

The Innkeeper

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER HOTEL

WINTER 2019



Friends & Town Mark Page-Walker 150th Anniversary

by Jennifer Hocken

Big things were planned for Bygone Daze, the celebration of the Page-Walker Hotel's sesquicentennial, on September 15. Alas, Hurricane Florence decided to crash the party. Luckily, many of the day's events and programs fit nicely into an extended Holiday Open House. On December 1, more than 800 people enjoyed horse-drawn carriage rides, cookies (provided by Cary Garden Club), hot cider (provided by Food Lion) and music by Victorian Carolers and Triangle Folk Ensemble. Visitors also appreciated craft demonstrations by the Tri-Tatters and Triangle Calligraphers Guild, interacting with costumed hosts and viewing the lovely holiday décor of the Page-Walker.

The festivities were kicked off by Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Jr. declaring December 1, 2018 as "The Page-Walker at 150" day in front of an audience that included members of the hotel's heritage families, including Page, Walker, Hunter, Coburn, Williams and Strother relatives.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN LOYACK

Sesquicentennial Celebration, Bright Future

Dear Members and Friends,

As I began to gather my thoughts for my first President's Message, I spent time reflecting on how I have thoroughly enjoyed the programs that we brought to you this year during the build-up to the 150th celebration of the Page-Walker Hotel. This year has been a special one and the events we have come to know and love, like Herbfest and Lazy Daze, continue to draw record crowds. The Friends of the Page Walker have also worked hard to introduce new programs, including ones that highlight Cary's historic families as well as our new historical trolley tours (story on page 7) that allow us to explore our town's history. We hope you have equally enjoyed them.



Sadly, our Bygone Daze event to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the hotel was not to be, as Hurricane Florence roared through town. I am glad to say that we were able to move this celebration to December 1st, when the Page-Walker's annual Holiday Open House was expanded to accommodate activities originally planned for Bygone Daze. We hope you enjoy the photos of that event in this issue of *The Innkeeper*.

The Friends have much to look forward to, and I often remind myself that none of this happens without the tireless efforts of our board, members and volunteers. We cannot accomplish what we do without your support, which is deeply appreciated.



One of the wonderful things about working with the Friends is meeting the many youth volunteers who give of their time to help us in so many ways. Each year, we try to celebrate these youth volunteers in different ways, and this year, on October 3rd, Jordan Kirk was awarded the Friends' President's Volunteer Service Award for her volunteer efforts throughout the year. Jordan received her award and medal at the Friends board meeting, with a well-earned round of applause (see story and photo on page 8). In addition, the Friends are blessed to have a strong, continued partnership with the Town of Cary, the

support of the Teen Council, the Town Council, the Cultural Arts department and all the Page-Walker staff, as well as the Public Works department.

In closing, remember that the board represents you. Please let us know what you would like to see the Friends do in the future. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the Friends successful over the years. I look forward to working with each of you this year.



CELEBRATING HISTORY



PHOTOS BY LAURIE MILLER, NELSON AND BARBARA WETMORE





HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**BOB MYERS & BRENT MILLER
AND PAT FISH**

**Programs Celebrate 150 Years
of Page-Walker History**

The Friends continue to pursue our mission of history education as we begin a second decade of our Preservation Speaker Series. On May 22, 2018, Carla Michaels presented “Exploring the Page-Walker’s People and its Past”. Audience members discovered some of the names and faces of those who created, managed, and lived in the Page-Walker over the years. Their fascinating stories included one owner who used to repair circus wagons on site.



Continuing our series that explores Cary area cemeteries, last October’s program featured the Warren-Haley cemetery located in William B. Umstead Park. During our research, the Friends discovered that noted novelist Clyde Edgerton had family ties to this cemetery, where many of his ancestors are buried. Our contact with Mr. Edgerton, a professor of Creative Writing at UNC-W, established a relationship that led to his gracious acceptance of our offer for him to present this program on October 30, 2018. Clyde, who is so



PHOTOS BY BARB WETMORE

passionate about the Warren-Haley Cemetery, presented a program filled with interesting, heartfelt and entertaining stories about his family members who are buried there. The standing-room only audience received not only a lesson about our local history but also an intimate peek into the lives of the people who lived in the Umstead area before it was a park. The audience experienced both laughter and tears listening to Clyde Edgerton, “Master Storyteller”, and the Friends are so grateful to Clyde for being our guest speaker.

On February 26, we celebrate Black History Month with a presentation about civil rights in Cary by Peggy Van Scoyoc, author of *Desegregating Cary*, an

oral history compilation that describes what life was like in Cary for African-Americans before the Civil Rights era and following the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision. Come learn how the small community of Cary became a model for other communities to emulate as they tackled the mandate to desegregate schools (note that this is a change from the previously published program description).

