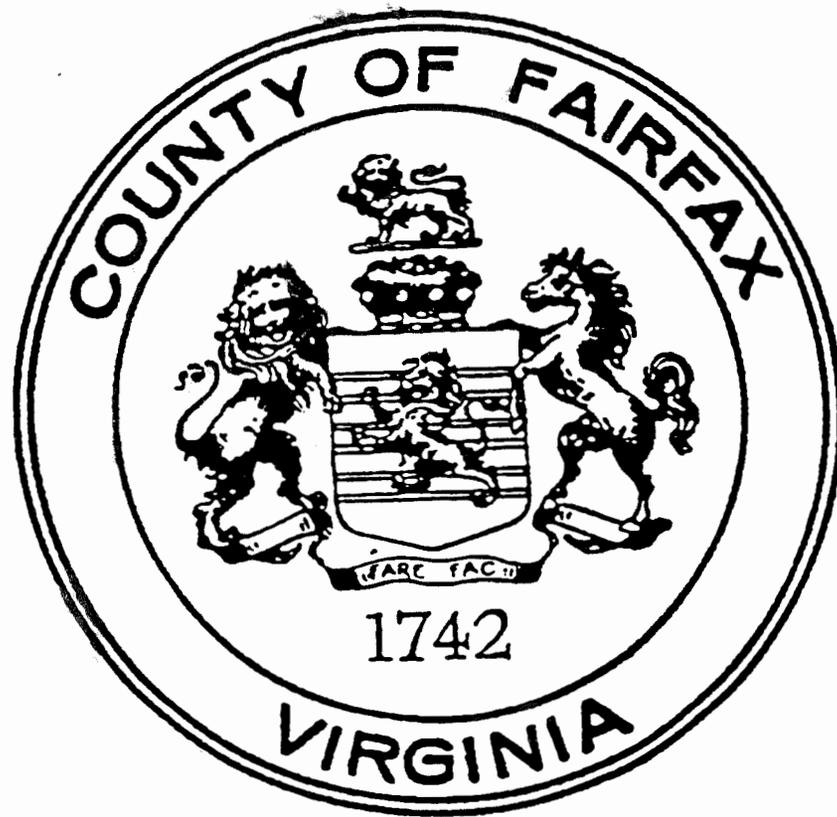


*Fiscal Year 98
Activity Report*



Fairfax County
History Commission



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County History Commission

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

Tel: 703-246-2123

V I R G I N I A

Sept. 14, 1998

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22055

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Fiscal year 1998 was a very productive year for the Fairfax County History Commission. We expanded our goals, initiated a diverse array of projects and improved public outreach and communications.

Some of the many achievements from July 1997 through June 1998 have included a telephone and mailing contact at the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Regional Library, a web site linked from the Fairfax County web site, implementation of a Fairfax County Marker Program and publication of an updated edition of the Fairfax County Historical Tour Map and Guide to Places of Interest in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

There are many other successful and rewarding projects that are explained in this first report to you from the History Commission. We hope that you will take a moment to read further and learn and be proud of the work of the Fairfax County History Commission.

We cordially invite you to attend any one of our meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday night of each month at 8 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Fairfax City Regional Library.

Very truly yours,

Francis R. "Pat" Bray, Jr.
Chairman
Fairfax County History Commission
(on behalf of the members of the Commission)

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SAGE Report

On September 6, 1995, the SAGE Committee was formed through passage of a motion that the Fairfax County History Commission establish an ad hoc committee consisting of concerned organizations and individuals to study the need for space to accommodate storage, exhibits, research accessibility and growth of Fairfax County's and Fairfax City's present and future historical materials and artifacts. The motion was passed unanimously.

This committee originally consisted of approximately 15 members representing such organizations as the Fairfax County History Commission, Historic Fairfax City, Inc., the Fairfax (City) Museum and Visitors Center, the Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Fairfax Genealogical Society, the Historical Society of Fairfax County, the Fairfax County Public Library Board, the Northern Virginia Association for History, the Falls Church Historical Commission and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia.

On May 7, 1997, the SAGE Committee recommended that the Fairfax County History Commission:

- 1) work with various agencies, museums and repositories to encourage dissemination of information about available resources relating to the Fairfax area history;
- 2) suggest establishing a working relationship with the county's economic development organizations to encourage industry support and cooperation in the promotion and awareness of Fairfax County's heritage and landmarks;
- 3) advise the Board of Supervisors that the need for a visitors' facility is very important for tourism in conjunction with our many historical sites and repositories;
- 4) encourage liaisons with all local jurisdictions to promote awareness of the area's historical resources;
- 5) request the Board of Supervisors to establish a citizens advisory committee to review requirements and needs of the next century to house and preserve the county's historical documents, objects, sites and parks;
- 6) encourage and support the development of a facility for space to accommodate storage, exhibits, research accessibility and growth of the Fairfax area's historical materials and artifacts.

The SAGE Report, which was approved by the History Commission at its meeting on April 1, 1998, is included as an appendix to this report.

Speakers Bureau

Fairfax County History Commission members Milburn Sanders, Mayo Stuntz and Jack Hiller have spoken before many groups and organizations, covering many aspects of the County's history.

Mr. Sanders has spoken at Great Falls School, Forestville School and the McLean Chapter of AARP. His topics are "The History of The Great Falls Grange, the History of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department and Thirteen Dry Years in Forestville."

Mr. Stuntz has also been very busy in the past year talking to many groups. He has spoken to the McLean Historical Society, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Salvation Army, the Mantua Garden Club, the Cub Scout pack at the Flint Hill Elementary School, the new member class of the Vienna Presbyterian Church about the 1874 Chapel, a luncheon meeting with the Presbyterian Church and the Vienna Baptist Church on the history of the Vienna Presbyterian Church, the 125th Anniversary of the building of the Vienna Elementary School, the dedication ceremony marking the oldest tree in Vienna, the Lake Vale Garden Club, and talking to the Virginia Retirement Home.

