

Photos:  
 Brian Christopher  
 Patti Zaleski  
 Thom Potts

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER

We have had another successful year thanks to the support of so many people. Generous donors have helped us move forward with major restoration projects, both inside and outside the house. New roofs, gutters and downspouts and major repairs to the brick masonry now effectively protect the house from moisture – the greatest threat to any historic structure. The beautiful parlors are now fully restored and have hosted concerts, receptions and other events. Work has begun on the restoration of the smokehouse and stone kitchen, two of the most historic structures on the property.

Our wonderful volunteers--who now total over 200 – have brought their hard work and enthusiasm to our Wine & Jazz Festival, our Craft Beer & Music Festival, the Charles Washington Chamber Music Society concerts, the Happy Retreat Book Series and our Christmas Open House. Without them, none of these events would be possible. We established an important connection with the Charles Town Kiwanis which we look forward to expanding in the years to come.

The Jefferson County Historical Society will soon be opening their archives for research. This is an important step in making Happy Retreat the vibrant center for history we have long envisioned.

Looking forward to 2019, our first goal will be to raise the money we need to complete our events kitchen. A kitchen for caterers to use will allow us to make the house and grounds available for event rentals, providing a reliable source of income towards our goal of financial sustainability.

We also look forward to reaching out to our broader community in 2019 to increase the participation of other groups and organizations in programs at Happy Retreat. We are in the planning stages for several exciting events which we will showcase in our first newsletter of the new year.

Thanks to everyone who helped make 2018 another great year for Happy Retreat!

**Walter Washington** *President*

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## NEW AMERICORPS MEMBER

We are excited to have a new AmeriCorps member at Happy Retreat. Clifton Blount, Jr., began his year of service in October. A graduate of Towson University, he and his wife moved first to Charles Town and then Ranson three years ago. Clifton brings a wealth of experience in administration, fundraising, data management and community building. He has taken on diverse responsibilities for FOHR. He has taken over management of our new CRM (which stands for Constituent Resource Management) computer data program. He is developing plans for events and working to broaden FOHR's presence in the community. You will be reading a lot about his efforts in the year ahead.



*New AmeriCorps member Clifton Blount, Jr.*

## CRAFT BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Beer drinkers braved less than perfect weather to enjoy our third annual Craft Beer & Music Festival on September 9. Thanks to the over 100 volunteers who came out to make the day a success! Special thanks to Josh Vance of Abolitionist Ale Works, in Charles Town, for booking another great line-up of bands and drawing over 30 craft brewers to showcase 100+ beers. We are already looking forward to next year's festival.



*Beer Drinkers Enjoying the Craft Beer & Music Festival*  
*Photo: Patti Zaleski*

## RESTORATION OF SMOKEHOUSE/KITCHEN

Restoration of the smokehouse/stone kitchen is underway, thanks to a generous donation from Robert and Tia McMillan, of Shepherdstown. Architect Kevin Lee Sarring, working with the Restoration Committee, has completed a detailed restoration plan. Many hours of discussion, including consultations with restoration experts, structural engineers, masonry contractors and other craftsmen went into the development of the plan for the restoration of this important structure.

The main issue for the stone kitchen is its lack of a foundation. When it was built in the 1830/1840s, the stone walls were laid directly in the ground without a proper footing. As a result, major



*Supports brace the walls of the kitchen*

Work has begun repairing and replacing deteriorated bricks in both buildings before the onset of winter. With the return of warm weather

# RESTORATION OF SMOKEHOUSE/KITCHEN

(continued)

in the spring, the major work will begin. The entire east wall will be carefully taken down, a proper foundation will be dug and poured, and the wall will be rebuilt. A crack in the south wall will be “knitted” together using spiral steel rods. Other joints will be cleaned and repointed. The

brick chimney will be rebuilt. Once all of this work is done, the entire roof will be replaced, the windows will be restored and a new floor will be laid.

## HISTORY AT ITS BEST, *by Marjorie Gaestel*

A little trivia about Happy Retreat.



*Mordington House in Berwickshire, Scotland*

*(Shown in a painting by Frank A. Wood, 1932)*

We all know Charles Washington named his home Happy Retreat, but where did the name Mordington come from?

