



“To promote an understanding of the life and times of President Woodrow Wilson, his impact on the world, his relevance today and for the future.”

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Before the Dig: A Twist on the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Annual Garden Party Tradition

STAUNTON, VA – Our gardens are lush and lovely, the shade of our gazebos delightfully refreshing, and we can't wait to have a party! No seriously, we can't wait. Why? Because between July 15th and August 9, we will be conducting our second summer archaeological investigation. The gardens behind the Manse will be checkered with excavation squares, looking for the stable, privy, smokehouse, and other areas of activity in the rear work yard!

This year, our Annual Garden Party will be held on Friday June 21st from 5-7 pm, and will feature appetizers from local restaurants and caterers, along with great Virginia craft brews and wine. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers who pre-register and \$30 at the event. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.woodrowwilson.org/> or call 540-885-0897 x101.

Last year's dig confirmed that the garden behind the Manse holds significant potential for meaningful archaeology that will help us to better understand the mid-19th century Staunton into which Woodrow Wilson was born, and so much more about the lifeways of those who worked and lived in the house, but left no written records. This spring, with the help of volunteers and the Library of Virginia, we uncovered additional historic research that will help guide and inform this year's site work.

We are excited to again be teaming with Professor Dennis Blanton of the JMU Department of Sociology and Anthropology and several of his students. As with last year's exploration, we will again this year be relying heavily upon community volunteers of all ages.

Please join us by signing up here: <https://signup.com/go/EeWTMQf>

Can't come to the party? Don't want to get your hands dirty? To date we have raised \$10,110 of our \$15,000 goal to cover the expenses of this project, including the artifact processing and technical reports after the dig has been completed this summer. We need your help to raise the additional funds needed. Funds contributed via the link below will go directly to the project:





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To contribute directly to the archaeology project, please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-fund-phase-2-of-our-archaeological-evaluation>

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum is open 360 days a year for guests from around the world to tour the President’s Birthplace, the Woodrow Wilson Museum, including the President’s 1919 Pierce-Arrow limousine, and the Library and Archives. The Presidential Library sponsors educational programming for thousands of schoolchildren each year and hosts teachers’ institutes, and a variety of other educational programs. The Presidential Library has a large collection of Wilson and Wilson-era documents, many of which can be accessed on the on-line digital archive.

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum is located at 20 N. Coalter Street in Staunton and includes Wilson’s birthplace, a museum, and library and archives. The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday, and 12 – 5 p.m. on Sundays. For additional information, call 540-885-0897 or visit www.woodrowwilson.org.

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