

HISTORIC VIENNA INK

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FEBRUARY 2022

VOL. XXIII, NO. 1

HVI Spring Membership Meeting

Unequal Access:

The Desegregation of Public Libraries in Northern Virginia

The Spring Membership meeting of Historic Vienna, Inc. will be held on *Monday, March 21 at 7:30PM via zoom*. There will be a brief business meeting before the program, and this year's Heritage Preservation Award will be announced.

Virginia Room archivists and librarians Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne LaPierre will present their new research on the desegregation of public libraries in Northern Virginia. Public libraries were not always open to all. Chris and Suzanne will discuss the impressive efforts of citizens such as Vienna resident William McKinley Carter to ensure that everyone could access their local library.

You can access their paper at:

https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/ld.php?content_id=63134201&fbclid=IwARISYsl6L83aOMU176USWrJmi98RvOzOX-mQJoBHQOg9ESPRc5-TO3WK0tk

The HVI Membership meeting is free and open to the public.

Spring Membership Meeting *Virtual*

Monday, March 21, 7:30 PM

Speakers:

**Chris Barbuschak and
Suzanne S. LaPierre**

*“Unequal Access:
The Desegregation of Public Libraries
in Northern Virginia”*

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89180878176?pwd=WHREN2QwS3pCRytKZTZydHN4MkVQdz09>

Meeting ID: 891 8087 8176

Passcode: HVI

Please call Anne Stuntz at 703.994.9054 if you have problems connecting to the zoom.

Language of the Flowers Tea



Virtual

Saturday, May 14, 3PM

A full English Tea and a zoom lecture on the history of the Language of the Flowers. Each Tea Package includes a collection of flowers fresh from our gardens and their meanings.

For more information see page 4 and visit our website.

amazon smile

When shopping at Amazon, use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0205248>, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to Historic Vienna, Inc. by Amazon.



Instagram

follow us at
FreemanStore_Museum



Join our Facebook page
Historic Vienna Inc.

Membership renewals are due for 2022 now!

You may renew online through our website or use the form on the back to renew your membership and volunteer to help us preserve history.

Thank you if you have already renewed!

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- P6 – About HVI, Membership and Volunteer Form

Historic Vienna, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Corporation for historic preservation, operates The Freeman Store and Museum

P.O. Box 53, Vienna, VA 22183

www.historicviennainc.org

Visit us at: 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna, VA 22180

Email us at: historicviennava@gmail.com

703.938.5187

From the Museum Committee

New Hallway Exhibit

Vienna's African American Trailblazers

The African American community has had a long, involved, and storied history in Vienna enriching our community. The life and work of key African American residents will be featured in the new hallway exhibit at the Freeman Store and Museum. You will enjoy learning about these people and their contributions. Their initiative inspired the Patrick Henry Library, changes in laws, and the preservation of our history while their land helped Vienna grow.

Little Library Museum Open

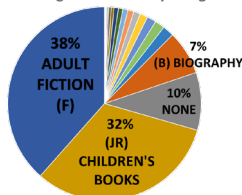
Starting in March you will once again be able to enjoy Vienna's Little Library Museum (LLM) on the first Sunday of each month. Built in 1897, this historic property is now a museum, having served the town for nearly 70 years as a community library. Located on the Freeman Store and Museum side lawn, the LLM continues to strengthen this community providing an awareness of Vienna's past.

Visit Vienna's Little Library Museum on the 1st Sunday of the month March through December 1 to 4PM. Look for special events opening dates. If interested in a tour or volunteering email historicviennava@gmail.com.

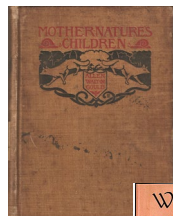
Rare Finds, and Rarer Fines

Rare Finds... Approximately 1800 or 30% of the books in the Little Library Museum are categorized as JR for children. When visiting the Museum and seeing the collection, many visitors first marvel at the larger series such as The Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew and Nurse Cherry Ames.

