



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Fall 2014

Fall Event: This Old Villa Saturday, September 27

Co-sponsored by FOHH and
the Fairfax County Park Authority

1 to 4 p.m. Tours of Huntley and Family Architecture Activities

Embrace your inner architect! Have fun touring the 1825 Mason family summer home and outbuildings, local architectural gems, while learning about lunettes, dog-tooth cornices, fanlights, and other features of federal-period architecture. Enjoy architectural activities, including learning with **Ascendly**, a company that teaches children about **engineering through LEGOS®**. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *Suggested donation, \$5. Children 10 and under, free. Light refreshments provided.*

2 to 3:30 p.m.

Lecture and panel discussion

Attendees are encouraged to tour the house at 1 p.m.

C. Richard Bierce, AIA, whose involvement with the house spans more than 30 years, will talk about the site's architectural significance and discoveries made during his early forensic investigations. **Stephen Ortado**, a principal with Historic Structures and part of the restoration team, will review issues and interesting discoveries brought to light during the restoration process.

Directions on page 4. For more information call Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525. ❖

Members-Only Tour: Fred W. Smith Library at Mount Vernon

Friday, October 3 • 10:30 a.m.

3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway,
adjacent to the Mount Vernon Estate

Join other FOHH members at a **free members-only tour** of the **Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington**. **Stephen A. McLeod**, manager of Library Programs and editor of *Mount Vernon Ladies' Association: 150 Years of Restoring George Washington's Home*, will lead members on a personal tour. He also will speak about Betsy Mason, wife of Thomson F. Mason and a member of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association from 1872 to 1873, and the early work of the MVLA. Dedicated to safeguarding George Washington's personal collection of books and manuscripts, Library holdings include 1,500 additional 18th-century books and many important 19th-century newspapers, manuscripts, and documents.

Space is limited; RSVP to Ann Lindblom, lindblom@comcast.net,

FOHH Annual Meeting and Lecture (topic TBA)

Sunday, November 9 • 2 p.m.

Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA

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Huntley Harvest Festival

Saturday, November 1 • 1 to 4 p.m.

Autumn is a time of change and preparation on any farm like Historic Huntley—harvesting, stockpiling food for winter, preparing the house, and storing equipment. At a forest like Huntley Meadows, animals spend the waning hours fattening up and squirreling away food, heading for warmer climates, or preparing dens for a long winter's sleep. As the air turns crisp and the light fades, autumn activities mark these changes and the ceaseless cycles of nature that shape our lives.

Celebrate the season on the farm and in the wood at the annual **Huntley Harvest Festival!** Friends and neighbors are invited to **explore Historic Huntley** during an afternoon filled with **games**—pumpkin ring toss or musical hay bales; **crafts**—make your own puppet; and **refreshments**. Join us for **puppet shows and story time**, meet **costumed interpreters**, play with **Forest Fox and River Raccoon**, and win prizes.

Entrance fee, \$10 per person.

Children 4 and under, free.

Directions on page 4. For more information call Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525. ❖

President's Column: **FOHH Moving Forward**

by Todi Carnes

Such notable and longstanding structures as Huntley are not mere houses, but **community touchstones of historical continuity and witness**. In our last newsletter, Barbara Ballentine, immediate past president of FOHH, traced the highly successful 20-plus-year journey of FOHH in procuring the 2012 restoration and public opening of the Huntley villa and its closest outbuildings. Even as efforts towards restoration of Huntley's tenant house and ice well move forward, the opening of the villa's doors to the public marked the **beginning of a new era for FOHH** in assuring that this 19th-century landmark continues as a vibrant cultural heritage center in our own century and beyond.

The new era is marked by themed Spring and Fall Events. The **Spring Event** celebrates some aspect of Huntley's history. In concert with Civil War Sesquicentennial celebrations, this event has focused on Huntley's Civil War occupation by Union forces for the past two years. In recognition that Huntley was preserved for its illustration of Federal period architecture, the **Fall Event** promotes awareness of Huntley's architectural aspects.

