



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Pandemic 2020

FOHH Annual Meeting Huntley Goes Virtual! Saturday, November 7, 2:00 p.m.

During the pandemic, historic sites and outdoor parks like Historic Huntley and Huntley Meadows Park have served as places of respite away from the sometimes confining walls of home. While open spaces and trails make for rejuvenating park walks, the pandemic foreclosed some in-person group gatherings, such as summer camps. Park staff felt this loss so keenly that they decided to develop and launch virtual programming, despite having no prior experience doing this.

Fast forward several months and park staff are now veterans of this production process. **Virtual camp classes are now in session** with participants and parents giving them a big thumbs up. This success has led park staff to develop other videos to meet the needs of the Fairfax County Park Authority beyond the park, including segments for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Huntley Meadows Park staff will chronicle their adventures in taking Huntley virtual, as well as running park operations during the pandemic, at FOHH's first virtual annual meeting on Saturday, November 7, at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for this presentation and the annual election of FOHH Board members. Only FOHH members may vote. A membership form can be found on page 4 and at http://historichuntley.org/Join_or_Donate.html.

If you receive our newsletter by email, we'll send you an email invitation to

Huntley Artist Susie Pierson's Visage Revealed!

As mentioned in the fall 2019 newsletter, Huntley has a history of inspiring artists, both those who lived on the property and those just visiting. Thanks to the **detective work of FOHH Board Member Charlotte Brown**, we can now see one of **Huntley's artists, Susie Pierson (1863-1925)**, in a photo recently located by Charlotte.

Susie's father, Nathan Pierson, and her uncle, Albert W. Harrison, together purchased Huntley lands following the



Still life by Susie Pierson; photo courtesy of Charlotte Brown.

the online Zoom meeting. If not, please send this information to jgibber@aol.com or call 703.768.6987. **Alternatively, you may participate by phone** and that information also will be provided in the invitation sent by email. ❖



Photo courtesy of Pierson family descendants.

Civil War. Ultimately, Albert Harrison's family lived in the Huntley villa, while Susie's family lived across Harrison Lane in a house that no longer stands.

Susie became an art teacher and orphanage housekeeper. She never married and is buried in Alexandria at the Presbyterian Cemetery. To this day she is remembered by Pierson family descendants living in the Pacific Northwest, who kindly shared this photo of her with Charlotte. ❖

President's Column

by Todi Carnes

If you've been wondering why you never received our spring newsletter this year, it's because it became one of the many casualties of the coronavirus. We had it ready to go in March, just about the time we came to appreciate that the upcoming events it featured would necessarily be cancelled. With stay-at-home orders in effect and non-essential operations closed, our normal hard-copy delivery channels were not readily available to us. So, we've opted for a do-over with this single **Pandemic 2020** issue, which also is our first virtual-only edition, available solely by link to our website.



Historic Huntley privy receives a facelift with a new paint job; photo by Carolyn Gamble.

We hope you and yours are faring well through this challenging time. I am pleased to report that Historic Huntley is fine. Huntley Meadows Park staff have maintained vigilance over the site, making periodic welfare checks even during our "lockdown," and overseeing the exterior painting of the villa and privy. Anecdotally, site visitation is up.

As its country airs offered escape from yellow fever and other in-town (Alexandria) epidemics of the past, today it offers an escape from the home confinement of the pandemic. Standing as a sentinel through time, Huntley is a consoling reminder that the pandemic will pass and that better days are ahead, along with spring newsletters! ❖



Park staff and volunteers reopen and prepare to welcome visitors to Historic Huntley; photo by Casey Pittrizzi.

Park Bond on the Ballot

For Fairfax County voters, this fall's ballot will include a proposed \$112 million park bond. If approved, the bond will provide \$100 million in support of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and \$12 million for NOVA Parks. These funds are critical to the upkeep and maintenance of park properties like Historic Huntley.

Of particular interest, the FCPA has been designing a new collections facility to house and safeguard the many historic documents and other cultural artifacts it owns, including items related to Historic Huntley. Not surprisingly, given the richness of our area's history, the FCPA's artifact collection has far outgrown its current facility and a new space is urgently needed. ❖



Malcolm McNeil, who began his FCPA career as an Historic Huntley summer intern, films a segment for Huntley's virtual programming; photo by Casey Pittrizzi. Additionally, the first episode of the "Dear Malcolm" video series can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wndwK-TsbF0>.