Mr. Hiller, in addition to contributing 360 hours as a volunteer archaeologist for the Fairfax County Park Authority, has given 16 slide/lecture presentations totaling approximately 30 hours to the following groups:

- Northern Virginia Chapter, Virginia Archaeology Society
- Little River Senior Citizens Center
- Fairfax County Librarian's Literature Conference
- Williamsburg Chapter, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities
- West Springfield Civic Association
- West Springfield H. S. Applied History classes
- Edison H. S. International Baccalaureate classes
- Stratford Landing Elementary School 6th grade classes
- William Hailey Elementary School 6th grade classes
- Orange Hunt Elementary School 6th grade classes
- Antietam Elementary School (Prince William County) 6th grade classes

The topics that he has presented either as slide/lecture, hands-on classroom exercises or a combination of both are:

- How an archaeologist seeks truth – an exercise in classifying 18th century artifacts.
- How an historian seeks truth – an exercise in the use of documents to find what happened to Springfield Station.
- The history of Belvoir Manor and the Fairfax Proprietary.
- Murder at the Mill: Mr. Hiller's Search for William H. Keene – a first-hand account of his documentary search for the history of Keene's Mill and its proprietor.

- Oak Grove: The House That John H. Broders Built – How the changing architecture of a house reflected the lives of the people who built it and the people who lived in it for approximately 170 years as revealed in documents and archaeology.
- The Hidden History of Hidden Pond – What the documents and archaeology reveal about a park in West Springfield that has been allowed to return to its natural state.
- A History of Preservation in Fairfax County: from family history to public preservation.

Marker Program

In January 1998, the History Commission decided to revitalize the Historic Marker program by submitting approximately three marker texts per year to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). In addition, the Commission decided to create a Fairfax County Marker Program for sites that are of a purely local historic interest. A procedure has been established to accomplish this. All marker texts, after proper research and editing, whether of national, state, regional or local interest will be submitted to VDHR for approval. VDHR will make the decision as to which category the text belongs and they may re-edit.

To date the only text that VDHR has designated of local interest is one submitted for Keene's Mill in 1995. The Marker Committee and the entire History Commission has approved this text for a local marker, the first Fairfax County has ever put up. Jack Hiller, Chairman of this Marker Program, met with a representative of the Virginia Department of Transportation on May 14, 1998, to get approval for placement at a site east of Huntsman Boulevard near the entrance to the Shannon Station townhouse community. That approval was granted. The site property along Huntsman Boulevard in West Springfield is an extension of the Pohick Creek flood plain and belongs to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The History Commission has approved the design, color (buff and blue after George Washington's uniform) and manufacturer of the aluminum marker. As of this date, details related to the exact fabrication of the marker are still being researched and collected by Mr. Hiller before being submitted to the manufacturer.

Two other marker texts, Camp Alger and Fort Lyon, have been submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to be considered at its September Board meeting.

Georgetown Pike Motion

On January 7, 1998, the Fairfax County History Commission unanimously approved the motion that "the Fairfax County History Commission reconfirms its ongoing support for the protection of the integrity of the existing width and alignments (vertical and horizontal) of the historic Georgetown Pike. Further, the History Commission feels that any of the proposed changes would seriously damage its historic character and be contraindicated by its determination of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places".

This motion was presented by Commission member Karen Washburn, a resident of the Dranesville Magisterial District.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is considering several different plans to alter the historic Georgetown Pike roadbed in order to accommodate the development of the Garfield Park Subdivision. The proposed subdivision is to be built on 177 acres located between Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive. The plans under consideration call for additional turning lanes, the installation of media strips, and for a hill to be cut by a minimum of five feet and a maximum of seven feet in Georgetown Pike near its intersection with Canal Drive. This section of Georgetown Pike, bounded by Scotts Run and Difficult Run, is the only section of the Pike remaining in its original condition.

Because other alternatives exist, these proposed changes for the Georgetown Pike are in direct opposition to its preservation as endorsed by the Fairfax Comprehensive Plan which states in part: "Georgetown Pike should be maintained within its existing right-of-way. Center turn lanes and deceleration and acceleration lanes should be discouraged...unless no other alternative exists. Major changes in alignment or widening the road would damage the scenic and historic integrity of the ByWay."

During the last 25 years there have been many campaigns for the historic preservation of this road. In 1973 at the request of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Commonwealth Transportation Board designated the Georgetown Pike (Route 193) as the first Virginia Scenic and Historic ByWay. Over the past 10 years, the Fairfax County History Commission has supported projects for preservation of the road which include funds for the study for Preliminary Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places completed by Tanya Beaucamp, 1993. After determination of eligibility, Ms. Beaucamp, in September 1996, with funding by the Fairfax County Park Authority, prepared the official nomination of the road for the National Register of Historic Places.

Fairfax Heritage Awards

The Fairfax Heritage Awards program was created by the History Commission on January 4, 1995. The program established four categories of awards, each with criteria for consideration and a monetary honorarium ranging from \$50 for a short essay to \$2,500 for a book length work. All submissions are to relate to the history of Fairfax County.

In the two years of the program's existence (January 1995 to December 1997) four people have submitted work for consideration. Three of those researchers have received awards:

- Christopher Bright received \$1,000 in 1996 for his essay on the Nike Anti-aircraft missile sites in Fairfax County;
- Neal Newman received \$50 in 1997 for his essay on the History of Fairhaven; and
- Lori Trolan received \$250 in 1997 for her research undertaken to nominate the Floris Schoolhouse to the National Register of Historic Places.

The only category for which no submission has been received is the Fairfax Heritage Prize for a major book-length manuscript.

A new Awards Committee was created in January 1998 to consider revising the criteria and honorarium.

'Historic Preservation in Fairfax County, Virginia: A Case Study' Publication

On April 12, 1987, at the request of the Commission, historian Ross Netherton presented a chapter outline for "In the Path of History: The Work of the Fairfax County History Commission, 1965 - 1987." In February 1990, Dr. Netherton turned in his draft of the first six chapters of this manuscript, but stated that he could not continue with the project. He suggested a team effort, as was done with the Fairfax County History Book, might be a more efficient approach.

In June 1991, Dr. Netherton proposed that he, historian Nan Netherton and Estella Bryans-Munson, editor of the Annandale monograph, complete the additional nine chapters of the preservation study. The Commission accepted this proposal, but in September Ms. Bryans-Munson withdrew from the project. It was agreed that the Nethertons would continue the study.

