



# The Rosewell Newsletter

## New Project will create 3-D Imaging of Rosewell

One of the most powerful educational technology tools is coming to Rosewell, in the form of 3D Laser Scanning. This imaging tool is a non-contact, non-destructive technology that digitally captures the shape of physical objects using a line of laser light. More simply stated, 3D laser scanning of the Ruins will help capture Rosewell's exact size and shape into the computer world as a digital 3-dimensional representation.

The firm of Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects will be responsible for the project. They have completed a number of similar projects, including the Wilton Plantation (pictured) located in Richmond, Virginia. Wilton, like Rosewell, was built in the 18th century and was the ancestral home to members of a powerful gentry family (The Randolphs). In addition, the firm has achieved national prominence with the restoration of numerous National



3D scanning done at the Wilton Plantation in Richmond, shows interior details of this 18th century home.

Historic Landmarks such as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and Poplar Forest; James and Dolly Madison's Montpelier; four state Capitols (New York, Tennessee, Vermont and Maryland); Frank Lloyd Wright's Florida Southern College; and Ferry Farm - George Washington's birthplace. **See 3D Imaging Project ... continues on Page 2**



Civil War re-enactor and Rosewell docent Marilyn Iglesias guides visitors through the plantation's 19th century history

## Civil War Exhibition opens to the public on March 23rd

The 19<sup>th</sup> century history of the house once described as the "grandest in Virginia" will be featured during March when The Rosewell Foundation presents *The Civil War*; a traveling exhibition which explores the most transformative period in U.S. history. Drawing upon letters, personal accounts, and images, the exhibition engages visitors in an understanding of how soldiers, presidents, freedmen, and families struggled to address the nature of democracy and citizenship during this period.

**See Civil War Exhibition ... continues on page 5**

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**2017 - 2018  
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## **3D Imaging Project**

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3D laser scanning uses ground level laser and drone photography to create “point clouds” of data from the surface of an object. It quickly and precisely records the dimensions of buildings and landscapes to generate floor plans, elevations, sections, and even create Rosewell’s topographic contours. There are numerous other applications: The Smithsonian has been scanning and archiving its artifacts, and then releasing the designs online for people to download and print; and teachers and students can combine engineering, math, and history together for lessons inside and outside of the classroom.

Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects LLP is the same firm that completed the *Blueprint for Stabilization and Preservation* in 2008. The project will be completed this Spring at a cost of approximately \$15,000, which has been generously donated by a *Friend of Rosewell*.

## **Rosewell moves boldly into 2018 fueled by strategic Planning Success**



*The beauty of the Ruins is striking under the nighttime skies. Rosewell is aggressively pursuing using the Ruins more for weddings, community, and business events.*

2017 was a very productive year for The Rosewell Foundation, largely due to the implementation of the Strategic Planning Initiatives adopted by the Board of Directors during 2017. Comprised of one-year, five-year, and ten-year goals, the Strategic Planning document is the roadmap to Rosewell’s current and future success.

Most notable, a new and aggressive capital campaign has been launched and is generating new energy into our fundraising efforts; and operational improvements are on-going, such as the

communications and security systems upgrade at the Ruins and Visitor’s Center; completed with the generous assistance of Cox Cable.

Rosewell has also created new educational programming and has developed additional sources of revenues by partnering with community businesses in unique ways. For example, Short Lane Ice Cream created the *Rosewell Chimney Stack* sundae and donated \$1 from the sale of each sundae Rosewell. A generous gift card from Walmart helped us upgrade the audio-visual equipment in our Visitor’s Center. Chesapeake Bank, who participated as a major sponsor of the Annual Rosewell BBQ, Oyster Roast, and Craft Beer Festival, helped us by providing a specially designed glass for all who attended the event. We also introduced new segments of the community to the haunting grace and beauty of the Ruins through events like *Business After Hours*, and the Alzheimer’s Association fund raising kick-off, both held at Rosewell.

Seven months after developing the Strategic Plan in June 2017, the board has achieved a number of first-year goals: **Increase annual revenues by 25%** - achieved by initiating online ticket sales to Rosewell events; restructuring the

***See Strategic Planning Success ... continues on page 3***





## Strategic Planning Success

*Continued from page 2*

"Friends of Rosewell" program and creating the *Circle of Friends* giving levels; increasing group visitation from schools, civic, business, and historical organizations; securing a grant writer and a major gift coordinator; initiating the *\$3 Million by 300 Capital Campaign*, and developing an annual Major Donor event.

