

The Rosewellian

“America’s Magnificent Ruin”



Newsletter of The Rosewell Foundation, Inc.

October 2016

25th Annual Rosewell All-You-Can-Eat BBQ and Wine Tasting is Sunday October 16th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Promising to be one of the best!

The largest fundraiser in support of the preservation and stabilization efforts at the Rosewell Plantation Ruins this year is themed *Gloucester Through the Ages*. Four centuries of history will be represented at the event, and includes a visit from former Governor John Page returning home to his beloved Rosewell.

Rosewell was the ancestral home of three generations of the Page Family; the last of which was John Page and



his family. He’ll be recalling his life at Rosewell which, at the time, was considered the region’s most magnificent home. Unfortunately, a disastrous fire destroyed the house in 1916. Rosewell was given to the Gloucester Historical Society (GHS) in 1979 by descendants of the Taylor Family who owned the home at the time of the fire. Since 1995 GHS and the Rosewell Foundation have partnered in efforts to preserve, protect, and present “America’s Magnificent Ruin.”

The Food

For the first time, the BBQ is all-you-can-eat, provided by one of the area’s most popular restaurants—Scoots BBQ. Owner Gary Ward, who also owns the legendary Olivia’s in Gloucester Courthouse, will be offering a wonderful menu that includes pulled pork barbecue



and all the trimmings. You can eat to your heart’s content while enjoying a lively afternoon of music, story telling, cultural and educational displays, and the magnificent Rosewell Plantation Ruins. Tickets are only \$30 and support the preservation and stabilization efforts at the Ruins.

The Wines

Once again the Philip Carter Winery is sponsoring the wine tasting. New this year - your wine tasting ticket includes a souvenir glass.



The Philip Carter Winery has proudly sponsored the wine tasting for a number of years. Their commitment to Rosewell includes the creation of the 2014 Rosewell wine, which has a pleasant floral nose of cherry blossom and blooming roses with a wisp of lavender. Ripe strawberry dominates the palate with a cinnamon following. Wine tasting tickets are only \$15.

Special Appearance

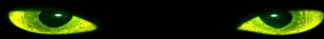
John Page will be portrayed by the talented and most accomplished actor Ron Carnegie. Ron has been bringing history to life for over 20 years, through his character portrayals of some of history’s most prolific leaders, most notably General George Washington.



Ron Carnegie portrays John Page

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The Ghosts Come Out at Night!



The Rosewell Ghost Tours

Friday October 21

Saturday October 22

Friday October 28

Saturday October 29

and Halloween Night

Monday October 31

At 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm

Tickets are \$10.

Advance tickets only.

Call Rosewell

(804) 693-2585

to make

your reservation.

The Ghosts of Rosewell ... Fright or Fiction

Many Gloucester natives have told stories of strange sightings and noises emanating from the rose-red brick foundation ruins. Some claim to have seen young boy servants standing beside the great pedimented doorway at night, lighting the way for arriving guests who vanished ascending the Corinthian pilastered stairwell. Others swear they hear violin and harpsichord music rising above the towering chimneys. From *The Ghosts of Tidewater and nearby environs* by L. B. Taylor Jr.

It's these stories, and many others that fuel the haunted legends of Rosewell: it's the fodder for the highly successful Ghost Tours. This year the Ghost Tours being conducted on two consecutive weekends in October - Friday the 21st and Saturday the 22nd; again on Friday the 28th, Saturday the 29th, and Halloween Night - Monday the 31st at the Ruins.



The fact that Lucy Burwell Page Saunders wrote a "true Christmas tale for youth" entitled *Leonora and the Ghost*, gives a lot of credibility to the notion of "spirits" being alive and well at Rosewell. Saunders was the last child of Governor John Page, and was born at Rosewell. Leonora identifies the presence of a "ghost" within the house. Yet the haunting 18th century stories associated with the flamboyant Letitia Dalton are, by far, the best fuel for the ghost stories.

Dalton lived at a nearby plantation and was invited to attend a lavish gala at Rosewell, hosted by Anne Page. When she came to the ball, the gossip about her murderous legacy arrived at Rosewell with her. She was believed to be responsible for the deaths of her sister and her husband, as well as two enslaved workers.

Tickets for the Ghost Tours are \$10; available only at the Rosewell Visitors Center. Snacks and treats will be available and commemorative tee shirts will be on sale!

The 25th Annual Rosewell BBQ and Wine tasting

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The Music

Good Shot Judy is a Gloucester County favorite, specializing in delivering top-notch Classic Vocal Jazz and recreating the classic nightclub entertainment feel of Las Vegas in



its prime. From the swingin' sounds of Sinatra, Basie, and contemporaries like Michael Buble, and Harry Connick Jr., to the beautiful ballads of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and back to the high energy Latin Dance big band sound, *Good Shot Judy lets it Swing Baby!*

Stories told under the African Sky

Since the beginning of time, storytelling has been an important event in the African and African American communi-

ties. Through storytelling, lifelong lessons were taught and learned.