By May 1993, six revised chapters were submitted. A partial payment of \$1,500 was paid to have the manuscript put on word processing software. In May 1994, chapters VII, X and XI and a draft of the appendices were received. An additional partial payment of \$1,500 was requested.

Other professional commitments delayed the Nethertons' submission of the final chapters, VIII, XIV and XV, until March 1998. The chapters are currently being reviewed by the Publication Committee, consisting of Jack Hiller, Virginia Peters, Mayo Stuntz and Edith Sprouse.

After editing, selection of graphics and indexing of the text, the History Commission will decide on how the final document will be published. The Preservation Press of the National Trust, the Association for State and Local History and other appropriate organizations will be asked for their recommendations.

Internships

For many years the History Commission has provided funds for special studies and grant projects to assist the County Archeological Services (CAS), now part of the Fairfax County Park authority. Since 1996, three intern/grant projects funded by the Fairfax County History Commission have either met or exceeded their goals. They are as follows:

I. Andrew Veech Internship, 1996 - 1997

- A. Problem: Need for laboratory analysis of the data and artifacts recovered from two seasons of excavation on the Barnes plantation (44FX1326) at Fort Belvoir. County Archeological Services (CAS) did not have the staff to perform the needed analysis. Dr. Andrew Veech, who had directed the excavation, received History Commission support to finish the laboratory analysis.
- B. Results: Dr. Veech supervised volunteers who did specialized analysis of the bone and ceramic artifacts and completed artifact processing. He also completed the historical background research. All aspects of the project were completed in a timely manner not otherwise possible. In addition, Andrew Veech was able to use the data from his analyses in Fairfax County as the subject of his doctoral dissertation. In May, Dr. Veech not only received his Doctorate in Anthropology (Historical Archeology), but also was awarded for his outstanding dissertation in Social Sciences at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

In the summer of 1997, Dr. Veech worked at Gunston Hall, participating in preliminary archaeological assessments of the garden areas. The results of this preliminary effort have been the establishment of a full-time archaeologist position. Dr. Veech was hired on June 1, 1998, to start that program. Gunston Hall hired two full-time archaeologists for a three-year pilot program.

II. County Archeological Services (CAS) Lab grants, 1997

- A. Problem: The loss of staff due to the transfer of the CAS from the Office of Comprehensive Planning to the Park Authority and resignations temporarily left the CAS with inadequate resources to supervise processing artifacts from the 1996 field season. This problem was particularly acute for the Centreville Tanyards excavation, because the Principal Investigator, Larry Moore, who had supervised the excavation for its entire five years, left County employment.

- B. Purpose: Provide supervisory laboratory assistance to the CAS during the transition from Office of Comprehensive Planning to the Fairfax County Park Authority.
- C. Results: Joyce Pearsall and C. K. Gailey, who were the most available and best qualified volunteers, agreed to fulfill the grant. During the period of their grant, January - April 1997, they supervised the processing of 25,166 artifacts mostly from the Lincoln Drive emergency recovery and the Centreville Tanyards excavation. In addition, reconstruction of ceramic and glass vessels from the Centreville Tanyards excavations was completed and the final vessel forms done on 86 separate vessels. This grant provided CAS with the necessary bridge to the 1998 lab season when CAS has sufficient staff to manage the lab.

III. Geographical Information System (GIS) grant, 1998

- A. Problem: The County Department of Information Services (DIT) has begun working with the Park Authority Cultural Resource Protection (CRP) and CAS groups to produce the archaeology layers for the County-wide GIS system. CAS does not have the staff or volunteers available to digitize the 2,800 polygons and create the database for the county's historic and archaeological sites and quickly clear a 50-site backlog of site survey reports. Additionally, CAS needs help checking the entire site file inventory to ensure that the GIS layer is accurate.
- B. Purpose: The heritage resource layer, along with the attendant data bases, will enable CRP, CAS and DPZ's Historic Preservation Planning programs to do several things:
 1. Compare the geographical locations of known sites directly with various other layers in the system, i.e., development permit applications, zoning changes, public facilities proposals, geology, soils, topography, etc.;
 2. Build predictive models of the potential land forms which could contain significant historical and archaeological resources;
 3. Connect the data from approximately three million artifacts from our 2,283 archaeological sites and approximately 500 historic buildings to the physical location ("polygon") of the appropriate sites;
 4. Ensure integration of information and data generated by CRP and CAS;
 5. Provide quick and significantly more complete data and analysis to prospective developers and their heritage resource consultants, and
 6. Provide basic data and high quality graphics for technical reports, publications and exhibits.

- C. Results: Joyce Pearsall, who is the volunteer most familiar with the site report system and is available, has been selected to deal with checking the accuracy of the system and eliminating the site report backlog. As of this date, she has completed reviewing the entire 2,283 site files and the Park Authority is in the process of correcting the errors.

C.K.Gailey, who has taken the County course on GIS and also is available, has been chosen to deal with the digitizing and building the historic sites database. Currently he is digitizing the polygons with the new CAS digitizer and a special computer on loan from DIT.

Both projects have proceeded well and on schedule.

Connie Ring Memorial

The Fairfax County History Commission and the Fairfax area history community paid tribute to Constance K. Ring who collaborated in indexing and organizing official records in the County's Courthouse for 24 years before her death on January 6, 1997. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution on February 24, 1997 to "express the hope and desire that the first class research facility, which Connie Ring created in the Circuit Court Archives, will indeed continue to serve as her memorial."

Milburn Sanders, then Chairman of the History Commission, conducted ceremonies in the Archives Room on April 4, 1997, naming the Constance K. Ring Room. Fairfax County History Commission member and Vice-Chairman Carol Friedman, historian and journalist, initiated, designed and implemented the production of the plaque now on the entrance door to the Archives. The plaque reads:

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ARCHIVIST

CONSTANCE K. RING
WHO ORGANIZED AND DEVELOPED
THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT ARCHIVES
1982 - 1996
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION

Mrs. Friedman unveiled the plaque before the eight members of the History Commission who were present. Participants in the ceremonies also included: Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Virginia Chief Judge F. Bruce Bach; area historians and researchers; staff members from the Circuit Court system; representatives from the Fairfax Genealogical Society of Fairfax County, the National Genealogical Society, the Historical Society of Fairfax County and the Fairfax Museum, as well as other friends and associates.

