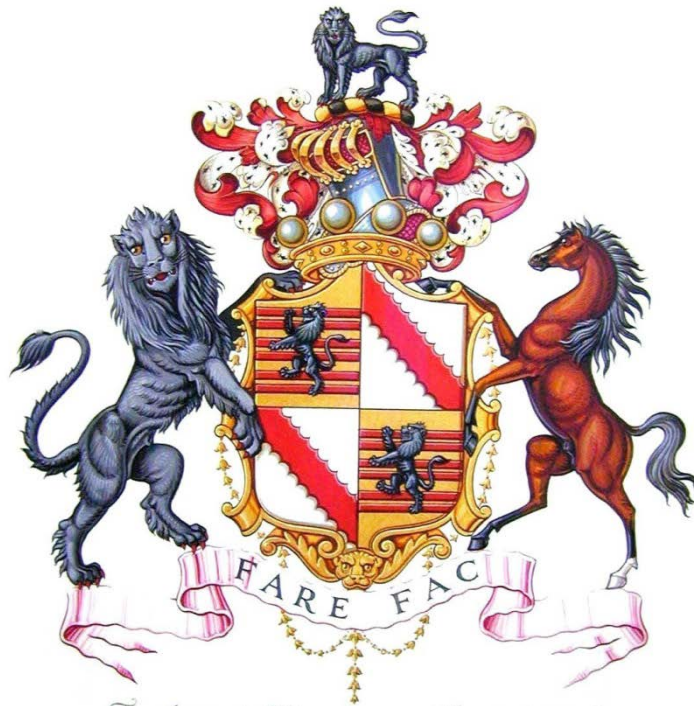


Fairfax County History Commission Annual Report 2015



*The Armorial Bearings and Supporters of
THOMAS 6TH LORD FAIRFAX
as recorded at the College of Arms, London*

Windsor Herald and Registrar

Fairfax County History Commission

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CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that the Fairfax County History Commission submits its annual report for the year 2015. As you will see from the committee reports, the Commission had another outstanding year in preserving and promoting the county’s past. Several commissioners gave lectures or presentations before various groups, many of which focused on newer residents within the county, seniors, and school age children. This is possibly the most productive manner in which to make citizens aware, appreciate, and learn about the history of the county in which they live.

Under the guidance of chair Jack Hiller, the Fairfax County Historical Marker program dedicated two new markers. They are Chesterbrook and Reverend William Watters, both in the Dranesville District. Since this program began in 1998, forty-seven markers have been installed and dedicated throughout the county. The History Conference Committee, headed by Lynne Garvey-Hodge, delivered another outstanding event. This was the eleventh year for the conference and it appropriately featured George Washington. At the conference author Gregory P. Wilson received the Ross Netherton Award for his book *Jonathan Roberts: The Civil War’s Quaker Scout and Sheriff*. Discussions continued throughout the year regarding the county establishing a Resident Curator Program. Robert Beach and Elise Murray were appointed to represent the Commission on the Community Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) that will plan its operations. Working with co-chair Patrick Lennon of Visit Fairfax and Dr. Elizabeth Crowell head of Cultural Resources Management, Gretchen Bulova concluded the county’s four year Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration by hosting a wrap-up evening at the Bull Run Winery.

Four nominations were approved for listing in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites: the Mackall/Hall house on Turkey Run Road (Dranesville District), Tinner Hill District (Providence District), Fairview Farm (Lee District), and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Headquarters (Springfield District). As usual, the Commission listened to presentations by several individuals/organizations seeking advice, financial assistance, or just giving the commissioners information. This year such presentations included the Suffragist Memorial Association; the Maryland Resident Curator Program; Friends of the Historic Fairfax Courthouse; and the children of Henry Mackall (now deceased) seeking suggestions to save the 1730 log cabin, a part of their father’s house.

Perhaps the most significant happening for the Commission regarded its financial operations since money spent is public funds. Several board members met with county staff to discuss how the County would administer a new financial policy. The meetings resulted that all funds of the Fairfax County History Commission will be maintained through Fairfax County’s financial system, FOCUS, and administered by staff of the Department of Planning and Zoning or Fairfax County Park Authority starting January 1, 2016.

The history commissioners appreciate Fairfax County’s Board of Supervisors continued efforts in supporting the History Commission’s mission. Thank you.

Respectively submitted, Carole Herrick, Chair

FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Carole L. Herrick, Chair
Anne Stuntz, Vice-chair
Steve Sherman, Secretary
Debbie Robison, Treasurer
Carrie Ann Alford
Anne Barnes
Robert E. Beach
Gretchen Bulova
Jack Hiller
Lynne Garvey-Hodge
Michael R. Irwin
Mary Lipsey
Sallie Lyons
Esther W. McCullough
Elise Ruff Murray
Barbara Naef
Page S. Shelp
Phyllis Walker Ford
Naomi Zeavin

OVERVIEW

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors officially created the Commission in 1969. It grew out of the Landmarks Preservation Committee established in 1965. There are 20 members. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. An independent contractor prepares minutes. In addition to the regular meetings, members put in many volunteer hours each month on the Commission's committees.

The Commission carries out the Board of Supervisors' mandate in various ways:

- The Commission maintains the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, which included 366 sites at the end of 2015.
- The Commission advises the Board of Supervisors and appropriate agencies on matters involving the history of the County in the following ways:
 - Works closely with the Department of Planning and Zoning; the Architectural Review Board; the Park Authority, especially the Cultural Resource Management and Protection programs; and the Public Library especially the Virginia Room.
 - Proposes and monitors Historic Overlay Districts. A member of the Commission, Elise Ruff Murray, serves in an ex officio capacity on the Architectural Review Board.
 - The Commission is consulted on development or demolition of old or historic structures, whether on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites or not.
 - Advises the State Review Board and Historic Resources Board about historic and cultural sites recommended for inclusion on the National Register.
 - Participates in matters under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, particularly with regard to Fort Belvoir and cell phone tower applications. Sallie Lyons is representing the Commission at reviews for the Route One improvements at Fort Belvoir.

