



MENOKIN

22

2022 MENOKIN ANNUAL REPORT

In 1769, a house was built.

It became the home of a **Signer of the Declaration of Independence**, marked by the fingerprints of the enslaved people who constructed it. Over time, generations of different families lived there too, and **called it home**.

250 years later, the ruin lays bare their lives. Menokin is more than just a house; it's a **vibrant community** of **donors, trustees, descendants**, and **neighbors**. It's a place where professionals and students alike can **come together to learn**. The Menokin Foundation has worked diligently to **create opportunities** for you to **contemplate** and **explore** the building of America, from the bricks in our walls to the ideas that govern our nation.

We are proud to share with you what was possible in 2022 because of your support. **As we look ahead, we are more committed than ever to fostering the community that has grown beyond our walls.**

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Staff Bios



Michael Beller spearheads digital communications and marketing, collaborating with the team on designing and executing social media campaigns, web site expansion, and email marketing. He also oversees press relations, branding, advertising, and co-marketing partnerships to drive engagement and revenue growth across all channels.



Alice French leads comprehensive, interactive public programs converging historic preservation with environmental conservation as Menokin's Director of Education.



Juliana Grassia serves as the Director of Visitor & Community engagement and has worked at Menokin since 2017. She oversees the visitor experience, Northern Neck community outreach, and daily operations at the Visitors Center. She also manages Rappahannock Outdoor Adventures.



Sam McKelvey, as Executive Director of Menokin, manages work towards its community-centric mission, research on enslaved laborers and their descendants, the creation of new programming and expanded recreational opportunities, and the \$10 million-dollar Glass House Project. Sam's profound passion for museums comes from seeing the change that cultural organizations can make in a community.



Clarissa Sanders joined Menokin's staff in 2019. As the Director of Research & Collections, she oversees the foundation's extensive archaeological and architectural collections, oversees all research and exhibitions, and works closely with the Menokin Descendant Engagement Team and the Descendant Collective.



Megan Schowengerdt joined Menokin as Director of Development in January of 2022. With over eighteen years of fundraising and nonprofit leadership experience, she is responsible for overall strategy and execution of Menokin's development goals, including annual giving and the capital campaign to raise funds for the Glass House Project.



Kiana Wilkerson joined the Menokin Team in 2022. As the Descendant Research Associate, Kiana researches the enslaved people at Menokin, the local black community, and engages with their descendants. She works closely with the Menokin Descendant Engagement Team and the Descendant Collective.



Jackie Vari joined the Menokin Foundation in March 2022. Through her role as the Development Associate, Jackie ensures that the day-to-day tasks involved with managing and stewarding our community of donors are fulfilled and keeps us on track to meet our goals.



Whitney Zahar came aboard in April 2022 as Menokin's Engagement & Operations Coordinator. She is the first person visitors meet at Menokin and she's responsible for managing the Visitors Center, providing quality interpretation, and maximizing the visitor experience.

Our Mission

Our mission is to use the historic ruin and the surrounding built and natural environments to transcend the traditional house museum experience. We use contemporary methods to create opportunities for the public to contemplate and explore the building of America.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be one of the most engaging destinations for historic preservation and interpretation. Our creative approach reimagines how individuals connect to history and promotes provocative dialogue around our nation's founding ideals and realities.

Menokin Leadership

OFFICERS

Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, Jr.
President, Arlington, VA

Lisa Dickinson Mountcastle
Vice President, Alexandria, VA

John H. Guy IV
Treasurer, Hartfield, VA

James D. W. Zehmer
Secretary, Charlottesville, VA

TRUSTEES

Abigail Bangser
New Canaan, CT

Mary Lynn Bayliss
Manakin-Sabot, VA

Judith Gordon
Orange, NJ

Frank Albert Johnson, Jr.
Warsaw, VA

Isobel Middleton Price Morris
Montross, VA

The Hon. Hullihen Williams Moore
Richmond, VA

Reginald A. Pearman, Jr.
Silver Spring, MD

Barry Salisbury
Middletown, MD

Margaret “Tobey” Taliaferro
Laneview, VA

Marc Williams
Alexandria, VA

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Calder Loth
Richmond, VA

The Hon. Harry T. Taliaferro III
Warsaw, VA

In 2022, Menokin volunteers helped at the Visitors Center, provided support at events like Makers Market, and assisted with key projects. Thank you to these volunteers for their time! Menokin invites you to share your talents as a volunteer. Information sessions start in the spring. Contact Whitney Zahar at wzahar@menokin.org for more details.

VOLUNTEERS

Margaret “Tobey” Taliaferro

Sandy Orton

Suzanne Sanders

Troy Mothershead

Rebecca Guest

Kevin James

Carolyn Wilkerson

Outgoing Board Members

Thank you to each of our outgoing Board of Trustees Members for their dedication in service to Menokin's mission! You will be missed.

H. James Garner III

Jay joined Menokin's Board of Trustees in 2018, served on Menokin's Finance Committee, and as treasurer. Jay's love of history and commitment to the Northern Neck region was apparent during his time with us. We wish him the best of luck with his new role as a history and social studies teacher.

Temple C. Moore, Jr.

Temple joined as a member of the Board of Trustees in 2017 and served as Chair of the Development Committee. His tenure with Menokin saw a growth in the professional nature of the Development Department. Temple's love of Menokin and nature were evident with his time with us.

