

The Innkeeper

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

SUMMER 2022



Friends
Reunite
Abroad

PLUS

Let's Go to
Ed Yerha Park

Herbfest Returns

Digging Up the Past



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KERRY MEAD

Two Farewells and a Hello

[Ed. Note: The Friends welcome new President Kerry Mead and thank outgoing President John Loyack for his years of outstanding leadership]

This issue's President's message is about farewells and hellos. We'll begin by saying farewell to John Loyack as board President. He has been our passionate and caring leader for four years. Of his many accomplishments during this time, some of the most impactful contributions are leading the Ivey-Ellington and Nancy Jones preservation efforts and promoting the President's Volunteer Service Award. One of his most visible contributions was helping the Friends continue their mission during the pandemic by forming the COVID Times committee. This committee developed new ways to bring Cary history alive for residents through blog posts and live streams on Facebook and YouTube. (Coming this Fall, watch for the history of the Town's long-time summer festival, Cary Lazy Daze, and learn how Cary became known as the gourd capital of the world!) We are lucky that John isn't going anywhere; he'll be taking on new roles on the board this year!

Secondly, I want to say hello to you, our members and friends. I joined the Friends board in 2016, and it's been a joy working and learning alongside our board members on various activities throughout these years. It's an exciting time to be involved with the Friends. In addition to our history live streams, we're bringing back a number of in-person traditions this year, including our trolley

tours and our Victorian Christmas (in partnership with the Town), and we're collaborating with the Town's Historic Preservation Commission to find new and fun ways to share Cary's history and keep you up to date about the latest news. I'm excited to take on the new role of President, and hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you this coming year.

And finally, we have another farewell. With sadness, we'll be saying Happy Trails to our beloved trolley driver, John Lytvinenko, in October when he retires. We met John in 2018 when he reached out to us to suggest we host a trolley tour. John was a driver for Raleigh Trolley at the time, and he knew Cary had the history to make a great tour. He thought that residents would love it — and he was right! The trolley tours are truly enriched by John's enthusiasm, welcoming smile, and funny anecdotes throughout each trolley ride. If you have the opportunity, sign up for one last trolley tour before he retires at the end of October, and take the opportunity to say goodbye and wish him well.

Upcoming Fall Activities

- Trolley tours in [September](#) and [October](#)
- Continuing Friends' [Facebook](#) live streams to share Cary history with you
- Town- and Friends-based programs at the Page-Walker, including [Performances at the Page](#)
- Our long-standing holiday tradition, a [Victorian Christmas](#)

The Innkeeper is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker. First published in 1985, and restarted in 2003 after a hiatus, the newsletter offers member and community outreach communication. The Innkeeper is a team effort of the Friends. Brent Miller edits and Leesa Brinkley designs the newsletter. We welcome your contributions to The Innkeeper. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent at brent@posmoroda.com.



Let's Visit
Ed Yerha
Park!

White Oak Park Renamed for Cary Councilman

On July 28, the Cary Town Council voted to rename White Oak Park as Ed Yerha park to honor Ed Yerha's long-time service to Cary, including 10 years on the Town Council and more than 10 years of volunteer service before joining Town Council. Mayor Harold Weinbrecht said, "Mr. Yerha has spent decades involved with the town. ... He was first appointed to Town Council 10 years ago. ... Mr. Yerha, thank you for all that you've done for this town and I think naming White Oak Park after you is the least we can do for all you've offered this town".

In addition to serving as an at-large representative on the Town Council, including many years as the Council liaison to the Friends and a stint as President of the Friends, Ed's service includes Mayor Pro Tem, Planning and Zoning Board (4 years as Chair), Sister Cities Commission Vice Chair, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Town Center Area Plan Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Master Plan Advisory Committee and representing Cary on several regional governmental bodies. Ed has also served as Council liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission and Cary150 Task Force.

Ed remarked, "I'm both honored and humbled at the same time. ... The park means a lot to me. It's right near my house. Carolyn and I walk a couple miles, weather permitting, every morning, and we start in the park and we end in the park. ... I am more than grateful, and I thank you very much".

A dedication ceremony unveiling the new park sign is planned for some time in September or October.

The Friends offer our sincere congratulations to Ed Yerha for this wonderful honor and our sincere thanks for all he's done to make Cary such a wonderful place to live, especially his passionate advocacy for historic preservation.

INFORMATION FROM TOWN OF CARY



The Return of Herbfest!

The Friends hosted our 11th annual **Herbfest** on May 1, on the beautiful grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. After celebrating the festival's 10th anniversary in May, 2019, and experiencing a hiatus in 2020 and 2021 as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone was excited and grateful to participate—the Friends, vendors and guests. We were so pleased to have returning vendors who have been with us for years and we welcomed eight new vendors. We thank each and every vendor for their participation and support. The weather was beautiful and guests could stroll through the vendor booths and visit the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens and the Pollinator Garden, where garden volunteers shared information and answered questions. Our signature butterfly release occurred at 2:30PM, hosted by our delightful Brent Miller, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. And our very popular Young Friends bake sale was a tremendous success.

Guests also had the opportunity to visit the beautiful and historic Page-Walker and experience a special self-guided tour using the self-guided walking tour brochure.

Digging Up the Past

[Ed. Note: Researcher and historian extraordinaire Carla Michaels offers “Treasures from the Vault” on a recurring basis as a way to share interesting historical stories and artifacts that she has gathered during her research]

If you have traveled down East Chatham Street lately, you have seen the heavy equipment on the site of the old Rogers Restaurant and Motel, which is being developed into the Rogers East & West mixed-use development by Chatham Street Commercial. Long-time landmarks of downtown Cary, the Rogers’ businesses weren’t the first buildings on the site, as excavation has recently revealed. A pocket of horseshoes and other iron fittings buried several feet beneath street level tell the story of life along Chatham Street more than 100 years ago and raise the question, what went on there, and by whom?

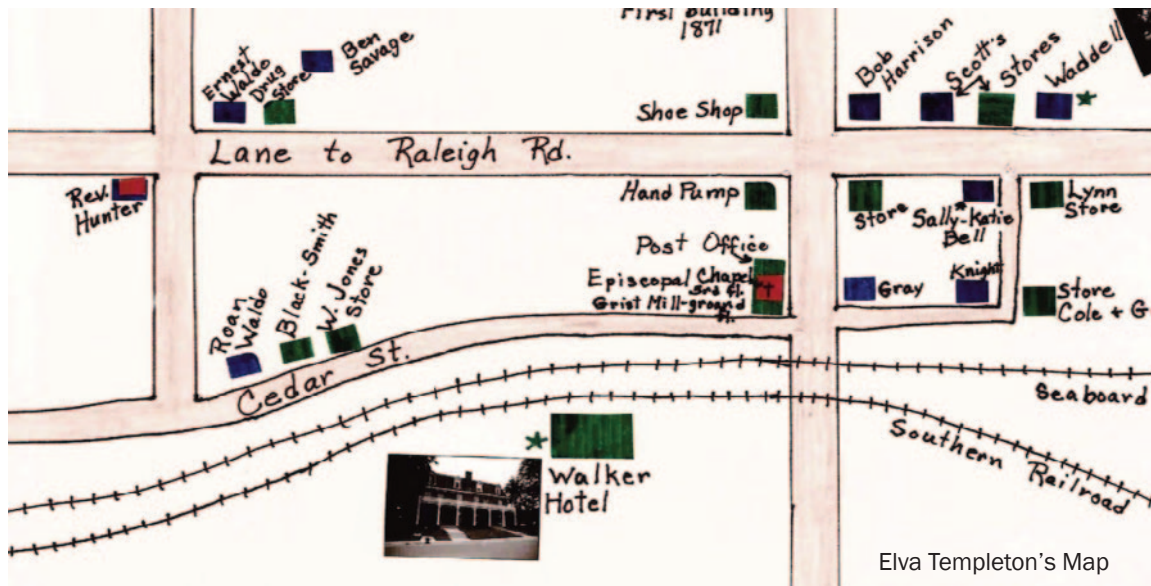
First, a little history lesson is in order. Chatham Street today serves as one of the two main streets in Cary, along with Academy Street. But in its earliest days, East Chatham Street didn’t exist except as a country lane. The main business street of Cary was Cedar Street, formerly known as Railroad Street, and a line of businesses lined the 100 block facing the railroad. Taking pride of place on the corner at Academy and Cedar was the three-story Page Tobacco Factory, built by Frank Page, the founder of Cary, around 1870, followed by a drug store, general store, and blacksmith. Jerry Miller, noted artist of Cary, NC drew this illustration to provide a bird’s eye view of what would have been considered the hub of Cary. This drawing is now located in the Cary Museum in the Page Walker Arts & History Center, Cary, NC.