Join us on May 28 for “What Have We Got to Lose?”, our annual program that highlights historic properties in and around Cary. Learn about the historic and architectural significance of the properties and stories about former owners and their place in Cary’s history. This year’s presentation will focus on Cary’s very earliest properties and people.

Unless otherwise noted, all preservation speaker series programs occur at 7:30 p.m. at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center and are free and open to the public, with refreshments following the program.



150

CELEBRATING HISTORY



PHOTOS BY LAURIE MILLER, NELSON AND BARBARA WETMORE



Trolley, Walking Tours, School Tours Enlighten Hundreds

by Jennifer Hocken

All 2018 was a busy season for history education on several fronts. A big boost came from the new Friends trolley program which has taken 375 patrons on tours of downtown, including 75 during the public tours on Sunday, November 4.

Approximately 325 students came through the building on school tours, and we had one public walking tour. Already, two groups tours are scheduled for the spring – and that doesn't include all the people who visit the museum on their own or take self-guided tours of the Page-Walker using our new walking tour brochure!

Our Keys to Success

The Friends also celebrated our sesquicentennial with our decorations for our Academy Street tree that was part of the Town of Cary's Gifting Tree project. Our tree was decorated with theme of vintage hotel keys – each key telling a tidbit about Cary's history. Some of the things that visitors could learn include:

1700s

Cary was a simple crossroads settlement called "Bradford's Ordinary," after an inn owned and operated by John Bradford.

Late 1800s

Chatham County farmers drove their cattle to market passing through Cary; thus how Chatham Street got its name.

Early 1900s

Cary's population was 300 to 400 and had one police officer who also was the head of fire, water and utilities.

Cary had no paved roads, no telephones or electricity and just a few grocery stores.



BARB WETMORE



Clang, Clang, Clang Went the Trolley

New Vehicle for Cary History Education

story and photos by Barbara Wetmore

Friends volunteer John Lytvinenko loves driving trolleys almost as much as he loves Cary. Recently retired from IBM, John began spending some of his newfound free time driving the trolley for the Historic Raleigh Trolley Tours. Wanting to share his love of trolleys and Cary, John presented a proposal to the Friends to make use of the Raleigh Trolley – available for rent throughout Wake County – to offer historic tours of Cary to interested citizens and visitors.

After a successful pilot run in April 2018, the Friends conducted three additional public tours in November 2018 and have another three scheduled in April 2019. Response has been so enthusiastic that the Friends are considering offering more frequent tours, so stay tuned for updates.

In addition to Friends-sponsored public tours, John also conducts private tours in Cary for groups of 20 or more, with Friends volunteers serving as guides. Riders on both public and private tours learn about Cary's history, from the mid-1700s to modern times.

Tours last about an hour and travel down familiar and not-so-familiar streets in the downtown area. Did you know that Cedar Street, which runs 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 three-story factory building once stood at the corner of 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 then on to Balaji Place to take in the spectacular site of the Sree Venkateswara Temple.

Riders come away 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 various eras.

Visit our www.friendsofpagewalker.org to learn more about our trolley tour offerings. If you'd like to be notified when tickets go on sale for public tours, send an email to info@friendsofpagewalker.org. If you're interested in booking a private group tour, send an email to carytrolley@gmail.com.





President's Volunteer Service Award

Jordan Kirk Recognized for Volunteerism

Congratulations to Jordan Kirk, our most recent President's Volunteer Service Award winner. Jordan's 50+ hours of volunteer service earned her a Bronze level award. Thank you, Jordan!

The Friends are proud to sponsor the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). We are a Certifying Organization for this award, which recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.



Friends Award Scholarship

Christina Grube to Study at Meredith

Congratulations to Christina Grube, our 2018 Friends of the Page-Walker Scholarship recipient! Christina is a 2018 graduate of Cary High School and is studying at Meredith College. Best wishes, Christina!

Archives Grow with Donations

Collection Adds Clock, Lamps, Tools, Memorabilia

by Matthew Champagne

2018 was a wonderful year for the Friends of Page-Walker's collections. Anne Kratzer generously donated many antique household tools from her mother, Rosanna Adams. Kris and I will use these to make hands-on history kits that will travel to schools and give children the opportunity to learn more about the past by feeling it firsthand. Jimmy Gibbs also made several fabulous donations to the collections this year. He donated his own mid-20th century children's blanket and, most recently, a five-foot tall clock/radio (circa 1935) that his mother's grandfather purchased at Hobby's. We are so happy to have this piece back home in Cary! The Gibbs family clock is now the latest addition to the third-floor Heritage Museum.

