



The Innkeeper

Spring 2005

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

President's Message

By Mike Longmire

As always, a lot is going on at the Page-Walker. This year's **Concert Series** had a record turnout and we already are booking performances for the 2005-2006 series. Get your tickets early!

We are excited about "**The Big Event**" that is in the planning stages. This event will be held in September to highlight all of the historic, cultural and educational projects supported by the Friends. We hope to bring together the past and present, the old Cary and the newer Cary community, in an event that will broaden the awareness of how important it is to promote the history and culture of our town. Stay tuned for details about this exciting September event.

Our **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for May 4th, when we will elect new Board officers and select a few more new Board members from our general membership to replace those whose terms have expired. Please contact Bob Myers (robmyers@us.ibm.com, 467-6308) if you are interested in serving on the Board.

The **garden** is coming along nicely and we hope to be able to have some concerts there this summer.

We always are seeking **new members**. Our goal of 100 paid members fell just a little short, but we were close! We will continue to reach out to increase both our individual and corporate support, and we need your help to spread the word about membership benefits.

I am looking forward to working with the newly elected officers and will continue

coordinating the concert series and membership efforts. Thanks to everyone for your help and commitment to the mission of the Friends.

A Page-Walker Moment

By Dean Teitelbaum



Walter Hines Page

In 1868 Walter Hines "Wat" Page was sent to the Brigham School, a military school in Mebane, NC. Although many of the cadets were happy with their Confederate Gray uniforms and drill, he definitely was not.

The social hierarchy at school was based on one's father's Confederate rank. After that, for those benighted few who had not fought for the South, it was based on one's religion – first Episcopalians, then Presbyterians, and finally Baptists and Methodists.

Because Walter's father, Frank Page, had avoided military service and was a Methodist, "Wat" was a loser in the eyes of his classmates. "Wat" wrote later, "If it had become known among the boys that he [Walter's father, Frank Page] had been a Union man – I used to shudder at the suspicion in which I should be held".

A Look Back

“Making Connections”

By Anne Kratzer

Our journey to remember events of the past thirty years that shaped the Page-Walker Arts and History Center resumes as we recall the organizational meeting of the **Cary Historical Society** in October, 1974, and the subsequent cataloguing of early education records.

As a fledgling organization with no members who had extensive experience in historic preservation, the Cary Historical Society was extremely fortunate to have had access to the resources of the Department of Cultural Resources and its Division of Archives and History in Raleigh. The “movers and shakers” of the Historic Sites Division, **Al Honeycutt** and **Sam Townsend**, were extremely supportive, even presenting a program at our organizational meeting.

During the following ten years that led to the Page-Walker effort, the Cary Historical Society, with the guidance and support of Al, Sam and other professionals, accomplished many of its goals and the effects can be seen today. The Society:

- enlisted noted preservationist **Catherine Bishir** to conduct an inventory of historic structures in Cary. This inventory became a tool to identify the important architectural structures within the Town limits. Catherine advised us to “lie down in front of a bulldozer” for the **Lane-Bennett Place** (1774), **Nancy Jones House** (ca. 1803), **Walker Hotel** (1868), **Capt. Harrison P. Guess House** (earliest section ca. 1830’s), **Ivey-Ellington-Waddell House** (ca. 1870’s) and the **Wiley Jones House** (ca. 1900). The inventory also provided the historic references for Cary’s first walking tour brochure that the Society published. Of the twenty-five notable structures listed in the brochure, eighteen still stand today. The

information from the Society’s walking tour brochure has been an invaluable resource for subsequent brochures developed by the Town of Cary and **Capital Area Preservation**.

- worked with **Preservation NC**, under the inspired direction of **Myrick Howard**; the Division of Archives and History; and the owners of the Nancy Jones House, the Walker Hotel and the Lane-Bennett Place to assure the nomination of the historic buildings in the **National Register of Historic Places**. This effort helped to encourage the preservation of these structures by raising community awareness of their architectural and historical significance. **Phyllis Tuttle** continued this effort by spearheading the initiative with Capital Area Preservation to designate the downtown Cary area as an historic district.

“Catherine advised us to ‘lie down in front of a bulldozer’ ...”

- urged the **Cary Town Council** to preserve the **Page Smokehouse** (ca 1840), located on the property of the then-newly-built Town Hall. The smokehouse was the only structure that remained on the Page estate after the homestead burned in 1970. The Society, under the direction of **Mrs. Rachel Dunham** and the Town of Cary’s Horticultural Department, planted an educational herb garden around the structure. Society members hoped that the more that was planted, the safer the structure would be! In 1991, the smokehouse and gardens were moved about one hundred yards east to the grounds of the Page-Walker, where they remain today.
- helped negotiate the sale and relocation of the **Lane-Bennett Place** when all options to



preserve it on its original site failed. The Lane-Bennett Place, the second oldest structure in Wake County, sat at the junction of US 1 & 64 at the proposed entrance of a new commercial development, **Regency Park**. **Jeff Sugg**, owner of the site, sold the 1775 building to **Ruth Little Stokes** for one dollar. Ms. Stokes moved the building to Ebenezer Church Road in Raleigh, where it today is being used as a private residence.