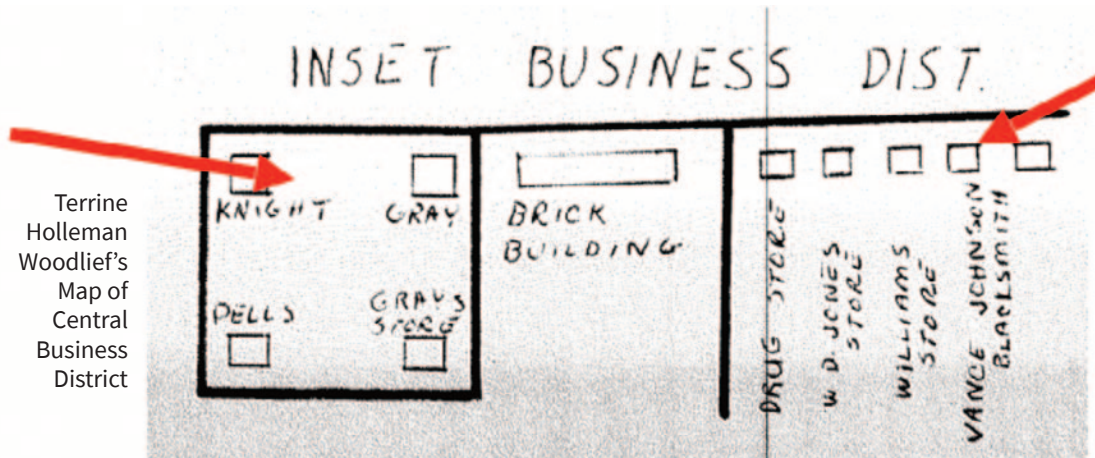
In the illustration and also referring to maps below drawn from the recollections of Cary residents Elva Templeton and Terrine Holleman Woodlief, there was a blacksmith shop near the corner of Walker Street and Cedar/Railroad Street. Both Miss Templeton and Mrs. Woodlief were young ladies at the turn of the last

continued

century, and both of their maps showed the blacksmith shop. Mrs. Woodlief's map named the shop as the Vance Johnson blacksmith. The iron items were probably discarded items, thrown in a trash heap at the back of the property. One of the horseshoes still has some of the nails in it, indicating it had been taken off a hoof in preparation for re-shodding the horse or mule.



Elva Templeton's Map



Note: The above maps are oriented in opposite directions. Miss Templeton's view is oriented with south facing up, and Mrs Woodlief's is oriented with north facing up.

Now the question becomes: Who was Vance Johnson? Vance Johnson was born around 1863, to James and Annie Johnson during the Civil War in the western section of Wake County, although some records refer to his birth in Pittsboro, Chatham County. According to his marriage license, both of his parents were deceased by the time he married Bettie Hinton in Wake County in 1881 in White Oak Township. Bettie's parents were listed as deceased as well.

continued

Johnson was named for the governor of North Carolina at the time, Zebulon Baird Vance, who served as a Confederate Colonel before becoming Governor of North Carolina from 1862 to 1865. He would have been a well-known figure locally as he led the 26th Regiment of North Carolina Troops, which was drawn in part from men in Wake County. Before his military service, Vance had served in the US House of Representatives and went on to serve another term as governor and fifteen years in the US Senate.

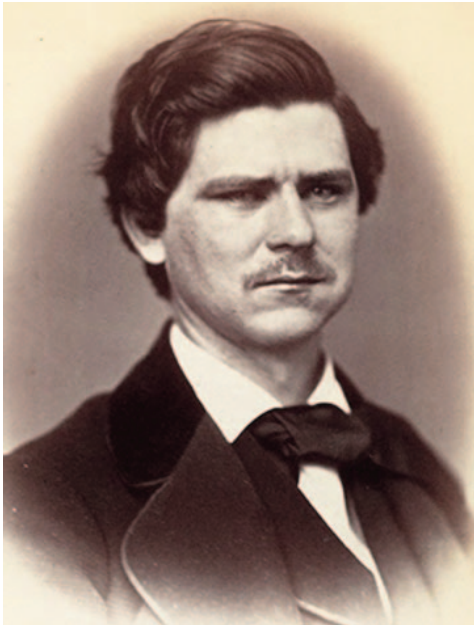


IMAGE FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Zebulon Baird Vance,
future Governor of North Carolina

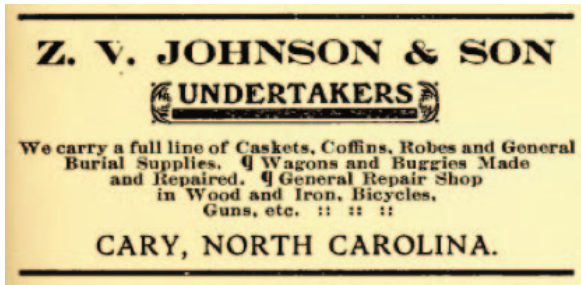
So, our Vance Johnson started life as Zebulon Vance Johnson. He styled himself as Z V as well as Z Vance and Vance Johnson throughout his life.

Little is known about Z V Johnson’s early years. As noted, both parents were deceased by the time he married in 1881, so it’s possible that he was raised by or lived with relatives for some time. But we do find him in Cary in the 1900 Census listed with wife Bettie and child Albert Sidney (also known as A S and “Abby”). Z V was listed as a blacksmith, and we now know the approximate location of his shop: facing Cedar Street and extending back to what is now Chatham Street. Son Albert was at school, presumably at Cary High School, since the family lived near Harrison P Guess (now listed as the Guess-Ogle House), a short “commute” to school at the south end of Academy Street.

33	40	Johnson, Zebulon	Head	W M	Mar	1863	37	18	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina			Blacksmith
		Bettie	Wife	W F	Mar	1865	35	18	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina			
		Albert A.	Son	W M	Mar	1883	16	5	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina			at school

Mr. Johnson was also involved in the community. From at least 1900 until the school became a public school, Mr. Johnson was a stockholder of Cary High School. In 1905 he was nominated to a place on the Cary Town Commissioners, was a member of the Order of Odd Fellows and was listed in one publication among prominent citizens of Cary. He and his son A S were among the incorporators of the Bank of Cary in 1909. According to advertisements found in the Cary High School Catalogs of 1900 – 1916, Mr. Johnson had an undertaking business, and he also built and repaired wagons and buggies in partnership with his son.

