# Conococheague Pioneer Times

The Newsletter of The Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage

Winter 2020/2021



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# A Winter Like No Other – The End of 2020



Like many other nonprofit organizations, we are thankful that we have survived such hard times that 2020 has brought. During the pandemic and closures, we have remained healthy (both physically and financially) and have ended the year stronger than ever. This is due to the strength of support we have received from our community. Just like life on the frontier, you are always stronger together.

Continuing in our COVID mode of free outdoor events to enable people to have a safe place to visit, more and more families visited CI for the first time. Word of mouth is spreading and there are more eyes than ever looking to our future (while also looking into the frontier past).

Whether you were able to visit the site in person or have been following at home we deeply appreciate the support, via memberships, donations, and word of praise! A kind word or compliment helps reinforce that we are going in the right direction.

We have also been making efforts in forging our community bonds stronger. Fort Loudoun gave us some great pointers for our bake oven. Renfrew Museum and Park invited us to help with their Oktoberfest event. For 12 hours we portrayed colonial crafts - We made lye soap all day (and roasted a game hen), and we benefited in that scores of the people we talked to visited CI the next weekend. The staff at Allison Antrim Museum gave us a lovely behind the scenes tour of their site (and we reciprocated) and we look forward to collaborating with them more on projects (they have an incredible textile collection).

The staff of the Franklin County Visitors Bureau visited for a tour in November and loved the experience. They got to see what CI has to offer and will share that with a large audience. As well as colonial crafts and cooking (they each got to taste a freshly made meat pasty straight from the oven), Lauren Formosa got into the spirit of things by embracing the Colonial Women's Clothing and we ended the tour with a lovely hike along CI's Cemetery Trail.



Finally, in December we were extremely pleased to welcome the staff of The Institute (formerly the Institute at Renfrew). As they have a long success story of hands-on, engageable programs about Nature, our meeting about future Institute programming at the Conococheague Institute is very promising indeed. Bird walks, biology studies, astronomy...and of course their assistance with our Colonial Garden!



Franklin County has a rich network of community sites, and it is our hope at CI to work together with all to benefit each other and the local community.

### **TECH TROUBLES!**

From talking to you we are aware that some people are having trouble getting into contact with us.

First our **PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED**. You may now reach us at **717 328 2800.** We may not always be in the office, but if you leave a voicemail, we will get back to you in 24 hours.

Our emails (for those that receive online newsletters and updates) are our bigger issue. When we send out emails, we often get bounce back notifications (especially from emails ending in Embarq mail, CenturyLink or comcast).

There are a few ways we can fix this. We don't want our Members missing out!

- 1. We will be sending physical newsletters to those who we believe are not receiving them, to be sure they receive this update
- 2. Please take a moment to check in your inbox and spam folder. If you see any emails from <a href="mwedd@cimlg.org">mwedd@cimlg.org</a> or <a href="mwedd@cimlg.org">pioneerhistory@innernet.net</a> add them as accepted contacts.

To aid the way we update Members, we will also be sending out periodic event updates via a program called MailChimp. This allows us to send clearer messages with links to further information. Again, check for emails from <a href="mwedd@cimlg.org">mwedd@cimlg.org</a>, and if you have folders check your promotions folder. Change the email to your inbox so you do not miss out on exciting news!

### <u>Planning 'A Very Colonial Christmas' - Primary Source</u> Documentation

Many people ask where we get the inspiration for historical interpretation - Exhibits that look like someone just walked away from the room, clothing that transports you back in time, recipes, songs and more. The short answer is **Artifacts and Sources**. We try to use ceramics that match the ceramics found in a sites archaeological dig, merchants records and probate inventories let us know what items are available. Clothing is based on extant originals, paintings, and tailor books. Recipe books of course are not hard to find (though sometimes hard to read).

This also applies to the activities and events we planned this year. Our "Very Colonial Christmas" which was regrettably cancelled due to COVID was planned around several 18th

Century sketches, letters and essays describing Christmas
Customs in the 18th Century. The long essay on the next page
from 1773 was but a quick search away on ACCESSIBLE
ARCHIVES, which is one of our Membership benefits of
course.

In it the author describes food eaten at various levels of society, games played, and customs of the time. As you will read it shows that in many ways it reads like a time not so unlike today. Good food, family, and fun. Also like today he laments at the end how the Spirit of Christmas had changed.

