

HISTORIC VIENNA INK

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HVI Spring Membership Meeting

“Home Front and the Great War”

The Spring Membership meeting of Historic Vienna, Inc. will be held on *Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30PM in the Town Council Chamber of Vienna’s Town Hall, 127 Center Street, South.* There will be a brief business meeting before the program, and this year’s Heritage Preservation Award will be announced.

In commemoration of the centennial of America's involvement in World War I, the program will be the *“Home Front and the Great War”*, presented by Mike Berger and Jon Vrana. They will provide a glimpse into the Great War in Europe and the Vienna area’s involvement to support the war on the home front. Mike and Jon are both historians with a strong focus on military history, HVI Board Members, and designers of the exhibit.

The HVI Membership meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

HVI Spring Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, March 20
7:30 PM**

**Council Chamber
Vienna Town Hall
127 Center St. South**

**Speakers:
Jon Vrana and Mike Berger**

Freeman Store Book Cellar

Welcomes Back all Used Book Lovers!

Stop by and enjoy shopping for used books on March 1 when the Freeman Store reopens. During January and February, books have been resorted, walls have been repainted, and bookshelves have been stocked with plenty of enticing titles. Our March special will include **20% off philosophy, metaphysical, religious, and spiritual books.**

Members of the HVI Board welcome volunteers to unpack books, sort, and search for more valuable books to highlight. Used book donations are always welcome, with the exception of textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, and romance novels. Please pack clean books in boxes or paper bags and deliver to the Store anytime. Store hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 12 to 4. Children’s books are particularly popular.

Volunteers may contact the store at 703-938-5187 to offer to volunteer. Your Book donations and volunteer support are greatly appreciated and fund Historic Vienna programs.

*Upstairs Museum Exhibit
“Home Front and the Great War”*

*Hallway Museum Exhibit
“The Women’s Rights Movement
through Cartoons”*

***Please join us for the Exhibits’ Opening
Reception Sunday, March 4, 2-4PM***

Membership renewals are due for 2018 now!

*You may use the form on the back to renew your membership
and volunteer to help us preserve history.*

Inside this Issue

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From the Museum Committee

“Home Front and the Great War”

The upstairs museum exhibit, *Home Front and the Great War*, commemorates the centennial of the United States involvement in World War I.

The exhibit will orient visitors on the basics of the Great War, but will focus on the more personal aspects, including correspondence between home and soldier; music and films about the war; victory gardens and liberty bonds; illness, injury, death, and the American Red Cross; and trench warfare. Attention will be given to Vienna residents others who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure liberty.

“Women’s Rights through Cartoons”

The hallway museum exhibit, *“Women’s Rights through Cartoons”*, is the third in the five-year series of exhibits chronicling the struggle for women’s rights. The exhibit features more than 50 political cartoons and images collected from newspapers, postcards, and other publications from the 1850s onward that made a statement about what people were really thinking about at the time. The cartoons focus on the right to vote as well as other women’s rights for which Elizabeth Cady Stanton fought, including rights related to parental custody, property ownership, employment and income, divorce, economic health of the family, and birth control.

The previous exhibits, *The Origins of the Women’s Rights Movement* and *The Women’s Rights Movement in 1917*, can be viewed on our website, www.historicviennainc.org in pdf format.



A World War I War Garden Returns to Vienna

James Montgomery Flagg also created this “Sow the Seeds of Victory” poster and was among many who featured clever phrases and colorful posters to encourage Americans to use their home gardens to cultivate food, needed for the War effort. It was Charles Lathrop Pack who had the brilliant idea to create War Gardens. In turn preserving of garden products was strongly encouraged, and by 1918 canned vegetables and fruits tripled from the

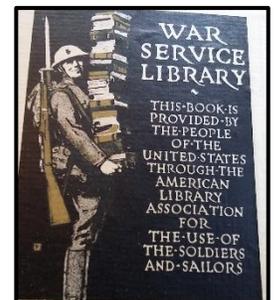
previous year, totaling 1,450,000,000 quarts put up. Children were also encouraged to be thrifty, industrious, serve others, show patriotism and responsibility as part of the U.S. School Garden Campaign. After the War ended, the Victory Gardens continued to be cultivated mainly for personal use. Excess harvests from farmlands could then be sent to Europe’s needy. After the armistice, these War Gardens were called Victory Gardens to support the food needs after the end of the war.

We Want You to Sow the Seeds of Victory in Vienna - Seeking Gardeners of All Ages

Historic Vienna invites all interested gardeners to join us in creating and planting a Vienna War Garden on the Freeman Store and Museum grounds. A planning meeting is scheduled for March 17, 10AM at the Freeman Store and Museum. Contact Nancy Moats, smoats5555@aol.com with questions and to volunteer.