His business would have been one of three wagon manufacturers in Cary, the others owned by Robert Harrison and William Atkins. His involvement with another

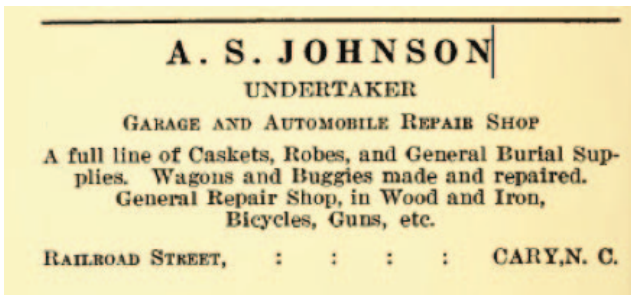


Advertisement for Z V Johnson & Son Undertakers in the Cary High School Catalog for 1904-1905

continued

organization of the time, the Patriotic Sons of America, however, apparently led to his demise. A newspaper article described a meeting of the Patriotic Sons at the Walker Hotel where guests were served stewed oysters. The article went on to say he suffered from acute indigestion some time after the meeting, and he was found dead in the stable lot of his home. He was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Son Albert, a former attendee of Cary High School, continued with the businesses for a time, converting the blacksmith shop to an automotive repair business as the wagon as a standard mode of transportation gave way to the automobile. Albert continued to operate the undertaking business for a while.



This advertisement from the Cary High School Catalog of 1913 shows the location of the business on Railroad Street. In Tom Byrd's book, *Around and About Cary*, Helen Jordan Bourke, who lived in the next block of Cedar/Railroad Street at the time, recounted this anecdote from the early 1900s:

“As children, we’d peek through the window at “Abbie” Johnson’s coffins and run like the dickens.”

continued

**STEWED OYSTERS
 CAUSE DEATH**

**Cary Man Dies Suddenly
 While Milking Cow**

**Z. Vance Johnson is Victim of
 Acute Indigestion—Funeral
 Conducted Yesterday**

Acute indigestion resulting, it is said, from eating stewed oysters, caused the death of Z. Vance Johnson Sunday afternoon at his home in Cary, about eight miles west of Raleigh. He was found unconscious in his stable lot, where he had gone to milk. He was about 55 years of age and leaves a widow and one son, A. S. Johnson.

Saturday night Mr. Johnson attended a banquet given at the Walker hotel by the Cary division of the Patriotic Sons of America, and partook, it is said, very freely of stewed oysters. He awoke the following morning with a complaint of not feeling exactly right, but never gave his slight illness any serious thought. With the advancement of the day his illness was plainer, but still there was no alarm. At 5 o'clock Mr. Johnson went, as usual, to the barn-yard to do his regular duties and it is thought that while doing the milking he was stricken with the fatal attack. When found he was lying on his side near a partially filled milk pail.

Mr. Johnson had been living in Cary for a number of years and with his son conducted an undertaking and manufacturing business. He was a member of the Odd Fellows, Juniors and Patriotic Sons of America.

The funeral was conducted at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the home in Cary and the interment was in the cemetery there. The services were in charge of the three orders.



This advertisement ran from 1915 through 1917 in the Cary High School Catalog.

As time passed, though, the family struggled financially. Property had to be sold, although Mrs. Z V Johnson continued to live in Cary. Son Albert married and had children, one of whom died in 1907. Albert himself died in 1923. Mrs. Johnson lived on to 1944, passing away in Durham while living for a short while with a niece. Obituaries and death certificates list the family burials in Cary, although Z V and Abbie are buried in

unidentified graves. Straitened financial circumstances after Mr. Johnson’s death probably prevented the placing of a carved headstone at the time. However, Mrs. Johnson’s grave is marked. The photos below show the order of burials associated with the Johnson family. It could be argued that the stone marker on the right below is for Z V Johnson, as it is closest to his wife Betty. The other unmarked stone could be the grave marker for A S Johnson, who would be buried close to his infant daughter.

Although some people say that digging up the past is unwise, this “dig” on Chatham Street has uncovered yet another unknown story in Cary’s history that adds to our understanding of life in Cary years ago.



Friends Reunite Abroad

In May of this year, Friends of Page-Walker board member, Barb Wetmore found herself traveling with her husband, Nelson, to the Netherlands for her first trip abroad. Former FOPW board member and close friend, Leesa Brinkley lives there now, specifically in Leiden. Former FOPW board member, Sarah Welsch is now doing graduate studies in Spain. Barb stayed with Leesa for three and a half glorious history-filled weeks and Sarah flew in for a long weekend. It was a wonderful reunion of three old Friends!

We could fill several newsletters with stories of what we saw and learned in Leiden, a charming city that sits between The Hague to the south and Amsterdam to the north. Leiden is home to Leiden University and many scientific discoveries, including the ECG. It was also the home of Rembrandt, who was born and grew up there. It once was home to a thriving textile industry. And it was home to William Brewster, William Bradford and others in their group that we have come to know as the Pilgrims. Yes, those Pilgrims, the ones we associate with the founding of our country and with Thanksgiving.

We're sharing some of our favorite photos. We hope you enjoy and remember, you can meet some really awesome people when you volunteer!

Right: Sarah sees if the shoe fits, Barb enjoys the quintessential Dutch cookie, the stroopwafel. Front cover: The Hague's Binnenhof with the Hofvijver lake.



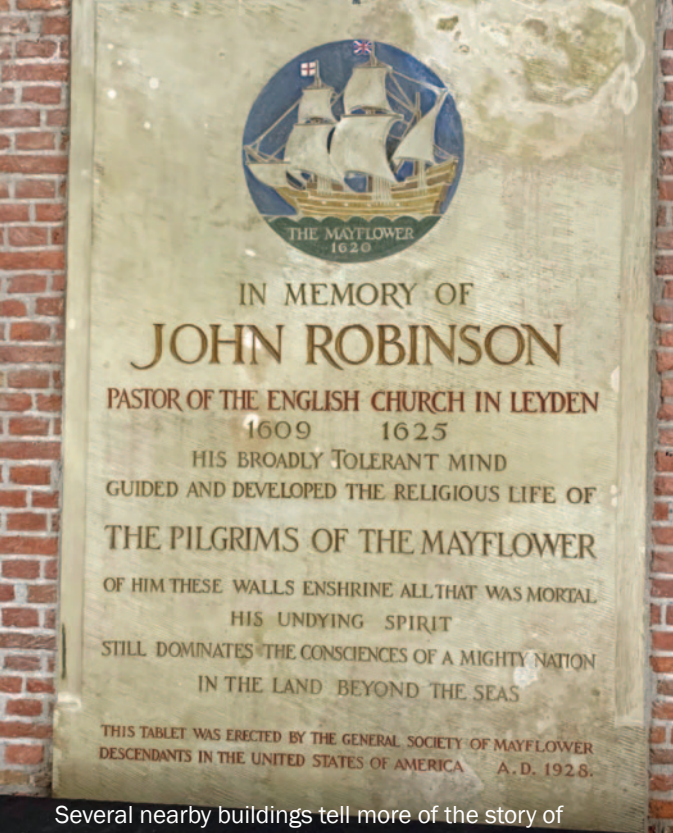
HISTORY HAPPENINGS

BARB WETMORE, SARAH WELSCH & LEESA BRINKLEY



A short walk from Leesa's home you'll find the actual spot where the Pilgrims left Leiden on their journey to the New World. They sailed on to England where they met the Mayflower and departed for the New World.

The sculpture represents an outstretched hand reaching into the unknown. The plaque below the sculpture lists the names of everyone aboard the boat that left Leiden.



Several nearby buildings tell more of the story of Pilgrim life in Leiden, including this church that houses a mini-museum inside devoted to them.



Visiting the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, located in a preserved house built ca 1365-1370 that shows what homes at the time of the Pilgrims were like. They slept sitting up in small closet type areas. Two separate families lived in the space - one upstairs and one downstairs.

Barb takes a peek at their shared family toilet, which was used by both families living in the house.



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

BARB WETMORE, SARAH WELSCH & LEESA BRINKLEY



The Dutch version of the trolley tour. A ride in a 1930s electric tram through Den Haag.



Leiden

We shared a boat tour around the canals of Leiden and had to duck going under the bridges or risk decapitation (see inset)!

