

Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.

November- December
2004



Left to right: (From HFFI): Mary Ellen Wheeler, Mari Lucey, Tom Hart. (From the Ladies Memorial Association): Sue Lang, Barbara Crookshanks, Betty Stephens

HFFI DONATION TO REPAIR CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

In a brief ceremony October 27, the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation presented a check for \$6,131.61 to the Ladies Memorial Association to help rebuild the wall of the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery, which was damaged by Hurricane Isabel in August 2003.

The check was presented by HFFI Executive Director Thomas Hart to Ladies Memorial Association Treasurer Susan Lang. "We are delighted to fulfill Historic Fredericksburg Foundation's commitment to donate fifteen percent of the proceeds of the 2003 Candlelight Tour to this important project" Hart commented.

The Ladies Memorial Association was also represented by their president, Barbara Crookshanks, and secretary, Betty Stephens. HFFI Directors Mary Ellen Wheeler and Mari Lucey also attended.

Mrs. Crookshanks noted that the Association has succeeded in raising private funds to match the City of Fredericksburg's contribution, for a total of over \$70,000. She pointed out that Historic Fredericksburg Foundation was the first organization to pledge support to help rebuild the wall.

Organized on May 10, 1866, the Ladies' Memorial Association of Fredericksburg established, owns and maintains the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery. The Association cares for the graves and honors those Confederate soldiers who died in this area's four battles of the War Between the States.

The Cemetery was dedicated in May 1870 to 3,553 men from 14 states who were reinterred here – including five Confederate Generals. The cemetery wall was

Foundation to Hire Expert to Review Historic District Ordinance

At their November 17 meeting, the HFFI Board of Directors resolved to hire an expert consultant to study the Historic District Ordinance and related procedures and to make recommendations to the foundation and the city government.

The action come in the wake of City Council comments on the problematic question of 'standing' of historic district residents to appeal Architectural Review Board decisions, which is not defined clearly in the present ordinance.

"We want to partner with the city and provide expertise as they consider such changes" said HFFI President Carter Hudgins. "There are a number of issues to look at besides standing."

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THE USS MONITOR, PRESERVED!

A photo gallery from the HFFI Field Trip

HFFI members traveled by bus to the Mariner's Museum in Newport News on September 25 to view the artifacts salvaged from the USS Monitor in 2002. The Monitor engaged the CSS Virginia (constructed from the USS Merrimack) in the famous first engagement of ironclads at Hampton Roads on March 8, 1862. These photos were taken by HFFI member and talented photographer Dave Silberman.



The 20-foot diameter turret -- the first turret on any warship -- sits upside-down in a constant bath of water and preserving fluids to leach out damaging salts from the iron.



The bronze propeller is in excellent condition, and surprisingly large at nine feet high.



Objects on display range from the two huge Dahlgren guns in their preserving baths (above) to a perfect butter dish (below).



Tour guide Al Mitchell, dressed in period costume of a Union seaman, explains a model of the Monitor's steam powerplant to HFFI members Stew Engle and Tom Crimmons. The actual engine has been recovered, and will be displayed when conservation is complete.



Christmas Candlelight Tour Preview

34th Event Set For Dec. 11, 12

Excitement is building for HFFI's 34th Christmas Candlelight Tour, with tickets and ornaments now on sale at the HFFI office at 604a William St. (cash, check, or credit card) and at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania visitor centers (cash or check only). Here is an excerpt from the tour booklet:

"Is it old, or is it new?" is only one of the frequent comments about 701 Hanover Street. In fact it was built in 1930, but carries associations to two early Fredericksburg preservation leaders, Robert B. Payne and Ellen Knox.



The 2004 Candlelight Tour features 701 Hanover Street, once owned by Ellen Knox, a founding member of Historic Fredericksburg Foundation. Knox also saved the kitchen dependency of the First National Bank in 1955, reassembling it at the intersection of Princess Anne St. and Route 1 (now housing an insurance company).



The 2004 HFFI Christmas Ornament

The house at was completed in January 1930 for Mary Humphries and her daughter Eva Heckman, who were the first occupants.

The reason there are so many interesting details to notice about 701 Hanover Street can be directly attributed to its builder, Robert Beverley Payne.

Although also a businessman and coal supplier, he moved historic buildings in Fredericksburg and built many new ones, using old brick and salvaged

(continued in the Tour Booklet!)

"TREASURES AND TREATS" AUCTION A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Over \$13,000 was raised for historic preservation by nearly a hundred participants who crowded the floor of the LibertyTown Art Center on October 16 at the annual HFFI fall auction.

With wonderful hors-d'oeuvres and an open bar, the event was a social as well as financial success. Over a hundred objects ranged from fine art and antiques to meals and tours. Auctioneer Charles Nicholls was tremendously entertaining and a genius at raising bids from the elegant crowd.

Auction Chair Mari Lucey worked indefatigably to organize donations, volunteers, booklets, and food. The foundation owes a special thanks to board member Dan Finnegan, who allowed us to use the LibertyTown premises.



Blair Mitchell was high bidder for this Clay Jones cartoon on historic preservation

HFFI ATTENDS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MEETING

The National Preservation Conference in Louisville Sept. 28 - Oct. 3 was attended by HFFI Executive Director Tom Hart.

The Louisville conference, organized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was attended by some 1800 preservationists from every state.

The principal challenge in this conference is choosing which of the dozens of lectures, tours, and other events to attend.

National Trust President Dick Moe highlighted a year of success, including acquisition of Mies Van der Rohe's Farnsworth House.

The keynote speaker, novelist-philosopher Wendell Berry, projected a wistful, romantic conservatism, while Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institute was much more hard nosed in analyzing



B.H. Latrobe's Pope Villa, Lexington KY

suburban sprawl. He is a speaker HFFI will try to recruit.

MWU professor Brown Morton critiqued the controversial restoration of James Madison's Montpelier, where the hundred-year old Dupont mansion is being torn away to reveal the 200-year old Madison home inside.

A presentation on the 'Lincoln Cottage' – the Camp David of its day - has resulted in contacts for a spring member tour of the closed site.

Tours included an African-American hamlet, a hospital by Washington Monument architect Robert Mills, and Henry Clay's home.

HFFI LECTURE: PRESERVATION IN KENYA

On October 26 the slide and powerpoint lecture "Gazetting in Kenya" was presented by Tom Hart at the Fredericksburg Visitor center. The small audience saw the challenges of corruption and lack of resources in a third-world country trying to protect human fossils, Swahili ruined cities, and colonial architecture.

Based on Hart's MA research, the slide presentation is available for other groups – reach him at HFFI.



The Vasco Da Gama Pillar, Malindi, Kenya, erected by the explorer in 1498 and now a protected national site.

Mark Your Calendars...

December 11&12 – 34th Annual Candlelight Tour.

January - TBA - Conference on Secretary of Interior's Standards for US historic properties – by their author, Dr. Brown Morton.

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