Thomas C. Brown

Tom joined Menokin as a member of the Board of Trustees in 2017. Tom served on several committees including the Garden Committee and the Finance Committee. We will miss Tom's steady leadership and ability to see clearly the practical path forward.

Leslie Smith Ariail

Leslie joined the Board of Trustees in 2016. Leslie served on several committees including Buildings and Grounds and the Development Committee. Leslie had been a long-time supporter of Menokin, along with her late husband, John. Leslie's knowledge and connections to several of our preservationists were incredibly helpful in the development of the Glass House Project.



A Letter From The Executive Director

Greetings,

We here at Menokin hope you have had a wonderful beginning to your 2023. Please enjoy Menokin's latest annual report, recapping an eventful year in 2022 and a sneak preview of the year to come. As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded that Menokin and members of our local and national communities continued to deal with change stemming from a global pandemic, intense political divisions and continued debate on the role of American history in our lives.

While some parts of our lives have normalized, Menokin programming and purpose will forever be altered—including a positive turn toward community collaboration resulting from the social and physical isolation we all experienced in 2020.

Menokin's goal to become an essential part of the Northern Neck included continued improvements on our trails and kayak launch, the return of our annual Makers Day, the creation of our new Makers Market, Northern Neck community gatherings and the launch of our first Menokin Descendant's Day.

Menokin also continued to make progress on stabilizing the ruin in our Glass House Campaign. In this report, you will read about the full stabilization of the south and west walls, including Calder's Corner, named after Honorary Trustee and founder Calder Loth.

We are firmly part of our tidewater landscape, and we hope to make the lives for those living in this special place even better. As a 501c3 non-profit, Menokin receives about 95% of its funding from individual donors. Therefore, all of our community work is only made possible because of you.

The Menokin staff and board want to say THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support. We are excited to build on our past success into this year, aided by our new interpretive plan, and your generous donations.

As stated in the summary of the plan:

“Menokin is rich with stories, some clearly legible across the landscape, others perhaps more hidden — all interwoven and complex in their own right.

The future of Menokin is firmly anchored in its present. Clear-eyed in its purpose and intent to be of service to the Northern Neck community, Menokin will use its voice and resources to help the community respond to pressing threats.... With a committed and sustained exploration of how to use the experience of the past to be of service in the present, Menokin will advance its position as a nationally recognized thought-leader and model in the field. Menokin is a work in progress.”

As Bo Tayloe, President of our Board of Trustees observed, “This is just the beginning.”



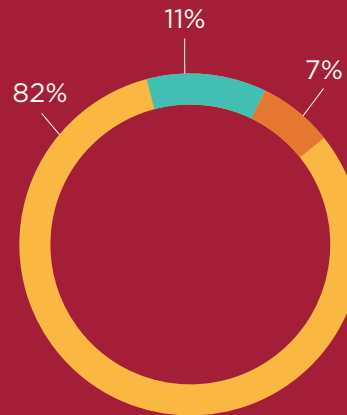
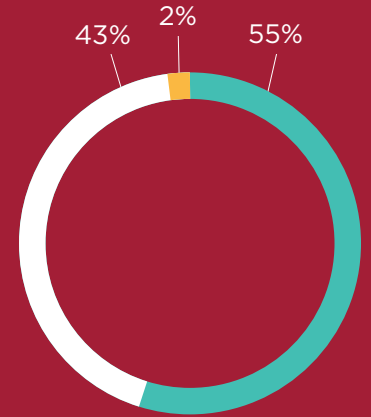
SAM MCKELVEY

Executive Director

Our Numbers

Income

- Donations: \$1,292,258
- State Grant: \$1,000,000
- Revenue: \$19,705.42
- Investment Draw: \$0



Expenses

- Programming & Services: \$1,369,443
- Development: \$181,481
- Administrative: \$111,805

2022 Financials illustrate unaudited numbers

Construction Update

Menokin is pleased to announce the completion of the stabilization effort of the south and west walls which began in 2020! This effort, the largest and most impactful work to date to save the Menokin ruin included a full stabilization of well over half the perimeter walls that remain.

Construction began with the dismantling of the South Porch, which included the large locust tree that held the porch together for decades. One exciting discovery from this work was an earlier smaller slate porch that had been encased in the larger brick herringbone porch built around it. Archaeological finds, including 18th century tools, are being conserved at Colonial Williamsburg for future display at Menokin.

Upon removal of the porch, both the South and West walls were documented and dismantled carefully. The stones were cataloged and housed on wood pallets while waiting to be rebuilt back into the ruin. Continued archaeology was conducted on the builder's trench (the original trench to build the Menokin walls below grade) to ascertain the strength of the masonry below ground level. The trench also allowed Menokin to install large anchors, modern preservation technology, to keep the ruin upright and safe for generations to come. During the dismantling of the walls, the 18th century brick barrel vault was shored up using custom scaffolding. Without some of the walls in place, Menokin was able to study the building from new angles that were previously inaccessible.



By the beginning of 2022, the walls were ready to be raised. Stone by stone, both the Menokin south and west walls were built back using the original stones from the home. Keystones were added above the windows, giving architectural detail that had previously been missing. Stones around the south door were recovered and rebuilt, allowing for the exterior exit and view enjoyed by Menokin owners for centuries to be seen once again. The walls were built to the original roof level, creating for the first time access to the best bed chamber in the southwest of the building. The temporary floors built over the barrel vault in this section of the ruin allowed visitors to explore the room in



which Francis Lightfoot Lee and other subsequent owners entertained guests. By this past fall, the last of the stone re-pointing was being touched up, as well as the final installation of internal scaffolding that is securing Menokin's walls until the project is completed.

