

# HISTORIC VIENNA INK

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## HVI Fall Membership Meeting “Archaeology at the Freeman Store”

The Fall Membership meeting of Historic Vienna, Inc. will be held on Thursday, October 5 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 Volunteer of the Year Award will be announced.

Last March, The Ottery Group, consultants in archeology, historic preservation, and other aspects of cultural resources management, carried out archeological testing at the Freeman Store and Museum. *Lyle Torp, Managing Director, and Matthew Palus, Senior Archeologist, at The Ottery Group, will present the results of the archeological testing.*

The ground-penetrating radar used to survey the site in 2021 identified locations underground that were interpreted as historic archeological features. The Ottery Group excavated a number of 1-meter square test units to expose and identify these features, and learn about the archeology of the property, where the store, originally built by Abram and Susan Lydecker, has stood since 1859. This was the first such excavation on the property.

The archeology identified buried features, like a partially demolished and collapsed, stone-lined well under the lawn, and deposits of historical artifacts in soil layers at the rear of the house. These finds provide new information about the history of the site that only archeology can provide, which come from physical remains of the past landscape, and patterns in historical material culture - the artifacts - recovered in context. These finds demonstrate how dynamic the site has been, with many changes in use of the house and the land following the changing economy of the town, especially in the years following the Civil War.

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

## HVI Fall Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 7:30 PM

Town Hall

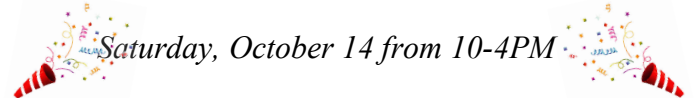
127 Center Street South,  
Vienna, VA 22180

Speakers:

Lyle Torp and Matthew Palus,  
The Ottery Group

“Archaeology at the Freeman  
Store”

## Used Book Cellar 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash!

 Saturday, October 14 from 10-4PM

**New! Vienna Rexall Drug Store Exhibit**  
“Vienna Then and Now”

**Upstairs Museum Exhibit**  
“Highlights of our Collection”

**Hallway Museum Exhibit**  
“Vienna’s African American Trailblazers”

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Instagram

@FreemanStore\_Museum



Join our Facebook group  
Historic Vienna Inc.

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](http://www.historicviennainc.org)

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

Email us at: [historicviennava@gmail.com](mailto:historicviennava@gmail.com)

703.938.5187

## From the Museum Committee

### *Exhibits Closing soon!*

The current hallway and upstairs exhibits will be closing on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't had a chance to see the *Highlights of our Collection* exhibit upstairs, do try to see it. There's something for everyone to enjoy! Here's some of what you will see...



### *New Exhibit – History of Books*

Work has begun on the new exhibits. The upstairs exhibit will tell the *History of Books*. In addition to the usual artifacts and posters, the exhibit will feature companion workshops and special events. You will be able to try your hand at bookbinding, have your rare books valued and meet local authors of all kinds of books.

### *Collections Additions*

#### *Chas E Bowman Photo*

The Museum Committee recently accepted this framed photograph of Chas E. Bowman. It was found in the Community Center and the Town gave it to HVI. The plaque on the frame indicates that he was Treasurer, but not of what. The committee is looking forward to learning more about Mr. Bowman. The photo will be added to the current museum exhibit upstairs.



#### *1930 Sampler*

The Museum Committee also accepted this 1930 Sampler. It has an inscription on the back that reads: '*For Mrs. L Sly (made for his mother by Mrs. J. C. Campbell, Newark)*'. While the sampler was not created by a Vienna resident, it is a fine example of a sampler from the period. It will also be added to the upstairs exhibit.



## Special Events

### *Oktoberfest, October 7*

The Freeman Store will be open from 12-6PM for Vienna's Annual Oktoberfest celebration sponsored by the Vienna Business Association, on Church Street, Saturday, October 7. Enjoy beer and wine, great food, live music and lots of children's activities and games. More information can be found on the official Oktoberfest website: [www.viennaoktoberfest.org](http://www.viennaoktoberfest.org).

### *Explore Archaeology Family Event Saturday, October 14, 10-4PM – Free!*

At this *Archaeology Open Day*, meet archaeologists and participate in fun archaeology activities. After the interest generated by the archaeological dig on the grounds of the Freeman Store and Museum in March, we have partnered with a local group called Uearth Archaeology to bring more public archaeology to Vienna!