History Commission member Jack L. Hiller, archaeologist, historian and photographer, donated a photograph of Connie Ring he had taken a year ago. In November 1996 he had given a copy of the photograph to Connie with a written notation, "To Connie Ring, who showed me how to search for history in the deeds of men." This photograph is on view in the Constance K. Ring Room.

Advisory and Honorary Members

In compliance with a Resolution amended by the Board of Supervisors on April 27, 1992, Advisory members and Honorary members were appointed to the History Commission. Section 2 B states that the advisory members are non-voting, shall serve without compensation, appointed for a term of one calendar year, experts in the fields as the Commission's work requires, and need not to be residents of Fairfax County.

By a unanimously vote on February 4, 1998, the following organizations were appointed as advisory members:

- Fairfax County Park Authority
- Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia Room
- Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (formerly Office of Comprehensive Planning)
- Burke Historical Society
- Clifton Betterment Association
- Fairfax County Heritage Conservancy
- Fairfax Genealogical Society
- Friends of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm
- Friends of Fairfax Station
- Friends of Historic Huntley
- Great Falls Historical Society
- Herndon Historical Society
- Historic Centreville Society
- Historical Society of Fairfax County
- Historic Fairfax City
- Historic Vienna
- Lorton Heritage Society
- McLean Historical Society
- Mount Vernon Genealogical Society
- Alexandria Historical Society
- Arlington Historical Society
- Falls Church Historical Commission
- Manassas Historical Committee
- Prince William County Historical Commission
- Northern Virginia Association for History, Inc.

Section 2C states that the Honorary members are non-voting, shall serve without compensation and need not be residents of Fairfax County.

Also by unanimous vote on April 27, 1992, the following individuals were appointed as honorary members:

- Margaret Peck
- Lewis Leigh
- William Klene
- Ann B. Smith (appointed April 1, 1998)

Tour of Northern Fairfax County

On May 2, 1998, members of the Fairfax County History Commission toured the northern section of the County to reacquaint themselves with some of its various historical sites and roadways. This tour was planned and arranged through the efforts of Elizabeth David, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), and Barbara Naef, Fairfax County Park Authority.

The itinerary included Vienna, Salona, Langley Fork, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls Grange, Colvin Run Mill, Peyton Anderson marker, Blenheim House, and concluded with a stop and tour of Ash Grove.

Along the way, Mayo Stuntz, Karen Washburn, Milburn Sanders and Elise Murray of the Commission provided interesting and colorful commentaries on those sites and roadways.

Historic Overlay Districts

On June 6, 1998, a letter was sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding the 13 Historic Overlay Districts in Fairfax County. New development in some of those districts has caused concern in regard to the preservation of the historic integrity of the sites that they were designed to protect.

As stated in Heritage Resources Information Series, Number 2, "Preserving Historic Fairfax County," the Virginia Legislature in 1969 gave Fairfax County the ability to amend its zoning ordinances to better protect areas, sites, and buildings that meet recognized standards of significance.

These amendments led to the establishment of Historic Overlay Districts to provide regulations over and above the regular zoning protection for such areas.

Article 7-200 of the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance states:

Historic Overlay Districts are created for the purpose of promoting the general welfare, education, economic prosperity, and recreational pleasure of the public, through the identification, preservation, and enhancement of those buildings, structures, neighborhoods, landscapes, places, and areas that have special historical, cultural, artistic, architectural or archaeological significance...and which have been officially designated by the Board of Supervisors

The Fairfax County History Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the protection of noted historic sites by the strict enforcement of the zoning provisions set forth for the Historic Overlay Districts. The Commission also encouraged the members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to continue their support of this protection for those important heritage resources.

Those historic districts continue to be recognized as major contributions to the quality of life in Fairfax County and to its growing reputation as one of the major centers for cultural tourism in Virginia and the United States.

'Occupied Territory' Video

On January 31, 1997, Naomi Zeavin presented Mason District Supervisor Penelope Gross with a proposal to produce a video series on the "History of Fairfax County." At the April 21, 1997, meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Gross proposed to the Board to review an expenditure of \$10,000 for cable television funds to produce a video history of the county. At the July budget meeting this proposal was approved. A meeting occurred with Ken Rosenfeld, a representative of Supervisor Gross, and Naomi Zeavin to meet with Ron Mallard, Department of Consumer Affairs. Also present was Gail Eskew, who is in charge of the Fairfax County cable Channel 16. It was decided that Channel 16 would produce the video in-house with Naomi working full-time on the project. A writer was hired and, within six months, "Occupied Territory: Fairfax County During the Civil War" was produced and completed in January 1998.

This project had the full support of the Fairfax County History Commission. Five members served actively on the video committee. They were Milburn Sanders, Dr. Donald J. Senese, Carol Drake Friedman, Mayo Stuntz and Edith Sprouse.

"Occupied Territory" premiered on Wednesday, January 28, 1998 before an overflow and enthusiastic crowd at the Mason Governmental Center, hosted by Supervisor Gross. The program was introduced by Supervisor Gross and Michael Lieberman of Fairfax's municipal TV Channel. 16, which put "Occupied Territory" in its February program schedule.

There were in attendance Kate Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and many members of the history community of Northern Virginia.

The February 1998 Lake Barcroft Newsletter quoted Chairman Hanley as noting "the importance of the film, underscoring the fact that as Fairfax approaches the 1 million population threshold, 'many county residents are new and do not know our history.'"

On February 17, The Fairfax Journal gave a "Thumbs-Up" to historian Naomi Zeavin and others who put together the 30-minute video.

It is now in the educational system and every library in Fairfax County. Mr. Mike Wilkasin after viewing the video has placed it into all 11th grade classes. The video may also be put into the 6th grade curriculum. The Virginia Room has two copies. We have presented the video to museums in Northern Virginia, including those at Fort Ward and in Manassas, Mount Vernon, Fairfax City as well as other historical places. We are proud to share this video with the community.

The second historical video is already in the planning stages. This one will be about the Colonial Period in Fairfax County and focus on George Washington, George Mason and Letters from Brian Fairfax. We are joining as a team with Mount Vernon to

commemorate the anniversary of George Washington's death, and also working with the people of Gunston Hall.

Naomi Zeavin was the creative force behind this effort.

