

Fairfax County History Commission

2022 Annual Report



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

Windsor Herald and Registrar



Preserving and Promoting our History

ABOUT US

Following the recommendation of the Landmark Preservation Committee of 1965, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established the History Commission in 1969 with a 21-member body. The Commission helps to identify, document, record, and preserve the County's historic past.

The purpose of the History Commission is to advise the County Government and to promote and encourage public interest in all matters bearing on the history of Fairfax County.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
MAJOR INITIATIVES	2
African American History Inventory	2
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES	3
Bylaws Update.....	3
Turnover of DPD Staff and FCHC Members.....	3
Post COVID Transition.....	4
OUTREACH	4
Expertise and Consultations.....	4
Section 106 Consultations.....	5
SUSTAINED EFFORTS	7
Inventory of Historic Sites	7
Ethnic and Oral History.....	7
Historical Roadside Markers.....	8
Preservation of Historic Cemeteries.....	8
18 th Annual History Conference.....	9
Awards.....	10
Resident Curator Program.....	11
Advocacy.....	12
BUDGET	13
COMMISSION MEMBERS	14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fairfax County History Commission (FCHC) and its volunteer members are proud of their contributions to preserve and promote the history of Fairfax County. We thank the Board of Supervisors (BoS) for this opportunity and for its continued support. A summary list of the Commission's 2022 achievements follows:

Achievements:

- We worked with Capstone students from the George Mason University (GMU) IT program to translate the Commission's African American History Inventory into a searchable online database. The FCHC also signed a memorandum of understanding with GMU's Fenwick Library to continue hosting, maintaining, and expanding the online inventory.
- We served on the African American Black Experience Marker Project Committee that engaged more than 100 students in researching Black history in Fairfax and nominating topics for six roadside historical markers. We also served on the Fairfax County Semiquincentennial Committee and as judges for National History Day.
- We provided matching support for the African American Survey in 2021 and this year advised the consultant conducting the survey. The Commission also provided matching support for the Mid-Twentieth Century Architectural Survey commissioned by the Department of Planning and Development.
- We expanded community outreach and education at community events, including Mount Vernon Town Hall, the Tinner Hill Music Festival, Gum Springs Juneteenth Celebration, Oak Hill open house, and Fairfax History Day.
- We advocated for the preservation and protection of the historic Fairfax County Courthouse, the Dunn Loring School, and Goins House.
- We researched the history of the re-naming of Fort Belvoir and participated in an extensive dialogue with historians associated with the Naming Commission.
- We saw the completion of the Section 106 process for the Soapstone Connector project and FCHC continues to serve as a consulting party on other Section 106 projects.

We continued to interview former public leaders, while planning to expand the oral history project to include elders and leaders of the County's diverse immigrant communities. The 18th Annual History Conference, *We Are Fairfax County - Part II*, was held in person for the first time since 2019. Conference speakers examined the experiences of the area's early German, Jewish, Italian, and Irish immigrants. The FCHC presented *Awards* to Debbie Robison, Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg, and GMU students to honor their contributions to promoting and preserving Fairfax County's history.

Four FCHC members --Phyllis Walker Ford, Mary Lipsey, Barbara Naef, and Barbara Peters - announced their retirement in 2022. This represents the loss of some 52 years of experience and achievements. The Commission deeply appreciates their invaluable service and will engage them as part of its Advisory Council in the future. The FCHC has a new full-time staff, in addition to the staff liaison. This new staff person is presently completing the African American Marker project and will assist with other tasks of the FCHC in the future.

The Commission thanks the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), the Architectural Review Board (ARB), the Park Authority (PA), the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library system, and Channel 16 for working with us toward shared goals of historic preservation and education. We look forward to another productive and exciting year.

Sincerely,



Cheryl-Ann Repetti
Chairperson, History Commission

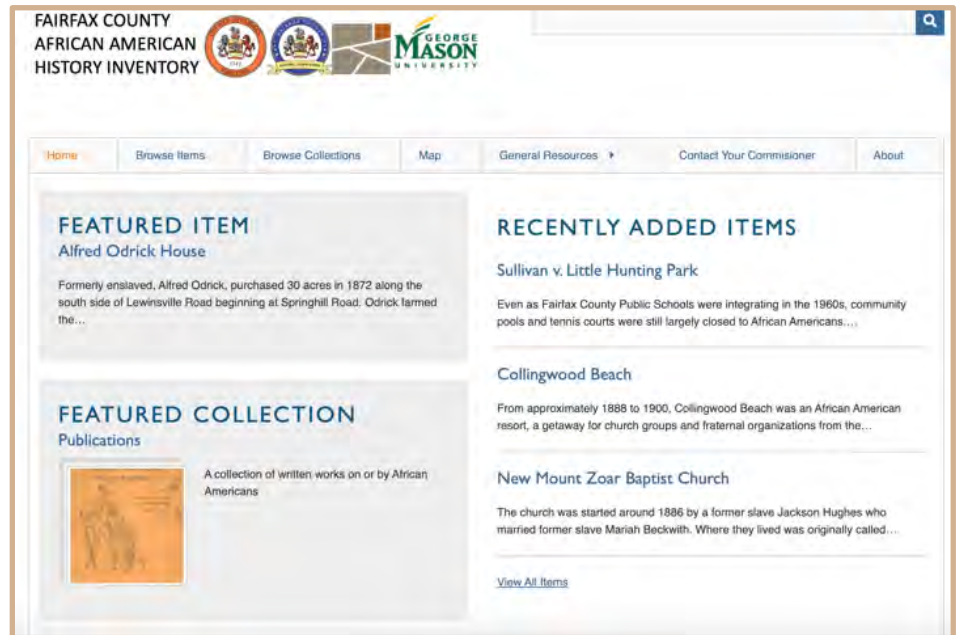
MAJOR INITIATIVES

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY INVENTORY

In October 2020, the Fairfax County History Commission (FCHC) approved a major new initiative to develop a research inventory, by Supervisory District, that provides information on the histories of African American communities in Fairfax County.