Library War Service

The Library War Service was established by the American Library Association in 1917 to provide library service to American soldiers in camps and serving overseas in World War I. Vienna’s Little Library which celebrated 120 years in 2017 was serving the Vienna Virginia community during World War I. There are books in the library collection from that era. Many of these are children’s books with beautiful illustrations. There is at least one book that was donated to the Little Library with the Library War Service project illustration pasted in the book. Come visit Vienna’s Little Library on the 1st Sunday of the month March through December from 1 to 4 p.m. (closed Easter Sunday April 1). This museum is also open during special events scheduled through HVI. We are always looking for volunteer docents. If interested please contact Margaret Dellinger at vamember@aol.com or contact the Freeman Store 703 938 5187.



Service and Name Change: Vienna and the Great War

Vienna had a small but important part in the Great War (as World War I was known at the time) sending 73 of its young men to serve. Of that number, four died in the

service including Thomas Brady, George Dyer, Charles Gunnell and Raymond Harris. American Legion Post 180 on Center Street North is named for Dyer and Gunnell.

The War impacted communities in many ways. According to the Alexandria Gazette of May 2, 1917, page 2:

“So surely did the matter weigh on the mind of Charles E. Babcock, member of Vienna’s Town Council, that he asked the Governor if he couldn’t change the name of the town by executive order. Attorney-General Pollard, however, has advised Governor Stuart that he has no such authority. The Legislature chartered the town as Vienna, at the request of its citizens, and only the Legislature can rebaptize it.”

“Fairfax County’s cup of bitterness, however, is shared by fifteen other American towns which are listed in the Postal Guide as Vienna. Perhaps the disgrace is not so overt as in the case of the twenty-five towns and cities that go by the name of Berlin, nor so deep as that of the twenty towns that struggle along under the name of Hamburg.”

“Reference to the Postal Guide discloses the embarrassing fact that in the United States there are no less than nine Dresdens, four Colognes – one in King and Queen County – thirteen Germantowns, seven Germanias, to say nothing of various and sundry Leipzigs, Kiels, and Potsdams. After all, Vienna, Va., has it all over Bismark, N.D.”

Things you probably don't know about Vienna...

Two Men From Vienna Who Died in WW1 Honored by the American Legion

The Dyer-Gunnell American Legion Post 180 on Center Street in Vienna is named for these two American soldiers who lived in Vienna.

George Bryant Dyer

George Bryant Dyer was born in his family home in Vienna on December 19, 1895. On November 6, 1917, Dyer enlisted in the Army. At Camp Lee, VA he became a member of the 80th “Blue Ridge” Division, and, as a Corporal, arrived in Brest, France on May 30, 1918.

In October, after months of training in France, the Division was assembled as part of nine American Divisions in the vicinity of the Argonne Forest. American forces advanced for eight days toward the formidable German Hindenberg Line, described by one soldier as having “a machine gun behind every tree.”

On the morning of October 5, they attacked again. Losses after a daylong battle were heavy, but at dusk they had succeeded in breaching the major portion of the Hindenberg Line.

Sometime during the day Corporal Dyer was killed in action.

Clarence Lieth Gunnell

Clarence Lieth Gunnell was born in his family home in Vienna on June 24, 1892. Sometime in 1918 Gunnell answered the call for men with construction experience and was recruited into D Company of the 54th Pioneer Infantry as a Private (Pioneer Infantry are now known as Combat Engineers). Gunnell and his unit arrived in Brest, France on September 12, 1918. He was the only Virginian in the unit of six officers and 250 enlisted men. Most of the others were from Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

Traveling by boxcar (the famous 40 & 8’s), the unit arrived in Fleurg Woods on September 24, then moved 15 kilometers through the cold and rain to Clermont Woods where they were allowed a few hours sleep.

The next morning Private Gunnell was unable to stand muster due to a severe respiratory infection (likely influenza) and he was sent to the rear by field ambulance. He arrived at U.S. Base Hospital #54 a short while later; however, his condition continued to worsen and he died on September 29, 1918.

Source for this information is the American Legion Post 180.

Gift of a US Postal Service Letter Box

Historic Vienna, Inc. is pleased to acknowledge the gift of a U.S. Postal Service Letter Box like the one pictured. The gift was arranged by Vienna Postmaster Juan Josey and was delivered to the Freeman Store and Museum by the Postal Service.



with a front drop access door. This style was adopted because of its rust-resistance and durability. Our Letter Box was manufactured by a company in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The last of this type of Letter Box was purchased by the USPS in 1955. In 1962, over 109,000 of these post-mounted boxes were in use in the United States, but according to the Postal Service, by 2016 only 169 of these boxes were still in service – and that includes the one on Church Street in front of the Freeman Store.

Street Letter Boxes were introduced in the United States in 1858, to be “accessible at all hours of the day and night.” The Postal Service tried several designs but all were found to have defects. In 1912 the Postal Service adopted the “Style B” Letter Box that remains in use today. The design features a cast-iron box

Special Events

Join the Bunny – March 24, 10:30AM

Historic Vienna, Inc. and the Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation join forces again this year for a true, old-fashioned Easter Egg Roll on the lawn of the Freeman Store on Saturday, March 24. Children 12 and younger and their parents are invited to hunt for eggs, meet (and have the opportunity for a perfect spring photo) the Easter Bunny, participate in egg painting and other crafts and then roll eggs the old-fashioned way.



