

The Innkeeper

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER



SPECIAL EDITION SUMMER 2020



White Plains
Cemetery Secrets

Move it or Lose It

Oodles of Noodles

Blasts from the Past

hello

The Innkeeper

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 has changed all of our lives, and we find ourselves living inside an historic event. Because so many of our events were cancelled, we don't have the usual news to report and we can't tell you about many of our usual exciting upcoming events, because circumstances are uncertain. So instead, we're publishing articles of all sorts that have been contributed by Friends board members and volunteers. This gives the Friends a chance to share a wide range of knowledge and perspectives about Cary's history and cultural arts.

We've also mixed in a few blasts from the past – excerpts from older newsletters over the past 35 years. You can read those newsletters in our website newsletter archive [here](#). We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Innkeeper*. We welcome your feedback at info@friendsofpagewalker.org

Your support enables us to preserve history, provide history education and advance cultural arts in our community. Please consider becoming a member and supporting the Friends.



HONORING THE PAST
INSPIRES THE FUTURE.

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



Friends Continue Our Mission, Look Ahead

Dear Members and Friends,

Some of you might recall that I closed last summer's President's message stating, "Here's looking forward to another special year!" I can promise you that I had no idea that 2020 would be quite so special.

It is evident that the impact of COVID-19 has been significant on all aspects of life in Cary, including historic preservation. Very early on, as the Town began to close, the Friends of the Page-Walker could only sadly watch as various events had to be cancelled. Our mission of enriching the community by advocating preservation of Cary historic sites, by archiving history and facilitating history education, and by promoting the cultural arts relies on the participation of the public. Some of our most popular programs – trolley tours of historic sites, history education events, camps for children – bring together Cary citizens of all ages.



Our goal is to bring these popular programs back when it is safe to do so, but we are also looking

into new ways to share our mission with the public through virtual tours and other means.

Social media and online videos are no replacement for walking into a historic site and being overwhelmed by its beauty and history, but as we have known for many years, everyday citizens are historic properties' best defenders. The Town has had to cut back on a variety of services, but the gardens around the Page-Walker Hotel and the White Plains Cemetery have been kept in pristine condition by a multitude of volunteers. We welcome you to come visit the gardens, but please don't forget your face mask and maintain a safe social distance from others.

As always, I'll ask that if you enjoy your experience with the Friends of the Page-Walker, please consider becoming a supporting member and join us in our important work for you and our town. Membership information appears later in this newsletter.

And here's looking forward to a nice quiet year this time!

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.



Charles in Italy in 1944. He is kneeling in front of grape vines laden with huge bunches of grapes, holding grapes in both hands. One of his letters specifically mentioned that they were able to pick grapes but had to take their guns.

information I found is an obituary listing (not the actual obituary) for Charles Pinson Dellinger, Killed in Action in Italy. His parents were C.L. and Ella Pinson Dellinger. The date listed in the obituary is January 24, 1945, but I don't know if this is the date it was published or the listed date of death.

It's the autumn of 1937. A boy is walking through woods on the outskirts of Cary and comes upon a long-abandoned cemetery. He pauses long enough to etch his name into the stone obelisk – Charles Dellinger, 11/2/37, age 15.

Fast forward to 2020. The abandoned cemetery is White Plains Cemetery, the burial ground of the Revolutionary War Patriot, Nathaniel Jones. It is now a well-cared for historic site within the town limits of Cary and is surrounded by a housing development. Olivia Loyack, a young girl who lives next door to the

White Plains Secrets Revealed

From Olivia Loyack to the Friends: Some of y'all may know that I took rubbings of some of the names and words carved on the obelisk that marks Nathaniel Jone's grave (right) in the White Plains Cemetery. The carving I have been particularly interested in says "Charles Dellinger/Cary NC/11-2-37/15 Years."

I finally sat down and did some research on who this person was. I guessed that the carving meant 1937 because Cary wasn't a town yet in 1837. If he was 15 in '37, then he was born in 1922. With this information I was able to find a WWII draft card for a Charles Pinson Dellinger, born Sept. 8, 1922 from Carey, (yes, with an 'e') North Carolina. He registered when he was 19. I also found records of a grave in the Raleigh National Cemetery for Charles P. Dellinger, born 9/5/1922 (I don't know which was his real birth date), and died January 5, 1945. He would have been in the war for five years. The last piece of



continued

cemetery, takes an interest in the etching and uncovers one of the untold stories of an “old Cary” family, their connection to the Revolutionary War, and their sacrifices during World War II.

The Dellinger family was originally from Lincoln County, NC. Henry Dellinger fought in the American Revolution along with his brother, who had signed the Tryon Resolves in 1775. Several generations later, a descendant, Charlie Lee Dellinger, a railroad employee who worked in Greenville, SC, met and married a local Greenwood, SC girl, Ella Pinson. After living and working in Hamlet, NC, a railroad hub, the family moved to Cary with the railroad in the late 1920s. They settled near Ephesus Baptist Church, where Charlie, along with his railroad position, worked as a custodian and cemetery caretaker. Over the years the family grew to include children Charles, Howard, Frances, Eugene, Katherine, Ruth, and Cecil.