FCHC established the African American History Inventory (AAHI) Committee in January 2021 to address the mandate of the new initiative. The Commission appointed Phyllis Walker-Ford and Mary Lipsey as co-chairs to lead this effort. The African American History Inventory Committee had 15 members.

FCHC Commission members researched and collected information on an initial 150 historical assets¹ in 2021 and published the draft [Fairfax County History Inventory Report](#), a [General Resources Guide](#) and suggested [Research Topics](#) on its website in early 2022. The Inventory was shared with FCPS to assist with the development of materials for the History Marker Project, and the overall timeline for research and publication of the AAHI was adjusted to support the History Marker Project. County residents are encouraged to contact their district's Commission members with additional information to expand the inventory.



Working with George Mason senior IT students, the AAHI was converted to a searchable, interactive database that is hosted by George Mason University (GMU.) It went live in April 2022. The AAHI Committee was dissolved in December 2022, but the work will go on through our Advisory Council members, existing Committees and GMU. The FCHC will work with GMU to advocate and advertise the database. Currently, the [African American History Inventory Database](#) is hosted on the GMU website.

¹ Such as physical sites, collection of printed materials, digital resources, oral histories, church and school histories, historical roadside markers, and family/private records.

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The second half of 2022 was a period of change for the Fairfax County History Commission. These changes in the Department of Planning and Development staff and within the History Commission itself occurred at a time when Commission work was increasing, and preparations were being made for it and all its committees to return to meeting in person.

BYLAWS UPDATE

In the fall of 2019, while the Board of Supervisors was amending the History Commission's Resolution and Bylaws to include a member from the City of Fairfax, the Commission realized the need to clarify its internal financial review process. After the Board approved the amendments on December 3, 2019, FCHC began to work with the County Attorney's office on this small amendment. In February 2020, model bylaws for boards, authorities, and commissions (BACs) were released. The Commission decided to completely update the bylaws to conform to the new BAC Model Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee spent many hours considering language and passing drafts back and forth with the County Attorney's office, facilitated by Denice Dressel, our then Heritage Resources Branch Staff Liaison. The Commission voted to adopt the revised bylaws on August 4, 2021, and the Board approved them on May 10, 2022, after making one additional amendment. In the fall of 2021, the Office of the County Attorney raised concerns about the Commission's Awards program, which has been in existence since the 1990s. After much discussion and from an abundance of caution, it was agreed in the summer of 2022 that the Bylaws should be amended to include the Awards program, Publication Grants, and other mission-related expenditures. Over the course of 2022, an amended bylaws draft was developed and is now in the hands of the Bylaws Committee. Anne Barnes chairs the committee of six members.

TURNOVER OF DPD STAFF AND FCHC MEMBERS

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and dedication of the former Chief of the Heritage Resources Branch, Laura Arseneau, History Commission Liaison Denice Dressel, and Heritage Planner Grace Davenport. We are very pleased to congratulate and welcome Denice Dressel, as the new Chief of the Heritage Resources Branch and ARB Administrator; Laura Kviklys, as the new Liaison for the History Commission; and Stephanie Newman, in her position as a Heritage Planner II. We wish to thank the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Planning and Development for their support in creating the new Heritage Planner II position that now supports the History Commission. Having staff support in addition to a Liaison is essential for continuing the Commission's mission.

We began 2022 by welcoming a new Commission member, Jenee Lindner, representing Springfield District, and by welcoming Commissioner Lynne Garvey-Hodge to a new position as Historian At-Large. As 2022 ended, Commissioners Mary Lipsey, Barbara Naef, Phyllis Walker-Ford, and Barbara Peters each announced their retirements from the Commission. With their departure, we not only lost about 20% of our members, but the cumulative wisdom of more than 52 years of experience and institutional knowledge. Fortunately, these Commissioners agreed to continue their service as Advisory Members of the Commission. This has particularly facilitated the continuation of the African American Marker Project, the completion of the MOU with George Mason University to host the AAHI database and the ongoing expansion of the AAHI. We thank the Board for moving quickly to make new appointments to fill vacancies and we look forward to working with our new colleagues.

POST COVID TRANSITION

In December 2022, the History Commission held its first in-person meeting since March 2020. It was also the first meeting that utilized the electronic participation policy mandated by state legislation. Staff and Commission Members tackled the challenges of the hybrid format.

OUTREACH

EXPERTISE AND CONSULTATIONS

Archeology and Collections Branch Support: In April, the History Commission expressed concern for the funding of the Archeological and Collections facility at Lorton via a letter to the Board of Supervisors. In 2026, the American Association of Museums will begin the process of reaccrediting the Archaeology and Museum Collections. The last accreditation was dependent on the building of the projected new facility to house these collections. If this facility is not funded, the FCPA collections could lose their accreditation, initiating a cascade of unfortunate outcomes for the county. The History Commission suggested that the Board of Supervisors might directly fund the completion of the Archaeology and Collections Facility, or to move up a bond issue in support. In his response to our letter, Chairman McKay assured the Commission that the creation of this facility is one of his priorities, as it was for Chairman Sharon Bulova's. He also noted that the Park Authority Board agreed that FCPA would work with County budget and finance staff to find construction funding for this important facility.