- In order to generally promote the public interest in all matters bearing on the history of Fairfax County, the Commission:
 - Cooperates with the Fairfax County Public Schools, Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University in local history activities.
 - Provides advice and assistance to local historical societies, churches and citizens' groups on matters of historic preservation.
 - Assists in negotiations for preservation easements.
 - Pays special attention to the possibilities for tax incentives for preserving historic properties.
 - Promotes the establishment of volunteer citizen special interest groups.
 - Attends meetings, conferences and seminars for continuing education.
 - Participates with other state, national and local organizations in joint programs. Carole Herrick represents Fairfax County on the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Planning Committee for the region—Maryland, D.C. and Northern Virginia. See also the Civil War Sesquicentennial section of this report.
 - Acts as a liaison with public and private historical agencies in the County and on the state and national levels.
 - Supports and encourages activities at all educational levels that will stimulate interest in the archeological and historical background of Fairfax County.
 - Supports oral history programs in Fairfax County.
 - Supports the collections of the Virginia Room of the City of Fairfax Regional Library and the preservation of materials held therein. The Commission makes an annual grant to the Virginia Room for preservation and research materials.
 - Supports the Park Authority Cultural Resources Management and Protection programs (CRMP) that include the county archaeology program. The Commission makes grants to Cultural Resource Management Section for interns and consultants to perform archeological and architectural surveys as needed.
- Specific programs to promote the public interest in all matters bearing on history in Fairfax County include:
 - Fairfax County's Historical Marker Program that marks appropriate historical sites throughout the County.
 - Awards programs to honor achievements in Fairfax County history and historic preservation.
 - Annual History Conference to educate County citizens about Fairfax County history.
 - Compiles and makes available to the public a list of local historians willing to speak on a variety of topics related to the history of Fairfax County.
 - Assists in reprinting County history publications.
 - Provides a juror for the annual Fairfax County Exceptional Design Award.
- Since 1969 the Commission has contributed the following to the County:
 - Completed a program to index, abstract and microfiche early Circuit Court Records.
 - Prompted the creation of the Fairfax County Records Management Program.
 - Initiated the establishment of the County Archaeology program.
 - Published three books on Fairfax County history.
 - Prepared property identification maps and a census of Fairfax County in 1860.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

In 2011, Fairfax County joined forces with other localities across the Commonwealth to form a local Sesquicentennial Committee in order to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Virginia. Members of the Commission collaborated with Visit Fairfax, the Park Authority, the City of Fairfax, and representatives from local groups and societies to work with the State Sesquicentennial Commission, plan events and activities that highlight the County's role in the Civil War, and to promote Fairfax County's rich Civil War history. Gretchen Bulova is the Commission's representative to the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Steering Committee and serves as Chair of the History Commission's Sesquicentennial committee. Members of this committee include Carole Herrick, Mary Lipsey and Naomi Zeavin.

Throughout the five year commemoration, the Sesquicentennial Committee planned a wide variety of activities and educational resources to support the County Sesquicentennial initiatives. Some of these activities included collaboration with the City of Fairfax to commemorate the Skirmish of Fairfax Courthouse (June 1, 2011); suggested reading lists for both children and adults (2011); the coordination of a series of 18 Civil War Trail markers throughout the County (2012, 2013, 2014); the creation of a driving tour of Fairfax County Civil War sites "Footsteps to Fairfax Trail" (2012); and the research, development and marketing of nine "Civil War in Fairfax County" educational outreach kits for school teachers, groups and community organizations (2014). Information and links to these initiatives and historical resources can be found on the Commission's website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/civil-war.htm>).

The State Sesquicentennial Commission presented the Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Committee with an outstanding achievement award in May 2015 that recognized the activities and achievements of Fairfax County's historical organizations.

The Sesquicentennial Committee held a concluding event in November 2015 to thank the numerous event sponsors and volunteers for their work in creating a successful commemoration.

FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENT CURATOR PROGRAM

Robert Beach (Chair), Gretchen Bulova, Michael Irwin and Barbara Naef have served on the Commission's Resident Curator Program Committee since 2011.

As reported in previous History Commission Annual Reports, the History Commission has continued to partner with the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Park Authority to explore the implementation of a Resident Curator Program. The County contracted with John Milner Associates to prepare a report that reviewed how states and localities with established resident curator programs operated and make recommendations for the establishment of a resident curator program in Fairfax County.

The Final Resident Curator Program Study report was delivered to the Board of Supervisors September 30, 2014. The Board of Supervisors adopted a new chapter, Chapter 125, Resident Curator Program Ordinance, to the Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, establishing Resident Curator Program, on November 18, 2014. The ordinance requires that in order to be eligible for the program, properties must be publicly owned and must be eligible for or listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

The Park Authority hired a limited term project manager and assigned staff to the Resident Curator project work team. Other Fairfax County agencies have assigned staff as project work team members. The Site Summaries compiled for each potential property are being updated to ADA acceptable format for the web page in preparation for the Request for Information. The project manager developed drafts of Deliverables based on the Charter for committee review and adoption.

In June of 2015 Robert Beach and Elise Ruff Murray representing the History Commission joined the Residence Curator Community Technical Advisory Committee to work with two members of the

Architectural Review Board, one member of the Park Authority Board, and the County Staff Work Team consisting of the Resident Curator Project Manager with representatives from Facilities Management, Risk Management, the Department of Finance, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Park Authority to outline the purpose and scope of the team, the deliverables for the RC program development and implementation, and an approximate timeline for implementation of a resident curator program in Fairfax County.

The RC Project Team created the criteria for evaluating the order of how properties would be selected to be advertised for curatorship. Each property was scored on a five-point scale for each of the following criteria: historic significance, listing status, Historic Structures Report with treatment plan, park master planning status, compatible use, public interest, building condition, utility availability, and current use.

