



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Spring 2008

Spring Open House

Sunday, May 18, 2008 • 2 to 4 p.m.

Puppet Show • 3 p.m.

Free • Rain or Shine!

Enjoy this semiannual opportunity to visit Historic Huntley, a Federal-style villa built in 1825 for Thomson F. Mason. The **Open House** features **guided tours, a scavenger hunt, and light refreshments**. Don't miss our **Puppet Show** entitled *A Day in the Life of the Mason Family*. Meet Sir James and the whole cast of characters.

Directions: Take Rt. 95 South (Beltway) to Exit 1; south on Richmond Highway (Rt. 1) for 3.5 miles; right onto Lockheed Blvd.; after 1/2 mile, turn right onto Harrison Lane; Huntley is 1/4 mile up the hill. ❖

Wetlands

Awareness Day

Sunday, May 4, 2008 • noon to 3 p.m.

The biggest event on the **Huntley Meadows Park** calendar is **Wetlands Awareness Day**. Hundreds come to understand the importance of wetlands and to experience their beauty. Interpreters stationed along the boardwalk unlock the mysteries of wetland soils, arrange close-up looks at wildlife through telescopes, and impart a sense of what an amazing place Huntley Meadows is! There is also a fun fair for children, with games, prizes and an old-fashioned cake walk. ❖

Huntley Construction Close to Starting!

We recently received a message from Michael Rierson, Stewardship Branch Manager, Resource Management Division, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), with some good news. The FCPA has nearly finished obtaining the necessary permits for construction at Historic Huntley. The new project team that will handle the final planning stages and oversee construction has met to begin the process.

Probable costs are being developed and compared with the available funds. Mr. Rierson did not state the amount of funds available at this time, but it will include the remaining funds from the 1998 bond issue, proffer funds, and federal and state grant funds. Once FCPA staff has accurate and realistic information on the various aspects of the construction costs, staff will meet with the Historic Huntley Project Team to review available funding and set priorities.

Mr. Rierson hopes the Project Team will meet in mid-May, so we might have more definite information for members at the Open House. We also were glad to hear that even though Mr. Rierson will retire from the FCPA this summer, he will stay on as an historic preservation technical advisor for Huntley. His long interest in the history of Huntley and hard work during the investigation stage of the project are very valuable assets to us and will be a great benefit to the careful and accurate restoration of Historic Huntley. ❖

Margaret Harrison Gibbs' Book Collection

Susan Hellman, a Fairfax County historian and Gibbs relative, has inherited a collection of books that belonged to Margaret Harrison Gibbs. Gibbs was the daughter of Albert W. Harrison, who owned Huntley 1868 to 1911, and sister of Albert R. Harrison, Huntley's owner from 1911 to 1946. Susan has shared an annotated inventory with park staff. Some of the books date to when Margaret lived at Huntley, including a volume of Tennyson with a flower pressed into it. *The Marriage Gift* by James Petrie has the following frontispiece inscription:

This Certifies that J. Norman Gibbs of Fairfax County, Virginia and Margaret N. Harrison of Fairfax County, Virginia were by me united in the bonds of marriage at Residence of bride's parents on the 27th day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty six, conformably to the ordinance of God and the laws of the state. Minister of the Gospel: James M. Nourse. Witnesses at the marriage: Albert W. Harrison, Angeline C. Harrison. ❖

YES! Please sign me up for membership in Friends of Historic Huntley today!

- Enclosed is my check for \$10.
 New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____ Tel: Home: _____
Address: _____ Work: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____

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

- Historic research Fundraising Special events General volunteer

<i>For FOHH use only:</i> Date received: _____ Amount: _____

Art Exhibitions at Huntley Meadows Park

Through June 6, the auditorium at Huntley Meadows is filled with the remarkable wildlife photographs of Bob and Jorja Feldman. The beautiful detail, color, and composition of the images are not to be missed.

The next show features wildlife artist **B.J. Opfer's watercolors of birds**. Please join him at the **opening reception on Sunday, June 29**, from 2 to 4 p.m. ❖

Fairfax County Stories: Meet the Authors!

Want to find out more about the local history and biographies included in the commemorative volume, *Fairfax County Stories 1607-2007*? The book was published by Fairfax County as the county's legacy project, part of Virginia's 400th anniversary commemorating the founding of Jamestown, and includes a chapter on Historic Huntley. Enjoy light refreshments during these two opportunities to meet the authors:

Saturday, April 26, 2008, 3 p.m.; to register, call 703.644.7333

Pohick Regional Library

6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, VA 22015

Saturday, May 31, 2008, 10 a.m.; to register, call 703.768.6700

Martha Washington Library

6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307 ❖

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 little-known villa.

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Mission Statement

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.

Address changes: Please send your mailing label with corrections clearly noted to: Friends of Historic Huntley, P.O. Box 7241, Alexandria, VA 22307-0241 or email FOHHuntley@aol.com.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

Spring Open House • May 18, 2008

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/hh2.htm

<http://members.aol.com/fohhuntley>

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gmp/historichuntleyreport.pdf

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/
