



# Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Fall 2021

## Viewshed Maintenance Begins!

Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH) has been a **vocal advocate for maintaining the expansive, open vista of Historic Huntley's southern-facing viewshed**, testifying at public hearings against area development that would adversely impact the view. A major impact has been the growth of tall trees in Huntley's immediate foreground that now impede the panoramic view below the site.

For several years FOHH has worked to raise funds to restore and maintain the viewshed through selective tree removal. Thanks to all who have supported these efforts, FOHH was able to launch Phase One of its viewshed maintenance project. Both **Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church** and the **Huntley Meadows Homeowners Association** gave permission to remove the trees. On March 23, Jim Nelson's Woodlawn Tree Service arrived on site with heavy equipment, vehicles, and a crew ready to remove five trees. A sixth tree, an old cedar, was spared for now due to "historic" age, beauty, and a limited budget.

*See photographs of "before" and "after" on page 3.*

The tree removals not only opened up the southward views, but also greatly improved Historic Huntley's visibility to northbound travelers on Harrison Lane. ❖



*Dr. Dennis Pogue at the tenant house.*

## Tenant House and Privy Structures Reevaluated

At the invitation of FOHH, and with critical support from Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) staff, **Dr. Dennis Pogue**, an associate research professor with the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, came to visit Historic Huntley on April 29 and August 16.

When the tenant house was recently renovated, internal features were discovered indicating that it originally was a duplex. This suggested the possibility of housing for the enslaved. As co-founder of the **Virginia Slave Housing (VSH) Surveyed Buildings Database** hosted by the University of Maryland, Dr. Pogue was asked to evaluate this possibility. The VSH organizes information on the character of the domestic architecture of slavery in Virginia. <https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/special-projects/virginia-slave-housing/research/building-inventory>

Based on his site visits, he believes that the structure was a slave quarters. He also offered the possibility that the two end-rooms of the privy, long interpreted as storage rooms, were built as smokehouses. ❖

### *Save the Date!*

### *FOHH Annual Meeting*

### **Guest Speaker:**

### **Dr. Dennis Pogue**

**Saturday, October 30, 2:00 p.m.**

*Virtual meeting, free*

Join us for this presentation and 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 5.

A Zoom invitation will be sent to everyone we have an email listing for. If you are not already receiving FOHH news by email, please email [jgibber@aol.com](mailto:jgibber@aol.com) to be added to the list. ❖

### **Huntley-Related Web Sites**

[www.historichuntley.org](http://www.historichuntley.org)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley)

[www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

## President's Column

by Todi Carnes

FOHH has historically directed its energies towards hosting spring and fall events designed to draw substantial numbers of the general public to Historic Huntley. These events began before Huntley was restored, when the site was closed to the public except for FOHH's twice-a-year open houses.

This last year, of course, has not been a typical year. Certainly, it has not been a year for bringing people together in person. As a result, we postponed the previously planned Plein Air spring event until 2022. As for a fall event, since the property now is routinely open to the public, FOHH had cancelled the long-running open house tradition even before the pandemic, after having experimented with several different event formats.

With no fall event to plan for and the spring event on hiatus due to the pandemic, FOHH has directed its energies this year to drawing a more targeted visitor to Huntley: local experts and officials uniquely qualified to assist with the site's preservation, maintenance, and/or interpretation.

Accordingly, in this newsletter you will see accounts of visitors from the **University of Maryland, George Washington's Mount Vernon**, and the Lee District supervisor's office—**Supervisor Lusk** himself! Though these visits may involve small numbers of people, we believe their contributions will be large. We eagerly look forward to welcoming the general public back to Historic Huntley at next year's Plein Air event. In the meantime, we hope to continue sponsoring smaller, specialized visits. ❖

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## Newsletter Distribution Goes Digital

Due to the pandemic, the last edition of FOHH's newsletter, *Huntley Headlines* was distributed solely by email. This edition also is digital-only, as will likely be the case for future newsletters. Current and past issues of *Huntley Headlines* can be found on <http://historichuntley.org>. ❖



## Supervisor Lusk Visits

At FOHH's invitation, **Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk** visited **Historic Huntley** for the first time on July 7. He enjoyed a tea service prepared by FOHH Board Member **Patty Young** and received a site overview presentation from FCPA Historical Interpreter **Cheryl Repetti**. He visited a second time in mid-August to learn more. We hope to welcome him to Huntley often! Pictured from left to right: Cheryl Repetti, Patty Young, Todi Carnes, Supervisor Rodney Lusk, and Robbie McNeil. Photo by Deborah Claire.