The period also has witnessed **new Fairfax County Park Authority programming**. FOHH members have volunteered at many activities, including the Summer Social and the **upcoming Huntley Harvest Festival**. Dedicated **FOHH members such as Terry Dahl** (see *Member Profile*) directly interact with the public on behalf of Huntley by serving as greeters and tour docents at Saturday house tours from April through October. **New volunteers always are welcome!**

To further integrate Huntley into **historic, architectural, and civic-minded communities**, FOHH is looking to **build ties and partner with local groups** having those interests.

If you are a member of such a group, and believe that cross-pollination with FOHH might be fruitful, please let us know about that group.

Finally, being a community touchstone in the 21st century invariably means having a **social media presence**. While a tweet or two has been seen from the 19th-century's T.F. Mason, **FOHH is searching for the Huntley fan who can truly bring Huntley (and T.F. Mason) into the modern media era**.

Contact FOHH Membership Chair Barbara Ballentine at bbbalex@verizon.net to volunteer or to discuss partnering activities. ❖

Update: Tenant House Restoration

Fairfax County voters approved a bond to fund restoration of Huntley's tenant house in 2012. According to recently released Fairfax County Park Authority projections, **project scoping** for the restoration should be completed by the end of this year. The **design phase** will run from January to March 2015. The **restoration is scheduled for completion** in March 2016. ❖

Member Profile: **Terry Dahl's Outstanding Volunteer Award**

Twice a year Huntley Meadows Park staff recognize volunteers who have contributed in special ways. The key prize is the **Ken Howard Volunteer of the Year Award**, established in 1986, which this year went to **Steve Lindblom**, husband of FOHH board member Ann.

Three other awards were given at the summer volunteer party including one Geoffrey Cohrs, Site Coordinator, gave to **FOHH volunteer Terry Dahl**. This is what he said to highlight her work: "This volunteer has never sought the limelight; they show a quiet dedication that often goes unrecognized, but is certainly always appreciated. While they have been modest in their own appraisal of their skills and help, their commitment to Historic Huntley has been above and beyond. They have been ready to help when we've needed it, willing to provide their own insights, and always present a friendly face to our patrons and guests.

"This volunteer is a regular for our Saturday tours, helps out with our big events like the Summer Social, shows a keen desire to help preserve that house by helping us with maintenance, and has even volunteered to help with our camp field trips. Please join me in showing **our deep appreciation for everything that Terry Dahl has done**, she is **this year's Outstanding Volunteer for Historic Huntley**."

Terry has volunteered at Huntley Meadows Park for two years in several capacities. After years of driving by Huntley when it was surrounded by a chain-link fence, she was delighted to see it open to the public. While serving as a greeter, she welcomes visitors sitting under a tent outside the tenant house. She has endured rain, heat, and periods of quiet, all of which give her the opportunity to envision past events and enjoy the remote feel of Huntley even given its current suburban location.



*Fanlight
at Huntley
Photo:
J.G.
Harrington*



Civil War event with re-enactors and visitors at Huntley. Photo: Jere Gibber

We congratulate all the volunteers and salute their dedication and to helping staff make it the wonderful place we all enjoy so much! *Awards sponsored by Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.* ❖

Summer Internship: Tom Cuthbertson

I would like to thank members of FOHH for providing the support and funding for my summer internship opportunity. The open format of the internship allowed me to explore projects relevant to my own research interests. I was able to produce a historical narrative for the property, as well as a sample tour for the Docent Manual. I converted the Dorothy Butt interview to DVD for better preservation and added research materials to the collection at Huntley Meadows Park. This included the 1859 deed between Elizabeth C. Mason and her sons Arthur Pendleton and John Francis with the names of almost 70 enslaved individuals.

