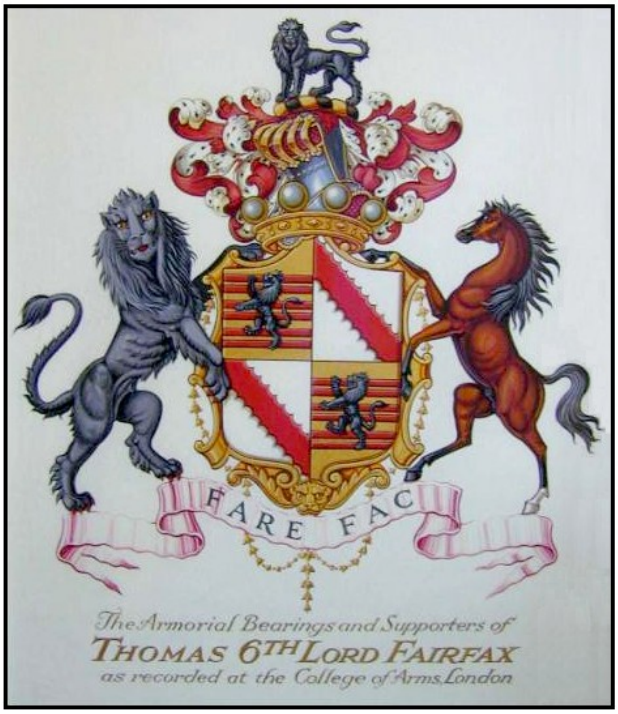
Fairfax County History Commission Annual Report



2006

Table of Contents

Chairman's Summary 1
2nd Annual Fairfax County History Conference 2
Ethnic Committee 4
Oral History 4
Publications 4
Awards Programs 5
Historical Markers 5
Inventory of Historic Sites 7
Archaeology Grants 8
Speaker's Bureau Project 8
Web Site 8
Speaker's Bureau 8
Outreach Activities 9

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

It has been my honor and extreme pleasure to have served as the leader of the Fairfax County History Commission this past year 2006. We have been very well supported by you, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, County Staff, Virginia Room staff and especially the Fairfax County Park Authority. A few key events of the past year include:

* Highly successful 2nd Annual History Conference.
* Continuation of work on the Oral History Committee.
* Support of the Lorton/Laurel Hill National Register Nomination.
* Ongoing work with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
* Placement of three Fairfax County Historical Markers: Ivakota Farm, Cartersville Baptist Church and Mount Air; and one Virginia marker for the Guinea Road Cemetery.
* Addition of new Commissioners: Jim Cox of Lee District; Mary Lipsey of Braddock District; Carole Herrick of Dranesville District; and Gretchen Bulova of Braddock District.
* Ongoing support to preserve the Oakton School House and its re-location to a local park area.
* Collaborations with the Fairfax County Park Authority, Architectural Review Board and Fairfax Museum & Visitors Center.
* Nine members of the History Commission took part in a one day seminar, "Section 106: An Introduction," on May 20, 2006 at the Great Falls Grange put on by the National Preservation Institute and conducted by Ethel R. Eaton, Ph.D., Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The purpose of the seminar was to learn about project review under Section 106, with emphasis on such practicalities as—how to avoid pitfalls and victimization by myths; recent changes in regulations and procedures; and coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws. Section 106 is relevant whenever Federal funds are involved in a project that affects eligible heritage resources.
* I represented the Commission in the Section 106 Review of the Route 1-Telegraph Road Connector and am actively participating in the BRAC process at Fort Belvoir.
* Other events are detailed later in this report.

I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve the county this past year and look forward to serving this year as an advocate for the preservation of the vast and diverse historical resources located within this county. On behalf of the Fairfax County History Commission, I thank you for your support in the work we do.