In December, we accepted four hanging exterior brass lamps from Pete Kenny. Pete is a friend of the Strother family and these lamps were installed on the second-floor porch ceiling of the Page-Walker by the Williams family. We are thrilled that these lamps have returned to the Page-Walker.

Last but certainly not least, Guy Mendenhall donated several items to our collections this year. Chief among Guy's donations were his wrestling uniform from his time on the Cary High School team and a DVD of Cary's 1954 Championship match. Guy's generous donations helped grow our audio-video and textile collections.

Thank you all for supporting our historic collections. I look forward to accessioning, preserving, and exhibiting more objects related to Cary's past in 2019 and beyond!

Cary's Connection to WWI

Ed. Note: Researcher and historian extraordinaire Carla Michaels offers "Treasures from the Vault" on a recurring basis as a way to share interesting historical artifacts with the community.

by Carla Michaels

In Hillcrest cemetery, there are many memorials to those who served our country and the families of those who supported them. Each of those grave sites makes us aware of someone who answered the call of their country. 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. This article explores two local men, distantly related to each other, who served our country during World War I. Knowing their stories helps us keep their memories and our shared history alive.

First, the older of the two men: Walter Hines Page, the oldest child of the founder of Cary, Frank Page. Walter, or WAT, as he was called as a boy, was born in Cary in 1855, raised in Cary, educated in part at Cary High School, and went on in adulthood to become a journalist, newspaper founder, editor, and book publisher. In his later years, he served the Woodrow Wilson administration as Ambassador to the United Kingdom during a key time internationally, from 1913 – 1918.



As a boy, he remembered seeing the coffins of area soldiers killed during the Civil War arrive at the Cary depot which was just a stone's throw from his home near the Page Walker Hotel. He interacted with Union soldiers camped out around his house as they made their way near the end of the war from Raleigh through Morrisville to Bennett Place in Durham for the largest surrender of

Confederate troops before the final surrender at Appomattox. Walter grew up wrestling with the tension between using the art of discourse and diplomacy to settle differences versus resorting to the battlefield.

As an adult, he championed education as the South's surest way to overcome the poverty that plagued it. He became a leading mediator between the South and the rest of the country, which in some way prepared him for his role as ambassador in the lead up to and the United States' eventual entry into World War I.

In 1918, after 5 years of service in England, health problems that he suffered throughout his adult life finally caught up with him, and he had to resign his post and return to America. He barely survived the voyage home. He did live to



Claudius M. Baucom

Courtesy Joy Williams.



Medals earned by C. M. Baucom during the Spanish-American War and World War I were given to the family in 2017 thanks to the Veterans' Legacy Foundation.

Courtesy Joy Williams.

continued next page

witness the end of the World War I, but died in December 1918. Walter Hines Page is one of just a few Americans commemorated in Westminster Abbey. His tribute there reads “The friend of Britain in her sorest need”. The boy from Cary served our country well.

The other man we examine is Claudius Monroe (C. M.) Baucom, who married into a branch of the Page family. He and Walter Hines Page would have been cousins by marriage. Born in 1880, C. M. entered military service at the age of 18. In his own words, his first battle was on the coast of South Carolina, where his group fought enormous mosquitos for three months in 1898. He went on to serve in the Spanish American War in Cuba, then on through the Philippines to the China Relief Expedition in 1900. After returning home to Cary, he married Pattie Lee Page, a distant cousin of Walter, started his family, worked for the railroad, and then answered the call of his country again at the age of 38 for service in World War I. As an officer, he served in France and survived a mustard gas attack in the field near the end of the war in what was supposed to be a quiet sector. This attack affected his eyes and ears, and his family said his love of the outdoors and his jolly outlook on life were lost on the battlefields of France. He died in 1924, just a few years after returning home, at the age of 44. He is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery alongside his beloved wife.

Both of these men gave his best to our country and even though neither died on the battlefield, each paid a great price for answering the call of their – our – country. We honor their memory, and honor those who likewise answered the call of duty, served nobly and well, and are now among the departed. May they all rest in peace.

