

# Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Fall 2019

## History Discussion: Freedom Petitions and T.F. Mason

Saturday, October 5, 2 p.m.

Tenant House, Historic Huntley  
6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria

For more information and to register,  
call 703.222.4664; or sign up in through  
Parktakes, Code: B65.6135, \$10

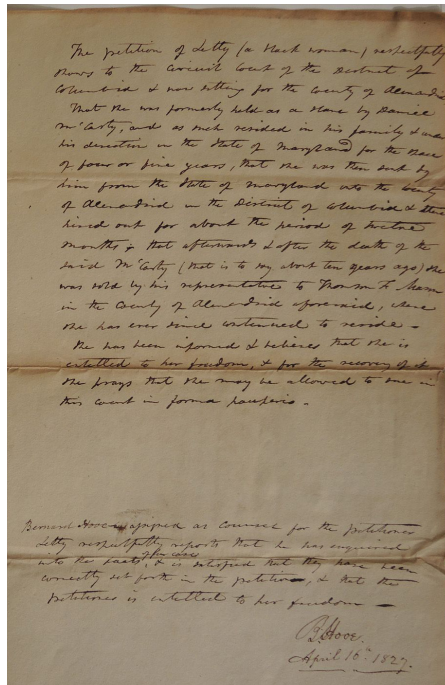
There can be little doubt that the hands that built Historic Huntley were those of people enslaved to Thomson Francis Mason, Huntley's original owner and a significant slaveholder. A lawyer, and later a judge, T.F.'s interaction with slavery in his professional life was also substantial.

This summer, **Historic Huntley Intern Catherine Kolo** set out to learn more about T.F. and slavery. In doing so, she found him engaged with "petitions for freedom," lawsuits filed by enslaved persons alleging a legal entitlement to freedom. In the **case of Letty**, a woman T.F. described as "an old family servant [of his family]," he found himself defending against such a petition both personally and professionally. The **transcript of the document** can be found at <http://earlywashingtondc.org/doc/oscys.case.0401.001>.

Join us to explore with Ms. Kolo the use of freedom petitions by the enslaved and to share her findings concerning T.F.'s involvement with them. ❖

## Catherine Kolo: Historic Huntley's Summer Intern

Working as the historical interpretation intern at Historic Huntley this summer has been a fantastic learning opportunity and a whirlwind! As an Alexandria native, it was a joy to return to *continued on page 2*



1827 judicial petition of enslaved woman, Letty, brought against T.F. Mason for her freedom.

## FOHH Annual Meeting

### Huntley in Art

Saturday, November 16, 1:30 p.m.

Sherwood Regional Library, free  
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

Did you know that **Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia**, has artwork depicting Huntley hanging in its campus library? Over the years, Huntley has been both home to artists and the subject of artists' work. Huntley's last private owners, the Amlongs, included artist **William Amlong** who painted the work below.

Join us for this presentation and the annual election of FOHH Board members. If you haven't already, please renew your FOHH membership—only members in good standing may vote. For your convenience, a membership renewal form can be found on page 4. ❖



William Amlong, Out House at Huntley, 1978, oil on canvas, 30.25 x 40 inches, collection of the the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, gift of Lester Blackiston, 2007.13.3. Image courtesy of the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts.



## President's Column and a Call for Artists!

by Todi Carnes

Historic Huntley is many things to many people. For some, it's a place imbued with history. For others, its federal-period structures give rise to architectural appreciation. And for still others, its viewshed imprints the mind with natural beauty. In common to all: it is a site of inspiration. While Virginia is passively "for lovers," Huntley actively inspires. Nowhere is this more evident than in the artwork it has inspired both residents and visitors to create. Given that this **artistic aspect of the site** is little known, this year's annual meeting presentation will be given over to its exploration and elucidation.

With your help, we'd like to host **a revival of the mid-19th-century tradition of plein-air painting**. This would involve a day in **April 2020** for artists to paint various sights and scenes outdoors at Huntley. As presently envisioned, members of the public would be invited to observe the artists in action and, at the day's end, view and, if desired, purchase the art painted that day.

Of course, the key to this event is artists! Hence, **an appeal: if you are or know someone who is an artist who might be interested in harnessing the inspiring powers of Huntley** this coming spring, please contact me at [todicarnes@verizon.net](mailto:todicarnes@verizon.net). ❖

---

## HH Summer Intern

*continued from page 1*

a park I have loved since childhood and expand my knowledge about the historic site. In addition to enjoying time spent working with kids at summer camps, I am especially grateful for the opportunity I had to conduct my own research. This internship enabled me to become more acquainted with tools in special collections libraries and online—a skillset that will come in handy as I complete my final undergraduate year at the University of Virginia as a history major.

## FOHH and FCPA Sign Memorandum of Agreement

In March, FOHH and the Fairfax County Park Authority renewed and reinforced their commitment to working together cooperatively for the preservation, good stewardship, and promotion of Historic Huntley by signing a Memorandum of Agreement. Participants included (left to right) FCPA Board Chairman William G. Bouie; FOHH President Todi Carnes; Historic Huntley Site Manager Casey Pittrizzi; Aimee Vosper representing the FCPA Director; and FOHH Vice-President Robbie McNeil. ❖



As for the substance of my research, I hoped to supplement Huntley's scholarship about the population of enslaved laborers and ended up learning about the lawsuits of enslaved laborers for freedom against their masters. Thomson Francis Mason acted as an attorney for both enslaved plaintiffs and slave-owning defendants in various cases, and was himself the defendant of such a suit. I look forward to discussing my research at the **October 5 History Discussion** (*see page 1*).

