Descendant’s Day Postponed

Due to the on-going health crisis as well as restrictions put in place by the Governor of Virginia, we have postponed our Descendant’s Day Celebration. We are currently looking at an alternate date later in the year and once we have confirmed it, we will let you all know and hope that you will be able to attend!
Ongoing Research

Even though the visitor’s center is closed until June 10, the grounds are still open for visitors and staff has been hard at work! Research Assistant Pia Spinner has been working diligently to not only uncover new information but compiling existing information into an interpretation for our Remembrance Structure as part of the tour. Currently, there will be three narratives presented that focus on the Gordon family and the Parrish-Cox family with the plan to expand the amount of narratives as more research is done. Once Menokin is open for tours again, we hope that you all will be able to experience the new interpretation!

Website Update

In addition to on-going research, Pia is also hard at work with updating the information on our website as it pertains to Menokin’s enslaved community and the descendants. We will be re-branding it as the Remembrance Collective.

This process is a work-in-progress but we do want you all to have a sneak peek at the mission of the Remembrance Collective. This, along with Menokin’s mission statement and input from you all, will be the guiding force of the Remembrance Collective.

From 1769 to 1865, Menokin was residence to over 200 enslaved people. From the Lees to the Harwoods, each family that owned Menokin was dependent on the forced labor of these enslaved men, women, and children to ensure that Menokin remained successful and profitable while also having their personal needs attended to. Slavery was a dehumanizing condition where bodies, minds, and spirits were broken, families were separated, and the most basic of human rights were denied to an entire swath of people. Menokin honors the lives and legacies of the people that were so essential to not only its creation but its day to
day operation. We thank the descendants of the enslaved community for sharing their family’s history with us so that we may tell a more complete story of Menokin.

Get Involved!

We are always looking to connect with potential descendants. Please reach out to either Pia Spinner (pspinner@menokin.org) or Alice French (afrench@menokin.org) and we will be happy to communicate with you!

Questions about genealogy, information, or getting started? Please reach out to Pia Spinner!

On April 21, 2020, five trees were planted to honor the legacies of the descendant families. The trees planted are Scarlet Oak and Tulip Poplar and planted by Friends of the Rappahannock. A dedication ceremony will be conducted when Descendant’s Day is rescheduled.