

The Rosewellian

“America’s Magnificent Ruin”



Newsletter of The Rosewell Foundation, Inc.

Summer 2016

Signs of Progress



Guests learn much more about Rosewell because of new signage



Celebrating a renewed partnership between Rosewell and GHS

In This Issue

- **Signs of Progress** **Page 2**
Historian Mary Claycomb updates the progress on new signage at the ruin
- **Preserving, Protecting, and Projecting Rosewell's Future** **Page 3**
Thoughts from the Foundation's new president
- **Give to Rosewell** **Page 4**
Your contribution make a real difference in what happens at Rosewell.
- **Meet the New Advisory Board** **Page 5**

- **HISTORY—Why it Matters** **Page 6**
“Voices of the Ancestors”
- **From the President and CEO** **Page 7**

Also in this issue

- **GHS and Rosewell are Partners!** **Page 6**
- **Carter and Gilpin Join the Board** **Page 7**
- **Upcoming Events** **Page 8**
- **We Need Your Help!** **Page 8**

Signs of Progress

By Mary Claycomb

Rosewell Board of Directors

When Rosewell's gate opened for the 2016 season on April 2, visitors approaching the ruin found three new signs to guide them around its walls and help them understand the historic significance of the mansion. Early in the week of March 28, Foundation board members Dave and Marilyn Muron had installed the signs to meet the deadline, proving yet again that stellar performance in the Operating Room at Gloucester's Riverside Hospital compliments their star turns at Rosewell.

The three signs complete the first segment of a project that will help fulfill the growing need for on-site information about the remains of one the grandest buildings in colonial America. The need was dramatized a few years ago on a day when my visit to Rosewell coincided with that of four tourists from California. They said a staffer at Williamsburg recommended a visit to Rosewell. After stopping by the museum they drove down to the ruin eager to inspect it. One of them returned to the visitors' center almost immediately, however, looking crestfallen. His courtesy scarcely concealed an edge of indignation when he said to the staff member on duty, "Is that all there is? I'm a Page descendant, and I came all this way to see Rosewell." I talked with him for awhile, realizing that talk alone wasn't going to reverse his disappointment and that of others who felt that after the trouble of finding their way to Rosewell, there was not much there. How many times had staff and docents heard the same complaint?

Although the small museum in the visitors' center provided artifacts, drawings, and photos that prepared people for the ruin, but perhaps because that collection was a distance from the remains of the house, the lack of explanatory signs connecting the ruin with its history had created a greater information deficit than had been anticipated when the site was being developed nearly four decades ago.



The Foundation's board had become increasingly aware of the need to show a direct connection between the current reality and its history, but adequate signage to meet that need was too costly, especially in view of more immediate demands for security and maintenance. In 2014 however, a grant from the AKC Foundation enabled the purchase of three stands from Pannier Graphics in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania as a first step toward a signage project. The next step was to provide text and graphics to display on each stand.

Preliminary work as described in the previous *Rosewellian*, fell to me because I had designed and directed such multi-unit projects. I knew that once the details had been thought out and approved by the board, we could treat the three signs as a gauge for predicting the time and expense required to complete the nine signs.

It proved easy to form a project work team composed of volunteers from the Rosewell board and the Page-Nelson Society membership. The group included: Dave and Marilyn Muron, John Page Aldrich, Becky Marks, Ed Marks, Valerie Page, with me coordinating as well as doing hands-on work, and supported by Katrina W. Brown of the Rosewell staff, and Sandra Matthews of Creative Designs who provided the final technical finishing and transmitting of the displays to Pannier for embedding in the nearly three feet wide by five feet tall horizontal panels.

The first two weeks of March proved to be nail-biting time for the team. Would the good weather hold so that a freeze wouldn't make digging pits to anchor the signs impossible? Would the house team be able to make last minute adjustments on the displays to keep the delivery schedule? Would all the pictures meet the 150-pixel requirement? The most difficult conundrum in my view was how to instruct the driver of an 18-wheeler to make it down Rosewell Lane to drop



Preserving, Protecting, and Projecting Rosewell's Future

*A Conversation with Rosewell's New
President and CEO
by Katrina White Brown*



President Theodore Roosevelt's observation that one should "speak softly and carry a big stick," is a tailor-made description of Lawrence "Larry" Henry. His quiet sophistication, disarming charm, and engaging conversational style, belies the aggressive manner with which he has undertaken preserving, protecting, and projecting success for Rosewell's future.