One of the best teachers of this history is Griot **Bridgette Houston**. An interpreter at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for over 30 years, she brings great knowledge, a tremendous depth of understanding, and a unique ability to weave life, culture, joy, sorrow, and triumph into every experience she creates and relates.

The Activities and Participants

Guided tours of the Ruins are included with your BBQ ticket! **Archeological** activities will be coordinated by the dynamic duo of



Kids of all ages will enjoy the archeological activities, coordinated by The Fairfield Foundation.

the Fairfield Foundation - Dr. David Brown and Thane Harpole. You'll have the opportunity to uncover and discover artifacts while learning to work and think like an archeologist.

Representatives of **The T.C. Walker and Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation** will be on hand to provide updates on the restoration progress at the school, located in Ordinary, VA. **TOGA** (Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association) will be displaying oyster aquaculture methods. TOGA introduces thousands every year to the benefits of growing

your own oysters and to the awareness of how to help improve the ecology of the Bay. **The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)** will also be on hand. VIMS is the marine research arm of the College of William and Mary; among their projects is a one-of-a-kind program to remove derelict crab traps from Chesapeake Bay. This is yielding important scientific data that will improve next year's effort to recover these "ghost pots" and further reduce their inadvertent trapping of Bay wildlife. **18th Century Games** like trap ball and battle dore and shuttlecock were played all the time in Gloucester. We are recreating that fun, and you can try your luck at mastering the old time games!

The Gloucester Historical Society will also be at the BBQ promoting historical programs, lectures, exhibitions and similar activities for Gloucester County. And you can grab great deals at the **Silent Auction** and at the **Raffle** with valuable prizes from area merchants.



Bridgette Houston and Company will be performing.

Tickets

BBQ only
\$30 adults

\$15 children 6-12,
children under 6 are free

Wine tasting only \$15
BBQ and Wine tasting \$45

Ticket Locations

Tickets are available at:

The Rosewell
Visitors Center

Whitley's Peanuts

The UPS Store

Hayes Therapeutic
Muscle Center

Gloucester County
Visitors Center

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

call Rosewell
(804) 693-2585

Our Sponsors

include:

Philip Carter Winery

Trudy's

B&S Refuse

Scotty's Signs

Sponsorship opportunities
are still available.

Call Rosewell
(804) 693-2585.

Give to Rosewell... It does make a difference!

What will *You* do to help preserve Rosewell? It may sound like an unusual question, but this is an unusual time in Rosewell's history: the preservation of it's past glory; the protection of it's present growth; and the provision for it's future greatness. Much of that depends on your contributions to Rosewell.

Your donations to Rosewell help continue the preservation of the ruins.

Rosewell is a symbol of Virginia's history. It represents the wealth and decline of the tobacco economy; the rise and fall of a slave society; and the resiliency and triumph of the human experience over three centuries of history.

Your donations help present the complete story of Rosewell.

A historic house is about much more than just bricks and buildings. The story of Rosewell is about the community of people who lived and worked there. This includes: the important legacy of the Page Family and their relationship with each level of Virginia society; hundreds of enslaved African descendants; and the Native American Tribal nations. These are the stories that reverberate life at the ruins.

Your donations help provide for the future of Rosewell.

Even in its state of ruin, Rosewell is a treasured repository of information and inspiration unlike any other. It is the connection between what was, what is, and what can be Virginia's handprint on history.

Will you make a contribution to Rosewell? Your gift of \$30, \$50, \$75 or more makes a difference in preserving, protecting and presenting Rosewell. Become a **Friend of Rosewell** for your gift of \$100 or more. Make your checks payable to The Rosewell Foundation. To give online, please visit www.rosewell.org.

Thank you for your generosity.

Contact Us

***We really need your
email address***

**Because of the cost of
postage, contacting you via
email helps us make the most
of your contributions in
helping to preserve the
Rosewell Ruins.**

**Please send your email
address to us at**

**foundation@rosewell.org
Subject: Contact information**

Visitor Center Hours

**Monday - Thursday
and Saturday 10:00 - 4:00pm
Sunday 1:00 - 4:00pm
Closed Fridays**

Navigation address (GPS)

**5113 Old Rosewell Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061**

Mailing Address

**P.O. Box 1456
Gloucester, VA 23061
(804) 693-2585**

Visit us on the internet at:

www.rosewell.org

and

www.facebook.com/rosewellfdn

E-mail us at:

foundation@rosewell.org

Be a Part of History!

**SPONSOR
THE 25TH ANNUAL ROSEWELL
BBQ AND WINE TASTING
Sunday October 16, 2016
1:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Your business will help
preserve, protect, and present
America's Magnificent Ruin.**

**Several sponsorship levels
are still available.**

**Call Rosewell
804-693-2585**

To secure your place in history!