Using the total scores for each property based on these criteria, the Project Team created a ranked comparison of the properties. The individual rankings were then tabulated to select the first two candidate properties to move forward for advertisement for curatorship in 2016. The two properties recommended for application submittals are: Ellmore Farm, Frying Pan Park, Hunter Mill District and Stempson House, Laurel Hill Park, Mount Vernon District. (Two properties per year was recommended by other established curator programs). Four other properties that were also ranked high were: Turner Farmhouse (Dranesville District), Lahey Lost Valley (Hunter Mill), Hannah P. Clark House (Mount Vernon District), and Ash Grove (Hunter Mill District). The four properties are recommended to be offered to the public to submit expressions of interest so that they are ready for the application process should the first two properties not receive applications.

One benefit of the Resident Curator Program is the ability to offset the extensive renovation expenditures via a fair market rental obligation through substantial structural improvements provided by a curator. Several of the properties on the overall county list are identified as "move-in ready," and are not in need of substantial renovation; therefore, they do not face the immediate dangers of long-term neglect of the structures. In order to address the maintenance of these properties, a caretaker program is being considered as part of the resident curator program to manage these historic resources through fair market leases and more moderate improvements including the need for ongoing care and upkeep of the structure.

County Staff have conducted site visits to the identified properties in order to assess their current condition. The Project Team has identified and reviewed the County and Curator responsibilities in the curatorship process for the selected properties. They have also developed the criteria that will be used to evaluate curator applications, which will be based on criteria such as: the scope and nature of the proposed public benefit, the proposed rehabilitation plan's sensitivity to the historic nature of the property, and the financial capacity of the applicant to successfully complete the project and maintain the property. County Staff also drafted a template for the leasing of Park Authority-owned properties. Creating this draft lease template will help facilitate the leasing process once a curator has been selected for a particular property. A procedural manual for the Resident Curator Program is being drafted as processes and procedures are reviewed and agreed upon. The manual will help guide the process as additional properties are moved into and through the program.

The Committee completed their work on April 25, 2016 and the program is ready to move into the implementation phase with the recommended properties for application and expression of interest moving forward to advertisement to the public and implementation of the pilot program which is underway.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

“Fairfax County’s Founding Fathers – Part I”

The 11th Annual Fairfax County History Conference was held Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax. With "Fairfax County's Founding Fathers - Part I" as the theme, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova kicked off the conference - attended by over 100 guests. For the first time, the conference was filmed by local Cable Channel 16.

Guests included authors and exhibitors: The Burke Historical Society, the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Chuck Mauro, Chuck Mills, Carole Herrick and many others. Chairman Bulova presented Greg P. Wilson with the Ross Netherton Award for his fine research on *Jonathan Roberts - The Civil War's Quaker Scout and Sheriff*.

The conference featured the following presentations.

- Who Was the Fairfax Family?
Jenée Lindner, local historian
- Working the Land – George Washington, His Farms, Gristmill & Distillery
Steven T. Bashore, Director, Historic Trades, George Washington’s Mount Vernon
- The Wills of George & Martha Washington
Katrina Krempasky, Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records

Living history performances Included:

- Lucy Lee, 19th Century Free African American Woman
Marion Dobbins, Historical Re-enactor
- George Washington
Dean Malissa, Nationally Acclaimed Historical Re-enactor

Steve Bashore, who had to leave promptly to return to Mount Vernon in order to oversee this season’s preparation of rye whiskey, presented detailed information on Mount Vernon’s farm and distillery. Katrina Krempasky provided an excellent overview of the what/where/how journey of the George and Martha Washington Wills before their careful return to Fairfax County. General George Washington, re-enacted by Dean Malissa, was able to join us. Guest historian Helen Anderson shared a minuet with the General. General Washington reminded us of *E Pluribus Unum* - a sentiment truly much noteworthy in this day and time. Marion Dobbins’ re-enacted the story of her great, great grandmother, freed 19th century African American woman, Lucy Lee, providing insight into the cold, lonesome world of a former slave and her own 7th generation Fairfax County heritage.

A Trivia Quiz throughout the day kept everyone on their toes and a special five year return from veteran historian Nadine Mironchuk from Chelsea, Massachusetts was honored. All attendees received a copy of the book *In the Path of History* by Ross and Nan Netherton and Ruth Rose. A new addition was the "Drop & Swap" book table that had at its height 30 books and was down to three by the conference end. It was all enthusiastically received.

Conference Committee members, Barbara Naef, Sallie Lyons, Phyllis Walker Ford, Esther McCullough, Mary Lipsey, Naomi Zeavin, Mike Irwin, Anne Barnes, Liz Crowell, Fairfax County Park Authority, Susan Gray, City of Fairfax, Jenée Lindner, local historian and Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Chair, all worked diligently for a year prior to prepare for this event. We enjoyed catered food from Jason's Deli, with remaining food taken to one of the county’s homeless shelters.

The twelfth annual conference for 2016 is tentatively set for November 12, 2016 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax, VA, “Fairfax County’s Founding Fathers - Part II” – with a focus on George Mason.

AWARDS PROGRAMS

The Fairfax County History Commission maintains awards programs to honor research and achievements in Fairfax County history and historic preservation:

- Heritage Awareness Awards: Established in 1995, this program is designed to stimulate and reward original research in Fairfax County history using standard social, political and economic sources in written narrative form, a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or a video documentary.
- Recognition Awards: To recognize contributions of individuals and groups to the preservation of history in Fairfax County.

These programs are open to the public. A full description of the programs, along with rules and requirements can be found on the Commission's website. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/awardsprogram.htm)

The following award was presented at the November 12, 2015 Fairfax County History Conference:

Fairfax Heritage Award: The Ross Netherton Prize

Greg P. Wilson for his thoroughly researched and footnoted 691 page book with over 1,300 footnotes, *Jonathan Roberts, Civil War Quaker Scout & Sheriff*, documenting the events that occurred during the Civil War in Fairfax County. This book is outstanding in its revelation of so many local personalities and lives during the mid-19th Century - a time of great hardship, economic difficulty and amidst a war-torn land and its people. A time of horrific stress within Fairfax County is hereby revealed. The reader sees firsthand how the local citizenry responded to the often unspeakable horrors within a county and a nation torn by the extreme of Civil War stress.

The Awards Committee included Lynne Garvey-Hodge (Chair), Naomi Zeavin, Jack L. Hiller and Elise Ruff Murray.