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## Cultural Landscape Committee Established

Last spring FOHH established a **Lawncare Research Committee**. Since Historic Huntley's landscape includes terraces, a carriageway, and farm road, all of which are as historically significant as the villa and outbuildings, the committee has since been renamed the **Cultural Landscape Committee (CLC)**.

This past spring, the CLC invited **Director of Horticulture Dean Norton** and **Historic Garden and Landscape Manager Leslie Bird**, both of **George Washington's Mount Vernon**, to Huntley. Their visit focused on an examination of the terraces. Committee

members wanted to better understand their current condition and learn tips on how best to heal bare patches, remove and deter damaging invasive plants, and deal with burrowing woodchucks.

Until recently, the terraces have been overgrown and unmanaged during most of the year due to the challenge of maintaining them without the use of damaging, heavy equipment. This summer, FCPA contracted for monthly string trimming of the terraces.

The committee is **actively recruiting people to help preserve the terraces** and give them a more managed look. If you are interested in participating in this **hands-on volunteer project**, contact Carolyn Gamble at [carolynjgamble@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynjgamble@hotmail.com). ❖



**Historic Garden and Landscape Manager Leslie Bird**, **George Washington's Mount Vernon**, second from left, talks with FOHH Cultural Landscape Committee members and FCPA staff about terrace maintenance.

## Viewshed Maintenance

*Top: View from Huntley looking south; left, before; right, after.  
Below: View of Huntley looking north; left, before; right, after.*



## Summer Intern

Originally from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, **Colette Combs** is a rising junior at American University. This summer she has been assisting with summer camps at Historic Huntley. Colette has particularly enjoyed the mystery spy camp she helped design.

In addition, she has conducted historical research on the surrounding Fairfax area. Colette's passion to shine a light on previously ignored voices and stories in history has led to a fascination with LGBTQ+ history. Researching such a hidden community has proven to be a difficult but rewarding learning experience and a labor of love. ❖



## Book and CD Sales

FOHH's sales of used books and CDs at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center benefit Historic Huntley. Books focus on historic homes and architecture, and local and regional history. CD stock focuses on classical music and historical narratives. Most books are \$2 or \$3; CDs are \$3, two for \$5, or \$2 each for three or more. **To donate books or CDs, contact Todi Carnes at [todicarnes@verizon.net](mailto:todicarnes@verizon.net).** ❖

## Upcoming FCPA Programs

For more information and to register, call 703.222.4664 or go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes), click on **Find a Program**, and search by **Historic Huntley**, **program name**, or **code**.

### **The Art of Calligraphy** (12-Adult)

Mary Teichman says “calligraphy is a great antidote to modern life.” Explore the connection of Huntley’s past residents to the beautiful art of writing. Try your hand at a variety of pens and brushes. Supplies included. \$10

- September 28, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Code: YTX.UOVT
- November 7, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Code: YTX.U2AR

### **Enslaved Lives and the Legacy of Slavery** (Adults)

Join a historian for a tour of Historic Huntley that examines the relationship of the Mason family to slavery. Gain insight into the lives of the Humphrey family and other enslaved people whose labor maintained Mason wealth and social status. \$8

- September 28, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Code: BF1.ITX7
- November 10, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: BF1.OHSF

### **Epidemics of the Past** (14-Adult)

Disease has always shaped our history. Enjoy a healthy stroll up to a lovely view while we uncover why the Masons built a summer home upon a hill and how epidemics of the past shaped the society we live in today. \$8