Cary Residents and Men Born in Cary Affiliated with WWI

Allen, Glauda A	Frank, Dwight M	King, Henry R	Spence, Herbert
Arrington, Goelet	Gathings, Walter W	King, Marion E	Stephens, Frank
Atkins, King H	Grimes, Vernon	King, Moses G	Stone, Cyrus C
Atkins, Thomas William	Gulley, Furman	Lowe, Arthur C	Stone, Ralph L
Atkins, William R	Gulley, William C	Marcom, Earl B	Strother, Frank
Atwater, Edward	Harrington, Clyde	Marcom, James Lester	Strother, Jasper D
Baucom, Claudius M	Harrington, Curtis	Marcom, Willie S	Strother, Percy V
Benton, Whitson Legrand	Harrington, Sine	Maynard, George G	Taylor, James
Blake, Rubbie B	Harris, Gilmore Clyde	Maynard, John T	Templeton, James
Blake, William A	Heater, Ernest Aubrey	Maynard, Luther W	McPherson
Blanchard, Charles W	Heater, Russell O	McFarland, John W	Thomas, Jessie
Booker, Paul	Hicks, Julius	McGhee, Charlie M	Thomas, William Henry
Boyd, William	Hicks, Virgil	Medlin, Frank A	Thompson, John W
Britt, Joe H	Hodge, Julius E	Medlin, John R	Upchurch, Frank Dixon
Castleberry, Estes M	Holleman, Brogden W	Medlin, Percy James	Upchurch, Mayton
Chavis, Sam	Holleman, Leonard D	Mooneyham, Milton A	Wilder, Avery B
Choplin, Eugene R	Holleman, Norman R	Newsome, Rowland D	Wilkins, Rufus L
Cooper, James F	Hook, Everiett	Page, Alfred Guess	Wilson, Jasper C
Cotton, William H	Hooker, Worlie	Page, Frank	Womble, David Jackson
Crocker, Stanley M	Hord, Charles Edgar	Partin, Aldridge S	Woodlief, Amos Herman
Eatman, Millard G	Hunter, John P	Powers, Troy Thomas	Woodlief, Nathaniel G
Eatman, William M	Ivey, George E	Rogers, Tallie	Woodward, Joseph Cooper
Ellen, Leonard O	Ivey, Thaddeus	Simmons, Mark	Yarborough, Nathaniel B
Evans, Hezekiah	Johnson, Robert	Smith, David O	Yates, Ernest
Faucett, Thomas	Jones, Garland H	Smith, Orus	Yates, Hervert Thomas
Fitzpatrick, Harry	Jones, Sidney	Smith, Terance Lee	Young, Raymond F
Foushee, Clarence Lucius	Jonican, Owen J	Sorrell, Thomas J	Young, William C
	Jordan, John H	Sorrell, William H	

The Tale of the Two Blake Brothers

A Cary Connection to WWI

by Victoria Bunch

Photos by Martha Hudson

Cary resident Victoria Bunch shares information she learned about her relatives and their connection to WWI while researching her family history.

On September 8, 1897, Joseph B. Blake (born c.1875, Wake County) married Lucy A. Lloyd (born c.1875, Granville County) at the home of Lucy's mother Mary E. Lloyd in Houses Creek Township, Wake County. Over the next several years, Joe and Lucy would have eight children together.

The two oldest boys, William Arthur Blake and Reuben "Rubbie" B. Blake, were born in Wake County in 1897 and 1900 respectively. Some records say they were born in Cary; other records indicate Leesville, leaving the question of whether these boys were Cary natives up to your interpretation of native. The Blake family was living in Bartons Creek Township, Wake County, at



William Arthur Blake (1897 – 1957)

the time of the 1900 US Federal Census, and by the 1910 US Federal Census, the family was living in Cary. Both boys were enrolled in school in Cary as early as 1907. William last attended school in Cary in 1914 and Rubbie in 1915.

In 1916 both William and Rubbie enlisted in the Army National Guard, each citing Cary, NC, as their place of residence. Rubbie enlisted first in Henderson, NC, on July 1, 1916, and William shortly thereafter in Greensboro, NC, on September 15, 1916. The United States declared war on Germany and entered WWI on April 6, 1917.

Rubbie left for WWI on May 12, 1918, aboard the HMT Bohemian as a private in Company C of the 120th Infantry. William left days later on May 17, 1918, on the HMT Miltiades as a private first class in the Machine Gun Company of the 120th Infantry. Each deployed out of Boston, MA, and listed their father Joe B. Blake of Cary, NC, as emergency contact. The 120th Infantry arrived in Calais, France, c. June 1918, only a few miles from the front.

continued next page

Burial of Rubie Blake Held on Sunday
The body of Rubie Blake, a private in Co. C, 120th Infantry, 30th Division, who was killed in France in action September, 29, 1918, has been removed from his resting place in France to North Carolina, and arrived at Cary Saturday morning. The body was accompanied to the home by Arles R. Pugh, who remained there with the parents and relatives of the soldier until after the burial. The body was carried from the station by the undertaker to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blake, and was kept there until 2:30 Sunday afternoon. His remains was accompanied to the cemetery by soldiers, relatives and friends.