Larry became the Rosewell Foundation's President and Chief Executive Officer in May. His extensive and diverse experience includes leadership roles as: Director of the Concord Museum in Concord Massachusetts; the Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs; and Director of Museums at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg Virginia. He is President Emeritus of Brookgreen Gardens (BG) in Pawleys Island South Carolina. During an up close and personal conversation, Larry reflected on why he has reluctantly stepped into the spotlight, to serve the needs of Rosewell.

Back to Rosewell

Approximately six years ago Larry worked as a Rosewell consultant, and shepherded the stabilization study on the ruin. He's returned now to help

Rosewell address a broader agenda. "We are making progress in initiating the capital campaign, and in expanding the interpretive focus. It's not just about making brick repairs. We have an opportunity to link to a period in Virginia's history that has not been adequately studied. We have the opportunity to increase the understanding of the plantation community—how lives intersected; and what was needed to survive in the community. We've been focusing primarily, on one part of the Rosewell community—I would like to rectify this. There's not really a happy ending to this story yet, but we ought to be motivated to better understand the story.

Since being elected, Larry has: expanded the Board of Directors; established an Advisory Board; partnered with the Gloucester Historical Society via a new memo of understanding for the care of the ruin; reorganized and expanded the Rosewell staff; and has positioned Rosewell to launch a long-awaited capital campaign. "I am focused on results, and I'm invested with the responsibility to make things happen. All of this is a big challenge, and none of this is going to be easy, but my goals include getting Rosewell on its feet and creating the momentum for it to remain viable."

Where do you go from here?

The question elicited a smile. "I am focused on ending the year with sound accomplishments and a new sense of momentum for Rosewell". And although Larry doesn't see himself as the long-term solution for Rosewell, "I'll be happy to do whatever I can to sustain what has been started."

The Rosewell Foundation Board of Directors

Officers

Lawrence Henry - Pres. and CEO
Williamsburg, VA

Philip Page - 1st Vice Pres.
Hayes, VA

Dr. David Muron - 2nd Vice Pres.
Gloucester, VA

Letitia Grant - Secretary
Ware Neck, VA

Clayton James - Treasurer
Williamsburg, VA

M. Tyson Gilpin Jr. - Legal Counsel
Winchester, VA

Directors

Rev. Frederick Carter
Gloucester, VA

Mary Claycomb
Chevy Chase, MD

Tazewell Fitzgerald
Hayes, VA

Edward Marks
Sharps, VA

Ray Messina
Arlington, VA

Marilyn Muron
Gloucester, VA

Rosewell Page III
Richmond, VA

Valerie Page
Alexandria, VA

Gerlinde Stevens
Hayes, VA

Philip Strother
Richmond, VA

Bill Weaver
Gloucester, VA

Mark J. Wenger
Williamsburg, VA

**The Best All You Can Eat BBQ in
Gloucester ... only \$30**

**The Annual BBQ and
Wine Tasting at the Ruins
Sunday October 16, 2016**

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Rosewell's largest fundraising event.
Get your tickets today. Call Rosewell at
804-693-2585 or buy online at
www.rosewell.org**

Give to Rosewell... Your Contributions Do 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.



Be a Part of History!

SPONSOR

**THE ROSEWELL ANNUAL
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!



We Love Our Volunteers

The Rosewell Foundation recently held a dinner party in honor of the docent and volunteer staff, hosted at the home of Will and Tish Grant. The volunteers contributed well over 1000 hours of service last year, serving as board members, working at the Visitors Center, conducting tours, and providing maintenance and administrative services to Rosewell. Volunteer services better positions Rosewell to receive funding in the form of grants. **Rosewell would not be able to function without the generosity and support of our volunteers. Thank You!** Left: BOD Sec. Tish Grant. Below left: BOD members Gerlinde Stevens, Treasurer Clayton James, and volunteer Earl Evans. Below right: volunteer Sandy Pait and BOD member Marilyn Muron.