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee currently has three projects: reprinting *Beginning at a White Oak*; an update and reprint of *Mount Air*; and publishing *Fairfax County in 1860: A Collective Biography*.

Members of the Publications Committee were Carrie Ann Alford, Anne Barnes, Carole Herrick, Elise Ruff Murray and Anne Stuntz. At present there is no chairman.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION SECTION GRANTS

The Commission provides grants to the Park Authority Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section (CRMP). Over the years, the grants have funded a variety of things including data entry, archival supplies and interns. The most recent grant funded an intern who spent his time converting old catalog codes into a new integrated system. He was able to convert approximately 80% of the old catalogs into the new catalog using an automated computer script. In addition, he assisted with integrated pest management, housekeeping and creation of accreditation files.

BUDGET

Fairfax County History Commission Income and Expenses FY 2015, Estimated FY 2016 and Actual First Half FY 2016

	FY 2015	Estimated FY 2016	First Half FY 2016
Beginning Balance July 1	\$25,806	\$32,170	\$32,170
Revenues:			
Fairfax County	\$21,013	\$21,013	\$21,013
Interest Earned	4	—	—
Total, Revenues	\$21,017	\$21,013	\$21,013
 Total Available	 \$46,823	 \$53,183	 \$53,183
Operating Expenses	\$14,653	\$25,000	\$20,558
Accruals for the preservation and publications programs	—	\$28,183	—
 Ending Balance June 30	 \$32,170		

Major expenditures in FY 2015 included a grant to the Park Authority Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section, historical markers and their maintenance, and the history conference.

All unspent funds from previous years have been committed to publications projects such as “Fairfax County in 1860,” Civil War Sesquicentennial projects, and to preservation and oral history programs.

WEBSITE

In addition to providing History Commission members’ contact information, the History Commission's web page describes the various programs the Commission offers to promote interest in local history extending from pre-history to the recent past. The History Commission’s Publication Grant encourages the sharing of local history research. The Awards Programs recognize individuals and groups for their efforts in researching or promoting history. Procedures and application forms for the Publication Grant and the Awards Programs are available online. Promotional information on the annual Fairfax County History Conference is placed on the website as it becomes available each year.

In addition, a historical resources page provides information on property owners in 1860, lists of Board of Supervisors members, and links to the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites and an external database of Fairfax County historical markers. The Sesquicentennial page provides information on the Civil War in Fairfax County, including suggested reading lists and a Fairfax County Civil War driving tour. The website serves as an easy, up to date and readily available tool for anyone interested in our County's history. Debbie Robison manages the website. The webmaster is Greg Chase with the Department of Planning and Zoning.

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 historical roadside marker for Fairfax County. While this marker is generally modeled after Virginia's roadside markers, by state code it must 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.

In the sixteen years the program has existed 55 historical roadside markers (including six state markers) have been approved for installation by the History Commission. Many requests for historical markers are initiated by the public, which provides for approximately one half of the funding. Some markers, including those requested by developers, are funded entirely by the requesting party. All requests are reviewed by a committee for historical accuracy and editorial continuity before being submitted to the entire Commission for approval.

During the 2012 calendar year, the Commission agreed to limit the funding of historical markers to the equivalent cost of two markers due to budget restraints. The current cost of fabricating a marker is \$2040.

Three markers were approved in 2015: Chesterbrook, the Copperthite Racetrack, and The Pines. The Chesterbrook marker, installed in the McLean area, was partially funded by Celebrate Great Falls and McLean. The marker conveys the history of a farming community that developed along Kirby Road after the Civil War. The Copperthite Racetrack, installed in Burke, was fully funded by a Copperthite family member. The marker highlights events at the racetrack enjoyed by thousands of visitors to Burke. The Pines marker, approved but not yet installed, will be located near Merrifield. The marker, partially funded by Supervisor Gross's office, remembers the African American families who built a close-knit community here at the turn of the 20th century but were displaced during a period of school desegregation.

Serving on the Marker Committee in 2015: Jack Hiller (Chair), Anne Barnes, Michael Irwin, Mary Lipsey, Esther McCullough, Debbie Robison, Page Shelp and Carrie Ann Alford. Sadly Jack Hiller died in February 2016. Debbie Robison is now chair of the committee.

ETHNIC/ORAL HISTORY

The Ethnic 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.

In 2004, at the suggestion of then-Chairman Connolly, the Commission formed a subcommittee of the Ethnic Committee to create a program for recording and presenting oral history in Fairfax County. The Oral History subcommittee offers support to groups in Fairfax County seeking to record and collect oral histories.

The members of this committee are Esther McCullough (Chair), Naomi Zeavin, Anne Barnes, Sallie Lyons, Lynne Garvey Hodge, Anne Stuntz and Phyllis Walker Ford..

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

The Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites is one of the History Commission’s longest standing responsibilities. It serves as both an honorific and a planning tool. The Comprehensive Plan includes the Inventory sites in the Heritage Resources section of each Planning District.

The Comprehensive Plan Amendment for 2015 to update the Inventory tables, references to Inventory sites in the text and other technical correction will come before the Board of Supervisors on September 20, 2016.

As of December 2015, the Inventory stood at 366 listings, including the four additions below:

Additions to the Inventory of Historic Sites

2015

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Location/Vicinity</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Fairview Farm	Alexandria	Lee	1/7/2015
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Headquarters	Fairfax Station	Springfield	7/1/2015
Tinner Hill District	Falls Church	Providence	12/2/2015
Mackall Hall	McLean	Dranesville	12/2/2015

The current Inventory list along with its background, nomination forms and research guidelines are accessible to staff and the general public on the County website. An Inventory nomination form, instruction guide and example are also available. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/historic/ihs/) Laurie Turkawski, Heritage Resource Specialist, worked with the Tinner Hill community in Falls Church to prepare an example of a district nomination.

In August, the Commission’s DPZ staff liaison, Laurie Turkawski who worked closely with the Inventory Committee departed to work in the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office. In April 2016, Stephanie Goodrich joined the DPZ staff as a Heritage Resources Planner and serves as the Commission’s new liaison.

