

PUNCH—NEEDLE EMBROIDERY: , Sunday, May 3, 1–4 p.m., Historic Kenmore, 1201 Washington Ave., Fredericksburg. Ages 10 and up will learn a new technique from Celeste Dennis of Everything Cross Stitch. Bring own scissors. \$49 includes all materials. Snack and beverage provided. Registration: 540/370-0732, ext. 24; e-mail to hayes@gwffoundation.org.

TOWN & COUNTY FREDERICKSBURG, VA. SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009 THE FREE LANCE—STAR

MARY BALL: Death comes at 82

FROM PAGE 6

last 17 years of her life. When British warships threatened Virginia in 1781, Gen. George Weedon personally oversaw the evacuation of the Lewis family on orders of Gen. Lafayette, to remove them from harm's way as the British brought war up the river.

After the war, she was honored by the townspeople on George Washington's visit in 1784 when he paid his famous tribute to her.

In August 1789, Mary Washington succumbed to breast cancer.

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.

F R E D E R I C K S B U R G, Aug. 27.
On Tuesday the 25th inst. died at her house in this town, Mrs. MARY WASHINGTON, aged 82 years, the venerable mother of the illustrious President of the United States, after a long and painful indisposition, which she bore with uncommon patience.—Tho' the pious tear of duty, affection and esteem, is due to the memory of so revered a character, yet our grief must be greatly alleviated from the consideration that she is relieved from all the pitiable infirmities attendant on an extreme old age.—It is usual when virtuous and conspicuous persons quit this terrestrial abode, to publish an elaborate panegyric on their character—suffice it to say, she conducted herself through this transitory life, with virtue, prudence and christianity, worthy the mother of the greatest hero that ever adorned the annals of history.

CONNECTICUT GAZETTE, NEW LONDON

Mary Washington's obituary appeared in the Connecticut Gazette in August 1789. She lived a long life by 18th-century standards.

SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Drawing by Sidney E. King used by verbal permission from the artist to Paula Felder.

Letters of Mary Ball Washington, Lawrence Washington, and Nelly

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Will of Joseph Ball. Written 25 June 1711, Recorded 11 July 1711, Lancaster County, Will Book 10, pages 88–93

Will of Mary Johnson Ball Hews (Hues). Written 17 December 1720, proven 19 July 1721. Northumberland County Record Book, 1718–26, page 177

Will of Richard Hues. Written August 12, 1712, recorded February 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 *Dejarnette 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 1 October 1720, proven July 19, 1721. Northumberland County Record Book 1718–1726, page 177a

CIVIL WAR CALENDAR

LOCALLY:

Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day 2009, today, 9 a.m.; Wilderness Battlefield Exhibit Shelter, State Route 20, two miles west of State Route 3; Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station. Volunteers needed to help clean up and repair facilities, exhibits and grounds of Wilderness Battlefield and Brandy Station. Volunteers receive a T-shirt and Scouts receive a patch. Bring work gloves. Rain date is April 18. Wilderness: 540/972-2844 or e-mail craigraings@hotmail.com. Brandy Station: 540/727-7718 or e-mail rdeardoff@fcps1.org.

Battlefield tours, today, 10 a.m.–noon, Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station. Tour Beverly Ford and St. James Church in a personal-vehicle caravan. Some walking necessary. \$10 per person. No reservations required. 540/825-4379.

Book signing, Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Fredericksburg Athenaeum, 109 Amelia St., Fredericksburg. Jason Emerson, author of "The Madness of Mary Lincoln," will read from and discuss his latest work, "Lincoln the Inventor—The Complete Story of Abraham Lincoln's Invention and Patent, and How His Mechanical Genius Shaped His Life." 540/373-1311.

"The Good Fight—H.P. Goddard's Accounts of Civil War and Peace," Monday, April 13, Brock's Riverside Grill, 508 Sophia St., downtown Fredericksburg. The monthly meeting of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table is open to the public. Calvin Zon, a Washington journalist, will be the speaker. He will share stories from letters, journals and reports of his great-grandfather. Social 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., lecture 7:30 p.m. Reservations required for dinner only at rvcwrt.org.

ELSEWHERE:

"President Lincoln Visits Petersburg," today, 7 p.m., Union Station, Old Town Petersburg.

Lincoln re-enactor James Hayney will recreate 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.

Bell and History Days, today, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; tomorrow, 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-history interpreter Mark Quattroch will portray a Federal Civil War surgeon and present an interactive program. Free admission today. 301/695-1864; fredericktourism.org.

144th Anniversary of the Surrender at Appomattox Court House, Wednesday–Sunday, April 8–12, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Appomattox Court House, Highway 24. Lectures and living-history programs. 434/352-5987, ext. 26.

Frederick Civil War Round Table Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 7:30–9 p.m., National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick St., Frederick. Ed Bonekemper will present a lecture based on his book "Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian." Information: 301/695-1864, frederickcountycivilwart.org.

"History Meets the Arts," Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Historic Gettysburg Hotel, Gettysburg, Pa. Historical artist Mort Künstler will demonstrate his creative technique. There also will be a signing from 2 to 6 p.m. of his latest painting, "Jackson Foot Calvary." 877/334-0513.

Book signing, Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m., Manassas Museum, 9101 Prince William St. Author Jessica James will sign copies of her award-winning historical fiction book "Shades of Gray: A Novel of the Civil War in Virginia." The book is set entirely in Northern Virginia. 703/368-1873; jessicajamesbooks.com.

—Compiled by Carol Lee