

Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Spring 2016

Spring Event

Huntley Farm Day

Saturday, April 16, 1 - 4 p.m.

Historic Huntley

Suggested donation, \$5

Children 10 and under, free

Huntley opens its doors to welcome the spring for this special event. During the Harrison era (1868-1946), Huntley became a dairy farm and home to the Harrison family. The Harrisons modified Huntley to accommodate year-round living. House tours will emphasize these changes, which were undone to reveal Huntley's earlier Mason-era appearance.

Farm Day is a family-friendly event with storytelling and baby animals from Frying Pan Park. Representatives from nearby Green Springs Gardens, another Fairfax County Park Authority property, will be on hand with information about their historic house and farming history. Maintaining close connections with neighbors was important for farmers. Be on the lookout for displays on the Woodlawn Agricultural Society.

See Huntley in a whole new way! Look for directions on page 4. For more information, call 703.768.2525. ❖



Huntley Person from the Past:

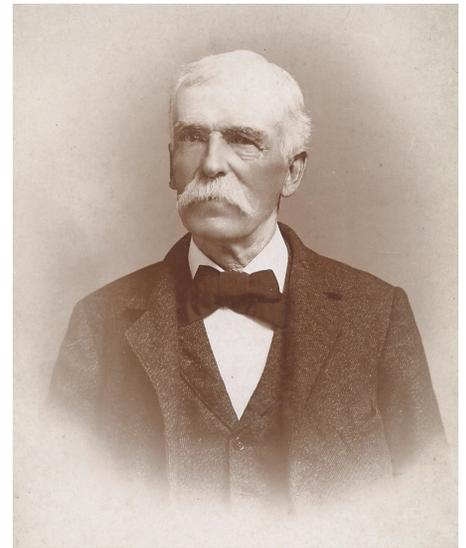
Albert W. Harrison

by Carolyn Gamble

In 1868, 37-year-old Albert W. Harrison left his tight-knit community of Presbyterian farmers in Essex County, New Jersey, to start a dairy farm at Huntley. He was accompanied by his wife Angeline; their four children; his sister Susan; her husband, Nathan W. Pierson; and four of Susan's and Nathan's children. Soon after arriving at Huntley, both Albert and Nathan became prominent members of the Woodlawn Agricultural Society and Nathan served as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Albert and Nathan divided the farm in 1871. The present Harrison Lane represents the dividing line between the two properties. Albert and family continued living at Huntley and Nathan built a new house on the east side of Harrison Lane for his family. Albert died at Huntley on March 2, 1911. His son Bert, who was born at Huntley in 1869, continued to live in the house and manage the property until his death in 1946.

An excerpt from the March 1886 minutes of the Woodlawn Agricultural Society reveals a great deal about Huntley: *"The farm of A. W. Harrison contains about 350 acres, 50 in timber, 50 in permanent pasture and 250 in cultivation. There are 40 acres of wheat, most of it looking well. There has been considerable underdraining done with both tiles and poles to evident advantage. A three horse team*



to a Wiard plow was doing excellent work. Ten acres of rye, looking very well, intended for early pasture, to be followed by corn for ensilage, a plan that was commended. There were nine horses and four colts, most too many for the place; 28 cows and heifers, a number of them half Holstein; several fine animals; also a thoroughbred Holstein bull from a New Jersey breeder of prize stock, and a flock of ewes and lambs in a healthy condition." ❖

In Memoriam:

Jack Hiller

Jack L. Hiller, an active member of the local history community, passed away on February 3, 2016, at the age of 86. Jack had served on Historic Huntley's Advisory Council through 2014. From 1959 to 1988, he taught history at Groveton and West Potomac High Schools. ❖

President's Column: **The People of Huntley**

by Todi Carnes

Of course, when we think of Historic Huntley, the first thing that comes to mind is the Huntley villa, its dependent structures, grounds, and incomparable viewshed. Equally important are the people of Huntley: the people who designed and built it; who worked and lived there; who came together to restore it; and who, today, continue to support, maintain, research, visit, and enjoy it. In this edition of our newsletter, we invite you to celebrate the people of Huntley. In doing so, be sure to raise a glass to yourself—because if you're reading this, you're someone who cares about Huntley, making you one of its people and a part of the Huntley story. ❖

Huntley Drive for Intern Funding Successful!

Many thanks to all our members who helped us reach our goal to fund two internships for Historic Huntley! We would not have been successful without each and every contribution made. ❖

FOHH Expands Mission

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of FOHH, a time for reflecting on the organization's mission, achievements, and future plans. Not surprisingly, FOHH's long-serving mission statement focused on the preservation of Historic Huntley. For most of its history, efforts were directed towards restoring the Huntley villa and opening it to the public. Having achieved that goal in May 2012, the question facing the FOHH Board was how to direct future energies.