The pall bearers consisted of Dr. J. M. Templeton, Dr. Johnson Fitzpatrick, Arles R. Pugh, Ellie King and B. L. Johnson, who placed the body in its final resting place. Afterwards members of the Red Cross of Cary placed the flowers on the grave, which consisted of many beautiful designs. The choir then softly sang "America." Rev. E. R. Gordon, the Baptist minister of Cary, then conducted the burial services. Following the close of the service the choir softly sang the familiar hymn "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Completing the grave Mr. C. M. Baucome gave the command and the following soldiers marched forward: Prof. Blunt, Garland Jones, Hugh Templeton, Raymond Young, Luther Maynard, Clyde Young, Marvin Eatman, and Harold Atkins fired the military salute three times, then on command marched from the cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Blake wish to express their greatest appreciation to all who attended the funeral.



Reuben "Rubbie/Ruby" B. Blake (1900-1918)



Gary Kent Interview Added to Collection

*For more than 20 years, Cary's oral 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 is on our website https://friendsofpagewalker.wildapricot.org/oral_history.*



On July 26, 2018, Peggy Van Scoyoc interviewed Gary Kent, who was born in Cary and graduated from Cary High School in 1952. He described the businesses that existed in downtown Cary when he was young, where his family lived, and what life was like in general. His father died when he was eleven, and his mother somehow managed to

feed her three youngest children with the help of her oldest sons who provided support for them. Mr. Kent worked for the Cary post office for thirty-three years and gave a history of its operations and growth over that time. He lives with his wife, Mary, in their home that was built for them in 1956.

Learn more about our oral history program [here](#).

The Tale of the Two Blake Brothers *continued*

The 30th Division of the Army National Guard, known as Old Hickory, included the 120th Infantry to which both men belonged. This division was comprised predominately of North Carolina soldiers, and by September 1918, had taken center stage in a plan to turn the tide to the Allies. A major offensive on the Hindenburg Line is described by Jessica A. Bandel in North Carolina and the Great War 1914-1918:

The 30th Division led the way in the early morning hours of September 29, 1918, taking the fight to the Hindenburg Line, a German defensive position thought to be impenetrable... until the North Carolinians got there.... By 7:30 [AM], soldiers with the 120th Infantry had pierced the line and began making their way to their ultimate objective of Bellicourt.... The assault was an overwhelming success.... The charge on the Hindenburg Line on September 29 proved to be the single deadliest day for North Carolina Troops during the war, with the 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments sustaining approximately 74.8 percent of the 30th Division's 2,494 casualties....

Rubbie Blake of Cary, NC, a member of Old Hickory's 120th Infantry, was killed in action on September 29, 1918. An article published in the Raleigh News & Observer on April 21, 1921 provides remarkable detail of Rubbie's burial (see page 11).

William Arthur Blake survived to return home, leaving from St. Nazaire, France, on March 28, 1919, aboard the USS Powhatan. He is also buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, along with his brother, in the heart of Cary, NC.



ANNE B. KRATZER
EDUCATIONAL

Gardens



Garden Takes Winter's Nap

by Marla Dorrel

On November 10, twenty volunteer gardeners gathered at the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Herb Garden to put the garden to bed for the winter. Given the mild temperatures into November, many of the plants were still full of life, including the stunning yellow French tarragon. When work was completed, everyone gathered around outgoing chairperson Kay Struffolino, thanking her with a card, gift and home-grown bouquet, and enjoying cake and cider, provided by Pat Fish and Barb Wetmore. Kay graciously left a thoughtful parting gift in the smokehouse for our gardening team: two new tools. (Thanks, Kay!)

In December, our still-beautiful garden ushered in the holiday season with the smokehouse nicely attired in a festive swag, created by Lois Nixon. John Loyack volunteered for the month's gardening duty, including removal of the weather-beaten lemongrass, which suffered from the hard freezes and drifts of snow that came early in the month. We're grateful and we're sure he is, too, for assistance he received from his daughter Olivia.

Our faithful volunteers will continue to provide gardening TLC as the new year begins, one that we hope brings plentiful sunshine and rain to support this Cary gem!

Interested in joining our group of merry gardeners? Contact Marla Dorrel, mdorrel@nc.rr.com.



[PERFORMING ARTS]

Winter Concerts Feature Favorite Artists

by *Trish Kirkpatrick*

The Winter Concert Series has become a tradition in Cary. The main gallery of the Page-Walker has been described as having acoustics that “are the finest in the Triangle for chamber music”. In combination with the outstanding musicians who perform in the series, an afternoon concert is a very special experience.

