

About Mount Vernon

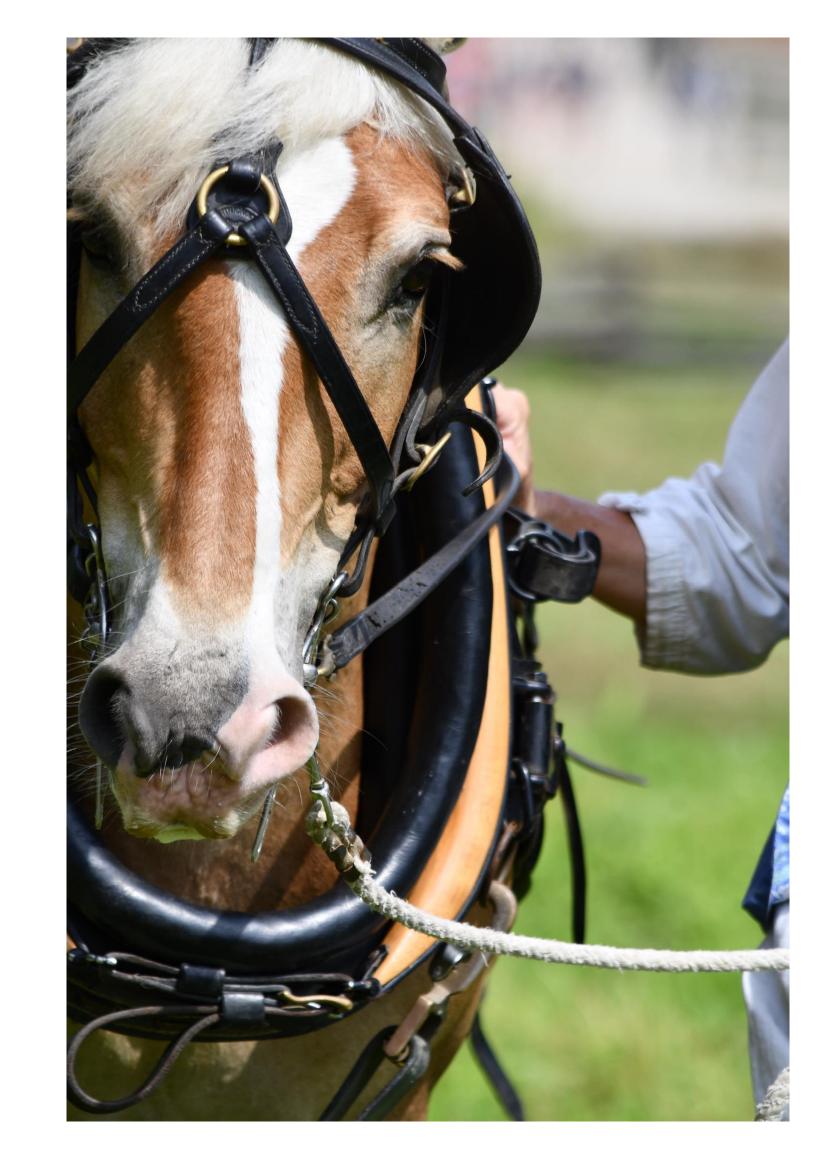
The Mount Vernon Ladies Association, established in 1853, aims to preserve and maintain the land and estate of George Washington. This organization continues to raise and donate money for the preservation of the mansion, artifacts, stables, and the continual search for more artifacts.

Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington, allows guests to walk on the historic farm site and mansion they lived in. It offers an interactive experience for everyone, as there are historic interpreters around the estate to discuss what would've been common practice on his farm. Not only can guests see George and Martha Washington's home and farm, guests can also see their tombs, and a memorial dedicated to the slaves they owned. There is also a learning center to learn more facts about Washington's life, from childhood through death. There are many movies, artifacts, including his teeth, and displays that show what it would be like to live in his time.

Internship at George Washington's Mount Vernon

By: Maggie Daly

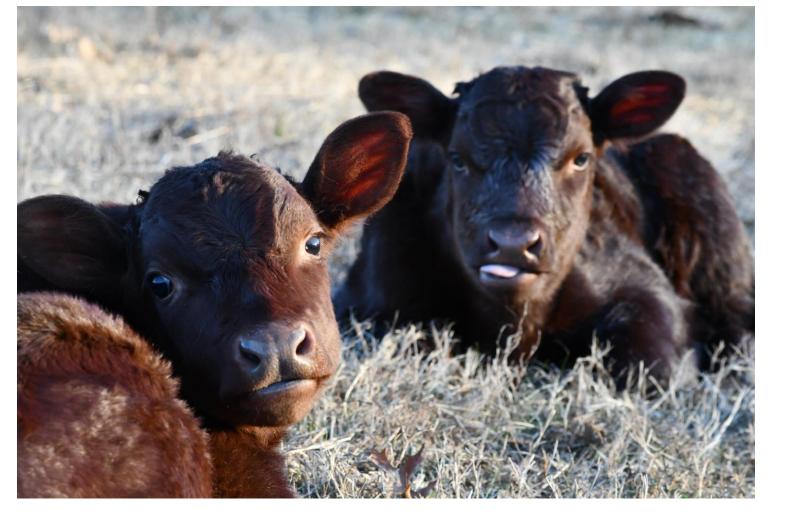
Mount Vernon Ladies Association 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mt Vernon VA, 22121





Project Overview

This summer at Mount Vernon, my goal was to learn more about the heritage breeds that George Washington used and why he used the specific breeds. While I have already worked at Mount Vernon before this project, I was still able to learn more about these incredible breeds that the estate still has today. The breeds I focused on were Red Devon Cattle and Hog Island Sheep. While there are several other breeds, such as Ossabaw Island Hogs, Dominique Chickens, and several ponies, horses, and donkeys, the two I learned about were the most pertinent to Washington's farm. After working with the animals, talking with my coworkers, and doing my own research, I was able to create a literature review paper on how these specific breeds impacted Washington's farm.



Oxen team Knox and Spud, a few months after being born, in the 12acre field. (Left)

Typical Day as a Livestock Handler

7:30am- Start morning rounds for feeding. Broken down into 3 sections: "The hill" (the main estate), horses (all of our equine), and "West" (all the animals by the barn).
8:30am- Discuss what needs to be done for the day with the team.
9:30am- Work oxen, work horses, muck/strip stalls.
12:00pm- Clean horse stalls.
12:30pm- Lunch break.
1:30pm- Check waters around the estate, finish morning tasks that didn't get completed.
2:30pm- Start afternoon rounds for feeding/ closing in the animals. Broken into same sections as morning rounds.
3:30pm- Clean horse stalls, tidy up barn.

Mikey, Haflinger pony, cultivating the field with his farm gear led by Damara Gailliot (above)

Internship Highlights

This summer I was able to learn things about historic heritage breed/ livestock care that I had never learned before. Some of these include:

- Oxen Driving
 - Pulling the cart, stone boat, or cultivator
- How to hook up oxen to a yoke
 - Cultivating fields
 - By hand

Pricilla pictured

in her coop

where she lives

with the tom

Roger, and 2

other hens,

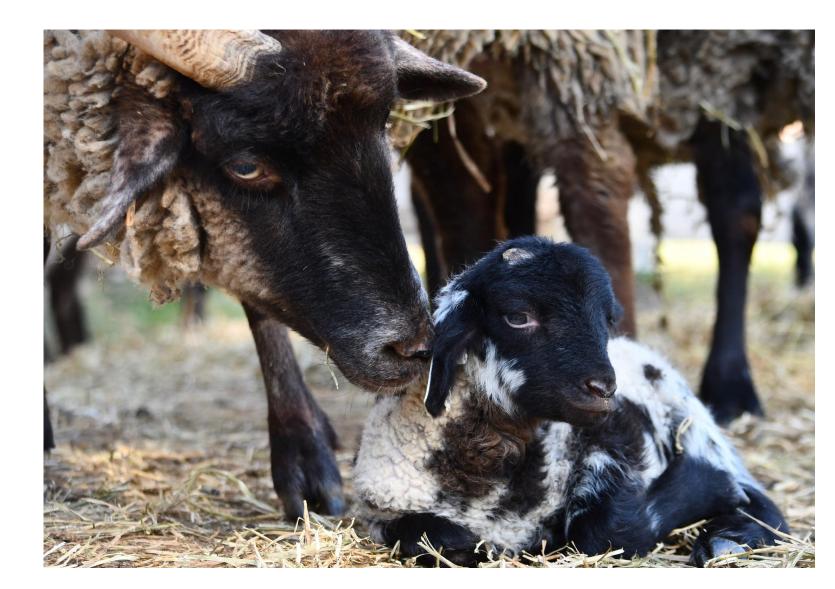
Abigail and

Hester. (Right)

- With horses or poniesWith oxen
- How to dress equine in farm gear/ equipment
- Watching/ learning about horse acupuncture
- How to trim horns
- How to treat wounds on livestock
- Interpreting to visitors

 Included dressing in colonial garb

 Scything grass
 Proper horse driving



Hog Island ewe tending to her newborn lamb in the paddock field. (Left)

Conclusion

This internship allowed me to learn more about livestock care and handling, and how historic museums are run. This internship has really steered me towards working with large animals in my future, whether as a veterinarian or just as a hobby. The skills I gained through this internship are ones I hope to take to veterinary school and plan to use in my future careers.

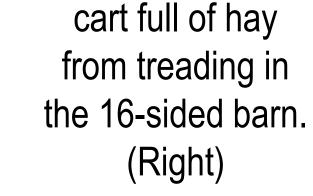
Earl, part of the oxen team, hooked on the yoke, pulling the





Ossabaw Island Hogs: Bruno the boar and retired sow Paula nuzzling in their pen at the barn. (Above)

- How to trim sheep hooves
- How to give sheep vaccines
- How to tread wheat with equine



Contact Information

If you have any questions about my Capstone project and experience, please email me at <u>maggied@vt.edu</u>.

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