Signs of Progress

Continued from page 2

the 300-pound units at the visitors' center. Again, the Murons stepped in to solve that problem by coordinating with the trucking company, taking delivery at the hospital dock, transporting the packages by pickup to Rosewell, and assembling each unit before digging holes for all three signs and anchoring them in position.

Each sign is located within full sight of the wall it describes – North façade, East pavilion, or South façade – and offers visitors highlights of architectural and Page history placed in immediate proximity to the remnants of the mansion. The signs are numbered and points the way to the next one so that a chronological line can be followed. Eventually we plan to make the time-line a reality with paths between signs.

The nine projected signs are economically being produced in groups of three. The next three are already being prepared, have obtained sponsors, and the installation planned by the end of this year. This second group will include one to be positioned close to the West pavilion (# 4), one (# 8) recognizing the Greaves family for their generosity in the deeding the ruin with 7.5 surrounding acres to the Gloucester Historical Society in 1979; and one (# 6) devoted to the cylindrical ice house which is believed to have been among several constructed in the 18th century under the direction of a single skilled craftsman who worked on several estates in Gloucester County. Although planned for the last group, sign #5, which takes up the flanking buildings to the north of the central block, and other service buildings, including slave quarters, stables, and barns, will be installed in 2017.

The Education Committee, which coordinates the signage project, learned much from the pilot. Perhaps the most meaningful lesson, aside from our learning about the kinks of cutting-edge technology that will facilitate the work, was how to economize on the entire project within the Rosewell environment while maintaining product quality.

We expect the same team to follow the same general steps on the remaining signs and will continue to work with Sandra Matthews of Creative Designs. The next three stands were ordered from Pannier Graphics in May. Some phases of display development will require different research and approval processes and, hence, may be difficult to schedule tightly. Work on the additional information available through the “zap squares” will begin shortly and will be coordinated with other technological innovations now planned for Rosewell.



Meet the Rosewell Foundation Advisory Board.

As Rosewell prepares to undertake desperately needed stabilization of the ruins and also seeks to expand its interpretive focus, it has enlisted the assistance of a group of distinguished advisors with expertise in history, architecture, architectural history, and museum administration and interpretation. These members of the Rosewell Advisory Board will share their knowledge and professional experience with the Foundation's staff and board.

Samuel A. Anderson III - a founding principal of Glave Newman Anderson Architects in Richmond VA. He was a pioneer in adaptively restoring historic structures for new purposes. Later he served as the Architect of the University of Virginia. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Charles F. Bryan, Jr. - Partner, Bryan & Jordan, Consultants; President Emeritus, Virginia Historical Society. Dr. Bryan was named President Emeritus of the Virginia Historical Society. He is founding partner of his firm which specializes in fund raising and other services to non-profit institutions.

Christy S. Coleman - CEO, American Museum of the Civil War in Richmond Virginia. This museum resulted from the Ms. Coleman led merger, of the American Civil War Museum with the Museum of the Confederacy. She is an innovative developer of museum exhibitions and interpretation, as well as an award-winning screenwriter for educational television.



Jeffrey E. Klee - Shirley and Richard Roberts Architectural Historian, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Dr. Klee has worked on the reconstruction of several buildings reconstructed in the Historic Area, as well as on James Monroe Birthplace in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was formally president of the Rosewell Foundation Board.

Alan Taylor - Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor of History, University of Virginia. Professor Taylor received a Pulitzer Prize in 2014 for his book, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*.



Richard Guy Wilson - Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History, University of Virginia. He is a widely published expert on architecture, design and art of the 18th to the 21st century. He is a frequent lecturer and has served as advisor and commentator for a number of television programs on PBS, A&E, and 67 segments of "America's Castles."

History...