Dunn Loring School: In late 2022, the History Commission learned in a public meeting that the historic Dunn



Historic Dun Loring Elementary School

Loring Elementary School is proposed for demolition. The school is significant for its association with President Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Its Colonial Revival architecture reflects the Public Works Administration's support for local architects and building styles. And, the school was important to the growth of the Dunn Loring community. The History Commission is concerned there is a lack of consideration for the preservation of this Inventory site and will be monitoring future developments.

Fort Belvoir: The FCHC has not taken any position regarding the decision to rename Fort Belvoir, but we believe that there should be a full and complete understanding of the history of President Roosevelt's order to change the name from Fort Humphreys to Fort Belvoir. In September 2021, the FCHC was invited to participate as a stakeholder in a Fort Belvoir meeting with the Naming Commission tasked under the National Defense Authorization Act with renaming military assets that have names associated with the Confederate States of America. In March 2022, the FCHC voted to produce a research report for the BoS on the history of the 1935 and research on this subject continued through the remainder of the year and early 2023. The Naming Commission published its final report in September 2022. It recommended the Army conduct its own review of

the 1935 Belvoir name change. It also included an addended historical report that we believe is not a complete and full weighing of the historical evidence. In early 2023, the History Commission prepared a letter for the Board of Supervisors with its recommendations.

Historic Courthouse: FCHC continued to express concerns for the integrity of the historic 1800 Fairfax County Courthouse building, participating in a survey of the property in April with Supervisor Palchik and staff to assess the situation. A contractor was authorized to survey the exterior in May 2022 and by September a masonry repair and repainting plan was fully funded and is currently in progress.

Historical Marker Project: Mary Lipsey, Tammy Mannarino, and Cheryl-Ann Repetti represented the FCHC the BoS- initiated Historical Marker Project for county students. Ms. Lipsey shared detailed resource lists and the other FCHC members assisted in defining the project and determining logistics to communicate them to teachers, community leaders, and students across the County. They liaised between FCHC's AAHI program and the Historical Marker Project to ensure that the Inventory and other research materials are available to support the project.

The county received over 50 student submissions. The project Voting Committee, consisting of county residents and students, selected fourteen submissions to be considered for markers. A review committee including Barbara Naef, Cheryl Repetti, Phyllis Walker-Ford, and Mary Lipsey selected six of the fourteen for DPD staff to finalize research and write-up before installing the markers with the review committee's final concurrence.



Louise Archer, teacher and activist, for whom a marker will be dedicated.

Hollin Hills and Holmes Run: Elise Ruff Murray attended meetings of the Hollin Hills Work Group. The Group began meeting in the spring of 2019 and aided County staff with defining the area's history, architecture, and boundaries for a proposed Hollin Hills Historic Overlay District. In February, the History Commission sent a letter in support of the creation of the Hollin Hills Historic Overlay District which became the 15th such district on March 8, 2022. Due to redistricting, History Commission representation on the Holmes Run Acres working group was transferred from Sue Kovach Shuman to Barbara Peters. On October 24, 2022, the Board of Supervisors decided not to proceed with the Holmes Run Historic Overlay District.

Semiquincentennial Work Group: Gretchen Bulova represented the Commission on the Fairfax County seven-member Semiquincentennial Work Group which made its final report in August. Commissioners Bulova, Carole Herrick, and Subhi Mehdi serve on the Fairfax County 250th Commission. Ms. Bulova also leads the FCHC Semiquincentennial Committee.

SECTION 106 CONSULTATIONS

Within the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of any changes to historic properties they approve. If a federal or federally assisted project can potentially affect historic properties, a Section 106 review takes place. The History Commission periodically serves as a consulting party on these projects. In 2022, FCHC initiated or continued to provide expertise on five such consultations:

The Capital One Lounge is part of the Dulles Airport Historic District. It was originally the Dulles restaurant with a mid-twentieth century aesthetic, designed by Eero Saarinen, and was included in his 1964 Master Plan. It is currently being updated to meet the needs of modern-day travelers while still maintaining connections to

mid-century design. In 2022, the FCHC continued to evaluate the planned updates, reacting to developer revisions, and providing feedback to mitigate continuing adverse effects through May.

The Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project focused on installing flood mitigation measures in anticipation of rising sea levels and coastal flooding projections through 2100. In July 2022, the Commission unanimously voted to be a consulting party in the Section 106 process. The Fairfax County Archaeology and Collections Branch and the Architecture Review Board are also consulting parties. The Commission is concerned with the impact flood mitigation may have on the historic George Washington Memorial Parkway.

The I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study is a project to extend the existing express lanes on the southeast portion of I-495, from the I-95/I-395/I-495 interchange (Springfield) to Maryland Route 210 (Oxon Hill/National Harbor). The project does not anticipate widening of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge. In December 2022, the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation invited the History Commission to be a consulting party for the Section 106 process. The History Commission accepted the invitation.

The McMillen Farm was a 550-acre dairy farm in the Dranesville District. The barn was partially built in 1850, and the family home was completed about 50 years later in the early 1900s. The property was listed on the Inventory of Historic Sites. The home, Coomber Hall, and several other structures at McMillen Farm were deconstructed in Fall 2021 after Fairfax County granted a demolition permit to NVHomes to make way for new residential housing. Anne Stuntz, representing the History Commission, and staff have been in further contact with Dovetail Consulting concerning the interpretive installation called for in the MOA which resulted from the Section 106 Consultation process with the developer, the Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO, the History Commission, and the County.