Robert Beach,

Chairman, Fairfax County History Commission

2ND ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CONFERENCE

In a continuing effort to engage the community in matters of Fairfax County history, the Second Annual Fairfax County History Conference was held on November 11, 2006 at the Fairfax County Park Authority's Ellmore Farm Center in Herndon, VA. The theme was "Preserving and Documenting our History in 2006." The conference was even more successful than the first in 2005 – drawing over 100 attendees. Numerous presentations were made on the conference theme, including panel discussions on both "Braddock's True Gold," facilitated by Supervisor Sharon Bulova, Braddock District and "The Mills of Fairfax County." A presentation was made by Michael Rierson & John Rutherford from the Fairfax County Park Authority entitled "Use of Photographs in Historic Preservation." Other presentations included, "Lessons Learned – the National Register Status for the Lorton/Laurel Hill Site" and yet another panel discussion on "Using Our County Resources: The Virginia Room and the Circuit Court Archives." For a registration fee of $25, attendees were able to attend these sessions as well as others, visit exhibits by local history groups, meet local history authors, view local history videos, enjoy breakfast, lunch & an afternoon snack as well as a visit to the newly restored Frying Pan Meeting House. Photographs depicting local history were also accepted to add to the County archives. The guest speaker was Mr. Harris Andrews, who spoke on "Little Known Facts about Fairfax County and the Civil War." (Mr. Harris was a key researcher on the Time-Life Civil War series) The FCHC took pride in presenting History Commission Members Jack Hiller and Naomi Zeavin Lifetime Achievement awards during the conference.

The conference Chair was Lynne Garvey Wark, supported by the Conference Committee: Michael Rierson, Fairfax County Park Authority, Susan Gray, Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, Irma Clifton, Anne Barnes, Don Hakenson, Esther McCullough and Naomi Zeavin, Fairfax County History Commission, Ross Netherton, author & historian and Sara Collins, the Northern Virginia Association for History.

The 2007 Conference theme will be "The Fairfax 400 – Four Hundred Years of Fairfax County History."

Harris Andrews gave the keynote presentation at the 2006 History Conference entitled: "Little Known Facts about Fairfax County and the Civil War."

John Browne, cartographer, and Mary Lipsey, author & coordinator, discuss their roles in creating a history of the Braddock Supervisory District entitled: "Braddock's True Gold: 20th Century Life in the Heart of Fairfax County" along with Supervisor Sharon Bulova.

Guests at the 2006 History Conference had an opportunity to visit the restored Frying Pan Meeting House.

(Photographs courtesy of Jack Lewis Hiller.)

ETHNIC COMMITTEE

This committee was formed in the fall of 1997 in response to the increasing demographic diversity of Fairfax County's population. The one hundred languages spoken within schools show the diversity of the population. It has been estimated that in less than fifty years the County's white population will drop below 50 percent. The committee set as a goal to explore the ways in which more ethnic segments might be encouraged to record their experiences and community history since their arrival in Northern Virginia.

The members of the Ethnic committee are Naomi Zeavin, Anne Barnes, Sallie Lyons, Lynne Garvey Wark, and Chairperson, Esther McCullough.

ORAL HISTORY

At the suggestion of Chairman Connolly, the Commission formed a subcommittee of the Ethnic Committee to seek a project for recording and presenting oral history in Fairfax County. The subcommittee is researching ways to present oral history that convey to the county and the youth that the history of all people is important. Also that history is not just the past, but is being made each day and we are making history each day.

A plan has been formed to interview persons that can give history on (1) World War II; (2) African-Americans who grew up in the county; and (3) the many ethnic groups in the county. These will be conducted over a two year span.

Naomi Zeavin led the first Oral History project at the Clark House in 2005 highlighting the history of two African-American families. Completed in 2006, the video and transcribed interviews are available for research in the Virginia Room.

Led by Esther McCullough, the committee includes Naomi Zeavin, Anne Barnes, Sallie Lyons, and Lynn Garvey Wark.

PUBLICATIONS

During the year 2006, the Fairfax County History Commission's Publications Committee focused primarily on the reprinting of out-of-stock books and their maps (*Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia*; *Fairfax County, Virginia in 1760*; *Legato School: A Centennial Souvenir*; and *Mount Air, Fairfax, Virginia*) which entails converting these documents into an electronic format; continued design discussions regarding the "Fairfax County in 1860" manuscript and map; continued documenting the history of the coming of Metro Rail to Tysons Corner for a future publication; took the preliminary steps towards reprinting the Hopkins Maps (1878), and discussed assisting map author Guinevere Jones with content additions and the reprinting of "African American

Landowners, Churches, Schools and Businesses : Fairfax County Virginia (1860-1900)" which is out of print.

Members of the Publications Committee were Paula Elsey (Chair), Mayo Stuntz, Elise Ruff Murray, Barbara Naef, Lynne Garvey Wark, Anne Barnes, David Olin, and Mary Lipsey.

