

newsletter

Vol. 4, No. 2

SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION 2026

A Message From Our Outgoing President

IMAGINING THE FUTURE

Just four short years ago, I never could have imagined all the changes that would take place not only for the Cupola House, but for our small community as well. Who could have imagined in 1918 that we would have an opportunity to get the original first floor Cupola House woodwork back from Brooklyn Museum after 106 years? Many would have given up on that dream, but since 1966 there has been a steady focus on making that dream a reality. (continued next page)



Donna O'Neill

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Visit our website for Upcoming Events and More information

www.cupolahouse.org

President's Message (continued)

In 2024, the CHA Board formed a Woodwork Task Force comprised of eight very dedicated individuals. Our discussions centered around all facets of the implications we might expect with the receipt of the original woodwork. We tried to imagine what challenges were ahead of us and looked forward to the possibilities of solving some mysteries while mind boggling discoveries became the norm. The opportunity to have multiple forums to share our journey with individuals from all over the world has resulted in recognition across many disciplines of how unique our preservation success is. It has made us newsworthy and, I believe, admired! We've been blessed with access to a great team of preservation professionals and talented individuals who have made the progress thus far possible and helped to garner funding to be able to bring this part of our story to fruition. *The current goal is to have much of the interior work completed by December 2026.*

I have had the great joy of leading the Cupola House Association through this process for the last four years with a wonderful Board of Directors. I'm now passing the baton on to your new officers and Board of Directors (see below). They will bring renewed energy and passion to take CHA into the next exciting phase over the next three years. The buzz is currently all about AI now and that may play a large part in the future of the Cupola House. It may help us realize long sought dreams of embracing technology to ensure a richer experience when telling our story of survival, while also helping us to remain relevant. In a world where we are dwelling on the possibilities using "artificial" tools, I think the importance of being a part of something "original" will become even more precious.

(continued next page)

Cupola House Officers and Board of Directors 2026 - 2029

OFFICERS:

President: Flora Hall Davis

Vice-President: Russell Corker

Treasurer: Kevin Stevenson

Secretary: J. Gilliam Wood V

DIRECTORS:

Louise Artman

Elizabeth Corker

Samuel Dixon

Heidi Nastasi

Tom Newbern

Donnie Pope

Manning Pruden

Mike Tracey

President's Message (continued)

After serving on the CHA Board for 21 years, I leave you with a challenge:

- Renew your membership and bring in five more members
- Support every facet of preservation for our community
- Tell our unique story of success every opportunity you are given
- Remain good stewards to help solidify the CHA organization for the next 100 years and beyond.

REMEMBER WHAT MAKES THIS ORGANIZATION SPECIAL:



REMEMBER

- The NC Preservation Movement began with the Cupola House Association in 1918, besting Charleston, SC, by 2 years
- Of the American historic structures whose woodwork was displayed in the Brooklyn Museum, we were the only one still standing when their Period Rooms display was dismantled after 106 years, prompting the Brooklyn Museum to gift the original woodwork back to CHA
- The 1758 Cupola House still stands in its original location with heirloom gardens on the original tract
- This National Historic Landmark has unique architecture, carved by local craftsmen beginning in 1758

With appreciation for all your support throughout the years,



Vonna O'Neill

SPEAKER SERIES CALDER LOTH

Calder Loth is the retired Senior Architectural Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, where he served for forty years and continues to work part-time. Calder serves on advisory committees for various historic sites and organizations, including Preservation Virginia and the Historic Richmond Foundation.



The Cupola House: *Observations on an Architectural Conundrum*

5:30PM | **1767 Historic Courthouse**
Sept. 16 | **117 E. King St.**

Seating is limited. RSVP at www.cupolahouse.org

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ELIZABETH VANN MOORE FOUNDATION



2026 Joint Sponsorship for Fall Speaker Event



Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 13: No Board Meeting
- 22: Great Southeast Pollinator Census, Cupola House Gardens

SEPTEMBER

- 10: CHA Board Meeting
- 16: Joint Fall Speaker Series with EHC, EVM and Friends of State Historic Sites
Calder Loth, Lecturer
1767 Historic Court House, 2nd floor
- 20: Membership Reception, Cupola House Gardens