Charlie and Ella Dellinger, c1925

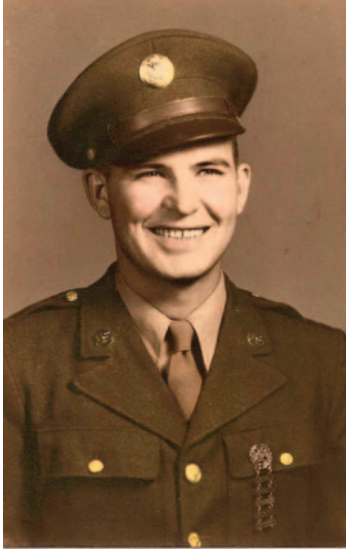
All of the Dellinger children, taken around 1941. From left to right - Charles (born Sept 1922), Howard (born June 1924), little Cecil (born April 1939), Francis (born Sept 1926), Eugene (born Feb 1929), Katherine (born May 1931) and Ruth (born November 1936).



Charlie Lee had a patriotic spirit. At age 16, he attempted to volunteer for World War I, but was declined due to his young age. Years later, he attempted to volunteer for World War II after Pearl Harbor was bombed, but was declined again due to his older age and seven children. In raising his children, he passed on his love of country. His oldest child, Charles went to Baltimore after graduating from Cary High School to work for Martin Aircraft. After several deferrals due to his important work for the aircraft industry, he entered the Army in 1943. After training, he was assigned to Italy. In letters that his mother saved and are now treasured by family, Charles wrote home for two specific items: his camera and the book “Rules of

continued

Charles Plnson Dellinger



Charles Plnson Dellinger



Howard Jennings Dellinger



Baseball” which speaks of his love for the All-American game. Charles and his brother Howard were talented baseball players, and the family story is that Charles and Howard were pulled out of grade school at Mount Vernon to pitch games for Cary High School! Along with Charles’ letters, the family also has the photos Charles took with his camera in Italy. During fighting in the fall of 1944, Charles was injured and was given the option to return home or rejoin his unit. He returned to his unit, but was killed on January 5, 1945 as American forces broke through “The Gothic Line” on their march to Florence. He was 22.

The story continues. The second Dellinger son, Howard, enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1943. He suffered from high blood pressure so it took several attempts to pass the physical to enlist! After training at Parris Island and Quantico, he was assigned to Okinawa where he was killed in fighting, just a few short months after his older brother Charles, on June 5, 1945, after US forces had officially captured the island.

The three remaining sons, Frances, Eugene and Cecil followed their brothers by serving in the military, and with their two sisters, Katherine and Ruth, lived long, successful lives.

The Dellingers, descendants of a Revolutionary War Patriot...a family with a great love for country...paying the supreme sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy today...their story unearthed through graffiti on the obelisk marking the burial spot of another Revolutionary War Patriot. The story has come full circle.

Editor’s Note: Olivia Loyack initially shared the secret she uncovered in the cemetery with the Friends. Carla Michaels continued Olivia’s research on Charles Dellinger and his family, resulting in this article and photos. A very special thank you to Jane Wydra, niece of Charles and Howard Dellinger who supplied valuable details in a phone interview with Carla Michaels and to Charles and Howard’s siblings, Ruth and Cecil, who kindly gave permission to use family photos in this article.

Warm Memories

On a recent walk which took me in front of the Cary Arts Center, I looked across Dry Avenue and noticed a young family standing in front of the historic landmark, the Sams-Jones House (at the corner of Academy Street and Dry Avenue). The parents were enthusiastically taking turns pointing to the magnificent architectural features of this Queen Anne's style cottage – the high hip roof, wrap around porch, turned posts, and spindle frieze. It seemed as though the house was equally engaged with the family and had many stories to tell!

My first thought after observing this scene was how wonderful it is that we live in a town in which its earliest residents were such impressive leaders, not only in education and governance, but in building some of the finest structures using examples of world class architecture as their inspiration. I am so grateful that many of our Town leaders, Town staff and residents have understood the importance of saving the vestiges of our past, particularly through historic preservation. What a wonderful sense of place and character these historic structures give to our town! And what better way to learn about Cary's rich history, and to pass that knowledge on to future generations, than to have a conversation with the Ivey-Ellington House, the Nancy Jones House, the Page-Walker and all the other impressive historic buildings that showcase their rich history throughout town. We, as preservationists, need to share those conversations and be that voice.

Watching that young family made me wonder, "How does one develop an understanding of the

Sam-Jones house, 2014



importance of historic preservation?" One of the answers certainly makes me applaud the Friends' goal of working with students to introduce them to our rich heritage, for they are the future guardians and voices of historic preservation. I didn't experience that mentoring in preservation when I was young. I grew up in a town in New Jersey, which I recently "googled" and discovered that it was founded in 1868, the year the Page-Walker was built! In my youth, I didn't have a deep awareness of my surroundings. It was when I moved to Cary, my new home in 1971, that I became fascinated with its rich history, and associated historic buildings. My understanding and appreciation of these buildings grew when, more than forty years ago, Catherine Bishir, a noted historian, helped me to prepare a walking tour of downtown Cary, by explaining the uniqueness and rarity of each historic structure. The journey to protect these buildings began with hundreds of committed individuals who shared a passion for preserving these visual reminders of our past. One thing led to another and we embarked on trying to convince the Cary Town Council in the mid 1980s to save the historic Walker Hotel, as it was transitioning to a leaky graffiti gallery and beer bottle strewn

continued

hangout – a derelict building experiencing its last gasps of life.

We felt such pride when the Mayor of Salisbury, who attended a Town Council meeting in the early 1980s, exclaimed, “We would kill to have the Walker Hotel in our Town.” Soon after, the Town and the Friends entered into a partnership to save the Hotel as an arts and history center, and as they say, “The rest is history!”