AWARDS PROGRAMS

The Fairfax County History Commission has established several awards programs to honor achievements in Fairfax County history and historic preservation. These programs include the Distinguished Service Awards, which are typically awarded during Historic Preservation Week in May of each year to individuals, developers, corporations, or groups that have contributed to preserving history in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax Heritage Awards are designed to encourage and reward original research in Fairfax County history. The highest award is the Nan Netherton Award, which includes a $1,000 prize. The Mary Fahringer Memorial Award is a very special award recognizing outstanding achievement in education, concentrating in areas of history and architecture. The award in the amount of $1,000 is not an annual one, but is reserved for truly unique and meritorious contributions.

The members of the Awards Committee are Bob Beach, chair, Jack Hiller and Lynne Garvey Wark.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Fairfax County's Historical Marker Program began in January 1998 when the History Commission approved a design and agreed to fund a distinctive marker for Fairfax County. While this marker was generally modeled after Virginia's roadside markers, by state code it had to have a distinctive appearance. With colors derived from George Washington's Fairfax Militia uniform, these buff and blue roadside markers emblazoned with the Fairfax County seal, stand ten feet from ground level. To date nineteen Fairfax County markers and four state markers have been funded under this program. Many of the requests for historical markers are initiated by the public or by proffers from developers. These sources have provided about half of the funds supporting the program to date. All requests are reviewed by a committee for historical accuracy and editorial continuity before being submitted to the entire Commission.

Serving on the Historical Marker Committee are: Joe Balicki, Paula Elsey, Don Hakenson, Esther McCullough, Elise R. Murray, Sue Patterson and Jack L. Hiller, the Chairman.

In 2006 three new historical markers were approved—two of which have been installed.

In addition, the Cartersville Baptist Church marker, approved in 2005, was installed in April 2006. The marker was unveiled during festivities marking the 143rd anniversary of the church on 11 June 2006. (Photographs courtesy of Jack Lewis Hiller.)

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

The Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites is one of the History Commission's oldest responsibilities. It serves as both an honorific and a planning tool. The Comprehensive Plan includes in the Heritage Resources section for each Planning District the inventory sites located in that district. In FY 2006 the Commission spent $39,035 to fund a Limited Term Historian I position, administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning, to work on updating the inventory for the first time since 1994. Susan Hellman accepted the position and since July 2005 has been diligently and energetically reviewing and updating the inventory. With the completion of this update, it is anticipated that an Out of Turn Plan Amendment can be initiated. We are very grateful to Board of Supervisors for funding the Historian I position for FY 2007 and again for FY 2008. The Department of Planning and Zoning continues to be very supportive. Last summer DPZ assigned an intern, Laura Gumkowski, to enter inventory information into the GIS system. We thank DPZ for her services; she took care of a necessary, but time consuming task. With the help of Sandy Salerno, DPZ Admin/IT**,** Ms. Hellman put the inventory list along with its background, nomination forms and research guidelines on the County website so that it is accessible to staff and the general public. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/historic/ihs)

With the help of Ms. Hellman, we added eight properties to the inventory (below) and are considering several more. The Commission decided to include on the inventory all 45 sites in Fairfax County on the National or State Registers of Historic Places; which led to four nominations in addition to the new Tauxemont Historic District. There are now 365 sites on the inventory. We continue to work with County Staff to establish procedures for notice of impending demolition of inventory sites, which might require a change in the Zoning Ordinance.

Name	Date Added	District	Location
Laurel Grove School	February 1, 2006	Lee	Alexandria
Taft Archaeological site*	March 1, 2006	Mount Vernon	Lorton
Camp A.A. Humphreys Pump Station and Filter Building*	August 2, 2006	Mount Vernon	Fort Belvoir
Hantslot	September 6, 2006	Springfield	Clifton
Tauxemont Historic District*	January 3, 2007	Mount Vernon	Alexandria
George Washington Memorial Pkwy*	January 3, 2007	Dranesville	Arlington, Langley, McLean
Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy*	January 3, 2007	Mount Vernon	Alexandria, Arlington
Bayliss house	January 3, 2007	Lee	Alexandria

* National or State Registers of Historic Places

Sallie Lyons, Elise Ruff Murray and Barbara Naef serve on the Inventory Committee, in cooperation with Susan Hellman and Linda Cornish Blank, the County's very able Preservation Planner.