We are pleased to announce the performances and dates for the upcoming 2019 series. The Friends of Page-Walker Winter Concert Series offers intimate Sunday afternoon concerts that begin at 4:00 p.m. in the main gallery of the historic Page-Walker Arts and History Center. Light refreshments are served at intermission. Please join us for what we hope will be a most enjoyable experience.

The season kicked off on January 20 with “Symphony Spotlight”, featuring Erik Dyke, double bassist with the North Carolina Symphony since 1978. Concertgoers enjoyed a wonderful afternoon performance that spotlighted the exceptional talents of those who contribute to great symphony and popular music.

Remaining concerts

Carole J. Wright Memorial Concert (named for long-time supporter of the concert series and benefactor to The Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel): Brian Reagin, North Carolina Symphony Concertmaster and First Violin. Sunday, February 17, 4:00 p.m., \$18.00. Brian Reagin, violinist and concertmaster of the North Carolina Symphony, returns as a favorite to the Friends Winter Concert Series. Brian captivates audiences with his brilliant performances and will treat concertgoers to classical and popular repertoire on his Lorenzo and Tomasso Carcassi violin made in Florence, Italy in 1763. Don't miss this one, it sells out every year!

“**St. Patrick's Day Celebration**” with Bill Leslie, retired WRAL news anchor and Celtic musician. Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m., \$16. What a special treat to have Bill Leslie performing in the main gallery on St. Patrick's Day! Bill recently retired from his news anchor role at WRAL-TV in Raleigh. Bill is also known as a new age artist who, along with his World Music band Lorica, perform traditional as well as Celtic fusion music that he composes. Leslie has also composed music featured on albums by Bragh Adair. This will certainly be a special afternoon for all who attend.

All performances are held on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. at The Page-Walker Arts & History Center. Tickets may be purchased for \$16 – \$18 at The Cary Theater, 122 E. Chatham Street (box office hours are T-F, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), or online through etix.com. Visit www.friendsofpagewalker.org, and click on “Events” for up-to-date event information and ticket purchases.





Herbfest



FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

10 Years and Counting!

Ten years ago, the Friends Special Events Committee introduced the idea of hosting an event featuring herbs during a board meeting presentation. Board members supported the idea, and our annual Herbfest was born. The fact that we will be hosting our 10th annual Herbfest this year is a true testament to our amazing vendors, invaluable volunteers, the beautiful grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center and the enthusiastic support of our community.

Our 10th annual Herbfest will take place on Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The grounds of the Page-Walker will be filled with vendors selling herbs, native plants, perennials and garden-related crafts. Other vendors will share information about important nature-related topics. The festival also offers our signature features, including our impressive silent auction filled with beautifully designed garden-related items; fun activities for kids; our very popular Young Friends bake sale and our crowd-pleasing butterfly releases. While visiting Herbfest, guests can also tour the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Herb Gardens, the Pollinator Garden and the Page-Walker Arts and History Center, where a walking tour brochure provides lots of interesting information about this beautiful historic building.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SATURDAY, MAY 4!





White Plains volunteers gather around the markers presented by the NSDAR and the Cary Historic Preservation Commission. White Plains Cemetery is the resting place of Revolutionary War patriot Nathaniel Jones and his family.



White Plains Cemetery

CARY HISTORIC LANDMARK

Signs of Significance

The White Plains Cemetery now displays its official Cary Historic Landmark marker, bestowed by the Cary Historic Preservation Commission in fall 2018, along with a marker presented in 2012 by the Yates Mill Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). The Town of Cary designates Cary Historic Landmarks as a way to preserve buildings and sites that are historically, architecturally, or culturally significant to our community.

Friends and neighborhood volunteers are proud to partner with the Town of Cary Public Works department to care for this historic property. You can visit the White Plains Cemetery on Tolliver Court in the Maynard Oaks subdivision in Cary.



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

Information about the Friends

President John Loyack 919-703-5359

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.

Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Friday: 10 am – 5 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

Friday Evening – Sunday by reservation

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

It's easy to become a member! You can join the Friends, make a donation and purchase tickets, all online using your favorite credit card. We greatly appreciate the support of our loyal membership. We couldn't continue to provide the variety of services that we do without you! And you can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

[MEET THE BOARD]

Our board of directors serves as the governing body of the Friends of the Page-Walker, a non-profit corporation and award-winning partner organization of the Town of Cary. Many of our board members have served for several years (two are life members), and others joined us recently.