So much progress has been made over the past year thanks to your interest, visits, and donations. Menokin is also pleased to announce further work that will take place in 2023. Masons will shore up

cellar walls in the Northeast corner, in addition to a few interior portions of the ruin. A large grant from the state for \$1 million has allowed Menokin to finish last year's work and begin construction this summer. More funds will be needed to finish the rest of the work, including Menokin's efforts to rebuild walls around the original front door, planned for 2024. To learn more about the future construction and view current progress, schedule a guided tour of the ruin today!

Stories
from 2022

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Northern Neck Heritage Area Spotlight

On December 22, 2022, the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Act was passed by Congress, designating the Northern Neck region as a National Heritage Area. National Heritage Areas are places where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes. Later signed by President Biden, the bill is the culmination of over two decades of research and planning, as well as a feasibility study by the National Park Service, identifying the Northern Neck's eligibility.

The Northern Neck National Heritage Area includes the land between the Potomac River and Rappahannock River, spanning King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties. As part of this National Heritage Area, Menokin and other regional cultural institutions now have access to new funding opportunities, resources, and partnerships that come with the designation.

As a National Historic Landmark situated on 500 acres of pristine waterfront landscape, Menokin fits in perfectly with this important designation. National Heritage Areas depict nationally relevant stories that reflect the diverse heritage of the United States. Menokin not only interprets the home of a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, but also the home of the Rappahannock Tribe and over two hundred enslaved people. Menokin's landscape and waterways embody thousands of years of history and cultural heritage. Furthermore, a portion of Menokin's landscape is protected under a conservation easement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



One Menokin initiative that ties in well to the National Heritage Area designation is Rappahannock Outdoor Adventures (ROA). Now entering its third season, ROA began as a partnership with the Town of Warsaw to promote economic development in Downtown Warsaw and to expand Menokin's popular kayak programming. Headquartered on the lower floor of the Saddlery building on Main Street, ROA offers kayak rentals and transportation to the water during the Northern Neck's busiest time of year, Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Through ROA, locals and visitors alike can enjoy the beautiful waterways around Menokin and Warsaw, including Cat Point Creek. They also can plan additional excursions, such as a guided tour of Menokin or a guided kayak paddle at sunset. ROA is an example of the types of efforts that will flourish as a result of the National Heritage Area designation.

Menokin looks forward to collaborating with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission and other community partners to promote and protect the Northern Neck's unique natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.



MDET / Descendant's Day

Initially named the Menokin Descendant Action Team, the Menokin Descendant Engagement Team (MDET) was formed in July 2021. The goals of the team were to research and to learn more about the enslaved people at Menokin, to create a compelling and authentic narrative about the enslaved population on site and in the surrounding areas, and to start to engage with their descendants. One of the ways they decided to approach this work was to plan a Descendants' Day for the budding descendant population at Menokin. This type of event had never been done before.

The members and liasons of MDET, Judith Gordon; Frank A. Johnson, Jr.; Michael Beller; Alice French; Gloria Garmon; Dallas Henderson; Sam McKelvey; Clarissa Sanders; Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, Jr.; and Bessida Cauthorne White; worked diligently on preparing for this event. Newly hired Descendant Research Associate Kiana Wilkerson joined the effort in July 2022 to help with finalizing any outstanding tasks. By September, the event had over 130 people registered!

Despite the weather, on October 1, 2022, the First Menokin Descendants' Day took place. Over 100 people came to Menokin to commemorate their enslaved ancestors. Descendants traveled from Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia to be a part of this momentous occasion. For many, it was their first time at Menokin.

The day was filled with many notable speakers, the keynote being Karen Dixon-Rexroth from the Sharswood Plantation in Gretna, Virginia. There were also several ceremonies during the afternoon, which included a drum procession led by Adam Canaday and hymns and spirituals sung by Veronica Williams, a descendant of Sedwick Gordon. There was also a libation led by Priestess Omiyemi Green and dedication of a plaque led by descendants Judith Gordon and Frank A. Johnson, Jr. In addition, a restored portrait of Daniel Gordon was presented by descendants Judith Gordon, Fannie Johnson, and Patricia Vance- Harris. At the end of the ceremonies, descendants were given white carnations, which were placed at the base of the trees in the Memorial Tree Grove in remembrance of their ancestors.

Earlier in the day, there were also tours inside the Remembrance Structure and Ruin, as well as special moments between family members and among different families.

Due to the success of the event, MDET was able to host the first Descendant Collective Town Hall Meeting in November 2022. That meeting brought together the descendants, Menokin staff, and Board of Trustees members to discuss ways to continue the research and to engage with the Menokin descendants.

These Descendant Collective meetings will occur monthly in 2023 to maintain active participation among Descendants and the Menokin staff. Menokin hopes the Descendant Collective and research will continue to grow in the upcoming years.



For more information about Descendant work at Menokin, please visit the website at www.menokin.org/descendants-overview.

CALL FOR DESCENDANTS

Built in 1769, Menokin was the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Menokin property, located near Warsaw, in Virginia's Northern Neck, is owned and managed by the Menokin Foundation.