Sallie Lyons, Elise Ruff Murray, Barbara Naef, Debbie Robison and Anne Stuntz serve on the Inventory Committee, in cooperation with Laurie Turkawski and Linda Cornish Blank of DPZ.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

At the Board of Supervisors request, the Commission compiled a list of people willing to speak on topics related to Fairfax County history. The resulting Speakers Bureau List includes a variety of countywide history topics with related speakers and contact information, including name, email address and phone number.

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

Anne Barnes presents talks on historical Fairfax County’s Shiloh Baptist Church to diverse audiences.

Gretchen Bulova lectured to a variety of a community organizations and DAR chapters in 2015. Lectures included hands on demonstrations, information, and practical tips on preserving family photographs, digital images, family textiles, and documents.

Carol Herrick Besides authoring several books, Carole researches history and writes articles about historical sites and events for *Viva Tysons* magazine and other publications. She gives lectures on Northern Virginia, particularly the McLean area, and for many years has been part of the "Lifetime Learning Program" sponsored by the McLean Community Center.

Jack Hiller continued to have a busy speaking schedule in 2015, which included presentations before the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University. Typically, he is asked to speak in public schools, to civic associations, historical groups, senior citizens or private groups. Many of Hiller's lectures include slides and focus on Springfield. Titles of his lectures include: "*Murder at the Mill: Historian as Detective*," "*Henry Daingerfield and Origins of Springfield*," "*The Hidden History of Hidden Pond Park*," and "*An Introduction to Fairfax Archaeology*." Sadly Jack passed away in February 2016.

Lynne Garvey-Hodge re-enacts Progressive Era Suffragist Mrs. Robert Walker for numerous community events, educational groups, Cox Cable Channel 10 and women's associations, traveling throughout Virginia to do so. Ms. Garvey-Hodge also performs two additional characters: Angelina Grimké an early 19th century, abolitionist and Quaker women's rights activist from South Carolina; and from the Gilded Age and early days of America's railroad industry, Mrs. John Henry Devereux, wife of railroad magnate and Civil War Railroad General, John Henry Devereux. Lynne also speaks on the history and background of the historic Town of Clifton, has researched, and authored a book, published by Arcadia Publishers in their Images of America Series, *Clifton*. Further, she speaks to local educational forums and civic organizations on "Women of the Progressive Era in Fairfax County," "The Lorton Reformatory and Progressive Era in Fairfax County," "Victorian Mourning Customs" and "Stories in Stone – Understanding Cemetery Iconography".

Mary Lipsey continues to provide presentations on a variety of topics related to the "Braddock's True Gold" project, local history, women's history and firsts in American history.

Sallie Lyons promotes preservation and archeological and historical research in the old town of Colchester, Old Colchester Park and Preserve and Mason Neck, speaking frequently to groups and at the History Conference.

Debbie Robison makes presentations on discovering mills in Fairfax County.

Anne Stuntz speaks on the history of Vienna and its environs.

Phyllis Walker Ford speaks on the history of Franconia and Laurel Grove School.

Naomi Zeavin speaks and shows history videos at the Rotary, schools, senior groups and Fairfax Museum on Historic Mason District.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Fairfax County History Commission members continue to be active in a variety of ways in the community. The following summary, though not a comprehensive list, highlights the wide variety of outreach activities performed by Commission members.

Carrie Ann Alford, who left the Commission at the end of 2015, was on the Old Mount Vernon High School Reuse Task Force as the History Commission representative.

Anne Barnes is a member of the Board of Directors of the Laurel Grove School Association.

Anne Barnes and **Sallie Lyons** are members of the Seeds of Independence Committee of Gunston Hall, tracing African American History on Mason Neck.

Architect member, **Robert E. Beach**, AIA, LEED, AP, BD+C designed the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, which will be located in Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton and will pay tribute to the women who endured harsh imprisonment to secure voting rights for women and is continuing his activities in the development of the memorial plans. **Lynne Garvey-Hodge** serves on the committee for the project.

Gretchen Bulova serves as the Vice President (Planning and Resources) on the Virginia Association of Museum’s (VAM) Board, and helped to plan the 2015 VAM Conference in Richmond for more than 400 museum professionals.

Carole Herrick served as chair of “An Afternoon with the Madisons,” a War of 1812 bicentennial event held at the McLean Community Center exactly 200 years to the day after the British invaded and burned the City of Washington. She portrayed Dolley Madison, Montpelier’s John Douglas Hall represented James Madison, and Roger Mudd stepped in as the honorary chair. She was chair of “McLean Remembers the Civil War,” an all-day event commemorating 150 years of the beginning of the Civil War, held at the McLean Community Center on October 22, 2011. She is a past president of the McLean Historical Society and currently serves as vice-president.

Lynne Garvey-Hodge serves on the Town of Clifton Historic Preservation Committee, which she initiated; serves as chair of the Clifton Betterment Association’s Clifton Oral History Project; and chaired the Clifton Community Woman’s Club Spring Homes Tour in 2011 and her historic 1890s home on Blue Dan Lane was on the 2012 tour.

Lynne Garvey-Hodge and **Mary Lipsey** co-founded the non-profit Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. in 2008, whose goal is to preserve and protect family cemeteries in Fairfax County. Both continue as directors and active members.

Sallie Lyons formed and incorporated the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources, FOFA, supporting the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Park Authority. **Barbara Naef** was among the charter members.

Sallie Lyons continues to promote preservation and archaeology in Colchester and provide *pro bono* graphic design through Lyonshare Studios for CRMP historical interpretive trailside displays. She is an active member of the Lorton Heritage Society, Preservation Virginia and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia.

Elise Ruff Murray serves as vice president of the Friends of the Virginia Room and as treasurer of the Historical Society of Fairfax County. A member of the Celebrate Fairfax Leadership Team, she coordinates the Fairfax History exhibit and prepares the History Commission and local history display.

Barbara Naef continues to participate in the Park Authority American Alliance of Museums (AAM) reaccreditation project, working as a volunteer consultant with staff of the Resource Management Division charged with this multi-year effort.