**Revise and diversify the Rosewell narrative** - achieved by incorporating *Beyond the Bricks*, the program that takes an up-close and personal look at the lives of all who lived in the Rosewell community, into a weekly scheduled tour, and by introducing more of Rosewell's Civil War and 19th century history into the tour narrative (see Civil War Exhibition Opens ... story on page 1). Finally, through approved historic landscaping efforts, The Foundation has opened-up the grounds around the Ruins almost to the Carter's Creek water line, and is actively proceeding with the steps necessary to re-establish the English gardens.



*Pictured left: Rosewell Benefactor David Peebles, hosted the successful "Evening at the Ruins", at which the \$3 Million by 300 campaign was launched. Pictured above : A donor studies the graphics outlining Rosewell's strategic development plans.*

## From the President's Pen By Clayton James



### ***Saving Rosewell***

With a 300-year presence, Rosewell still stands today as an iconic landmark where, in real time, American history was forged. No single structure or single piece of land in the contiguous 48 states brings America's emblematic past back to life as definitely and cleanly as Rosewell. Unfortunately, for the last 100 years, the mansion has been ignored, neglected, and left to fend for herself. Now, less than a decade away from her 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, The Board of Directors and *Friends of Rosewell* are initiating immediate eleventh-hour efforts to save this treasure and to bring her historic past back to life.

Saving Rosewell has become a passionate mission of this group and multiple efforts are currently underway to protect and preserve the great mansion, her grounds, and her stories for the on-going benefit of future generations.

The effort to save Rosewell begins immediately with the success of the \$3MM x 300 capital campaign. The Board of Directors fund-raising committee has established the goal to raise \$3,000,000 by Rosewell's rapidly approaching 300th Birthday in 2025. Funds raised during this campaign will be used by The Rosewell Foundation Preservation Committee to preserving and stabilizing the ruins and ensuring that what remains of the Rosewell mansion has the integral strength and support necessary for long-term survival. Time has not been kind to Rosewell, and it is imperative for the protectors of the great mansion to work

quickly to support the weakened structure and, where necessary, replace the supporting and stabilizing walls.

Congruently, with preserving and stabilizing the mansion, the Keepers of Rosewell want to create a comprehensive educational facility and community destination site on her grounds. Currently there are initiatives underway to develop the site of Rosewell into a history-telling educational facility & community use asset for Gloucester County and Virginia. Some of the site enhancement projects included in the master plan are the rebuilding of the three-century-old Page Family gravesite, reestablishing gardens around the great mansion, creating an interactive slave educational facility and living quarters, and telling the story of the importance of the Powhatan Indians to this land site.

The Board of Directors of Rosewell is excited about the future of this site and the ongoing efforts to preserve and protect this iconic mansion, and we welcome all community input around our efforts. We know this work cannot be accomplished without the financial assistance of the community, so I personally ask everyone to help with these efforts by financially supporting our \$3MM x 300 initiative. This home and her stories are critical parts of American History and our generation today must work to protect and preserve this landmark.

## Golden Fried Cast Iron Skillet Oysters



*serves 2-4 as an appetizer*

### Ingredients

24 extra small oysters, shucked and drained but not rinsed

1 c. flour

1 c. medium ground cornmeal

1/4 tsp chili powder

1/8 tsp cayenne pepper

1/4 tsp salt

1/4 tsp pepper

1 c. peanut or canola oil

### For the dipping sauce:

1/2 c. mayonnaise

1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice

2 tsp Worcestershire sauce

As the name implies, you'll need a heavy 10" or 12" cast iron skillet for cooking these oysters. Prepare the dipping sauce ahead of time and refrigerate it until ready to serve. Just whisk together the sauce ingredients in a small bowl. Combine the flour, cornmeal, chili powder, cayenne pepper, salt and black pepper in a bowl. Stir to thoroughly mix all ingredients. Heat oil in a cast iron skillet to 350°. If you don't have a thermometer, test for readiness by dropping a tiny bit of flour into the oil. If it bubbles immediately, the oil is ready. Dredge each oyster in the flour, cornmeal, spice mixture. Shake off the excess and gently place the oyster into the oil. Cook 6 or 7 at a time – no more! Fry them for about 2 minutes or until golden brown. Remove them to paper towels for draining and continue cooking the rest of them. Serve hot with the dipping sauce.