Many thanks are owed to her and the many individuals and organizations who contributed to the project.

'Union Mills' Manuscript

In fiscal year 1993 -1994, the Fairfax County History Commission approved expenditures for the eventual publication of a manuscript on Union Mills, a distinctive region in southwestern Fairfax County.

At present, the manuscript consists of a prehistory overview by Mike Johnson, an early history by D'Anne Evans, a Civil War history by Kevin Ruffner, and a late 19th and early 20th century history by Kathy Brown.

The Publications Committee, under the chairmanship of Donald J. Senese, PhD, and Mayo Stuntz and Carol Drake Friedman, requested Linda Dziobek to review the chapters, and make recommendations to the committee on the next steps toward publication.

On May 31, Ms. Dziobek submitted her comments that "the manuscript is still a work in progress and the editorial integrity of the project has been damaged (sic). The book project requires an editor and a project manager." She continued that certain tasks need to be completed and she also provided other useful considerations.

Committee chairman Senese will recommend shortly to the History Commission that it continue in its goal to print the manuscript. He will also state the needs, suggestions and tasks that will be necessary to accomplish this task.

Bylaws and Rules of Procedure

In compliance with a resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors on April 27, 1992, the Fairfax County History Commission is currently revising its bylaws and rules of procedure to ensure that they conform with county policies.

As stated in Section 3 of the resolution, bylaws and rules of procedure are subject to certain guidelines. The Commission is addressing the subjects of Purposes, Membership, Officers, Standing Committees, Meetings, Parliamentary Authority, Amendments to these Procedures and Dissolution.

Member Louise Juergens took on the project before her resignation from the Commission and, at her last meeting, on Sept. 2, 1998, presented a report pinpointing numerous inconsistencies and other problems with the present bylaws and rules and proposing various revisions to resolve the issues. Vice Chairman Carol Friedman is leading the effort to bring the process to completion and adoption by the Commission.

USS Fairfax

On September 27, 1994, the landing ship tank USS Fairfax was sold to the Government of Australia, and renamed the Australian "Manoora."

At that time, the Fairfax County History Commission discussed the possibility of obtaining the bell from the vessel so that it could be presented and displayed to the citizens of Fairfax County.

This Fairfax County History Commission is currently in correspondence with Commodore Jeoff Morton, the Naval Attache with the Embassy of Australia, asking for his assistance as a first step that would help us realize this goal.

The History Commission will advise the Board of Supervisors of our progress in this matter.

An Historical Tour Map and Guide to Places of Interest

The very popular "Fairfax County Virginia – An Historical Tour Map and Guide to Places of Interest" was first published as a Bicentennial project.

Copies of the second edition, published and updated in 1986 by the Office of Comprehensive Planning, were well received by everyone including tourists, county residents, historians and schoolchildren. Unfortunately, the map has been out of print for several years.

The Fairfax County Park Authority, as recipient of a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, offered a lecture series in the winter 1995, "Vernacular Architecture in Northern Virginia." Strong citizen interest in the presentations led to an extension of the grant project to provide some funding in support of updating the "Historical Tour Map and Guide to Places of Interest" publication. Using the Geographical Information System (GIS) computer technology now available, the Park Authority, in partnership with the History Commission, has published an updated county map whose new features include a "tour" of 31 historic sites, prehistoric areas and historic roads.

Distribution of the new edition of the map is being offered as part of the History Commission and Park Authority's effort to advertise the important cultural heritage of Fairfax County.

Distinguished Service Awards

These awards are a melange of contributions to the countless facets of community participation required for a vital program devoted to heritage recognition and preservation.

Twenty-six awards were given between 1982 and 1992. The Fairfax County History Commission revived this program in 1998, and three awards have been designated.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 13, 1998, Chairman Pat Bray presented the Distinguished Service Awards to Sam and Ruth Sparacio, long-time residents of McLean, who, since 1986, have been publishing books of Fairfax County deeds. They have now completed 23 books of Fairfax abstracts, along with 41 more books covering Stafford, King George, Prince William, Loudoun and Fauquier. Their total number of books published in the Virginia County Records series is 396.

Much of their early work was done with the originals at the various county courthouses, but it became easier for them to stay at home, where they could directly enter the material into their computer. While the Virginia State Library usually required that films be read at the Library, a special dispensation was granted to them to bring them home and keep them as long as they needed them.

Their contribution to Fairfax County historical and genealogical research is enormous. It has been truly a labor of love for this couple and they deserve the thanks of their fellow citizens for their fine efforts. Today, they are sharing their work on the Internet, posting facts relating to Virginians in the counties they have indexed.

Cordelia Grantham Sansone has had a life-long interest in history, and has added a great deal to the study of Civil War figures and Fairfax County.

Mrs. Sansone, who began her history writing at the age of 21 and won first prize from Texas Tech University for an essay on the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has prepared many manuscripts and published numerous articles in various magazines. She has published an article on Coombe Cottage in the Historical Society of Fairfax County Yearbook that provided most helpful to those who prepared the recent exhibit on women's contributions to the history of Fairfax County in the Fairfax Museum.

Her good works must not go unnoticed, either. She has recently purchased a microfilm cabinet for the Virginia Room at the Fairfax City Regional Library, and is in the process of purchasing copies of the Compiled Service Records of Civil War Soldiers from Virginia on microfilm. This gift will make Civil War and family research at the Virginia Room a much more productive task and the citizens of our county should be grateful for her contributions.

Dr. Peter Henriques, Assistant Professor at George Mason University, teaches various courses in the history department, including "History at Your Doorstep – Northern Virginia," "Virginia History to 1800" and "Seminar in State and Local History."

Dr. Henriques, besides encouraging local teachers in their teaching of local history for many years, has served as coordinator for the regional competition in the National History Day. That competition is for students in grades 6 - 12 and many of Fairfax's students have gone on to excel in the state and national levels of this contest.

This competition is a real opportunity to encourage children to pursue the study of history and his work on the event is highly appreciated by all who participate.

Professor Henriques has also created and edited Northern Virginia Heritage from 1979 to 1988. Many important local topics were covered in the journal which is used daily in our libraries. He also contributed many articles to that publication.