This summer I have done everything from wading in a marsh to discovering fingerprints in ink on letters from the 1800's. What more could I ask for? Thank you again to the Friends of Historic Huntley for this opportunity, and to my supervisor, Cheryl Repetti, for her guidance and help! ❖



*Summer Intern Catherine Kolo in costume as Huntley's Betsey C. Mason.*



## Betsey Mason Letter on Exhibit at Mount Vernon

This September, Betsey C. Mason's circa 1845 letter to John Augustine Washington III concludes its one-year display at Mount Vernon as part of the *Lives Bound Together* exhibit. FOHH members enjoyed a guided tour of the exhibit this past spring, concluding with a prolonged stop at the letter's display. Pictured at the display are (left to right), Todi Carnes, Exhibit Curator Jessie Macleod, Patty Young, and Cheryl Repetti. ❖



## New Interpretive Signage at Historic Huntley

New interpretive signs have recently been installed at Historic Huntley, including those located at the bus stop along Harrison Lane close to the entry to Historic Huntley, between the villa and the "office," and along the pathway to the villa's lower level. The signs allow visitors to learn about the site whenever Huntley grounds are open to the public. Their placement marks the culmination of years of planning and design by dedicated Huntley Meadows Park staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped bring them into being! ❖



## Book and CD Sales

FOHH's sales of used books and CDs at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center benefit Historic Huntley. Books focus on historic homes and architecture, and local and regional history. CD stock focuses on classical music and historical narratives. Most books are \$2 or \$3; CDs are \$3, two for \$5, or \$2 each for three or more. To donate books or CDs, contact Todi Carnes at [todicarnes@verizon.net](mailto:todicarnes@verizon.net). ❖

## Phyllis Walker-Ford: New FOHH Advisor



Meet the newest member of FOHH's Advisory Council, **Phyllis Walker-Ford!** Phyllis' connections to the local area are many and profound.

She currently serves on Fairfax County's History Commission, as well as on the Franconia Museum's Board of Directors. She recently helped produce the *Lee District Guide to Historic Sites* (available at the Franconia Museum) and was named as Lee District's 2019 Lady Fairfax.

Among her forbears were Dick and Charity Jasper, owned by George Washington, and William Jasper, who attained his freedom in 1846 and, in 1881, donated land enabling the establishment of the **Laurel Grove School** for the education of black children in Franconia. The school remained open until 1932 and is today the **Franconia Museum**—the only surviving African American schoolhouse in Northern Virginia. Phyllis serves as president of its governing association.

*Welcome aboard Phyllis!* ❖

## 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.

Tours are scheduled on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon from the end of April through October and by appointment. \$8 adults; \$6 children and seniors; under 5, free. The grounds are open from dawn to dusk from March through November.

*For more information:* 703.768.2525, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley). ❖

## FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

### Save the Dates:

*History Discusson: Freedom Petitions—October 5*

*Annual Meeting + Huntley in Art—November 16*

*FCPA Programs at Historic Huntley*

---

---

### Huntley-Related Web Sites

[www.historichuntley.org](http://www.historichuntley.org)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley)

[www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

---

---

---

## FCPA Programs at Historic Huntley

For more information and to register, call 703.222.4664 or go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) and search by code.

Twilight Hilltop Tour	October 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$8	Code: D3E.9638
Mason Tea	October 8, 2-4 p.m., \$28	Code: 87A.DF2A
Secrets, Spies, Sputnik, and Huntley	October 12, 2-3:30 p.m., \$9	Code: F8B.5766
Pumpkin Party on the Hill	October 27, 2-4 p.m., \$8	Code: 099.13FE
The Frightful Science of Mary Shelley	October 30, 7-8:30 p.m., \$22	Code: CBF.1EA3
Women of Huntley Tea	November 9, 2-4 p.m., \$35	Code: C12.8899
Colonial Life for Homeschool	November 11, 1-3 p.m., \$14	Code: 925.AA1C
Enslaved Lives and the Legacy of Slavery	November 16, 1-2 p.m., \$8	Code: BF1.0D78
The Art of the Book—Calligraphy	November 17, 2-3 p.m., \$8	Code: 73C.014F
The View from Huntley	November 20, 1-2 p.m., \$8	Code: B05.A0F6
Dutch Oven Brunch	November 23, 11 a.m.-12 noon, \$8	Code: 269.9E1E
Ice Well Ice Cream	December 7, 1-2 p.m., \$8	Code: 129.7795
Christmas Tea at the Harrisons	December 14, 2-4 p.m., \$28	Code: C33.9BE3
A Very Mason Christmas	December 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m., \$10	Code: 861.240C

---

## 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 • Stephen F. Kimbel • Patty Young • Susan Escherich, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • Connie Carpender, FOHMP Representative • Karin Boston, Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church Representative

**Advisors:** Barbara B. Ballentine • Harry Glasgow • Susan Hellman • Phyllis Walker-Ford

### Address changes:

Please send your mailing label with corrections to the address above or to [FOHHuntley@aol.com](mailto:FOHHuntley@aol.com).