### *250<sup>th</sup> Tea Party celebrations*

Save the date: *Saturday, December 16* at the Freeman Store and Museum. The DAR and SAR are working with us to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bostonians tossing tea into Boston Harbor as one of the first acts of

defiance against British rule. We are hoping to have some fun activities associated with tea. We will be collecting unused loose tea at the Freeman Store to toss as the Bostonians did during the reenactment.

We expect Yorktown to celebrate their Tea Party, when on November 7, 1774, residents boarded the ship *Virginia* and dumped two half chests of tea into the York River. The first Virginia Revolutionary Convention that met in August of that year had adopted a resolution to refuse to purchase English goods or consume tea, hoping to pressure English merchants to persuade Parliament to repeal tax laws and regulations that Virginia leaders believed to be unconstitutional. The tea that reached Yorktown in November was en-route from the London mercantile firm of John Norton and Sons for the Williamsburg merchants John Prentis and Company. The men in Yorktown acted after growing impatient waiting for guidance from a committee in Williamsburg. They did not damage the ship or any other cargo; they only dumped the tea. Later, committees in York and Gloucester Counties condemned Norton, Prentis, and the ship's

captain for violating the Virginia boycott. They ordered the ship not to load any tobacco for shipment to England but to return to England empty.

***British Holiday Tea***  
***Friday, December 8, 3PM and***  
***Saturday, December 9, 3PM***

Enjoy the beautiful holiday decorations created by Ayr Hill Garden Club for the Freeman Store and Museum. Relax and visit with your friends in the parlor and dining room. The full English holiday tea includes scones, authentic clotted cream, homemade lemon curd, jam, elegant tea sandwiches, sausage rolls, mince pies, plum pudding, other traditional treats. and a bottomless cup of tea.

Tea tickets cost \$45 and will be on sale through our website only from November 1 through December 1. Teas once purchased are non-refundable. For more information, email [historicviennava@gmail.com](mailto:historicviennava@gmail.com).

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## HVI Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 7, 11-7PM  
Sundays, October 1, November 5,  
December 3, 1-4PM  
Thursday, October 5, 7:30PM  
Saturday, October 14, 10-4PM

Saturday, October 14, 10:30-12:30PM  
Wednesday, October 25, 7PM  
Monday, November 27, 6-9PM  
Friday, December 8, 3-5PM  
Saturday, December 9, 3-5PM  
Sunday, December 3, 12-2PM  
Sunday, December 10, 12-2PM  
Saturday, December 16, 10-2PM

Oktoberfest!, Freeman Store open 12-6PM  
Little Library open

HVI Fall Membership meeting, open to the public  
Used Book Cellar 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash  
Archaeology Open Day  
Halloween on The Green and AHGC Fall Market at the Freeman Store  
Halloween Parade  
Church Street Stroll and Santa Claus Visit  
British Holiday Tea, In person, tickets \$45  
British Holiday Tea, In person, tickets \$45  
Santa visits the Freeman Store  
Santa visits the Freeman Store  
Boston Tea Party celebration

Please visit our website at [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org) for up to date information on the organization, Freeman Store hours, special events and museum exhibits.

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## Freeman Store News

### ***Oktoberfest***

During Oktoberfest, we will be open extended hours – Saturday, October 7, 12-6.

### ***What's new?***

As the Freeman Store & Museum continues to draw a growing number of out-of-town visitors, prepare to discover an expanded assortment of souvenir items including Virginia keychains, an enhanced selection of



stickers, and a delightful plush toy in the shape of our Old Dominion State.

**Meet the Maker**

Many of our items are made by small business owners who are highly skilled in their craft. Meet a few of our favorites and learn a little bit about who they are, what they do and why they're special to us.



The **Blenko Glass Company**, located in Milton, West Virginia, is a family owned and operated company since 1893. Exquisite color, skilled craftsmen, and imaginative designs have made Blenko famous in the time-honored craft of hand-blown glass.



Today, Blenko's *Water Bottle* is a world-wide iconic piece blending both form and function. Its classic design was largely dictated by necessity. In 1938 the water bottle's shape first appeared and was made to fit into the narrow door shelves of the then relatively new 'electric icebox' (known today as a refrigerator.) The slender shape with two pouring spouts and center indentation that made for easy handling, fit well in those early refrigerator doors. Its name, *Number 384*, indicated that it was the fourth design introduced in 1938, and has been produced by Blenko in their West Virginia factory almost non-stop since that first year.

The Freeman Store has been a proud retailer of Blenko Glass for many years. Recently, their beautiful *sun catchers* were added to our line of Blenko items.