Inaugural FOHH Award for GMU Student!

This spring **Stephen Barr**, a recent masters' degree graduate in history, became the **first recipient of the George Mason University (GMU) FOHH Award**.

This \$250 annual award was established by FOHH in partnership with GMU's Department of History and Art History. It recognizes student work related to the family—writ large—of George Mason IV, including those enslaved by the family. FOHH funds the award; GMU history department faculty determine its recipient. For complete announcement details, go to <https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/departments-of-history-art-history-awards-celebration-spring-2020/friends-of-historic-huntley-award>. ❖



Penny Jones at Historic Huntley; photo by Robbie McNeil.

New FOHH Board Member: Penny Jones

by Robbie McNeil

It is a pleasure to introduce new **FOHH Board Member Elizabeth F. “Penny” Jones**. Penny brings an impressive background to the organization. She has a master’s degree in art and architectural history from the University of Louisville, and has taught historic preservation at Goucher College. She is the former director of preservation programs at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and retired as the executive director of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. Penny volunteers as a guide at the National Building Museum and with the Smithsonian Chamber Music program.

Penny loves preservation and understands the need to keep the continuum of our history alive. She is particularly interested in Historic Huntley because it is a unique regional site that provides a great opportunity for community involvement.

Join us in welcoming Penny to Friends of Historic Huntley and take an opportunity to get to know her. You’ll be glad you did! ❖

Cheryl Repetti Receives Outstanding Performance Award

Historic Huntley’s Site Coordinator and Historical Interpreter Cheryl Repetti received a Fairfax County Outstanding Performance Award in December 2019.

Since arriving at Huntley in 2015, Cheryl has designed and implemented an array of successful programming, including the Cooking & Craft summer camp, which Sully Historic Site also is incorporating into its camp offerings.

Outside of her Fairfax County Park Authority duties, Cheryl volunteers as a board member for the Friends of Historic Centreville and as a Fairfax County History commissioner for Sully District.

Congratulations to Cheryl for this well-deserved award! ❖



Cheryl Repetti receives a Fairfax County Outstanding Performance Award in the presence of (from left to right) then-Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Mason District Supervisor Penelope Gross, and County Executive Bryan Hill.

FOHH Salutes New Lifetime Members 2018-2019

Nancy and David Barbour
Carol Booth • Susan Hart
Erica Hershler
Karla Jamir and Paul Glist
James Keegan • Kathleen McNeil
Cheryl Repetti • Marvin Rubin
Gregory Wilson • Margaret Wohler



Tour Historic Huntley

Enjoy southern Fairfax County’s most scenic outlook at **Historic Huntley, the small house with a big view**. A Fairfax County Park Authority site, the property is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

On August 22, Historic Huntley reopened for **seasonal Saturday tours** of family groups of one to nine people at 10:30 a.m. and noon by advance ticket purchase only at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley/hours-tour>.

Through November, additional opportunities for **exclusive tours** may be arranged by sending an email to kylie.starck@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The grounds are open from dawn to dusk from March through November.

For more information: 703.768.2525, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley. ❖

Carriageway Cleared



On your next visit to Historic Huntley, be sure to check out a recently cleared area of the old carriageway marking the original South Kings Highway approach to the Huntley villa; photo by Robbie McNeil.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Upcoming FCPA Programs

For more information and to register, call 703.222.4664 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ and search by code.

Secrets, Spies, Sputnik and Huntley (Adults)

Take a stroll on the less-visited side of the park to uncover the history of spies, espionage, and how the Cold War struggle between the United States and the USSR shaped Huntley and the Fairfax County we know today. Meets at South King Highway entrance; includes a 2.4 mile walk over flat terrain.

\$10, November 19, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code F8B.S4IL.

Campfire Safety for Families (4-Adult)

Families learn to safely build and enjoy a campfire, plus how to make s'mores. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program.

\$8, November 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Code CE0.OKYL; December 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Code CE0.83DF ❖

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 preserve Historic Huntley and related cultural resources through advocacy and education.

Board of Directors: Todi Carnes, President • Robbie McNeil, Vice President • Carolyn Gamble, Secretary • Jere Gibber, Treasurer • Erica Hershler, Publicity • Charlotte Brown • Peter Christensen • Charles O. Davis • Elizabeth F. "Penny" Jones • Stephen F. Kimbel • Patty Young • Susan Escherich, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • Connie Carpender, FOHMP Representative • 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.