Recipe adapted from *The Cast Iron Skillet Cookbook*  
by Sharon Kramis & Juli Kramis Hearne

## BBQ, Oysters, and Beer ... the annual fund raiser got bigger and better!

There was plenty of BBQ, but there was also craft beers, roasted oysters, blue-grass music, Civil War re-enactors, and much, much more, at the 26th Annual Rosewell BBQ. Traditionally, this has been Rosewell's largest fund raising event. This year's BBQ was attended by over 200 people who enjoyed all the oysters and BBQ they could eat; oysters supplied by the James Brothers Oyster Company, BBQ provided by Scoots. The crowd also: sampled craft beers using glasses especially designed for the event; danced to the music of the Chisman Creek Band; and participated in an exciting raffle with chances to win extravagant gifts and prizes donated by local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Board President Clayton James told the BBQ crowd how their contributions impacted the overall strategic plan to "stabilize the Ruins and create a place where cultures converge and share their stories at Rosewell." He noted that the vision for Rosewell includes "creating an enhanced outdoor space through the rebuilding the English gardens; providing an interactive learning classroom; reconstructing a slave cabin; and fully implementing the *Blueprint for Preservation and Stabilization* which was developed in 2008."

Huge **"You Made it Happen" Thanks** goes to our major sponsors: Chesapeake Bank and The James Brothers Oyster Company. **"Couldn't Have Done it Without You" Thanks** goes to: B&S Refuse; David Clements; Gloucester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and Trudy's Portable Toilets. **"You Truly Made a Difference" Thanks** goes to our raffle sponsors: Angel Wings; Arts on Main; Body by D; Courthouse Restaurant; Gloucester-Mathews Gazette Journal; Home Depot; Kelsick Market; Letitia Grant; Smith's Florist; The Courthouse Players; and Up South.



*With the Ruins as a backdrop, the Civil War re-enactors brought Rosewell's 19th century history to life at the annual BBQ.*

### **"You are So Special"**

**Thanks** goes to all the volunteers and staff: Ronald Brown, Civil War re-enactors, Chris Doyel, Mac Eborn, Earl Evans, Frank Evans and the Venturing Crew, Patty Evans, Tish Grant, Will Grant, Marilyn Iglesias, Merrily Messina, Ray Messina, Linda Ours, Bob Oller, Anne Page, Philip Page, Hilton Snowdon, Jim Stevens, Judy Wiseman, Katrina White Brown, and Clayton James.



# History ...

## Why it Matters

By Katrina White Brown

### **Liberating History Freeing the Historical Imagination**

The celebrated poet Maya Angelou wrote that “the more you know of your history, the more liberated you are.” This thought gives rise to a notion - the understanding of the past provides a pathway to freedom for the future. This pathway is best traveled using the historical imagination as the GPS.

British philosopher and archaeologist R.G. Collingwood described the historical imagination as a “sense of moral engagement with the past in the present.” He observed that “without such imagination, our perceptions are blinkered, our vision narrow. With it, we can stretch our horizons, enabling us to perceive the past through the eyes of all people.”

What a liberating idea—one that creates an up-close and personal dialogue between the present and the past.

Using historical imagination in no way replaces facts, primary documents, recollections, oral histories, research, or archaeology. It does however, suggest that there is a dynamic relationship between “our subjectively described memories and recollections, and our reconstruction of the past through historical narrative.”

According to Collingwood, “historical imagination includes three main functions: to re-enact, to interpolate, and to interrogate.” Re-enacting is the ability to understand and imagine past hu-

man actions and thought. He says “we must re-think the thoughts of the persons engaged in the situation.” Collingwood compares this part of historical imagination to having historical empathy - walking in the shoes worn in the past.

“Interpolation requires filling in the gaps of the historical record.” Collingwood says that since historians have a limited amount of primary sources available about historical events or people, “he or she must make educated guesses about what is *not* written. He cautions however that “the imagination must be restrained, or at the very least, acknowledged by the historian as speculation,” that it could have happened this way.

