

Presented by the Trustees of The Clermont Foundation



THE CLERMONT FORUM

*CELEBRATING CLARKE COUNTY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY,
AND PLANNING FOR CLERMONT FARM'S FUTURE
AS A STATE HISTORIC SITE*

FREE TO THE PUBLIC - ALL INVITED

**Nine Virginia Historians
Come to Clarke County to Talk About
Its Past and Its Future as Seen
Through the Lens of Clermont Farm and Seven Themes:**

- Community (Public) History
- Agriculture and Rural Life
- Clermont and African American History
 - Women's Roles
- Architecture and Material Culture
- Legal History, Medicine, and Clermont
 - Military History

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2011

**Program: 12:45-5:00, Grace Church Episcopal Parish Hall,
110 N. Church St, Berryville, VA 22611
Reception: 5:15, Parish Hall**

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

**Program: 9:30-2:30, Old Clarke County Courthouse, 104 N. Church, Berryville
Lunch: 11:30, Parish Hall**

Details on Reverse. Public is notified that all sessions will be video-audio recorded.

The Forum Program

Just as the buildings and archaeology of Clermont are being researched, the Foundation asked Warren Hofstra, Professor of History at Shenandoah University, to organize nine Virginia scholars to research and present on seven key historical themes. Presentations and commentary at the Forum will contribute to the planning process needed to determine the ultimate use of Clermont as a state historic site and public facility. Each participant has been asked to address two questions: (1) What is the significance of the historical theme upon which you are working; and (2) what is the public value of knowledge within your thematic area for Clermont and its community. Four panels of local citizens will also comment.

1st Session - FRIDAY, June 24, 12:45 – 2:45, at Grace Church Parish Hall, Berryville

Kym Rice (George Washington University), Clermont: Potential of Public History in 21st Century
Kenneth E. Koons (Virginia Military Institute), Farming at Clermont During the Age of Grain

2nd Session - FRIDAY, June 24, 3:15 – 5:00, Parish Hall, followed by RECEPTION

Melvin Patrick Ely (William & Mary), House of Bondage, Springboard into Freedom: Clermont and Clarke County's Black Community
Karen Hughes White (Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County),
African American Life at Clermont

3rd Session - SATURDAY, June 25, 9:30 – 11:30, Old Clarke County Courthouse

Deborah A. Lee (Public Historian), Wedded to the Land: Women at Clermont
Dennis J. Pogue (VP for Preservation, Mt Vernon), Portrait of an Evolved "Virginia" House
Maral S. Kalbian (Architectural Historian), Wadlington to Williams, An Evolving Homestead
LUNCH, 11:30, Parish Hall

4th Session - SATURDAY, June 25, 12:30-2:30, Old Clarke County Courthouse

Peter Wallenstein (Virginia Tech), "New and Strange Beings": Law, Medicine, and Clermont
Joseph W. A. Whitehorne (Military Historian), Clermont As Military Witness
Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director, DHR, Reflections and Conclusion

Clermont Farm

Clermont has been a 360 acre working farm (beef cattle and sheep, originally wheat) for 260 years, with significant 18th and 19th century buildings, on Rt. 7 at the east entrance to Berryville, Clarke County. It was bequeathed to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Historic Resources in 2004 by Elizabeth Rust Williams, a lawyer and judge in Clarke County. It is on the National and State Registers.

Four families have owned the farm since Lord Fairfax sent the eighteen-year old George Washington to survey Clermont on October 19, 1750. In 1819, Elizabeth Williams' great-great grandfather, Dawson McCormick bought the farm, in whose family it remained until 2004.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR)

The Department is the State Historic Preservation Office, and the owner of Clermont. Its mission is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. Clermont is the only historic property it directly owns. Clermont will be used to further its mission, as well as to benefit people in the local and the regional community.

The Clermont Foundation

Elizabeth Williams left her other assets, including the Clermont archives and an endowment, to a charitable foundation she established. The twelve local trustees oversee the use of these assets, and under a contract with DHR, also manage the farm and lead the planning for its future. During the initial planning period, 2007-2012, Clermont is classed as a "study site" and is therefore not open to the public except for an annual Farm Day (third Saturday in June). The Foundation is completing an Historic Structures Report on the site, and a *Long-Range Plan for the Use and Interpretation of Clermont*, as well as fulfilling the two conditions of the bequest, stabilizing and preserving the buildings, and maintaining active farming.

WEBSITE: www.clermontfarm.org FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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