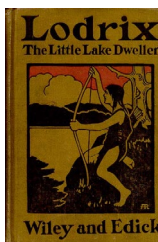
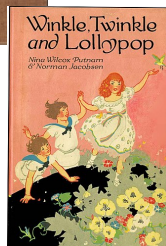
Percentage of LL Books by Categories



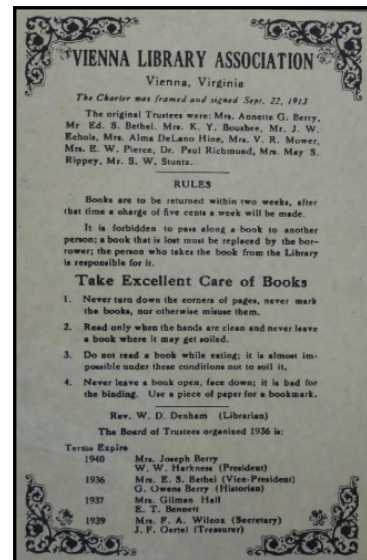
However, browsing further many hidden gems can be discovered, often with unique titles and delightful covers. The museum's oldest children's picture book is "Mother Nature's Children" by Allen Walton Gould, published in 1900.



Moving into the next decade, from 1918 is the charming "Winkle, Twinkle and Lollypop" (23rd edition) and from the 20's the 1926 edition of LODRIX: The Little Lake Dweller.



Rare Fines... As seen here in the 1935 Rules of the Library and Care of Books document, patrons were allowed to check out books for two weeks. If not returned on time, a fee of 5 cents (yes, that's \$.05 or a nickel) was charged for each week late. Library fines for overdue books have been a longstanding and widespread practice in libraries since inception. In recent years, many libraries have stopped charging fines for overdue library items. On Dec. 8, 2021 the Fairfax County Public Libraries Board of Trustees unanimously approved a policy eliminating fines on most materials. As a result, many libraries are reporting increased circulation numbers and increased library card applications. How times have changed!



Wade Hampton Drive becomes Liberty Lane

Liberty Lane was one of five options chosen to rename Wade Hampton Drive unanimously approved by the Vienna Town Council on February 7, 2022. Wade Hampton Drive replaced Lewis Street SW in 1962 to observe the 100th anniversary of the American Civil War.

It was roughly in the vicinity of the newly named Liberty Lane that a cavalry unit, under the direction of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart came into Vienna in 1862. Wade Hampton was a Confederate general and slaveholder.

A committee of residents and historians formed a committee in June 2021 to propose a name change. Citizens were informed, a public hearing was held, and residents supported changing the street name.

Sites added to Vienna's Historic Register

At a recent Town Council meeting, 2 sites were added to Vienna's Register of Historic Sites and Places.

Louise Archer Elementary School

As early as 1867, the Vienna Colored School was established and in 1939, the school moved to its current location on 324 Nutley Street, NW. With two other teachers, Louise Archer, served as Principal, taught and fed the students. Historical notes mention that boys went to Salsbury Spring for water, while Mrs. Archer fed the students with meals cooked on a pot-bellied stove. In 1950, the school was renamed Louise Archer Elementary School.

131 Courthouse Road, SW

Fairfax County records state that a building was standing on the 131 Court House Road (original street spelling) property in 1883. Of note, in 1816 the Blackburn family, along with other neighbors leased a parcel of land to build the first community school and records show that the school was located on this property.

The 2,032-acre patent of 1714/1715 property of Richard Watts and William Harrison. Harrison received 1016 acres

in 1746, and his four daughters received 293 acres each after 1757. And so, divisions of property continued until today. Of interest is that Moses Commins operated a plow making foundry on two of the acres closer to present day Maple Avenue. The property once occupied 5.59 acres, while today the Stely House (131 Courthouse Road SW), along with another dwelling cover 1 1/4 acres. The balloon frame wooden two-story Stely House features an English basement with original stone foundation walls. A full walkup attic features original pine flooring, as does the bedroom level. Substantial numbers of windows contain original glass and moldings and rosettes are original.

L. Newton Stely served as a Town of Vienna Council Clerk, was owner of Centre Market on 120 Church Street (building burned in 1906 and later became Craig and Wright Grocery Store), was a trained mason, owned a sawmill and additional tracts of land.

Special Events

Join the Bunny – April 1, 5:00PM



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 Friday, April 1. Children 12 and younger and their parents are invited to meet (and have the opportunity for a perfect spring photo) the Easter Bunny, participate in crafts and then roll eggs the old-fashioned way.

After the Easter Egg Roll, the Town will host a Flashlight Egg Hunt at 7:30PM at Glyndon Park.

Walk on the Hill – April 24



The Walk on the Hill will take place on April 24 from 2 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.