The Soapstone Connector is a Federal Highway Administration project providing a connection between Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston. The Association Drive Historic District is a group of nine modern and postmodern office buildings, built between 1972 and 1991, that represent the initial concept, planning, and implementation of the Reston Plan—a significant mid-twentieth century, planned community. The district was determined to be eligible for the National Register. An MOA was signed by the BoS that included mitigations supported by FCHC: HABS and HALS documentation of the buildings and their setting, 3 wayside markers at the site to meet History Commission standards, and a publicly available report on the history of Association Drive.

Fairfax County's rich history is rooted in the struggle for independence and the shaping of a new nation. From colonial times through the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the growth of the federal government, the story of Fairfax County is the story of America.

- **Sharon Bulova, Former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

SUSTAINED EFFORTS

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

The Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites is one of the History Commission's longest standing responsibilities. It serves as a valuable planning reference guide when used in conjunction with Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan (CP). The County's CP includes these historic sites in the Heritage Resources section of each Planning District.

There were no additions in 2022 and one building was demolished, Mount Erin, located in the Franconia District. Once a home of joyful music and heart-rending loss, Mount Erin endured for over 200 years until it was demolished in March 2022 to make way for new development. Mount Erin was built circa 1811 by Thomas Tracy, an Irish immigrant who taught music to both enslaved children and the grandchildren of Martha Washington. It was the home of Alexandria merchant Samuel Pulman during the Civil War when an errant shell from Fort Lyon hit the house, killing two of the Pulman's children and injuring a third.

The current Inventory, along with its background, nomination forms, and research guidelines is accessible to staff and the public on the History Commission website. The Inventory of Historical Sites Committee is chaired by Elise Murray and has seven members.



Mount Erin, 1971



Mount Erin, March 2022

ETHNIC AND ORAL HISTORY

In 1997, the Ethnic Committee was formed in response to the changing demographic diversity of the County's population. The Committee was later assigned oral history tasks. It is now referred to as The Ethnic and Oral History Committee. The goal of this Committee is to encourage the citizens of all ethnicities to compile, record, and share their history with fellow citizens and others interested in the history of Fairfax County. In 2021, in partnership with the County's Channel 16, interviews with former Chairman Sharon Bulova, former Chairman Gerry Connolly, and former Supervisor Dana Kauffman were broadcasted in a program called *Fairfax County Looks Back at Our Recent History*. In 2022, former Supervisor Michael Frey and former Chairman Kate Hanley were interviewed. Former Commissioner Naomi Zeavin and others are being scheduled for 2023. These will soon be broadcasted on Channel 16 Television and archived in The Virginia Room. The second phase of the Oral History Project will involve interviews of County citizens at the community level. Our committee will plan a training program for persons in each district that will interview fellow citizens using our oral history interview methodology. The Ethnic History Committee is chaired by Esther McCullough and has seven members.

HISTORICAL ROADSIDE MARKERS

Fairfax County's Historical Roadside Marker Program began in January 1998 when the History Commission approved the design and funding of a distinctive roadside marker. With colors derived from George Washington's Fairfax Militia uniform, the buff and blue roadside marker is emblazoned with the Fairfax County seal. Since the inception of the program, FCHC approved the installation of over 60 historical roadside markers (including six state markers). The Historical Marker Committee, chaired by Mary Lipsey, reviews all marker requests for historical accuracy and significance, before submitting to the entire FCHC for approval. The public may request that the History Commission fund approximately fifty percent of the roadside marker and installation.

A marker dedication ceremony for the McLean Volunteer Firehouse marker was held on August 21, 2022. The ceremony had been delayed due to the Pandemic. In 2022, the Frying Pan Meeting House marker, erected in 1994, was sent to the foundry for repainting. The marker committee has been working with several applicants for new History Commission markers. Due to a backlog of orders, FCHC orders for new and replacement markers were delayed until January 2023. The cost of markers increased significantly in 2022.



McLean Firehouse Marker

PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL CEMETERIES

FCHC and the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association mutually agreed to form a partnership to identify, document, and advocate for cemeteries in our County that are threatened by development, vandalism, or neglect. The two organizations also committed to educate the community about the historical importance of cemeteries and their preservation. In 2022, they submitted a draft memorandum of agreement to the County Attorney's office for review.

THE 18TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Reflecting the spirit of Fairfax County's *One Fairfax* policy, the FCHC is chronologically examining the diverse peoples who lived here in four consecutive annual history conferences. It held its first in-person annual History Conference since the COVID pandemic in November 2022, with the theme, *WE Are Fairfax County – Part II, Early Immigrant Groups of Fairfax County – Sowing the Seeds of Today's Fairfax County*. The conference represented the rich mix of citizens – specifically those arriving in the late 19th and early 20th century: our Irish, Jewish, German, Quaker and Italian citizens. Among about 70 in-person participants, our esteemed guests included U.S Representative Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Jeff McKay, and Mayor of Fairfax City, the Honorable David Meyer.

Commissioner Esther McCullough presented on *The Earliest African American Churches and their Communities in Fairfax County*. She noted that churches were established in the latter 1800s when the African American population base found their communities in the churches that they attended. Many of those churches still provide a place for meetings, social events, fellowship and worship for African Americans and others in Fairfax County.