When the Hotel was fully open in 1995, those involved in the journey of restoring the Page-Walker Hotel agreed that saving the Hotel was not the only positive outcome. Just as important was the process of working with creative individuals who shared our passion, and the memories that were created. We were enriched by the new and lasting friendships. The very same gift is felt by participating in the activities of the Friends today – sharing the passion of those who recognize the importance of preserving our community’s character and rich history, whether it be through protecting our architectural treasures, capturing the memories of Cary’s residents through oral histories, preserving artifacts, conducting stunning research to unveil the dreams of those who went before us, taking the community on trolley rides to appreciate our architectural treasures, giving engaging lectures, dressing up in historic garb to give a sense of the past, designing brochures to help educate residents and visitors about our special Town, hosting large festivals such as Herbfest, and the many teaching avenues in which the Friends are involved. We continue to make wonderful friends and memories while advocating for our rich history.

In closing, I’d like to mention just a few of my favorite memories from those early days...

- Running out of ice cream during our first town-wide “Meet the Page-Walker” ice cream social. We immediately went to every store in Cary and bought them out to cover the

enthusiastic community response, then collapsed afterward!

- Falling over with laughter at a Board meeting when structural engineer Dave Fischetti referred to the Page-Walker as the “Plague-Walker” due to the amount of mold, mildew and pigeon droppings, as the hotel had become a “destination” for every pigeon in the state!
- Being invited to the home of Barb and Thack Brown for a homemade fruit tart when they gently told us that “We are beyond the bake sale” in our effort to raise restoration funds. Thankfully they were able to point us to individuals who could help us with a successful capital campaign with SAS as the lead donor.
- Hosting a “Paint the Brackets” party in our garage, which the News & Observer reported as the social event of the year. You can see the results of our efforts today crowning the Page-Walker!

Something that we learned very early in historic preservation was that the leadership of the Town Council and Town staff is crucial to historic preservation. We would certainly not be enjoying the fruits of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center without the support of Mayors Harold Ritter and Koka Booth and their respective Councils in the early days. And in today’s changing times, we are so appreciative of Mayor Weinbrecht, our Council representatives, Town Manager Sean Stegall and his staff, and Kris Carmichael, Supervisor of the Page-Walker, for all that has been done to further historic preservation and the arts in Cary. We certainly value that partnership!

Thanks so much to Leesa Brinkley for her great idea for this edition of *The Innkeeper* in the middle of the COVID-19 virus, and for sharing her exceptional design talents with the Friends. And as always, thanks to Brent Miller for providing additional inspiration and assembling the heart of our winning *Innkeeper*.

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT



Relocating the Upchurch house, Raleigh, 2015

The Friends want to preserve Cary's history, and a big part of that is preserving our architectural history. Cary has experienced rapid growth for decades, and "progress" often means that historic structures are placed in jeopardy of new development. The good news is that many developers now understand that Cary values the preservation of historic structures, and they often propose to preserve those structures. In many cases, that offer of preservation involves moving the historic resource to some other site. Although this is clearly better than losing our historic structures to demolition, it is not ideal.

As the US National Park Service (which administers the National Register of Historic Places) states, "Moving a historic building is a delicate operation; it should not be undertaken until all other possible ways to save a structure from demolition have been investigated." In other words, moving a historic structure to save it is a last resort.

Unfortunately in Cary, our recent experiences show that moving historic resources seems to be the first inclination rather than the last resort. Don't get me wrong: if the only way to preserve a historic structure is to move it, then that's what ought to be done. But moving historic resources shouldn't be a reflexive reaction, but rather a last resort.

continued



The preserved Franklin house

Among Cary’s historic structures that have been saved by moving are the **Lane Bennett** house (moved to Raleigh), the **Franklin** house (moved to Apex), the **Upchurch** house and the **Waldo** house. Historic resources that were preserved in place include the Richard house, the Guess-Ogle house and of course the Page-Walker Hotel. Sadly, at least one Cary property, the **Mayton** house, was demolished after it was moved; other properties, including the **Lovie Jones** house, Green Level community store, the **A.M. & Vallaria Council** farm, **Barbee-Williams** farm, **Sears** farm and others, have been lost without pursuing alternatives to demolition.

Current plans are advancing to move two of Cary’s most significant historic structures, the **Nancy Jones** house and the **Ivey-Ellington** house. The Nancy Jones house, Cary’s oldest remaining residential structure, has been purchased by the Town of Cary with a condition that it be moved to another site. The Friends are hopeful that it will remain near its original site on Chapel Hill Road, where its historic context that includes a visit by a US president can be maintained.

The Ivey-Ellington house, located right in the middle of downtown (the site of the Cary Farmers Market), is planned to be moved so that a parking deck and high-density residential development can proceed. The historic context of the Ivey-Ellington house is rich at its current site, where it was a stopping place for cattle drives in early years. Unfortunately, despite the Friends advocacy efforts, the Cary Town Council, developers and property owners have decided that this historic resource needs to be moved to make way for “progress.” The Friends are hopeful that it can remain at a prominent site in downtown Cary and maintain its National Register of Historic Places status and some of its historic context.

Preserving historic structures is important to a community’s identity. The Friends will continue to advocate to preserve those structures in place. “Move it or lose it” is a last resort; we hope our community can instead evolve to “Repurpose it and keep it.”



