



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Spring 2013

The Civil War Returns to Huntley!

Special Event

Saturday, April 13 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Suggested donation, \$3

Children 10 and under, free

Visitors in 1860's period attire, free

Light refreshments



Photograph courtesy Grand Rapids Public Library

Join FOHH at this special event as 1st Lieutenant Willard Longnecker and several of his fellow re-enactors of the 3rd US Infantry Regiment Company B, "The Old Guard," recreate Civil War history at Huntley. They will set up a tent and demonstrate life in the Union army. Come visit with the soldiers, ask questions about their uniforms and their weapons, and look at their tent. Farm tenant George W. Johnson, recreated by Jon Vrana, will be available to tell his side of the history. Hear the story of a civilian who tried to keep a farm going while it was overrun with soldiers. Enjoy the view from the hilltop and learn about the building of Huntley in 1825 and how this small house had a large place in history.

By the time of the Civil War, Huntley was a vastly different place than the property Thomson Mason experienced. A short time before the war, Thomson's widow Betsey and her son Francis moved away and left all the old servants and children in the care of George W. Johnson, the farm tenant. After the war Johnson presented a claim for \$880 for damages done to the Huntley property by the Union soldiers.

When Virginia's secession from the Union became effective on May 24, 1861, Federal troops moved into Northern Virginia and began building forts around D.C. In Alexandria, the Defenses of Washington included Fort Ellsworth, Fort Williams, Fort Worth, and Fort Ward. After these were completed, troops moved further out to build winter quarters. Camp Michigan, formed by several Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiments, was in the area of Huntley from December 1861 to March 1862, and their quartermaster lived in the house. Surviving letters recount activities such as building log houses, standing picket duty, and visiting Mount Vernon and Pohick Church. To learn more about the Defenses of Washington, visit Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria (www.fortward.org).

Directions to Historic Huntley: From Route 495/95, exit 177A, follow Route 1 (Richmond Highway) south for three and a half miles. Turn right on Lockheed Blvd. for half a mile, then right on Harrison Lane (at the turn, notice entrance to Huntley Meadows Park on the left) and continue for half a mile. Special event parking is available at the church on the left. The entrance to the house is from Huntley Meadows Lane on the left, where there is handicap permit parking.

Letter from the Park Manager

We welcome **Kevin Munroe, Park Manager at Huntley Meadows Park**, to *Huntley Headlines*. Historic Huntley and Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) are separate parks in the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) system, but the two parks are administered jointly by the staff at HMP. We hope Kevin will be a regular contributor to these pages to keep us up to date on FCPA and HMP events.



Hello, Friends of Historic Huntley. What an exciting and eventful time at Historic Huntley and Huntley Meadows Park! With Historic Huntley restored, opened, and full of programs, we're reminded of the **powerful connection between the two sites**. Huntley Meadows Park actually gets its name from Historic Huntley; Huntley is a family name connected with the Masons who lived in the mansion. Back then, the two parks were one piece of land, farmed and owned by the Masons. Today's connections are just as significant; Historic Huntley enriches Huntley Meadows Park by adding all its program and education potential, and allows us to tell a more complete story of land use, stewardship, and resource protection. We already have a list of **joint programs and events** that bring both sites together and augment both the visitor and staff experience that is Huntley. Keep your eyes on Historic Huntley for new tours, camps, special family events, and Civil War programs.

Be sure to ask park staff about the **wetland restoration project**. Construction for this important ecological restoration endeavor starts in April and will continue through December. The visitor center and boardwalk will remain open, but the Hike-Bike Trail off South Kings Highway will be closed. The end result will be a healthier wetland with more water, more wildlife, and a long-term, sustainable future. ❖

Kevin Munroe, Park Manager

HMP Staff News

There are two new faces at HMP, **Meagan Keefe, Program Manager**, and **Kathleen Lowe, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator**. Meagan was born in Alexandria and spent some of her childhood here. She is a professional naturalist with degrees in biology and natural resource science and management. She has been working at HMP on weekends for the last two years. Kathleen is a professional archaeologist who grew up in Fairfax County and has always loved nature. For the last two years she has worked for FCPA at Old Colchester, the site of a colonial port town. We welcome these two delightful people to the HMP team. ❖

FOHH Board Updates

At the annual FOHH membership meeting in November, **six new board members** were voted in, doubling the size of the board (complete list on the last page). Members have been busy redefining how FOHH will meet our many new challenges now that the house is open to the public. The exciting new concept for the spring event described on the first page is one of the first initiatives.

In November FOHH was awarded the **Elly Doyle Park Service Award** for being "guardians and interpreters of Historic Huntley for many years." The evening was a fun event honoring many volunteers across Fairfax County. The handsome award will be displayed at HMP until there is a place for it at Historic Huntley.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the **very successful fall annual campaign**. We were delighted to see many new FOHH members and hope to add 50 or more additional members by the end of the year. The board increased the amount of the dues and the number of membership categories to bring them in line with those used by Friends of Huntley Meadows Park. This is our first increase in dues since 1993.

To facilitate increasing the FOHH membership, board members have designed our first **membership brochure**, which will be available by April's special event. Brochures will be available at HMP and Historic Huntley. Please take several and encourage your friends to join. If everyone brought in one new member, we could reach our goal and be able to do much more for the park. You also will find a membership form in this newsletter and on the Huntley website (www.historichuntley.org).

Like FOHH on Facebook! Soon the Friends of Historic Huntley will be on Facebook.