In describing interrogation, Collingwood points out that it requires the critical analysis of historical sources and includes looking for the more hidden biases and messages that can only be identified by correctly applying the proper historical context. Effective use of interrogation requires a level of re-enactment. “One must imagine the perspectives of the authors and artists” says Collingwood.

Using the lens of historical imagination to view past events is “not just a research or academic skill, it is a moral action.” This translates emotionally to empathy, sympathy, respect, and sensitivity for the complexity of the human experience. As such, this liberation of history deepens our appreciation, widens our perspectives, and gives us powerful insights on why we do what we do.

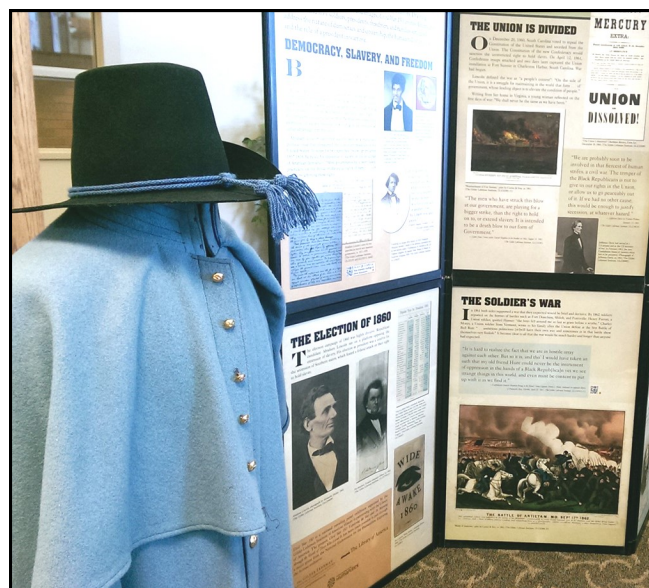
## Civil War Exhibition

### **Continued from Page 1**

The exhibition will also examine the extreme human toll of the Civil War, described as the bloodiest in U.S. history.

Gloucester County has an intriguing Civil War legacy; it was the home of the 21st Regiment of the Virginia Militia. This small, but effective, regiment fortified the battery at Gloucester Point which was charged with the task of discouraging Yankee ships from coming up the York River. Gloucester native and Page Family descendant Thomas Jefferson Page held a leadership position with the 21st Regiment.

The traveling exhibition is on loan from the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History in New York and will be open to the public at the Rosewell Visitors Center from March 23rd - April 18th, Tuesday—Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sundays 1:00 pm—4:00 pm. *Friends of Rosewell* donors and contributors will have a special preview showing at a private reception on March 22nd. Admission price for the exhibition is \$6 and includes a self-guided tour of the Rosewell Plantation Ruins.



*This is a small part of the Exhibition that will be on display at the Visitor's Center, March 23rd - April 18th. Friends of Rosewell donors and contributors will have a special preview showing at a private reception to be held on March 22nd. Visit the Rosewell website [www.rosewell.org](http://www.rosewell.org) to make a contribution, and to become a Friend of Rosewell.*

### **The Rosewell Newsletter**

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The Rosewell Foundation.  
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## 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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**and**  
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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**March 23rd - April 18th**  
**Civil War Traveling Exhibit**  
**at the Visitors Center**

**April 1st**  
**Opening Day**

**Sunday October 21**  
**27th Annual Rosewell BBQ,**  
**Oyster Roast, and**  
**Craft Beer Festival**  
**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Friday October 19 and 26**  
**Saturday October 20 and 27**  
**The Rosewell**  
**Ghost Tours**

### **DIG Rosewell! ... Here's how you can help**

**Donate** ... contributing money to The Rosewell Foundation helps us continue our efforts to preserve, promote, and protect the Ruins.

**Involvement** ... helping Rosewell helps the Gloucester Community attract more tourism, and highlight the significant impact Gloucester made in the historical landscape of our nation. Get involved with making our community better.

**Give** ... volunteer your time and expertise to Rosewell. We need docents to lead and conduct tours; administrative help; social media experts; and maintenance and landscaping help. Please give your talents and skills to help turn a new page in history.