ARCHAEOLOGY GRANTS

Since 2000, Vicki Monken has put in over 1,600 hours entering data into the computer from the reams of forms filled out by the County Archaeology Program in the course of its operations since 1978. The Commission provides her a modest grant to do this tedious, yet invaluable work.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU PROJECT

In January 2004 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors requested that the History Commission compile a list of people willing and interested in speaking on topics related to Fairfax County history. This 10-page document, published and distributed in November 2004, summarizes a variety of countywide history topics with related speakers and contact information, including name, email address and phone number. Numerous members of the Commission are included. It is a continuous work in progress and will be customized and updated as necessary. If we have inadvertently omitted anyone who is interested in speaking on a topic, please let us know.

WEB SITE

The History Commission's Web page includes recent marker dedications, publications information, member contact information and Commission accomplishments. It serves as an easy, up to date, and readily available tool for anyone interested in our county's history. (http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/visitors/history/histcomm)

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Members of the Fairfax County History Commission continue to be active in speaking before various civic, community and historic groups.

Lynne Garvey Wark has given presentations using music, photo boards and games on the History of Clifton to local groups including the Herndon Historic Society.

Naomi Zeavin speaks at the Rotary and schools, etc. on Historic Mason District.

Don Hakenson is a well sought out speaker and has given various history presentations to countless civil war, historical and civic organizations around the entire State of Virginia and has provided special Civil War tours and information to prominent writers and other out of state historians. He also conducts presentations and book signings on his book, *This Forgotten Land: a Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexandria, Virginia* and on two books co-authored with Gregg Dudding about Colonel John S. Mosby and his men.

Jack Lewis Hiller spoke to twelve different groups in 2006 in addition to at least two tours per month from September through June at Gunston Hall. Typically he is asked to speak in public schools, to civic associations, historical groups, senior citizens or to private groups. Many of Hiller's lectures are given with slides and focus on Springfield. Titles of his lectures include: "Murder at the Mill: My Search for William H. Keene," "Henry Daingerfield and Origins of Springfield," "Oakgrove: The Home that John H. Broders Built," "The Hidden History of Hidden Pond Park," "Here Lies Fairfax County," and "An Introduction to Fairfax Archaeology."

Sue Patterson has made several presentations to community groups about the history of Franconia.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Fairfax County History Commission Members continue to be active in a variety of ways in the local community. This is not meant as a comprehensive list but merely a means to highlight the wide variety of activities of commission members.

Irma Clifton, Carole Herrick, Bud Mayo, Esther McCullough and Mayo Stuntz serve on the Fairfax County 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee established to plan and implement a countywide program to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. A Legacy Book Subcommittee was created to publish a historical anthology that reflects stories and events that took place in the County between 1607 and 2007. Led by Irma Clifton, the subcommittee includes members of the History Commission Bud Mayo, Esther McCullough and Mayo Stuntz.

Anne Barnes continues to serve on the very successful Annual Fairfax County History Conference Committee since its inception in 2005.

Robert Beach has served on the annual Fairfax County Exceptional Design Awards Jury in each year since 2001.

During the past year Irma Clifton was part of the Task Force that recommended, and got approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, a planning strategy for the Reformatory and Penitentiary sections of the former D. C. Prison at Lorton. This plan will serve as a basis for the development of the facilities while maintaining as much of the historical integrity as possible.

Irma Clifton is the President of Lorton Heritage Society, Inc. and is President of the Lorton Arts Foundation, is a non-profit working to develop an arts and cultural center at the prison Workhouse site.

Don Hakenson conducts Mosby bus tours with Gregg Dudding for the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and for other historical organizations, and is currently the President for the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and is on the board of directors for the Franconia Museum.

Carole Herrick is the chair of the McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia 1607-2007. David Olin was also appointed.

Esther McCullough participated in the research of materials in preparation for Supervisor Cathy Hudgins' show on Historical African-American Churches in Hunter Mill District of Fairfax County. The culmination of the research was a video taping of five churches established in the 1800s that were important part of life for African-Americans. The churches still exist today and include many descendants of the founders as members. Many of them were also schools for African-Americans when established. A taped interview session led by Supervisor Hudgins included her and Mayo Stuntz. The tape is being shown on channel 16 as a part of a Black History Month Celebration for Fairfax County. She has spoken to groups that are beginning oral history projects.