OCTOBER

- 1-31: Plaster team returns to complete ongoing restoration work
- 3: Fourth Annual Colonial Market
- 8: CHA Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 12: CHA Board Meeting

DECEMBER

- 4: Community Christmas Tree Lighting
- 10: CHA Board Meeting
- 11-12: Wassail Bowl



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4th Annual Colonial Market Set For Saturday, October 3

Cupola House volunteers are busy putting the final touches on the 4th annual Colonial Market scheduled for Saturday, October 3. This year's line-up features an exciting array of craftsmen and artists plus expanded activities for children.

Shoppers will browse handcrafted gifts and decorative items, holiday décor, pewter, needlecraft, antiques, woodcraft, art and so much more. The Cupola House gift shop will be open.

Special crafts are planned for children of all ages – including a colonial rope-making machine. Try your hand at this ancient skill!

And don't forget the hotdogs and cotton candy!!

The first floor of the Cupola House will be open for a peek at the original woodwork, now reinstalled after more than a century in Brooklyn.

Join us for a day of family fun. Saturday, October 3, 9 am – 4 pm **FREE**.

by: Heidi Nastasi

CHA Events Co-Chair

COLONIAL MARKET
2026



You're Invited!!

to Join Us

for a

Membership Reception

Sep 20, 2026



5:30 pm

until

7:30pm

Cupola House and Gardens
408 S. Broad St.
PO Box 311
Edenton, NC. 27932

*Memberships may either be
renewed prior to the event at
www.cupolahouse.org or via check
payable to the Cupola House
Association, Inc.
Payments are also welcome at the
door.*

MEMBERSHIPS

ARE NOW

RECOGNIZED

ON A

“ROLLING 12”

BASIS!!

*Catered
with*
**LIVE
STRING
MUSIC**

If you joined online, an automated renewal reminder will be sent to your email address on file 30 days in advance of the expiration date with a link to renew.

If you joined via check, a separate renewal reminder will be send via USPS.

Picking Up Where We Left Off

We began working the end of February after our two month winter break. There is always a great deal to do to wake up a winter garden, but this year was special because of Easels in the Garden, a biennial event in April, sponsored by the Cupola House Association. Because of planting done in the fall, there was an amazing display of spring bulbs throughout the garden. The tulips around the center bed in the front garden were particularly beautiful, thanks to the talent of Marilyn Rutland, who had been a professional landscaper and is a regular Wednesday Weeder. Not only were the colors spectacular, but there were early, mid and late blooming tulips that kept the front garden looking beautiful for many months. In addition, the garden was filled with daffodils and anemones that paired well with old roses, Columbine, Larkspur, Poppies and many more. As the season progressed, many of the long-standing perennials added additional color throughout the season. Together with the mature trees that surround the gardens, both front and back, the Cupola House Gardens were a favorite place to stroll for our many locals and visitors.

"Life began in a garden."

For a small group of volunteer gardeners, known as the "Wednesday Weeders," gardening in the Cupola House Historical Garden every Wednesday is both rewarding and fun. The friendships that develop while working in the garden, plus the feeling of doing something good for the Edenton community, make it all worthwhile. We are constantly honing our gardening skills and learning the nuances of gardening in the challenging conditions we face here in Edenton. Several of the gardeners have been working in this garden for many years, and all gladly share their knowledge with others. Have a question about a problem in your own garden? It is likely that one of our gardeners will have the answer backed up by firsthand experience.

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The vine covered arbor and the bench under the mature Vitex Tree offered a welcomed escape from the heat, and offered a lovely view of the garden. After the tulips faded, the center circle was planted with colorful zinnias that stayed in bloom throughout the heat of the summer.

