



The Innkeeper

Summer 2006

Newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Cary, NC

President's Message

By Bob Myers

What an honor to have been elected president of this organization! I hope that I will be able to help the Friends achieve their mission with the same success that my predecessors have. I would like to especially thank **Julia Morrison** for the exceptional job that she did for the past year and for all of her help during this transition. I will have the benefit of the continued involvement and support of several past leaders of this group and will rely on their experience and insight in the coming months.

I am very pleased to welcome new board members **Ed Yerha**, **Charles Johnson**, **Andy Jalbert** and **Paul Wasylkevych**, as well as all of our returning members. I would also like to thank departing members **Melvin Matthews** and **Ruth Guthrie** for their service to the Friends. We hope to continue to see them and the rest of the general membership at our various committee meetings and events. Our bylaws are structured to cycle members on and off the board, generating new ideas and renewed energy that keeps us vital. Despite the distractions that come with summer, we've accomplished a lot since our last newsletter. Perhaps most significantly, thanks to the efforts of **Mike Longmire** and others, we had a highly successful "**Big Event**" fundraiser in May. The food and the music were fantastic and the weather couldn't have been nicer (phew!). We hope to be able to build on this event in the coming years as a way to financially support our two concert series.

The "Big Event" also was a celebration of the reopening of the lawn and educational gardens at the Page-Walker. Special thanks go out to **Anne Kratzer** and the rest of the garden committee, who have resurrected the area around the smokehouse to its former glory (see the story about the rejuvenated garden later in this newsletter).

The historic preservation committee also has been busy. A reception was held at the home of board member **John Duncan**, celebrating the installation of 11 bronze plaques in the Town Center Historic District. The committee also closed a very successful speaker series with a well-attended presentation on the status of the area's historic structures. This series continues in October; see the article later in this newsletter.

These are just a few highlights of the many great things that the group is working on. With your continued support, we will achieve great things in the coming year.

"JUST A HORSE-STOPPING PLACE"

The Friends congratulate board secretary **Peggy Van Scoyoc** for completing her years-long quest to publish the oral history of Cary in book form. Her book, *Just a Horse-Stopping Place*, has just been published. See the Oral History Update later in this newsletter for more details. Kudos to Peggy!

Historic Preservation

By Bob Myers

We welcome **Andy Jalbert** as the new chairman of the **Historic Preservation Committee**. Returning committee members are **Olene Ogles, Lee Alcorn, Marla Dorrel, Brent Miller, Pat Fish, Julia Morrison** and **Bob Myers**. They will build on the momentum of the past year to make the citizens of Cary aware of the importance of its historic buildings.

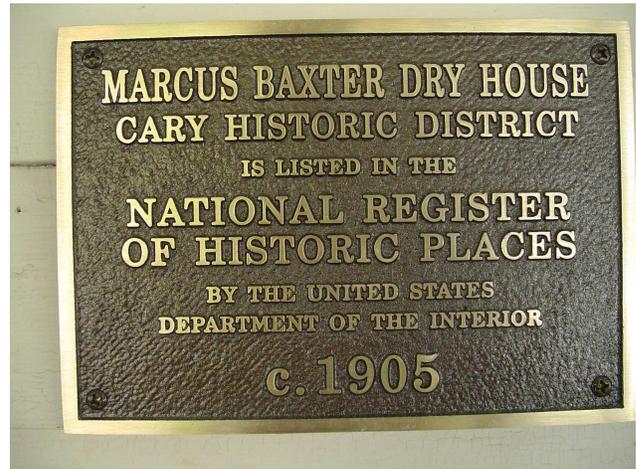
This spring, the committee completed the procurement and installation of bronze **historic plaques** on 11 contributing structures in the Town Center Historic District. Friends board member **John Duncan** and his wife **Sandy** (pictured below), owners of the historic **Marcus Baxter Dry house**, hosted the ceremonial first plaque installation event. Several other historic property owners in the town center, along with Friends and other interested parties, attended the event.