The Easter Egg Roll is very popular, but also a very short event, **lasting just one hour**. It begins promptly at 10:30 and *we strongly encourage parents not to be late so that your children are not disappointed.*

Walk on the Hill – April 29, 2-5PM

The Walk on the Hill will take place on April 29 from 2:00PM to 5PM, **rain or shine**. As the streets close, the Windover Heights homeowners will welcome visitors to stroll the neighborhood to enjoy the landscaped gardens of this historic district. At 288 Windover Avenue, local bands will play starting at 2PM. Hickory Grove will play old-fashioned music throughout the afternoon in the log cabin at 223 Walnut Lane.



The Vienna Community Enhancement Commission (CEC) is pleased to once again hold the annual Green Expo in conjunction with the “Walk on the Hill”. The CEC serves the citizens of Vienna by working to make Vienna a more sustainable community. The CEC will be providing information about its projects.

This year, Ayr Hill Garden Club will present at 307 Windover Avenue, *Bringing Nature to Your Home*, a Small Standard Flower Show, featuring floral designs, horticulture and educational exhibits. And the Garden Club will have a table at Salsbury Spring to explain the history of the Spring, its importance to the town and docents will show visitors the native plants in the park that support the wildlife habitat and native pollinators.

As always, the event is free, with Historic Vienna, Inc. and the residents providing punch and cookies. An online walking map will be available before the event on the Town website at <https://www.viennava.gov/>. We are always looking for ideas or assistance to make this a better event. If you would like to volunteer your time or talents, contact Carey Sienicki, csienicki@viennava.gov, or 703-242-5785, or online at <http://goo.gl/PuvoCE>.

The long time success of this event is truly a community effort and a wonderful start to spring. Historic Vienna, Inc. would like to acknowledge the support of the residents of the Windover Heights Historic District, Community Enhancement Commission, and the Town of Vienna Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police, along with the musical bands in making the Walk on the Hill such a pleasurable event. Thank you!

Freeman Store News

Freeman Store News

Freeman Store reopens March 1st! Beautiful floral postcards presented in gift-ready tins, bold new graphic kitchen towels and hand crafted USA made wind chimes & garden sculptures are a few of the new gift items that await

you at the Freeman Store this Spring. Looking for a Virginia or Vienna themed gift for a friend or neighbor – we've got a wide variety of those too. See what's new in our books and card selection or pick up some candy! We're open 12-4pm Wednesdays thru Sundays.

 **Remember:** HVI Members receive a 10% discount on items purchased at the Freeman Store.



2 WWI Souvenir Pins at the Freeman Store

Accompanying the exhibit about World War I, the Freeman Store now has 2 pins with images associated with the War. The first is the *poppy*, when first created, it was a reminder of the great human cost of that War and today it is a universal symbol of military remembrance.

The second is the iconic WW1 1917 recruitment poster by James Montgomery Flagg *'I Want You' and Uncle Sam*. Flagg based his design on a 1914 poster featuring British Lord Kitchener. Each 2 1/4 inch pin will be \$1.00 plus tax.

Patrick Henry Library and HVI present:

"Helen Mondloch Brings Readers' Theater to American History and Literature"
at Patrick Henry Library
on Thursday, May 17, 2018, 7:30-9PM

An author and teacher, Helen Mondloch, provides a refreshing overview of American history and literature in the form of readers' theater in her book *'An American Breeze'*. Join us to learn more about her book, her creative process, and how she uses theater in her classroom. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

HVI Calendar of Events

All events take place at the Freeman Store unless otherwise noted.

Now until further notice

Thursday, March 1

Sunday, March 4, 1-4PM

Sunday, March 4, 2-4PM

Saturday, March 17, 1-5PM

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 24, 10:30AM

Sunday, April 1, Easter

Saturday, April 14, 1-5PM

Sunday, April 29

Sunday, May 6, 1-4PM

Saturday, May 12

Thursday, May 17, 7:30-9PM

Saturday, Sunday, & Monday

May 26, 27 & 29

HVI is collecting books – sorters are welcome!

Freeman Store and Museum resume normal opening hours, 12-4 Wed-Sun

Little Library open

Museum Exhibit Opening Reception

Open House at Vienna Train Station & Caboose

HVI Spring Membership Meeting. Town Hall

Old-fashioned Easter Egg Roll

Freeman Store and Little Library closed

Open House at Vienna Train Station & Caboose

Walk on the Hill, 2 to 5 PM, Windover Heights Historic District *No Rain Date*

Little Library open

Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale and Garden Faire, featuring horticulture related vendors at the Freeman Store, 9AM-1PM

American History and Literature through Readers' Theater, Patrick Henry Library Viva! Vienna! and Open House at Vienna Train Station & Caboose (Sat & Sun only)

Please visit our website at www.historicviennainc.org for up to date information on the organization, Freeman Store hours, special events and museum exhibits..