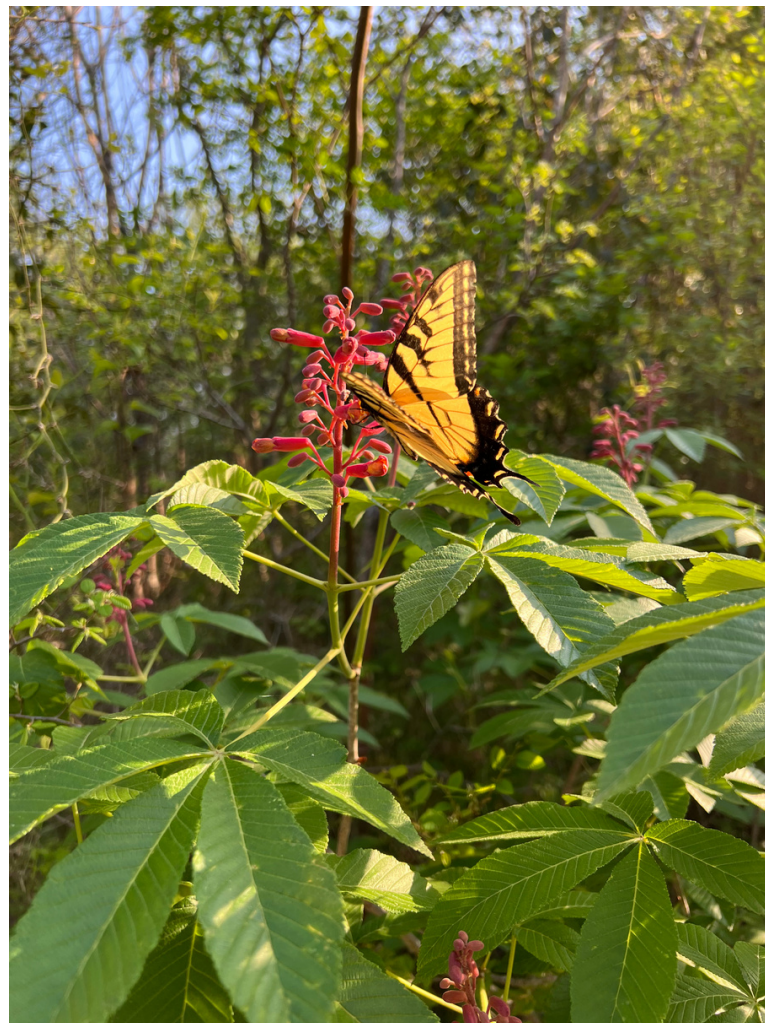
A cooler place to
beat this
summer's heat



Adding to the Butterfly Highway

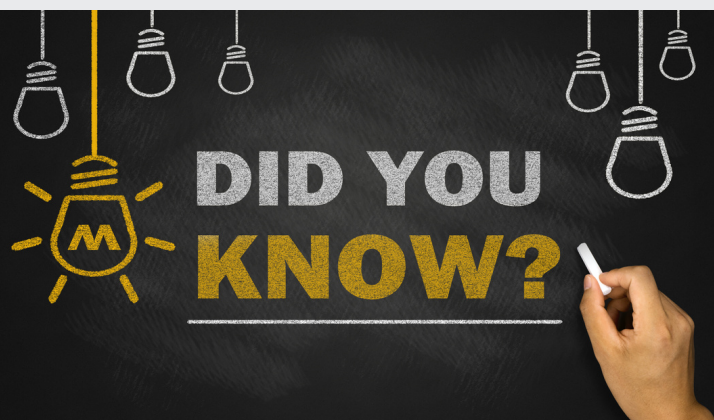
In the back, the Herb Garden was planted with historical herbs that were appropriate for the 1758 Cupola House. Later in the season, three butterfly nurseries were set up, where depending on the timing, you could see larva develop into butterflies, always fascinating to watch. Kids were brought in and taught about pollination, and they freed the butterflies.

In addition to the plants, colonial period flags were placed all around the exterior fence with detail explanations to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation. Townspeople and visitors love these colorful flags, and many of them explore the garden as well.