Debbie Robison continues to research local history and write articles about historical sites and events in Fairfax County. In addition, she regularly assists the public by answering research questions. She is a member of the Historic Centreville Society Board. In 2015 she made presentations to three historical societies on discovering mills in Fairfax County.

Anne Stuntz serves as the president of Historic Vienna, Inc. She serves on the Sully Foundation, Historical Society of Fairfax County, Flint Hill Cemetery Association and Friends of the Virginia Room boards, and is secretary of the Fitzhugh Families in Virginia.

Phyllis Walker Ford serves as President of the board of directors for Laurel Grove School Association, the governing body of Laurel Grove School Museum. She also serves as Vice President-Education on the board of directors of Franconia Museum.

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

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

A brief examination of the background of the Fairfax County History Commission reveals a wide and diverse variety of backgrounds that members bring to their work.

Carrie Ann Alford—is a native of Chicago, IL, who lived in the Alexandria area from 1996-2002 and returned in 2010 for graduate school at George Washington University where she earned a MPS in Legislative Affairs. She simultaneously completed an online program, the Certificate in Advanced International Affairs with an emphasis in National Security Policy from the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University. She also holds dual BA degrees in Journalism and Old Testament Literature and Jewish Studies from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Since 2013, Ms. Alford has worked as Legislative Assistant to Senator Toddy Puller, where among other responsibilities, she works closely with Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall on historical issues in the General Assembly, and with Fort Belvoir and Marine Corps Base Quantico on military issues. She is a member of the John Alexander Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), in Alexandria, VA, where she is Chaplain, immediate past Project Patriot Chair and Page at the Virginia State Conference and Continental Congress. She is also a Prospective Member, Virginia Society, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA). Carrie Ann moved to Richmond Virginia in January 2016 for her new job as Director of Policy and Planning for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Anne M. Barnes—originally from Georgia, is a longtime Fairfax County resident who lives on Mason Neck. She received a BS in Criminal Law from Savannah State College and a MA in Government from Johns Hopkins University. She worked on an archeological project in South Carolina in the mid-1980s. She is a former Marine Corps Officer, U.S. Congressional staffer, American History teacher and is currently the Resource Director for a federal and strategic training center. She served as Vice Chairman of the History Commission in 2006-2008 and as Treasurer in 2010-2012.

Robert E. Beach—after receiving his Bachelor of Architecture from Pratt Institute in New York in 1982, he practiced architecture in several notable New York City and Washington area architecture firms prior to starting his own practice in Falls Church in 1989, which provides design services for historic architectural restorations at the local, state and national levels. Mr. Beach has served as the Architect member of the Commission since 2000, as Vice Chairman in 2004–2005, and as Chairman in 2006–2008, as Committee Chairman of the Fairfax County Resident Curator Program and multiple times on behalf of the Commission as a juror for the Fairfax County Exceptional Design Awards. Professionally, Mr. Beach is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), has served as a local Chapter Board member and represented the AIA Northern Virginia Chapter Board as a Virginia Society AIA Director. He is also a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED, AP, BD+C) specializing in building design and construction and is a member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Mr. Beach is a Georgetown University Architectural Thesis Advisor in the Real Estate and Urban Design Studies Graduate Program. In addition, he is a Boy Scouts of America Architecture and Aviation Merit Badge Counselor and is a licensed instrument rated private pilot who volunteers flight time for Angel Flights several times a year. On November 7th, 2014 Mr. Beach was presented with the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Virginia). In March, Mr. Beach was presented with the 2015 Pratt Institute Alumni Achievement Award. These two awards also recognized Mr. Beach for his design of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, which will honor the lives of the suffragists who worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Mr. Beach also served as a board advisor to the Science Museum of Virginia from the spring of 2011 until December 2015 for restoration of the National Register Listed Historic mid-century modern Rice House designed by Richard Neutra in Richmond, Virginia. Bob lives in Fairfax, Virginia.

Gretchen M. Bulova—from the Braddock District, brings a wealth of museum experience to the Commission. She holds a BA in Anthropology and a BA in Classical Studies from the College of William and Mary and an MA in Museum Studies from The George Washington University. Ms. Bulova is the Deputy Director for the Office of Historic Alexandria, Virginia and the Director of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. She specializes in the interpretation of late 18th-century material culture and lectures widely on a variety of topics related to Alexandria and Gadsby’s Tavern and is active in the local museum community. Ms. Bulova is Vice-President for Planning and Resources for the Virginia Association of Museums Board, and is President of the Historic House Museums Consortium of Washington, DC. Ms. Bulova is committed to the preservation of local history and inspiring the next generation to love museums and our nation’s rich heritage. Elected the Commission’s Chairman in 2012, she served through 2014.

Phyllis Walker Ford—appointed in February 2009, earned a BA in Business Administration from Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia and a MBA from Trinity University, Washington, D.C., leading to sixteen years in the telecommunications industry. She served as the commission’s Secretary in 2010. Phyllis, a direct descendent of the family who donated land in 1881 for the Laurel Grove Colored School, a school to serve the African American children in the Franconia area, was instrumental in restoring the school, establishing a museum and searching out its history. She is President of the Laurel Grove School Association, the governing body of Laurel Grove School Museum. She serves as Vice President on the Franconia Museum Board of Directors. She is researching the history of African American families who were enslaved on properties in the Franconia Area and owned land in 1860. She is participating in “Cast the Net,” a \$150,000 grant project award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The multi-state museum project benefits African American Museums and cultural organizations in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia and aids in the development of sustainable statewide networks. Throughout the year, Phyllis presents talks on Historic Laurel Grove Colored School and Franconia Local History to Scouting groups, Civic Associations, Chamber of Commerce members and other Community Groups or Museums. In December of 2015, Hanna Freece, Curator at Mount Vernon notified Ms. Ford that she has ancestors who were enslaved on Dogue Run Farm. She has worked with Mount Vernon researchers to learn about Dick and Charity Jasper whose marriage at Dogue Run Farm was recognized by George Washington. The family remained on Dogue until freed by Mrs. Washington in 1801, 2 years after her husband’s death. It is documented that Dick and his son Morris returned to Mount Vernon in 1835 to work on Washington’s Tomb. Her research is continuing and connecting to others who were part of the enslaved community at Mount Vernon.

