

Herndon Historical Society News

May 2013

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. Come Find Out What's New at Frying Pan Farm Park

We have a very special program planned for this month's meeting, which will be held at Frying Pan Farm Park. Michelle Edwards, the Park Historian and Visitor Services Manager, will lead us on an informal tour of the park—including the Moffett blacksmith shop that was relocated there from its original location in Herndon—and talk about what's new and what's in the planning stages. We'll meet in the Indoor Arena for a brief business meeting before the tour. In the event of rain, we'll meet in the Country Store.

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. For more information, contact Carol Bruce at carolbrcom@aol.com or call 703-437-7289.



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Mosby's Raid Reenactment a Rousing Success!

History repeated itself in downtown Herndon on Sunday, March 17, when Mosby's Raid on Herndon Station was reenacted on the 150th anniversary of the original event.

On that day in 1863, John Singleton Mosby and 40 of his rangers surprised and captured 25 members of the First Vermont Cavalry, including Major William Wells and three of his fellow officers.

Troopers from the First Vermont Cavalry were relaxing near the Depot and a nearby sawmill. Because Herndon and the surrounding area were supposed to be occupied exclusively by Union forces, when Mosby and his Rangers arrived at nearly the same time as a Union relief detachment was expected, the members of the First Vermont were taken completely by surprise, having mistaken the Rangers for Union troops. Mosby was somewhat surprised himself. "I could not imagine why such a number of men should be put there, except for the purpose of getting caught," he wrote later.

The reenactment—which featured members of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry Black Horse Troop—was sponsored by the Historical Society and the Herndon Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Town of Herndon and Herndon area businesses.

Many thanks go to Richard Downer and Chuck Mauro who produced this great event, and to all the reenactors who participated. The Historical Society also would like to thank Gary Mester of Written in Light Photography for allowing us to use his many wonderful photos.

Minutes of the Herndon Historical Society Meeting
Wednesday, 23 January 2013
Herndon Depot, Herndon Virginia

Carol Bruce, President, called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. There were 15 persons in attendance including numerous guests and the speaker.

I. Approval of Minutes from the 26 September 2012 Meeting: Minutes were approved unanimously on a motion made by Richard Downer with a second by Virginia Clarity.

II. Old Business:

Richard Downer reported that the Re-enactment of Mosby's 1863 Raid on Herndon was planned for Sunday 17 March 2013. There will be two re-enactments, the first at 11:00 a.m. and a second at 2:00. Richard will be in charge of logistics for the event. This event promises to be more authentic than last time according to Richard. Chuck Mauro will be the reenactor co-ordinator. Chuck has first-rate cavalry re-enactors committed to doing the event and the event details are falling into place according to Richard. Chuck has drafted a script for the participants and will furnish this to the spectators to assist them in understanding the event as it unfolds.

Al Robertson has agreed to rent his sound equipment for the event and Nachman's will be the command center. The events will be narrated as the reenactment takes place.

Carol Bruce advised that the Depot will be open and staffed to receive visitors during the Mosby's Raid re-enactment and volunteers are needed.

Carol Bruce announced the results of the 2013 election were uncontested. Officers for the year remain the same (Carol Bruce, President; Virginia Clarity, Vice President; Charlie Waddell, Secretary). [The Treasurer and at-large Board members serve three year terms]. Richard Downer moved to accept the ballot by acclamation. Chuck Mauro seconded the motion and the membership vote to elect the slate of officers for 2013 was unanimous.

Carol Bruce reported that the Caboose was open recently for two events; Grandparents' Day on Sunday, 9 September 2012 and on 8 and 9 December 2012 during the annual Model Railroad Show. During the December event, the Caboose was visited by over 500 people. Gary Rinker was one of the Caboose volunteers; he dressed as a railroad conductor.

III. New Business:

Richard Downer reported that he had recently given a lecture at the Great Falls library on the history of Herndon. Attending this event were a number of people who had attended Herndon High School. Richard opined that the memorial plaque at the Caboose was a fitting memorial to a man who possessed the vision to acquire The Caboose for Herndon. The Caboose is a very popular and iconic attraction. He has frequently observed many children playing on it and he appreciates how well it has been maintained by the Town of Herndon.

Herndon Historical Society
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Officers

Carol Bruce, *President*

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Virginia Clarity, *Vice President*

Richard Downer, *Treasurer*

Charlie Waddell, *Secretary*

Board of Directors

Margaret Cyrus

Harlon Reece

Steve Sensabaugh

Minutes. *From column 1.*

Carol Bruce introduced Michelle Edwards, the new curator at Fairfax County's Frying Pan Farm Park facility.

Announcements:

Harlon Reece announced that ArtSpace would stage an exhibit entitled "Beyond the Blue & Grey – The Virginia Home Front" during the month of March to coincide with the Mosby's Raid reenactment. ArtSpace was accumulating items for display and Harlon solicited the loan of any relevant items to the exhibit.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on a motion made by Charlie Waddell and seconded by Elma Mankin, after which the members enjoyed a presentation by Richard Downer entitled, "A Trip Back in Time : A History of the Herndon Historical Society."

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