However, you celebrate the Holidays I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Wassail!

(Note: All spelling errors below are from the original)







Collection: THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE

Date: December 30, 1773

### Title: From the LONDON MAGAZINE. CHRISTMAS . AN ESSAY.

"Good Morning t'ye my Masters! St. John send you all a merry Christmas! Trimly are ye clad in your Holiday Doublets, and your Holiday Faces. Shall we to Moorfield, or to the Country Green? Shall we revel at the Games in the City, or frolick away the Day at the Gambols in the Villages?"

#### BEN JOHNSON.

I HAVE been amusing myself, during the last three Days, with observing the various Scenes which Christmas has introduced into this Metropolis. The Arrival of these Holidays has always been a Signal for Society to make off their little Cares; and the Affairs of every man, however important or trifling, now turn aside from their usual Channel, and wear a Holiday Appearance. Such a Season as the present, when Revelry is let loose and Festivity reigns in all Hearts and in all Faces, diffuses universal Cheerfulness, not only among the Actors in the Drama, but among the Spectators also. The simple Man may look on and laugh; the grave Man may view them, and shake his Head; and even the Philosopher may wink at the Crowd, and glean a Moral from the Follies of his Fellow Creatures.

It is worth our Attention to observe how this Festival operates on the different Ranks of People, in their Manner of celebrating it; for every Rank has a particular Fashion, which follows instinctively, and exclusively of all others, so that a first Rate Character in the Arrangement of Society shall differ as much from a third or fourth Rate one as if the one was a Turk and the other a Laplander. Your high bred Men, your Men of Fashion and Vertu, the My Lords, the Sir Johns, and the Enquires of six Thousand a Year, leap into their Carriages, with their whole Family of Daughters, Sisters and Cousins, and roll down to their Country Seats, fifty or a Hundred Miles from Town, where they yawn away the vulgar Holidays without Company or Comfort, pushing off the tedious Evenings with Scandal or Cards, till the Time comes for genteel Company to fly again to Town, and for Parliament to meet; while their Tables are covered with all the flippant of French Ragouts, culinary Kickshaws, and the poisonous Spices of the Indies.

The wealthy Citizen, who, having been since his Youth dependent on the Smiles of the Publick, has at length become independent, and sets the World at Defiance, betakes him into his Chariot or his Chair, with the Companion of his Life on his right Hand, and Tommy and Jacky fitting on two Stools before them. Things thus settled, he drives to his Box at Clapham, Fulham, Camberwell, Newington Butts, or Kentish-town; where, though a dirty Ditch stretches itself behind his House, rolling down dead Dogs and Cats in its muddy Stream, yet the Citizen lives very happy, having his House upon the high Road Side, and a Square of Chinese Railings before it, enclosing two or three withering Shrubs. Here, in Imitation of greater Folks, the drowsy Christmas passes away but heavily; here you may see a Picture of Inconsistence, the Remains of City Life blended with a high

"On the well brighten'd oaken Board are spread The rural Dainties, such as Nature boon Gives to her Children; Dainties long prepar'd To celebrate this Day, and with good Cheer To grace it Triumph. Crystal Gooseberries, By Housewife well prepar'd, are pil'd in Heaps. Pride of the Autumn, found green Codlins, float In dulcet Streams. Nor wants the last Year's Stores; The hardy Nut, in solid Mail secure, Impregnable to Winter Frosts, repays Its Hoarder's Care; whilst the blithe cheerful Swains Crack Nuts and Jokes alternately. Cheesecakes and Pies, in various Forms uprais'd, In well built Pyramids aspiring, stand; Black Hams, and Tongues, that speechless can persuade To ply the brisk Carouse, and cheer the Soul With jovial Draughts. Nor does the jolly God Deny his precious Gifts; Here jocund Swains, In uncouth Mirth delighted, gaily quaff Their native Beverage; in the brimming Glass The liquid Amber smiles. The modest Maid But coily sips, blushing drinks, abash'd. Each Lover, with observant Eye, beholds Her graceful Shame, and her glowing Cheeks Rekindles all his Fires; but Matrons sage, Better experienc'd, and instructed well In Midnight Mysteries and Feast Rites old, Grasp the warm Bowl, and draw a long deep Draught."

Imitation of Court Life, the Manners of the Change aukwardly united with those of St. James's.

