

The Town Crier

The Newsletter of Historic Dumfries, Virginia, Inc

September—October 2011



Membership
Renewal Issue

Special points of interest:

- Events: They Behaved Like Soldiers, 150th Anniversary of the Blockade of the Potomac and the Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fair

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150th Anniversary of the Blockade of the Potomac On September 24 - 25 From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

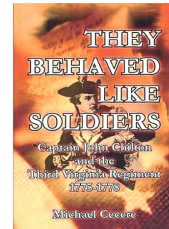
Weems-Botts will host a Confederate Campsite re-enactment to commemorate the 150th — Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Blockade of the Potomac River. The Emerald Guard, Virginia 33rd Company E, Stonewall Jackson Brigade, will have an encampment in Merchant Park offering demonstrations of how a soldier spent his time in camp. Authentic camp life demonstrations, drills, cooking, entertainment and general living conditions will be exhibited. Activities will take place at the museum and in Merchant Park as well as at Leesylvania State Park. A bus offering transportation between the sites will be provided free.



Two authors on the Civil War will be here to discuss their newest released editions - Robert Alton and Robert Brookover will do a discussion of the Civil War and readings from their books. A book signing will be available by both gentlemen. Cont. on Page 2

They Behaved Like Soldiers: The 3rd Virginia Regiment of 1776

Saturday, September 17, 2011
1p.m. - 3 p.m.



To commemorate the 235th anniversary of the Battle of Harlem Heights (in which scores of continental soldiers from Prince William County fought) local author, educator, reenactor and HDV board president Michael Cecere will give a presentation about the 3rd Virginia Regiment of 1776. Dressed in period attire as a member of the 3rd Virginia Regiment, Mr. Cecere, who has written seven books on the American Revolution, will discuss the important role the 3rd Virginia played in the Revolutionary War, particularly in the last crucial months of 1776 where they participated in the battles of Harlem Heights, White Plains, and Trenton. Mr. Cecere's presentation will include a demonstration of an early war continental soldier's uniform, equipment, drill etc., and a discussion about the 3rd Virginia Regiment of 1776. Mr. Cecere's books will be on sale in the museum gift shop and he will be available to sign them for those who are interested.

Please call 703-221-2218 to RSVP to this Free Event

Historic Dumfries by Night



Join Historic Dumfries for a “Spirited” Ghost Walk

— Free beverage bar and a light concession stand will be available —

Are you are brave enough? Take a walking tour through Dumfries Haunted Heights, visit Weems-Botts – listed as the second most haunted site in Virginia by the Fredericksburg Star in 2010. Hear local tales of spectral wonder and mystery along the way. Learn about the most haunted house in Dumfries and it’s most recent occurrences. Finish with hot chocolate and cider by the campfire in eerie and haunted Merchant Park. Share your own ghost encounters with other visitors! Walks are \$5 per person. Reservations strongly recommended. Call 703-221-2218 for more details. Join us for this fun and unique fundraiser for the Weems Botts Museum!



Dates: October 7,8,14,15,21 & 22

Time: 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 p.m.

Cost: Guided Ghost Tour - 1 hour - \$5/person

RSVP to 703-221-2218 your date and time!

150th Anniversary of the Blockade of the Potomac on September 24 – 25 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

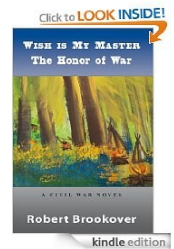
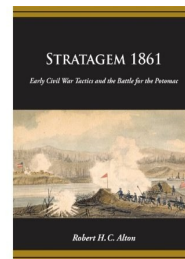
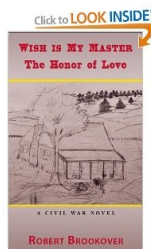
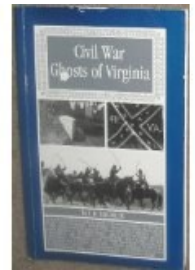
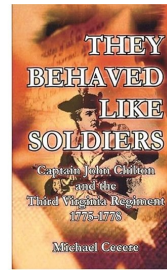
From Page 1

HDV is proud to highlight the lives of free and enslaved African-Americans in the Civil War as part of this living history program. We will have “Jim Thomas, Performer/Speaker, Spirituals, etc.” and Kristel McLaughlin presenting “From Slavery to Freedom.”