**Esther McCullough,
Commissioner and
Presenter**

Dr. Martha Claire Catlin is an author and currently the historian for the Alexandria Quaker Meeting House at Woodlawn. In her presentation, *The Woodlawn Quaker Anti-Slavery Colony*, she shared that the 19th century Alexandria and Mount Vernon-area Quakers in 1846 purchased a 2,000-acre tract of land to create “demonstration” farms at the Woodlawn estate (originally owned by President George Washington). The intent was to provide examples of successfully run farms without the use of enslaved persons.

The *Germanna Foundation's* Director of Archaeology **Dr. Eric Larsen** spoke on the history of the now lost to time, Germanna Colony. Germanna was an 18th century German settlement near present-day Fredericksburg, settled in two waves, in 1714 and in 1717. Today, The Germanna Foundation maintains a research library, a memorial garden, and plans interpretive walking trails to various historic and archaeological sites.

Shawn and Susan Dilles recently published an Arcadia book, *The Jewish Community of Northern Virginia*. In her presentation, Ms. Dilles provided an overview of the Jewish community that has resided in Northern Virginia for over 175 years. Since the colonial days, the Country experienced four major waves of Jewish immigration from eastern and central Europe as well as the Soviet Union. Many Jewish immigrants founded successful retail enterprises such as Rosenthal Chevrolet, Garfinkle's, Hechinger, Giant Food Stores, The Hecht Company, as well as the highly successful Vienna Inn. Robert E. Simon founded Reston and Charles Smith (son of Russian immigrants) founded Crystal City.



**Shawn and Susan Dilles
with Commissioner Jordan**

John Murphy, the Charter President, Fr. Corby Division of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians located at St. Mary of Sorrows Roman Catholic church in Fairfax Station, member of the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum and a retired attorney, spoke on *Fairfax County's Earliest Irish Citizens*. Mr. Murphy is the grandson of Irish immigrants and has extensively studied Irish immigrations of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Finally, two professors, **Dr. Martha Pallante** and **Dr. Donna DiBlasio**, Youngstown University shared research done for their presentation *Looking beyond the 'Big Apple: Investigating the Immigrant Experience in Understudied Communities*. Their focus was on the Italian immigrants of Fairfax County and the United States.

The conference was offered as a hybrid conference (virtual and in-person), with excellent assistance from Fairfax County Cable Channel 16. Lynne Garvey-Hodge was the mistress of ceremony. She chairs FCHC's Annual History Conference Planning Committee, an 11-member body. The Committee has begun planning the fourth conference in this series, *WE Are Fairfax – A County of Nations*. A copy of the full Conference report can be found [here](#).

AWARDS

Each year, the Fairfax County History Commission proudly presents Annual Awards to deserving citizens. The following awards were presented by Representative Gerry Connolly, Virginia's 11th District and Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, at the 2022 Annual History Conference.

The Lifetime Achievement Award: Debbie Robison



Ms. Robison with Chairman McKay and Representative Connolly

Debbie Robison served for 11 years as a Fairfax County History Commissioner (2007 – 2018) and as the Commission's Chairperson from 2009 – 2011. Ms. Robison also served as the Commission's Treasurer from 2013 – 2015. Her in-depth knowledge of Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions is beyond compare. Ms. Robison drafted the Fairfax County Historical Marker Guidelines and researched the history of the Gum Springs and Mount Pleasant Baptist Churches to assist them in obtaining historical markers. She developed historical markers in Centreville, including three at Newgate Tavern and a marker based on research of war correspondents during the Civil War.

Ms. Robison created a [website](#) which provides in-depth, source-documented research articles on this area's history, people, places, and events. She made other historical resources available through the [FCHC](#) website, including scanning the 1860 maps prepared by Beth Mitchell and working with GIS to create a

map of the County with links to original maps. She wrote a document on the history and significance of Historic Centreville; wrote numerous historic structure reports with support from engineer and architect colleagues; identified the Fairfax County Freedman's Bureau Schools and wrote a supporting article on them. Ms. Robison performed in-depth research into the historical towns of Centreville, Clifton, Matildaville and Colchester; researched and identified the locations of dozens of historical mill sites in Fairfax County; and researched over 500 historical places and events in Fairfax County.

The Mayo Stuntz Award: Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg

Messrs. Salmon and Eschenburg recently entered the media world of video historic documentary production. One of their first productions entitled *The*



Messrs. Salmon and Eschenburg with Chairman McKay and Representative Connolly

Gravel Pits: Before There Was a Kingstowne takes the viewer from today's busy, attractive residential and commercial area of Alexandria, Virginia, known as *Kingstowne*, to when it was a semi-abandoned concrete plant known as the Lehigh Cement Company, nearly 50 years ago. Mike's and Ean's demonstrated keen enthusiasm and willingness to work long hours to present this otherwise lost-in-time slice of insight into young peoples' life in Fairfax County, a largely undocumented sector of people.

Distinguished Achievement Award: Akbar Asuri, Steve Cheuko, Brian Do, Fernando Galarza, Roman Patrick, and Samuel Pitch.

These 2021 GMU Capstone Computer Science Program graduates were the creators of the Fairfax County African American History Inventory Database. Under the leadership of Akbar Asuri, the GMU Capstone students applied and demonstrated their technical skills in a variety of integrative/applied/experiential ways. The team fashioned special features that enhance the quality of research and allow the user to search additional topics linked to the initial, research topic. The interactive map presents geophysical information for various locations that are shown in relation to other nearby resources within the County. The data is organized using tags and collections that simplify the search. This project successfully blended Information Technology with the Liberal Arts and History programs at GMU. Additionally, the team wrote a memorandum of understanding between the FCHC and the GMU Fenwick Library to host and maintain the national prototype African American History research database for Fairfax County. The street value of such a web site would be tens of thousands of dollars. This database was created under the guidance of Fairfax County History Commissioners: Barbara Naef, Phyllis Walker Ford, and Mary Lipsey. The Awards Committee is chaired by Lynne Garvey-Hodge and has three other members.