His enthusiasm for Fairfax County is infectious. His willingness to participate in local history activities is to be commended. He has taught our teachers, encouraged our students and left a written mark on Fairfax County.

Specialized Automobile Plates

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VDMV) allows the creation of specialized automobile plates for groups to promote and publicize their jurisdictions.

History Commission member Eileen Lehman is working with VDMV to explore this process for Fairfax County.

The commission advised the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors of its exploratory effort on June 9, 1998. If the Commission endorses the project, it will go to the Board for advice and approval.

Ethnic History Program

Chairman Pat Bray asked Commission member Louise Juergens (before her announced retirement from this body) to form a committee for an exploratory effort to investigate an appropriate program to encourage individuals and/or groups to record the history of their communities. This inquiry is in response to the increasing diversity of our County.

Appointed to the committee were Commission members Guinevere Jones, Virginia Peters and Edith Sprouse, and former Commission member Ann Smith. The committee met and interviewed representatives from the major minority groups to encourage research and writing of ethnic histories. The committee plans to present recommendations for action to the full Commission.

Web Site

The Fairfax County History Commission website was created in April 1998. Linked from the Fairfax County website's Community page, the History Commission site consists of seven areas:

- Homepage
- Historical sketch of Fairfax County.
- Places of Interest
- Publications
- Heritage Spotlight
- Members
- Who We Are

The website will, over time, give the Commission an opportunity to reach a wider audience, and also to tell the story of the county's heritage and what it is doing to project that heritage to a wider audience across the country. The directory of Commission members, with their addresses and phone numbers, will also give online visitors easy access to their representatives on the Commission.

In coming months, the Commission hopes to use the new website to highlight especially interesting and important heritage issues.

Commission member Tom Grubisich launched the website with the assistance of the Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. But the Commission's website will now be maintained through the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, Jane Albright.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION:
 DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS**

Chairman: Francis R. "Pat" Bray, Jr.
 Vice-Chairman: Carol Drake Friedman
 Treasurer: Elise Murray

<u>Braddock:</u> Daniel J. Cragg 5607 Heming Avenue Springfield, VA 22151	H: 703-569-3041
<u>Dranesville:</u> Milburn Sanders 9205 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, VA 22066	H: 703-759-2352
Karen Washburn 9818 Arnon Chapel Road Great Falls, VA 22066	H: 703-759-2199
<u>Hunter Mill:</u> Kenneth L. Bonner, Sr. 11101 Wedge Dr. Reston, VA 21090	H: 70-437-7390
Tom Grubisich 1719 Ascot Way Reston, VA 20190-3463	H: 703-437-4049 O: 703-918-1469 F: 703-918-2042 E: TomEdit@aol.com
Eileen Lehman 11307 Harborside Cluster Reston, VA 20191	H: 703-476-9236
Elise R. Murray 2414 Andorra Place Reston, VA 20191	H: 703-620-3803 O: 202-466-9218 F: 202-466-9250
Mayo S. Stuntz 2596 Chain Bridge Road Vienna, VA 22181	H: 703-938-8176
<u>Lee:</u>	
<u>Mason:</u> Naomi Zeavin 3415 Blair Road Falls Church, VA 22041	H: 703-820-1232 F: 703-820-1232 E: Nzeavin@dgsy.com

<u>Mount Vernon:</u> Rev. Dr. Clinton W. Austin 7923 Karl Road Alexandria, VA 22308	H: 703-768-2117 O: 202-678-0884
Guinevere Jones 2517 Windbreak Drive Alexandria, VA 22306	H: 703-768-3658 E: Gjones5@aol.com
Donald J. Senese, Ph.D. 7938 Bayberry Drive Alexandria, VA 22306	H: 703-768-6198
Edith M. Sprouse 5901 Mount Eagle Drive, #1514 Alexandria, VA 22303	H: 703-960-7733
<u>Providence:</u> Francis R. "Pat" Bray, Jr. 2813 Hunter Road Fairfax, VA 22031-1417	H: 703-573-3767 F: 703-573-3767 E: PAT2813@aol.com
Virginia B. Peters 3320 Executive Avenue Falls Church, VA 22042	H: 703-560-5096
<u>Springfield:</u> Jack Hiller 8621 Greeley Avenue Springfield, VA 22152	H: 703-569-1897
Suzanne Rehder P.O. Box 191 12752 Chapel Street Clifton, VA 20124	H: 703-815-0938 O: 703-246-2116 F: 703-385-6977
<u>Sully:</u> Carol Drake Friedman 14902 Kamputa Drive Centreville, VA 20120	H: 703-830-1882 F: 703-830-2297 E: Cdf cen va@aol.com

History Commission Recording Secretary: Lee-Ann Heflin

Honorary Members of the History Commission:

Margaret Peck
2701 Floris Lane
Herndon, VA 20171
703-437-3986

Lewis Leigh
38785 Leighfield Lane
Leesburg, VA 20175

William Klene
11350 Random Hills Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-385-7600

Ann D. Smith
4303 Argonne Drive
Fairfax, VA 22032
703-323-8830

County Liaisons:

Fairfax County Park Authority:

Barbara Naef	O: 703-324-8675
FCPA	F: 703-324-3996
12055 Govt. Ctr. Pkwy, Suite 927	
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118	

Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning:

Elizabeth David	O: 703-324-1363
Fairfax County	F: 703-324-3056
12055 Govt. Ctr. Pkwy, Suite 700	
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118	

Virginia Room:

Suzanne S. Levy	H: 703-591-4683
Fairfax City Regional Library	O: 703-246-2123
3915 Chain Bridge Road	F: 703-385-1911
Fairfax, VA 22030	

Clerk to the Board of Supervisors:

Nancy Vehrs
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 533
Fairfax, VA 22035-0072

Advisory Board:

Burke Historical Society
Clifton Betterment Association, Inc.
Fairfax County Heritage Conservancy
C. Richard Bierce
121 S. Royal Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-836-9085

Fairfax Genealogical Society
Jane Douma Pearson
2935 Harvest Glen Court
Oak Hill, VA 22071-1808

Friends of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm
The Friends of Fairfax Station, Inc.
Friends of Historic Huntley, Inc.