Friends John and Sandy Duncan and the newly installed historic plaque at their National Register-listed home in Cary's town center

These plaques serve to raise awareness of the significance of National Register recognized buildings. The committee plans to expand the

program to the town's two other historic districts (Carpenter and Green Level) and to continue to pursue the remaining houses in the town center.



The committee also produced two programs in our **Speaker's Forum** series at the Page-Walker. The first was a panel discussion with representatives from area preservation organizations. The second was a very well attended slide show presentation on the state of the many historic structures in and around Cary. The next program, **"We Bought It, Now What?"** is scheduled for October 24 in the Page-Walker main gallery. It will be an exchange with owners of historic buildings, detailing the experience of renovating and maintaining their homes. More details later in this newsletter.

The committee will also be working closely with the Town of Cary in the next year. We will stay involved as the recently adopted Town Center Cultural District plan becomes reality, assuring that the historic structures and the character of downtown Cary are preserved. We are also working with the town staff to find a way to save the Waldo house (details later in this newsletter).

The committee meets at the Page-Walker on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in the preservation of Cary's historic structures, please stop in!



A Look Back

“We’re On Our Way!”

1985

Anne Kratzer continues her series of the history of the Friends of the Page-Walker

When we left off this past spring – in 1985 – the Friends had just been formed and, after many trials and tribulations, the Page-Walker Hotel had just been purchased. The Friends had a “historic” undertaking ahead of them...

As part of this historical series, we continue our walk down memory lane. The year is 1985 and it proved to be a pivotal year in the restoration of the Page-Walker Hotel.

June 13, 1985 – a day to celebrate! The Cary Town Council purchased the Walker Hotel and surrounding three acres for \$235,000. Two and a half months later, the building and one-and-a-half acres were leased to Preservation NC with the understanding that the hotel would be restored as a community arts and history center. Preservation NC would assign the lease to the Friends as soon as non-profit status and articles of incorporation were received. As the hotel effort was a huge undertaking that required substantial funding and volunteer involvement, we decided to form an independent, non-profit organization, rather than be under the umbrella of the Cary Historical Society. The Friends also voted to change the name of the organization from Friends of the Walker Hotel, to *Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel*. No existing structure in the community bore the name *Page*. It was fitting that the founder of our town and builder of the hotel, Allison Francis “Frank” Page, be recognized. Myrick Howard, director of Preservation NC, also joked that in his experience historic structures with hyphenated names tended to receive more funding. We were certainly in need of that support!

The summer of ’85 was busy! In addition to creating by-laws, electing officers and

initiating the incorporation process, a tarp was installed over the roof to stabilize the structure. No more bucket brigades! The Friends interviewed several architects and in July, Norma Burns of Burnstudio was hired. With the Friends’ input, Ms. Burns began the design phase and developed a logo for the project using the signature chimney and windows featured on each end of the hotel (this logo appears on the footer of each page of this newsletter).

In 1985, Cary had few venues for the arts and history. The Friends recognized that this deficiency, plus a restoration project that would address some of these program and space needs, could also serve to develop a sense of community in a town that was experiencing rapid population growth, and where most newcomers knew little about Cary’s past. An initial step was to hire Danielle Withrow to conduct a workshop to solicit public input concerning the types of programming that would be appropriate for an arts and history center. This workshop generated excellent ideas that were subsequently used in our grant applications. It also resulted in an increase in committed volunteers.

One of our biggest challenges in 1985 continued to be raising public awareness of, and subsequent support for, the project. At June’s end, the Friends had raised only \$2000 and we were concerned that few citizens were aware of the Page-Walker effort. During the next six months, we initiated many “projects” to bring the endeavor into the public eye. “Back on Track” t-shirts and memberships were sold at Lazy Daze. We rode in a vintage car in the Cary Band Day parade, the Cary News featured our progress continually, and many grants were written. A video was produced that we presented to various organizations to educate the public. In November 1985, we hosted a “Back on Track” Reception for the unveiling of the official site sign. One hundred guests gathered to kick off the official restoration effort and, thanks to private and state grants, we received \$33,000 on that occasion. We were off and running.