GMU Awardees with Representative Connolly, Chairman McKay and Commissioners Lipsey and Naef

RESIDENT CURATOR PROGRAM

The Resident Curator Program (RCP) preserves publicly owned historic buildings within the County. It enables the County to enter long-term leases with qualified tenants who agree to rehabilitate and maintain under-utilized historic properties and provide periodic public access for appreciation of their historical significance.

The RCP continues to oversee four curator-leased properties. The current occupied properties include Stemson House in Lorton (2017), Turner Farmhouse in Great Falls (2018) and Hannah P. Clark Enyedi House (2019). Renovation work will begin in the Spring of 2023 for the Ellmore Farmhouse (2021).

In 2022, preparations were being made to include Margaret White Gardens, Ash Grove, Lahey Lost Valley, Dranesville Tavern and Mount Gilead in the RCP. Historic Structure Reports and Treatment Plans are underway for Fairfax Arms and Union Farm. The RCP Committee is a four-person body chaired by Robert Beach.

ADVOCACY

FCHC's Advocacy Committee enables the Commission to promote interest in the County history through participation in events and press releases; advise and inform the BoS on matters of preservation of the County's history; and advocate for the preservation of our county's past. In 2022, the Advocacy Program staffed information tables at numerous county events, notably at:



**Sue Kovach Schuman and Edwin Henderson II,
2022 Tinner Hill Music Festival.**

- The Mt Vernon Town Hall
- Tour de Mount Vernon
- Tinner Hill
- Gum Springs Juneteenth Celebration
- Falls Church History Walk
- McLean Day

The program disseminated information about the Commission's work and its recent African American History Inventory and compiled the FCHC annual report. The Advocacy Committee is chaired by Anne Stuntz and has 10 members.



History Commission Display Table

History Commission FY2022 Actual, FY2023 Estimate, and First Half FY2023

	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Estimate	First Half FY2023
Balance (July 1)	\$48,767.24	\$56,216.18	\$56,216.18
Income			
Fairfax County	\$21,013.00	\$21,013.00	\$21,013.00
Interest/Other	\$2600.06		(\$1305.33)
Marker Proffer Funds	\$2700.00		
Total Income	\$26,313.06	\$21,013	\$19,707.67
TOTAL Available	\$75,080.30	\$77,229.18	\$73,901.55
Expenses			
Operating Expenses	\$18,864.12	\$44,613.11	\$6,041.04
Total Expenses	\$ 18,864.12	\$44,613.11	\$6,041.04
Balance	\$ 56,216.18*	\$32,616.07	\$69,882.81

*Unspent funds from previous years are committed to historical roadside marker maintenance, archaeology grants, publications, and preservation and oral history programs.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

The History Commission, and its volunteer members, are proud of their contributions to preserving and promoting the history of Fairfax County. The members offer rich knowledge and expertise in local history and a very diverse background.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Mary Lipsey: Ms. Lipsey was raised in Fairfax County. She received a BA from Mary Washington College and an MA from Virginia Tech. She retired after 30 years of teaching seventh grade American History for FCPS. Her interest in local and women's history led her to author four books and lead programs for senior and community organizations concerning these areas of history. She is one of the directors of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., whose goal is to preserve and protect family cemeteries in Fairfax County. She has supported over 50 preservation projects in county cemeteries and has made many presentations about historic cemeteries and how to preserve them. Ms. Lipsey retired from the Commission on December 31, 2022, and will serve as an Advisory Member in the future.



Gretchen M. Bulova: Ms. Bulova is the Director for the Office of Historic Alexandria in Alexandria, Virginia, managing eight museums as well as the City's Archives and Records Center and Archaeology program. She has been active in the regional museum community for more than 30 years. She is the Past President of the Virginia Association of Museums, President of the Historic House Museums Consortium of Washington, D.C., and a Governor appointee to the American Revolution 250 Commission. She has also served as a Governor appointee to the Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion. She chaired the FCHC from 2012-2014, as well as the Fairfax County 275th Commemoration Committee. She currently serves on the Fairfax 250 Commission as a representative from the History Commission.

DRANESVILLE DISTRICT



Carole Herrick: As a nationally ranked tennis player, Ms. Herrick attended Los Angeles State College, where she received her BA in History. In 2012, she was inducted into the National Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Hall of Fame. She served 12 years on the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center, chaired the Fairfax County History Commission 2015-2017, and is currently president of the McLean Historical Society. Ms. Herrick received numerous accolades including *The Heartbeat of Rotary* and the *Friend in Deed* awards. In 2016, she was the honorary chair for the 50th anniversary of the Women's Club of McLean. The following year, she received the *Mary Kingman – Pillar of McLean* award presented by McLean Chamber of Commerce. In 2018 was the recipient of the *Jean Tibbetts History Award* and was *Lady Fairfax* representing the Dranesville District. Ms. Herrick is a highly regarded speaker and has written numerous articles for publication about the Northern Virginia area, along with authoring nine books.