Carole Herrick—Carole Herrick lives with her husband, Philip, in McLean, Virginia. As a nationally ranked tennis player, she attended Los Angeles State College, where she received her BA in history. In 2012, she was inducted into the National Women’s Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame. Herrick served three terms on the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center, followed by four years as Chair of Friends of the McLean Community Center, of which she continues as a board member. She is a past president of the McLean Historical Society and currently serves as its vice-president. Herrick chairs the Fairfax County History Commission, which helps to identify, document, record and preserve the county’s historic past. Herrick is a Dolley Madison re-enactor and has written numerous articles for publication about McLean and the Northern Virginia area, along with authoring eight books. She served as the Commission’s Secretary from 2012-2014 and currently serves as the Commission’s Chairman.

Lynne Garvey-Hodge—has been a resident of Fairfax County for 30 years and has been a resident of Clifton, Virginia for 16 years, where she is active in preserving the historicity of Clifton. She has a BFA from the University of Colorado, majoring in art history, an MPA (Masters in Public Administration) with a major in Human Resources also from the University of Colorado and a MTS (Masters in Theological Studies) from Wesley Theological Seminary (where she completed her thesis on “Corporate Ethics”). She re-enacts Progressive Era Suffragist Mrs. Robert Walker, Angelina Grimké an early 19th century, abolitionist and Quaker women’s rights activist from South Carolina; and from the Gilded Age and early days of America’s railroad industry, Mrs. John Henry Devereux (wife of railroad magnate and Civil War Railroad General John Henry Devereux). Ms. Garvey-Hodge has published a book for Arcadia Publishers’ Images of America Series, *Clifton* in 2009. She is in her sixth consecutive term on the Commission. She served as Chair in 2004 and 2005 and represented the Commission on the Exceptional Design Awards jury in 2005, 2006 and 2008. She spearheaded efforts to launch the First Annual Fairfax County History Conference in 2005 and has chaired the History Conference Committee since 2006. She currently is the chair of the Awards Committee and also sits on the Ethnic/Oral History, Advocacy and Bylaws Committees. She is the co-founder and an officer of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. and sits on the Board of VolunteerFairfax, a non-profit organization. Lynne is a member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Historic Centreville Society, Clifton Community Woman’s Club, the Falls Church Victorian Society, the Burke Historical Society and the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.

Michael R. Irwin—has been a resident of Fairfax County for over 20 years. Born in Pennsylvania, he grew up with a deep interest in American History. In high school he was a volunteer with the Pennsylvania State Museum and Historical Commission working in the registrar’s office at the William Penn Memorial Museum in Harrisburg and in college served an internship in the same office. He graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., with a BA in History (concentration in American History), a minor in Fine Arts History. Since moving to Virginia, he can often be found at the Smithsonian Institution or one of the other historic venues in the greater Washington area. His main interests are the World War II period, especially the war’s impact on social structures on the home front and early American industrial history.

Mary Lipsey—was born in Atlanta and raised in Fairfax County. She received a BA in History and Sociology from Mary Washington College (1972) and a Masters in Middle School Education from Virginia Tech (1989). In June 2003, she retired after 30 years of teaching seventh grade American History in the Fairfax County Public Schools. She has been a volunteer docent for the American History Museum of the Smithsonian since 1980 and for the National Archives since 2004. Her interest in local history has found outlets through co-authoring *Braddock’s True Gold*, writing articles on local history and women’s history and speaking to senior citizens groups. She has been a member of A Look Back at Braddock project that promotes historical events for the residents in Braddock District. As a member of the Commission, she serves on the Markers and History Conference Committees. She is the co-founder and former president of the non-profit Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., whose goal is to preserve and protect family cemeteries in Fairfax County. Mary is also an active volunteer with her community and a local park. She has recently published *A Christmas Flight: Aviation Pioneer Dr. Christmas*.

Sallie Lyons— a native North Carolinian, she grew up in University Park, Maryland. She received an AB in Art History from Duke University, worked at the Library of Congress and held a teaching assistantship in anthropology as a graduate student at the University of Maryland. She did urban archaeological excavation in Winchester, the capital of Saxon England. She moved to Mount Vernon District in 1970, living on Brick Yard Point in Wellington Villa until moving to the old town of Colchester on Mason Neck in 1984. Living on two potential archeological sites made her keenly aware of history and preservation in the Mount Vernon area. She has spent over 25 years supporting preservation and research in Colchester, Mason Neck and Lorton. Partnered with her late husband, Gerald Lyons, she founded Lyonshare Studios, LLC, a technical computer graphics company that provides illustrative and word support for planning, preservation, publication and other technical fields. She was founder and president through 2015 of FOFA, the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources, supporting the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. She is an active member of the Seeds of Independence Committee of Gunston Hall, the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia, the Lorton Heritage Society, and several other local and state archaeology and history organizations.

Esther W. McCullough—grew up in Longview, Texas and received her Bachelor of Science in Clothing and Textiles from North Texas State University (now The University of North Texas). After moving to Fairfax County in 1996, she could not find information on the history of African-Americans in the area, so she created a brochure, “African-American Sites in Fairfax County before 1900.” She is the Chair of the Ethnic and Oral History Committee and sits on the Marker Committee and the History Conference Committee. She served as the Secretary of the Commission from 2004–2007. She has led sessions on oral history at more than one History Conference. Scrapbooking memories and preserving history are two things that she treasures. She has led workshops for senior citizens in nursing homes using scrapbooking techniques. Esther volunteers throughout Fairfax County.

Elise Ruff Murray—grew up in Vienna, Virginia and now resides in Reston. She earned a BA in History from the University of Virginia and is interested in archaeology, history and preservation. Her interests have led her to serve as the Commission’s liaison with the Architectural Review Board since 1992. A member of the Commission since 1983, she served as Chairman in 1988–1989, worked on the Commission’s finances and budget submissions since 1986, served as Treasurer from 1990–2005 and as Vice Chairman from 2009-2011. After working for a year and a half on an archaeology project in Northeastern Mississippi, she worked as an economic consultant advising on anti-trust and commercial litigation matters for over 20 years.

