

# Herndon Historical Society News

September 2013

## Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 p.m. September Meeting To Focus on W&OD History

David Guillaudeu, author of the recently published *Washington & Old Dominion Railroad (Images of Rail)* will be our speaker this month. Mr. Guillaudeu, a lifelong resident of the area, says he became interested in railroads at a very young age and—inspired by Herb Harwood's classic, *Rails to the Blue Ridge*—in 1965 walked the line from Falls Church to Leesburg. He began gathering the information for his book just a few years later.

Guillaudeu will share some of what he has learned, with a focus on the trials and tribulations associated with making do with scrounged materials and equipment on the always financially strapped line.

Please plan to join us in the Depot for this fascinating presentation. For additional information call 703-437-7289.

## Depot/Caboose Clean-up Scheduled for Saturday, September 7

The depot and caboose will receive a much needed fall cleaning on Saturday, September 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please stop by and help if you can. We'll provide the cleaning supplies. Questions? Call Carol Bruce at 703-437-7289.

## Grandparents Day, September 8

This year, the Herndon chapter of AARP will hold its second annual Grandparents Day celebration on Sunday, September 8, from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. It will be held in conjunction with the annual classic car show. Lots of activities are planned for the downtown area, and we will have both the Depot and the caboose open from noon until 3:00. Please stop by and share in the fun!

## Search Continues for Missing TC Minute Book

The book containing the Herndon Town Council minutes for the years 1886-1909 has been missing for years, but we continue to believe that this valuable record still exists somewhere in town. Could it possibly be sitting—long forgotten—in your attic or the back of an old storage cabinet? If you find it you can drop it off in the depot any Sunday between noon and 3:00 or at the service counter in the lobby of the Municipal Center. Questions? Call Carol Bruce at 703-437-7289.

## Recent Gift Provides a Look at Everyday Life on the *USS Herndon*



We recently received a very nice letter from Brian C. Fischer of Little Egg Harbor, NJ. His father, Joseph Fischer (pictured above) was the torpedo man aboard the *USS Herndon DD638* during World War II. He joined the ship shortly after the invasion of Normandy and was on board when the Japanese surrendered on the deck.

Along with the letter, Brian sent us a CD of the photographs his father took while on board the ship. These photos don't capture those well-documented historic moments such as the surrender ceremony. Rather, they provide a very interesting glimpse at what everyday life was like for the young men on board.

Next time you are in the depot feel free to take a look at them. The CD is in an album in the cabinet next to the door, and there is a CD player in our computer.

**Minutes of the Herndon Historical Society Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 22 May 2013**  
**Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon Virginia**

*NOTE: We included these minutes in the July newsletter, but since we will vote on them at our September meeting we are providing them again here for your convenience.*

Carol Bruce, President, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. There were 11 people in attendance, including our host for the evening. One additional person joined the group during the tour of the park.

**I. Approval of Minutes from the 23 January Meeting:** Minutes were approved unanimously on a motion made by Virginia Clarity with a second by Richard Downer.

**II. Treasurer's Report:** The ending balance on our May checking account statement was \$4,163.06, and our balance in our Community Foundation for Northern Virginia account for the period from 10/01/12 to 12/31/12 was \$5,355.88. Richard reported that he is updating our accounting records to QuickBooks. He also noted that he has been in contact with Grayson Hanes regarding the Society's 501C(3) application. In view of the current issues with the IRS, the process may be more complicated and may cost us some money.

**III. Old Business:** Richard reported that Mosby's Raid was a great success, including the sponsorships, the total of which ensured that there would be no cost to the Society. Sponsors included Pat and Steve Macintyre, owners of MEDA, who contributed \$2,500, and the Town contributed an equal amount in in-kind services from HPD and DPW. In addition, donations for the commemorative booklet resulted in a net of \$331.64.

**IV. New Business:** There was no new business.

**Announcements:** Carol announced that she has given tours to several scout troops recently, and the four sixth-grade classes from Herndon Elementary School are scheduled for their annual visit on June 5 and 7.

**Herndon Historical Society**  
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**Officers**

**Carol Bruce, *President***

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703-437-7289

**Virginia Clarity, *Vice President***

**Richard Downer, *Treasurer***

**Charlie Waddell, *Secretary***

**Board of Directors**

**Margaret Cyrus**

**Harlon Reece**

**Steve Sensabaugh**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on a motion made by Margaret Cyrus and seconded by Virginia Clarity, after which our host, Michelle Edwards—the historian and visitors services manager for Frying Pan Park—gave us a tour that included a visit to the Moffett Blacksmith Shop, the Kidwell Farmhouse, and some very cute baby animals.

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