

# Herndon Historical Society News

July 2011

Wednesday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m.

## Annual Potluck Picnic

Margaret and Ben Peck have once again invited us to have our annual picnic at their home in Floris. Please plan to bring a dish to share and join us for our annual summer get together. We will provide the drinks, plates, utensils, etc. As always, we will begin a half hour earlier than our regular meetings, at 7:00.

The Pecks are at 2701 Floris Lane. From Herndon, go straight on Elden Street onto Centerville Road. Go approximately 2 miles and turn left onto West Ox Road. Take the second right, onto Floris Lane. The Peck home is the first house on the left.

## Change in Meeting Schedule Approved

At our May meeting, Society members voted unanimously to approve the change in the Bylaws regarding our meeting schedule. Effective immediately, the Society will meet in January, May, July (annual picnic), and September. There will no longer be meetings in November and March.

## A Surprise Guest at the May Meeting...



*Laura Ratcliffe, in the person of reenactor Amy Beechler, made a surprise visit to the May meeting, at the invitation of our speaker, Chuck Mauro. Chuck talked about what he has learned since publishing his latest book, *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia, The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe.**

## Volunteers Still Needed

Members of the Society and other local volunteers have stepped up to staff the Museum each Sunday from noon - 3:00, and we have had many visitors each week.

Several weeks ago, we even had a young man come by who had driven up from the naval base in Norfolk, where he is stationed. His last name is Herndon, so he decided to take a day trip and learn more about the Town that bears his family name. It's experiences such as this that reinforce just how important it is for us to ensure that members of the public have regular, scheduled access to the Museum!

I am very gratified at the number of people who have volunteered to help out with this effort to date, but we need even more help. Currently, we need help on July 31, August 7, and September 11 and 25. If you haven't already done so (or if you would like to help out again) please contact me at 703-437-7289 or by email at [carolbrcom@aol.com](mailto:carolbrcom@aol.com).

—Carol Bruce

## We've Had Some Special Visitors!

Last month the Society hosted some 120 students—all four sixth grade classes—from Herndon Elementary School. The visit to the Museum, coupled with stops at Dairy Queen and Burger King, has become an annual end-of-the-year tradition at the school. From all reports the students had a great time while learning a little more about Herndon's history (although one young lady did say that she thought the eyes on the Commander Herndon mannequin were "creepy"). Many thanks to Richard Downer, who served as our lead tour guide!

**Minutes of the Herndon Historical Society Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 25 May 2011**  
**Herndon Depot, Herndon, Virginia**

Carol Bruce, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 15 persons in attendance including the speaker and Amy Beechler, a Laura Ratcliffe impressionist.

*I. Approval of Minutes from the March 2011 Meeting.* Minutes approved unanimously on a motion made by Barbara Glakas, with a second by Virginia Clarity.

*II. Treasurer's Report.* Carol Bruce presented the treasurer's report in the absence of HHS Treasurer Richard Downer. As of this date, Total Assets are \$8,935.50. This includes \$3,372.86 in the Society's checking/savings account, \$5,532.64 in the Northern Virginia Community Foundation HHS Fund and \$30 in petty cash. (Complete Treasurer's Report available upon request.)

*III. Old Business.*

Museum Sign. The Depot Museum sign is in bad shape. Carol contacted Cleve Wood and he is unable to assist with repairs. The options remaining are to patch the existing one or obtain a new one. A replacement would need to replicate the original sign. Barbara Glakas noted that Lynn Schumaker's husband was a woodworker and suggested we contact him to solicit help in obtaining a replacement sign.

Meeting Schedule. Carol Bruce said the advertising requirement had been satisfied and called for a vote to modify the meeting schedule so that HHS meets four times a year: January, May, July, and September. She noted that this change would require a 2/3s majority of members in attendance to effect the change. The motion to change the meeting schedule to four times a year was made by Virginia Clarity, with the motion being seconded by Barbara Glakas. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The change will take effect immediately.

Museum. Carol Bruce advised that Museum has been open on Sundays for the past several weeks and that volunteer docents were needed to staff the Museum on Sundays from noon till three. Carol also noted that there were several rubber grips missing from the bottoms of the chairs used in the Museum for meetings and replacements needed to be ordered.

Chuck Mauro advised the Society that he had donated a copy of the Flashbacks (a weekly panel in the *Washington Post* comic section) that featured the history of the Town of Herndon to the Society (Chuck owns the original artist's proof). Chuck also donated a copy of his DVD movie, *Mosby's Combat Operations*, to the Society.

Chuck Mauro advised the Society of Vienna Day, an event commemorating the history of the Town of Vienna, on 18 June. This event will include a re-enactment of the 17 June 1861 Battle of Vienna. On 17 May, at the Freeman House in Vienna, there was a re-enactment of the Secession Vote that occurred on the steps of the Freeman House in April 1861.

Annual Election. Tony DeBenedittis raised a question on the mechanics of the annual election ballot count. Carol Bruce advised that the voting was conducted by mail and that the mailed ballots were received and counted by Treasurer Richard Downer. A second count was later performed by Carol Bruce. Carol Bruce advised that the ballots could be made available to anyone who wanted to inspect them.

*IV. New Business.*

Coleman Cemetery. Barbara Glakas reported the need for a gate to be installed on the Coleman Cemetery behind Herndon Middle School. This action would need to be coordinated with the property manager for the Jefferson Mews Condo Association, which owns the land. The gate, once installed, would require access to the Coleman Cemetery through the grounds of Herndon Middle School.

Herndon High School Centennial. Barbara Glakas reported at there are plans for the 100th Anniversary of Herndon High School. Lisa Lombardozzi is the contact for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 on a motion by Charlie Waddell. This motion was seconded by Virginia Clarity with a unanimous vote, after which the Society enjoyed a program by Chuck Mauro, who talked about the additional information he has discovered about Laura Ratcliffe since he published his book, *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia, The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*. Following Chuck's presentation, Amy Beechler shared information about women's clothing conventions of the era.

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