Huntley's story encompasses not just the structures at 6918 Harrison Lane, but also other artifacts and properties. For example, the southern boundaries of T.F. Mason's original landholdings are demarcated by double-ditch fencing put in place by President George Washington. T.F.

Mason's brother, Richard Chichester, built a neighboring home, Oakley (no longer standing), on property adjacent to T.F.'s.

Both the double-ditch fencing and the Oakley site are encompassed within the boundaries of Huntley Meadows Park. Although located on an island of greenspace amidst a suburban sea of increasing population pressures, these cultural resources continue to face threats to their continued existence. To ensure that these and other tangible aspects of Huntley's story are not lost for lack of vigilance, the FOHH Board adopted a new mission statement: ***"To preserve Historic Huntley and related cultural resources through advocacy and education."***

Just three days after its adoption, the new mission was put into action when FOHH joined the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park in petitioning the Fairfax County Park Authority for proper identification, accounting, and preservation of the double-ditch fencing. The response was immediate, with the county initiating an archaeological study within a week.

And so begins our march into the future! ❖

Member Profile: **Michele Aubry**

by Barbara B. Ballentine

FOHH is very pleased to announce that we will have two interns this summer. Michele Aubry, an archaeologist retired from the National Park Service, has donated funds for a cultural resource intern. Among other duties, this person will monitor construction at the Tenant House, taking photographs to record the progress and any information that is uncovered. This is a very important part of the process, but one that staff does not have time for. Ms. Aubry believes in the importance of real-life work experiences gained from internships and has funded them in the past at other sites.

During her 32 years with the NPS,

she worked on projects involving the RMS Titanic shipwreck, the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and World Heritage Sites in India, and, closer to home, the Kennewick Man. She developed the NPS Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program that distributes over \$2 million annually to parks for archeology projects. She led a team to draft the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, which was signed into law in 1988 and then drafted the ASA guidelines.

As the U.S. Delegate to UNESCO she worked to develop the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. As she explained, ships are not abandoned but, as the Navy says, are, "stored underwater." Any wreck, no matter its age, belongs to its country of origin.

One interesting case involved a salvor who got a permit from Virginia to dive a wreck off Assateague Island National Seashore (NPS, Virginia, and Maryland land). But the ship was Spanish. It went to Admiralty Court, which ruled that Spain owned the ship. Michele worked with Spain to develop a long-term loan agreement with the NPS for curation and public interpretation of the Spanish shipwreck collection. The upshot was that Spain "loaned some artifacts to NPS to display in the museum at Ocracoke."

Another wreck off Texas that was recovered, conserved, and displayed in a Texas museum, before it was determined to be the property of France, is now on a 99-year lease from France so Texas can continue to display the ship.

Before retirement from the NPS in 2009, Ms. Aubry received the distinguished "Superior Service Award for significant and sustained contributions in preserving and protecting cultural resources while with the NPS and the Department of the Interior." Since retirement she has served on the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board. Michele is married to FOHH Board Member Peter Christensen. They both enjoy traveling and hope to visit Japan soon. ❖

In Search of Sister Sold Out of the Mason Family

In honor of the people of Huntley who remain lost to history, we reprint the following article recently located and sent to us by Char McCargo Bah, who was the FOHH featured speaker at the 2015 spring event, Emancipation Comes to Huntley! The article originally appeared in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate Newspaper* on December 12, 1879. ❖

MR. EDITOR—I have a sister, Sallie Sommars, that was sold out of the Mason family. She was sold from three children, two girls and one boy. I last heard of her from Atlanta, Ga., after being sold out of Virginia. She was bought by one Dr. Williamson Goden, who lived at Atlanta, Ga. The names of her children were Mary Jane, the eldest, Arthur and Caroline. She was owned by Betsy Mason and was sold by her at Alexandria, Va. Any information of her will be thankfully received. Address me at Waco, Texas.

CAROLINE MASON.

FOHH as a Beneficiary

Have you thought of leaving something to FOHH in your will or part or all of the remains of a retirement account? While FOHH can accept small donations, the Fairfax County Park Foundation—www.fairfaxparkfoundation.org—is best-equipped to handle larger ones. It is a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for and distributing them to the Fairfax County Park Authority, which owns Historic Huntley.