Subhi Mehdi: Ms. Mehdi retired from the US Senior Executive Service in 2015 with a 30-year public service career with the US Departments of Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, and the Agency for International Development. She is a 40-year resident of Fairfax County, and actively volunteers in numerous national and local organizations. Ms. Mehdi is passionate about ancient history, especially the origins of the Abrahamic faiths and UNESCO World Heritage sites. At the History Commission, she volunteers in the Committees on Advocacy and Ethnic History. She also represents Dranesville District at the American Revolution 250 Year Commission. Ms. Mehdi has a BA from Sweet Briar College, an MA from American University, and an MPH from George Washington University.

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

Elise Ruff Murray: Elise Murray has lived in Fairfax County since 1967 and currently resides in Vienna. She earned a BA in History from the University of Virginia and is interested in archaeology, history, and preservation. 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. A member of the Fairfax County History Commission since 1983, Ms. Murray has served as the Commission's ex-officio member of the Architectural Review Board since 1992. On the Commission, she served as chairman, treasurer, and vice chairman. She is the chair of the Inventory of Historic Sites Committee and serves on the Awards, Bylaws and Markers Committees.



Barbara M. Naef: Ms. Naef has a BA from Duke University and an MA 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 became supervisor of the county archaeology program in 1996 and is the Archaeologist Representative on the History Commission. In 2021 she was honored by the Park Authority Board with the *Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award* "in recognition of her dedication to the long-term preservation and stewardship of cultural and historic resources throughout Fairfax County." She continues to advocate for Park Authority historic site programs, support local history groups, including the Reston Museum & Historic Trust. In 2022 she continued to serve on the Inventory of Historic Sites Committee, the Budget Committee, and the African

American History Inventory Committee. Ms. Naef retired from the Commission on December 31, 2022, and will serve in its Advisory Council in the future.



Anne Stuntz: Ms. Stuntz grew up in Vienna, Virginia. She has a degree in art history from Princeton University and an MBA from Columbia University. After a career in finance in NY and London, Anne returned to her historic family home in Vienna, and is devoted to preserving the history of the area. She is president of Historic Vienna, Inc., Secretary Treasurer of the historic Flint Hill Cemetery Association, and Secretary of the Friends of the Virginia Room. She is on the Sully Foundation and the board of the Historical Society of Fairfax County. She is a member of the Fitzhugh Families of Virginia and the NSDAR. She served as Vice Chairman of the History Commission from 2015-2017 and as Chairman in 2018-2020. She is currently Secretary.

FRANCONIA DISTRICT



Steven Sherman: Mr. Sherman was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Arlington, Virginia. He has lived in Northern Virginia for over 60 years 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. Steve is the president of HMS Productions, which made a 90-minute documentary, *Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County*.



Phyllis Walker-Ford: Ms. Walker-Ford was appointed to the Commission in February 2009. She has a BA in Business Administration from Bluefield State University, West Virginia, and an MBA from Trinity University, Washington, DC. She is President of Laurel Grove School Association, the governing body of Laurel Grove School Museum located in Franconia, Virginia. She serves as Vice President of Virginia Africana Associates, a network of museum, history, and preservation professionals. Ms. Walker-Ford is a current member of the History Commission Marker Committee and Conference Planning Committee. She, along with Mary Lipsey, co-chairs the African American

History Inventory Committee. Ms. Walker-Ford retired from the Commission on December 31, 2022, and will serve in its Advisory Council in the future.

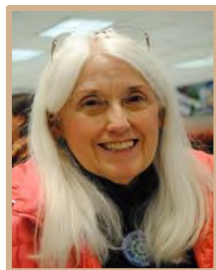
MASON DISTRICT



Barbara Peters: Ms. Peters who joined the Commission in 2017, has been a Fairfax County resident for 40 years. She received her BA from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, and an MA in Library Science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. Before settling in Fairfax, she resided in Paraguay, Venezuela, and Thailand. She has been active in local civic activities for 30 years including service as an Election Officer. She retired in 2016 as the branch manager of the Thomas Jefferson Library in Fairfax County.

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Anne M. Barnes: Ms. Barnes is a longtime Fairfax County resident who lives on Mason Neck, Virginia. She received a BS in Criminal Law from Savannah State College, and an 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. She is currently the chairman of the Bylaws and Budget Committees.



Sallie Lyons: Ms. Lyons holds a BA in Art History from Duke University. She worked at the Library of Congress, TA'd in anthropology at the University of Maryland, and has done urban archaeology in Winchester, capital of Saxon England. She moved to Mount Vernon District in 1970, living on archaeological sites Brickyard Point and Colchester. She has spent over 30 years supporting preservation and archaeology in Colchester, Mason Neck, and Lorton. She owns Lyonshare Studios, LLC, founded with her late husband Jerry, doing technical writing and editing, and illustration. She founded the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources, and, with former Commissioner Glenn Fatzinger, the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society. She is also active in the Archaeological Society of Virginia, the Lorton Heritage Society, and the Seeds of Independence

Committee of Gunston Hall



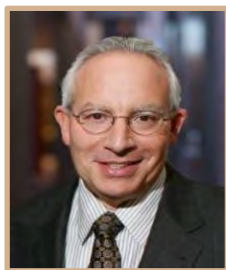
Tammy Mannarino: Tammy Mannarino enjoyed the nomadic childhood of a “Navy-brat” before her family settled in Fairfax County more than 40 years ago. She graduated from James Madison University with a degree in English and Political Science. She spent most of her career at the National Security Agency in the field of Information Systems Security. Ms. Mannarino holds an MA in Telecommunications and an MS in Systems Engineering. She lives in the Mount Vernon area where she researches, writes, and presents on local history on her website, BackyardMountVernon.com . In 2017, she joined with others to form the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society where she currently holds the position of Treasurer. She was appointed to the Fairfax County History Commission in 2020.