The Foundation is seeking to identify persons who were enslaved at Menokin, or otherwise worked on the land after Emancipation, and their present-day descendants. Menokin would like to hear from persons who are descended from, otherwise related to, or have information about any persons who may have been enslaved at Menokin or lived/worked there after Emancipation.

Please contact the Descendant Research Associate, Kiana Wilkerson, by email descendants@menokin.org or by phone (804) 313-9994, or Director of Research & Collections, Clarissa Sanders, by email at csanders@menokin.org, and by phone at (804) 333-1776.

For more information about Descendant work at Menokin, please visit the website at menokin.org/descendants-overview



JOIN OUR SIGNERS SOCIETY AND MAKE HISTORY

Menokin is forever grateful to our Signers Society members, whose 3-5 year commitments of operating support totaling \$15,000 and above provide an important measure of financial stability for Menokin's community and educational programs and other strategic priorities.

Signers Society membership is limited to 56, and all members will receive permanent and highly-visible recognition in the King Conservation and Visitors Center for their roles in helping shape Menokin's future and current viability.



Only 9 signers society spots remain—Join us by making history today and become a Signer.

To request more details or to ask questions about becoming a Signer, please contact Megan Schowengerdt at mschowengerdt@menokin.org or 804-333-1776.

Menokin Celebrates Makers

Menokin's second annual Makers Day returned in 2022 as one of the most popular outdoor experiences for all ages. This free festival celebrates the craftsmanship and ingenuity of artisans and the material culture collected through history. Artisans demonstrate their talents and visitors come to learn from their processes. This past year featured many more new vendors participating, music by HOTMIXVA and food trucks providing fuel for a full day of immersive learning, historic tours, and self-guided exploration along the trails and Cat Point Creek.

As a National Historic Landmark, Menokin stories are rich in maker culture through the vestiges of architectural ruins and the archaeological material culture resting in the soil. One important part of preserving this culture is exploring the resourceful and skillful ways these objects were created.



Menokin looks forward to artisans returning this year and embracing new additions on June 24, 2024!

A workshop of building arts and decorative arts was always intended to develop at Menokin following the Glass House Project. Menokin seeks to continue to encourage and support architectural preservation by teaching the knowledge learned from traditional building professions and providing a gateway to these specialized skills, with the pride and respect these professions deserve. A strong understanding of traditional methods leads to innovative solutions for future preservation, as demonstrated through the dynamic preservation developed in the Glass House Project.



Makers Day this year was by sponsors who helped make this day a reality:

Atlantic Union Bank

Davenport & Company

And the many makers who shared their love of objects:

The Glass Spot - hot glass blowing

Uptown Quilt Guild - quilting

The Mariner's Museum - pine needle basketry

Photomath - sun prints

Glassgirl - stained glass

R. McKelvey - violin maker

Menokin Bad Dog Bricks - brick making

Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern - weaving & spinning and wooden spoon carving

Dying 2 Spin - indigo dying

Friends of the Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge - blue bird houses

New Department: Research and Collections

In January, the Menokin Foundation established the Research and Collections department, offices located at Menokin on Main in downtown Warsaw. The Research and Collections department oversees four branches of the foundation: Research, Collections, Exhibitions, and Descendant Engagement.

“Research and collections are the foundation of all the stories Menokin tells, and so the development of this new department really demonstrates how historical inquiry and discovery are embedded into the institutional culture of Menokin.”

-Director of Research and Collections Clarissa Sanders

At its onset, the department accomplished major milestones in 2022. The team learned more about the experience of women in the Northern Neck during the Revolutionary Era. This research will be used to create a new tour at Menokin, focusing on how the American Revolution created space for women to assert their independence in three main areas: in politics, as consumers, and at home. In the spring, the department brought on Kiana Wilkerson as Descendant Research Associate. Wilkerson, whose experience in anthropology, history, and archaeology have been vital to the foundation’s work, has worked diligently both to expand Menokin’s knowledge about those who were enslaved at Menokin and to build relationships with their descendants. In the fall, Research and Collections, in conjunction with the Education and Programs department, hosted Menokin’s First Descendants Day and the first Descendant Town Hall. These events have been monumental in fostering connections with those who are descended from people who were enslaved at Menokin. The team also worked with the rest of the Menokin staff on a new interpretative plan, made possible through funding from the 1772 Foundation.



To stay up to date on research at Menokin follow on Facebook or check out the website www.menokin.org.



While 2022 was a wonderful year for the Research and Collections department, the team is excited for 2023. One of the department's main goals is to make Menokin's collections and research more accessible, both online and onsite. The foundation has extensive archaeological and architectural collections that tell the story of not only Menokin but of the Northern Neck as a whole. The team is excited to begin the process of digitizing the collections so that researchers, students, and history enthusiasts far and wide can access Menokin's collections and the stories they hold. The department is also committed to continuing its work in identifying the men, women, and children who were enslaved at Menokin and their descendants.

2022 by the Numbers



Website traffic
increased 300%
over prior year



500+ new subscribers
were added to the
email database



Kayak rentals and
guided paddle
reservations
doubled by 58%



Social Media reach
increased 320%



Guided Tours
doubled by 51%



Webinar attendance
grew 400%



Overall physical on site
visitors **increased 17%**

Your investment in the work done at Menokin is what has made this growth in our outreach locally and beyond possible. **Thank you!**

Elements Webinar Series

Menokin's 2022 Elements webinars centered on ways the built environment intersects with its landscape and community. The series examined the many ways architectural spaces and landscapes interpret, improve or empower the community experience.