The brainchild of Alice Goebel Backman, *Alice's Cottage* is a leading manufacturer of fabric gifts and kitchen textiles. Nurtured by her love of nature, birds and the gardens surrounding her home in the Blueridge Mountains of Maryland, Ms. Backman started designing and sewing nearly 40 years ago. Her product line has grown, and her pieces are now sewn with pride by talented seamstresses living in the surrounding area of her company. The entire manufacturing process from creating the art, to drafting the patterns, to screening the designs and shipping the final product is completed in Hagerstown, Maryland.



Potholders and canvas gift caddies from Alice's Cottage are perennial favorites of our customers. Their commitment to providing quality and affordability, paired with their exceptional service makes them a favorite vendor of ours.

For the latest news on what's new in the Store, be sure to follow us on Instagram [@FreemanStore\\_Museum](#). Or join the *Historic Vienna Inc.* group on Facebook.

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

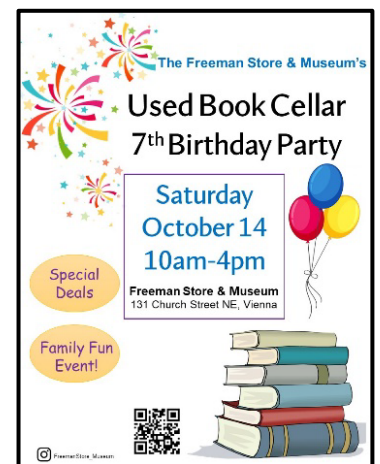
## Used Book Cellar

**Celebrate the Used Book Cellar turning 7!**

The Freeman Store's Used Book Cellar is celebrating its 7th birthday and we're celebrating! The community has been extremely generous bringing book donations and purchasing a tremendous quantity of books since 2016 and we're very grateful.

As part of the celebration on Saturday, October 14, 10 - 4, we will have **specialty priced used books, treats, and a fall setting to capture selfies and family photographs**. Join us for the fun outside on the front gravel area of the Freeman Store for special sale books and indoors for superb used books at very reasonable prices. We will host another Archaeology Open Day from 10 to 4.

The Town will also host *Halloween on the Green* from 10:30 to 12:30 and Ayr Hill Garden Club will be selling a variety of fall crafts on our side yard.





***There's something for everyone in the Used Book Cellar! Come often... You never know what you will find!***

Thank You! You have enthusiastically donated books and shopped for books. Your support of the Used Book Cellar has helped to fund Historic Vienna's many events, including the archeology dig.

*Historic Vienna is asking for book donations all year round.*



The Used Book Cellar accepts book donations all year round. Please refer to our website for specific information on what and how to donate <https://historicviennainc.org/used-book-cellar/>.

Your donations are tremendously appreciated and support HVI programs and activities in numerous ways.

### ***HVI Board News and Announcements***

Members of Historic Vienna, Inc. will vote at the Fall Membership Meeting on October 5, 2023, to elect Board of Directors members whose 3 year terms expire at the end of 2023. The Nominating Committee has proposed that the current incumbents be re-elected. The Board Members up for re-election are: Anne Stuntz, and Steve Shannon.

**Steve Shannon** has been a member of the HVI Board since 2020. Steve has been coordinating HVI's activities during Liberty Amendments Month and leading the Education activities associated with Liberty Amendments Month. He also volunteers for special events and coordinates holiday decorations with the Optimists.

Steve currently is serving as a judge of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County and previously represented the 35th House District in the Virginia House of Delegates, which includes the Town of Vienna. He teaches law at George Mason University, serves on the Board of Directors of Northern Virginia Legal Services, and is an active member of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.

**Anne Stuntz** has been a member of the HVI Board since 2003 and President since 2009. She has been an active volunteer for many years, working as a Storekeeper, Chairing the Book Sale for several years, serving on the Store and Museum committees, planning and helping with Special Events. Anne also serves on the Fairfax County History Commission.

### **Young Reader Roundup**

The Cellar boasts an abundant selection of picture books, board books, and chapter books, while our shelves are also brimming with a treasure trove of enriching educational reads.

Your child can learn a new craft, create an exciting science project, and experience the culture of another land. Books have the power to expand young minds while taking them on endless journeys.



### **We Are Fairfax County Part III: A County of Nations Tom Gjelten, Keynote Speaker**

*19<sup>th</sup> Annual History Conference*

*Saturday, November 4, 2023, 8:30 - 4:30PM  
Location: Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center,  
3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA – also live streamed on  
channel 16 & Facebook*

This will be a fascinating conference. It is inspired by NPR's Tom Gjelten's book "A Nation of Nations, A Great American Immigration Story". His well researched book tells compelling stories about several families that immigrated to Fairfax County after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. For more information and to register go to :

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/>