The windmill is a replica of the wooden cornmill built in Leiden in 1619, where Rembrandt's father worked.

Please note our winter coats in May!



Above: In the village of Voorschoten, taking in the charming architecture and learning more history! Below: Who can visit the Netherlands in the spring and not see the tulips? Not these gals!



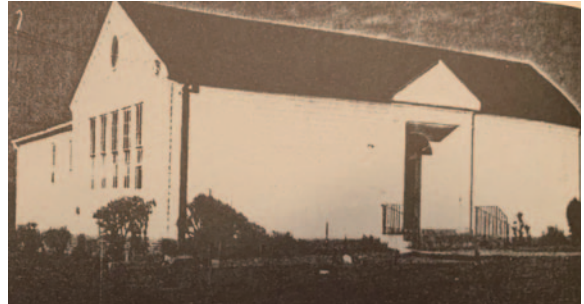
Documenting Cary's History: Cemeteries & Trains

Several Friends historians contribute spotlights on Cary's history in "Cary Me Back", our website's [blog](#).

Here are a few excerpts from recent blog posts.

In [Significant, Sacred, Historic: Cary First Christian Church Cemetery Tells The Story Of Cary's Early African American Families](#), Barb Wetmore writes:

Cornwall Road, south of downtown Cary, holds a special place in Cary's African American history. From the mid-1800s and into the 1900s, it was home to many African Americans, some whose families settled on and began farming the land just after the Civil War. It also was the place where African Americans began worshipping under a brush arbor in 1868 on a site where they had begun to bury their loved ones. Now surrounded by newer homes and the Glenaire Retirement Community, a significant remnant of Cary's African American past still remains at 300 West Cornwall Road. The sacred land where families began burying their loved ones as early as 1866 is now a 1.39 acre cemetery owned and maintained by Cary First Christian Church. And it has some stories to tell . . .



In a series entitled [A Brief History Of Cary's Railroads](#), Peggy Van Scoyoc writes:

The railroads literally put Cary on the map in the mid-19th century. Here are tales about how important trains have been to our town. Morrisville got the first railroad station in the area, and Cary got a sidetrack where eastbound and westbound trains could pass each other. By 1860, a rural depot had been established. Frank Page was the agent, so it became known as Page's Turnout. In 1862, NCRR prevailed the Southern Express Company to build a telegraph line through Cary. Because the trains began to stop occasionally for passengers, Frank built a small shelter for those waiting for a train to stop for them. By 1867, there was regular passenger service in Cary.



DRAWING: COURTESY OF JERRY MILLER

Peggy also offers memories about the railroads shared by local residents, from her book *Just A Horse-Stopping Place*, an oral history of Cary. From Esther Ivey: "The Westside Inn was a boarding house that was just behind Grocery Boy. We also had the Page-Walker Hotel where Mrs. Helen Walker was the manager. When the trains would come by, they had a dinner stop in Cary. The cook at the Page-Walker Hotel wore this big white cap, and would go out and ring the bell to entice the train

passengers over to the Hotel. Somebody from Westside Inn would be there also, trying to entice them to go up there to eat instead."

From Clyde Evans, Jr.: "When I was about ten, twelve years old, we'd catch a train from Cary to Raleigh for ten cents. I couldn't understand why they'd stop a big thing like that for a few dimes. The Southern went down Highway 54. The Seaboard didn't stop, but headed south, through Apex and on down. The Southern went back toward Durham and Greensboro."

Visit the Friends blog [here](#) for other topics, including haunting, groceries, agriculture, street names and more.

SHOW YOUR CARY PRIDE!

Get your own iconic Cary photos

Visit the Friends' [online store](#) to purchase some special Cary photography.

Once purchased, you'll get information and links to photo finishing partners who can produce and deliver various kinds of prints, greeting cards, puzzles, blankets and holiday ornaments.



From Hamilton to Cary – a Waldo Connection!

A recent online stroll through historic properties in North Carolina has uncovered a serendipitous connection to Cary and has broadened our knowledge of the Waldo family of Cary. The historic property is the Waldo Darden Hotel circa 1840 in Hamilton, NC. The Waldo name would ring a bell with students of Cary history, and the town of Hamilton might also ring a bell with those who know details of Cary town doctor Samuel Pierce Waldo. A small amount of digging around uncovered details about this historic property.

Yes, this wonderful property is associated with the father of Cary's own Dr. S P Waldo, who was born in Hamilton in 1845. His father, Joseph Waldo, originally hailed from Connecticut, but traveled south in the 1830s to begin a lifetime residence in Martin County, NC. Joseph Waldo amassed a considerable fortune and was involved in many business undertakings in the town of Hamilton in its earliest days. Close to the Roanoke River, Hamilton was a busy port before the Civil War and an outlet for shipping crops, including cotton, to distant markets. Joseph was an investor in a transport ship, warehouses, cotton gin, various businesses in area towns, including a jewelry store, as well as serving as a town official and justice of the peace. He was a trustee of the local Hamilton Male and Female Academy. And like Frank Page and his son, Samuel, he was a member of the Methodist Church. Joseph Waldo was the builder and owner of the Waldo Darden Hotel for several years, but then sold it. According to the National Register

continued



PHOTOGRAPH FROM CIRCAOLDHOUSES.COM

of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination form, the hotel is “one of the few remaining antebellum temple form structures in the state.” At the outbreak of the Civil War, Joseph Waldo enlisted at age 48 in the senior reserves. His son Samuel P Waldo enlisted as well. It is local lore that the basement of the hotel served as a hospital during the Civil War due to its location near the historic Fort Branch Civil War site. Was this the inspiration for Samuel to receive training after the war to become a physician?

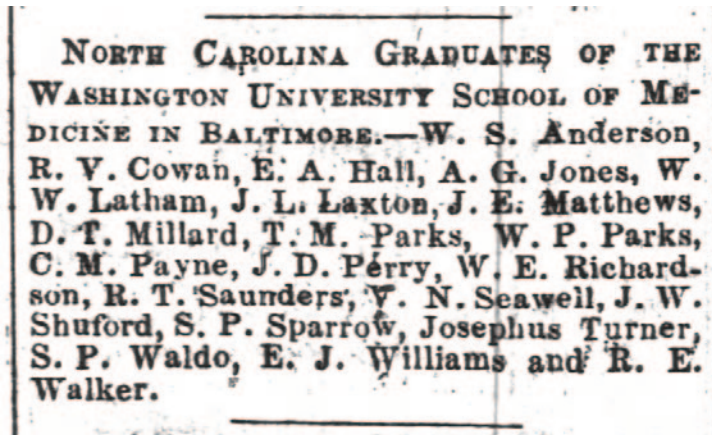
After the war, Samuel attended medical school at the Washington University School of



PHOTOGRAPH FROM CIRCAOLDHOUSES.COM

Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland and returned to North Carolina to practice alongside an experienced doctor.

He chose the town of Oxford. Dr. Waldo worked under Dr. Elza W Owen and later married Alice Owen, one of the daughters of Dr. Owen. As of the 1870 Census, Waldo was living with his wife Alice and young son Ernest beside Dr. Owen in Fishing Creek Township, Granville County. Waldo moved his young family to Cary in 1875 and lived out the rest

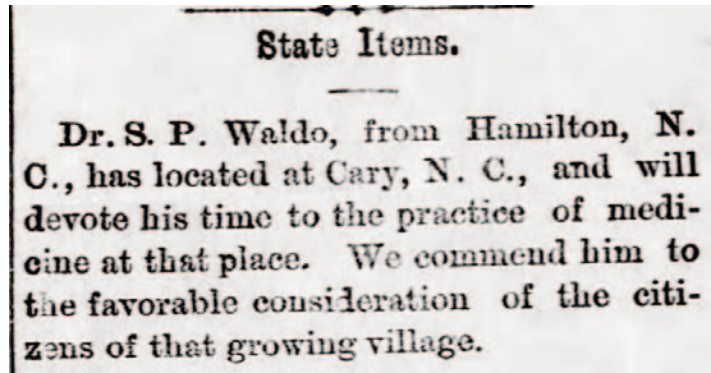


The Tarborough Southerner Newspaper, Thursday, March 12, 1868

continued

of his days in our town. The rest of Dr. Waldo's story in Cary is, as they say, well-known history.