1. Featuring Burt Pinnock, FAIA and Terry Fauntleroy, the first webinar considered ways that historic landscapes and architecture may improve and empower the community experience through the fields of construction and architecture and engage the next generation of designers.
2. The next webinar looked at land use on historic landscapes with Sophie Haas, owner of Belle Grove Plantation, and discussed historic regenerative agriculture techniques.
3. Dr. Julia King, professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland researches and teaches Chesapeake history and archaeology. She presented information gathered through archaeological studies in collaboration with the Rappahannock Tribe about the historic use of their ancestral homeland, which Menokin is a part of.
4. For additional perspectives, the next webinar examined ways ruins are interpreted in a landscape with James River Parks and the Rosewell Foundation. Preservation of the landscape also preserves heritage in unique ways. Ruins take their visitors on a journey through glimpses of time and history.
5. Finally, the series was concluded with the understanding that historic landscapes do not always have boundary lines. Nick Minor, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for King George County, explored ways to promote the outdoor access of a county between two rivers, the Rappahannock and the Potomac. He recognized that all over the county were places with names from Indian languages and this heritage was missing from the county's storytelling. He brought together professors and students of University of Mary Washington and Patawomeck and Rappahannock traditional knowledge keepers to seek ways to promote and present this history, resulting in the beginning of a new American Indian Heritage Trail.



Summer Hangouts

In summer 2022, Menokin launched Summer Hangouts, hosted on the last Thursday of each month from June through August. The Visitors Center opened for extended hours in the evening, allowing visitors to spend time exploring Menokin's 500-acre landscape, taking free guided tours of the ruins, and playing lawn games such as croquet and cornhole on the new gaming green. They also had the opportunity to meet Menokin staff, volunteers, and Board members.

Menokin partnered with regional food vendors to bring their trucks to the Summer Hangouts. Da Hula Hut and Micah's Ice Cream Truck shared refreshing frozen treats during the events. They also actively promoted the Summer Hangouts to their own followings, attracting first-time visitors to Menokin.

The Summer Hangouts offered the community a free and safe space for families to spend time after work and school, supported local businesses, and provided opportunities for learning through play. They were also a fun way for Northern Neck neighbors to interact with Menokin's gorgeous historical and cultural landscape during the hottest days of the summer! **Menokin looks forward to hosting Summer Hangouts again in 2023, on June 22, July 27, and August 24.**



Menokin in the news

2022 marked a banner year for Menokin in the press. One of the Foundation's goals was to partner more closely with local press in the region in order to connect with local communities, driving area interest and visitation to Menokin. One story featured a headline article in the Northern Neck News about the state funding grant. The article took readers through the ins-and-outs of the Glass House Project, highlighting quotes and insight from Executive Director Sam McKelvey. The second story was a full-length feature about how presumably lost, and then rediscovered woodwork saved Menokin in 1985. The feature detailed the diligent efforts of Honorary Board of Trustee member Calder Loth, along with his colleagues at the time. In 2023, Menokin hopes to highlight several themes supported by programming to bring to press partners. Stay tuned!



How Wood Became Menokin's Savior

By Michelle Smith

There was time when Richmond County was at risk of losing a key historic landmark. Menokin's structural existence and its status were in jeopardy.

Finding Menokin

It was 1965, and three students in UVA's architectural history program planned a tour of historic, privately owned properties, such as Brooke's Bank, Mount Airy, and Menokin.

Before setting off, those students, Bob Nylander, Peter Hodson, and Calder Loth — wrote to the property owners to get permission to visit.

Menokin was an exception. They didn't know who owned the property or exactly where it was, but they had a good idea. While driving on Rt. 600 looking for the place, they saw a woman walking along the road, asked her if she'd ever heard of Menokin, and she directed them to the property.

"Sure enough, there was Menokin, wide open," Loth recounted. "At that time, it was completely intact, although it was in very neglected condition...All of the woodwork was there, all of the painting, and the interior in a relatively good state of preservation even though it was getting no maintenance."

Nylander took photographs throughout Menokin, a decision that would later prove to be a wise and important one.

"So we were satisfied we had the privilege to see the house, which we pretty much had to beg to see. But nobody was there to say that we shouldn't be on the site or who told us to get away," said Loth.

"We heard rumors that it was owned by a man with a shotgun that was trying to keep people away. I don't know if that was just a tall tale to keep people from trespassing. But there was none of that there," he added.

A disappointing return

A couple of years later, Loth and Hodson returned to Menokin and were totally surprised to find that all of the woodwork had been stripped out. It was a devastating discovery. They asked around and tried to find out what happened but nobody knew.

It was assumed that the woodwork had been stolen or sold. The truth remained a mystery for the next couple of decades.

Heirs seeking help

In the mid-1980s, Doris Ricciardi reached out to Loth who, by then, was a senior architectural historian for the Department of Conservation and Historic Resources (DCHR).

Ricciardi explained that Menokin belonged to her and her brother, T. Edgar Onofredo, and they received a letter saying the house was to be deteriorated and had lost so much integrity that the National Park Service was considering stripping its National Historic Landmark status, the highest official recognition that an American landmark can receive.

