

Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Fall 2015

Fall Event—Discussion and Tour Huntley Farm:

How Contemporary Trends
Influenced the Cultural Landscape

Saturday, October 3, 1 p.m.
Historic Huntley

Suggested donation, \$5

Join **Debbie Robison**, preservation consultant, for a lively discussion on the **farm manager's residence**, **Huntley's ditches and the influence of pattern books on villa design**. New information will be revealed about the soon-to-be-restored tenant house. Afterwards, Ms. Robison will lead a tour of the buildings and grounds for about an hour.

Debbie Robison manages the historic preservation and restoration program for an architectural and engineering firm in Herndon. An author of many articles on Northern Virginia's past, she hosts the *Northern Virginia History Notes* web site, and serves on the Fairfax County History Commission and the board of the Historic Centreville Society.

Directions on page 4. For more information, call 703.768.2525. ❖

Norma Turns Ninety!

Norma Hoffman, a founder of both FOHH and Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, turned 90 earlier this summer. *Congratulations, Norma!* Stop by the Norma Hoffman Visitors Center at Huntley Meadows Park any Friday afternoon—you'll find her there at the front desk, still donating her time as a dedicated volunteer. ❖

Huntley Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 11, 1 - 5 p.m.

Huntley Meadows Park Visitors
Center and Historic Huntley

\$10-\$12; children four and under, free

Experience how everyone from foxes to farmers prepares for winter. Enjoy autumn-themed activities at both Huntley Meadows Park and Historic Huntley. Come for storytelling—fun and games for the whole family. Pre-registration isn't necessary, so just show up! Canceled if rain; dress appropriately for the weather. For more information, call 703.768.2525. ❖

FOHH Annual Meeting Overview of FCPA Collections

Sunday, November 8, 2 p.m., free
Huntley Meadows Park
Visitors Center

Join us at our Annual Meeting and hear from **Megan Leining**, collections manager for the Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch. In addition to providing a general overview of FCPA Collections and how to access its holdings, Ms. Leining will bring items from the collection for "show and tell" from Huntley's Harrison-family era. *This presentation is not to be missed!*

The afternoon also will include the annual election of FOHH Board

members. If you haven't already, please renew your FOHH membership—only members in good standing may vote. For your convenience, a membership renewal form can be found on page 4. **See you on November 8!**

Directions: From the Beltway, follow Route 1/Richmond Highway south for 3-1/2 miles. Right on Lockheed Blvd. for half a mile. Left into Huntley Meadows Park. ❖

Huntley History Files Available to Researchers

Last year **Laura Wickstead**, director of the Virginia Room, spoke at the FOHH Annual Meeting about Virginia Room resources at the City of Fairfax Regional Library and how they might be used to further research about Historic Huntley. Ms. Wickstead became so intrigued by Huntley that she offered her expertise to FOHH and Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) staff in organizing the Huntley research files. She acquainted herself with the files by reading through much of their contents, then advised on standard library organizing principles and proper archival storage materials.

In a self-styled labor of love, **FOHH Secretary Carolyn Gamble** gamely tackled the park's 40-year accumulation of files, transforming them into a streamlined resource ready and waiting for those wanting to know more about Historic Huntley. A list of the files can be found at www.historichuntley.org/research. To access the files, contact Ms. Gamble at carolynjgamble@hotmail.com. ❖

President's Column: Huntley's Harrison Era

by Todi Carnes

While anticipation of crisp fall weather and a calendar packed with the seasonal activities beckon our attention, FOHH Board members have been thinking about next spring and how to celebrate the re-opening of Huntley following its annual winter "hibernation." For the past three years, in lockstep with widespread celebrations of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, FOHH and the FCPA have heralded the arrival of spring with a reveille of war remembrance, recalling Huntley's Civil War era, albeit short-lived in terms of Huntley's overall history—only four years.