"Listen to the wind,
it talks. Listen to the
silence, it speaks.
Listen to your heart,
it knows."
Native American Proverb

*Listen more often, to
things than to beings.
Tis the ancestors words,
when the fires voice is
heard. Tis the ancestors
words, in the voice of
the water.*

*Those who have died,
have never, never left.
The Dead are not under
the earth.*

*They are in the rustling
trees, they are in the
groaning woods.
They are in the crying
grass, they are in the
moaning rocks.*

*The dead are not under
the earth. Those who
have died, have never,
never left.*

*The dead have a pact
with the living. They are
in the woman's breast,
they are in the wailing
child. They are with us
in the home, they are
with us in the crowd.
The dead have a pact
with the living.*

*-Breaths,
by Birago Diop*

Why it Matters

By Katrina White Brown
Rosewell Operations Officer

The Voices of the Ancestors

In 18th century Virginia, the ancestors spoke with voices that we continue listening to today. We still hear the thundering cry that called for liberty or death. This was eloquently spoken at a church in Richmond and it reverberated to colonists who rang the bell of Liberty. We repeatedly amplify the voices of those who sounded the alarm against tyranny aimed on the destruction of the inalienable human rights of Colonial Americans. We remember the recoil of the gun that fired the shot heard around the world. It is a history that is loud and has resonated pride throughout the centuries for those who have had the opportunity to hear it in many different ways - in books, in documented accounts, and in preserved material cultures.

And while we still hear, at full volume, the voices of the Founding Generation, thousands of other 18th century Virginians spoke; their voices had no amplification however. They also cried out for freedom but their muted voices had few listeners. Their soulfully spoken words were not written down, destined to become inspirational proclamations for future generations. Their voices are not reflected in countless volumes and elaborate collections of books about the American Revolution, describing how liberty has been won, by any means necessary. How then, do we hear the voices of these ancestors?

The writings of Senegalese poet Birago Diop provides some guidance for us. In his poem **Breaths**, he tells us that the voices of the ancestors reside in everything around us. The voices are heard in every monument to history - like Rosewell - that remain as testimonies to the skills, ingenuity, and blood, sweat and tears of those who created them. Trees and plants, heritage crops, farming and agricultural methods, the buildings and structures, cooking and preservation methods, clothing construction, animal husbandry - **everything** speaks with the voices of the ancestors. The challenge however, is understanding how to hear and interpret those voices.

Historians, particularly those who focus on African American history, have wrestled for centuries in validating undocumented history. Absence of proof is not proof of absence. For most of the 18th century the voices of those enslaved were kept silenced. As such, it is imperative that in the 21st century we speak for those who had no voice. Not only that, we must open our interpretive ears to hear what the history books do not, will not, or cannot say.

Breaths emphasizes that everything has a voice. It is through these voices of the ancestors that we learn to speak the historically diverse language that helps us respect all types of history; whether or not it is written.



GHS and Rosewell are Partners!

The Gloucester Historical Society (GHS), represented by Warren Deal (left) and Rosewell's President Larry Henry have signed a "memorandum of understanding" to collaborate as partners in the care of the ruin. The agreement recognizes GHS's ownership of the ruins and articulates ways in which the two organizations will work together in achieving common goals of preservation, education, and stabilization.

The July meeting of the GHS was held at the Rosewell Visitors Center. An overflow audience, well over 50 people attended, to hear historian and Rosewell Board member Mary Claycomb provide the latest scholarship on the Page Family and Rosewell.



The Rosewellian

is published quarterly for the members of the Rosewell Foundation.
Editor: Katrina White Brown.
For more information, or to comment on anything in this issue, contact Rosewell at 804-693-2585



From the President and CEO

Putting a competent, agreeable team together is never easy. Doing it for an organization with limited resources in a remote location adds to the difficulty, as does the variety of capabilities needed and the varying amount of time required to accomplish each differing body of work. That said, we have

been able to put together just such a competent and agreeable group since I took office as Rosewell's president and chief executive officer a couple of months ago.

Katrina White Brown was hired a year ago to greet visitors and use her skills as a museum educator, not to mention her warm and engaging personality, to make sure everyone who came to Rosewell had a pleasant and informative visit. Her writing and graphic design skills soon led to the addition of responsibilities for producing our newsletter, maintaining the website and managing the gift shop. Katrina has now had her duties expanded again by becoming Rosewell's **Operations Officer**, making her the person in charge of the day-to-operation of the site.

Kathy Healy is now our **Finance Officer**. Kathy served as an accountant for several local banks before starting her own accounting and consulting business. In the past she worked for Rosewell as a consultant when circumstances required her expertise. Her new role brings that expertise to all our financial activities on an ongoing basis. Kathy's relationship is contractual, but she is every bit a part of our team.