Who knew such stunning architecture in a small town in a remote county of North Carolina has a connection with our not so small Town of Cary? And for those who can roll up their sleeves and roll out some renovation cash, this property is listed for sale!



Raleigh Christian Advocate Newspaper, Wednesday, January 13, 1875



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

BY KRIS CARMICHAEL

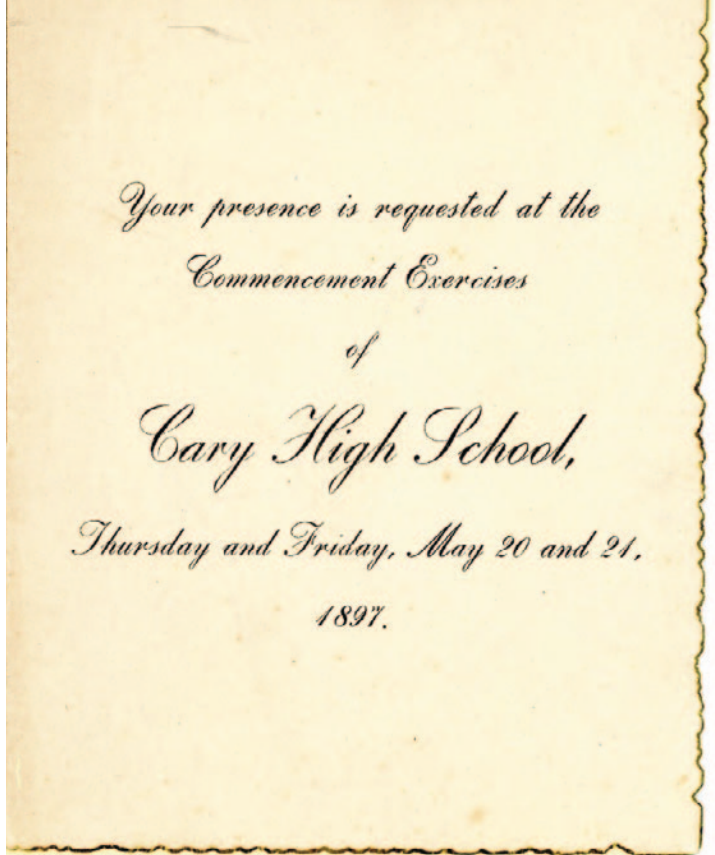
Good Hope Farm, the CF Ferrell Store and warehouses in Carpenter and the Jones-Bartley Farmstead, next to Jack Smith Park, all had historic markers installed as a final step in the Town of Cary's phase one restoration and stabilization project. The purpose of these signs is to share the history of each site with the public. Visitors will learn about the people who lived and worked on each site, and the dates and uses for each of the historic buildings.



FREEDOM!

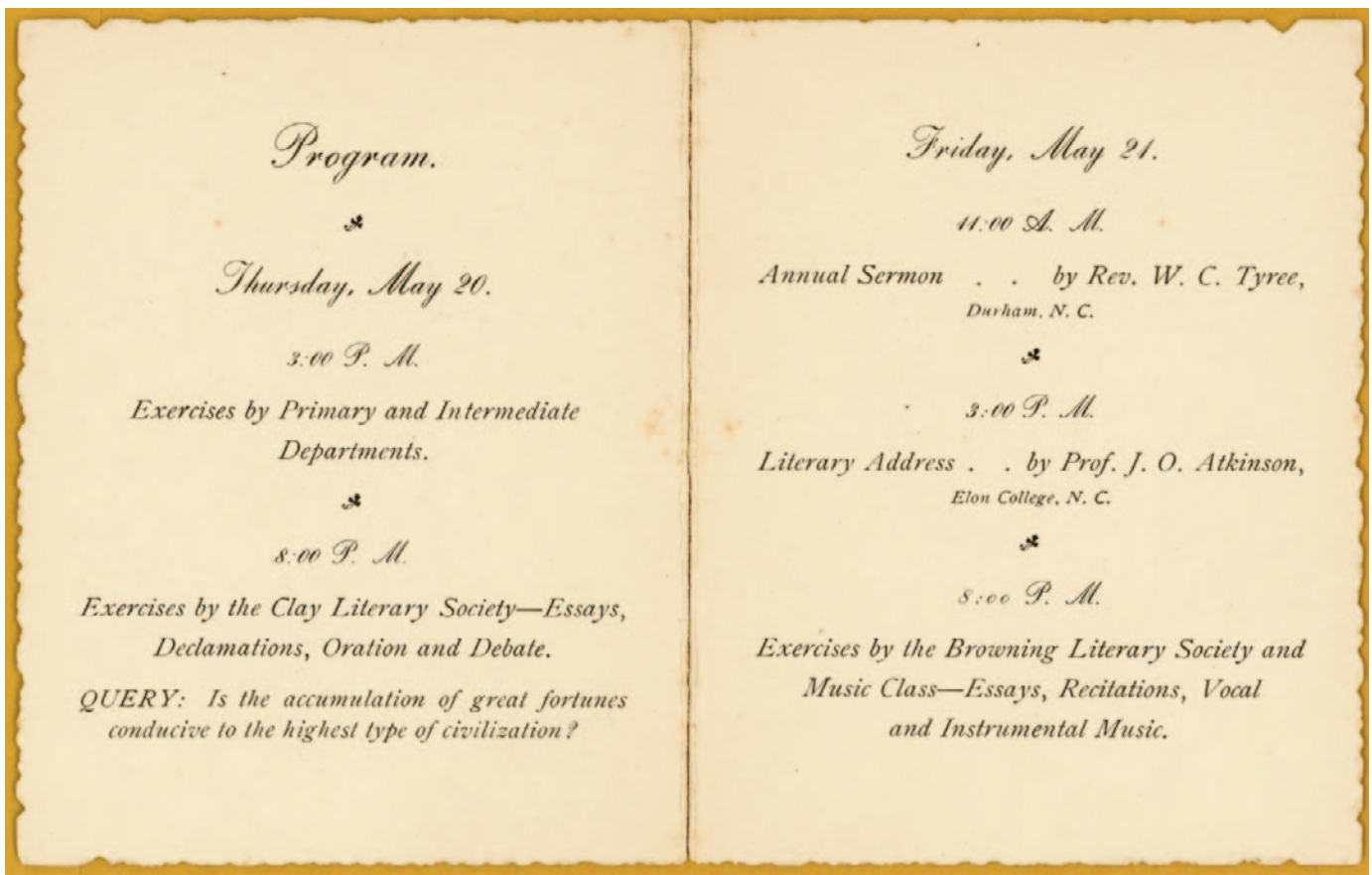
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION –
A SIGNAL OF SUMMERTIME

The last day of classes and last final exams are sure signs to students that the freedom of summertime is on the way. Graduation exercises in the earlier years of Cary High School lasted two or more days, and included debates, recitations, declamations, presentation of medals, and concerts, as well as the actual graduation exercises themselves. School years sometimes ended as early as mid-April.