- began an oral history collection, recording the memories of Cary's native citizens. **Peggy Van Scoyoc**, current Board member and Secretary of the Friends, has more than quadrupled the original collection and deposited the tapes in the **Southern Oral History Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill** for protection.
- developed a tape/slide presentation of Cary's history that was shared with local clubs and civic groups to educate newcomers about Cary's rich heritage. This presentation was the precursor to the recently published study guide, "**Cary-On**", developed by the Friends of the Page-Walker and the Town of Cary.

Placing these accomplishments in historical perspective, it is easy to see that one of the most significant contributions of the Cary Historical Society was to increase community awareness. The Society helped Cary residents, whether native or new, to become aware of our Town's rich heritage and the importance of maintaining and creating tangible reminders of our history.

Growth has been phenomenal since the late '60's, and we were in danger of losing touch with our past. The Society introduced the concept of historic preservation to the Town and provided opportunities for those of us who had no experience in historic preservation to identify knowledgeable professionals who could inform and guide Town leaders as they struggled to maintain a sense of community amid rapid growth.

These early collaborative efforts proved invaluable as we embarked on the most challenging effort of all – the **restoration of the Page-Walker**.



More history to come in future editions of *The Innkeeper*!

Membership

“A Wise Business Investment”

By Carol Aupperle & Linda Fuller

When you purchase a Friends of the Page-Walker **Business Partner Membership**, you show every Friend who receives this *Innkeeper* newsletter just how committed your business is to the goals of the Friends of Page-Walker. Your listing in the newsletter encourages Friends to think of your company first, confident that your firm has made a commitment to preserving Cary's heritage and developing innovative ways to teach all Cary citizens about our town's history.

The Friends of the Page-Walker newsletter offers businesses an opportunity to cultivate new customers who share a strong interest in strengthening our community. Friends are most likely to bring their dollars to a business that has demonstrated a similar commitment, as shown by a notice in the *Innkeeper*.

As a Friend, please encourage your business acquaintances to visibly support Cary's heritage with membership in our fine organization. And, please remind them that being recognized in the Friends newsletter



exposes their business name to an active, buying audience. In addition, their business will receive two concert tickets to enjoy or share with employees and customers.

Members: when you see the names of Business Partner members in upcoming issues of the Innkeeper, please let those businesses know that you saw their names here and you appreciate their efforts to support the Friends and its goals. Individual members and business partners working together strengthen the Friends of the Page-Walker commitment to our community.

A Business Partner Membership can be obtained for a contribution of \$500 or more. Business Partners receive special thanks in each newsletter, as well as two Winter Concert Series Season Tickets.

A complete list of all of the Friends of Page-Walker membership levels, new in 2004, is shown in the membership table later in this newsletter.

As you can see, for as little as \$30, you can support the mission of the Friends.

Contact the Friends and become a member today (contact information appears later in this issue).

Historic Preservation

By Bob Myers

The **Historic Preservation Committee** is excited about an upcoming speaker series being planned by members **Pat Fish** and **Marla Dorrel**. Representatives from other preservation organizations and government agencies will be asked to discuss their methods and successes with our committee. Speaking engagements will be scheduled every other month at the Page-Walker at 6:00 p.m. and will be open to interested Cary residents.

The committee also is developing a plan for the preservation of the **Nancy Jones House**.

Members **Julie Robison** and **Bob Myers** were given a personal tour of the home by long-time resident **Kent Henly**. The house is in excellent condition, despite being more than 200 years old. Yet, there are a number of areas of concern, including termite damage and an aging electrical system.



Living room interior of the Nancy Jones house (courtesy of Kent Henly, photo by Bob Myers)

The committee's plan will address preservation, restoration, and possible future uses of the house and grounds. With the Nancy Jones House, just as with other historic properties in Cary, the committee will focus not only on preservation of the structure itself, but also on researching and documenting the history of the building, then raising community awareness of its significance.

The committee also is involved with various properties in the Town Center, including the **Waldo Rood House**, the former **Cary Elementary School** and other homes in the historic district. Members **Olene Ogles** and **Phyllis Tuttle** are leading an effort to document these properties with plaques. **Lee Alcorn** continues to stay involved in the development of the town's **Historic Carpenter Area Plan**. Other properties of interest to the committee are the **Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church** and **Hillcrest Cemetery**.

The Historic Preservation Committee meets from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Page-Walker.



An Award Winner!

By Anne Kratzer

Congratulations to **Cindi Baker**, who received the **Town of Cary's History and Heritage Award** on February 15, 2005! Each year, the Town recognizes outstanding volunteers during a reception at the Herb Young Community Center. This year, Friends Board member Cindi Baker received the honor for her extraordinary efforts in promoting the history of our community.

As an 8th-grade Social Studies teacher at Davis Drive Middle School, Cindi worked with the Town and her one hundred students in 2002 to produce a thirty-two minute video called "**Cary-osity**". The **North Carolina Civic Education Consortium** funded the project. Cindi's students worked with a professional videographer and were involved in all aspects of the production: research, script writing, acting and filming.