The ability to interact with a wider range of audiences in the educational programs, as well as through tours at Historic Huntley, has been a wonderful learning experience and has challenged me to expand my educational skill set. Thanks to FOHH, I am looking forward to applying the experience I have acquired through this internship in my public history career. ❖

Partnership: Groveton Historians:

This was the first year of the FOHH partnership with Groveton Elementary School. The Groveton Historians group included 19 fourth-grade students. Their goal was to research and learn about Thomson Francis Mason and Huntley, as well as to understand the impact of the famous Mason family on Virginia. To do this, students are learning:

- Research techniques using maps, letters, diaries, online research, and biographies
- What life was like in Fairfax County during the 18th and 19th centuries
- How the Civil War affected various Mason properties

An unrelenting winter forestalled earlier visits, so the Groveton Historians made their inaugural visit to Historic Huntley on April 2 and look forward to many more excursions. **Meet some of our intrepid Historians on September 27** as they assist with **This Old Villa** activities. Be sure to introduce yourself to this next generation of Huntley friends. ❖

Many thanks to Lifetime Members!

John E. & Nancy S. Berfield
Charlotte Brown • Joyce Connolly
Todi Carnes • Carolyn Gamble •
Harry Glasgow • Joseph Heines III
Susan Hellman • Robert McNeil
Vic Marshall

More Huntley Programs!

Register for the following Fairfax County Park Authority programs at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes. For more information call Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525.

Twilight Hilltop Tours

Friday, September 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Code: 5784833901, \$8

Friday, October 17, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Code: 5784833902, \$8

Location: Historic Huntley

Join us for an evening of exploration and tour a house museum in a different light. Historic Huntley overlooks Hybla Valley and Huntley Meadows Park. Witness this dramatic location as the setting sun paints the sky. *Light refreshments. Dress appropriately for the weather.*

Merit Badge:

Citizenship in the Nation

Tuesday, November 4

Code: 5784739902

Saturday, December 20

Code: 5784739901

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$28

Location: Historic Huntley

Merit Badge:

Indian Lore

Saturday, November 8

Code: 3404741601

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$27

Location: Huntley Meadows Park

Homeschoolers at Huntley

Thursdays, September 18, 8 weeks

Code: 3404866701

1:30 to 3 p.m. p.m., ages 6 to 10

\$105 / \$120 (in/out of county)

Location: Huntley Meadows Park

Students see the past laid out before their eyes and discover Huntley, Northern Virginia, and Chesapeake regional history. Each week students learn about a different aspect of American history by participating in hands-on activities and hikes. *Students must have basic reading and writing skills and be comfortable working in a group.* ❖

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

Save the Dates:

This Old Villa: September 27

Member-Only Event: October 3

Harvest Festival: November 1

Annual Meeting/Lecture: November 9

More dates inside!

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Used Book & CD Sales Benefit Huntley

This fall FOHH launches quarterly sales of used books and CDs during the months of September, December, March and June to benefit Historic Huntley.

Book subject matter will include American historic homes and architecture, Virginia and local regional history, and the Civil War. CD stock will focus on classical music, historical narratives, sounds of nature, and childrens' interest. **To donate books**

or CDs in these categories, contact Todi Carnes at todicarnes@verizon.net. Look for the latest books and CDs on the Huntley Meadow Park Visitor Center's "history wall." ❖

Huntley Open Hours

The grounds are open from dawn to dusk. Tours of the house are available by appointment and on Saturdays from the last weekend in April through the end of October at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m. 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

Huntley Headlines is produced by Friends of Historic Huntley, a local citizens group formed to assist Fairfax County in the restoration, preservation and utilization of Huntley and to enhance the public's knowledge of this historic villa.

Board of Directors: Todi Carnes, President • Harry Glasgow, Vice President • Carolyn Gamble, Secretary • Jere Gibber, Treasurer • Barbara Ballentine, Membership • Erica Hershler, Publicity • Charlotte Brown • Charles O. Davis • Stephen F. Kimbel • Ann Linblom • Beth Swartz • Patty Young • Susan Escherich and Norma Hoffman, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • Connie Carpender, FOHMP Representative

Advisors: Annabel Baer • C. Richard Bierce, AIA • Jack L. Hiller • Susan Hellman • Robbie McNeil

Address changes:

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