The dedication and passion of the board were critical to the development of both an understanding of the project's goals and a strategic plan for implementation. Board meetings were held every two weeks into the wee hours of the night. The effort captured everyone's imagination, and we felt a great responsibility to protect our heritage while providing a functional building for the future. We discovered during the design phase that our initial estimate for restoration (\$250,000) would need to be increased. Because the building would be used by the public and was a three-story structure, it needed to have an elevator, fire stairs and handicapped-accessible restrooms. Rather than use the historic space for these requirements, the Friends elected to attach a compatible addition with offices, a catering kitchen and, if possible, a basement. The restoration fundraising goal became \$350,000, which we communicated through our first issue of *The Innkeeper*, December 1985.

Fast-forward 21 years to July 21, 2006. The place is the lawn/garden area in back of the Page-Walker. It's a comfortable summer evening and a popular performing group is entertaining several hundred Caryites with the big band sounds of the 1930s and 1940s. The music of Benny Goodman, Count Basie and the Dorsey brothers is working its magic. As envisioned by the Friends 21 years ago, this place in old Cary is drawing the people of the town together as a community.



In the next issue of *The Innkeeper*: Beyond the Bake Sale!

Membership Update

The Friends thank these Community Partner, Sustaining and Silver Sustaining Members:

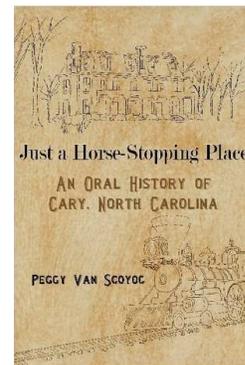
Rosanna Jim and Mary Adcock, L.D. and Claudia Mormino, Mercedes Auger, Jerry and Jean Harris, Peggy Van Scoyoc, Rosanna M. Adams, Lynn and Carole Wright, Shiela and Carroll Ogle, Ed and Ruth Clayton, Ralph and Daphne Ashworth, Jack and Nancy Leavell, Joanne and Bob Brisbin, Marla Dorrel and Gary Craven

A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears later in this newsletter.

Oral History Update

By Peggy Van Scoyoc

A book about the history of Cary has just been released! Written by Friends board member **Peggy Van Scoyoc**, it is called *Just a Horse-Stopping Place: An Oral History of Cary, North Carolina*. In this book, 37 narrators tell their rich life stories about growing up, making a living and embracing their small town as it was evolving. Proceeds from the sale of each book will be used to preserve the history of Cary.



The book can be purchased online at <http://www.lulu.com/content/329445> or by mail (include a check made out to **Passing Time Press** for \$23.84, which includes \$19.95



purchase price, tax, shipping and handling). Mail your check to:

Passing Time Press
1251 NW Maynard Road, Suite 107
Cary, NC 27513

Please include your name and shipping address (no post office boxes, please). Allow 3 weeks for delivery. Then enjoy a great read.

Morrison Recognized Town of Cary Presents Volunteer Award

By Carol Aupperle

Friends of the Page-Walker immediate past president **Julia Morrison** was recognized for her thoughtfulness, endless energy and considerable talents. Julia received the Town of Cary's **2006 History and Heritage Award**.

Then-Friends-president Julia Morrison was awarded the 2006 History and Heritage Award at February's 2006 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. The award recognizes leadership in preserving and promoting appreciation of Cary's history and heritage, as well as support for the Town of Cary's cultural programs.

Julia's ongoing work as a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Page Walker is a testament to her devotion to history and heritage goals. Julia has devoted untold hours to initiating history programs that are essential to the future of Cary and the Friends. Julia has worked tirelessly to get the *Cary-On* curriculum into the hands of area educators. And over the past year, she has taken great strides to collect and protect the records of Cary's history within the walls of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center.

Friends can be proud to once again have one of our own considered worthy of this special award.

Congratulations Julia!

Friends in the News

By Carol Aupperle

The Friends of the Page-Walker's most recent Lazy Daze grant served as the keynote and sole example in "30 Years of Lazy Daze", an article that appears in the July/August *Cary Magazine*. The article also directs readers to www.carymagazine.com, where they'll find a terrific photograph of Julia Morrison accepting the grant check from Mayor Ernie McAlister. (Board member Mercedes Auger is also pictured at the website, accepting the Caring Place grant).

Program Series

"We Bought It...Now What?"

By Marla Dorrel

Learn the ins and outs and ups and downs of restoring historic homes from those with first-hand experience – the property owners – as they describe their challenges and victories in a lively, moderated discussion. This program, to be held **Tuesday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center**, is part of a continuing series designed to develop an active corps of historic preservation advocates and encourage those who own historic properties to preserve them for our future.

All programs are scheduled to run an hour and a quarter, followed by refreshments and socializing, and are free and open to the public.

For more information about this program of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel and the Town of Cary, contact the Page-Walker at (919) 460-4963.



A Page-Walker Moment

Walter Hines Page the Publisher

By Dean Teitelbaum



Walter Hines Page

Exactly one hundred years ago, the author of a new book was desperately looking for a publisher. One after another, the great publishing houses turned him down. Some wanted nothing to do with an author who was well known as a socialist and muckraker. Others were repelled by the gruesomely realistic language; some told the author that a book about the Chicago slaughter houses would never sell.

However, Walter Hines Page disagreed, and Doubleday Page & Co. agreed to publish Upton Sinclair's new book, *The Jungle*. It was an immediate success (even if, as the author said, "I aimed for the public's heart, but hit them in the stomach") and resulted in the establishment of the Pure Food and Drug Administration.

Friends Seek Solution for Waldo House

By Bob Myers

Flash back to 1985. The former Walker hotel was overgrown and falling down. There were holes in the floors and few saw the possibility of saving the building. That was before Anne Kratzer formed the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel. They created the miracle that is the Page-Walker Arts & History Center

today (the most recent installmen of Anne's series of columns documenting the Friends' history appears on page 2 of this issue).

Fast-forward to the present and take a drive down Waldo street, slowly. Pass the Post Office and parking lot, then look deep into the trees and poison ivy and there it is: the **Waldo House**, actually in better shape than the Hotel was in the '80's but in great need of some TLC.



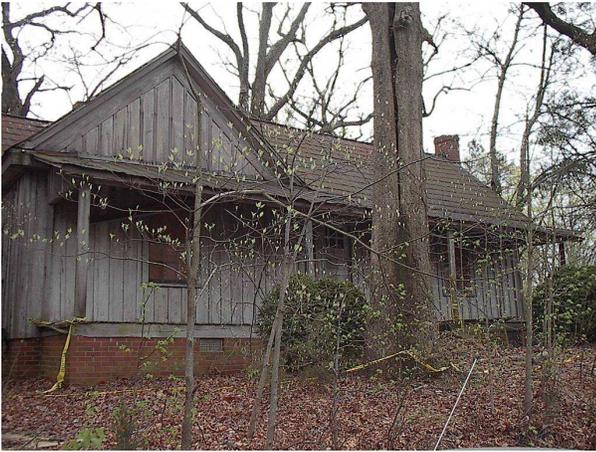
The Waldo House before it was overgrown

The house was built in 1873 for Dr. S. P. Waldo and his family. Waldo was the third doctor in the Town of Cary and the grandfather of Mayor H. Waldo Rood. He lived in the house until his death in 1891, but the house remained in the family and was last used by his granddaughter, Helen Rood.

The one-story bungalow is one of only two board-and-batten Gothic revival buildings in Wake County. The other is the Ivey-Ellington-Waddell house just a few blocks away, on West Chatham Street.

The house is now owned by the First Methodist church and the church has plans to use the property on which it sits. The church has offered the building to the Town of Cary, but the deadline for moving the house has come and gone. The only reason it is standing today is because the owners are not yet ready to start construction on the site.





The Waldo House in the not-too-distant past, showing the rare board-and-batten Gothic Revival style underneath the plywood that covers the house today

The recently adopted Town Center Cultural District Plan recommends saving the building for use as an interpretive center in the planned Town Center Park. Unfortunately, the park is likely to be built years after the house must be moved. Therefore, if the house is to be saved, it will need to be moved twice.

The Town has budgeted money to make the first move, to town-owned property on Dixon Street. The only bid received was for \$88,000, which exceeds the budgeted amount. Another house mover felt that the building might not survive the relocation. The total cost, including the second move and the restoration of the building, is estimated at up to \$380,000.

Board members Brent Miller and Bob Myers met with Cary Town Council member Marla Dorrel, Assistant Town Manager Ben Shivar, Town Planner Philip Smith and Cultural Arts Manager Lyman Collins, to discuss the house's future and possible alternatives.

Our primary objective is to come up with a plan that lowers the risk to the integrity of the building and that would allow the building to be saved to perform its new planned function, at a reasonable cost. So far, we have been unable to generate such a sure-fire plan that is an improvement over the current bleak state of affairs. However, we will continue to work to

save this treasure, this diamond in the rough. Like the Page-Walker, we hope to be able to look at the beautifully-restored Waldo house in a few years and say "It was worth it!"

The Friends continue to work in partnership with the Town of Cary on this important, yet difficult project. We are soliciting ideas and opinions. If you have any, please contact the Friends (contact information appears near the end of this newsletter).

How is Your Garden Growing?

By Anne Kratzer

The answer to the question? "Very well", if you're referring to the **Page Educational Gardens** on the north lawn of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center. Thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers and Town of Cary staff, the "new" gardens are a wonderful asset to the site and complement the Page Smokehouse.

Owing to the recent Town Hall expansion and renovation, the former gardens were dismantled two years ago and the planting areas redesigned. The garden committee developed a planting plan during the winter months, purchased the plants (thanks to a grant from the **Lazy Daze Arts and Crafts Festival Committee**) and introduced the herbs to their new surroundings in April. The beds are arranged in four categories reflecting the traditional uses of herbs: culinary, medicinal, industrial and ornamental. Volunteers have signed up for two-week periods to maintain the gardens. Thankfully, the Town included an irrigation system in the new beds, which has been a big help during the warm weather.

Thanks to members of the Town staff for their invaluable support of the gardens: **Susan Moran, Lyman Collins, Carolyn Lewis, Sara Maultsby, Darrell Stover and Rick Knapp**. And without our volunteers, this community



resource would not be possible. A green thumb to: **Lois Nixon, Julia Morrison, Kay Struffolino, Lou and Lea Hovis, Marla Dorrel, Pat Fish, Jerod Kratzer, Pati Schetzina, Paul and Lynn Wasykewych, Mercedes Auger, Sue Redus, Cheryl McLean, Kat Pippin and Lynn McKenzie.** Special thanks to Kay Struffolino for her efforts to propagate cotton plants and to Lois Nixon for the mullein and other heritage plants.

Currently, we are working on interpretative signs and brochures to be placed at the site so that visitors can learn more about life in earlier times through the plant materials. Special thanks to **Carol Aupperle and Town staff** for in-depth review of the text for these items.

We welcome plant lovers! Please let me know if you'd like to join us. I can be reached at 467-8887. Our wrap-up for the year will be at the gardens on **Saturday, Nov. 4 at 9:00 a.m.** Come out and celebrate with us!

Kudos To...

The Friends want to thank and recognize several of our members who make great things happen with their hard work:

- **Marla Dorrel** for organizing the historic preservation program series, including the most recent installment, "What Have We Got To Lose?" and **Brent Miller** for producing the content and presentation for that program (see the article earlier in this newsletter for information about the next program!)
- **Bob Myers** for his leadership of the historic preservation committee, taking it from nothing to an important force for preservation in Cary (program series, historic property plaques, historic district inventory and other projects) in just two years, .
- **John and Sandy Duncan** for lending us their home (the historic Marcus Baxter Dry house)

for the ceremonial installation of the first historic property plaque in the Town Center Historic District (see the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information)

- **Mike Longmire** for making this past spring's "Big Event" happen, serving as chief strategist, tactician and planner. The event was a tremendous success, and it wouldn't have happened without Mike.



**Kudos to
Marla, Brent, Bob, John, Sandy and Mike!**

About *The Innkeeper*

The Innkeeper is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel. After a period during which the newsletter was "on hiatus", the Friends have brought the newsletter back as a way to communicate with and reach out to our membership and the community.

The Innkeeper is a team effort of the Friends; editorial and production staff consists of Brent Miller and Michael Longmire.

We welcome your contributions to *The Innkeeper*. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent (brent@posmoroda.com).

Electronic Newsletter

If you're not already receiving your copy of *The Innkeeper* electronically, you can elect to do so. This offers convenience for you and helps the Friends reduce postage costs. Just contact Brent Miller (brent@posmoroda.com). You will receive future issues via e-mail.

Oh, and please pardon us as we update our various mailing lists. We know we haven't got it entirely right yet, so please let Brent know if you're receiving multiple copies or you're not receiving it in the format you prefer.



Board Members

Your **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members** are these volunteers: Mary Adcock, Lee Alcorn, Mercedes Auger, Carol Aupperle, Cindi Baker, John Duncan, Winnie Ferguson, Pat Fish (treasurer), **Andy Jalbert***, **Charles Johnson***, Anne Kratzer, Mike Longmire (past president), Joy Mellon, Brent Miller (vice president), Julia Morrison (immediate past president), Bob Myers (president), Olene Ogles, Roy Perry, Cathy Richmond, Julie Robison, Dean Teitelbaum, Renata Thompson, Peggy Van Scoyoc (secretary), **Paul Wasylkevych*** and **Ed Yerha***.

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members Lyman Collins, Rick Knapp, Sara Maulsby and Darrell Stover.

If you are interested in serving on the Friends board in the future (or if you have served in the past and would like to contribute again), please contact any board member or get in touch with us as described in the "Contact the Friends" article later in this issue.

* **Welcome to these new Board members!**

→ Please share this issue of *The Innkeeper* with a friend! ←

Calendar of Events

- **September 6, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **October 4, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting
- **October 24, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.:** **"We Bought It...Now What?" Program Series** (see details on page 5 in this newsletter)
- **November 1, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting
- **December 6, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting



Begin or Renew Your Membership *Today!*

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, fill out the form below and mail it with your contribution to:

Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel
Box 4234
Cary, NC 27519

All members receive a complimentary copy of *The Innkeeper* newsletter and discounts for many Town-sponsored Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department programs, such as classes at Jordan Hall. Non-business donations of \$100 or more and business donations of \$500 or more will be recognized in the newsletter.

Individual, family, and civic group memberships:

- Individual \$30 (Winter concert series ticket discount)
- Family \$50 (Winter concert series ticket discount)
- Community Partner \$100 (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)
- Sustaining Member \$101 - \$249 (Includes *Around and About Cary* book, winter concert series ticket discount)
- Silver Sustaining Member \$250 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)

My employer, _____ has a matching gift program

Business memberships:

- Business Member \$250 - \$499 (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)
- Business Partner \$500 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)

Name/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail address _____



Contact The Friends

By mail:

Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel
Box 4234
Cary, NC 27519

By telephone:

Information about the Friends:

President Bob Myers: (919) 467-6308

Information about Page-Walker programs: (919) 460-4963

By e-mail:

President Bob Myers:
robmyers@us.ibm.com

On the Web:

<http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org>

Visit the Page-Walker Hotel:

Address: 119 Ambassador Loop

Directions: Located on Ambassador Loop on Town Hall Campus. The campus is off North Academy Street, between Chapel Hill Road and Chatham Street in downtown Cary.

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Wednesday: 10:00AM – 9:30PM

Thursday: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Friday Evening - Sunday: by reservation

The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is closed on all official Town holidays.



The Innkeeper