During the 2003-04 school year, Cindi also wrote the 8th-grade component of the 300-page study guide, "**Cary-On!**" that extends the information provided in the video. *Cary-On!* was distributed to twenty-six elementary and middle schools in southwestern Wake County.

Cindi, a National Board Certified teacher and the recipient of the 2003 Middle School National Educator of the Year award in character education, currently is the Instructional Resource Teacher at Apex and Dillard Drive Middle Schools.



Congratulations Cindi!



Annual Meeting



HEAR YE, HEAR YE!



The public shall take notice that the **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel** shall meet assembled:

**Wednesday the 4th day of May, 2005
at seven o'clock in the evening
at the historic Page-Walker Hotel**

in downtown Cary.

This shall serve as the annual meeting of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel and the **Board of Directors** expects to conduct business including the **election of new board members and new board officers.**

All Friends members are invited and encouraged to attend.



Oral History Update

By Peggy Van Scoyoc

We started the year off right, with two more oral history interviews completed in January. That brings our total to forty-four interviews on the history of Cary and we treasure every one. We interviewed **Mr. Tom Byrd**, author of the definitive historical book, *Around and About Cary*. He must know more about Cary than anybody in town.

This year, we plan to focus on interviewing people from areas that are rich with history but only recently have become parts of Cary: the **Carpenter and Green Level** regions. In olden days, folks from these communities considered Cary to be very far away. The closest town of any size to their neighborhoods was Apex. Small as they were, these villages are rich in history and culture and we want to learn more about them.

We have started the year off with a rich interview with **Margaret Mills Travis**, daughter of the minister of the **Green Level Baptist Church**. Born in the parsonage, she has extensive knowledge of Green Level's history that she shared with us. We hope to find others who can tell us about this area. If you or someone you know can, please contact the friends (contact information appears later in this newsletter).

Calendar of Events

- **Apr. 6, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **May 4, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting, **Annual Member Meeting**
- **June 1, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting with reception for new members

All events are held at the **Page-Walker Hotel** unless otherwise specified. For more information about events, please contact the **Friends** (see contact information later in this issue).

→ [Call for Volunteers](#) ←

The Friends are seeking volunteers to help with our **membership committee** and our **very special big September event**.

If you can spare a little time, please contact the Friends (contact information appears later in this issue)

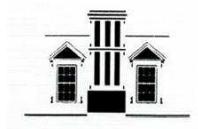
Board Members

Your **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel** board members are the volunteers listed next.

Welcome to new board members **Roy Perry, Renate Thompson, and Christian Rushing!** Continuing to serve on the board are Mary Adcock, Lee Alcorn, Ralph Ashworth, Carol Aupperle, Cindi Baker, Winnie Ferguson, Pat Fish, Linda Fuller, Ruth Guthrie, Anne Kratzer, Mike Longmire (president), Melvin Matthews, Regina McLaurin, Joy Mellon, Brent Miller, Phyllis Eller-Moffett, Julia Morrison, Bob Myers, Olene Ogles, Cathy Richmond, Julie Robison, Sarah Sheffield, Phyllis Tuttle and Peggy Van Scoyoc.

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of long-time board member Dean Teitelbaum, whose term recently expired but who continues to contribute to our meetings, and Town of Cary staff members Lyman Collins, Sara Maultsby and Darrell Stover.

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



Membership level	Cost	Benefits
Individual	\$30	<i>Innkeeper</i> newsletter, winter concert series ticket discount
Family	\$50	<i>Innkeeper</i> newsletter, winter concert series ticket discount
Community Partner (individuals, families, civic groups)	\$100	Recognition in <i>Innkeeper</i> newsletter, two complimentary winter concert series tickets
Sustaining member	\$101-\$249	<i>Innkeeper</i> newsletter, winter concert series ticket discount, complimentary copy of <i>Around and About Cary</i> book
Business member (businesses), Silver Sustaining member (non-business)	\$250-\$499	<i>Innkeeper</i> newsletter, two complimentary winter concert series tickets
Business Partner	\$500 or more	Recognition in <i>Innkeeper</i> newsletter, two complimentary winter concert series tickets

Contact The Friends

By mail:

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

By telephone:

Information about the Friends:

President Mike Longmire: (919) 851-2560

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

By e-mail: President Mike Longmire: mlongmire@nc.rr.com

On the Web: <http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org>

Visit the Page-Walker Hotel:

Address: 119 Ambassador Loop

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

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Wednesday: 10:00AM – 9:30PM

Thursday: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Friday Evening - Sunday: by reservation

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



About *The Innkeeper*

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

The Innkeeper is a team effort of the **Friends**; production staff consists of Melvin Matthews, Brent Miller and Cheryl McLean.

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

Electronic Newsletter

You can receive your copy of *The Innkeeper* electronically. This offers convenience for you and helps the **Friends** reduce postage costs.

If you elect to receive our newsletter electronically rather than on paper, please contact Brent Miller (brent@posmoroda.com). You will receive future issues via e-mail.

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

Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel
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