In the tranquility of peace following those war years, Huntley's longest-lived era began when Albert W. Harrison acquired Huntley in 1868—see the *Chain of Title* on page 3. His family would own the property for the next 78 years until the death of his son, Albert R. "Bert" Harrison, in 1946. Under Harrison family ownership, Huntley became a dairy farm and the main house a residence of daily living. The Harrison presence was so enduring that the street along which Huntley sits was named in that family's honor. To engender a greater appreciation for the Harrisons of Harrison Lane and for Huntley as a dairy farm during their residence there, the **Harrison era will be the focus of next spring's Special Event at Historic Huntley.**

For a sneak preview of that period, **FCPA Collections Manager Megan Leining will bring county-owned, Harrison-era articles to the FOHH Annual Meeting.** If you have **stories or artifacts relating to life at Huntley during the Harrison period**, please pass them along to FOHH so they can be presented at the Spring Event. You can contact me at todicarnes@verizon.net or share them at the **FOHH Annual Meeting on November 8** (details on page 1). See you there—in the cool, crisp weather of autumn! ❖

Member Profile: Meet Steve Kimbel

FOHH congratulates **Steve Kimbel** on his selection for **FCPA's 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Award for Historic Huntley!** In addition to serving as a docent for Historic Huntley on the last Saturday of every month, Steve also is an FOHH Board member.

He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and credits his father with instilling in him a love for American history by taking him to numerous Civil War battlefields when he was a boy. Steve's particular historical interest is American history prior to the Civil War. He has lived in the Northern Virginia area since 1967 and is retired from both private and government service. He is an avid bird watcher at Huntley Meadows Park, a swimmer, trout fisherman, and traveler.

Steve's support of local historical organizations is extensive. Apart from his work at Huntley, he is a docent for the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Carlyle House, both located in Alexandria; serves on the Friends of Fairfax Archaeology Board and as secretary for the Apothecary Museum's friends group, the Mortar & Pestle Society; and is a member of the Alexandria Historical Society and the Friends of Local History (supporting the special collections at Alexandria's Queen Street Library).

Steve credits his work with the Fairfax County archaeology laboratory for introducing him to Historic Huntley. He would like to see more archaeological research conducted at Huntley, as there are so many mysteries yet to be solved.

For example, how did Thomson Francis (T.F.) Mason's family use their retreat, and where or how did the family cook meals (there is no known evidence of a hearth for cooking on the property)? Despite these unknowns, Steve praises Huntley's docent manual, largely researched and written by FCPA staff member Geoffrey Cohrs, as "so comprehensive and well written that it should be published by Fairfax County."

What does Steve enjoy most about Huntley? "The volunteers and staff at FOHH and HMP that make volunteering there so much fun!" To join Steve as a Huntley volunteer, contact Geoffrey Cohrs at geoffrey.cohrs@fairfaxcounty.gov. ❖

FCPA Programs at Historic Huntley

Saving Your Heirlooms

Thursday, September 17
7 p.m., adults, \$30-\$32

Homeschoolers at Huntley

Thursdays from September 17
8 classes
1:30 p.m., 6-10 year olds, \$108-\$123

Citizenship in the Nation

Merit Badge

Sunday, September 27
10 a.m., 10-18 year olds, \$30

Genealogy —

Where Do You Come From?

