

Herndon Historical Society News

May 2010

Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Depot Herndon in the Comics!

The speaker for our May meeting will be local author and photographer Chuck Mauro. Chuck is a member and former president of the Herndon Historical Society. His topic has the unlikely title of “Herndon in the Comics.”

On December 9 and 16, 2009, “Flashbacks,” in the Comics section of the *Washington Post*, presented a two-part story about the naming of the Town of Herndon. This was based in part on Chuck’s two books, *Herndon: A Town and Its History*, and *Herndon: A History in Images*.

While the comics portrayed the naming of the village of Herndon correctly, there was an interesting introduction based on the origin of Captain Herndon’s ship, the *S.S. Central America*. Chuck will discuss this aspect of the story as well as an unpublished account of the naming of Herndon.

He also will bring the original “Flashbacks” artwork and will explain how the coloring of comic strips is accomplished today. We hope that you will plan to come hear and see this unique and colorful story of Herndon’s history!

A Few Activity Updates

Museum Collections

Carol Bruce and Virginia Clarity recently spent several hours in the Depot sorting through the items stored in the small closet in the freight room. That closet has for the past several years been overflowing with all kinds of items, leading last summer’s evaluation team from the Virginia Association of Museums to recommend that the Society consider utilizing some off-site storage.

What we discovered was that the closet was in desperate need of a serious spring cleaning! There is now plenty of space in the closet, and we no longer feel there is any need to move any items off site.

HHS Website

A big thank you to Board member Steve Sensabaugh, who has volunteered to take the lead on upgrading the Society website. As any of you who have visited it know, it is woefully inadequate. We also have a wonderful volunteer in the person of Thomas Jefferson High School student Philip Meyers, son of Society members Laurie and Alan Meyers. With his help we hope to expand the content and capabilities of our site during the upcoming months. Some of the resources on the upgraded site will include a walking tour of houses on the Historic Registry and information about the Green Photo Collection.

Another New Book Added to the Society’s Library

A belated thank you to our January speaker, local journalist and author Gregg MacDonald for donating a copy of the book, *Words at War: The Civil War and American Journalism* to the Society library. The book analyzes the various ways in which the nation’s newspaper editors, reporters, and war correspondents covered the Civil War and in doing so reflected and shaped the opinions of their readers. Gregg is the author of the chapter entitled, “William Cullen Bryant’s 30-Year Crusade Against Slavery.”

If you would like to borrow it (or any of the other books in our collection), please contact me at 703-437-7289 or send an email to carolbrcom@aol.com.

– Carol Bruce



Recent Contribution

The Society recently received a generous contribution in memory of Mary Alice Wheeler (Falcone) Fitzgerald, who passed away last December. Mary lived in Herndon for a number of years—we assume in this small house on Pine Street that is now home to the Brush Strokes salon. This early photo, which accompanied the contribution, was labeled “The Wheeler House.”

**Minutes of the Herndon Historical Society Meeting
Wednesday – 24 March 2010 • Herndon Depot, Herndon Virginia**

Carol Bruce, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. There were nine persons in attendance including the guest speaker.

I. Approval of Minutes from the 27 January 2010 Meeting: Minutes approved unanimously on a motion made by Virginia Clarity with a second by Kate Fisher.

II. Treasurer's Report: Richard Downer presented the Treasurer's report. As of this date, total assets are \$10,145.96. This includes \$4,486.25 in the Society's checking/savings account, \$5,629.71 in the Northern Virginia Community Foundation-HHS fund, and \$30 in petty cash. Other assets include \$25 in the gas house fund and \$3,304.53 in funds from the former Homes Tour Committee, which is reserved for the purchase of plaques for structures added to the Historic Registry. [Complete Treasurer's Report available upon request.]

III. Old Business: Carol Bruce reported that, because of the snowfall in January, she and Virginia Clarity have not yet been able to complete the survey of items in storage in the Depot that might be moved to off site storage. She noted that they plan to do this in the near future.

IV. New Business: There was no new business.

Announcements: Carol Bruce noted that dues for the 2010 membership year are now due. She also talked about the new addition to the Society's library, *The Mouse's Tail Is Gone*, donated to the Society by Elizabeth Haley. Carol said it is a quick read (20-30 minutes), and encouraged members to read it when they are in the depot and have a little extra time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., after which the members enjoyed a highly entertaining presentation by Marc Leepson, author of *Desperate Engagement: How a Little Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington DC*.

Herndon Historical Society



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Officers

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