Judy Wiseman completed the group when she recently agreed to be our **Development Officer**. She is, as far as I know, the first person who has ever worked at Rosewell solely on development activities: managing our constituent database, researching and preparing grant requests, organizing our annual operating fund campaign and developing additional special event fundraisers. I plan to keep Judy very busy.

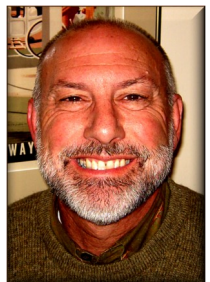
I can't fail to mention a couple of honorary staff members, who are valued and essential colleagues.

Mark Wenger is a member of the Board of Directors but also serves as the **Curator of the Ruins**, the perfect role for him as an architect and historic preservation professional.

John Page Aldrich is our personal, whenever-needed, in-house computer guru. How great is that for a technology challenged place like Rosewell?

To meet the challenges of Rosewell's resources, remoteness and need for varying amounts of specialized work, we have been able to take advantage of differing work arrangements: employees, contractors and volunteers; working onsite, remotely and a combination of the two;

staying in touch by mobile phone and email and utilizing remote access to shared online programs. I think it will work for Rosewell.



Carter and Gilpin Join the Rosewell Board

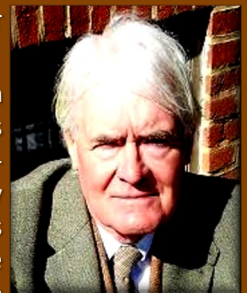
Gloucester native Reverend Frederick R. Carter and Winchester VA Attorney M. Tyson Gilpin Jr. have joined The Rosewell Foundation Board of Directors. Both men bring a wealth of impressive credentials to the newly expanded board, particularly in matters of law and business, and each has a long and significant history working for justice and equality in civil and human rights.



Rev. Carter

Rev. Carter is the President of Carter Funeral Home in Newport News, VA. He completed high school in Gloucester before heading to Temple University in PA and graduating in 1967. Learning the mortuary business from his father, Rev. Carter and his wife Elizabeth built and opened Carter Funeral Home on Richneck Road in 1996. His public service career includes: civil rights leader in Gloucester Co. school integration efforts; Gloucester Co. Deputy Sheriff; member, Board of Visitors Christopher Newport Univ., Chairman, Newport News Planning Comm.; and founding member, Newport News Civil Air Patrol. He is currently the Pastor of the historic Shepherdsville Baptist Church in Gloucester, where he has served for nine years.

Attorney M. Tyson Gilpin Jr. holds degrees from Princeton University and the University of VA Law School. He is the Chairman of the Education Committee for the Winchester NAACP and has been



Attorney Gilpin

awarded a Community Commitment and Impact Award for his efforts, particularly in educating children in poverty. His other community commitments include: member, Board of Directors, Salvation Army, Winchester VA; and board membership of the Burwell van Lennep Foundation, a land conservancy on the Shenandoah River in Clarke Co. VA. He is a descendant of the Pages and hold member in the Page Nelson Society.



The Rosewell Foundation
P.O. Box 1456
Gloucester, VA 23061

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gloucester, VA 23061
Permit Number 103

Upcoming Events

August

19 – Rosewell Board
of Directors meeting

September

1 – VA Tourism Advisory
Committee meeting

October

16 – Annual Rosewell
BBQ at the Ruin

21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31 –
Rosewell Ghost Tours

November

18 – Rosewell Board of
Directors meeting

We Need Your Help!

TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS

As we move forward in finding better ways to serve and provide you with the most current Rosewell information, email is a great way to keep you informed. Call 804-693-2585 to update your info.

TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are our lifeblood. Our docents and volunteers make it possible for us to continue the Rosewell mission. There are many ways you can help, and no experience is needed. You can: guide tours; conduct fundraising and membership drives; and provide in-kind service. Your organization, social group, study group, or church organization can volunteer and receive valuable community service hours. Docents receive free membership; discounts on gift shop purchases; and other exclusive offers available only to members. Contact the Visitors Center (804) 693-2585 for more information. Rosewell is calling ... please answer!

Contact Us

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/rosewell

E-mail us at:

foundation@rosewell.org