Thursday, October 8
7 p.m., adults, \$30-\$32

Citizenship in the World

Merit Badge

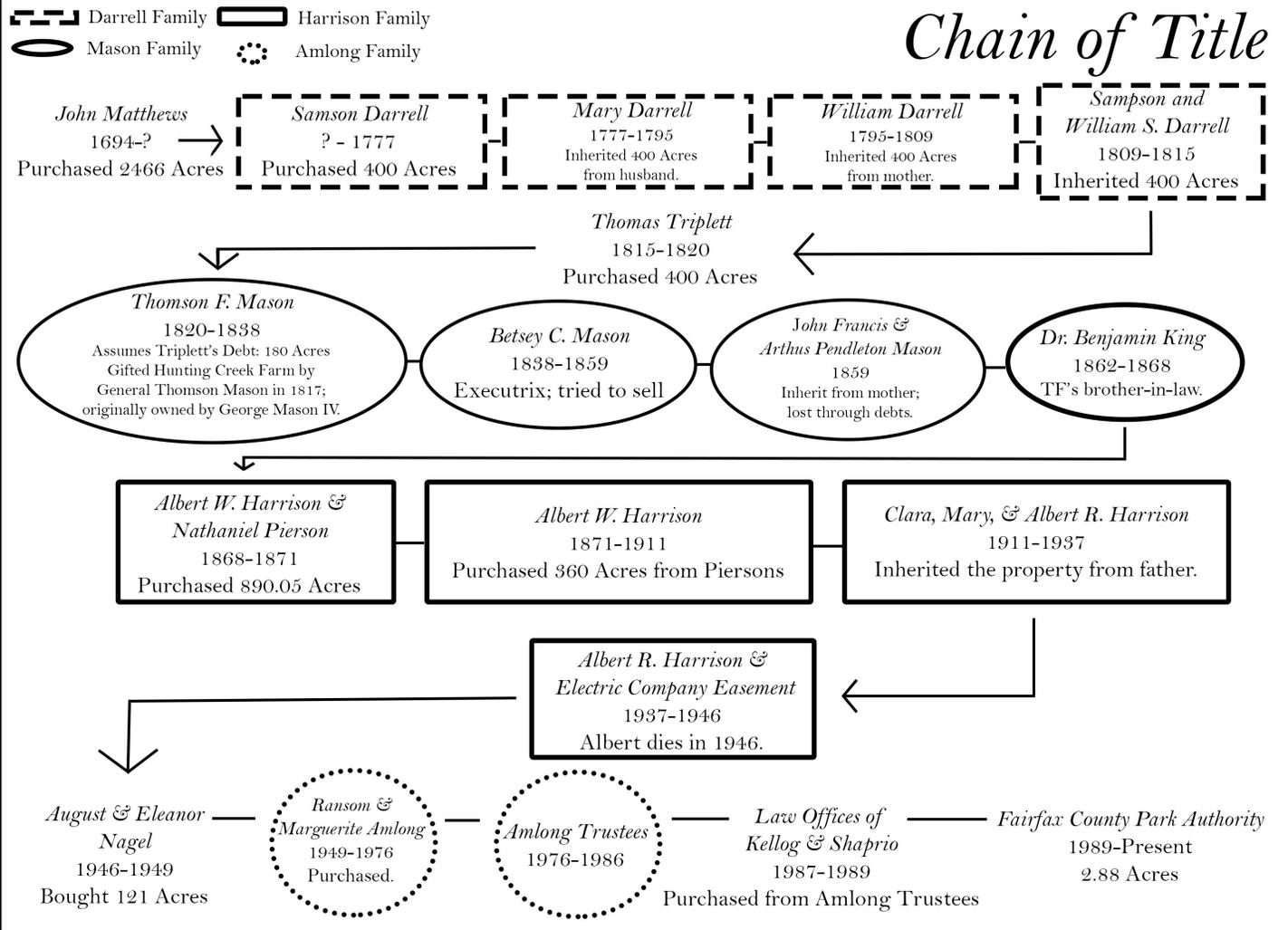
Sunday, October 25
10 a.m., 10-18 year olds, \$38

For more information and to register: Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm ❖

New Restaurant, *Mason Social*, Honors T.F. Mason

Earlier this year, 190 years after T.F. Mason built Historic Huntley, **Mason Social opened at 728 North Henry Street** in Alexandria's gentrifying Parker-Gray District **with T.F. Mason as its namesake.** According to its web site, Mason Social is "**a chef-driven restaurant focusing on local food, beer, and craft cocktails.**" It was "consciously designed to create a space where the diverse and growing neighborhood could gather, socialize, and become one." Ask the wait staff who T.F. Mason was, and they'll tell you he was a farmer and mayor of

Chain of Title



FOHH Summer Intern: Claire Love

Greetings from your FOHH 2015 summer intern. My name is Claire Love, and I am a doctoral student in American history at George Mason University. My current research focuses on technology, outer space, and science fiction.