Susan Escherich
1308 Namassin Road
Alexandria, VA 22308
H: 703-768-3180
O: 202-343-9591

Great Falls Historical Society, Inc.
Susan W. Cochran
10917 Beckman Way
Great Falls, VA 22066
H: 703-450-4734

Gum Spring Historical Society, Inc.
Herndon Historical Society, Inc.
Historic Centreville Society
Historical Society of Fairfax County
Dwight Lee Hubbard
10412 Cleveland Street
Fairfax, VA 22030
H: 703-273-7776

Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
Pat Pklugshaupt
10007 Mosby Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
703-273-1579

Historic Vienna, Inc.
Paul Snodgrass
8221 Stonewall Drive
Vienna, VA 22180
703-560-6631

Lorton Heritage Society:
Harry Lattimore
14278 Round Hill Road
King George, VA 22485

McLean Historical Society
Mount Vernon Genealogical Society
John Schlight
8511 Buckboard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308
Alexandria Historical Society, Inc.
Anne Paul, President
201 S. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
H: 703-329-1933
Arlington Historical Society, Inc.
Robert J. Watson, President
Box 402
Arlington, VA 22210
Falls Church Historical Commission
Ross Netherton
306 N. Virginia Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046
H: 703-534-8890
Manassas Historic Resources Board
Suzanne Parker
9115 Grant Avenue
Manassas, VA 20110
H: 703-368-3519
Northern Virginia Association for History, Inc.
Doris J. Bautch
3113 Buccaneer Court, #202
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-352-7903
Prince William County Historical Commission

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia ("Board"), held in the Board Room of the Fairfax County Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax, Virginia, on Monday, September 21, 1992, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting, the resolution of the Board which was adopted on April 9, 1969, creating the Fairfax County History Commission, as amended, was amended and readopted.

Be it enacted by the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia:

1. That the Resolution adopted by the Board on April 9, 1969, as amended on April 27, 1992, concerning the Fairfax County History Commission is amended and readopted as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax, County, Virginia ("Board"), as follows: That the Fairfax Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission, as reconstituted with a regular voting membership of nine on February 5, 1969, is hereby renamed the Fairfax County History Commission and authorized to function under the following provisions:

(1) PURPOSES. The purposes of the Commission shall be to advise the County Government and generally to promote public interest in all matters bearing on the history of Fairfax County. In pursuance of these purposes the Commission shall:

A. Prepare for publication a classified survey list of sites, areas and structures having historic, archaeological and architectural value in Fairfax County.

B. Advise the Board and appropriate agencies of County Government in the carrying out of existing projects and the maintenance of existing County-operated sites and buildings that are important in the history of the County. The Commission may proffer its advice to County agencies without request by such agencies; and County agencies are hereby instructed to seek the Commission's advice when appropriate and to consider the Commission's advice whenever it is submitted.

C. Promote the establishment of volunteer citizen special-interest groups, including especially the creation of trusts or endowments which will preserve and restore historic sites and buildings, as well as seek to provide for historic preservation using tax incentives and other legal instruments.

D. Encourage activities at all educational levels which will stimulate interest in the archaeological and historic background of Fairfax County.

E. Provide liaison with public and private historic agencies in the County and on the State and National level.

(2) MEMBERSHIP. The membership of the Fairfax County History Commission shall consist of three categories:

A. There shall be ~~fifteen~~ sixteen regular members who shall have the power to vote and who shall be appointed by the Board for three year terms. All must be residents of Fairfax County. Any Vacancies shall be filled by the Board for the balance of the unexpired term. One member of the Commission should be a professional historian, one member a professional archaeologist, and one member a professional architect with competence in historic architecture.

B. Nonvoting advisory members, who shall serve without compensation, may be appointed by the Commission for a term of one calendar year. They shall be experts in such fields as the Commission's work requires. Advisory members need not be residents of Fairfax County.

C. The Board may appoint nonvoting, honorary members who shall serve without compensation. Honorary members need not be residents of Fairfax County.

(3) PROCEDURES. The members of the Fairfax County History Commission shall determine their own rules of procedure subject to the following guidelines:

A. The time and place of all regular meetings of the Commission shall be announced to the public and to all

Regular Members in advance. All meetings shall be open to the public except for executive sessions.

B. Written minutes of every Commission meeting shall be kept.

C. All records of the Commission shall be deposited and preserved by the Fairfax County Public Library.

Copy Teste:

Nancy Vehrs

Nancy Vehrs
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

Final Report
of the
SAGE Committee
to the
Fairfax County History Commission
May 7, 1997

On September 6, 1995, the SAGE Committee of the Fairfax County History Commission was formed by a motion "that the Fairfax County History Commission establish an ad hoc committee consisting of concerned organizations and individuals, to study the need for space to accommodate storage, exhibits, research accessibility and growth of Fairfax County's and Fairfax City's present and future historical materials and artifacts." The motion presented by Francis R. "Pat" Bray, Jr. was unanimously passed.

This committee originally consisted of approximately fifteen members representing such organizations as the Fairfax County History Commission, Historic Fairfax City, Inc., the Fairfax (City) Museum and Visitors Center, the Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Fairfax Genealogical Society, the Historical Society of Fairfax County, the Fairfax County Public Library Board, the Northern Virginia Association for History, the Falls Church Historical Commission, and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia.

The first meeting was held on December 4, 1995, and there have been monthly meetings during 1996, except for a two-month hiatus during the summer. The months in 1997 have been devoted to writing and finalizing this report.

The SAGE committee reviewed many previous requests for such a project. This included the 1968 William A. Briggs Contract #8925, the 1973 Frederick Gutheim Proposal "A History Program for Fairfax County, Virginia", the 1976 FLAG's "A Cultural and Heritage Center for Fairfax County" Proposal, the 1976 Fothergill/Beekhuis "Feasibility Study for a Countywide Cultural and Heritage Center, Fairfax County, Virginia", the 1981 Kenneth Favell application for a cultural center museum and related facilities, and the 1985 Center for History Now feasibility study for a black history museum.

During 1996, representatives from the Heritage Resources Branch of Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Fairfax (City) Museum and Visitors Center, the Fairfax County Public Library System, the Fenwick Library at George Mason University, and the Fairfax County Archives and Records Center spoke at various meetings and discussed their present and future operations. The Fairfax Circuit Court Archives was also invited, but unfortunately no one from the Clerk's office was able to attend.

