

# Herndon Historical Society News

January 2014

*Wednesday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.*

## This Month's Meeting to Focus on the County's Historic Cemeteries

Mary Lipsey, a member of the Fairfax County History Commission and president of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, will be our speaker this month.

According to Lipsey, there are more than 400 cemeteries in the county, of which 75% are family cemeteries. Some of them are well-maintained and others—like the Coleman family cemetery here in Herndon—are so overgrown that they are not recognizable. During the past five years the Cemetery Preservation Association has worked with scouts and interested community residents to clean up more than 30 of these sites. The group also has compiled a database that includes the service records and burial locations of more than 400 Civil War soldiers who are buried in the county. Lipsey will tell us about some of these cemeteries and about the work the Preservation Association has done to help preserve them.

You won't want to miss what promises to be a most interesting program—one that I hope also will spark interest in a renewed effort to clean up the Coleman plot. If you would like to see what it looks like today, it is located on Jefferson Mews Condominium Association property, just east of the tennis courts behind Herndon Middle School. The cemetery is overgrown with poison ivy and is surrounded by a chain link fence and no grave markers are currently visible.

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## It's Time to Vote—and to Renew Your Membership!

It's time to elect officers for the coming year, and your ballot accompanies this newsletter.

Please be sure to fill out the membership form at the top of the sheet and enclose your dues payment along with your ballot. (Life members and members who joined in August or later this year need only to sign the membership form.)

Please return via mail **no later than Tuesday, January 14**. The new officers will be announced at the meeting and will take office immediately following the meeting.

## Recent Depot Visitors

One of the things I have enjoyed the most during my tenure as Society president has been hosting the many groups of young people who have come to tour the Depot. There have been Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and—each spring—all four sixth grade classes from Herndon Elementary School.

It's always fun to see their reactions as the kids view the items in the museum. I have especially enjoyed hosting the littlest ones, like the troop of seven Daisy Scouts—kindergartners from Clearview Elementary School—who visited recently. You just never know what they will say or what they will ask.

Here's an example. I had just explained that the stationmaster was the person who was in charge of the depot and who made sure people got their tickets and got on the train.

**Daisy Scout** (*after taking a quick look around the stationmaster's office*):

He isn't here.

**Me:** He's gone.

**Daisy Scout:** When did he leave?

**Me:** A long time ago.

**Daisy Scout:** Is he coming back?

**Me:** No.

**Daisy Scout:** Where did he go?

**Me** (*not knowing quite what to say*):  
Heaven.

**Daisy Scout** (*after a brief pause*): Oh.

It's also never quite clear how much of what I tell them sinks in. These girls were there to fulfill one of the requirements for earning their Herndon patch, which is to visit the Depot and learn how the town got its name. At the end of the tour, the troop leader asked the girls who could tell her Captain Herndon's first name. Without hesitation, two of them responded in unison, "Virginia."

**Minutes of the Herndon Historical Society Meeting  
Wednesday, 25 September 2013  
Herndon Depot, Herndon Virginia**

Carol Bruce, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. There were 11 people in attendance, in addition to our speaker.

**I. Approval of the Minutes from the May 22 Meeting:** Minutes were approved unanimously on a motion made by Virginia Clarity with a second by Brian Gilleran.

**II: Treasurer's Report:** There was no treasurer's report as our treasurer, Richard Downer, was not in attendance.

**III. September 18 Board Meeting Items:**

(a) Depot exterior. Carol Bruce reported that she has followed up with Public Works Director Bob Boxer regarding the deterioration of the depot exterior. DPW staff has met and they expect a report/estimates on next steps within the next week. DPW will keep the Society in the loop as to the progress of this effort.

(b) Steve Sensabaugh has obtained prices for replacing the albums that contain the Green Photo Collection, which have bad water stains on them and the Board will move forward with replacing them.

(c) Carol reported that the Society plans to issue a call for historic photos from Herndon residents to augment what we already have. She also noted that she received a call from a woman who has photos that she rescued from an old house in her neighborhood that was slated for demolition. She plans to drop them off at the depot this coming Sunday so we can review them.

**IV. Other Business:**

(a) Carol reported that the Society plans to work with local media to get the word out about the Town Council minute book from 1886-1909, which has been missing for an estimated 50 years. The Society last tried to assist in locating this item in 1988; this time we have photos that show what the old minute books look like. Carol said that, while this is a long shot, it's worth another effort to try and recover this book.

(b) Elections will be held in January. Open this year are the seats for president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. The three remaining board members all serve three-year terms and all have one year remaining on their terms.

**V. Announcements:**

(a) Carol announced that she will be putting out another call for volunteers to staff the depot on Sunday afternoons. She also noted that the Annual Holiday Train Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15. Both the depot and the caboose will be open during the event, and volunteers will be needed for this event as well.

**Herndon Historical Society**

**Post Office Box 99**

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**[www.herndonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.herndonhistoricalsociety.org)**

**Officers**

Carol Bruce, *President*

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703-437-7289

Virginia Clarity, *Vice President*

Richard Downer, *Treasurer*

Charlie Waddell, *Secretary*

**Board of Directors**

Margaret Cyrus

Harlon Reece

Steve Sensabaugh

(b) The arrowhead collection in the display case has been augmented. Herndon resident Dave Swan, who has an interest in archeology and especially Native American artifacts, recently looked through the arrowheads donated some years ago by Duane Atkinson and organized and added to what has been on display. He sorted them by date and type and provided a write-up about the collection as well as a key to information about each arrowhead.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on a motion made by Brian Gilleran and seconded by Beverly Harris, after which members enjoyed a presentation by David Guillaudeau, author of the recently published book, *Washington & Old Dominion Railroad (Images of Rail)*.

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Herndon Historical Society  
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