With Menokin being the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and given that the historical landmark status put it on the same playing field with properties, such as Mount Vernon and Monticello, Ricciardi didn't want the property to lose that designation.

But Menokin was in terrible condition, and Ricciardi and Onofredo weren't in a financial position to do anything about it, she told Loth. They had money to invest in the old house, and they had a sister in nursing home and needed money to look after her.

Ricciardi said the siblings were open to selling the property, but they would only sell it to an organization that would preserve it as a historic site. She wanted Loth's help.

Although he knew the house was dilapidated and it had been stripped of its woodwork, Loth agreed to help, but told her it would take time.

A shocking discovery

Loth explained that they sought buyers and solutions for Menokin. They went to Mary Washington University, which had a preservation program. They went to the preservation program at UVA. "But we got nowhere with that."

Meanwhile, "We talked to do anything now...Just work with us because we're working on some sort of preservation. So, they said fine."

At one point, there was a meeting of some interested people at George

On August 22, 1985, the prospects brightened for Menokin. Loth, Laura Feller of the National Park Service and Richard Remolds of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) went out to the property to see the condition.

It was a stark sight. Only two corners of the house were still standing and a broken tree was leaning against the front corner, a document about the visit reveals. Trees were growing out of the foundation, the rear corner showed serious structural cracks, and there was rubble lying all around.

As the group was leaving the site, they met Onofredo and expressed their concerns. The house was in such extremely poor condition. The woodwork, which would have increased its historical value, had vanished.

But wait, the wood hadn't vanished, Onofredo explained. He had it removed.

People had been coming and taking things. Knowing that he was unable to protect the house from pilfering, Onofredo explained that he had skilled carpenters carefully dismantle all of the woodwork and it was stored in an old house near the site of the farmstead. He invited them to go see it.

Relief and dismay

The group arrived at an abandoned bungalow. "It wasn't secure at all," said Loth. But Onofredo was correct, the wood was there and in good condition. It had been carefully removed.

Not only was the lack of security alarming, but they were also dismayed to find a section of the front wall had fallen out; the rain had poured in on portions of the woodwork, and "most disturbing — there were recent automobile tracks around the front of the house," and Onofredo said some furniture had already been stolen.

Preservation of the woodwork was essential. Onofredo and Ricciardi were made aware that without it, Menokin was not worth restoring or being kept on the National Historic Landmarks List.

Remolds said the APVA would be willing to accept custodianship of the woodwork, have it removed, and store it so that it could be cataloged and preserved. The siblings agreed.

Menokin's woodwork was taken to Bacon's Castle in Surry where it stayed for several decades.

Gifting Menokin

In the years that followed, King indeed came in handy.

Ricciardi died, leaving Onofredo as the sole heir of Menokin. King tried to persuade him that because he was a bachelor with no children, he should donate the property to the Menokin Foundation. Onofredo agreed.

"The funny thing was, there was no Menokin Foundation. We had to put it together very quickly so that the property could be legally accepted," said Loth.

In 1995, the newly formed foundation accepted the Menokin house and 500 acres of land.

In 2004, having raised enough money, the Menokin Foundation built the Martin K. King Visitor Center with a storage facility attached. The following year, Menokin's wood was returned to home grounds.

If Menokin had lost its historical landmark status, it would have been a horrible psychological blow. That would have meant that from a national perspective, it ceased to be important, Loth explained.

If Menokin's woodwork hadn't been discovered and saved, it certainly would have put a damper on us trying to make a convincing case that the house was worth preserving," said Loth.

"A pile of stones without the woodwork would have very little meaning or value to anybody. The preservation of the woodwork opened up enormous possibilities for what could be done with the site," he said.

Onofredo gifted Menokin to help build a field school for architectural conservation and architectural study. The plan called for the phased reconstruction of the house as an educational activity.

That reconstruction is underway with the Glass House Project, an innovative initiative that involves only partially restoring the Menokin house while showcasing much of the dilapidation in place.

"We feel that even though this might look kind of strange, what it does promote curiosity and interest about an important part of Menokin's history. And this, that it went into a



The house in Lyells where Menokin's woodwork was kept. Photo: Menokin



Woodwork being removed from Lyells to go to Bacon's Castle. Photo: Menokin



Woodwork stored at Bacon's Castle. Photo: Menokin



GIVING TUESDAY

\$8,070.00

in 2021

+6%
growth

\$8,565.00

in 2022

#GivingTuesday Success

#GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past ten years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to celebrate generosity.

This year's #GivingTuesday took place on November 29th, and Menokin asked for your help to support the upcoming 2023 Makers Day event. Menokin celebrates the building arts every day, but once a year makers from our

community come to Menokin to celebrate the makers movement with a free community event: Makers Day. With that in mind, the goal was to raise \$6,000 to keep Makers Day FREE and fun for our community in the Northern Neck and beyond.

Not only was that goal achieved, but surpassed, with your help! We at Menokin are so grateful for your support and hope that you'll **join us for Makers Day on June 24, 2023.**

2023

Preview

3

UNCOVER MENOKIN THIS SPRING & SUMMER

PROGRAMMING GUIDE



6.24

3RD ANNUAL MAKERS DAY | 11AM - 3PM

Creatives demonstrate their skills to share and teach others.