Mason Social *continued ...*

Alexandria. You can tell them that he also built Historic Huntley—and recommend that they increase their professional knowledge of him by taking a Saturday tour between now and the end of October! In one diner's estimation, the food is good, and the service, holding true to intent, is sufficiently laid back to foster its patrons' socializing into oneness. And the name, did we mention the name? It's "Mason Social." *T.F. Mason lives!* ❖

Working at Historic Huntley, I gained an ever-deeper understanding of American and Virginia history. I love teaching and working with the visitors. Our campers provided me with a new window into the ways I can use my history degree in the future. ❖

Claire created this graphic illustration of Historic Huntley's chain of title through time. Also available at www.historichuntley.org/research

A Salute to Our Newest Lifetime Members

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bonnie Baldwin | Barbara Kiker |
| Dana Bensusky | Stephen Kimbel |
| Dan Burkhead | Mark Lent |
| Kelly Campagne & Angelo Miranda | Steve & Ann Lindblom |
| Karen Connair | James & Elizabeth McDonald |
| V.S. Crea | Kevin Munroe |
| Jeffrey Crocker | Gary O'Brien |
| Allen & Barbara Davis | Lois Passman |
| Judy Dority | Sergio & Irma Noemi Peschard |
| Chris & Kat Dyer | Lisa Romano |
| Mark & Debbie Husband | Nancy Roeper |
| Karla Jamir & Paul Glist | Marvin Rubin |
| Mike Justus | Juliana Sharp & Michael Tomai |
| Amy Kean | Patricia Stoffel |
| Meegen Keefe | John Youngquist |
| Michele Keefe | |

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

Save the Dates:

Fall Event - October 3

Harvest Festival - October 11

Annual Meeting - November 8

Educational programs + badges

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Tour Huntley — Enjoy the View!

Enjoy southern Fairfax County's most scenic view. It's at **Historic Huntley, the small house with a big view.** Tours on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through the end of October and by appointment. *\$5 adults; \$3 children and seniors; under 5, free.* The grounds are open from dawn to dusk. For more information, call Huntley Meadows Park, 703.768.2525. Historic Huntley is a Fairfax County Park Authority

site and is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

Directions: From the Beltway, follow Route 1/Richmond Highway south for 3-1/2 miles. Right on Lockheed Blvd. for half a mile. Right on Harrison Lane and continue for half a mile. Special event parking available at the church on the left. Entrance to the house and handicap permit parking from Huntley Meadows Lane. ❖

Book & CD Sales

Peruse FOHH's stock of **used books** on American historic homes and architecture and local and regional Virginia history **and CDs** of classical music, sounds of nature, and childrens' interest at the HMP Visitor Center. Sales benefit Historic Huntley. Most books are priced at \$2; with CDs at \$3, two for \$5, or \$2 each for three or more. **To donate books or CDs,** contact Todi Carnes at todicarnes@verizon.net. ❖

Join Friends of Historic Huntley today!

Support Historic Huntley by joining this group of history- and historic preservation-minded people. Members receive the newsletter, an invitation to a members-only event, and 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*? _____

- \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$10 Student/Senior
 \$150 Lifetime Membership Additional donation _____
 New Member **Renewing Member** **Total enclosed** _____

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

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: Todi Carnes, President • Charles O. Davis, Vice President • Carolyn Gamble, Secretary • Jere Gibber, Treasurer • Erica Hershler, Publicity • Charlotte Brown • Peter Christensen • Harry Glasgow • Stephen F. Kimbel • Ann Linblom • Beth Swartz • Patty Young • Susan Escherich and Norma Hoffman, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • Connie Carpenter, FOHMP Representative • Bruce Dilks, Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church Representative

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Address changes:

Please send your mailing label with corrections to the address above or to FOHHuntley@aol.com.