Once again, homeowners and Historic Vienna will place signs *“If This House Could Talk...”*, which describe historic and fun information about the home in participating yards. Homeowners wishing to participate should contact Anne Stuntz, stuntzag@aol.com, or 703-994-9054.

This year, Ayr Hill Garden Club will have a table at Salsbury Spring to explain the history of the Spring, its importance to the town; docents will show visitors the native plants in the park that support the wildlife habitat and native pollinators.

As always, the event is free. An online walking map will be available before the event on the Town website at www.viennava.gov/walkonthehill.

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, and the Town of Vienna Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police in making the Walk on the Hill such a pleasurable event. Thank you!

Language of the Flowers Tea

May 14, 3PM

Enjoy a full English Tea with scones, authentic clotted cream, jam, homemade lemon curd, elegant tea sandwiches and special savories and sweet treats. These treats will be carefully packaged with English Tea (bags) in special boxes which attendees can pick up at the Freeman Store and Museum between 12 and 2PM on May 14th. Packages not picked up on time will be donated to charity.

Tea Packages, for \$40 each, will be on sale via our website only through May 5. Tea Packages once purchased are non-refundable.

At 3PM, join us for a short Zoom program which will include the history of the Language of the Flowers and the Meanings of Selected Flowers.

HVI Calendar of Events

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

Now until further notice

Wednesday, March 2

Sunday, March 6, 1-4PM

Sunday, March 13, 2-4PM

Monday, March 21, 7:30PM

Friday, April 1, 5PM

Sunday, April 3, 1-4PM

Sunday, April 24, 2- 5PM

Sunday, May 1, 1-4PM

Saturday, May 7, 8AM-1PM

Saturday, May 14, 3PM

Saturday, Sunday, & Monday May 28-30

HVI is collecting books – sorters are welcome! Open by appointment.

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

Little Library open

Museum Exhibit Opening Reception

Virtual Spring Membership Meeting

Old-fashioned Easter Egg Roll

Little Library open

Walk on the Hill, Windover Heights Historic District *Rain or Shine*

Little Library open

Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale and Garden Faire at the Freeman Store

Virtual The Language of Flowers Tea *\$40 per person Reservation Required

Viva! Vienna!

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

Freeman Store News

We are excited to reopen in March well stocked with your favorite items and a few new ones.



Look for more linens & candles, Vienna gifts, fun new toys, new coasters, and a new Vienna baby blanket.



We are committed to providing you with personal attention when you visit us. Thank you for your patronage and support over the years. We look forward to showing you what's new in the Store!

Come visit us beginning March 2. Open hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12noon-4PM. Follow us on Instagram at [freemanstore_museum](https://www.instagram.com/freemanstore_museum) or our Facebook group *Historic Vienna, Inc.*

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

Used Book Cellar

What? Has the UBC really been closed? While the Freeman Store was not open to the public in January and February, the Cellar continued to receive boxes and bags of generous donations. Typically, the porch benches are laden with contributions from our community when we arrive each Tuesday. Upon arriving our amazing team of volunteers price, and shelve books, as they search for treasures.

A Cellar dealer sale and bag sale were also held on February 1 and 13. One couple drove from Petersburg and another buyer came from Williamsburg and were pleased and amazed with our inventory. Did you know that Santa also loves to shop in the Cellar?

Some improvements include, a new bookcase, customized for an unusual space and a custom-designed metal support pole.

We are always happy to receive specific book requests, as well as your donations. Thanks, as always, to our devoted team. And thank you for your generous book donations. The net income from 2021 was more than double that of any of our past side lawn book sales.

Young Reader Roundup

The Used Book Cellar continues to receive quality children's books in quantity. Everything from boards books for the little ones to picture books for the young crowd.

Oftentimes we get whole series sets of popular chapter books for the eager reader! We also have lots of science, history, activity and reference type books for all children.



Spotlight on Local History Books

We invite you to browse our books on local history written by local authors.

A Fairfax Friendship

For nearly 50 years George Washington and Bryan Fairfax corresponded to each other and from these letters a friendship grew and strengthened. Pick up this fascinating account of history collected by the Fairfax History Commission.