Relocating the Waldo house, Cary, 2016



The Nancy Jones’ house future location is unknown.

Building Our Community Through Preservation



Good, bad or ugly – preserving our past is critical to our future. Knowing where and what we have been creates guidelines, so

that hopefully the same mistakes won't be repeated and we find paths to build a more productive future. This is especially true for any community as culturally diverse as Cary! Rather than destroy historical buildings deemed useless and monuments that some perceive as offensive, we prefer to rehabilitate buildings to serve a purpose or restore to their original state and status and relocate statues, monuments to an area better served to tell their story and history. This is why I am a member of Friends of the Page-Walker!

Some of my most respected Cary folks (and mentors) over my nearly half century living in this community have been:

- **Herb Young** – for his undying enthusiasm and support of all things Cary
- **Koka Booth** – for his visions and efforts toward the best direction for Cary's growth
- **“Dad” and Rachel Dunham** – for their friendship and love of the environment and nature.....and how to change my Yankee way of gardening to the Southern way which was a fun, ongoing activity with us

There have been too many more to mention for this article, but their actions, friendships, ideals and support are forever in my heart.

Over the years, I have been involved with most of the festivals; all things Parks, Recreation and that department's expansion to include Cultural Resources; the school system; and church. Cary is on the right track toward positive growth, management, leadership, preservation and working together! Staying the course is critical, as evidenced during these past months living and dealing with the dark cloud of a pandemic. The unknown is not to be feared, but to be prepared to work through together as a community.

Oodles of Noodles

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. Carla has been digitizing a large collection of artifacts from Cary High School; in this edition, she shares some of those.

The Cary High School archives contain the photograph below – one of the last photographs taken of the original wooden school building which was razed and rebuilt in 1913. Based on a recently discovered newspaper article dated February 5, 1912, “Noodles” Fagan visited the Raleigh area as he toured North Carolina and Virginia. The photograph was apparently taken when Mr. Fagan visited the schoolchildren of Cary, just 8 miles away from his appearance at the Grand Theater in Raleigh.



Noodles Fagan

continued

Cary High School 1911



Double the Number o

"NOODLES" FAGAN KING OF NEWSBOYS HERE

Is Guest of The Raleigh Daily Times This Week---Will
Entertain Raleigh Public As Guests of This News-
paper At the Grand Theatre Saturday Morning

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Politeness, honesty and hustle are the three prime requisites of the successful newsboy. So says "Noodles" Fagan, the famous newsboy, guest of The Daily Times, who appears at the Grand Theater this week in a clean cut vaudeville act. To this advice he adds the injunction, "Don't miss one school session, don't drink, don't chew, keep your hands clean, keep your character clean."

If he follows that advice he won't go wrong. "Noodles" says the right time to make a man is when he is a boy, and that is right.

Every boy has a profound respect for "Noodles," who rose from the Bowery of New York to a successful young man. "Noodles" songs are as charming as himself.

What "Noodles" Has Done.

Who "Noodles" is and what he has done would fill a bulky volume. Here are just a few of his achievements.

He has addressed all the big high school boys in many cities in this and other countries on how to live clean and right.

He has addressed all the big high schools, colleges and chambers of commerce of this country.

He has met the royalty of Europe, including Alfonso of Spain and the late King Edward of England.

He was granted a conference January 18th with President Taft at the White House. After the introduction the President said:

"Mr. Fagan, I am glad to know you. Your work for the poor children will not be soon effaced. I want to thank you for your great work."

He has spoken to 300,000 women in California on woman's suffrage.

He has raised \$150,000 to aid in the fight to stamp out tuberculosis.

"Noodles" Fagan has established 12 newsboys' bands and 15 newsboys homes and associations.

All of this work "Noodles" has done absolutely without pay.

For the special entertainment of the children of this city and the rest of the interested public, The Raleigh Times has arranged to have "Noodles" give a free lecture Saturday morning at 10 o'clock in the Grand Theater on the subject, "Travels of the World."

The lecture will be illustrated by

moving pictures and "Noodles" will give in his characteristic manner some of his experiences in foreign parts.

Boys to Meet Him Wednesday.

Wednesday night every newsboy in the city will be the guest of The Raleigh Times at the Grand Theater when "Noodles" Fagan will appear. The boys will also participate in the Times' Boys' Musical Carnival which will take place on the stage.

"Noodles" will meet the boys at the office of the Daily Times Wednesday night at 7 o'clock and march to the Grand Theater in a body.

Visits Many Countries.

Some of the countries "Noodles" has visited are Japan, Italy, India, Canada, England, Nova Scotia, South America, Yucatan, Mexico, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Wales, Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, China, Jamaica, Martinique, Porto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines.

As a lecturer he has appeared on the platforms of leading churches and Y. M. C. A. halls all over the world, frequently being called upon to deliver his lecture to school children.

He has spoken in all the churches in the principal cities of the country. He carries letters from Martin Brumbaugh of Philadelphia, Dr. Maxwell of New York, Judge Lindsey and leading instructors of America.

Ten thousand heard him at Washington; five thousand at Roanoke, and five thousand at Winston-Salem last week. Three million people hear him yearly.

"Noodles" lectures and talks to children because of the fact that a

(Continued on Page Two.)

