

'TOUCH BOX' PROGRAM: Washington's Ferry Farm, 268 Kings Highway (State Route 3 east), Stafford. This new program enables the blind and visually impaired to explore the history of Washington's boyhood home. Braille and large-print maps also available. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; adults, \$5; ages 6-17, \$3; under age 6, free. 540/370-0732; ferryfarm.org.

TOWN & COUNTY FREDERICKSBURG, VA. SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2009 THE FREE LANCE-STAR

MARY BALL: Daughter is willed a riding horse

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Ball's daughter to achieve gentry status. Eskridge was thus an ideal choice to oversee her daughter Mary's assets—and her future.

In 1725, Eskridge's involvement in the Cherry Point household further increased after the death of Samuel Bonum, who had appointed his uncle as guardian for his two infant sons and bequeathed to his sister-in-law Mary Ball his "dapple gray riding horse" from his modest estate.

But George Eskridge also already had a longstanding membership in a circle of families in his home county of Westmoreland, including the family of young Augustine Washington. In this role, George Eskridge would become the architect of Mary Ball's future.

Paula S. Felder of Fredericksburg is a historian and author specializing in the area's 18th-century past. Marian McCabe, editorial and research associate, contributed to this article. E-mail Felder in care of gwoolf@freelancestar.com.

NEXT WEEK: Augustine Washington

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Will of Richard Hues, written Aug. 12, 1712, recorded Feb. 17, 1713/14, Northumberland County Order Book 1713-1719, Page 17. Northumberland County volume containing Hues' will is missing, but a verbatim transcription appears in Dejarquette v. Suddoth (1815), Superior Court of Chancery, Fredericksburg District, Land Causes, Vol. 1, p. 245 (courtesy of Barry L. McGhee, archivist and Webmaster, Fredericksburg Circuit Court)

Will of John Johnson, written Oct. 1, 1720, proven July 19, 1721; Northumberland County Record Book 1718-1726, Page 177a

Will of George Washington, written July 9, 1799; gwpapers.virginia.edu/documents/will/text.html

LOCAL HISTORY CALENDAR

Young Friends interpreters, today and Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., George Washington's boyhood home at Ferry Farm, 268 Kings Highway, Stafford County. Young Friends, first-person interpreters, will offer glimpses into 18th-century life. For all ages. Admission: adults, \$5; children and students, \$3; under 6, free. 540/370-0732; ferryfarm.org.

Orange County History lectures, today, 10 a.m.-noon, Lake of the Woods clubhouse, Locust Grove. This free lecture series is presented by local historian and author Frank Walker. Today's session is "The Civil War: Much Too Close for Comfort." The last session is "Reconstruction & Race, and Times of Slow and Uneven Adjustments" on Saturday, March 28. The lectures are based on his book "Remembering: A History of Orange County," and pre-reading the book would be helpful. 540/972-3436; 540/672-5366 or 540/672-4167.

"Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius, and the Grand Tour," Tuesday, March 24, 6-7 p.m., University of Mary Washington, Monroe Hall, Room 104. The speaker will be Dr. Carol Mattusch, professor of art history at George Mason University. A reception with refreshments follows the lecture. Free. Special reserved parking for this event. Take Sunken Road and go up Campus Drive. Take the first right to the back of Monroe Hall. Park in the lot just past Monroe. 540/654-1055.

"John James Audubon," "Great Lives" lecture series, Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m., University of Mary Washington, Dodd Auditorium. Andrew Dolby, associate professor of biological science at UMW, will be the speaker. The next lectures will be **"Mary Todd Lincoln,"** on Tuesday, March 31, presented by James Emerson, author of "The Madness of Mary Lincoln," and **"James Farmer"** on Thursday, April 2, presented by Raymond Arsenault, the John Hope professor of Southern history at the University of South Florida and author of "Freedom Riders." All lectures are free and open to the public. 540/654-1055.

Historic Kenmore has completed its restoration and offers a new tour. Open March-October from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: adults, \$8; children and students, \$4; under 6, free. 540/373-3381, kenmore.org.

—Compiled by Carol Lee

E-mail calendar items to gwoolf@freelancestar.com.

CIVIL WAR CALENDAR

LOCALLY:

"Varina Howell Davis: First Lady of the Confederacy," today, 2 p.m., Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Stratford. Joan Cashin, scholar and associate professor of history at Ohio State University, will speak about the wife of the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis. Free. 804/493-8038.

Ellwood interpreter training, Monday, March 23 or Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Both sessions will be held at Ellwood. This is training for veteran interpreters. New volunteers must attend one of the veteran sessions. Greg Mertz, National Park Service supervisory historian, will conduct the training. Interpreters must commit to once-a-month service during the Ellwood season of May through October. Carolyn Elstner. 540/373-6240 or MElstner@aol.com.

"Voices From the Storm: Spotsylvania's Great Trial," Saturday, March 28, 5 and 7 p.m., Historic Massaponax Baptist Church, Jefferson Davis Highway (U.S. 1) and Massaponax Church Road, Spotsylvania. Using a vivid historic setting, music,

images and the words of the people who lived here, both slave and free, members of the community, Massaponax Baptist Church and the National Park Service will tell this story. Free. 540/898-0021.

Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day 2009, Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m., Wilderness battlefield exhibit shelter, State Route 20, two miles west of State Route 3, coordinated by Friends of Wilderness Battlefield. Volunteers needed to help clean up and repair facilities, exhibits and grounds of Wilderness Battlefield. Volunteers receive a T-shirt and Scouts receive a patch. Bring work gloves. Rain date is April 18. 540/972-2844 or e-mail craigraings@hotmail.com.

ELSEWHERE:

"Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One," today, 2 p.m., The American Civil War Center, 490 Tredegar St., Richmond. Actress and historian Gwendolyn Briley-Strand brings to life the courageous Harriet Tubman, one of the most well-known of all the Underground Railroad "conductors." \$10, or free with center admission. 804/780-1865.

"President Lincoln Visits Petersburg," Saturday, April 4, 7 p.m., Union Station, Olde Towne Petersburg. Lincoln re-enactor James Hayney will re-create the president's April 3, 1865, meeting with Gen. Grant, portrayed by living-history interpreter Larry Clowers. A reception with Civil War-era music will follow. 804/732-3531 or 804/733-2396.

"Steps Toward Freedom: Lincoln's Walk in Richmond," Saturday-Sunday, April 4-5, various venues in Richmond area. Retrace Abraham Lincoln's steps on his visit to Richmond in April 1865. Lectures and self-guided walk with stationed interpretation. All events free. 804/649-0711; lincolnwalkrichmond.com.

Bell and History Days, Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, April 5, 1-4 p.m., National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick St., Frederick, Md. Opening weekend for area museums. Hear the bells ring at 10 a.m. Living historian, Mark Quattrock, will portray a federal Civil War surgeon and present an interactive program. Free admission on

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