



The Rosewell Newsletter

“Preserving these Ruins is Essential ...”



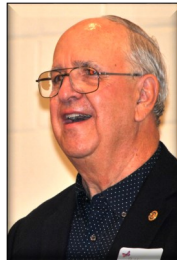
Del. Keith Hodges

98th District Delegate Keith Hodges made his position clear about the Rosewell Ruins. He was in attendance at The Rosewell Scholar Lecture Series

held earlier this year, and noted in his remarks that “as we walk through the Rosewell Ruins, it is impossible not to feel rooted in the storied history of this nation. For every one of us, history has played a role in who we are today, and preserving that history is critical.” Delegate Hodges further pointed out “Rosewell has helped to shape who we are right here at home, and we must preserve this piece of history. We can tell our kids stories, we can teach them in the classroom, but there is nothing like having history in your hands where you can touch it, feel it, and close your eyes and imagine what it was like to live in a different time and place. Preserving these ruins is essential because you cannot teach this in a

classroom.

The Gloucester Historical Society (GHS) also presented a check for \$2500 to The Rosewell Foundation at the event, to help with the preservation and stabilization efforts at the Ruins. GHS Vice President Bill Weaver pointed out that that the organization is fully committed to ensuring that future generations can learn from and enjoy Rosewell.



Bill Weaver

He concluded his remarks by reaffirming the Gloucester Historical Society’s focus on joining with Rosewell in the preservation, education, and stabilization of the Ruins. GHS and The Rosewell Foundation collaborate as partners in the care of the ruins.



Rosewell Page III accepted the contribution from GHS on behalf of The Rosewell Foundation. The Board has launched a 3 million by 300 Capital Campaign to benefit preservation efforts.

Rosewell’s Biggest Fundraiser gets Bigger!

**The Annual All You Can Eat
BBQ, Oyster Roast, and
Craft Beer Tasting Festival
Sunday October 15, 2017
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Tickets available now!

Get yours before they are sold out!

**See Rosewell’s Biggest
BBQ Ever! ... Page 6**

Clayton James takes the Rosewell Helm

Noted financial consultant and investment advisor Clayton James CFM, is now at the helm of The Rosewell Foundation. He was elected president at the board’s annual meeting held in May. Other officers elected are: 1st Vice President – Dr. David Muron; Secretary – Letitia Grant; and Treasurer – Edward Marks.

James’ wealth of experience includes: treasurer of The Rosewell Foundation for the past six years; ownership of The James Brothers Oyster Company; and he is currently the managing director of Jamestowne Investments LLC located in Williamsburg VA. His other community involvements include the Rotary Club of Gloucester Point (VA) and a number of other civic organizations.

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**2017 - 2018
ROSEWELL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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CHAIR, STATE PARKS
AND FACILITIES COMMITTEES

Rosewell and Virginia Park Service Partner for Creative Education

How do artifacts relate to each other? Which civilization was here first? How do oysters play an important role in the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem? Some creative hands-on activities helped young people find the answer to these and many more



Ranger Katie Shepard of the VA State Parks was on hand to talk about slimy things.



The "Slimy Things" program included snakes and toads.



Participants learned how to make their own slime.

questions, with the help of the State Park Service and Rosewell. A joint funding project with the Garden Club of Gloucester and The Garden Club of Virginia provided the funds that enabled Rosewell and the Virginia Park Service to partner in providing special educational programming this past summer. The programs took place at the future site of Middle Peninsula State Park on the York River and also at Rosewell.

The State Park "Middle Peninsula Project" won a grant of \$1,765 from the Garden Club of Virginia in a statewide competition; The Garden Club of Gloucester made an additional grant of \$1,000 to the program which made the program possible. "We were delighted to help make this educational program possible for our local children," said Shannah Cooper, President of The Garden Club of Gloucester. The grants were part of an initiative by The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) to mark its Centennial in 2020 by partnering with Virginia State Parks, and its member garden clubs, to support conservation and education in Virginia. The grant program, totaling \$500,000 over four years, will support projects at state parks across the Commonwealth.