Gardeners of all skill levels are always welcomed to come join us on Wednesday mornings, starting at 9 AM. We usually work for 2 to 3 hours, depending on the number of workers and what has to be done. If you are a new gardener, this is a wonderful place to learn. Do not worry if you cannot make it every Wednesday -- few of us can. We are just happy when you can come spend some time with us here in the garden. We still have a lot to do before the season is over, so please come on down. I think you will enjoy the experience.

by: Russell Corker and Suellen Bloom



by: Martha Smith, Archivist

Do you know anything about the capture of British prisoners of war during the War of 1812 between Britain and the United States? Baltimore, Maryland, was apparently the leader when it came to turning private marine vessels into armed vessels of war. According to a document entitled *History of American Privateers and Letters of Marque During the War with England in the Years 1812, 1813, 1814*, written by George Coggeshall in 1856, the port of Baltimore sent out 42 armed vessels carrying about 330 guns and from 2,800 – 3,000 men. They were commissioned by the US Government to “take, burn, sink and destroy the enemy wherever he could be found, either on the high seas, or in British ports.” The ships and the men who served on them were called Privateers.

One such Privateer ship was named “Globe”. The Cupola House papers are fortunate to have a large document dated 12/11/1812 entitled “Articles of Agreement between the Commander of the Private War Vessel, the schooner “Globe”, lying in Baltimore, and the officers and seamen comprising the crew.” The articles spell out how the crew was to behave, what happened in case of mutiny, how the spoils of cargo taken by this Privateer were to be divided, and permission to the Captain to cruise “wherever he thinks is beneficial”.

The document also lists the names and jobs of each person on the ship. The “Globe” captured 14 ships during the war and had several engagements, including a 3-hour action with an Algerian Sloop of war. (internet article by J. Clayborn). At least 2 of the ships she captured were taken to Elizabeth City. The crews were held as prisoners, and the cargo and the ships themselves were sold. The sale of the cargo and ships is most likely where Edmund Hoskins, Deputy Marshal for Edenton and the Albemarle became involved, and why so many of the documents related to these transactions found their way into Hoskins’ papers and into the Cupola House archives.



A letter dated 05/04/1812 from John Mason, Commissary General of Prisoners, in Washington to Beverly Daniel, US Marshal for NC and forwarded to Edmund Hoskins, Deputy Marshal, stated that since British ships “have been on our coast and in our waters,” there have been several instances of seamen deserting their ships. Mason commands the Marshals to capture these seamen, and “if they do not wish to become American citizens, they are to be treated as prisoners.” An accompanying page listed how prisoners were to be treated and the amounts of food rations for each prisoner each day. It added that if a prisoner was to be paroled, then the amount of payment allowed for their sustenance for each day was included.



Also included in the Cupola House papers is an official document “Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners of War between Great Britain and the United States of America”, drawn up in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November, 28, 1812, and signed by representatives from both Great Britain and the US. The rules and regulations for the exchanges were written in great detail.

An unaddressed unsigned letter, most likely, based on its content, written to Edmund Hoskins from the Deputy Marshal in Elizabeth City dated 07/20/1813 asked what to do with 3 Prisoners of War (POWs) from the prize brig “Kingston Packet”, captured by the Privateer “Globe” and asked should he send them to Norfolk. Apparently, 1 of the POWs was an officer, and as such, allowed to reside in a private home, paid for by the US Government, leaving 2 to be incarcerated.

Apparently, Hoskins asked the US Marshal for NC, Beverly Daniel, what to do. In a letter dated 08/23/1813 to Hoskins from Daniel, he instructed Hoskins to send the prisoners to Norfolk to the “charge of the Marshal of that place”, explaining to the Marshal that 1) there were very few POWs in NC at that time; 2) the distance to Beaufort where any POWs were kept was much further than to Norfolk; and 3) as for payment for expenses of these transactions, there were “no funds in the hands of the Marshal of the state for defraying the expenses of POWs.”