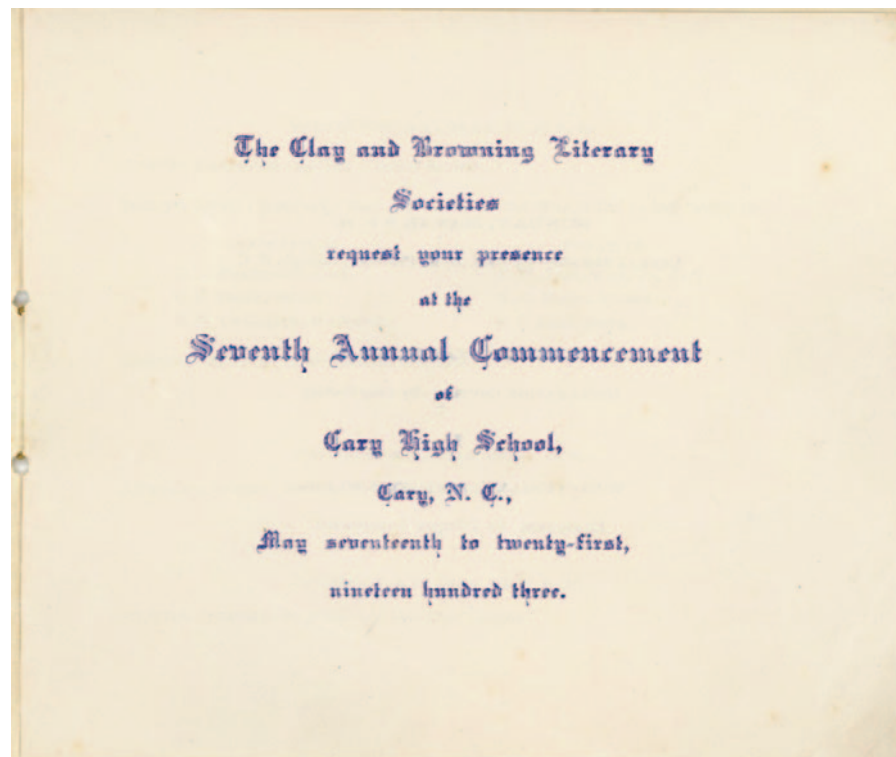


Earliest known Graduation Invitation for Cary High School – 1897

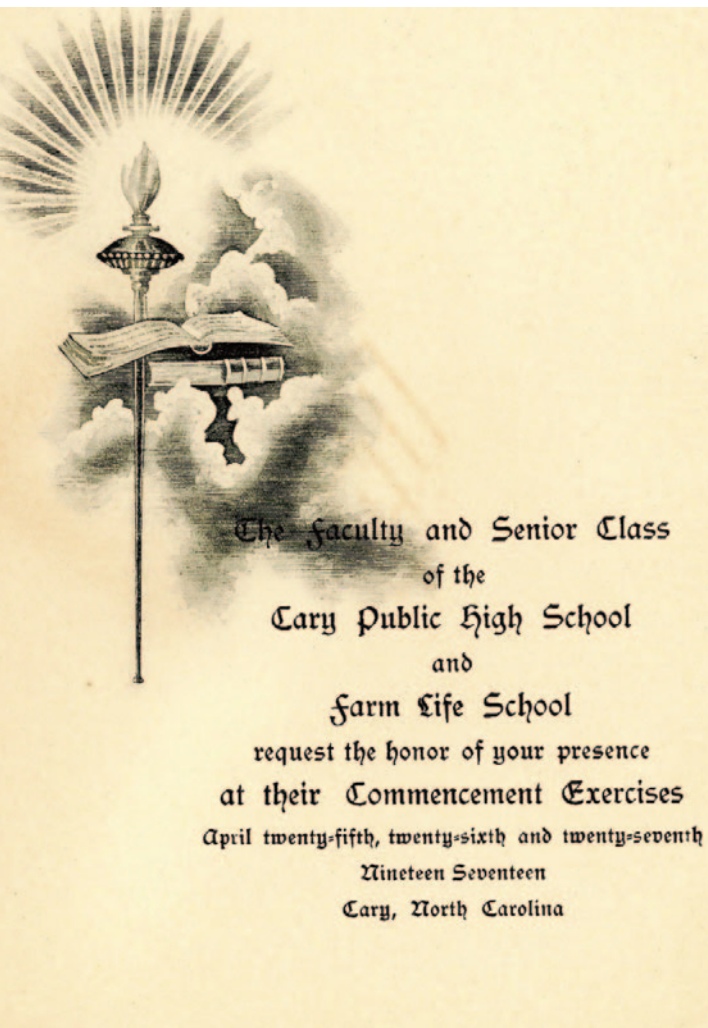
Here is a look at some early graduation invitations from the Cary High School Archives. These images carry us back to the early years of Cary High School where students enjoyed the same sense of freedom that students experience today when the school year comes to an end. *continued*



Cary High School was established in 1870, over a year before the Town of Cary was incorporated. It was owned by and built on land donated to the school by Frank Page, the founder of Cary. Over a number of years, the private school passed from Frank Page to the Rufus Jones family. The Jones family sold the school to stockholders and a board of directors in 1896.



A five-day series of graduation events in 1903



Cary High School became the first public county high school in North Carolina in 1907, served as a model school for North Carolina and became one of the first farm-life schools in the state in 1914. The importance of agricultural education in Cary is evident in the billing it gets on this graduation invitation from 1917.

Cary's Women Educators

On March 23, Peggy Van Scoyoc spoke to a large group of women in a private home who are members of a women's organization called P.E.O, which stands for Philanthropic Educational Organization. Founded in 1869, P.E.O. is now an international organization. Peggy spoke about women educators in Cary over the years. The first three women she highlighted were Esther Ivey, Ethel Adams and Ruth Fox. All three taught in Cary in the early to mid-twentieth century.

Peggy then talked about three Black women educators who desegregated Cary's schools during the Civil Rights era in the 1960s. Sisters Gwen Matthews and Deborah Wright were students who entered all-white schools for the first time. As adults, they both became

educators. And Carolyn Rogers was an African American teacher who was one of three to begin teaching at Cary Elementary School in 1969.

The final group of women educators Peggy spoke about were Vivian Dalmas, Lewanna Stout, Rose Verhoeven and Linda Weaver, four women who developed and implemented a program to teach deaf children in Cary's public schools beginning in 1967. This program was one of the first of its kind in the country offered for deaf children in a public school. Deaf children were brought into the program as young as 18 months old.

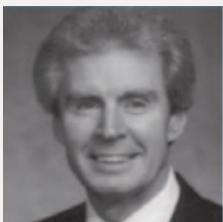
The talk was very well received and the Friends Speakers Bureau is available to speak to groups about Cary's history.



*For more than 20 years, Cary historian Peggy Van Scoyoc has been compiling oral histories of prominent people in Cary's history. This collection is part of the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Some oral history selections are included in Peggy's books, *Just A Horse-Stopping Place* and *Desegregating Cary*. More information about the Friends' oral history program and our speakers bureau are available [here](#).*

Remembering a Founding Friend

We learned with sadness of the passing this month of **Thack Brown**, one of the early Cary leaders who was instrumental in saving the Page-Walker Hotel. In the words of Anne Kratzer, who spearheaded the preservation effort, "I credit Thack and Barbara Brown with being guiding lights in the restoration effort at a critical time.



The Friends, thanks to the extensive fundraising efforts of Pati Schetzina and her volunteers, raised funds for a roof tarp to save Hotel from rotting. It was Thack who famously said to me, 'Anne, we're beyond the bake sale.'

And although Pati's fundraisers were far and above bake

sales, and we averaged \$2,000 with each fundraiser, it was time to organize a Capital Campaign to raise the money needed to save the building. Thack provided us with the names of experts who had excellent track records in organizing a Capital Campaign, something that was beyond the expertise of the 'early' Friends. And, of course, Barbara was the moving force behind the Page-Walker Tea Parties, and was the volunteer interior decorator for the restored building. Every time I look at the curtains in the gallery, I think of Barbara."

Our deepest sympathies go out to Barbara and the rest of Thack's family and friends. We are forever grateful for Thack's role in helping to save the building that now serves as the Cary Arts & History Center.