Barbara M. Naef—has been a resident of Reston since 1968. She earned a BA in History from Duke University and a MA in American History from the University of Delaware. She retired in 2002 after 23 years working to preserve and interpret our county history at the Fairfax County Park Authority. She continues to work as a volunteer for the Park Authority and for other historical organizations. The Archaeologist Representative on the Commission, she serves on the Inventory of Historic Sites Committee, Budget Committee, the annual History Conference Planning and Implementation Committee and the Resident Curator Program Committee.

Debbie Robison—lives in Centreville and is a long-time resident of Fairfax County. She manages the historic preservation/restoration program for a local architectural and engineering firm. Ms. Robison holds a Bachelor of Science degree from VA Tech and a Historic Preservation Certificate from NOVA. She is active in Centreville historical matters. Her interest in researching local history has resulted in her authoring numerous articles about general aspects of northern Virginia’s past and the history of specific sites. To promote preservation and facilitate local history education, Ms. Robison hosts a website, www.novahistory.org. She served as the Commission’s Chairman 2009-2011 and currently serves as Treasurer.

Page S. Shelp—while originally from California, has lived in Fairfax County for most of her adult life, moving west from Falls Church and McLean to Great Falls. She received her Bachelor's degree in History and in Art History from Colorado Woman's College, her Secondary School Education Teaching credentials in history and in English at Mills College and her Master's degree from Georgetown University. She has taught history, but spent the greater part of her career (25 years) as the executive director of the McLean Community Center where she became especially interested in and involved with local history and the preservation of community institutions.

Steven Sherman—was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Arlington, Virginia. He has lived in Northern Virginia for over 60 years, graduated from Wakefield High School in 1964 and attended Morris Harvey College in Charleston, West Virginia and Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia, where he majored in Accounting and History. He is President/Broker of Sherman Properties, Inc., located in Franconia and has been in the real estate business for the past 40 years. Since 1984, he has owned the historic “Five Oaks Estates” manor house built in 1910 located off Blake Lane in Fairfax County. He is the former secretary of the Board of Directors of Celebrate Fairfax, served on the Board of Directors of the Franconia Museum for the past seven years and is a past president. Mr. Sherman served as the Commission’s secretary in 2011, served as Vice Chairman from 2012 through 2014, and is again the Commission’s Secretary.

Anne Stuntz—grew up in Vienna, Virginia and comes from a family of historians and genealogists. She has a degree in art history from Princeton University and an MBA from Columbia University. After a career in finance on Wall Street and in the City of London, Anne returned to her historic family home in Vienna with her husband and three sons, and is devoted to preserving the history of the area. She is president of Historic Vienna Inc. She is active with the Historical Society of Fairfax County, the Sully Foundation, Flint Hill Cemetery Association, Friends of the Virginia Room and the Fitzhugh Families of Virginia. She serves as the Vice Chairman.

Naomi Zeavin—is a resident of Falls Church. She was born in New Britain, Connecticut and majored in Speech and Drama at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. She conducts research and makes videos on local history, especially Mason District, African-Americans and the Civil War. A presidential advisor on the arts during the administration of President Ronald Reagan, she has been appointed to and served on numerous advisory boards, commissions and committees on the both the national and local level. She is president of U-R-Unique, a company of video productions. Ms. Zeavin restored a Jewish cemetery in her father’s birthplace in Poland. On the commission, she served as Secretary from 2007 through 2009. Ms. Zeavin is listed in the Who’s Who of American Politics. Ms. Zeavin is currently working with a movie scriptwriter for her published book *Carmen's Secret Diary: Aboard the USS Hornet (CV-12) in 1944*.

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Lewis Hiller

Jack L. Hiller passed away in February 2016. Mr. Hiller held a bachelor's degree in history from the College of William and Mary ('53), a master's degree in education from the University of Virginia ('66) and a master's degree in history from Carnegie-Mellon University ('69). He taught history for 30 years at Groveton High School and West Potomac High School before retiring in 1988. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, while teaching, Jack also freelanced as a photographer for regional newspapers and compiled an impressive portfolio of historical figures, including Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Jr., and Martin Luther King, Jr. His portrait of King is now part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. His photos of Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, are part of museum collections in New York and Atlanta.

One of Jack's points of pride was that, during this same period of his life, he was part of a successful movement to integrate the Fairfax Education Association, which had excluded African-American teachers from membership.

After participating in a field school in archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, Jack co-founded and was a principal instructor for the Fairfax County Public School's Summer Seminar in Archaeology between 1973 and 1988. Students in this program helped to investigate over fifteen archaeological sites within Fairfax County. In 1980, he received a medal and monetary award from the United States Capital Historical Society for his work in teaching archaeology to high school students.

He wrote extensively and lectured on the history of the Springfield area, and volunteered for the cultural resources division of the Fairfax County Park Authority, including serving as principal investigator for archaeological investigations at the Hidden Pond Nature Center. He served as a volunteer docent for ten years at Gunston Hall.

Jack was appointed to the Fairfax County History Commission in 1981 and served as chair in 1994-1995. While serving as the chairman of the Commission, in order to stimulate and reward original research in Fairfax County history, Jack created the Fairfax Heritage Awards Program. He served as the first chair of the Awards Committee, while he later stepped down as chair; he served on the committee until his death. In January 1998, Jack became the first chair of the Commission's Marker Committee and established a process for erecting roadside markers. When the Virginia Department of Historic Resources rejected a state marker for Keene's Mill because it lacked significance to the Commonwealth, he created the Fairfax County Historical Marker Program with buff and blue, colors derived from George Washington's Fairfax Militia uniform, roadside markers emblazoned with the Fairfax County seal. He chaired the Historical Marker Committee until his death.

The Commission will miss Jack's energy, questioning mind, depth of knowledge in both history and archaeology along with his high scholarly standards, as well as, photographing marker dedications and history conferences.