Have you ever heard of Noodles Fagan? How interesting to think someone born in the Bowery of NYC and who "made it big" would visit Cary! Here is the story behind this photo. Noodles' given name was Lawrence Clinton Fagan. Born into poverty, he started out at a young age as a "newsie," selling newspaper on the street. One day a charitable person bought him a bowl of noodle soup, which "Clint" promptly spilled on his coat, earning him the nickname "Noodles."



NOODLES FAGAN, FAMOUS NEWSBOY, WHO WILL SELL PAPERS FOR THE DAILY TIMES THIS WEEK.

His meager upbringing didn't hold him back, though. He became a successful seller of newspaper, going on to own real estate and several newspaper stands. His larger than life personality led him to the vaudeville stage where he became a popular figure. His goal was to speak to every child in

America with this message: be polite, be honest, and hustle (which I take to mean work hard). Don't miss one school session, don't drink, don't chew, keep your hands clean and your character clean. He traveled around the world three times, met King Edward of England, King Alfonso of Spain, and President Taft. He supported women's suffrage and raised \$150,000 to fight tuberculosis. What a life!

See if you can spot Noodles in the photo. He appears in the middle of the photo wearing his hat and surrounded by delighted children. In many early school photos, children wear stoic faces, but in this photo their faces beam pure delight, as does Noodles. Even Professor Dry has a bit of a smile on his face! I wish someone in that crowd had left a written or spoken record about that memorable day, but at least we have the photo and the story behind it now.

GREENSBORO DRUG MAN UP FOR RETAILING

(Special to The Times.)

Greensboro, Feb. 5.—Something of a stir was created here Saturday evening when it became known that a warrant had been issued for R. J. Sykes, secretary and treasurer of the Conyers and Sykes drug store, in which Mr. Sykes was charged with retailing whiskey. The warrant was sworn as a result of an ad testifi-

Stepping Back to the Future

Deciding to serve on the board of the Friends of Page-Walker would turn out to be one of the most intriguing decisions of my life, because it would not only open my eyes to local history that I, even having come-of-age here, did not know, but would also lead me to write the first historical novel about a period of early Cary, the Civil War years. The story for the most part, took place on the grounds of the Page-Walker property and reveals much about Cary's unique place in Wake County history. It did not take long for me to see that this association with the Friends was going to be an eye-opening experience for me...

Having come to the Friends full-of-myself, as one of the oldest members from a time of town history underrepresented on the Board, I was eager to share my first-hand stories of the 1950s, as Cary's decade of preparation for its coming BOOM! However, sandwiched as the 1950s were between WWII and the dawning of the 'information highway,' as well as being geographically located in the middle of the coming 'Research Triangle' – a future hub of the 21st century BOOM – my coming-of-age decade began to feel more like a 'continuation of' town history, as opposed to an apex or peak of long-term Cary history. My personal interests in local history quickly turned to the man of main street Highway History Marker merit – Walter Hines Page (WHP). Yes, it was here because Cary is the place of his birth. But, I wondered, did Cary leave a mark on him like my birthplace had left on me. And how long had WHP remained here? Perhaps the Cary he knew was similar to the 1950s Cary I knew. It was

said that Cary was unique among Wake County towns, maintaining a spirit and aire over time. Perhaps we had shared the same part of our individual lives in a time-unchanged place. Perhaps I would recognize this young



Walter Hines Page

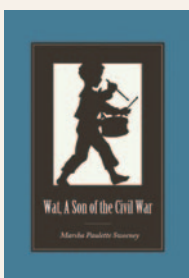
boy as a time-machine, virtual cousin!?! Curiosity was born. The library beckoned.

Indeed my research would be rewarded! I did find a young boy in a yet as unincorporated town I recognized as my own 1950s Cary. How exciting local history became for me. I wanted to share this with

today's young Cary students. Plant a seed for local history in their curiosity. Help them better appreciate the man behind the Highway History Marker.

I have come to appreciate that not all history is equal. Great moments and movements stay with us best when couched in a context that makes them touch us where we are when we learn of them. Thus, I believe that Cary's young students should study the life of Walter Hines Page as a forerunner of Cary's current place in the State and our global world. His contributions across his multi-faceted interests and careers still resonates today.

Without my participation in the mission of the Friends of the Page-Walker I would not have had this personally remarkable 'Back to the Future' journey, and I am forever grateful for the experience and history afforded me.



My self-published book – *WAT, a Son of the Civil War* – is available in Wake County libraries. Like other historical novels, the narrative is based on fact and my imaginative retelling of the facts to create a fuller picture of the events of the day. Who among us remembers the dateline of the military encounters of any major war? Is it not historical novels and Ken Burns' history-based documentaries that inspire us, hopefully instilling the significance of the events pinpointed on a timeline or a calendar?

WHWGTL and LDIFOB ACRONYMS WITH HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In our fast-paced and technology-rich world, we love our acronyms! They're the shorthand we use to speed up our communications. But in the case of the FOPW (Oops! Sorry, we mean the Friends of the Page-Walker), two acronyms lead us deep into Cary's history: WHWGTL and LDIFOB. So, let's unpack these acronyms and see where they take us.



WHWGTL stands for "What Have We Got to Lose?" a program developed by the Friends to showcase Cary's extensive inventory of historic structures, worthy of saving. The brainchild of Brent Miller and Marla Dorrel, the program was first presented in 2006 and has been updated and presented on a nearly-annual basis since that time. In each program we celebrate preservation successes and, as a reminder of the peril these meaningful homes, farms, businesses and institutional structures can face from development, we include a sampling of what we have already lost. We mourn each loss, as a black curtain drops over each image, but it increases our resolve to work harder to preserve the treasures that remain.