Trolley Time

What is one of the first things you'd like to do as you emerge from a 2-year pandemic-induced shutdown? Hop on board one of our trolley tours and learn about Cary's history, of course! That's just what people have been doing this spring and summer, as our guides, dressed in costumes of yore, share with riders tales of bygone days in Cary and show them sites around town that date back to those days gone by.

The Friends partnered with the Town of Cary to serve as guides on six sold-out public tours in April and June. If you missed the public tours in April and June, don't worry; the Town will offer them again in the fall. Visit friendsofpagewalker.org to learn more about historic public trolley tour offerings. If you'd like to be on our email list to be notified when tickets go on sale for the public tours, send an email to info@friendsofpagewalker.org.

continued





General history tours last about an hour and travel down familiar and not-so-familiar roads in the downtown area. Did you know that Cedar Street, running along the south side of the railroad tracks in downtown Cary, was originally called Railroad Street and was once the main route into Cary from Raleigh? And that a 3-story factory building once stood at the corner of what is now Cedar and Academy Streets? The trolley also ventures west down Chapel Hill Road, once the main stage route between Raleigh and Chapel Hill, past the very historic Nancy Jones house built in 1803, and turns on Balaji Place to take in the spectacular site of the Sree Venkateswara Temple. A representative from the Temple often greets the trolley and steps aboard to share information about its history.

Our special African American history tours also last about an hour and travel through historic African American neighborhoods, cemeteries, and church sites; past schools that were built on land donated by African American families for African American children; past sites where “juke joints” used to entertain young and old alike; all while sharing information about Cary’s African American Heritage families whose ancestors and descendants have been living in Cary for 100 years or more.

Riders come away from all history tours with an awareness of how Cary developed through the years, the role that its geographic location played in its founding, and the influence of the people who settled and were raised here throughout the different eras.



Spring & Summer in the Garden

May and June. Soft syllables, gentle names for the two best months in the garden year: cool, misty mornings gently burned away with a warming spring sun, followed by breezy afternoons and chilly nights. The discussion of philosophy is over; it's time for work to begin." - Peter Loewer

Asheville writer and botanical illustrator Peter Loewer certainly knows his gardens, and we couldn't agree more – spring is time for work to begin, and it continues all summer long. Fortunately for us, we have a dedicated band of volunteer gardeners who are ready, year-round, to take on whatever gardening duties arise, and they do it with zeal!



We started our 2022 growing season duties in April, when nine of our merry volunteer gardeners met to prepare the gardens. The gardens were ready – valerian in bloom, peony buds about to burst open, horseradish already 8-10” high, fennel even taller – for starters. Our Bean Team (hyacinth beans, that is) – Anne Kratzer, Judi Rourke, and Liz Ryan – planted the seedlings they lovingly raised over the early months of the year, trailing the tender vines along the new bamboo teepee. Weeding, planting, transplanting, and spreading fresh pine straw were tasks ably completed by our volunteers, smiling all the way. Thank you to Pat Fish, Michelle Graham, Anne Kratzer, Judi Rourke, Liz Ryan, Ayako Stone, Barbara Wetmore, Michelle Smith, and Marla Dorrel,

for a morning's work, well done! And, as always, thank you to Kris Carmichael for making arrangements and to Cary Public Works for building the teepee and bringing bales of pine straw to the site.

The gardens continued to flourish in May and June, with the tender loving care of our volunteer gardeners. The peony exploded with its bright pink blooms, and the hollyhock graced the garden with double, pink flowers. We saw blooms this year in abundance – creeping germander, soapwort, the recently planted sneezewort, and so many more. We loved seeing what must be the tiniest blossom of all - on the wooly creeping thyme. Of course, nature does not discriminate, so weeds were abundant, as well. No worries, though, our volunteers were up to the task and kept the gardens neat and tidy.

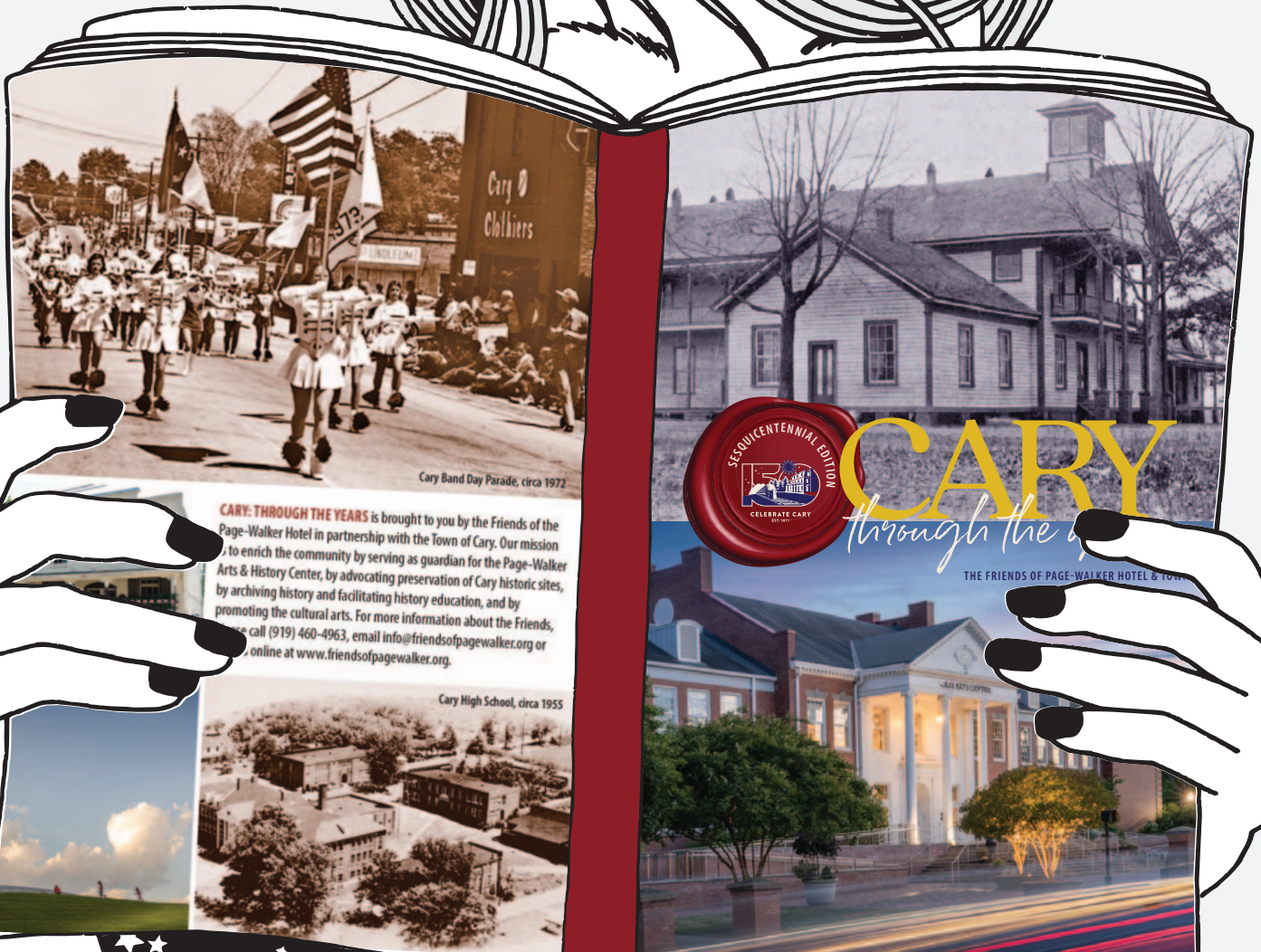
Now it's summer, and there's a burst of gold in the gardens - it's black-eyed Susan time! When the more delicate blooms have faded, this beauty raises her head with a glorious splash of color. It's worth a visit, right now. In fact, almost any day is a good day to visit the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center.

