

## Historic Rock Ford Dance Committee



The Historic Rock Ford (HRF) Dance Committee's mission is to provide dance experience in conformity with the Historic Rock Ford Foundation's Statement of Purpose, which is: The mission of the Rock Ford Foundation is to provide opportunities to connect with and explore the life of Edward Hand, the diverse communities and material culture of early Lancaster County, and the complex issues that shaped our nation in its formative years by preserving and interpreting Historic Rock Ford and its collections.

Members of the HRF Dance Committee are self-taught amateurs in English Country Dance, a centuries old dance form still popular virtually worldwide with individual dances having numerous variations. Country dances were the most popular of the social dances done by all ages and all classes of society in America during the latter part of the 18th century. Although they were English in origin, they were danced throughout the British Isles and parts of Western Europe as well. "Country dance" was a generic term for progressive dances in a longways formation and did not have the connotation of rural or rustic dancing that the name may conjure up today. (Source: American Country Dances of the Revolutionary Era, 1775-1795, Keller & Sweet).

Aspiring to authenticity and working toward greater proficiency, we meet regularly the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Historic Rock Ford Barn or the General Edward Hand Mansion.

Because our primary responsibility is as HRF volunteers, the Dance Committee practices regularly in order to provide period dance entertainment during special events at HRF. So that we may provide the best historic interpretation, all members must wear clothing appropriate to 1790-1805. While many current members provide their own clothing, we will assist new members with making, acquiring, or borrowing the necessary clothing to participate in special events at Historic Rock Ford. In summary, members of the HRF Dance Committee, commit to:

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1. Attend dance practices held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 PM;
2. Attend special practices, as requested, to prepare for Historic Rock Ford Dance demonstrations;
3. Wear period-appropriate costume prior to appearing in public with the Dance Group; and
4. Participate in Historic Rock Ford Foundation events throughout the year, such as Yuletide, special dance days and fundraising activities.

Prior dancing skills, and specifically, dance experience in English Country Dance is not required. For further information on becoming a HRF Dancer, please contact volunteer and dance committee leader, Ron Black at [rlblack.reply@verizon.net](mailto:rlblack.reply@verizon.net) or contact the HRF Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Alberico at 717-392-7223 ext. 101 or [curator@historicrockford.org](mailto:curator@historicrockford.org).

Communication with Mr. Black is strongly recommended before attending your first practice, so that we can include you in a special introductory session prepared for newcomers.

Thank you for your interest in HRF Dance Committee and we look forward to meeting you!

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