The Middle Peninsula Project provided a series of programs led by State Park staff. The programs included hands-on activities conducted at Rosewell, and hikes to the nearby park property. The three programs: *Slimy Science*; *Aww Shucks, Oysters!*; and *Archeology in a Box*, creatively challenged young people to learn more about their environment. For example, in *Aww Shucks, Oysters!* participants got an up-close and personal look at the Eastern oyster and the critters that call an oyster reef home. The program offered great discussions of communities, oyster life cycles, water quality, and human impacts on the bay. The *Archeology in a Box* program let participants become archeologists with a simulated dig in a shoe box that helped them put archeological records into context.

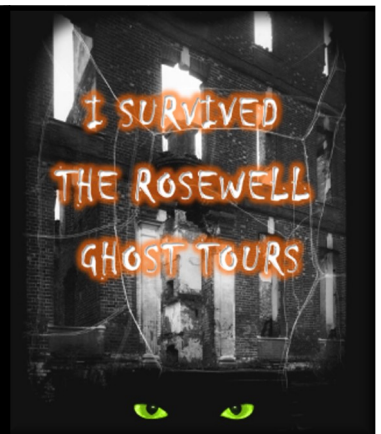
Rosewell and the State Park will be partnering in conducting creative programs throughout the Fall season. Schools can request this programming by contacting Katie Shepard, Chief Ranger Visitor Experience, 804-462-5030, Email: Kathrineshepard@dcr.virginia.gov.

The Rosewell Ghost Tours

Fri. October 20th, Sat. October 21st
Fri. October 27th, Sat. October 28th

Tours at 7:00 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:00 pm
Tickets are \$10. Advance sales only.
Get tickets online at www.eventbrite.com or

Call Rosewell (804) 693-2585
to make your reservation.



Rosewell Adds Four Members to the Board of Directors



CHRIS DOYEL

Chris Doyel, owner of Doyel Communications Inc., Hilton Snowdon, Tourism Coordinator for the Gloucester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, and realtor Mac Houtz of Drucker

and Falk Real Estate have been elected as new directors, and former president Sandy Pait has been re-elected to The Rosewell Foundation Board of Directors.

The election was held during the annual meeting held in May 2017. The board also recognized outgoing President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Henry for his leadership during the past year.



HILTON SNOWDON

Henry resigned in April for personal reasons. The corporate board resolution presented to him emphasized his many accomplishments at Rosewell, noting that because of Henry, the Foundation is positioned for continued success in both short-term and long-range strategies and goals.



SANDY PAIT

In other board action, Katrina White Brown was named as Executive Director of The Rosewell Foundation, and Mac Eborn was confirmed as Visitors Center Manager. Brown previously held the positions of Operations Officer and Visitors



MAC HOUTZ

Center Manager; Eborn joins the staff after a two-year stint as a Rosewell docent.

From the President's Pen

By Clayton James



As the new President of The Rosewell Foundation, I am not only responsible for leading the board, but also for directing the on-going efforts aimed at the continued preservation and stabilization of the ruins. To this end, I've introduced the \$3 MM by 300 Campaign as a fundraising effort to raise three million dollars by the 300th anniversary of Rosewell in 2025.

With no uncertainty, the Rosewell Plantation Ruins stand today as one of America's most important historical landmarks. This great mansion and the community of people who lived and worked there were not idle by-standers in American history. American history was forged at Rosewell.

It has been 100 years since the great mansion was ravaged by fire. The past century has not been kind to this historic treasure. The negative impact of erosion, invasive plant growth, and time are easy to see when visiting Rosewell, and I believe it is the responsibility of this generation to protect the impressive structure that remains. It is our obligation to ensure Rosewell's stories and lessons can be passed on to many future generations, because we all know that without historic monuments like Rosewell, the world will lose its informed perspective on the difficult lessons learned over the past 300 years.