To ensure your funds will only be used in support of Historic Huntley, have your estate planning attorney expressly include this limitation on the gift. For more information, contact Roberta “Bobbi” Longworth at roberta.longworth@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703.324.8581. As they say, “You can’t take it with you”—but you can leave some (or all) of it to Historic Huntley through the Fairfax County Park Foundation. ❖



FOHH President Todi Carnes passes the Historic Huntley key to Karen Sheffield (middle), the new park manager of Historic Huntley and Huntley Meadows Park, and Cheryl Repetti (right), Historic Huntley’s new historical interpreter and site coordinator, at the November 2015 annual meeting

FCCA Programs at Historic Huntley

For Kids:

Homeschoolers at Huntley

Starts March 28 or March 30
8 classes with a special focus on Alexandria and Fairfax history
1:30-3 p.m., ages 6-9, \$108

All American Girls:

Living Doll Camp

Starts June 27, August 1 or 22
9 a.m.-noon, ages 5-9, \$190

Dig It: Archaeology Adventures

Starts July 18 or August 8
9 a.m.-4 p.m., ages 8-12, \$295

For Scouts:

JGS Playing the Past, Girl Scout Juniors, Skill Building Awards

April 2, 3:30-5 p.m., \$10

Citizenship in the Nation

Merit Badge

April 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., \$30

Tiger Family Stories

April 10, 2-3:30 p.m., \$10

Citizenship in the World

April 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., \$38

For Families:

Hardtack or Johnnycakes:

A Taste of the Civil War

April 2, 1:30-2:30 p.m.,
ages 4-99, \$7

Bread and Butter Tea

April 9, noon-1 p.m., ages 4-99, \$7

You Can Build It!

May 14, 1-3 p.m., ages 4-99, \$9

Ice Cream at Historic Huntley

June 18, 1-3 p.m., ages 2-99, \$8

For Adults:

Twilight Hilltop Tour

April 15, 7-8 p.m., \$6
May 21, 7:30-8:30 p.m., \$6

Genealogy:

Where Do You Come From?

April 18, 2-3:30 p.m., \$30
May 7, 3:30-5 p.m., \$30

For more information and to register:
Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm ❖

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

Save the Dates:

Spring Event - April 16

Fall Event - October 1

Annual Meeting - November 6

Educational programs for all ages

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Tour Huntley — Enjoy the View!

Enjoy southern Fairfax County's most scenic view. It's at **Historic Huntley, the small house with a big view.** Tours on Saturdays, April 30 through October, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. *\$5 adults; \$3 children and seniors; under 5, free.* The grounds are open from dawn to dusk from March to November. For more information, call Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525. Historic Huntley is a Fairfax County

Park Authority site and is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

Directions: From the Beltway, follow Route 1/Richmond Highway south for 3-1/2 miles. Right on Lockheed Blvd. for half a mile. Right on Harrison Lane and continue for half a mile. Special event parking available at the church on the left. Entrance to the house and handicap permit parking from Huntley Meadows Lane. ❖

Join Friends of Historic Huntley today!

Support Historic Huntley by joining this group of history- and historic preservation-minded people. Members receive the newsletter, an invitation to a members-only event, and a 10% discount on FOHH merchandise. FOHH is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. With your volunteer efforts and financial support, we can make a difference.

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ May we email *Huntley Headlines*? _____

- \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$10 Student/Senior
 \$150 Lifetime Membership Additional donation _____

New Member **Renewing Member** **Total enclosed** _____

I'm interested in volunteering in the following area(s):

HH (work with staff at HMP): Docent Greeter Research

FOHH: Fundraising Program Planning Public Relations Special Events

Send completed form with check payable to *Friends of Historic Huntley* to:
FOHH, P.O. Box 7241, Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Book & CD Sales

Peruse FOHH's stock of **used books** on American historic homes and architecture and local and regional Virginia history **and CDs** of classical music, sounds of nature, and historic recordings at the HMP Visitor Center. Sales benefit Historic Huntley. Most books are priced at \$2; with CDs at \$3, two for \$5, or \$2 each for three or more. **To donate books or CDs**, contact Todi Carnes at todicarnes@verizon.net. ❖

Huntley Headlines is produced by Friends of Historic Huntley, a local citizens group formed to preserve Historic Huntley and related cultural resources through advocacy and education.

Board of Directors: Todi Carnes, President • Charles O. Davis, Vice President • Carolyn Gamble, Secretary • Jere Gibber, Treasurer • Erica Hershler, Publicity • Charlotte Brown • Peter Christensen • Harry Glasgow • Stephen F. Kimbel • Patty Young • Susan Escherich and Norma Hoffman, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • Connie Carpender, FOHMP Representative • Bruce Dilks, Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church Representative

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Address changes:

Please send your mailing label with corrections to the address above or to FOHHuntley@aol.com.