Scan the QR code to register!

2023 Elements Webinar Series: MAKERSPACES

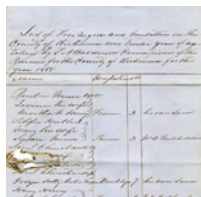
This year's season focuses on the rise of makerspaces with architects, preservationists, and artisans that are creating places of creativity and innovation in our culture today.

RESEARCH & RELEVANCE GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS 11AM - 2PM

4.15: "Intro to African American Genealogy" with Bessida Cauthorne White

6.17: "Genealogy - How to Use Your Local Resources"

8.19: "Know Your Genealogy" with Library of Virginia



7.1-9 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Menokin is the former home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Take guided tours about Menokin's place in our country's founding, rent kayaks, and explore the landscape. Walk-ins welcome!



KAYAK PADDLES at Cat Point Creek: Memorial Day through Labor Day



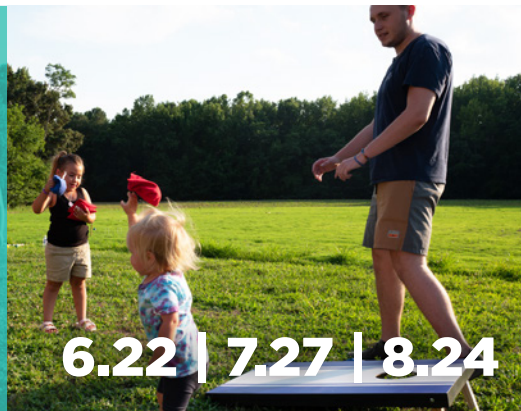
5.29 - 9.4



Scan the QR code to book!

2023 SUMMER HANGOUTS 5PM - 7PM

Unwind with new and old friends. Enjoy lawn games, tours of the ruin, and sweet treats from a local food truck.



6.22 | 7.27 | 8.24



TOUR MENOKIN: Choose from two guided tours during your visit to Menokin.



MENOKIN TOUR

Learn about the history of Menokin, from the people who lived and worked on the landscape to the award-winning Glass House Project.



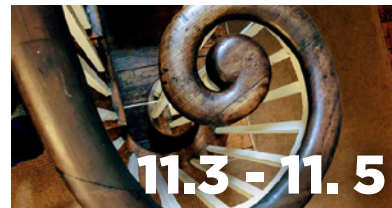
REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN OF MENOKIN

Discover the women of Menokin who made their mark on history during the American Revolution. The tour explores themes of freedom, politics, resistance, and more.

4.19

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

Celebrate Historic Garden week in the Northern Neck, including a visit to Menokin to learn of preservation plans for the terraced gardens and house. Free shuttle service between Warsaw and Menokin.



11.3 - 11.5

Save The Date:

ARCHITECTURAL TRAVEL TOUR

Join us for a special 3-day guided coach bus tour showcasing homes designed by renowned 18th century architect William Buckland including Menokin, Gunston Hall, the Hammond-Harwood House, and other destinations.

2023

2023 Preview

At Menokin, our programs celebrate and explore the stories of the people and cultures that lived at this site and carved their place in history by what they made and built for their lives: dwellings; cookware; tools; gardens; clothing; nations and ideas. We then use this knowledge to build modern connections to our society today. Programming is always changing. We design our programs to build on the unique personal experiences each of you gets at Menokin and we strive to fill the needs of the communities that support us. Whether that community is geographical, historical or the museum industry at large, we want to serve you.

You can find all of our programs online at menokin.org/menokin-events.

Below you can read a sneak preview of a few of our 2023 themes:



Architectural Travel Tour

Planned for November 3-5, this new event highlights architectural preservation and the skilled craftspeople who formed these places. This year we showcase the homes of 18th century architect William Buckland. Learn about the life and design works of William Buckland at Menokin, Gunston Hall and Hammond Harwood House.



Elements Webinar Series

Elements webinars feature unique perspectives for preserving the architectural past, considering how historic skills and craftsmanship continue to be taught, valued, understood and integrated into modern building design and communities in the 21st century.



Guided Kayak Paddles

Menokin guided paddles highlight the Menokin Chesapeake Bay Gateway, a part of Captain John Smith's Heritage Water Trail. Discover Virginia's Scenic Waterway with a guide to learn about its history and witness the splendid wildlife of Cat Point Creek.



To find out about upcoming programs and to get registered, visit our website at menokin.org and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/Menokin



K-12 Programming

The Menokin learning experience provides a cross-curriculum approach relating preservation and innovation, historical and current issues, the building arts and the natural environment within context to the community and the world at large.



Makers Market

After last year's success, Makers Market supporting local makers will return on **November 18**. Purchase unique, handmade items from local makers and crafters to satisfy anyone on holiday gift lists!



Menokin Makers Day

Makers Day is a FREE family day of fun on **June 24**, celebrating the innovation, ingenuity and creativity of makers through demonstrations of various skilled artisans.



Rappahannock Outdoor Adventures

Rappahannock Outdoor Adventures is back for its third season!

May 27 through September 3, ROA will be open on weekends for kayak rentals.



Research & Relevance

This series of programs will translate ways that research corresponds to historic topics in today's democracy. In 2023 webinar participants will learn about the life of a Female Buffalo Soldier and will join in a series of genealogy workshops including the Library of Virginia, Menokin Research Assistant Kiana Wilkerson and Genealogist Bessida Cauthorne White.