In addition, representatives from historical repositories outside Fairfax County addressed the SAGE Committee about their operations. The speakers included the executive directors of the Manassas Museum, the Office of Historic Alexandria, and the Loudoun Museum.

The directive of this committee was to study the need for space to accommodate storage, research accessibility, growth and exhibits.

FINDINGS

Storage and Growth:

The Fairfax County Records Center and the Fairfax Circuit Court Archives have adequate space for their current holdings, and plans are in place for future growth. The Circuit Court, even with an off-site storage center for records on University Drive that contains older civil and criminal files, has plans for court expansion near their present location at Judicial Center.

George Mason University's Special Collections and Archives also has adequate space for the foreseeable future through careful planning and management.

For the Virginia Room and the Park Authority, space has always been at a premium.

At this time, The Virginia Room does not have adequate space for its holdings. Even though this problem has been identified, future expansion through renovation will be ten or more years in the future. Creative reorganization within the Fairfax City Regional Library is being employed to create more storage and seating.

The Fairfax County Park Authority needs improved and larger storage facilities presently to house its collections of historic artifacts, archival and architectural materials. Specifically, their storage needs relate to the Cultural Resource collections, located at Lewinsville House in Lewinsville Park, and the historic artifact collections, located at Walney House, in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The Park Authority anticipates the need for additional storage as their collections follow their course of natural expansion, and this year selected portions of these collections will be assessed to determine what is needed to accommodate their future growth.

Currently, the Fairfax (City) Museum and Visitors Center has adequate storage space, and final structural renovation of its building occurred in 1995, adding additional storage and office space. However, the Fairfax (City) Museum is a long way from completion.

Research Accessibility:

The Fairfax County Records Center, the Fairfax Circuit Archives, and George Mason University's Special Collections and Archives provide adequate space, facilities and accessibility for interested individuals to conduct research.

There is a concern, however, for the researchers at the Virginia Room and Park Authority.

At the Virginia Room, the books are readily available from the open stacks, but many times all the chairs and tables are occupied by researchers. Three or four patrons may be seated at tables together. Due to the nature of their work, many researchers prefer to spread out their materials. The library has identified the need to enlarge the Virginia Room by adding 5000 square feet to its existing 10,000 square feet.

For the Park Authority, there is no centralized research center for students and historians. The collections are spread about in many locations, and permission from the Collections Manager or other supervisory personnel is required for accessibility and study.

At the Park Authority, depending on their interest, researchers, scholars, students and citizens pursuing research projects may access any collection by contacting the Collections Manager or one of the archaeologists. These registrial and curatorial records, as well as primary and

secondary research resources which reference them are all located at the Walney collections facility, in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Materials can be identified and located with staff assistance. At the present time, however, there are no published finding aids for any of the collections and there is no staff or funding available for preparation of such aids.

Exhibits:

There is no central facility for exhibit of the county's material heritage. Historic materials under stewardship of the Park Authority are made available to the public through exhibition at two museums, Sully and Colvin Run Mill, five historic properties and in changing outreach exhibits at the Government Center, the Judicial Center, the offices of the Board of Supervisors and through temporary outreach displays. A traveling exhibit case containing archaeological artifacts, funded by the Fairfax County History Commission and promoting awareness of historic preservation efforts in the county, is scheduled in public spaces around the county. While many of these exhibits focus on specialized segments and themes, there is no one place where a comprehensive exhibit and interpretation of Fairfax County history is available.

There are no plans to exhibit any of the historical documents in the possession of Fairfax County Archives.

George Mason University does currently exhibit many library and archival materials, including historical materials. Many of their future exhibits will be electronic or a combination of original and electronic exhibits.

Currently, the Fairfax (City) Museum and Visitors Center has adequate exhibit space, and the final structural renovation of its building occurred in 1995, adding additional exhibit space. However, the Fairfax (City) Museum is a long way from completion.

CONCLUSIONS

The history of Fairfax County is of interest and importance not only to the citizens of the county and the Commonwealth of Virginia, but also to all Americans.

Every effort must be made, then, to ensure that all its historical artifacts, materials, documents, traditions, and sites be maintained and preserved for everyone to understand and enjoy.

The citizens of Fairfax County as well as present and future donors of historical articles must be assured that Fairfax County has the space and personnel for appropriately storing, exhibiting and making available these items to its citizens, visitors, historians, students, genealogists and other interested individuals.

Interested visitors should be able to come to Fairfax County and receive information about and directions to the numerous historic offerings available in the county. With the closing of the Fairfax County Visitors Center on 1 July 1996, there is currently no central agency to accommodate tourists interested in searching these out.

County residents and tourists should be able to view the broad range of historical resources the county has to offer and learn about the roles of the various agencies, museums, and repositories in the stewardship and preservation of the county's material and cultural heritage. Historians, genealogists and students must be able to have ready and easy access to research materials for their projects.

There are numerous documents, papers, and sources in Fairfax County that are good primary and secondary evidence for genealogical and historical research. George Mason University, the Virginia Room, the various archives, and the Park Authority possess many of these important and useful resources.

Unfortunately, Fairfax County does not maintain a central facility for such study. The researchers are required to travel to various locations, and must deal with limited space and tools at each facility.

Even though the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center has adequate storage and exhibit space at the present time, there are concerns and areas of improvement; such as, the needs for furniture upgrades, archival boxes, shelving, conservation and appraisal work, loaned artifacts and always space.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Fairfax County History Commission:

- 1) work with various agencies, museums and repositories to encourage dissemination of information about available resources relating to the Fairfax area history;
- 2) suggest establishing a working relationship with the county's economic development organizations to encourage industry support and cooperation in the promotion and awareness of the Fairfax area's heritage and landmarks;
- 3) advise the Board of Supervisors that the need for a visitors' facility is very important for tourism in conjunction with our many historical sites and repositories;
- 4) encourage liaisons with all local jurisdictions to promote awareness of the area's historical resources;
- 5) request the Board of Supervisors establish a citizens advisory committee to review requirements and needs of the next century to house and preserve the county's historical documents, archaeological objects, sites and parks;
- 6) encourage and support the development of a facility for space to accommodate storage, exhibits, research accessibility and growth of the Fairfax area's historical materials and artifacts.