We love our volunteer gardeners, and are always looking for more. Whether you are an experienced gardener or a novice who would like to learn, we welcome you with open arms. (Pardon our dirty gardening gloves!) To join us or find out more, email info@friendsofpagewalker.org.

Cary Through the Years Update Now Available!

In April 2020, the Friends formed a committee to update a timeline booklet called Cary Through the Years, first published in 2013. The updated edition honors the 150th sesquicentennial anniversary of Cary for 2021, adds many new milestones that have occurred in the past 8 years and refreshes other content.

Click [here](#) to purchase this and other Cary history books.



A BIG THANK YOU!

Carla Michaels for her long-time, invaluable Cary history research efforts. Her “Treasures from the Vault” featured in *The Innkeeper* continue to unearth history that might otherwise be forgotten.

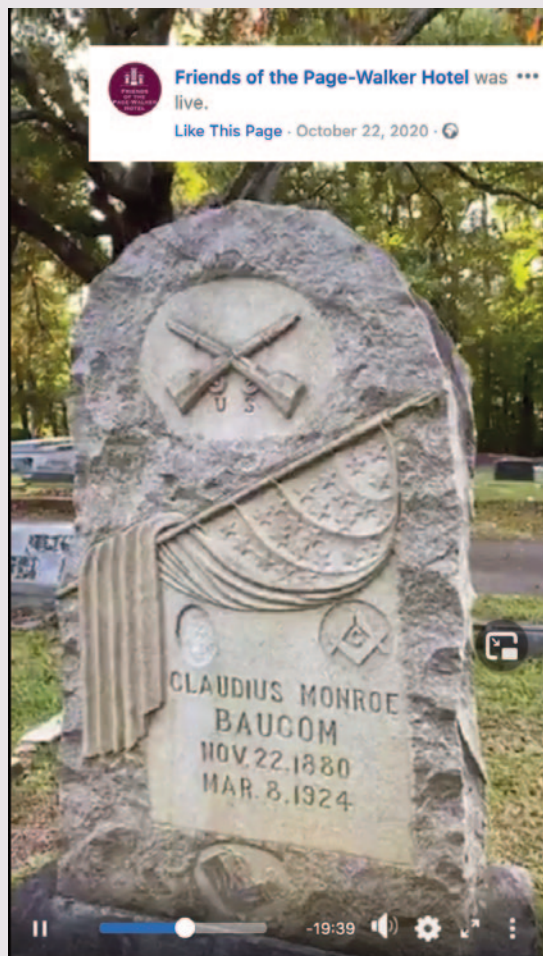
John Lytvinenko, for spearheading our trolley tours and enthusiastically driving our passengers and guides through many tours the past five years. Hundreds of people now know more about Cary’s history because of John.

Barb Wetmore for her tireless service to the Friends, doing whatever needs done – from serving as vice president and secretary to working with the Young Friends to spearheading and overseeing the trolley tours. Rumor has it she's been known to work 12 hours in a day for the Friends!


The Friends bloggers and social media mavens who capture Cary history in the “Cary Me Back” feature of the Friends website and in Facebook posts. Thanks to **Kerry Mead, Barb Wetmore, Carla Michaels, Peggy Van Scoyoc, Pat Sweeney, Michael Rubes, Pat Fish, Chinmay Talikotii** and **Heather Leah**.

Gillian White, Historic Preservation Planner with the Town of Cary, for liaising with the Friends and keeping the community informed about historic resources in our community.

Peggy Van Scoyoc for her decades-long and ongoing gathering of oral history. This work continues to expand our understanding of our history.



 www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel

 www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/

 www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory

 www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/

Socially Distant

FRIENDS KICK IT UP SEVERAL NOTCHES

Have you visited the Friends’ social media pages recently? If not, you might be surprised to see how far we’ve advanced.

During this time when we can’t get together in person, the Friends have revamped and reenergized our social media presence, and it has paid off – we’ve been breaking records for likes, followers and views!

Our Facebook livestreams have garnered thousands of viewers, we’re now on Instagram and our YouTube channel is getting more views (we’re even on LinkedIn if you want to connect with us there).

Big thanks to Heather Leah and Kerry Mead for their tremendous efforts to ensure that the Friends are so social! Check back frequently, as we’re always adding new content!

You also can always virtually visit us at friendsofpagewalker.org

LET'S BE Friends!

The Friends accomplish our mission of preserving the Page-Walker Arts & History Center and other Cary historic sites, history archival and education and promoting cultural arts through member participation.

It's easy to become a member! You can join or renew your membership [here](#). You will receive an email notification when your membership is due for renewal. If you haven't renewed for 2022, please do so today. You can also become a member using the form on the next page.

THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

Barbara Wetmore	Brent Miller
Anne Kratzer	Marla Dorrel
Carla Michaels	Michael Edwards
Peggy Van Scoyoc	Nancy Ryan
Pat Fish	Ed Yerha
Bob Myers	Charlene Jones
James Bustrack	Michael Rubes & Judi
Jack & Nancy Leavell	Rourke
Lisa Dove	Jordan Gusenhoven
Leesa Brinkley	

BOARD MEMBERS

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are these volunteers: Lisa Banks, Cortney Bonvillain, Marilyn Carney, Bryan Craddock, Michael Edwards, Pat Fish (treasurer, lifetime member), Kirk Fuller, Jimmy Gibbs, Andy Kirk, Trish Kirkpatrick, Anne Kratzer (lifetime member), Heather Leah, Katherine Loflin, John Loyack (immediate past president), Kerry Mead (president), Carla Michaels, Brent Miller, Bob Myers, Cathy Richmond, Judi Rourke, Michael Rubes (secretary), Arwa Sattar (Teen Council Representative), Kay Struffolino, Pat Sweeney, Chinmay Talikoti, Peggy Van Scoyoc (vice president), Barbara Wetmore and Ed Yerha (Cary Town Council liaison).

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members Robbie Stone, William Lewis, Kris Carmichael, Jennifer Hocken and Matthew Champagne; and alternate Town Council liaison and Cary co-founder Jack Smith.

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 see the "Contact the Friends" information in this issue.

Community Partners

The Friends are pleased to collaborate with our partner organizations, the Cary Chamber of Commerce and Heart of Cary Association. You can find out more about these organizations and the local events they sponsor, respectively at www.carychamber.com and www.heartofcary.org.



FRIENDS OF THE
PAGE-WALKER HOTEL

CONTACT THE FRIENDS

Friends of the Page-Walker
Box 4234, Cary, NC 27519
(919) 460-4963 program information
email: info@friendsofpagewalker.org
www.friendsofpagewalker.org



www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel



www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/



www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory



www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/

Plan a Visit The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is located at 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. More information can be found [here](#).

Begin or Renew Your Membership Today!

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, visit www.friendsofpagewalker.org or fill out the form below and bring it to the Page-Walker or mail it with your contribution to:

Friends of the Page-Walker
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 held at the Page-Walker. 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

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM

Be A Part Of History And Make Your Mark

You have the opportunity to leave your mark on history by having your name inscribed on a brick that will be placed in the courtyard or walkway at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center. You may also choose to honor a family member, friend or a business. Not only will you be making a mark on history, you will also contribute to the future of your community by playing an important role in the preservation of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Page-Walker and mail along with this form to:

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

- I wish to order (___) (Quantity) of Bricks at \$50 per brick. Enclosed is the total of \$ _____
- I do not wish to have a brick inscribed but enclose \$ _____ to help in your effort.

Please print the name or message to be inscribed with a limit of 2 lines and 15 spaces per line.

Brick 1:

Brick 2:

Please call Pat Fish at 919-467-5696 if you have any questions.
Please note that brick orders are placed when a cumulative total of 10 brick orders have been received.



YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS