

## **MAY FIELD TRIP**

### **Oatlands Mansion and Gardens and Aldie Mill**

**Saturday, May 19, 2007 – 8:30 AM**  
**Vienna Metro Parking Lot - North**

The Vienna Photographic Society's April field trip will be a morning at Oatlands Mansion and Gardens, and then do lunch at the Aldie Country Store which is within walking distance of Aldie Mill. We will then photograph around The Mill for the rest of the afternoon.

#### **Oatlands Mansion and Gardens**

"A stately mansion, beautiful rolling farmland, exquisite gardens, a repository of more than 200 years of American history and culture" -- all of these can be found at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens near Leesburg, Virginia. Established in the early 19th century by George Carter, Oatlands was a thriving wheat plantation and base for numerous business enterprises until the time of the Civil War. During most of the 20th century Oatlands served as the country estate of Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis, affluent Washingtonians with strong ties to the American political arena.

Oatlands is now a National Trust Historic Site and a National Historic Landmark, flourishing with four full seasons of activities.

"Two centuries ago, George Carter designed and built Oatlands House and Garden. In the style of Tidewater Virginia and its English antecedents, Carter placed his formally organized garden near his house. The structure of the garden is comprised of terraces carved into the hillside to provide level areas for abundant plantings of fruit and vegetables along with trees, shrubs, and flowers. Even now, Carter's steps and landings provide access to these same terraces. Cut from locally quarried stone, these steep steps are major axial walkways.

Nearly a century after George Carter began the construction of Oatlands, Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis of Washington, D. C. purchased the property as their country home in 1903. In spite of the garden's neglected state, Edith Eustis saw the garden ruin as a quiet, still, mysterious place harboring "old secrets" that inspired her to fill Carter's terraces with boxwood-lined parterres full of fragrant and colorful flowers such as tulips, peonies, iris, and lilies. Romantic plant containers, statuary, and structures were added. The bowling green and the reflecting pool share one long terrace with the teahouse acting as one terminus and the young fawn statuary as the other. The rose garden and a memorial to a daughter of Mrs. Eustis also became garden elements. Under her care, Carter's terraces were revived with ornamental charm typical of the Colonial Revival Style popular in her time.

[www.oatlands.org](http://www.oatlands.org)

## **Aldie Mill**

"Aldie Mill was built in 1807-09 and survives today as Virginia's only known grist mill powered by twin waterwheels. For more than 150 years the mill ground for markets along the East Coast and overseas. President James Monroe was an early customer while living at nearby Oak Hill. The mill provided grain for soldiers and their horses during the Civil War. Union Soldiers hid in the wheat bins trying to escape from Confederate partisan John Singleton Mosby."

"Charles Fenton Mercer, military officer, legislator, and advocate of the colonization of African Americans, settled here in 1804. He named his property for Aldie Castle, his Scottish ancestral home. The large merchant mill, constructed in 1807 by Mercer's partner William Cooke, survives as one of the best outfitted early mills in the state. The three-part complex includes what was a plaster mill at one end and a store at the other. The mill's twin overshot Fitz wheels, installed in 1900, are a unique surviving pair in Virginia. Overlooking the mill is the large Federal house, built by Mercer in 1810 as his residence. Behind the mill is the miller's house. Completing the grouping is an early stone bridge across Little River.

Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Douglas, whose family had owned and operated the mill continuously for six generations since 1834, donated it to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 1981. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation has been restoring the mill to serve as an operating example of an early 19th-century wheat and corn mill."

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/journey/ald.htm>

Come join us for a trip back in time to see some of Virginia's historic landmarks. The gardens should be in bloom as well. If you want to meet us at Oatlands please call Mary Jane at 703-969-8902 that morning to let us know that you will meet us there.

Mary Jane Fish  
Dennis Tarnay  
Field Trip Co-Chairmen