Ambitious Failure - Chain Bridge: The First Bridge across the Potomac River by Carole Herrick

Learn about the story of a bridge built across the Potomac River that came to be known as *Chain Bridge*. Georgetown merchants believed that their economic survival depended on this bridge as they struggled to maintain their independence as a separate entity. The Chain Bridge's history is entangled with the development of Georgetown, Alexandria, Arlington and the District of Columbia, but was the bridge an ambitious failure?

The Used Book Cellar is accepting book donations all year round.

HVI Board News

HVI Remembers Constance Pendleton Stuntz

Local historian and author Connie Stuntz passed away peacefully on February 9; she was 98. Her contributions as a participant in World War II code-breaking efforts were spectacular and gave her a place in history. The books that Connie researched and wrote about the history of our area preserve precious images and information for future generations. They are:

- This Was Vienna, Virginia
- This Was Tysons Corner, Virginia
- This Was Virginia, 1900-1927: As Shown by the Glass Negatives of J. Harry Shannon, the Rambler
- A View of Falls Church, Virginia: Including Its Western Neighbors Thru the 1881-1889 Diaries of Edmund Flagg, Esq.

Connie was nearly finished with her last book on Falls Church when she passed away. Anne Stuntz will see that it is published. Connie was born and raised in Falls Church and when she married Mayo, she moved to Vienna, so it was natural for her books to focus on these areas.

Historic Vienna awarded Connie and Mayo Stuntz the Heritage Preservation Award for their contributions to preserving our history. Her many contributions to our community including those with Ayr Hill Garden Club are greatly appreciated and she will be missed. Donations to HVI are being accepted in her memory and may be made online or by check.

Bev Burns has decided to step down from the Board after serving for 10 years due to health issues. Bev has generously contributed her time to HVI, helping in the Used Book Cellar, the Freeman Store, at special events and with museum exhibits. HVI appreciates her contributions and will miss her.

Our Mission Statement

Historic Vienna, Inc. (HVI), established by the Vienna Town Council on April 6, 1976, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

- Preserving and promoting knowledge of Vienna’s heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of historically significant places, events, and persons.
- Educating the public through permanent and revolving exhibits, outreach programs, and publications.
- Enhancing a spirit of community through an awareness of Vienna’s past.

Our Programs and Activities

- Sponsor *traditional community events* enhancing Vienna’s small town atmosphere (e.g. visits with Santa, Church Street Stroll, Walk on the Hill)
- *Living exhibits* that illustrate the way people lived (e.g. reenactments, demonstrations, entertainment)
- The Freeman Store - experience a *historic country store* selling local history books, Virginia crafts, Vienna souvenirs, and old-fashioned toys and candy
- *Guided tours* of the Original Vienna Library, Freeman Store and museum exhibits
- Encourage *preservation of Vienna’s history, historic sites, and artifacts* (Freeman Store and Little Library operations, museum exhibits, antiques appraisals, oral histories, preservation award, Vienna’s historic register)

Board of Directors

Historic Vienna, Inc. is led by a 15-member Board of Directors. Three members are appointed by the Town Council and twelve are elected to three-year terms by the Membership at the Fall Membership Meeting. Officers are elected by the Board to one-year terms.

Time to Renew Now!

Nancy Moats, Vice President	Anne Stuntz, President	Leigh Kitcher, Treasurer
Mike Berger	Darrell Mounts, Secretary	Simeon Moats
Katie Newland	Catherine Hardman	Steve Shannon
Sylvia Taylor	Gloria Runyon	Jon Vrana
	Suzanne Traut	
	Leslie Herman, Town Liaison	

Preserve and celebrate Vienna’s history – Support Historic Vienna, Inc.

Membership is from January 1 to December 31. There are 2 membership meetings per year.

Now you can renew online! Visit our website: www.historicviennainc.org.

Historic Vienna, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions and membership fees are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

I want to become a member. I want to renew my membership (renewals are due in January for 2022).

___ Individual (\$25) ___ Family (\$30) ___ Group or Corporate (\$40)

I want to make a \$ _____ contribution to Historic Vienna, Inc. (100% tax deductible).

I want to make a \$ _____ donation in memory of Connie Stuntz (100% tax deductible).

Make your check payable to: **Historic Vienna, Inc.**
PO Box 53
Vienna, VA 22183

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name *Date*

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone *Email Address*

I want to volunteer. (Circle as many as you wish) Storekeeper – Special Events – Book Sale – Oral Histories

I have skills to share: Exhibits – Research – Graphics – Social Media – Computer Skills – Other: _____