

Herndon Historical Society News

May 2011

Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Laura Ratcliffe—Herndon's Own Southern Spy

Former Society president Chuck Mauro will be our speaker for this month's meeting. Chuck will share details about the additional information that he has discovered about Laura Ratcliffe since he published his book, *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia, The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*—including one discovery that will almost bring Laura to life! Mark your calendars now and plan to come learn more about Herndon's own southern spy!

In addition to *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia*, Chuck is the author of *Herndon: A Town and Its History* and *Herndon: A History in Images*. He plans to have copies of all three books available for purchase.

Important Notice

Change in Meeting Schedule To Be Voted on This Month

As we reported in our last two newsletters, 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 discussed the proposed change at our March 23 meeting and will vote on it at our meeting on May 25. If the change is approved, it will take effect immediately.

Please Renew Your Membership We Don't Want to Say Goodbye!

To those of you who have renewed your membership for the year, thank you! To those of you who have not, this will be your last issue of the newsletter and your name will be removed from our membership list unless we hear from you soon. If there is a red dot on your mailing label please renew now so we don't have to say goodbye!

Visitors Center Closes Volunteers Needed

As many of you are aware, the Visitors Center that operated from the Depot for the last 10 years, providing daily access to the museum, has now closed its doors for good. This means it is up to the Society to ensure that the museum is accessible to the public on a regular basis.

The schedule we have agreed to is to open the museum every Sunday from noon-3:00. And that means we need help—lots of help.

We will need two volunteers each week. We are covered through the end of June, but need volunteers each Sunday from July on. 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. It's a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

—Carol Bruce

Check Us Out Online

Society's Patch.com Column Continues

Beginning last September with the launch of *HerndonPatch*, this great local e-newsletter has featured a Herndon history column every other week. We've covered an array of topics including the Herndon caboose, the aftermath of the Civil War in Herndon, the Coleman family cemetery, Herndon's Sears houses, the Great Fire of 1917, and more. If you haven't seen them, go to:

<http://herndon.patch.com/columns/remembering-herndons-history>

And, if you have an idea for a column or would like to contribute one, contact Carol Bruce.

Historic Registry Plaque #2

Herndon's First Public School



The original section of the structure at 725 Center Street was built in 1868. The Herndon School Association operated "a Public School for the diffusion of knowledge among the progeny of men regardless of any particular religious faith" at the site until 1875, when it became part of the County's Dranesville District School System. Fairfax County decided that the site was inadequate in about 1910, and bought land on Locust Street to build a new school. The structure was subsequently converted to a private residence and it remains such today. You can find photos and information about all the properties on the plaque registry on our website, www.herndonhistoricalsociety.org

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