In 2025 Rosewell will celebrate its 300th anniversary. The 3 Million by 300 capital fundraising campaign is designed to celebrate this milestone. The Rosewell Board of Directors has established an aggressive preservation and stabilization campaign, which includes completion of an extensive stabilization plan, along with an architectural blueprint that strategically details how to stabilize and protect the Ruins. All that is needed now are the funds to implement and complete the blueprint.

I ask you to give great consideration to supporting the stabilization of the Ruins and the expansion of interpretive opportunities at Rosewell. This is a story that touches every part of our community, and the 3 Million by 300 initiative is one that gives the community a prime opportunity to invest in this amazing Gloucester County resource. No one can do everything - not the Board of Directors, or the individual contributors - but everyone can do something. Together, we can make a difference and ensure this great home is protected for the next 300 years.



The Rosewell Foundation hosted the Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours event in May. Clayton James addressed over 100 local business representatives and encouraged them in becoming Community Partners with Rosewell.

We Need *You* to Help Keep History Alive at Rosewell!



Riverview Garden
(Early Rosewell)

With your help, the magnificent English Gardens that graced Rosewell in the 18th century will be reconstructed in the next few years. This is a key part of the long-range strategic plan for Rosewell's future growth. (Illustration from *Rosewell Garland of Virginia* by Claude O. Lanciano)

This letter will not beat around the bush. We need your help to keep history alive at Rosewell. Since 1995 your contributions have made it possible to initiate stabilizations efforts at the ruins, build the Visitor and Exhibit Center, illuminate the history of the builders and owners of Rosewell, engage hundreds of students and community groups in the overwhelming richness of Virginia history, and conduct on-going research and archeology into Rosewell's contribution into the development of our nation.

We need to do more!

Rosewell is working on a 10-year strategic plan that, when completed, will help ensure our presence for future generations. Restoring the English Garden, construction of virtual and interactive learning labs, expanding exhibits to include more of Rosewell's 19th and 20th century history, re-creating the family tombs, reconstructing a slave cabin, exhibiting the substantial circular icehouse located near the spring that gave Rosewell its name - these type of projects and more can become a Rosewell reality - but not without your help.

We need 3 million dollars over the next 10 years to fully realize our strategic goals.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find examples of

how your contributions are being used. We expect to do much more in the next year, but we need your financial contributions to accomplish this. Here are some ways you can help keep history alive at Rosewell:

- **Sponsor interpretive signage.** We are working to enhance new signage with audio capability. You'll be able to hear and see the amazing impact that Rosewell has made on the Virginia landscape.
- **Sponsor the living history classroom.** The classroom will be equipped with computers to create 3D modeling experiences and for re-building a "virtual Rosewell."
- **Become an on-going Preservation Campaign contributor.** Your commitment to our 3 million by 300 will help us achieve our preservation and stabilization goals.
- **Become a Friend of Rosewell.**
- **Volunteer your skills.** We need docents, administrative assistance, and maintenance and landscaping help at the Ruins.
- **Sponsor a fundraiser.** Help us raise needed funds.
- **Become a community business partner.** Business partnerships with Rosewell are win-win for the community. Have your next event at the ruins, or schedule your next employee or volunteer event here.

We need you to help in whatever way you can to keep history alive at Rosewell. Contact us today! E-Mail: foundation@rosewell.org

Phone: 804-693-2585

Mail: P.O. Box 1456

Gloucester, VA 23061



Reconstructing a slave cabin at Rosewell is included in Rosewell's strategic plan. Few details are available about how the enslaved community lived at Rosewell, but by using primary documents from similar plantations, we can develop artifacts and reproductions to provide insights on 18th century slavery at Rosewell.

History ...

Why it Matters

By Katrina White Brown

Let My People Go

“Let my people go” was the mandate Moses gave the Egyptian Pharaoh around 1300 BC. History records that the Israelites had been in captivity for generations. The Torah, the scriptural legacy and law of the Jewish people, reflects that Moses was empowered by God to free the captives from the bondage exacted by injustice, oppression, abuse, and ignorance. Let my people go sounded the call for freedom.