- November 7, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: ZGS.7QZR
- December 10, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Code: ZGS.T9V9

### **Family Hilltop Outing** (5-Adult)

Join us for a family friendly tour of Historic Huntley high upon a hill. What significance does this villa have to one of our founding fathers? Hop back in time. Can you hold a block of ice with just one finger? Challenge yourself using historical tools like ice tongs. Learn to master old-time children’s games. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$8

- October 22, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Code: AN7.DK08
- November 13, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Code: AN7.BS8C

### **Huntley Speaks Architecture Tour** (16-Adult)

How does Historic Huntley’s architecture connect to America’s hard-won independence? Who designed it and for what purpose? Join a historical guide on a walking tour of this Federal-style villa and related outbuildings to discover how architecture from the past speaks to us today. \$8

- November 13, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Code: 093.E741

### **Mapping the Past for Homeschoolers** (7-13 yrs.)

Supplement your historical studies with a fun day of exploring, interpreting, and making maps. Try your hand at orienteering, learn about different types of maps from around the world, and take home a personalized map of your life. \$14

- October 5, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Code: C5B.D497
- December 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Code: C5B.OQH6

### **Play Like It’s 1935!** (5-Adult)

Join us for some good old fashion fun! Enjoy making a simple toy to take home and play games like the Alcorn children did when they moved to Huntley during the Great Depression. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$8

- September 18, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: 8AF.DCOH
- November 21, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: 8AF.ANTH
- November 2, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Code: 8AF.PBE6

### **Secrets, Spies, Sputnik and Huntley** (Adults)

Take a stroll with us on the less-visited side of the park to uncover the history of spies, espionage, and how the Cold War struggle between the United States and the USSR shaped Huntley and the Fairfax County we know today. Meets at South King’s Highway entrance. Includes a 2.4 mile walk over flat terrain. \$10

- September 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: F8B.ZJR5
- December 10, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: F8B.PFWQ
- November 17, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Code: F8B.HBK3

### **Twilight Hilltop Tour** (Adults)

Historic Huntley sits high upon a hill overlooking Hybla Valley and Huntley Meadows Park. It’s a dramatic setting made all the more stunning by the setting sun. Join us after hours for a special tour and see the house in a different light. Light refreshments served afterward. Dress appropriately for the weather. \$8

- September 26, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Code: D3E.UXXD
- November 22, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Code: D3E.HXT5
- October 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Code: D3E.VHEE
- December 5, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Code: D3E.50G5

### **The Women of Historic Huntley** (16-Adult)

A society matron, an enslaved wife and mother, a farmer’s daughter, a military wife. Historic Huntley has been home to some interesting women and has seen the lives of women change dramatically since the house was built in 1825. See Huntley from a refreshingly different view as we stroll the house and grounds. \$8

- October 18, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: F12.BP29
- November 21, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: F12.8WYU ❖

## 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

Questions? [info@HistoricHuntley.org](mailto:info@HistoricHuntley.org)

*Huntley Headlines* is produced by Friends of Historic Huntley, a local citizens group formed to preserve Historic Huntley and related cultural resources through advocacy and education.

**Board of Directors:** Todi Carnes, President • Robbie McNeil, Vice President • Carolyn Gamble, Secretary • Jere Gibber, Treasurer • Erica Hershler, Publicity • Charlotte Brown • Peter Christensen • Charles O. Davis • Stephen F. Kimbel • Patty Young • Susan Escherich, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • 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 [info@HistoricHuntley.org](mailto:info@HistoricHuntley.org).



## Historic Huntley House Tour

Enjoy southern Fairfax County's most scenic outlook at **Historic Huntley, the small house with a big view.** A Fairfax County Park Authority site, the property is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. **The grounds are open from dawn to dusk from March through November.**

**Register for Saturday tours at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon through October 30 at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley/hours-tour](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley/hours-tour).** To schedule a tour by appointment, call 703.768.2525.

*For more information: 703.768.2525, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley). ❖*

## Views of Huntley

Top: Tenant house.

Below: Privy.



## FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

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