It was good news that the FCPA bond issue passed in November. Funds included in the bond, as well as those remaining from the restoration of the Mason-era buildings, will make possible the **rehabilitation of the Tenant House**. As we go to press, the timing of this construction is not clear, but we understand that it is on the schedule for 2016. We will continue to remind FCPA board of the importance of this building for the financial health of Huntley. The Tenant House will give Huntley essential space for income-producing programs, provide needed visitor comforts, and greatly improve the look of the park grounds. ❖

Barbara Ballentine, FOHH president

Upcoming Events at Historic Huntley and HMP

Summer Internship

FOHH is again sponsoring a Cultural Resource Management internship at Historic Huntley for a college student or recent graduate. The intern will develop education programs, write interpretation materials, and present programs. The internship is for 10 weeks at 20 hours a week from June 3 through August 10, 2013. For more information contact Geoffrey Cohrs, Historic Interpreter and Site Coordinator, Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22306, geoffrey.cohrs@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703.768.2525, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/downloads/culture_internship2013.pdf.

Docent Training

This program has started with a good turnout, but there is room for more trainees. Contact Geoffrey Cohrs if you are interested at geoffrey.cohrs@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703.768.2525.

Programs at Historic Huntley

(Registration is required unless otherwise noted)

Boy Scout Merit Badges

(Programs satisfy many of the requirements to earn badges)

American Heritage: Sunday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Friday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Ages 11-17, \$24.

Citizenship in the Nation: Saturday, April 20, 3:30-7:30 p.m. or Sunday, June 9, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Ages 11-17, \$24.

Pages Through Time

Mondays, April 8 and 22 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, May 1 and 15 • 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 15 • 10:00-11:00 am.

Introduce your children to America's colorful history. Join us at Stone Mansion for story time. Ages 4-7, \$8.

Twilight Hilltop Tour

Friday, April 12 • 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursdays, May 9 and 23 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Historic Huntley sits high upon a hill overlooking the Hybla Valley, a dramatic setting made even more stunning by the setting sun. Join us after hours for a special tour to see the house in a different light. Light refreshments served afterward. Dress for the weather. Adults, \$12.

Villa with a View

Saturday, March 23 • 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Perched on a hill, Huntley was a strategically important site for the Union Army. Learn about the soldiers who lived on the property, how they used it, and why Huntley was never looted or destroyed. Coffee and hardtack served afterward. Adults, \$12.

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Saturday, April 13 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Suggested donation, \$3; 10 and under free. Free for visitors in 1860's period attire. No registration required.

See the first page for complete details

Curator's Choice Tour

Friday, May 3 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Huntley has a rich history and many stories and only a fraction of these are shared on regular tours. Join us for a rare opportunity when the curator, park manager, or special guest reveals a different side to the site. \$7.

Programs at Huntley Meadows Park

Wetlands Awareness Day

Sunday, May 5 • Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy an active, colorful afternoon with live animal presentations, nature activities, and family fun at Huntley Meadows Park with its wetland boardwalk and wildlife observation tower. Bring friends and family to learn about the importance of wetland ecology, local natural history, and wetlands! Some activities require a small fee. No registration required.

Park Manager Walk and Talk Adults

Saturdays, April 20 and May 11 • 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Join Park Manager Kevin Munroe on these monthly walks. Find out about the wetland restoration project and learn about the wildlife for which the park is known. Canceled if rain. No registration required. Free.

Evening Wildlife Walk Adults

Saturday, May 18 • 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Join a park naturalist to hike the trail after dark, listening for owls and frogs and watching for beaver activity. Registration required. \$6.

For more information or to register for a Historic Huntley or Huntley Meadow Park program, call 703.768.2525. For additional programs visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm.

Historic Huntley Open Hours: Grounds and Tours

The grounds of Historic Huntley at 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA, are open from dawn to dusk from March to November. Tours of the house are available on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. from April 20 through October and by appointment. For more information call Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525. ❖

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

Inside:

The Civil War Returns to Huntley

Saturday, April 13

Free admission for visitors in period attire!

Upcoming events at Historic Huntley and Huntley Meadows Park

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Mission Statement

The mission statement of an organization is one of its most important documents. The new FOHH board reviewed the FOHH mission at the January meeting and voted to maintain it as presently written:

Friends of Historic Huntley is dedicated to working in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority to preserve Historic Huntley for the benefit of the community and to:

- Support the appropriate use of the house and its site;
 - Encourage and conduct research on its architecture and history; and
 - Stimulate appreciation of our heritage through education and interpretation.
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Join Friends of Historic Huntley today!

Support Historic Huntley by joining this group of history- and historic preservation-minded people. Members receive the newsletter, are invited to a members-only event at Huntley, and enjoy a 10% discount on FOHH merchandise. FOHH is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. With your volunteer efforts and financial support, we can make a difference.

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ May we email *Huntley Headlines*? _____

I'm interested in volunteering in the following area(s):

HH (work with staff at HMP): Docent Greeter Research

FOHH: Fundraising Program Planning Public Relations Special events

New Member **Renewing Member**

\$15 Individual

\$20 Family

\$10 Student/Senior

\$150 Lifetime Membership

Additional donation _____

Total enclosed _____

Send completed form with check payable to *Friends of Historic Huntley* to:

FOHH, P.O. Box 7241, Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Huntley Headlines is produced by Friends of Historic Huntley, a local citizens group formed to assist Fairfax County in the restoration, preservation and utilization of Huntley and to enhance the public's knowledge of this historic villa.

Board of Directors

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Address changes:

Please send your mailing label with corrections to the address above. We hope you enjoy receiving *Huntley Headlines* but, if not, please let us know at the address above or at FOHHuntley@aol.com.