We continue our series in which we'll feature some of our board members to help you get to know them. And if you'd like to get to know these folks better, consider volunteering with the Friends. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Contact us at info@friendsofpagewalker.org to learn more or volunteer.

Meet Jimmy Gibbs



Jimmy Leon Gibbs, a 3-year member of the Friends board, majored in Vocal Arts, English, and Communication at Fayetteville State University and North Carolina State University. He worked for Marriott Corporation, founded Concepts Unlimited, his own special events and catering company, and retired at IBM and the The Herald Sun

Company where he was the Society Columnist.

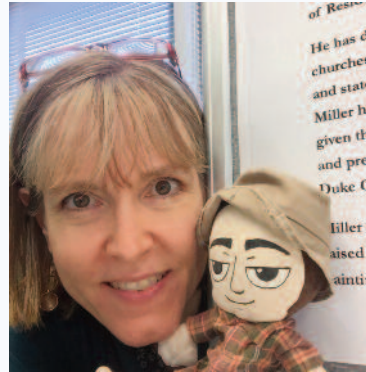
Jimmy is an ordained minister and chaplain in the United Church of Christ and works as a volunteer chaplain at WakeMed Hospital. His passion is people living with HIV and he has spent more than 25 years with Affordable (formerly AIDS) Community Residence Association (ACRA) in Durham, and with UNC and Duke serving on HIV and AIDS Community Advisory Boards.

Jimmy has a passion for history and the town of Cary where his great-grandparents lived. He loves historic preservation and is passionate about family genealogy. He attends Good Shepherd United Church of Christ on Maynard Road.

Jimmy is an award-winning classically trained opera singer and has coordinated/planned more than 300 weddings.

Meet Kerry Mead

Kerry Mead moved to Cary in 1997 from Dallas, TX with her husband and one-year-old son to be near her in-laws who were long-time Cary residents. In their early years here, Kerry and her young family participated in many of the town's parks and recreation offerings, including children's art and nature classes, sports teams, music concerts, local festivals and exploring the town's greenways.



As her children got older, she found ways to participate in and contribute to the town, including being a member of the Greenway Advisory Committee for seven years, working in the Page-Walker gardens for eight years, and now

as a member of the Friends Board and Trolley Tour team. She is also a member of our Cary Downtown Farmers' Market Board.

Kerry has worked as an information developer in the software industry for more than 25 years. Her interests are in activities that involve exploring and finding connections between and around us, including traveling, history, photography, storytelling, hiking and fermenting foods.

Meet Andy Kirk



Andy has lived in Cary for 6 years and been involved with the Friends since 2017. He serves on the Town of Cary Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Board and chairs the Town's Athletic Committee and the "Play if Forward" scholarship fund committee.

Andy was born and raised in Newark, Delaware; graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in history; then married a fellow Delawarean and headed west to Carlsbad, NM and Tucson, AZ for 15 years. He has been in sales & account management for 20 years, currently employed by a software company. Andy has two kids: Jordan, a senior at Green Hope High School (see page 8), and Josh, an 8th-grader at East Cary Middle School. *continued next page*



Being a member has its benefits! 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.

Thank you for your continued support, and please begin or renew your membership. If you haven't renewed for 2017, please do so **today**.

We have migrated our membership management to our web site. You will receive an email notification when your membership is due for renewal. You can check, begin and renew your membership online through our web site, www.friendsofpagewalker.org/. Our new membership management system now sends annual renewal reminders.

Alternatively, you can renew by mail. A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears on page 18. Please print, complete and return it today!

THANKS TO OUR LIFETIME, COMMUNITY PARTNER, SUSTAINING & SILVER SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Hal Bowman & Mercedes Auger	Jack Leavell
Lisa Banks	John Loyack
Leesa Brinkley	Carla Michaels
Jim Bustrack	Brent Miller
J. Michael Edwards	Bob Myers
Pat Fish	Kay Struffolino
Elaine B. Fleckenstein	Peggy Van Scoyoc
Amy Henderson	Barbara Wetmore
Anne Kratzer	Ed Yerha

[MEET THE BOARD] *continued*

Andy once served as an interpreter at Fort Delaware State Park in Delaware City, DE and helped write the script for a "living history" presentation for the site; he also portrayed a Southern prisoner. He has a "Ducktorate" degree from Disney University's College Program for successfully completing a semester at Disney World (where he was cheap labor, working at the Disney MGM Studios as a ticker-taker and entrance greeter). Andy also volunteered for the PGA Tour for 7 years in Tucson as a Shotlink Laser Operator.

Kudos to...

