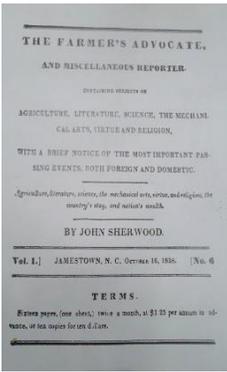


Summer 2017

Our title is in homage to the title of the first (1838) publication in Jamestown—John Sherwood's *The Farmer's Advocate and Miscellaneous Reporter*.



# *The Farmer's Advocate And Miscellaneous Reporter*

Historic Jamestown Society Inc.

Published Sporadically, But Enthusiastically

July 2017

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Director Shawn Rogers

**For more information go to**

**[www.mendenhallhomeplace.com](http://www.mendenhallhomeplace.com)**

## *Greetings to the Membership*

The Love of History

In order to preserve the history of Mendenhall Homeplace, the Town of Jamestown and North Carolina, we need to preserve the old buildings, stories and artifacts. This brings me to a request from the Historic Jamestown Society Board of Directors... Shawn Rogers, director of Mendenhall Homeplace, has secured a Federal Preservation Grant and a Town of Jamestown Funding Grant to restore the roof and porch structure of the main house, but we need to raise \$7,000 for a grant match.

While history fascinates some people, others find it boring. One way society can help change that is by preserving places like Mendenhall Homeplace. The Homeplace is special for many reasons including the generations of Mendenhalls that lived there and the causes they believed in and supported. Among the causes they supported were universal education and the abolition of slavery.

In my quest for history, I came across an autobiography written by Brantley York, whose family traveled from Pennsylvania to Virginia and then to the area on the border of Guilford and Randolph Counties near Archdale. The Yorks came to the area at the same time as the Mendenhalls. Brantley's sister Jemima married into the Mordecai Mendenhall family. His autobiography speaks about the building of community, the hardships the people encountered, how they handled the hardships and how they persevered to preserve life for their families. A very interesting note about Brantley York: He built Union Institute Academy in 1839. It was a two room building, and was named "Union" because it was used by both Methodist and Quakers. Union would eventually become Duke University, but at the time was a secondary school.

We definitely need the help of our members, friends and the Jamestown Community to successfully raise the \$7,000 grant match. We are holding a silent auction at Historic Jamestown Society's Annual Village Fair on July 15, 2017. We will have a lot of exciting and very special items to bid on. Please help support our continued efforts to preserve and restore Mendenhall Homeplace.

Jane Walker Payne, President

## *Letter from the Director*

Progress continues at Mendenhall Homeplace, thanks to the efforts of our members, donors, volunteers, and many other contributors.

I am very pleased to report that the historic stone walkway at the entrance to the Richard Mendenhall house has been restored and a new extension of the walk has been completed. John Broadhurst and his team from Stonemason Pavior did a wonderful job reconstituting the original stone, and, when necessary, incorporating replacement stones into the walkway. The result is not only visually stunning and historically appropriate, but altogether useful as the new walk features an ADA compliant grade and surface to provide safe and convenient access to the Richard Mendenhall house for those using wheelchairs or walkers. This important project was funded in part by the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation and the Town of Jamestown.

After a very long, anxious wait, work on the Mendenhall Masonry project has commenced. In fact, the plaster work in the New Parlor of the Richard Mendenhall house has been completed by master plasterer, Ron Tuck. Once I have finished fine-sanding the surface of the freshly cured plaster, it will be ready for primer and paint!! The mild temperatures and excessive rain of May and June have made the soil near the Richard Mendenhall house very soft. Consequently, the restoration of the building's chimney stacks is scheduled to be completed by the end of this month. The Mendenhall Masonry project has been made possible by the Federal Preservation Fund and the generosity of many area residents and organizations, including a number of Historic Jamestown Society Members.

We are presently awaiting more good news regarding another Federal Preservation Fund Grant. This grant will be used to replace the roof of Richard Mendenhall house and restore its two-story, tidewater porch. A grant match of at least \$7,000 must be secured to complete the project. In addition, an announcement is expected soon regarding a Town of Jamestown Funding Grant that will be used to install a new, state-of-the-art security and fire reporting system for all of the historic structures at Mendenhall Homeplace.

Your energy, hard work, and generosity help to fulfill our mission to share and preserve the rich history of Jamestown. Together, we will continue to serve our community, neighbors, and guests by sharing the significant lessons of the past in order to better inform the present and secure a happy, prosperous, and peaceful future.

