

# *Herndon Historical Society News*

March 2011

*Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.*

## **This Forgotten Land**

Because our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, our program this month will be what was originally scheduled for January.

Our speaker, Don Hakenson, will tell us about his experiences researching his latest book, *This Forgotten Land, Volume II: Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans Buried in Alexandria, Virginia*. The book is his attempt to identify, record, and document the military histories of Alexandrians who served in the Confederate Army and Confederate Navy, and he uncovered the stories of many fascinating people in the course of his research.

Don is the past president of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and he has spent countless years researching obscure Civil War incidents in Fairfax County, especially those relating to John S. Mosby and his rangers. He received the 2001 Nan Netherton Award for *This Forgotten Land, Volume I*. He will have copies of his books available for purchase.

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## **Important Notice**

### **Change in Meeting Schedule Proposed**

*This discussion had been scheduled for our January meeting.*

It seems that, in this day and age, everyone is overbooked, over-scheduled, and attempting to accomplish more and more in an increasingly limited amount of time. In recognition of that reality, the Society's Board is proposing to revise the meeting schedule from our current six meetings a year (January, March, May, July (annual potluck), September, and November) to a more manageable quarterly plan. If approved, the Society will meet in January, May, July, and September.

This would require a change in the Society Bylaws. Any proposed changes must be announced one meeting in advance and must be approved by two-thirds of those voting at the next meeting. We will discuss the proposed change on the 23rd and will vote on it at our May meeting. If the change is approved, it will take effect immediately.

## **Please Renew Your Membership Dues Are Now Past Due**

To those of you who have renewed your membership for the year, thank you! To those of you who have not, please consider doing so today. If there is a red dot on your mailing label we have not received your dues for the year.

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## **Museum Access Restricted Visitors Center Closes**

The Herndon Dulles Visitors Center has closed its doors, at least temporarily, as its Board of Directors considers how to deal with serious funding shortfalls.

As many of you are aware, the Visitors Center has operated from the Depot for the last 10 years. It was open seven days a week, year round, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas, providing information on Herndon and the surrounding area to visitors and residents alike. The Visitors Center operation was important to the Society because it also allowed visitors to access the Depot Museum.

We are waiting to hear whether the Visitors Center will find a way to restructure and reopen. If this does not occur, the Society will need to devise a plan to ensure that the Museum is accessible to the public on some sort of regular schedule. We'll provide an update in the next edition of this newsletter. In the meanwhile we would welcome your suggestions.

—Carol Bruce

## ***You Can Support This Effort!*** **Liberty Tree Project Planned for Herndon**

Elm Research Institute is a 44-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration of the American elm tree. Since 1983, volunteers around the country have been nurturing a new, disease resistant American elm, the Liberty Elm. They've planted more than 300,000 of these trees in some 1,000 communities.

### ***History of the Liberty Tree***

The original Liberty Tree claimed a visible place in American history. In 1646, the people of Boston planted American elms on the narrow link of land between Boston and Roxbury known as Boston Neck. On August 14, 1765, two effigies swung from one of these elms in protest of the Stamp Act. The elm became known as the Liberty Tree, and for the next 10 years it bore silent witness to meetings, speeches, and celebrations. It often served as a rallying point for the Sons of Liberty. In August, 1775, as the British soldiers left Boston, they cut down this inspiring symbol of freedom. In 2009, the Liberty Tree Society was established. Its goal is to establish Liberty Tree Memorials in communities throughout the country.

### ***The Herndon Project***

Community Forester John Dudzinsky is working with local groups to raise the \$2,500 needed to support this effort in Herndon. The goal is to plant a 10-foot Liberty Tree next fall, possibly in conjunction with NatureFest. The Liberty Tree Society will provide the tree, along with a 20" x 12" bronze Liberty Tree plaque when 50 Herndon residents or businesses sign up for membership in the Society. Membership is \$50, and includes a 3-foot ready-to-plant Liberty Elm, a 5" x 5" bronze plaque, and a membership certificate. For more information about this program and to learn how you can participate contact John Dudzinsky at 703-435-6800, ext. 2014, or email [john.dudzinsky@herndon-va.gov](mailto:john.dudzinsky@herndon-va.gov).

## **Gas House Plaque Replaced**

As we reported in a previous newsletter, in the course of researching an article about the Detwiler brothers for an article in [herndon.patch.com](http://herndon.patch.com), we discovered a significant error in the information on the plaque mounted on the gas house. We ordered a new plaque with the correct information, and it has now been installed. Thank you to member Clete Wood for all his help with this effort!

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### **Officers**

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**Richard Downer, *Treasurer***

**Charlie Waddell, *Secretary***

### **Board of Directors**

**Margaret Cyrus**

**Harlon Reece**

**Steve Sensabaugh**

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