, Bob

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(Waterford Fair cont'd)

Schotta, Suzanne and Kevin Chadwick, Paul Rose, and Bern O'Dell; and the chairpersons of the Exhibit buildings - Margaret Good, Karen Freeman, Nancy Nicholson, Terry and John Schappert, Ellen DeCourcy, Wilma Dillon, Janet McLean, Cheryl Risher, and Billie and Bruce Wynkoop. Kudos to the unflappable grace under pressure ticket sellers led by Hans Hommels and John DeCourcy. Ellen Banker, Kevin Chadwick and Caroline Brock made all our promotional and teaching graphics handsome and memorable. Our success depends on our reputation as a carefully juried premier craft show. Jan Kitselman spent hours and days with her committee, selecting and working with the 160 first-rate craftspeople. June Campbell and her Review Committee are critical to the quality of the Crafts Exhibit as well as the Fair as a whole. The craftspeople and the consignment exhibitors, some of whom are also volunteers, surely lend stature and promote our teaching mandate.

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time and/or otherwise supported the event. It was a fine Fair! — Fran Holmbraker, Chairperson

Highlights of 2002: A Year of Change

This past year has been a year of not inconsiderable successes and accomplishments for the Foundation. Most notable, perhaps, was the awarding of a \$1,000,000 Federal grant for the protection and preservation of Waterford and its environs. Additional grants this year included: \$1,000 from Verizon toward education at the Fair, and the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board transferred \$234,000 remaining after the completion of the study in the Bury the Wires and Tame the Traffic TEA-21 grant, to the Foundation's Scenic Preservation Fund.

Other milestones include the completion of the extensive exterior renovation of the John Wesley Church; the exterior restoration of the Hough Chair Factory; and the exterior refurbishment of the Tin Shop.

The Heart of Waterford, a video on the Mill, debuted on April 20th at a special celebration, as did a photographic exhibit on Waterford's Past and Present.

The legacy of African Americans in Waterford was honored in a special self-guided walking tour entitled, Share with Us, Waterford Virginia's African-American Heritage.

A new book, Crossing the Line, was published in November. (See page 2.)

Big Stone Gap author, Adriana Trigiani, made Sunday, November 10th, a most memorable George Bentley Memorial Lecture. From the moment she strode

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Order & Donation Form Waterford Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 142, Waterford, VA 20197

Please send me copy/copies of Crossing the Line @ \$10 each \$ _____

Please send me copy/copies of the Companion CD-ROM @ \$15 each \$ _____

Amount of my order is \$ _____ + Shipping (\$5 per address) = Total: \$ _____

My check is enclosed. Please charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard

Credit card no.: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____ Name (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

In addition to/In lieu of making a purchase, I am enclosing a year-end donation of \$ _____ to the WFI

(Highlights of 2002 cont'd)

into the packed Old School Auditorium brimming with stories about her beloved Southwest Virginia mountain town til she finished signing the last book for eager fans several hours later — Adriana was a delight. This popular lecture series is made possible by a grant from the Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association.

An Invitation to Local History Buffs

John Souders and Kimberly Jack hope to revive the Waterford Lyceum as an informal history discussion group. If you're interested in joining such a group, and/or have sugges-

tions about its focus or direction, please contact Kimberly by phone: (540) 882-3132; or via email at: hatmender@starpower.net.

Walking Tour Docents Needed

Kimberly Jack is looking for volunteers to lead visitors to Waterford on walking tours of the village. No prior experience in required, just an interest in learning more about Waterford's legacy through its historical houses.

A meeting of those interested in becoming docents will be held at the Corner Store on February 9th at 2pm. Please contact Kimberly in advance by email: hatmender@starpower.net, or by phone: (540) 882-3132.

Upcoming 2003 Events

Sunday Concert Series, Old Schoolhouse at 4pm

- March 23, Metropolitan Opera, Mid-Atlantic Regional Finalists
- April 27, Baroque Music Works
- Oct 26, Carmina
- Nov 16, MarcOlivia

All are preceded by a free walking tour of the village at 2pm.

Waterford Foundation Annual Members' Meeting

- April 15, 7pm, Old Schoolhouse



Waterford Foundation
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Did You Know?

The Waterford Foundation participates in the Amazon.com Associates program, the leading selling program on the Internet, with over 500,000 members. Every time you access Amazon.com by going first to the Foundation's web site, www.WaterfordVa.org, and clicking on the Amazon link, any purchases you make will earn money for the Foundation. Try it!

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