As always, your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shawn Rogers, Director  
Mendenhall Homeplace  
[director@mendenhallhomeplace.com](mailto:director@mendenhallhomeplace.com)  
336.454.3819

### ***Don't miss—***

July 15, 2017 --Village Fair-- a celebration of the Mendenhall Homeplace with demonstrations by artisans, music, activities for children and adults, crafts, and food. Free admission. Donations gratefully accepted for the matching funds for the roof grant.

## *The Stanleys Deal with Smallpox and Stoneman in Jamestown*

Ruth D. Frisk, of Cambridge, Illinois, found discrepancies in *The Building and the Builders of the City* (High Point Chamber of Commerce, 1947, pp. 20-21) in reference to the Stanley family of Jamestown written by Martha Robbins Tilden.

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In speaking of the Stanley house of Jamestown, Mrs. Tilden wrote that after William Stanley's death the house was occupied by his son Adolphus, "whose wife, annoyed by a large family of small children and ill health, jumped into the well, and thereby ended her troubles of this world."

However, Mrs. Frisk, a granddaughter of Adolphus Stanley, writes: "I was always told that she died of smallpox," and continues:

"The article went on to state that Rebecca Stanley, the young sister of Adolphus, came to help care for the family. A lady across the street had died of smallpox; and, according to the story, Rebecca with youthful curiosity, went to peek into the window to see the dead woman who was a terrible sight. As a result, Rebecca got the smallpox and died.

"I don't know where the information was obtained. Rebecca may have come to the aid of her brother. That I do not know, but she was no sensation seeking girl. She was only three years younger than her brother, an alumna of Guilford College, and the widow of G. W. Causey. Also, she did not die of smallpox, for she died in 1901 at her brother's home in Illinois and is buried in the Stanley plot in the cemetery at Raritan, Henderson County, Illinois.

"As to the account of the people who came to prepare the woman for burial, my mother used to tell this story: After the death of his wife, Grandfather was left alone, for everyone fled in fear of the smallpox. Toward evening, someone knocked on the front door, and there stood a rather decrepit looking couple who had heard of his predicament. The man had worked once for him in the mills. They had both survived smallpox at an earlier date. Those two, whom Grandfather said his wife would not have allowed in her house, helped him prepare her for burial. My mother said her father often told this story to illustrate that one never knows upon whom one may have to depend for help and that one should view all people as God's children.

"Mother used to tell this story of the Stoneman

raid on the mill: My grandfather was taken from his office at gunpoint, backed up against a wall while the soldiers torched the mill. Years later when Grandfather was living in Illinois, a traveling salesman stopped at his home and asked if he could put up his horse and stay the night because a severe thunder storm was making it impossible for him to reach the next town.

"During the evening, the men began talking about the war and Grandfather told of the raid on the mill. After Grandfather retired for the night, the stranger told my grandmother and the rest of the family that he remembered the incident, for he had been one of the men to hold a gun on Grandfather. However, he said that he had enjoyed his hospitality that evening and did not want the old gentleman to know of his part in the raid. He said that war was war and that he had just been carrying out his orders.

"I have told you this, for I thought your historical society might find it of interest. Grandfather moved to Illinois with his mother-less daughters and his sister, Mrs. Causey. Later he met my grandmother and had seven children, of whom my mother was the youngest. He died March 2, 1913, and is buried in the cemetery at Raritan, Illinois.

"...My great-grandmother was Lydia Beard, who married William Stanley. They had four children:  
1) Adolphus Elwood (my grandfather) b. 1 July 1827 d. 2 March 1913;  
2) Rebecca Jane b. 1830 d. 1901, who married G. W. Causey in 1862;  
3) Martha Emmaline b. 23 April 1833, who married a Mr. Mason in 1854.  
4) William Franklin b. 26 June 1837 d. 4 February 1857. He was killed by getting his neck-scarf caught in a turning lathe."



The Stanley House which once stood near the present entrance to the City Lake Park.

**Historic Jamestown Society, Inc.**  
**603 West Main Street**  
**Jamestown, NC 27282**

## Coming Events: Watch for Announcements of Specific Day and Time

July 15, 2017, 10:00am-4:00pm: Village Fair. Celebration of historic Jamestown.

September 2017: Michael Briggs speaks about the Jamestown Rifles and NC Powder Horns. Civic Center.

December 2017: Candlelight Tour of Mendenhall Homeplace.

December 11, 2017: Annual Meeting