In its truest sense, museums have the same responsibility as was given to Moses. We must facilitate the emancipation of those who are history hostages, trapped and bound by half-truths, omissions, and exclusions of facts; by misrepresentations of events; and by limited access to balanced and/or inclusive narratives.

There are responsibilities given to those who emancipate however, and before museums endeavor to free the historical mind, body, and soul of its audience, they must be willing to be held accountable for the resulting impacts when freedom comes.

Museum treasures can shed light on some of the darkest parts of our historical existence. Shedding that light is a good thing, but not always an easy or welcome thing to happen. Many choose to live in the darkness of misinformation and lies, because the light of the truth is uncomfortable, or downright painful. On the other hand, too much

light can be blinding and overwhelming to the senses, and again, downright painful. This reality requires museums to go further in their efforts to “let my people go.” They must be mindful of where the emancipated journey can lead.

Museums must be places that: generate thoughts and ideas; encourage the difficult dialogs; engage the open conversations; develop the discussion forums; and create the environment that facilitates how we can all learn to do better. They must help us engage with life: with classic and abstract art, and music that soothes the soul and raises the revolution; with the observation of the harmonies of nature and its disruptive evolution; and with diverse paths of reasoning, whether rhetorical, real, or irrational. Museums are obligated to give us the freedom to learn, to challenge, and to participate.

Creativity, destruction, pride, passion, productivity, historical triumphs, epic failures, and unlimited imaginations - these are all threads which have been woven into our life's tapestries. Museums must display all of it, and let us freely interact with the picture it forms.

Museums provide their audiences with the freedom to follow the threads of life and emancipates us to create bigger and better pictures. As such, museums truly emulate Moses' mandate to Pharaoh. They let us go to the “Promise lands” of knowledge and information.

Short Lane Ice Cream makes supporting Rosewell Sweet!

It doesn't take much persuasion to head to Short Lane Ice Cream. You can find almost any flavor to satisfy your sweet tooth at Short Lane Ice Cream, and its all wonderful. And during the month of September, there's even more of a reason to go to Short Lane. Your purchases help Rosewell.

Short Lane has created the Rosewell Chimney Stack Sundae—a decadent and luscious ice cream sundae made with pound cake, butter **brickle** ice cream, walnuts, hot fudge, whipped cream, and topped with a cherry. Short Lane donates \$1 to Rosewell from every Chimney Stack Sundae sold.



Rosewell Chimney Stack Sundae

Sweets with Purpose
September 2017



\$1 from every purchase goes to Rosewell.

Short Lane is one of Rosewell's newest community partners. These partnerships help provide greater awareness of and exposure to, the Rosewell Plantation Ruins, which is one of Gloucester County's most amazing historical treasures. Also, these partnerships help develop and build local businesses. This enhances the overall quality of life in Gloucester County. For more information on becoming a Rosewell Community Partner, call the Foundation 804-693-2595, or e-mail Rosewell: foundation@rosewell.org.

Get your tasty treats at **Short Lane Ice Cream**, located 6721 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Gloucester VA 23061.

Rosewell's Biggest BBQ Ever!



Sunday October 15, 2017

**26th Annual Rosewell BBQ,
Oyster Roast, and Craft Beer Festival**

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tickets - \$40 for Adults; \$45 day of event
\$35 for Friends of Rosewell members;
\$20 for ages 6 - 20 (no alcohol);
under 6 - free.

*Includes: all-you-can-eat food, five craft beer
tasting tickets and a souvenir glass (adults only),
music by The Chisman Creek Band, guided tours of the
Ruins, Civil War re-enactors, archeological digs conducted
by The Fairfield Foundation, and much, much, more.*

Tickets available at:

*The Rosewell Visitors Center
The UPS Store (near Walmart)
Hayes Therapeutic Muscle Center
Gloucester County Visitors Center*

on line at www.rosewell.org, and www.eventbrite.com

MUSIC BY
THE CHISMAN
CREEK BAND
FOOD BY
SCOOT'S BBQ
AND
THE JAMES BROTHERS
OYSTER COMPANY



ENJOY TASTING CRAFT BEERS!



CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT

Rosewell program takes guests *Beyond the Bricks*

Beyond the Bricks is giving guests an up-close and personal look at the Rosewell Plantation through the eyes of those who lived and worked there. "It's an experience that takes you into the heart and soul of the home once known as the best house in Virginia," explains Foundation Executive Director Katrina White Brown. "Historic houses are much more than just bricks and mortar and nails and wood. Rosewell had a heartbeat and a pulse generated by those who built it, lived there, maintained it, and died there," Brown said. *Beyond the Bricks* helps guests walk in the steps of those who created and built this nation, she noted. "When you actually experience the history, instead of just hearing about the history, it becomes much more relevant and meaningful," Brown pointed out.



Rosewell was the ancestral home of three generations of the Page Family, including three-term Virginia Governor John Page. Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Nelson, the family of the powerful Robert "King" Carter, and other icons of history spent time at Rosewell. Although touted as an architectural masterpiece when it was completed in 1738, the story of Rosewell is also about the people who built their lives there during the time.



Brown explained that the diversity of the Rosewell community also provided a portrait of Gloucester County in the 18th and 19th century. "Black, white, free, enslaved, wealthy, and poor people all made a life together at Rosewell. *Beyond the Bricks* gets guests personally engaged with real life as it was lived on Virginia plantations like Rosewell" she said.

The program is based on extensive research and information contained in primary documents such as journals and diaries, wills, property inventories, and tax records. Judith Carter Page, one of the mistresses of Rosewell and an enslaved woman named Polley are among those whose lives at the Rosewell Plantation are examined. "It takes guests beyond what the documents reveal however. *Beyond the Bricks* helps guests engage with what the history books do not or will not say," Brown noted.

Beyond the Bricks is available on request. Interested school groups and organizations should call Rosewell at (804) 693-2585 to schedule the program. Special discounted rates are available for schools and groups of nine or more.

Photos: Jill Jackson portrays Mistress Judith Carter Page (left photo), who was the second wife of Mann Page I. Katrina White Brown portrays the enslaved woman Polley (top photo), who belonged to Mann Page II. They reflect on their very different lives at Rosewell during presentations of *Beyond the Bricks*



Rosewell Rocks!

Gloucester artist Jenn Wiffen makes Rosewell rocks! She creates art on plain old rocks. Jenn is a Rosewell Community Partner and her Rosewell rocks are on display at the Rosewell Visitors Center. She will be participating at the **Annual BBQ, Oyster Roast, and Craft Beer Festival on Sunday October 15th.**

Jenn works as a caricature artist at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg; she will be doing caricatures for guests and painting authentic 18th century bricks at the BBQ. A portion of her BBQ proceeds will be donated to Rosewell.

Check out her work on her Facebook page - Jenn Wiffen Sketch Dragon.



The Rosewell Newsletter

is published by
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Editor: **Katrina White Brown.**

For more information,

or to comment on
anything in this
issue, contact

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E-mail: foundation@rosewell.org



Contact Us

Please give us your email address

Because of the cost of postage, contacting you via email helps us make the most of your contributions. Send your email address to:

foundation@rosewell.org
Subject: Contact information

Visitor Center Hours
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 - 4:00pm
Sunday 1:00 - 4:00pm
Closed Mondays

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Visit us on the internet at:
www.rosewell.org
and
www.facebook.com/rosewell

E-mail us at:
foundation@rosewell.org



Discover Rosewell in 2017 Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2017

Buy a Rosewell Chimney Stack Sundae at Short Lane Ice Cream, located at 6721 Geo. Wash. Highway, Gloucester, VA 23061. \$1 from each sundae sold will be donated to Rosewell.

OCTOBER 2017

Sunday October 15

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1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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See story on page 6

Friday October 20 and 27

Saturday October 21 and 28

The Rosewell Ghost Tours

Tours at 7:00 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:00 pm
Tickets \$10

Tuesday October 31 - March 31, 2018

**Ruins Closed
for the Season**

MARCH 2018

**Civil War Traveling Exhibit on display
at the Visitors Center**