



Our Old Bookcase, Dec. 14, 2017, "*The Williamsburg Cookbook*."

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**Photo caption:** "*The Williamsburg Cookbook*" preserves traditional and contemporary recipes adapted from the taverns and inns of Colonial Williamsburg.

### **OUR OLD BOOK CASE**

By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society

Jean Zehringer Giesige knew that I love old books. I knew Jean's family since I grew up at Fort Recovery. When Jean returned home from their visit to Williamsburg, Virginia, she brought this book, "*The Williamsburg Cookbook*" to me. Every time I open this book, I am reminded of Jean and her love of writing.

"*The Williamsburg Cookbook*" reminds me of Christmas and being with friends and family. I remember the feasts we had at our home when I was young. Our Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts and Cousins came for Thanksgiving dinner. Those of you who remember those dinners of your childhood, remember that we used real cream in mashed potatoes and pumpkin pies and homemade ice cream. [You cannot buy real cream today, like we used then.]

"*The Williamsburg Cookbook*" reminds me of the times we spent with friends at the Fort Loramie Inn celebrating their Williamsburg Christmas dinners. The Inn is decorated among all of the Fort Loramie

Historical Museum's exhibits. The Fort Loramie Historical Society Members dress in that time period. Guests dress up for these dinners; no one wears blue jeans! The music is of that time period which is a delightful complement to the evening. If you have not visited their Williamsburg Christmas dinners, you should plan ahead and make reservations for next year with the Fort Loramie Historical Society.

*"The Williamsburg Cookbook"* reminds me of people sharing gifts with their friends, because Jean gave this book to me. When I read her column in *"The Daily Standard"* and her message in *"C.P.P.S. Today,"* I have a sense of her kindness and understanding of others, not only during the Christmas Season, but also throughout the year. That kindness is what Christmas is all about.

I would share some of the great recipes from *"The Williamsburg Cookbook"* with you, but I respect the copyright, not only by the editor Letha Booth, but also the Staff of Colonial Williamsburg, and the publisher, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. I encourage you to visit Colonial Williamsburg and find a copy of this book for your own kitchen.

*"The Williamsburg Cookbook,"* is a gift from Jean, when I can use, year after year, not only during the Holiday Season, but the other months as well. *"The Williamsburg Cookbook,"* is the gift which keeps on giving. And that is what friendship is all about. . . especially during the Holiday Season, when we keep in touch with old friends we may not see very often. Friendships of a lifetime, are gifts of a lifetime.

And that is what the Mercer County Historical Society is all about, caring about our friends we have and friends we have yet to meet. The Society Members work to preserve the history of our friends and their families, because every person in Mercer County has played a role in the History of Mercer County. Each person is important to our Mercer County Heritage. We welcome our friends to join us in preserving Mercer County's History. New Friends are Silver and Old Friends are Gold. You are invited to grow old with us, and be among friends as Members of the Mercer County Historical Society.

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