



The Innkeeper

Winter 2007-2008

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

The mission of the Friends of the Page Walker Hotel is to enrich the community by serving as guardian for the Page Walker Arts & History Center, by advocating preservation of Cary historic sites, by archiving history and facilitating history education, and by promoting the cultural arts.

Marla Dorrel Wins Anthemion Award

By Brent Miller

Longtime Friend of the Page-Walker **Marla Dorrel** received the prestigious **Anthemion Award** from **Capital Area Preservation**. This award recognizes outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in historic preservation. U.S. Representative **Brad Miller** joined many historic preservationists at Pilot Mill in Raleigh for the September 13, 2007 ceremony, where six awards were presented. Ms. Dorrel was the only individual Anthemion award winner.

Gary Roth, CAP president and CEO, recognized Marla for her longstanding, tireless efforts in historic preservation leadership and advocacy. As a former member of the Cary Town Council, Marla was local government's champion for historic preservation. She was instrumental in identifying and protecting Cary's three historic districts, saving the Waldo House (see article on page 4) and saving the A. M. Howard Farm in Carpenter. In her final full meeting as a Cary Town Council member, Marla led the Council to approve portions of a plan that will protect the Green Level historic district and launch a Comprehensive Historic Resources Plan that, when completed, will identify and protect Cary's historic properties for years to come.



Gary Roth of Capital Area Preservation presents Anthemion Award to Marla Dorrel

A member of the Friends' Historic Preservation committee, Marla is the inspiration behind the historic preservation program series (see "Historic Preservation" on page 9). Now in its third year, this series promotes awareness, education and community dialogue about many facets of historic preservation. Of course, Marla remains the driving force for this successful and increasingly popular program.

Please join the Friends in hearty congratulations to Marla Dorrel for this well-deserved honor. More information about the 2007 Anthemion awards, including other winners, is available from CAP at <http://www.cappresinc.org/events.php> and <http://www.cappresinc.org/images/Fall%202007.PDF>.

President's Message

By Bob Myers

The Friends have accomplished a great deal since our last newsletter was published. It is amazing what can be done when you have a group of energetic, committed individuals and the support of a loyal membership.

Our **history education** and **oral history programs** are progressing well (see articles on pages 3 and 10). I was particularly pleased to see that **Peggy Van Scoyoc's** book, *Just a Horse Stopping Place*, is being used as a primary resource by **Elizabeth Conner**, artist for the Downtown Cary Streetscape Project. I can't wait to see how the oral histories are translated into art.

Despite the lack of rain this summer, the **Page Educational Garden** was beautiful (see article on page 4). The garden team did an incredible job. Special thanks to **John Duncan** for the new signage identifying the various plants, a great help to us botanically-challenged people; and the brochure box that protects the pamphlets that guide visitors to the garden.

If you didn't make it to one of the **Winter Series concerts**, you missed some wonderful performances. **Hal Bowman** has outdone himself by scheduling a varied slate of gifted musicians. The highlight was the **Brian Reagin** show, the first annual **Carole J. Wright memorial concert**.

Thanks to the endowment established in Mrs. Wright's name, as well as grants from the **Town of Cary** and the **Cary Community Foundation**, we were able to return to a full calendar of five concerts this season.

Our **historic preservation** activities are also bearing fruit. The **Waldo house** has finally been moved to its new site and exterior restoration is being planned (see article on page 4). We also worked to delay the widening of Green Level Church Road through that historic district. I was recently appointed to serve on the **Wake County Historic Preservation Commission** and vice-president **Brent Miller**

is working with the town on the new **Historic Resources Plan**. Thanks to a **Lazy Daze grant**, we will now have our own projection equipment for our increasingly popular speaker series (see article on page 9).

Although we are accomplishing a lot, many people in our community remain unaware of who we are, or mistakenly believe that our mission is limited to the Page-Walker Hotel building itself. To improve this situation, **Joy Mellon** is leading a branding committee to help us raise community awareness and communicate our message to the business community and the residents of Cary. We don't want to be "Cary's best kept secret". We want to be known as the vital local advocates for preserving and promoting history and cultural arts that we are.

Finally, we bid farewell to two long-time partners of the Friends of the Page-Walker Center supervisor **Sara Maultsby** and cultural arts program specialist **Darrell Stover** have announced their departures (see article on page 3). Sara and Darrell have supported our efforts and activities since before I joined the organization. They will be difficult to replace and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Time to Start or Renew Your Membership!