Please Visit Our Gift Shop in the Museum Annex for Autographed Books from:

L.B. Taylor, Jr., Mike Cecere, Robert Brookover and Robert Alton



See our Special Sale items for the Holiday Season as well!

Dear HDV Members

As we conclude another successful summer for HDV and enter an exciting fall season with numerous special events planned, I wanted to share a few observations with you as president of the board. I am happy to report that the addition of the 1774 Prince William County Resolves debate to our Charter Day activities proved successful. Scores of visitors left the reenactments of the resolves debate with a greater understanding and appreciation of the Prince William County Resolves. These important resolves were the first passed in Virginia in response to the British crackdown on Massachusetts. They boldly proclaimed Prince William County's support for Massachusetts in June 1774. Visitors also enjoyed the celebration of the 262nd "birthday" of Dumfries and learned more about colonial history in general thanks to the many colonial demonstrators and performers in Merchant Park.

A few weeks after our Charter Day celebration, HDV held its annual membership meeting in which three new members – Katherine Fullerton, Robert Alton and Bill Pishock – were added to the board. All the new members bring unique perspectives and experiences to the board that will undoubtedly benefit HDV.

The museum staff, led by Joann Barron, along with docents Judy Silcox and Robin Higgins and administrative assistant Helen Wells, and interns/volunteers Katie Hughes, Kay Pietrewicz and Matthew Critchley, worked hard all summer to organize the museum collections, maintain the annex and Weems-Botts building, conduct research, and lead tours.

The museum display cases and the Revolutionary War display in the upstairs bedroom of the Weems - Botts building have been replaced with a Civil War display to highlight the role of Dumfries in the Confederate blockade of the Potomac River during the Civil War. A special weekend event has also been organized, in conjunction with Leesylvania State Park, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Confederate blockade. Civil War related activities and an encampment will take place in Merchant Park, as well as the Visitor Center of Leesylvania on September 24-25. Along with the encampment, HDV is proud to highlight the lives of African-Americans in the Civil War.

In October, HDV staff and volunteers will once again host our very successful ghost walks. These walks help raise much needed funds for the museum and, judging from the large turnout, are lots of fun for all ages. We even manage to squeeze a lot of local history into the program.

So as you can see, HDV continues to do its best to promote the history of Dumfries and Prince William County. I want to end by thanking everyone who has contributed to HDV's efforts in the past, and urge folks to continue with their support so we can forge ahead sharing the special history of Dumfries Virginia with the public.

Sincerely,
Mike Cecere, HDV Board President

Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fair

**Saturday, October
22, 2011**

**Sponsored by Historic
Dumfries, Virginia and
Two Guys Antiques**

12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

**At: Dumfries United
Methodist Church**

**(Across from the Weems-Botts
Museum)**

**\$5 Ticketed event:
For the price of
admission, you can
receive two
appraisals.**

**Professional
experienced
appraisers, dealers,
and experts in
patent law are
available covering a
diversity of fields.**

**Call 703-221-2218
For Additional
Information**



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**Protecting and promoting the history of
Dumfries.**

*We're on the web! Become a Facebook fan of Historic Dumfries & the Weems-Botts
Museum — visit us at www.historicdumfries.com*

Special Thanks!

****Volunteer Stars****

Matthew Critchley

Kay Pietrewicz

Katie Hughes

Karl Stalknecht

Emma Stohlman

Ron Smith

Nicholas Jesionka

Theodore Sadoff

Von Barron

Historic Dumfries Calendar

Saturday, September 17 - They Behaved Like Soldiers. A Presentation about the 3rd Virginia Regiment of 1776 by Michael Cecere. Mr. Cecere has written seven books on the American Revolution and will discuss the role the 3rd Virginia played during the Revolution. From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP to 703-221-2218

September 24 & 25 – Blockade of the Potomac River Civil War Living History Program. Join living historians for a Confederate military encampment, Life of Slaves, Life of the free African American, Slave Spirituals, Civil War Songs, demonstrations, Book Readings from authors Robert Brookover and Robert Alton. FREE & Open to the public at Merchant Park. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days.

October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, & 22nd – Ghost Walks, call to RSVP at 703-221-2218

October 22, 2011– Antiques & Collectables Fair. 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Dumfries United Methodist Church. \$5 Ticketed Event—Call 703-221-2218 for information.

HDV Newsletter & Museum Credits

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