Your Citizen of humbler Note, who has yet got neither Chariot nor Chair, yet is daily making Money by an unwearied Attention to Business, exhibits a livelier Picture in the Circle of his domestick Life. Yet uncorrupted, untainted by an unnatural Affectation of Politeness, nought is he ambitious of being but a plain Citizen. His utmost Wish at this Season is to have his Table covered with a lusty Rump of Roast Beef, and to have two Puddings smoke upon his Board at Dinner. This Dose is repeated at Night, and with Guttling, Drinking, and Smoking, he finishes a Day of Gluttony and Gratification.

Why should I name that still humbler Class of Mankind, who earn their Beef and Porter by the Sweat of their Brows? To see enough of these civilized Savages, it is only necessary to walk the Streets in Holiday Time. These are they who forsake their families, and cheat them of their daily Bread to riot at Alehouses and Retail Gin Shops, to roll in the Kennels, or reel along the Streets.

Having thus seen what the good Folks in Town are doing, it will not be amiss to take a Walk in the Country to observe the Effects of Christmas on rustick Minds. Here, indeed, the Whole is a Scene of universal Joy. It comes but once in a Year, and they make most of it. Noise and Mirth walk Hand in Hand, and good Humour keeps Pace with good Eating. The Space, the Pitchfork, and the Wheelbarrow, are thrown away; the one-eyed Parish Fiddler is sent for, and the well smoked Gammon of Bacon is taken down from the Roof.

Such is the Face of Things within, but it is abroad that Revelry breaks loose. The Sports, the Games, the Gambols of their Ancestors, are not forgotten; these sacred Reliques of ancient Manners, which have been piously transmitted down from Generation to Generation, unsullied and unchanged. Dancing, Wrestling, Racing, Cricket, Cudgel playing, Skittles, Bowling, Hunting, are met with in every Thicket, in every Field. Every Place resounds with the Cries of Jollity, the Hill answers to the Dale, and the Dale replies to the shelving Rock; babbling Echo runs laughing from Field to Field, and the whole Firmament is filled with the broken and confused Sound of Guns, Tabors, Fifes, Fiddles, Horns, Hounds, and Iden.

It is an imitation, I suppose, of an ancient Tilt and Tournaments, where the Youth used formerly to win their fair Ones by Force of Arms, and where they showed the Strength of their Love by the Strength of their Limbs, that such Games as require unusual Strength and Activity to excel in them are still religiously preserved in the Country. At these Games also, the young Rusticks have good Opportunities of displaying their Parts to please their Mistresses. I have often stood, with great Satisfaction, in the Ring at a Village, to view the

"Behold yon motley Crowd, the buxom Nymphs Usher'd by jolly Swains. Distinctions cease, Lost in the common Joy; and the bold Slave Learns on his wealthy Master, unreprov'd. Round the fond Mother's Neck the smiling Babe, Exulting, clings. Hard by, decrepit Age, Propp'd on his Staff, with busy Thought revolves His Pleasures past, and casts his grave Remarks Among the heedless Throng. The vigorous Youth Strips for the Combat, hopeful to subdue The fair One's long Disdain. Blushing she views His brawny Limbs and his undaunted Eye, That looks a proud Defiance on his Foe. Resolv'd, and obstinately firm he stands; Dangers nor Death he fears, while the rich Prize Is Victory and Love."

Feats performed by these athletick Clowns; and the Observation of those Expressions which Nature throws into the Faces and Actions of the Crowd present, according as each of them interested in the Business that is going on, is not the least amusing Part of the Entertainment.







To be sure, all these Things are very good. Here is enough of Mirth, of Merriment and of Sporting. Here is enough of every Things suitable to the Time and Occasion; of every Thing, except Religion. The most sacred Festival in our Kalender, instead of being celebrated with that pious Joy, that Christian Cheerfulness, which were the great Purposes of its Institutions, is converted into one continued Scene of Riot, Profligacy, and . That divine Era, which ushered the Son of God into the World, beaming Mercy and Immortality on the Sons of Men, serves Low as a Signal for Lewdness to throw off the Mask, for the Wanton to become more wicked, for the Profligate to become more profane.