The Friends thank and recognize many people who make great things happen with their hard work:

- Kris Carmichael for her extraordinary leadership in the 150th anniversary celebration of the Page-Walker. Thanks to her work with Barb Wetmore, Carla Michaels, Peggy Van Scoyoc, Pat Fish, John Loyack and Dara Linn, and staff members Jennifer Hocken and Matthew Champagne, our sesquicentennial was a phenomenal success.
- Carla Michaels for her perseverance in contacting all of the descendants of families who have lived in the Page-Walker, which resulted in a wonderful culminating celebration on Dec. 1, 2018.
- John Loyack for spearheading the President's Volunteer Service Award with our youth.
- Barbara Wetmore, Pat Fish and Carla Michaels for decorating the Friends' Gifting Tree.
- Barb Wetmore for her extraordinary record keeping as Friends secretary and the many other things she does for the Friends.
- The Friends Preservation Committee, chaired by Bob Myers, for a decade of educational preservation speaker series programs.

Speakers Bureau On Tour

Free Presentations to Community Groups

This past July, Peggy Van Scoyoc spoke to the Heritage Pines community about Cary's history, with a focus on today's western side of town. Cary has expanded significantly over time. In 1970, the town's borders contained only one square mile; today, Cary encompasses more than 50 square miles. A vast majority of that expansion occurred west of the original downtown area.

In October, Peggy spoke to a Women's group at Prestonwood Country Club, focusing on the history of women in Cary over the years and their many accomplishments and contributions to our community.

In November, Peggy spoke at Glenaire Retirement Community about the general history of Cary through the years. Many in the audience shared details with Peggy, so she learned from them while they were learning from her.

Popular Topics

- **The Page-Walker Hotel**, a local historical landmark: how this gem was nearly lost to the ages and how "it took a village" to save it to become one of Cary's most valuable assets. Includes our new video presentation!
- **Cary Before it was Cary**: how our town came to be, and who started it
- **How Cary got its Name**: founder Frank Page looks beyond our borders for our town's namesake
- **Keeping up with the Joneses**: odds are that your house sits on "Jones land" – but which Jones?
- **Cary's Most Famous Native Son**: the life and times of Walter Hines Page, son of the town's founder
- **Just A Horse-Stopping Place**: Peggy Van Scoyoc discusses the amazing stories about businesses, schools, families, ghosts and more, from her first book of Cary oral history compilations
- **Desegregating Cary**: Peggy Van Scoyoc discusses early African-American life, Cary's leadership in desegregation and more, from her second book of Cary oral history compilations
- **Mysteries and Secrets of Local Cemeteries**: excerpts from our annual presentation about the history and mystery of selected local cemeteries
- **What Have We Got to Lose?:** excerpts from our annual presentation about historical structures in and around Cary

Schedule a talk

Do you need a speaker for monthly meetings, luncheon programs or special gatherings? Presentations can range from 20 minutes to an hour and can be tailored to fit the interests of your group. Please contact us at info@friendsofpagewalker.org if you would like to have someone speak to your community group about Cary's history.





The Friends are pleased to remind you of our presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

We invite you to visit our web site, *like* us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. It's the best way to stay up-to-date on all the Friends happenings.

We also post many of our program videos on YouTube, including ceremonies at White Plains cemetery and the Desegregating Cary panel discussion.

Find us online today!

www.friendsofpagewalker.org

www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel

www.twitter.com/FriendsOfPW

<http://www.youtube.com/caryhistory>

BOARD MEMBERS

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are these volunteers (new members in bold): Lisa Banks, Laura Hill Cobb, Bryan Craddock, Michael Edwards, Pat Fish (treasurer, life member), Kirk Fuller, Jimmy Gibbs, Andy Kirk, Trish Kirkpatrick, Anne Kratzer (life member), John Loyack (president), Kerry Mead, Carla Michaels, Brent Miller, Bob Myers, Ariana Purifoy (Teen Council liaison), Cathy Richmond, Jack Smith (Cary Town Council liaison), Kay Struffolino, Pat Sweeney, Peggy Van Scoyoc (vice president), Barbara Wetmore (secretary) and Ed Yerha (Cary Town Council liaison).

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members Lyman Collins, Robbie Stone, Kris Carmichael, Jennifer Hocken and Matthew Champagne.

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 near the end of 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 <https://www.carychamber.com/> and <https://www.heartofcary.org/>.

ABOUT THE INNKEEPER

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*. The following contributed photos for this issue: Carla Michaels, Nelson Wetmore, Barbara Wetmore, Leesa Brinkley, Anne Kratzer, Kay Struffolino, Peggy Van Scoyoc. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent at brent@posmoroda.com.

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