👉 This Means You! 👈

The Friends can accomplish our mission only through the participation of members.

We thank you for your continued support and ask you to **please, at this time, begin or renew your membership. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2008, please do so today.**

A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears on page 13. Please print, complete and return it today!



The Friends thank these (new and renewed) Community Partner, Sustaining and Silver Sustaining Members:

Tim & Carol LaCroix, Rosanna M. Adams,
Larry & Claudia Mormino, Peggy Van Scoyoc,
Pat Fish, Anne Kratzer, Dick & Jean Ladd,
Bob Myers, Lynn H. Wright

Oral History

By Peggy Van Scoyoc

I'd like to highlight two recent exciting developments in oral history. First, the **Bartley** family has sold their farmland near Penny Road to the Town of Cary. The farm will be developed as a park. Several interviews are being conducted to gather history about the property. The original house and an older log cabin will be preserved and maintained as part of the park.

Second, **Fiona Morgan**, a staff writer for *The Independent Weekly* in Durham, is performing research to learn about the history of the African-American community along Evans Road. The widening of Evans Road has prompted her to write a feature article about the families that have owned properties in the area for decades. After reading my book, *Just a Horse-Stopping Place* (see box on page 10), Fiona contacted me and I was able to help her with her research, using **Evans family** interviews previously conducted.

The land was originally owned by **Charlie Evans**, patriarch of the Evans family for which the road is named. Charlie's son, **Clyde Sr.**, inherited some of the land from his father. Clyde followed his father's example by selling plots to other African-Americans because, according to Clyde's son, **Clyde Jr.**, he wanted to build a town for people not fortunate enough to have any land to build on. Fiona's article, planned for spring publication, promises to be very interesting.

Sara Maultsby, Darrell Stover Move On

The Page-Walker Hotel parlor was filled with Town of Cary employees, Friends of the Page-Walker and others who bid a sad yet fond farewell to two employees and dear friends.



Sara Maultsby (already prepared for retirement in her robe and slippers) and Darrell Stover (right) receive gifts from Friends president Bob Myers (photo contributed by Nanci Tanton)

Darrell Stover, cultural arts program specialist, is pursuing a new opportunity with the North Carolina Cultural Arts Center. We will long remember Darrell's passion for learning and teaching about cultural arts and history, his wonderful gift for story-telling with that soothing voice, and the many miles of leading walking tours around downtown Cary.

Sara Maultsby embarks on a well-earned retirement after many years as the Page-Walker Arts & History Center supervisor. We are grateful for Sara's outstanding management of this Cary landmark. Her rich knowledge, attention to detail and quiet leadership will be missed, although we think that the old building will be calling her back from time to time!

The Friends will miss Sara and Darrell, two wonderful workers, good friends and fine people, and we wish them both the very best as they each begin a new chapter in their lives.



There's Waldo!

By Brent Miller

After many years of planning and anticipation, the **Waldo House** was moved on December 6, 2007. The house was built by **Dr. S. P. Waldo**, Cary's third doctor, circa 1873. Dr. Waldo charged patients \$1 for local visits and \$1 per mile for country calls. Dr. Waldo built Cary's first drugstore and planted vacant lots around town with cotton. His house was the meeting place for the Methodist Church before the church was constructed. After Waldo's death in 1891, the house passed through several hands and received several small additions over the years.

The house was donated to the town by First United Methodist Church (it is said to have served as a church meeting place before the first sanctuary was completed) on the condition that the house be moved, to allow the Church to complete development plans for the land.

The Waldo house is one of Cary's most important structures, being one of only two examples of board-and-batten Gothic Revival buildings in Wake County (the Ivey-Ellington-Waddell house on Chatham Street is the other).

In partnership with the Town of Cary, the Friends were instrumental in saving the Waldo house. The Friends spent two weekends cleaning out two very large dumpster loads of trash from the house in 2006, preparing it for its upcoming move and saving Cary taxpayers about \$1,500. Many other parties, including Capital Area Preservation, KB Bunn house movers, J&B Tree Pros, Time-Warner Cable, Progress Energy, BellSouth and local residents all cooperated to move this historic house, and dozens of people turned out to watch the move. As shown in the photo, seeing a house roll down Park Street isn't an everyday sight!



Did you miss the Waldo House move? Come to our March 25 program!

The Friends will host several of the key players in the Waldo house move for our March historic preservation program series. Please join us to see photos and video of the move and hear from many of the people who planned and executed this complex task.

Tues., March 25, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

There's Waldo! The Waldo House Move

A video presentation of the move and discussion with the people who made it happen

Free and open to the public

Light refreshments served

Also see the *Cary News* report at

<http://www.carynews.com/news/cary/story/7822.html> .

Page Educational Gardens:

A Very Productive Year

By Anne Kratzer

Through the efforts of our garden volunteers, the 2007 planting and growing season was a tremendous success! The gardens never looked more beautiful and, because of the long growing season, bloomed through most of November.



As of this January writing, many of the plants are providing a wonderful winter landscape, including the cotton plant!

Thanks to these dependable volunteers:

Lisa Englert, Paul and Lynn Wasylkevych, Lynn McKenzie, Cheryl McLean, Mercedes Auger, Lois Nixon, Pati Schetzina, John Duncan, Kay Struffolino, Marla Dorrel, Jerod Kratzer and members of the **Russell Hills Garden Club** (Eleanor and Bill Hennis, Ruth White, Alice Hillsgrove, Lea and Lou Hovis, and Kat and Fred Pippin).

We were so pleased to accomplish several projects to enhance the gardens that have been underway for a couple of years. Thanks to **John Duncan**, each herb has a professional-looking label. John also designed and constructed a handsome brochure holder so that visitors to the gardens can learn about the history and lore of past generations. In addition, with the able assistance of graphic designer **Amy Sawyer**, a handsome interpretative sign helps visitors learn about the importance of the gardens and the history of the Town's founding family, the **Pages**. And finally, an interpretative sign near the southeast corner of the Page-Walker Hotel marks the young sapling from the Henry Clay Oak. That tree was planted in honor of **Dave Grant** who served as Treasurer of the Friends during the ten-year Page-Walker restoration fund-raising effort. We are most appreciative of the **Cary Lazy Daze Arts and Festival Committee** for providing a grant to purchase the signage and plants.

We thank **Lyman Collins, Sara Maultsby, Carolyn Lewis, Darrell Stover, Rick Knapp** and the **Town of Cary Public Works Department** for their continued support, as well as the Town for its irrigation system that makes the gardens possible. Even though the system was turned off because of the drought, it was in place for the crucial months. We hope that Mother Nature will smile on North Carolina and the water situation will be resolved.

Spring is just around the corner. If you would like to join a great group, please contact **Anne Kratzer** at 467-8887.

Kudos to...

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

☀ All those who decorated the Page-Walker Arts & History Center for the holidays, and then took the decorations back down in January: **John and Sandy Duncan, Bob Meyers, Pat Fish, Mercedes Auger, Cathy Richmond, Sharon Hendricks, Lois Nixon, Pati Schetzina, Paul Waslykevych, Anne and Jerod Kratzer.**

☀ **John Duncan** for building the wonderful brochure box in the Page Educational Gardens. Do stop by the garden and see John's fantastic brochure holder! It is really a handsome looking holder designed by a master craftsman. Many thanks to you, John, from not only the volunteers, but from all the visitors to the garden for providing a holder that is so stunning!

☀ **Rick Knapp and Cindi Baker** for their longstanding, unflagging history education work with students from western Wake County



Kudos to John, Rick and Cindi and all the "decorators and de-decorators"

Congratulations to

Marla Dorrel, who won the 2007
Anthemion Award
See story, page 1

And to

Bob Myers on his **appointment** to the
Wake County Historic Preservation
Commission



Cultural Arts

By Paul Wasylykevych

As the Friends representative on the Town of Cary **Cultural Arts Commission**, I have the privilege of helping shape the direction for cultural arts support in Cary. Before the new year began, we spent considerable time developing goals that our committee hopes to achieve in 2008. These goals build on the success of our efforts last year. Number one on our list is to continue to support and facilitate feedback to the architects and staff on the plans for renovation of **Old Cary Elementary**. This year we will again solicit feedback from the community at large and cultural groups in particular, but this year's focus is on recommendations for the operating plans for Old Cary Elementary.

We also will develop recommendations for the upcoming Master Plan review, continue to develop and implement the **Cultural Arts Citizens Feedback** surveys and assist in developing a utilization plan for **Jordan Hall**.

All this is in addition to our customary support for **the Lazy Daze and Spring Daze Festivals, Booth Amphitheatre** committees, our involvement in the grant request process and our input for the **Marvelous Music Series, Sertoma Series, Applause** and **Christmas Programs**.

We continue to work to accomplish the Friends' mission to promote the cultural arts in our community.

Wright Memorial Established

Mr. Lynn Wright has established an endowment fund in honor of his late wife, **Mrs. Carol Wright**. Henceforth, one concert each year will be the

Carol J. Wright Memorial Concert

The Friends thank Mr. Wright for this generous gift.

Holiday Party

The Friends held our annual holiday gathering at the Page-Walker in December and we were pleased and fortunate to enjoy the musical entertainment of the **Cary Concert Singers**.



The Cary Concert Singers perform holiday favorites

Thanks to the Cary Concert Singers for an enjoyable evening and to **Mercedes Auger, Winnie Ferguson, Joy Mellon** and **Pat Fish** for their work in organizing, setting up and cleaning up for this fun event.



(from left): Lyman Collins, Peggy Van Scoyoc, and Jerod and Anne Kratzer enjoy the party



Well Done, My Friends

The Ground Breaking 1991

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

When we left off in the previous edition – in 1990 – after fits and starts, ups and downs, bailing and bake sales, the renovation of the Page-Walker Hotel and Arts & History Center had finally begun. In partnership with the Town of Cary, construction was in progress but the renovation would occur in phases, because the estimate was \$200,000 more than budgeted.

In partnership with the Friends, 1990 closed with the Town Council agreeing to assume responsibility for overseeing the remaining phases of construction of the Page-Walker. On Nov. 8, 1990, a contract was signed to frame the addition, complete the first floor of the historic structure and addition, and install landscaping.

“The original wood flooring on the third floor, site of the many buckets that had lined the rafters eleven years earlier because of a leaky roof, had been repaired”

By early 1991, great progress had been made as the basement was excavated, the elevator jack hole drilled, and the concrete slab poured for the addition. The original wood flooring on the third floor, site of the many buckets that had lined the rafters eleven years earlier because of a leaky roof, had been repaired. Sprinkler, security and electrical systems were being planned. Representatives from the Friends joined the weekly site meetings of the contractors, architects (Burnstudio), Town Staff (Wayne Mingis and Rick LeLand), landscape architect (Dick Paton), structural engineer (Dave Fischetti), and the representative from the NC State Department of Cultural Resources (Paul

Fomberg). It was thrilling to see the focus of the group and the ensuing progress!

1991 was bracketed by two extraordinary celebrations: the *Ground Breaking Ceremony* and the *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*. Even though work had begun on the basement and addition, the Friends and the Town wanted to recognize the “official” beginning of the restoration. On March 11, 1991, the air was crystal clear and the sun was shining as the Friends and the Town launched the *Ground Breaking Ceremony*. The Friends, again, were masters for detail! The Cary High School Jazz Band greeted guests as they arrived. Ira David Wood electrified those in attendance with his portrayal of Allison Francis Page. Catherine Bishir, author of *North Carolina Architecture*, shared her memories of identifying the architecturally significant downtown Cary buildings for the Cary Historical Society in the 1970’s. She listed the Page-Walker as one of the two most important structures in the town center area, the Nancy Jones House being the second. She congratulated the Town and the Friends for their efforts to preserve this important building. Miss North Carolina, Scarlet Morgan, and Mayor Koka Booth shared their congratulations and support. The “Ground Breakers” were Mayor Booth, who, as mayor in 1985, gave invaluable leadership in the purchase of the Hotel; John Salls, Senior vice president of SAS, the largest private donor; Peggy Stamey, from the North Carolina Legislature, which had appropriated generous funding for the project; Vernon Malone, Chairman of the Wake County Commissioners, another public entity that contributed thousands of dollars to the project; and Anne Kratzer, representing the Friends. The event was well covered by area TV broadcasting and newspapers. It was such a memorable day following six exciting and challenging years!

“We joked that we now had funds for a piano, but nowhere, at that point, to put it!”



After the *Ground Breaking Ceremony*, the Friends continued fund raising efforts by selling shirts and Christmas ornaments, as well as participating in the annual “*Lazy Daze*” festival. Community groups continued to support the effort as seen by the Home Builders of Raleigh/Wake County’s donation of proceeds from their Dream House Showcase to the Hotel. In the grant category, the Friends received \$20,000 from the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation. The Foundation designated \$15,000 of the grant for the purchase of a piano for the gallery. We joked that we now had funds for a piano, but nowhere, at that point, to put it!

In addition to the new piano, the Page-Walker was the beneficiary of an extraordinary and rare 1850’s American square piano built by JHW Geib. The piano once belonged to Lucinda Rambo, a former classmate of Frank Page’s daughter, Katherine. Ms. Rambo’s relatives, John and Patricia Tector, donated the piano. It is now on the second floor of the Page-Walker in the Music Room.

In an effort to keep the Friends involved in the programming for the Page-Walker, an agreement with the Town stated that three members of the Friends would be appointed as voting members of the newly formed Cary Cultural Arts Commission. One of the responsibilities of the Friends was to ensure that the activities and events planned for the Page-Walker reflected the intent for the facility: a place for performance, historic memorabilia, exhibits, celebrations and meetings. The Friends continue to have input in planning for the arts in Cary (see article on page 6).

Another related effort in which the Friends were involved was the moving of the Page Smokehouse from its original Town Hall site (formerly A.F. Page’s home place) to the northeast corner of the Hotel property. The Town, under the direction of restoration specialist Paul Fomberg of Archives and History, restored it, much to the delight of the Friends and supporters of the herb garden, the smokehouse’s neighbor to this day.

Strains of Handel’s “*Hallelujah*” chorus could be heard as we met weekly during 1991. Such great progress was made that the *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony* was set for the evening of Dec. 8th, following the annual Cary Holiday Tree Lighting. Again, the Friends went into full gear to plan the event. The Cary Town Center donated a tree that was trimmed by the Friends with many handmade Victorian ornaments. The Lady Slipper Garden Club helped to decorate the mantles and windows in the gallery and the parlor. And then it really happened!!! On a magnificent star-filled evening, the first floor of the Page-Walker was formally dedicated. On the front porch, carolers and a brass quartet under the direction of Larry Speakman added a Dickensian flavor as they entertained more than 350 people. After a moving devotion by Dr. Harvey Duke, speeches by Wayne Mingis, Director of Cary’s Parks and Recreation Department (now Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department), Mayor Koka Booth, U.S. Representative David Price, former Mayor Harold Ritter, and J. Myrick Howard of Preservation NC, summarized the pride that all felt with the culmination of a long, but very worthwhile effort.

“The words of Allison Francis Page ... rang true: **‘Well done, my friends.’**”

The exterior of the Hotel presented a warm invitation to the interior where the works of twenty-five Cary artists were exhibited. To the delight of all, music selections were played on the new Baldwin piano, and the bronze and cast iron plaques recognizing major donors were in place throughout the building. The words of Allison Francis Page, as portrayed the previous March by Ira David Wood, rang true: “Well done, my friends.”

The final phase will be described in the next issue of THE INNKEEPER.



Friends Receive Lazy Daze Grant

The Friends are very pleased to have received one of the Town of Cary Lazy Daze cultural arts grants. The proceeds from the grant will be used to expand our audio-visual technology capabilities, specifically to purchase a digital projector. Having this equipment will enable the Friends to expand our reach for our history education and historic preservation programs.

The Friends are grateful to the Town of Cary and the Lazy Daze Committee for administering the grant program and selecting the Friends as a 2007 grant recipient. See <http://www.carynews.com/community/story/8080.html> for more information about this year's Lazy Daze grants.

Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Committee's **Speakers Program Series** has been an ongoing success! Special thanks to **Marla Dorrel, Andy Jalbert** and **Pat Fish** for coordinating speakers for the series this year and to the rest of the committee for getting the word out. The speakers series continues to emphasize the importance of historic preservation in and around Cary.

Last October, Historic Preservation Committee Chair **Andy Jalbert**, an architect with Clark Nexsen, presented "**Colonial Revival, Queen Anne or Tudor? A Guide to Architectural Details**". Andy described and presented visual examples of the many architectural styles and variations found on historic properties in and around Cary.

On January 22, local historian **Bryan Edwards** presented "Carpenter Area Memories" to a packed house. Bryan shared his memories of growing up in Carpenter, as described in his 2006 book, *Carpenter, NC As I*

Remember (And What I Have Learned). This wonderful book is available at the Carpenter Farm Supply store.

Coming up: The March 25th program, "**There's Waldo!**" will be a visual presentation of the recent Waldo House move (see story on page 4) and discussion with some of the key parties responsible for that successful house move. Then, on May 27 is our third annual, updated "**What Have We Got To Lose?**" photographic presentation. This program is a visual tour of Cary's historic properties and a report to the community about their status, especially those that have been lost or are endangered. **All programs are held at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center at 7:30 p.m.** Programs are **free and open to the public** and typically last about one hour, followed by refreshments and socializing.

We are excited to note that the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that provides Cary with the authority to enact ordinances to encourage the preservation of historic properties, similar to ordinances in the Town of Apex. Town Staff are studying possible ordinances for consideration by the Town Council.

The Town of Cary hosted a community open house to discuss the Green Level Historic District. The results of this survey were mixed, and published in a report by Town Staff for consideration by Town Council in December 2007. Some of Staff's recommendations were approved by Council, but others were tabled or left for further study, including the transportation plan (the Friends oppose the Staff recommendation to widen Green Level Church road to 4 lanes). Among the items approved was to initiate a Comprehensive Historic Resources Plan; the Friends, along with Capital Area Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office, are participating with Town Staff in that initiative.



"Just a Horse-Stopping Place"

Peggy Van Scoyoc's recently published book about the oral history of Cary, *Just a Horse-Stopping Place*, is now on sale at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center. And don't forget the classic book of Cary History, *Around and About Cary*, by **Tom Byrd** and **Jerry Miller**. Sales of both books benefit the Friends.

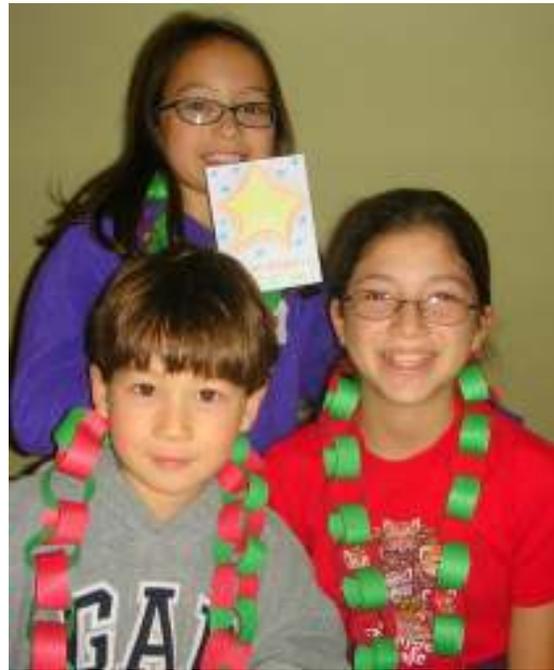
Educational Programs

By Rick Knapp

Page-Walker Arts & History Center staff continue to work with the public schools of western Wake County, with programs designed specifically for first, third, and eighth grades.

The programs are in accordance with state curriculum goals in social studies, and in some instances English and mathematics, for these grades. Private schools and home schools (in groups) are also eligible to participate in these free Page-Walker educational ventures.

In the current winter season, **Green Hope Elementary School** in northwestern Cary continues its cooperation with the Page-Walker, a partnership in its third year. Despite the recent conversion of Green Hope to a year-round school, every current third-grade student there again has had (or soon will have) the opportunity to experience a school visit and presentation by Page-Walker staff. The program at the school focuses on the growth of Cary from a small stop on the North Carolina Railroad in the 1850s to today's ever-expanding, sprawling suburban town facing increasing challenges of population expansion. The students also learn about the Native Americans who first inhabited the area and have an exciting hands-on experience with replica arrowheads and spear points as well as nineteenth-century railroad, household, and Civil War items.



Children enjoy Page-Walker Holiday Fun & Education event (photo contributed by Bill Hohensee)

When the children subsequently come on buses to the Page-Walker, they see the video *Cary-Osity* and may tour the Town Hall. They also take part in three hands-on programs presented by staff. The three sessions are a tour of the Cary Heritage Museum and scavenger hunt for historical facts in the museum, a discussion and demonstration of architectural styles as revealed in the Page-Walker building, and a program about medicine and medical techniques and tools as exemplified by one of Cary's first physicians, **Dr. John Templeton**, and others.

Briarcliff Elementary began its use of our programs last year, and they continue with all first-grade classes receiving customized hands-on programs at the school. Students experience a special version of the Page-Walker's "**Cary Changes Over Time**" in-school curriculum and also examine nineteenth-century household tools of the sort once common in Cary and Wake County. Board member **Renata Thompson** donated the popular educational artifacts. The first-graders prove surprisingly



adept at figuring out the uses of some of the items, such as a flatiron. The young scholars also display knowledge in interpreting replicas of old maps and photographs of the Cary area.

Scheduling and current emphasis on various standardized testing make it difficult for middle schools to take advantage of educational offerings originating at places outside the schools, such as museums and historic sites. Nonetheless, Apex Middle School eighth-graders (thanks to board member and educator **Cindi Baker**) will again have Page-Walker staff presentations this winter that focus on population changes and characteristics in western Wake County.

We welcome the opportunity to provide programs both at the Page-Walker and at schools for all students in western Wake County. Interested educators should contact **Rick Knapp** (rick.knapp@townofcary.org or 460-4963) for details.

A Page-Walker Moment

Walter Hines Page's Early Memories of His Father

By Dean Teitelbaum



Walter Hines Page

Walter Hines Page (called "Wat") grew up at Page's or Page's Station. His earliest memories were of going to the station with Nance (a slave boy a few years older than Wat, and his usual playmate) when the train whistle

announced a stop to leave off the coffin of a Confederate soldier.

Wat's father, (Cary founder) Francis Allison "Frank" Page, had left home at the age of twenty to work in sawmilling and turpentine distilling. The senior Page said, "I can make more money out of a pine log than a bale of cotton". He ran a store and a lumber mill and quietly supported the Union rather than the Confederacy.

Why did the local Confederate authorities leave him alone? Frank Page was 6' 5" tall, with a rangy build, craggy features, coarse dark hair and a bristly beard. He greatly enjoyed making money, and his house became the largest in the neighborhood (which wasn't difficult then). He was clearly one of the greatest influences on his son Walter's development.

About *The Innkeeper*

The Innkeeper is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel. First published in 1985, and back from hiatus, the newsletter offers membership and community outreach communication.

The Innkeeper is a team effort of the Friends; Brent Miller edits the newsletter.

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.



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), Don Frantz (ex-officio Town Council liaison), Andy Jalbert, Anne Kratzer (life member), Joy Mellon, Brent Miller (vice president), Bob Myers (president), Cathy Richmond, 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 and Rick Knapp.

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.

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

The mission of the Friends of the Page Walker Hotel is to enrich the community by serving as guardian for the Page Walker Arts & History Center, by advocating preservation of Cary historic sites, by archiving history and facilitating history education, and by promoting the cultural arts.

Calendar of Events

- **March 5, 2008, 7:00 p.m.:** Board of Directors Meeting, at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center
- **March 25, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.:** **"There's Waldo!" Historic Preservation Program Series** (more information in "Historic Preservation" article on page 9 of this newsletter)
- **April 2, 2008, 7:00 p.m.:** Board of Directors Meeting, at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center
- **May 7, 2008, 7:00 p.m.:** Board of Directors Meeting, at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center
- **May 27, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.:** **"What Have We Got To Lose? An Update" Historic Preservation Program Series** (more information in "Historic Preservation" article on page 9 of this newsletter)



Begin or Renew Your Membership *Today!*

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, fill out the form below and mail or bring 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, 10% discount for the Friends of the Page-Walker winter concert series tickets and discounts for many Town-sponsored Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department programs held at the Page-Walker Hotel. 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
- Family \$50
- Community Partner \$100
- Sustaining Member \$150 (Includes your choice of *Around and About Cary* or *Just a Horse-Stopping Place* book)
- Silver Sustaining Member \$250 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series season tickets)

My employer, _____ has a matching gift program

Business memberships:

- Business Member \$250 (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:

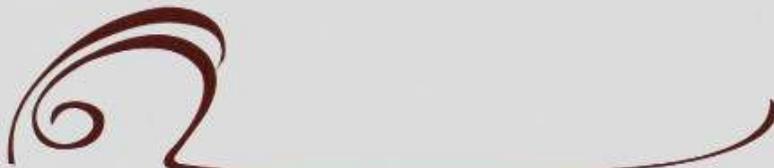
Monday – Thursday: 10:00AM – 9:30PM

Friday: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Friday Evening - Sunday: by reservation

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



FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER HOTEL