Happy Retreat was called Mordington starting in the year 1837 when Judge Isaac R. Douglass bought the house and property. It remained Mordington right up until the mid-1900s. Today, the name is preserved in Mordington Avenue, the street on which Happy Retreat is located. When I first joined Friends of Happy Retreat, I was told Judge Douglass named the home after his ancestral home in Scotland. I decided to investigate a little further.

Judge Douglass was a third generation Douglass, born in America and, as far as we know, never visited Scotland.

The Douglass ancestors came from a small parish called Mordington, in the county of Berwickshire, in the South East corner of Scotland. Sir James Douglas was named Lord Mordington, a Lord of

Parliament, in 1641. The Douglas claim to the Mordington estate ended when Charles Douglas, 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Mordington, took part in the Jacobite Uprising against King George II, in 1745. He was captured and imprisoned. He forfeited his estate to the Crown and upon his death the following year the title went dormant. The Mordington parish was split into parts and sold. An owner subsequent to the Douglasses built a grand Georgian manor house which was called Mordington House. Unfortunately, it became abandoned and was ultimately demolished in the 1970s.

NOTE: There is also a Mordington House in Kent County, Delaware. Built by a cousin of Judge Douglass around 1785, it is also known as the Douglass House.



*Mordington House in Kent County, Delaware*  
*(HABS photo, 1960)*

*(I would like to thank my friend Robert Saunders, a Douglass family descendant who lives in Australia, for his unending help in my Douglass research. I will have more Douglass information in the next issue.)*

# DAR DEDICATION

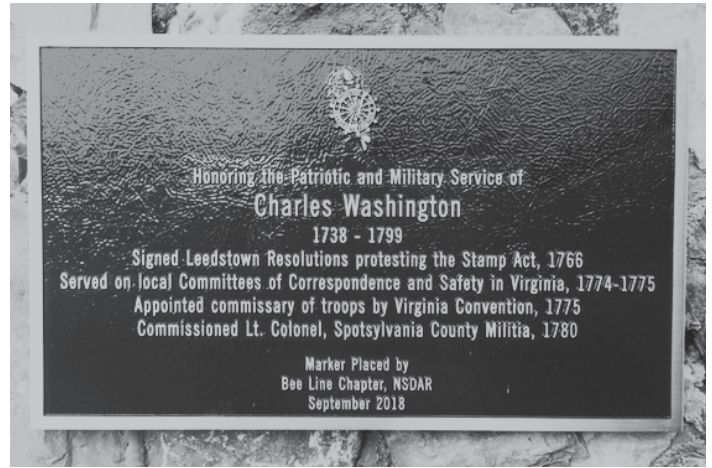
On Saturday, September 15, the Bee Line Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution honored the Revolutionary War military service of Charles Washington at a colorful ceremony held in the rear yard of Happy Retreat. FOHR President Walter Washington welcomed the guests to Happy Retreat. A proclamation from West Virginia Governor Jim Justice was presented designating September 15,

2018, “Charles Washington Day.” Historian Doug Perks described Charles Washington’s impact on Charles Town and the greater community. Members of the combined color guards of the Virginia and West Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, in period uniform, presented the colors and fired a salute from breach loading muskets. A plaque honoring Charles Washington was placed at his grave.



Members of the Society Sons of the American Revolution fire a musket salute to Charles Washington

Photo: Thom Potts



Plaque honoring Charles Washington placed at the grave by the Bee Line Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution

## LEEDSTOWN RESOLUTION

The presentation by the DAR on Charles Washington’s role in the American Revolution featured an early statement of discontent with British rule in Virginia. The Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament in March, 1765, required the American colonists to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper they used – from newspapers to playing cards. It was universally resented in the Colonies as an attempt by Parliament to raise money without the approval of the colonial legislatures. Colonists feared it would set a precedent for Parliament to levy additional taxes in the future “without representation.”

In February, 1766, Richard Henry Lee assembled 115 of Westmoreland County, Virginia’s leading landholders in Leedstown, on the banks of the Rappahannock River, to deliver a firm protest against the Stamp Act. Known variously as the Leedstown Resolution, the Leedstown Resolves, or the Westmoreland Resolution, the document which they produced was a firm act of resistance against the British Parliament, predating by seven years the Boston Tea Party’s defiance of the Tea Tax of 1773.

