

# Herndon Historical Society News

July 2013

## Wednesday, July 24, 7:00 p.m. It's Time for Our Annual Potluck!

This year, Harlon and Midge Reece have offered to host our annual potluck. Please plan to join us and bring a dish to share. We will provide the drinks, plates, utensils, etc. As always, we will begin a half hour earlier than our regular meeting time, at 7:00.

The Reece's home is located in the center of Herndon, at 905 Elden Street. It's the big white house at the corner of Elden and School Streets. Parking is available on School Street and across Locust Street at Herndon Middle School.

And, speaking of the potluck: Did anyone happen to come home from last year's event with the wrong serving spoon? Margaret Peck reports that she is missing a silver tablespoon in the Gorham Chantilly pattern. If you have it, please contact Margaret or call Carol Bruce at 703-437-7289.

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## Check Out the New Museum Display Signs

Next time you visit the Depot be sure to look at the new, very informative signage that is in place. Thanks go to Barbara Glakas, who has spent hours researching and creating those very attractive signs.

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## Annual Sixth Grade Visit

Last month we hosted some 120 students—all four sixth grade classes—from Herndon Elementary School. The visit to the museum, coupled with stops at Burger King and Dairy Queen, 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.

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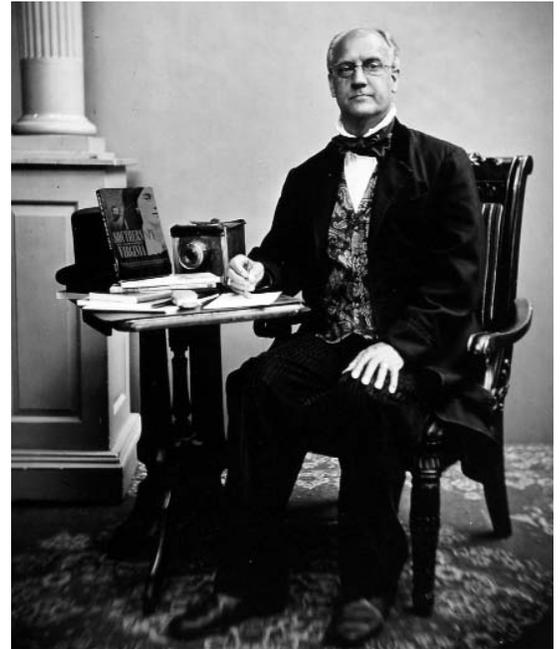
## Grandparents Day, September 8

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. We will have both the Depot and the caboose open from noon until 3:00, and we will be putting out a call for volunteers soon.

## A Trip Back in Time. Sort of...

by Chuck Mauro



OK, my birthday is not the point, but I wanted to do something special for my 60th. I had long thought about having an authentic Civil War picture taken, and I finally figured out how I wanted it done.

I had been in Gettysburg a couple of years ago when I came across Rob Gibson's Photographic Gallery. Being one of the best known photographers using period cameras and techniques, I walked in. Rob was in the process of taking a picture of a gentleman dressed as a World War I soldier. He very cordially invited me to stay and then proceeded to explain everything he was doing as I watched. I was hooked!

Now I've seen lots of folks get their pictures taken in soldier's outfits, but that's not me. I was never in the military so I don't have that in my background. But having written a number of books and movies on the Civil War, and done my own photography, it dawned on me I should have my picture taken as a writer and photographer. If I had lived during the war, perhaps that's what I would have done.

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

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.

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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**A Trip Back in Time. From page 1.**

My idea was to have my picture taken dressed in period attire while sitting in a writing pose, with all of my books, movies, and camera on a desk to blend the current and period aspects. The first thing I did was look online for a period pen or pencil. I bought a pencil for \$6. Then I made the appointment. I took the pencil, all my publications, my camera, and an 1863 pocket watch I already had.

Rob's wife, Dee, helps run the gallery. The first thing was to describe to her my concept of being a writer and photographer. The discussion centered on being a gentleman who could afford to visit a photographic studio at the time.

So she took me to the wardrobe room and picked out a white shirt, pants, vest, tie, shoes, and coat. The pants and coat were heavy wool; I don't know how they wore this stuff. After I got dressed she tied the tie, which went down under the vest and pulled the collar down over it. Rob took a look and decided I need-

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**Richard Downer, *Treasurer***

**Charlie Waddell, *Secretary***

**Board of Directors**

**Margaret Cyrus**

**Harlon Reece**

**Steve Sensabaugh**

ed to be higher class and pulled the collar up and tied a bow tie.

I showed him all the stuff I brought so he brought a chair and table into the studio. He put a top hat on the table and propped up one book that had contrast on the cover so it would show up well in the picture.

My pocket watch was laid on the table in front of the books, and he brought in a piece his stationary for me to write on.

I had decided on a tintype as opposed to a glass negative. When all was ready, he put the light proof box into the camera and the photo was taken by taking the lens cover off for 15 seconds. I was allowed to breathe and blink but not move otherwise

I learned a lot about period clothing and photography and fulfilled my wish to be a Civil War writer and photographer. I can't wait to think of another reason to go back and do it again!

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