Our Ancestors, who have taught us many good Things, would teach us Something worthy of Imitation in this Point also, if we have Virtue enough to copy it. These brave Men considered this annual Festival as the Season for calling forth their most serious Thoughts: If they shut the Doors of their Shops or Compting Houses at the Approach of Christmas, it was only to retire into their Closets and to present their Gratitude to Heaven. Thus it served as a Spur to make them more generous, more virtuous, and more religious; and this naturally inspiring Mirth and Cheerfulness (for true Religion is always cheerful) their very Worship became blended with an innocent and laudable Festivity, which made it not only a religious, but (as they call it) a merry Christmas. This was the true original Meaning of the Phrase; which we, wanting only an Excuse to be riotous, have perverted from its real Explanations. We make Christmas excessively merry, only by being excessively wicked; and we celebrate the Festivity of our Saviour, as if we were ministering the mad Orgies of Bacchus. But Profligacy is the Characteristick of this wretched Age.

# CI Membership 2021 - Changes and Perks

Though 2020 had its negatives, our Members supported us even stronger than ever. Midway through the year we saw an increase in Membership Renewals and Donations, and our Membership increased with many first time Members.

For 2021 we want to grow even more, and so we have performed a small overhaul on the way Membership works. For our existing Members, it will apply to you and our hope is that it will draw new members in for a more sustainable future.

First, we instituted a tiered reward system: In the past an Individual Member and Life Member were indistinguishable. With the introduction of rewards (similar to other organizations) we hope some of our long-time supporters will increase to a higher level to show their support of CI and reap the benefits. For new Members they are accurately able to choose the Membership that is right for them.





Our Membership year runs from January to December, but as is Cl's custom, Memberships taken after September roll over into the next year. As such there is **NO CHANGE IN THE PRICE SYSTEM**.





For those that have renewed recently we will start mailing out 2021 Membership cards in January. Please carry them when you visit CI as they will help with library services, discounts and more.

Membership cards are also a great way to get new members. When asking a visiting family if they have a membership card, if the answer is "no" then it is an opportunity to share all the great benefits that supporting CI can bring.



Student - \$10 Includes one (1) person under the age of 18 or one (1) certified adult student

- Annual Membership Card
- Our Quarterly newsletter, The Conococheague Pioneer Times
- Preferred invitations to special programs and events
- Library Lending System on Select titles from our Immense Book Selection
- Photocopies of library research materials available at no charge
- Free admission to Rock Hill Farm House Tours
- Free admission to lectures and presentations
- A 10% discount on purchases from our gift shop
- On-line access to the full-text primary source history database 'Accessible Archives' (a \$90 value)

### Individual - \$25

Includes one (1) adult over the age of 18

Includes all the former Membership benefits, with the additional membership perk

• Free admission to all events (except major annual fundraisers)

### Family - \$35

Includes two (2) adults & up to four (4) dependents

Includes all the former Membership benefits, with the additional membership perk

• Free admission to all events (except major annual fundraisers)

### Patron - \$125

Includes two (2) adults, up to four (4) dependents & one (1) adult guest

Includes all the former Membership benefits, with the additional membership perk

25% Discount on History and Nature Workshops

### Corporate - \$200

Includes two (2) adults, up to four (4) dependents, & two (2) adult guests

Includes all the former Membership benefits, with the additional membership perk

Supporting CI - Business logo or ad featured annually in our Quarterly newsletter that reaches over 400 viewers

### Sustaining-\$300

Includes two (2) adults, up to four (4) dependents, & two (2) adult guests

#### Includes all the former Membership benefits, with the additional membership perk

• 50% Discount on History and Nature Workshops

#### Life-\$1000

Includes two (2) adults, unlimited dependents, & two (2) adult guests

One-time payment receives annual benefits for Life

Includes all the former Membership benefits, with the additional membership perks

- Free admission to all events
- One Free Workshop Annually for yourself and three (3) guests Up to a \$300 value
- Annual Family Gift of Membership (\$35 value) Spread the joy of memberships!



## **GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP - For 2021**



Another way to grow is through Gift of Memberships. Life Members will receive one Gratis Family GoM annually. When they designate who they want to gift it to, we will send their recipient their Membership information. After tasting what CI has to offer, we are sure they will renew themselves the year after.

We want to create a sustainable future for the Conococheague Institute and make a place where future generations can experience and enjoy the Historical, Cultural and Natural Resources that make CI such a special place.