Revolutionary Women of Menokin Tour

Menokin added a new guided tour to its daily offerings, the Revolutionary Women of Menokin. During the tour, visitors discover the women of Menokin who made their mark on history during the American Revolution. Exploring themes of freedom, politics, resistance, and more, this tour signals the start of Menokin's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



Summer Hangouts

Join Menokin at the Visitors Center for lawn games, free tours, and sweet treats during the Summer Hangouts on **June 22, July 27, and August 24 from 5pm to 7pm**.

1769 LEGACY SOCIETY

Interested in learning more about how to make your gift to Menokin inspire generations to come? Join our 1769 Legacy Society by letting us know you have remembered Menokin in your estate plans.

Receive potential tax savings for your estate by including Menokin in your will or trust for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or another type of provision. You may also restrict your gift to a particular program or area of Menokin.



If you are interested in leaving your mark on Menokin, join the Legacy Society.

Please contact Sam McKelvey or Megan Schowengerdt via phone at 804-333-1776 or email at mschowengerdt@menokin.org to discuss. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!



SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to these wonderful donors who have chosen to make their gifts recurring. Their continuous support ensures the sustainability of Menokin and its many free and low-cost community programs.

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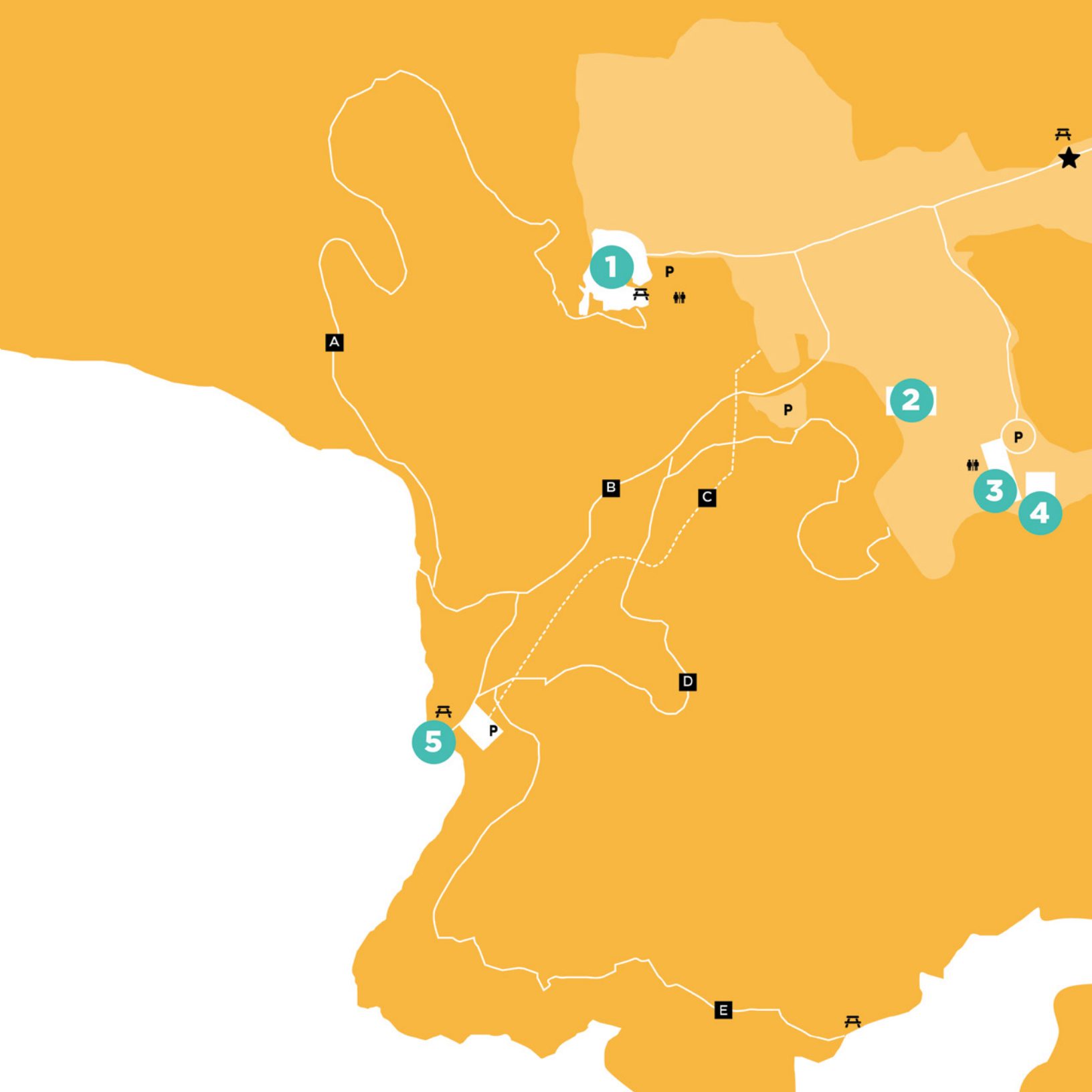
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- 5 Kayak Landing
- A House to Cat Point Creek
- B Tree Trail & Road
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- P Parking
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**Address:**

4037 Menokin Rd, Warsaw, VA 22572

Hours:

Menokin grounds are open daily
7 AM - 7 PM





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