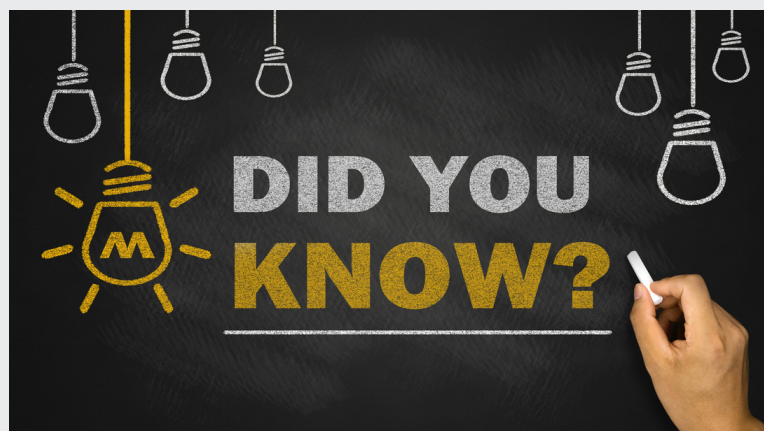
Apparently, no action was taken immediately, for some time after this, a huge kerfuffle ensued!



A letter dated 11/05/1813 from William Gregory in Elizabeth City to Edmund Hoskins regarding the 2 POWs continuing to be held there, stated that since there were “no provisions made by law for the Sheriff to take them into custody” to start with, and that the POWs were at present being held at the expense of the county “unless the US Government should come forward, as they should in such case”, Gregory says that unless immediate steps are taken, the POWs would be “turned out at large.”

A letter dated 11/19/1813 to Edmund Hoskins from Beverly Daniel instructed Hoskins to have the POWs taken to the care of the Deputy Marshal in New Bern. Also, Hoskins was to obtain all expense accounts associated with the POWs and to send them to the Commissary General of Prisoners in Washington for reimbursement payment.

A letter dated 12/10/1813 to Edmund Hoskins from Daniel Long in Elizabeth City, said he had received Hoskins’ instructions, but when he “applied” to the jailor, W. Nixon, he refused to release the POWs until the jail fees were paid (close to \$200.00). Long asked what should he do now.

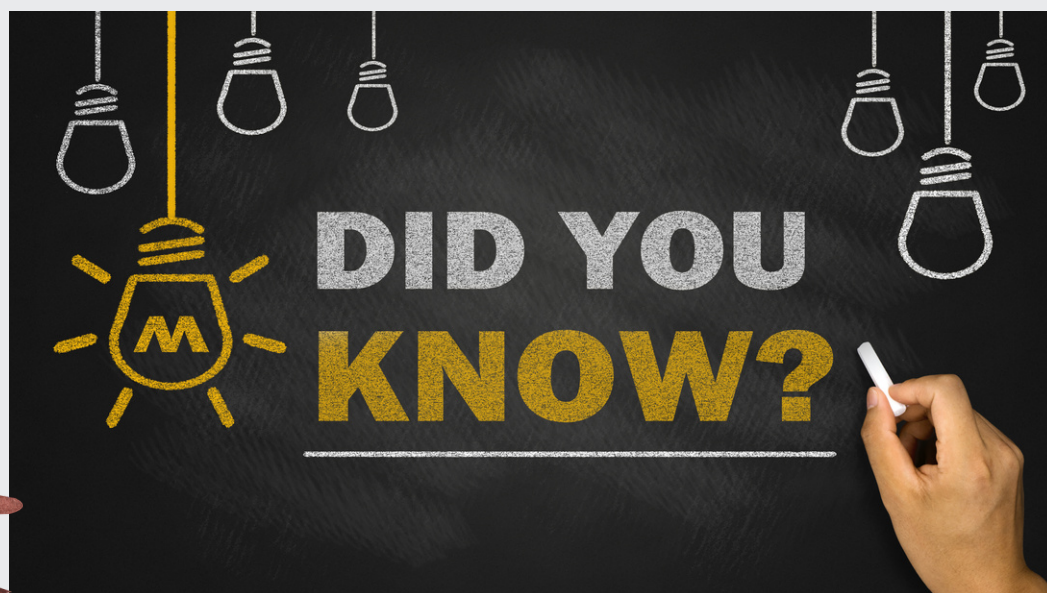


by: Martha Smith, Archivist

A letter dated 01/03/1814 to Edmund Hoskins from Beverly Daniel asked Hoskins by what authority the jailor in Elizabeth City had in continuing to hold the POWs without releasing them.