One good acronym deserves another, so WHWGTL gave us LDIFOB, the acronym assigned to those very important, highly significant structures that we would Lie Down In Front Of a Bulldozer to save. They include the Lane Bennett Place (now located in Raleigh), Nancy Jones House, the Ivey-Ellington House, the Sams-Jones house, and of course, the Page-Walker Hotel. Fortunately, the Town of Cary has also recognized the historic value of many of these, so thus far, we have not had to demonstrate that when we say "LDIFOB," we really mean it.

We look forward to planning our next WHWGTL. We hope you'll join us and SOPFP (Share Our Passion For Preservation), too!

White Plains Cemetery

CARY HISTORIC
LANDMARK



Friends and neighborhood volunteers are proud to partner with the Town of Cary Public Works department to care for this very historic site, the resting place of Nathaniel Jones and family, owners of 10,000 plus acres in the 1700s comprising what is now most of eastern Cary. You can visit the cemetery on Tolliver Ct. in the Maynard Oaks subdivision in Cary. Left: volunteers Barb Wetmore and Bev Samuelson keep their distance while keeping the historic White Plains Cemetery.

a musical evolution THE PAGE-WALKER CONCERT SERIES

It turns out that the main gallery in the Page-Walker Arts and History Center had a wonderful surprise hidden within its walls. The acoustics in the room are excellent and the sound quality is outstanding! Since Hal Bowman first began scheduling concerts in 2007, the Friends of the Page-Walker Concert Series has evolved into one of Cary's wonderful traditions. The combination of the performing artists and the main gallery acoustics is often called "a musical gem."

THE PERFORMERS

With the support of an annual and sustaining donation from the family of Carol J. Wright, over the years, many talented groups and musicians have performed in the Main Gallery, including:

- Bill Leslie
- Brazilian Soul
- Brian Reagin, North Carolina Symphony violinist
Concertmaster and First Violin
- Cary Youth Voices
- Celtic Moods and Melodies
- Classical Interlude
- Dave Burgess
- David DiGiuseppe Musique Accordeon
- Gregg Gelb Holidays in Rhythm
- Jon Shain
- King's Tavern Madrigals
- Little Windows
- Mountain Aires
- Pops in the Intimate Afternoon
- Raleigh Boychoir Millennium Chorus
- Symphony Spotlight with Erik Dyke, North Carolina
Symphony double bassist
- Tony Williamson

The Town of Cary was providing more musical options for its citizens in all its various venues. At the same time, it also became clear that the combination of extraordinary acoustics in the Page-Walker's main gallery, combined with a loyal and appreciative audience, provided a unique venue and performance opportunity for the Triangle area's most accomplished musicians.

With musical leadership from the North Carolina Symphony's Brian Reagin and Erik Dyke, more talented musicians sought the opportunity to perform at the Page-Walker, including, to name a few:

- Elizabeth Beilman – North Carolina Symphony cellist
- Anne Dyke – flutist
- Carol Engbretsen – soprano
- Lora Fabio – soprano
- Sam Gold – North Carolina Symphony violist
- Catherin Hamner - pianist
- Brad Hunicutt – pianist
- Billy Liles – pianist
- David Meyer – North Carolina Symphony cellist
- Erin O'Hara – soprano
- Frank Pittman – pianist accompanying Brian Reagin
- Emily Shmidt - violinist
- The Fabulous Ukulele Band and Chorus with Erik
Dyke, Jessica Godreau, Tom Karches, Michele
McIntosh, Shannon New and Dan Steen
- Nancy Whelan – pianist

A MUSICAL GEM

What does this mean for you? If you appreciate a variety of musical styles including classical music and you'd like to spend a delightful afternoon in an intimate gallery as some of the most gifted and talented musicians perform, what can you do? You don't have to fly to New York City. You don't have to travel to Manhattan. You don't have to buy tickets at Carnegie Hall. You can come to the Winter Concert Series in the main gallery of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center for an extraordinary concert experience.

BLASTS from the PAST

need a short intro here maybe?

1985

RUTH CONNOR'S DELICIOUS PUNCH
(Makes 5 1/2 quarts)-Contributed by
Daphne Ashworth for the Pre-Restora-
tion Reception.

3 cups sugar Dissolve over heat
6 cups water
2 1/2 cups orange juice
1 64 oz. bottle Sprite
4 cups pineapple juice Blend in
5 crushed bananas blender
1/2 cup lemon juice
Combine. Freeze. Thaw for three
hours and chop until mushy.

35 YEARS AGO

- In the 1985 newsletter, the Friends listed two pages of donors for the then-nascent cause of restoring the Page-Walker Hotel. That newsletter also reported major milestones of the Town of Cary purchasing the Page-Walker and completion of the stabilization of the building. To round things out, the recipe for Ruth Connor's Delicious Punch was included.



1990

30 YEARS AGO

- In 1990, the Friends saw the culmination of a campaign that lasted more than a decade to finally begin restoration of the Page-Walker Hotel. Bids for the restoration were received, but despite years of fundraising, the Friends were about \$70,000 short. The Friends asked the Town of Cary to assume responsibility for the building and pursue its restoration, and the Town Council agreed to do so. The rest, as we say, is history.