Elise Murray is the President of the Historical Society of Fairfax County; Mayo Stuntz is the Vice President; and Paula Elsey serves on the Board of Directors.

Elise Murray and Lynne Garvey Wark attended the Virginia State Preservation Conference in Williamsburg in September.

Barbara Naef continued to serve as the History Commission representative on the Park Authority Cultural Resource Management Plan Project Team through late May. During the fifteen months of the project's duration whose tasks included regular meetings, defining, crafting, writing, and editing the various plan sections. Barbara Naef meets regularly with the Park Authority Cultural Resource Management and Protection (CRMP) Section Manager, to keep advised and updated on the various activities and projects involving the countywide archaeology programs that are managed through CRMP. Barbara Naef was one of the Commission representatives at the dedication of the Mt. Air Archeological Park in April 2006.

Working in the offices of Park Authority Collections, Barbara Naef continued her long term project of inventorying and cataloging documents that relate to the Lahey collection of furnishings and decorative arts that were bequeathed to the Park Authority by Richard Lahey's widow, Carlotta, along with Lost Valley Park House and property. In September Barbara was honored by the Park Authority with a Volunteer Excellence Award for her work. She was asked to serve and has attended the initial meeting of the Collections Management Plan Project Team.

Barbara Naef researched and created a table-top photo exhibit, "Life along the Road," for display at Trailfest Day in May, marking the opening of the Cross County Trail. The subject was the community of Colvin Run located along the old Leesburg/Alexandria Turnpike, part of which remains as the present-day Colvin Run Road. A section of the Turnpike roadbed has been incorporated into the Cross County Trail. The exhibit was later incorporated into a display at the Great Falls Public Library.

In October with Michael Rierson of the Park Authority, Barbara Naef presented "Four hundred years of Fairfax County History" to Leadership Fairfax.

On the Commission Barbara Naef served as Nominating Committee chair for a second year, continues to serve on the Publications Committee and is a member of the Historic Sites

Inventory Committee. She participated in the Section 106 training offered to Commissioners in May, helped with and attended the Second Annual History Conference in November 2006.

Sue Patterson has served for 17 years as a member of the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee, 22 years as a member of the League of Women Voters (including past president of the Alexandria chapter), former Treasurer of the Fairfax Genealogical Society (and a member since 1989) and published "Fletchers Chapel United Methodist Church 150th Anniversary 1849-1999" in 1999.

Mayo Stuntz is chairman of Sully Foundation, which was established in the 1970s to support the Fairfax County Park Authority to assist in the operations and provide financial support for purchasing Lee Family articles for Sully Historic Site; serves as the unofficial Town Historian for Vienna, in addition to his responsibilities as president of Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton since 1958; and also serves on both the Fairfax County and Vienna 2007 Jamestown Committees.

Mayo Stuntz obtained a copy of President Teddy Roosevelt's opening speech from April 1906 at the Jamestown Celebration, which he gave to the County library. He also obtained a list of the files from the Jamestown 1907 Celebration from the Alderman in Charlottesville (UVA) which he gave to the County library. Mr. Stuntz with his wife published four books on local history in Fairfax County, is serving on the Publications Committee. Also Mr. Stuntz who has served with the History Commission and its predecessor unit, Landmarks Preservation Committee since 1965 is known for his institutional memory.

Lynne Garvey Wark co-chairs the Annual Historic Candlelight Tour of the Town, held on the first Saturday of December. The revenues generated from this event in 2006 totaled over $7,000.

Lynne Garvey Wark was appointed chairperson of the Clifton History Commission by the Clifton Town Council and serves as co-chair of the Clifton History Oral Committee.

Naomi Zeavin's video "Historic Mason District" has been completed and is now in all the Fairfax Schools and Libraries.

Naomi Zeavin led the first Oral History project at the Clark House in 2005 highlighting the history of two African-American families. Completed in 2006, the video and transcribed interviews are available for research in the Virginia Room.

Naomi Zeavin is the guest curator at the Clark House for the Fairfax County Park Authority. She has put on two exhibits, one on the Bailey family and currently one on the Munson family. In addition she showed her video Historic Mason District there.

Naomi Zeavin serves on its board of directors of the Capitol Hill Civil War Roundtable.

Fairfax County History Commission

Mailing Address:

Fairfax City Regional Library
Virginia Room
3915 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Telephone: (703) 293-6383

http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/visitors/history/histcomm

July 17, 2007