A letter dated 02/05/1814, written in New Bern by John Coart, Deputy Marshal to Edmund Hoskins said he had received Hoskins' letter of instruction plus the 2 prisoners. Coart says he refused to accept the POWs, as he "thought" he had been instructed by the Marshal's office not to do so.

by: Martha Smith, Archivist



A letter dated 02/14/1814, from Daniel Long in Elizabeth City to Edmund Hoskins said that the 2 British POWs had been brought back to him because the New Bern Deputy Marshal had refused to accept them. Long said the ship Captain who brought them back was threatening to sue if he did not get paid for the portage of the POWs there and back.

A letter dated 03/23/1814 from Beverly Daniel to Edmund Hoskins said that if any of the men captured by Privateers in the waters of the state "happen to be Negroes", then Hoskins was to release them as "I am not instructed to consider them POWs."

It would be interesting to find out if the 2 POWs were Negroes and if Daniel was looking for a way out of this mess. Unfortunately, the Cupola House papers do not tell us this, OR if Hoskins eventually just let them go free. Most likely he did, based on what happened next:

In a letter dated 03/25/1814 to Beverly Daniel from John Mason, Commissary of Prisoners, which was forwarded to Edmund Hoskins, Mason said he was concerned about the escapees of POWs, as that "leaves an American POW without any exchange."

What prompted this letter follows:

A letter dated 03/25/1814 to John Mason from William P. Foster, Deputy Marshal of Norfolk, said that about 3 weeks prior, he had captured 2 British POWs who had made their escape from the Deputy Marshal in NC. Foster asked Mason how he was to proceed.

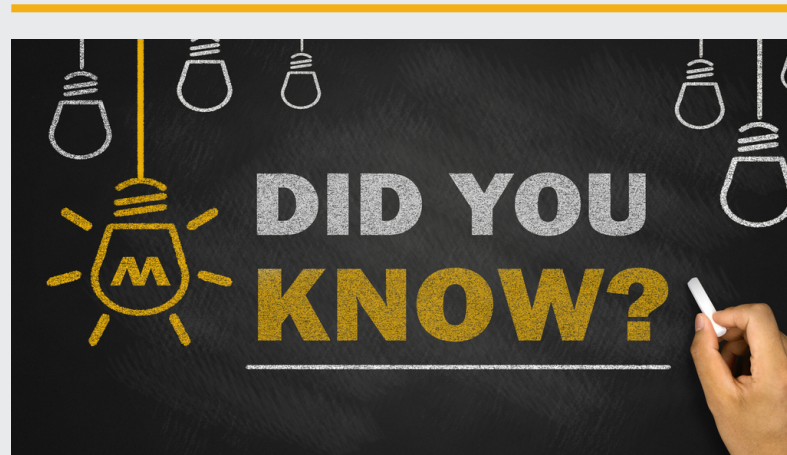
A letter dated 03/28/1814 from John Mason to Beverly Daniel, forwarded to Edmund Hoskins and including a copy of the letter of 03/25/1814 regarding Foster's capture of the POWs from NC, said that Mason had instructed Foster to hold the POWs in Norfolk. After that, Mason comes down hard on Daniel, saying he had already instructed Daniel to ensure his deputies "must take every precaution to prevent escape", noting that "if ordinary confinement will not prevent (escape), then rigid confinement must be resorted to." Mason then noted that a new law increased the amount of bounty for capturing escape prisoners from \$25.00 per person to \$100.00 per person.

Lastly, in a letter dated 05/13/1814 from Beverly Daniel to Edmund Hoskins, Daniel ordered Hoskins to immediately chart a boat to take all prisoners in Elizabeth City to Norfolk. The boat was to take them to New Bern where a "Cartel" was to take possession of the POWs and transport them to Norfolk "and will not suffer them to escape."

This story leaves us with unanswered questions:

- Did Deputy Marshal Hoskins, following a vague hint from US NC Marshal Beverly Daniel, actually release the POWs when no one entity would accept them?
- Were the 2 escaped POWs recaptured by the Deputy Marshal in Norfolk, the same 2 men who had been shuttled back and forth from Elizabeth City to New Bern and back to Elizabeth City? They are not mentioned again in any of the existing papers.

Unless there is some other documentation found elsewhere.....we may never know.





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