The fifth and sixth signatories to the Leedstown Resolution were Samuel Washington and Charles Washington, respectively, joined by their brother John Augustine Washington. (Their older brother George was not living in Westmoreland County in 1766, so did not take part in the assembly.) By their signatures, the Washington brothers evinced their early commitment to the cause that became the American Revolution.

## THE LEEDSTOWN RESOLUTION

The following articles prepared and offered by RICHARD HENRY LEE were passed by the patriots of that day at LEEDSTOWN, Virginia, in the 27th day of February, 1766.”ROUSED BY DANGER, and alarmed at attempts, foreign and domestic, to reduce the people of this country to a state of abject and detestable slavery, by destroying that FREE and happy constitution of government, under which they have hitherto lived, --- WE, who subscribe this paper, have associated, and do bind ourselves to each other, to GOD; and to our country, by the firmest ties that RELIGION and virtue can frame, most sacredly and punctually to stand by, and with our lives and fortunes, to SUPPORT, MAINTAIN, and DEFEND each other in the observance and execution of these FOLLOWING ARTICLES:

-FIRST. We declare all due allegiance and obedience to our lawful Sovereign; George the Third, King of Great Britain. And we determine to the utmost of our power to preserve the laws, the peace and good order of this Colony, as far as is consistent with the preservation of our Constitutional rights and liberty. SECONDLY. As we know it to be the Birthright priviledge [sic] of every British subject, (and of the people of Virginia as being such) founded on Reason, Law, and Compact; that he cannot be legally tried, but by his peers; and that he cannot be taxed, but by a consent of a Parliament, in which he is represented by persons chosen by the people and who themselves pay a, part of the tax they impose on others. If therefore, any person or persons shall attempt, by any action or proceeding, to deprive this Colony of those fundamental rights, we will immediately regard him or them, as the most dangerous enemy of the community; and we will go to any extremity, not only to prevent the success of such attempts, but to stigmatize and punish the offender. THIRDLY. As the Stamp Act does absolutely direct the property of the people to be taken from them without their consent expressed by their representatives and as in many case it deprives the British American Subject of his right to trial by jury; we do determine, at every hazard, and, paying no regard to danger or to death, we will exert every faculty, to prevent the execution of the said Stamp Act in any instance whatsoever within this Colony. And every abandoned wretch, who shall be so lost to virtue and public good, as wickedly to contribute to the Introduction or fixture of the Stamp Act in this Colony, by using stampt [sic] paper, or by any other means, we will, with the utmost expedition, convince all such profligates that immediate danger and disgrace shall attend their prostitute purposes. FOURTHLY. That the last article may most surely and effectually be executed, we engage to each other, that whenever it shall be known to any of this association, that any person is so conducting himself as to favor the introduction of the Stamp Act, that immediate notice shall be given to as many of the association as possible; and that every individual so Informed, shall, with expedition, repair to a place of meeting to be appointed as near the scene of action as may be. FIFTHLY. Each associator shall do his true endeavor to obtain as many signers to this association, as he possibly can. SIXTHLY. If any attempt shall be made on the liberty or property of any associator for any action or thing to be done in consequence of this agreement, we do most solemnly bind ourselves by the sacred engagements above entered into, at the risk of our lives and fortunes to restore such associate to his liberty, and to protect him in the enjoyment of his property. “In testimony of the good faith with which we resolve to execute this association we have this 27th day of February 1766, in Virginia, put our hands and seals hereto.

