

THE CLARK MESSENGER

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DECEMBER
George Rogers Clark Heritage Association
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From the President's Quill

November 23, 2009

Dear Members,

Upcoming meetings: December 2, 2009 and January 6, 2010

December, the Moon when the Fur is Prime. Hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the particularly mild fall we've been having. **The fall event** was held in perfect weather and everyone who was able to spend a day or two in the park had a very enjoyable sojourn. I'd like to thank the crew that helped with set up, John Wysocki, Randy Jackson, Randy Young, and Jim, Bud and Ziggy from the Park Staff. Also everyone who hung around and helped with clean up on Sunday afternoon. As I had projected, we had plenty of public who dropped by to see what we were doing, and all the members who have NMLRA instructor certification pitched in to assist with a large Boy Scout contingent that stopped by. There were a lot of compliments from the public about our activities in the park.

George's Birthday was the best attended that I can remember and the crowd stuck around. The music was fantastic and, I think, had a lot to do with everyone staying. Not to mention that the food was excellent also. Be sure and thank Linda and Donna and Belinda for the wonderful organization of this event and also Kathleen for organizing the clean-up crew in the kitchen. We do know how to party like its 1790.

As I write, this coming week is Thanksgiving. I hope that all of you will be able to take time to celebrate with family and friends the blessings of the past year. Please give thought to our service people overseas that will not be able to celebrate with family and say a prayer for their safety. Among the many blessings that I count this time of year, I include the honor of being able to represent this wonderful organization as its president and to work with all the talented folks of GRCHA. God Bless all of you.

Pele-ti-nuc-shel-wa, - Rusty

MEMBERSHIP DUES & YEAR END DONATIONS

Annual membership dues need to be renewed effective January 1, 2010. All members should now be caught up with their membership cycle starting at the beginning of the year. As the year comes to a close, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association, a 501(c)(3). A donation in someone's honor or memory or the purchase of a membership for someone can also make a thoughtful holiday gift.

LIBERTY DANCERS

The GRCHA Liberty Dancers will be providing the entertainment again this year for the Williamsburg Christmas Dinner held at the Officer's Club at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. In the past our costumed dancers have enjoyed a delicious dinner and wine before performing several colonial era dances and then personally inviting audience members to partner them in several participation dances. The Williamsburg Dinner is on Sunday, December 20th. The number of Liberty Dancers has been limited in the past so if you are interested in participating in this lovely evening be sure to attend the Tuesday evening practices, sign up on the list and make your dinner reservation at the Officer's Club.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The GRCHA December general meeting is designated as the organization's "annual meeting" and that means it is election time! The Board of Trustees consists of nine members elected for a three year term. Each year three trustee positions are elected at the annual meeting, and then the newly elected trustees join the remaining trustees immediately following the annual meeting for a brief meeting where the board elects the new officers for the year. This year there will be **four trustee positions** elected by the membership due to the resignation of trustee Katie Nowack this past summer. Kris Shultz was appointed by the board to fill Katie's seat and now he has been nominated to fill a full term as a trustee. Presented to the membership at the November meeting was the slate of nominees: **Sheri Forness, Tom Rumpke, Wendy Reynolds, Kris Shultz, Mike Wright and Doris Dressel**. All current GRCHA members, age eighteen years and older, **present** at the annual meeting are entitled to vote. Remember, George Rogers Clark wants YOU to attend and vote!

CRABILL HOMESTEAD UPDATE

The GRCHA Board of Trustees voted at the October trustee meeting to accept responsibility for the Crabill Homestead from the Clark County Historical Society. A new standing committee was formed to facilitate this project and in November the board appointed Kristin Shultz as the chairman of this committee and Kris Shultz as the site manager. Here is Kristin's open letter to the membership inviting your participation:

Good Day,

I'm very excited to share the news that I will be the committee chairman for the Crabill House. I have an enormous task ahead of me to get this latest extension of GRCHA off its feet. But I'm thankful to say there have been many of you that have expressed interest in the project and I'm looking forward to working with all the interested members on this new standing committee. Plus, it will be wonderful to see how GRCHA will grow with the additional interest in this project and the new membership it will bring.

Many of you have already approached me with so many ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Please keep them coming. In this spirit, I would like to have our first committee meeting at the Crabill House on Sunday, November 29th at 2 p.m. I would like to invite all the members to attend this gathering, whether you're interested in seeing the house for the first time (or an additional time), or if your interest is in the committee or just being a volunteer. Membership thoughts and ideas are important to this effort, and the more, the better. If you are unable to attend the committee meeting on the 29th, please feel free to send your ideas to me by e-mail, and they will be presented to the committee.

If you are interested in participating on the committee or as a volunteer, please send an e-mail to me regarding what you are interested in doing, and include a telephone number and e-mail contact address.

Sincerely, Kristin Shultz, Crabill Homestead Committee Chairman, 937-215-4920, medic3375@yahoo.com

TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

All GRCHA members are invited to attend the annual holiday celebration. Our "**Twelfth Night**" will take place on Saturday evening, **January 9, 2010**. Tom and Mary Jane Rumpke will be hosting the festivities at the Gathering House. Please sign up at either the December or January general meeting. There is no cost involved, however, donations for the punch are taken at the event and all attendees are asked to bring a period food item (in a period style serving vessel) to share. Recipes for a variety of period dishes are available on the back table of the Gathering House at the general meetings.