Whether you have Children or Grandchildren who you think could benefit we encourage you all to purchase a Gift of Membership for your loved one. By doing this you support both CI, and further enrich the life of another with some wonderful new experiences.

# **Educational Programs at CI**

2020 has oddly enough seen an increase in School Programs at CI. We had more groups this fall then the whole of 2019 combined!



Since Labor Day we have been open to "programs by appointment" with all the tour aspects being outside and socially distanced.



We have had numerous repeat programs from local Homeschool families (some of whom did all the programs we offered!), local Christian Academies and even a Girl Scout group from Frederick, MD!



During our November Event "A Case to Justify Resistance" (a program on the Politics of the Revolution with an evening Bonfire program), CI was extremely pleased to welcome Girl Scout Troop 37005 to CI. They arrived at 10 am and did not leave until 8.45 pm, enjoying every moment. Now that is a love of learning!



Here is what Jennifer Newcomer the troop leader had to say:

"I think the best thing I can say for the girls is that they really enjoyed being immersed in the day-to-day life. Many of them especially enjoyed learning about surgery and making bread. When we chatted as we drove home, many of them remarked at how different, and yet how similar life was back then. A highlight of their day was gathering water from the well and burning the effigy. They really enjoyed the experience.

We sincerely appreciate you allowing us to experience the Institute and being so willing to work with the girls with whatever their hearts desired. Thank you for being so welcoming to them "



As the photos show throughout the day the girls tried every aspect of CI - They embraced women's clothes and roles, played games, each made their own bread loaf, explored the nature trails, learnt about surgery, had quills made from feathers, picked vegetables in the garden, and then pelted our effigy and enjoyed the bonfire in the evening.



We look forward to future opportunities to share similar experiences with such dedicated young adventurers. The enthusiasm was extremely heartening for our staff and volunteers.

For more information on programs, or to book one call 717-328-2800, email <a href="mwedd@cimlg.org">mwedd@cimlg.org</a>, or visit <a href="www.cimlg.org">www.cimlg.org</a>.

DONATE NOW TO HELP KEEP HISTORY ALIVE! YOUR DONATIONS FUND OUR PROGRAMMING. THANK YOU!

# Winter Library Leaves – By Mary Hartmann

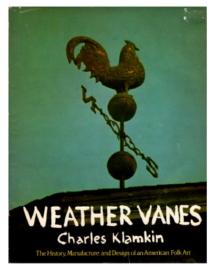
What better way to spend the cold days of winter than with a good book?

Cataloging is ongoing and many things of interest have been found hiding in various boxes such as an 1898 War Map of Cuba published by New York Life Insurance Company; The Great American Receipt Book published in the 1850s with nearly 500 recipes; a Muster Roll of unknown origin at present with brief listings of attendees to Battalion Drill and Parade Drill and a donation by Dr. Jim Wetzler of The War That Made America DVDs with Graham Green as actor, director and narrator, telling the story of history.

One book that touches a subject one may not think of but turns out to be very interesting is written by Charles Klamkin, *Weather Vanes: The History, Design, and Manufacture of an American Folk Art*. Contrasting that is one by Raymond Garlick, *Anglo-Welsh Poetry, 1480-1990*. As you can see there is a very broad subject range within our library!

Following is a quote found on the title page of a book written in 1815 by Mrs. Hester Chapone, *Letters on the Improvement of the Mind, Addressed to a Young Lady* that begs contemplation:

"I consider an human Soul, without Education, like marble in the Quarry, which shows none of its inherent Beauties till the Skill of the Polisher fetches out the colours, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental Cloud, Spot, and Vein, that runs through the Body of it. Education, after the same manner, when it



works upon a noble Mind, draws out to view every latent Virtue and Perfection, which, without such Helps, are never able to make their Appearance. "ADDISON.

# Members only Perk – Library Lending

Remember the incredible Conococheague Institute Library is now again a lending library for Members only (on select titles of course. We do not want one of a kind Genealogical records or 18<sup>th</sup> Century tomes walking out the door).

Whether an in-depth researcher, or just looking for a casual read, we are happy to serve you in finding the book that is right for you. By encouraging lending, we hope to continue to foster the love of Literacy, History and Nature in the community; Plus, we know you will be back within a month to return one book and take out another!

Do not forget to Renew your Membership for 2021! Your Membership card will be used to track Library usage.