*Richard Henry Lee, Will. Robinson, Lewis Willis, Lud. Lee, Saml. Washington, Chas. Washington, Moore Fauntleroy, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Thomas Jones, Rodham Kenner, Spencer M. Ball, Richard Mitchell Joseph Murdock, Richd. Parker, Spence Monroe, John Watts, Robt. Lovell, John Blagge, Charles Weeks, Willm. Booth Geo. Turberville, Alvin Moxley, Willm. Flood, John Ballatine, Jr. William Lee, Thos. Chilton, Richard Buckner, Jos. Pierce, Will Chilton, John S. Woodcock, Robt. Wormeley Carter, John Blackwell, Winder S. Kenner, Wm. Bronaugh, Wm. Pierce, John Berryman, John Dickson, John Broone, Edwd. Sanford, Charles Chilton, Edward Sanford, Daniel McCarthy, Jer. Rush, Edwd. Ransdell, Townshend Dade, John Ashton, W. Brent, Francis Foushee, John Smith, Jr. Wm. Ball, Thos. Barnes Jos. Blackwell, Reuben Meriwether, Edw. Mountjoy, Wm. J. Mountjoy, Thos. Mountjoy, John Mountjoy. Gilbt. Campbell, John Williams, William Sydnor, John Monroe, William Cocke, Willm. Grayson, Wm. Brockenbrough, Saml. Selden, Richd. Lee, Daniel Tibbs, Francis Thornton, Jr., Peter Rust, John Lee, Jr., Francis Waring, John Upshaw, Meriwether Smith, Thos. Roane, Jas. Edmondson, Jas. Webb, Jr., John Edmondson, Jas. Banks, Smith Young, Laurl Washington, W. Roane, Richd. Hodges, Jas. Upshaw, Jas. Booker, A. Montague, Richd. Jeffries, John Suggett, Jos. Lane, John Beale, Jr., John Newton, Will Beale, Jr., Chs. Mortimer, John Edmondson, Jr., Charles Beale, Peter Grant, Thompson Mason, Jona. Beckwith, Jas. Samford, John Belfield, W. Smith, John Augt. Washington, Thos. Belfield, Edgcomb Suggett, Henry Francks, John Bland, Jr. Jas. Emerson, Thos. Logan, Jo. Milliken, Ebenezer Fisher, Hancock Eustace, John Richards, Thos. Jett, Thos. Douglas, Max Robinson, John Orr.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Christmas Open House

We will hold our second annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 9, from 2 until 4 p.m. Please come to see the house decorated in seasonal finery! We will have holiday cookies and cider. There will be festive music, including a choral performance by students from Wright Denny Intermediate School.



Photo: Brian Christopher



## Christmas Concert

The Charles Washington Chamber Music Society will present a holiday concert on Sunday, December 16, at 2 p.m. Classical guitarist Gary Stewart and friends will perform music of the season in the beautifully decorated parlors at Happy Retreat.

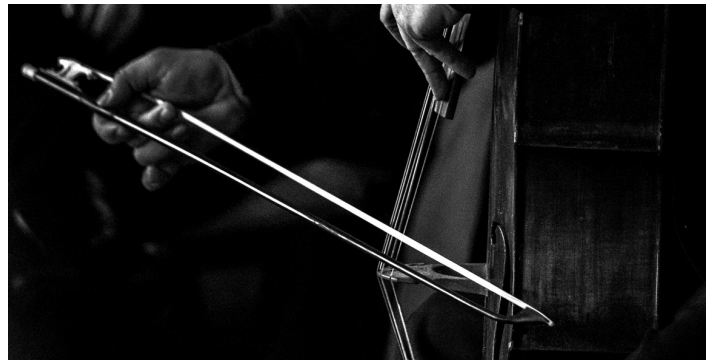


Photo: Brian Christopher

## Charles Washington Chamber Music Society Concerts

The Charles Washington Chamber Music Society will present classical lutist Ronn McFarlane on Sunday, January 27, 2019. On Sunday, March 17, flautist Kathie Stewart will perform. Both concerts will be held at Happy Retreat. For performance and ticket information, please see our website at [www.happyretreat.org](http://www.happyretreat.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS *(continued)*

## Winter Dance

Due to complications beyond our control, we have had to change our plans for a New Year's Eve ball this year. Instead, we will host a Winter Ball on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at Charles Washington Hall. Please save the date!



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## Volunteers Needed!

As you can see, we have a lot going on at Happy Retreat. We are in constant need of volunteers both to help at our events and to serve as docents in the house. If you are interested, please return the form on the back page indicating your interest, or call us at (304) 724-7956, or email us at [volunteer@happyretreat.org](mailto:volunteer@happyretreat.org). Volunteers are crucial to the success of everything we do at Happy Retreat. Please consider becoming part of our volunteer team. Thank you!

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The name "**Rising Sun**" is taken from the Rising Sun Tavern in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The tavern is located in the house built by Charles Washington in 1760 and where he lived before he moved to Happy Retreat. The house became a tavern in 1792. It is now owned and operated by the Washington History Museums.



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*Happy Holidays!*

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**WWW.HAPPYRETREAT.ORG**



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Yes, I would like to volunteer to help Friends of Happy Retreat

**Mail Check Payable to:** Friends of Happy Retreat, P.O. Box 1427, Charles Town, WV 25414

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