PROVIDENCE DISTRICT



Sue Kovach Shuman: Ms. Shuman was appointed to the History Commission in 2020. She serves as Treasurer. A journalist with newspapers in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and the Washington metro area, she worked for 20 years in news at The Washington Post, as well as at the American Embassy in Paris. She holds a BA in Journalism from Penn State, MA in Journalism from the University of Maryland, a Public History and Historic Preservation certificate from Northern Virginia Community College, and a Virginia Association of Museums management certification. She is a research historian and author of the book Mantua. She completed 19 USDA Forest Service volunteer projects in historic preservation, archaeology, and paleontology. For civic activities, including conducting interviews for the Providence Perspectives oral history project, she was honored in 2018 as a county Lady Fairfax. She is president of the Historical Society of Fairfax County and Mantua Citizens' Association.

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT



Jordan Tannenbaum: Mr. Tannenbaum has a BA from Brandeis University, a JD from the Washington College of Law, and is a member of the DC Bar. After a decade with the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), he transitioned to the Development (fundraising) field working for Brandeis University. He has held senior positions at Georgetown University, the Wharton School, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Hillel Foundation, and is currently the Chief Development Officer for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Tannenbaum retired from the JAG Corps, U.S Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. A member of the ACHP since 2016, he was appointed to the position of Vice Chairman in 2021. He currently serves on the boards of The Army Historical Foundation, the Rosenwald NHP Initiative, and the ACHP Foundation. Mr.

Tannenbaum is on the History Conference and the Awards Committees.



Jene Lindner: Ms. Lindner, MA, is a genealogist, historian, and living history presenter. She lectures on the history of the Fairfax family, Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, and Sarah Tracy. Ms. Lindner volunteered on several nonprofit organizations including Friends of the Historic Fairfax Court House, Historic Fairfax City Inc., Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, and as a facilitator for the historic African American Jermantown Cemetery. She led the founding of two private high schools - Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria, Virginia and GW Community School in Springfield, Virginia. She was the State Resident Curatorship Program lobbyist, now used in the county to help preserve historic homes and businesses. Ms. Lindner was recently appointed to the Fairfax County Confederate Name Task Force and Fairfax County Redistricting Advisory Committee. She won

numerous service awards including Volunteer Fairfax Community Champion 2022.

SULLY DISTRICT



Esther W. McCullough: Ms. McCullough grew up in Longview, Texas and received her BS in Clothing and Textiles from North Texas State University (now The University of North Texas). After moving to Fairfax County in 1996, she sought history of African Americans in the area with little success. That was motivation for creating a brochure, African American Historical Sites in Fairfax County. She is the chair of the Ethnic Committee and sits on the Marker Committee and the History Conference Committee. Interviews of county leaders is a committee project. Esther has been a host at two history conferences and a presenter twice. She works tirelessly with the senior ministry at her church, First Baptist Church of Vienna, planning and presenting programs for seniors in the community.



Cheryl-Ann Repetti: Ms. Repetti joined the Commission in 2019. She has lived in Fairfax County since 1982 and moved to Centreville in 1990. She holds a PhD in Sociology from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Cooper Union in New York City. Ms. Repetti is the Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator for Historic Huntley in Huntley Meadows Park and is a member of the board of directors of the Historic Centreville Society and the Friends of Historic Centreville. The latter group organizes Centreville Day each year, a community festival celebrating the area's rich and diverse heritage.

CITY OF FAIRFAX



David L. Meyer: David Meyer completed six years as Mayor of the City of Fairfax on December 31, 2022. Previously, he served five terms on the City Council (2008-17) before being elected Mayor in 2017. A city resident since 1981, Mr. Meyer has maintained a lifelong interest in local history and historic preservation, and co-authored *Fairfax, Virginia: A City Traveling Through Time*. He also authored *Pilgrimages of Faith, Histories of Churches in Vienna, Virginia*. Mr. Meyer retired in 2016 from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where he was a career member of the Senior Executive Service. He earned a BA from Randolph-Macon College and an MPA from American University.

AT-LARGE



Lynne Garvey-Hodge: Ms. Garvey-Hodge is Historian I, At-Large Commissioner, and the Chairperson (current and 2004-05) of FCHC. For over 22 years, she contributed to preserving the County's history in multiple ways. She led the 100th anniversary celebration of The Town of Clifton; worked with County staff to preserve Lorton Prison as a National Landmark, now The Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, and has been the force behind the annual Fairfax County History Conference, now in its 19th year. She published *Clifton* (Arcadia Books, 2009) and writes quarterly and monthly columns on Clifton. She is a founding member of the Turning Point Suffragist Association and has re-enacted the historical characters of Suffragist Mrs. Robert Walker and Angelina Grimke through over 150 performances. Ms. Garvey-Hodge served on the Fairfax County 275th Anniversary Committee.

Currently, she also serves as the FCHC Awards Committee Chairperson.



Robert E. Beach: Mr. Beach received a Bachelor of Architecture from Pratt Institute and practiced architecture in several notable New York City and Washington, DC area architecture firms before starting an architectural practice which provides design services for historic restorations at the Local, State and National levels. Mr. Beach has served as the Architect-at-large for the Commission, from 2000 to present. He was Vice Chair in 2004 and 2005, and Chair for the Commission from 2006 to 2008. He is Chair of the Resident Curator Program Committee, serves on the Curator Evaluation Team and served multiple times as a Juror for the Fairfax County Exceptional Design Awards. Mr. Beach is the Architect for the award-winning Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.