# **Genealogy Research**

We have not forgotten our important Genealogical resource during COVID-19. Many people have been using the time stuck at home to research their family history and we have had diverse queries on Native America Tribes, a Waggoner who kept a Tavern and served during Braddock's Campaign, and the more local families.

We have also made an effort to make the Palmer Papers Index online! Go to our website <a href="www.cimlg.org">www.cimlg.org</a>, and in the resources section you will see a new tab for Genealogy. Download the Palmer Papers index and you can now search your family name. If located, contact us with the page number and we will get that information back to you.

Please make all Library queries to mary@cimlg.org or phone 717-328-2800 and leave a Voicemail stating Library

# <u>History at Home – Virtual (or Paper) Programming that everyone can enjoy!</u>

#### Making a Meat Pasty to Garnish any dish

One thing that unites people of all time periods is a love of food. That is why at CI, we enjoy using our Hearth fires and Bake Ovens so often to recreate historic recipes. Nothing makes a space feel more lived-in than the fresh smell of baked goods, and it has the added benefit of filling our stomachs.

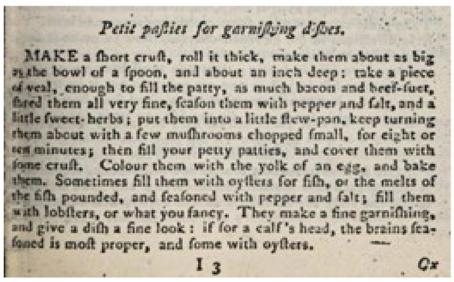
Many people have asked for recipes that they can try at home, and so we recently made a video detailing the process of making a meat pasty. You can find it on our Website in the History at Home section and on Youtube at "Colonial Living at the Conococheague Institute".

### But where do these recipes come from?

There are scores of Historic Recipe books available online for free and in print. Our Library has a wealth of them too.

For this recipe we followed Hannah Glasses "Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy" to make a shortcrust pastry and some meat filling:





Historic Recipes can be a little vague on many options though, so when cooking at home, it is important to get a few more details.

#### To Make 6 Meat Pasties

Preparation: 30 minutes
Cooking: 30 minutes

### **Shortcrust Pastry**

2 1/2 cups (310g/10oz) plain flour 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard 120 g (4 oz) butter, chopped

#### Filling

250 g (8 oz) round or blade steak, finely chopped (or meat of your choice)

2 small floury potatoes, finely chopped

1 onion, finely chopped

1/4 cup (15 g/ 1/2 oz) chopped fresh parsley

1/4 cup (60ml/2fl oz) beef or chicken stock

1/4 teaspoon English mustard

1 teaspoon grated horseradish

beaten egg, to glaze



- Preheat the oven to hot (415 degrees F) and grease a baking tray. Put the flour, mustard, and butter in a bowl and rub in the butter with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add 2 tablespoons of water and mix with a knife until the mixture comes together, adding more water if needed. Gather into a ball, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate
- To make the filling, mix together the steak, potato, onion, and parsley. Add the stock, mustard, and horseradish, and season with salt and white petter. Mix well
- Roll the pastry out to 3 mm (1/8 inch) thickness. Cut out six 16 cm (6 1/2 inch) rounds, using a saucer as a guide. Spoon the filling into the centers of the six pastry rounds.
- Glaze the edge of the pastry with egg and bring up two sides over the filling to make a half-circle. Pinch the edges together to form a frill. Brush with the egg and bake on a baking tray for 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to moderate (350 degrees F) and cook for a further 20 minutes. Serve hot or cold

Good luck and have fun. Pasties can be individualized to your favorite fillings for every member of the family!

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### **Contact Us:**

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July Paris		gue Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage	Dues are based on a calendar yea	
gardens A	nnual N	lembership Application/Renewal	from January 1 thru December 3:	
Student	\$ 10	Please print your information.		
Individual	\$ 25	Name:		
Family	\$ 35	Address:		
Donor	\$ 75	Home Phone: Ce	II Phone:	
Patron	\$ 125	Email:	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Corporate	\$ 200	Please make checks payable to Conococheague Institute.		
Sustaining	\$ 300	Mail to: Conococheague Institute, 12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg, PA 17236.		
Life	\$ 1000	<u> </u>		
Additional	donation:	\$ Thank you!		