1995

25 YEARS AGO

- In 1995, the Friends reported that copies of Around and About Cary, by Tom Byrd and illustrated by Jerry Miller, were selling out. This definitive history of Cary is still sold today by the Friends, and proceeds go toward fulfilling our mission of historic preservation, history education and cultural arts advocacy.
- Friends President Fuller Blunt wrote that the work of the Friends to preserve the Page-Walker was transforming from a vision to reality. That reality included restoring the building to host artistic performances and beginning work on the Cary Heritage Museum and Page Educational Gardens.

2000

20 YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the Friends held Heritage Day and the Cary Heritage Museum and were innumerable occasions. Members of the Friends hosted the Special Event on the 19th in which many descendants of Cary's early citizens were formally presented with certificates by a grateful Town. Many of their family heirlooms were on display on the third floor of the hotel, and a formal ribbon cutting took place at the entrance to the museum. Friends member Maril Yevick entered the evening with scrumptious hors d'oeuvres.
- Activities at Heritage Day on Mar. 30 in.



2005

15 YEARS AGO

- In 2005, Anne Kratzer noted in her recurring column, "A Look Back," that noted preservationist Catherine Bishir advised the Friends to "lie down in front of a bulldozer," if necessary to save 5 local historic properties (see page 15).
- Peggy Van Scoyoc completed her 45th oral history interview 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 [here](#).
- The Friends were developing a plan to save the Nancy Jones house, Cary's oldest surviving residence. 15 years later, that plan has finally come to fruition with the Town of Cary taking ownership of this historic treasure.



2010

10 YEARS AGO

- In 2010, the Friends held our first Antiques Appraisal Fair, welcoming PBS appraiser Wes Cowan, who has appeared on Antiques Road Show and other programs.
- The Friends hosted our first annual Herbfest, a traditional festival that has grown and continues to the present day (although it had to be cancelled this year because of COVID-19).
- A rare snowfall graced the Page-Walker holiday open house.
- Construction was underway at the old Cary High School that would eventually become the Cary Arts Center.



2015

5 YEARS AGO

- In 2015, the Friends celebrated our 30th anniversary as an organization with ice cream, a barbershop quartet and a proclamation by Cary Mayor Harold Weinbrecht.
- We reported being honored in 2014 by the NC Society of Historians with awards for our organization, the Cary Heritage Museum, our publication Cary Through the Years, the video documentary Cary, and The Innkeeper (this newsletter).
- The herb garden at the Page-Walker was officially renamed the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens in honor of Friends founder Anne Kratzer.



A Key Endeavor in Fulfilling our Mission

On June 6, 2012, the Friends proudly presented Redmond Self, a high school senior at Raleigh Charter School, with our inaugural Friends of the Page-Walker History Scholarship. Early that year, the Friends Board had made the decision to establish the annual award. Board member Brent Miller in a 2012 press release announcing our scholarship's first recipient, beautifully describes the Board's goal in instituting this annual scholarship:

"The Friends' dedication and deep commitment are driving forces behind Cary's historic preservation. They take great pride in preserving the beauty and history of Cary and hope to encourage those attributes in area youth through this scholarship."

The \$750 scholarship would be awarded annually to a Cary Teen Council high school senior who exhibited an aptitude and passion for the study of history that could result in a career as a history teacher, museum director, historian or historic preservationist. The

application also required a letter of recommendation from the student's high school history teacher and the submission of an essay on a local history topic that is detailed in the application.

After 2014, we experienced a disappointing lack of scholarship applications for two years. In an effort to address this issue, the scholarship committee presented suggested changes for the Board to consider. The primary focus of consideration was the suggestion to broaden the scope of the application requirements. The Board agreed that to attract more student applications, the application requirements needed to be reviewed and changed where appropriate. The Board also supported increasing

continued



Our 2020 Scholarship recipient Nina Kudlak, a graduating senior at Cary High School, with her parents, Alison and Drew Kudlak.

the award to \$1,000. In 2017, these changes were completed. These changes included the following: the name was changed to the Friends of the Page-Walker Scholarship; graduating senior Cary residents qualify, and the requirement of being a Cary Teen Council member was eliminated; student must have been accepted into and plans to attend a college or university, while the specific requirement of the study of history was eliminated; and the recommendation letter could be written by any of the student's teachers or counselors, not limited to their history teachers. The amount of the award was also officially raised to \$1,000.

The new model has proved to be a resounding success! Each year we receive applications from students who are academically strong, actively involved volunteers in their school and community and demonstrate leadership capabilities that will serve them well in their academic pursuits and beyond. A key element taken into account in the selection process is the applicant's submission of an essay with an assigned topic discussing Cary's history. The topics have included "The Role of Education in Making Cary What it is Today" and "The Impact of Growth on the Culture of the Cary Community." The essays are requested to be thought-provoking and insightful, and the judges who serve on the scholarship panel have been impressed with the quality and maturity of the submissions over the years.



We are honored to receive the scholarship applications of these amazing young people every year and so proud of our winners. The name of each recipient is displayed on a permanent plaque at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. Nina Kudlak, a graduating senior at Cary High School, is the winner of the scholarship this year. She lives in Cary with her parents, Alison and Drew Kudlak. Nina will be attending North Carolina State University and plans to major in political science. Katherine R. O'Riordan, counselor at Cary High School, writes in her recommendation of Nina that in college Nina "... will be the student on campus who is involved with helping others, seeking ways to overcome challenges, and supporting her peers in their endeavors." Nina's impressive list of activities exemplifies that she is a strong and motivated leader. Normally, the Friends host the scholarship winner and their family at our annual meeting and

reception in June each year where the scholarship presentation takes place. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, our annual meeting was cancelled; so we decided, instead, to have two of our board members present the scholarship to Nina and her parents in the front yard of their home in Cary with all of us practicing social distancing. It was such a pleasure to meet Nina and her parents and they were so appreciative of our presentation efforts.

A Peaceful Place

Are you longing for a change of scenery, a place to pause, reflect and be renewed? What better place than the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens on the grounds of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center! Supported by a dedicated corps of volunteers, the gardens are there, every day, sharing their stunning beauty and reminding us that, together, we will survive and thrive.

Today, the gardens are more beautiful than ever, but to truly appreciate them, we must look back to the early 1970s and the centerpiece of the gardens, the Page smokehouse, the only structure that remains from the estate of Cary's founder, Allison Francis "Frank" Page.

Here is also where we find the roots of the Friends of the Page-Walker, the Cary Historical Society, organized by Anne and Jerod Kratzer in 1974. As the Society was being formed, Rachel Dunham brought to their attention the significance of the smokehouse. They successfully petitioned the Cary Town Council to preserve it on the Page land that the town had purchased in 1971. With a hope that it would protect the smokehouse and act as a reminder of its importance, in 1977, the Society, under the direction of Mrs. Dunham and the Town of Cary's Horticultural Department, planted an educational herb garden around the structure.

continued

However, the gardens you see today are not the original ones. In 1991, the smokehouse was moved about one hundred yards east to the grounds of the Page-Walker. After the move, the Friends and town citizens planted a new herb garden to use as an educational tool, focusing on the plants that played an important part in the daily lives of Cary's earliest settlers.

In 1995, the Page Educational Gardens were formally dedicated, and volunteers, organized by the Friends, designed, planted and maintained them. In 2005-06, the Town redesigned the garden area as part of a Town Hall expansion plan. Walkways, curbing and a sprinkler system were added, much to the delight of volunteers who had previously been dragging hoses for routine watering. In 2007, specific garden beds were assigned to categories of use: culinary, ornamental, industrial and medicinal.

All successful volunteer efforts require good leaders, and in the case of the Page Educational Gardens, that leader was Anne Kratzer, who organized volunteer activities in the gardens as the first Garden Committee chairperson. In 2015, the gardens were renamed the "Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens," honoring her for her work in leading the creation and development of the gardens, as well as her role as founder of the Friends of the Page-Walker.

After many years of serving as the Garden Committee chairperson, Anne stepped aside from her leadership role, which was ably taken on by Kay Struffolino, one of Cary's most energetic and dedicated volunteers. In 2019, Kay passed the baton to Marla Dorrel, who currently serves as the Garden Committee chair. Both Anne and Kay continue to volunteer in the gardens, along with a roster of 26 more garden volunteers.

Over the years, the tradition has held for volunteer gardeners to meet in the spring to revive and refresh the garden after its winter rest, then sign up for 2-week maintenance duty until late fall, when the group again gathers to "put the garden to bed."

The coronavirus pandemic has brought a few changes in the way our gardeners work, but nothing can dampen the spirits of our dedicated volunteers. And this year, we've been aided by plentiful rains, rewarding us with lush growth, a bounty of blooms and more shades of green than one can count.

So, if you're looking for a respite stop in a peaceful place that delights the senses and eases the mind, pay a visit to the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens, relax, refresh – and smile.

Interested in joining our merry band of volunteer gardeners? Contact us at info@friendsofpagewalker.org.



SOLID FOOTING FOR HERB GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to Jeff Bergman, restoration carpenter and specialist, for replacing the aging threshold on the Page-Walker smokehouse door. Although not the original threshold board, the one that needed to be replaced had begun to split and become a hazard to the herb garden volunteers who use the smokehouse to store the tools and supplies they need to keep the gardens beautiful. Thanks to Jeff, they will now be able to safely pass back and forth from an historic smoke house to the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens. – *Barb Wetmore*

LET'S BE Friends!

It's easy to become a member! We greatly appreciate the support of our loyal membership. We couldn't continue to provide the variety of services that we do without you!

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 2020, please do so today. You can also become a member using the form on page 24. Please print, complete and return it to us.

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

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Barbara Wetmore | Jim Bustrack |
| John Loyack | Leesa Brinkley |
| Brent Miller | Hal Bowman & |
| Judi Rourke & Michael | Mercedes Auger |
| Rubes | Lisa Dove |
| Bob Myers | Jack Leavell |
| Anne Kratzer | J. Michael Edwards |
| Pat Fish | Marla Dorrel |
| Ralph Ashworth | Kay Struffolino |
| Chip Wooten | Ed Yerha |
| Peggy Van Scoyoc | Carla Michaels |

BOARD MEMBERS

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are these volunteers: Lisa Banks, Mina Bayraktar (Teen Council representative), 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 (secretary), Carla Michaels, Brent Miller, Bob Myers, Cathy Richmond, Judi Rourke, Michael Rubes, Kay Struffolino, Pat Sweeney, 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 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

Information about the Friends
President John Loyack 919-703-5359



www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel



www.twitter.com/FriendsofPW



www.youtube.com/caryhistory

PLEASE NOTE:

The Page-Walker Arts & History Center currently is closed because of COVID-19 restrictions. You can check on the status of the Page-Walker [here](#).

In the meantime, why not visit the Page-Walker and the Friends online? You can even take a virtual tour of the building and the grounds [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