



The Innkeeper

Autumn 2004

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

President's Message

By Mike Longmire

A lot is going on! The **Friends of the Page-Walker** have been very busy over the last couple of years. With the support of the Town of Cary, in particular Mary Henderson, Lyman Collins, Sara Maulsby and Darrell Stover, the **Friends** continue with their mission to enrich our community by preserving the history of Cary and promoting the cultural arts. As the guardians of the **Page-Walker Hotel**, we have been actively involved in the planning and oversight of the ongoing town campus construction to ensure the use and preservation of the hotel and grounds.

We have followed up on the success of the *Caryosity* video and we are working with the Wake County Public School System to implement a course on the history of Cary. There are plans to expand and modernize our history museum. Our summer and winter concert series continue to draw hundreds to the **Page-Walker**. We are always meeting new people at our booths at the Lazy Daze and Spring Daze festivals.

Our membership committee has begun a process to reach out across Cary to expand our numbers and provide specific benefits to our members to thank you for your support. We are excited about a special spring event that our Program and Fund Raising committee is pursuing (watch for details in a future edition of *The Innkeeper*), and our Historic Preservation committee has been very active in engaging the community to join us in our efforts to keep the

history of Cary alive (see the articles later in this issue of *The Innkeeper*).

Please join us for our winter concerts, the Christmas decorating party, our December potluck Board meeting, and the Cary tree lighting and **Page-Walker** open house (see the Calendar of Events later in this issue).

We want and need your help. The **Friends** consists of more than just its Board of Directors. The Board represents you and we need your support and involvement! Please call me to learn how you can help! My contact information appears later in this issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

A Look Back

By Anne Kratzer

I've been asked to write a column for *the Innkeeper* to recount the history of the **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel**, because many people are new to this area and they might not be familiar with the **Page-Walker**.

It is special to arrive at this point, when we can look back at the chain of events that brought us to today: enjoying the wonder of the **Page-Walker** and the enrichment it has given to so many as an arts and history center. When we spoke of the **Friends'** journey at a recent Board meeting, Regina McLaurin, who has been involved in the preservation effort since our formation, remarked, "We were just children." She is right. Most of us were still in our twenties when the seeds of the **Friends** and the hotel's preservation were sown.

The effort to restore the hotel began as a result of a conversation that my husband, Jerod, and I had with Rachel Eaton Dunham at her home on Kildaire Farm Road, now Glenaire.

A short biography about the Dunhams:

In 1913, Cary High School was one of the first schools in the state to offer vocational agriculture and home economics. Mr. Rufus S. "Dad" Dunham taught in the Agriculture Department of the school from 1929 to 1969. The barn that was built for the farm-life program still stands at 510 Walnut Street and a park on Walnut Street is named in Mr. Dunham's honor.

Rachel Eaton graduated from Cary High School in 1922 with a teaching certificate. At the time, Cary High School was one of four schools in the state with a program for teacher training. She left Cary for a few years and then returned to teach at the high school, married Rufus, and together in 1937, they purchased a 30-acre botanical lover's paradise on Kildaire Farm Road, between Cornwall Road and Shirley Drive.

Both of the Dunhams were botanists and shared their love of plants with everyone.

In contrast, Jerod and I, like most Cary residents, are not native to the state. We chose to live in North Carolina because of its location and university system. In 1971, we crossed the North Carolina border listening to the sounds of James Taylor singing, "Going to Carolina on My Mind." A good omen! Searching for teaching jobs, we discovered Cary on a trip from Chapel Hill to Raleigh. Amazingly, Jerod had flown in the Air Force in Viet Nam with an officer who had mentioned that he was from this small town in N.C. called Cary. The population was about 8,000, and Cary citizens were gracious. Curtis Westbrook, a local realtor, helped us find a home on Shirley Drive, and we became neighbors of the Dunhams.

During one of our conversations in 1974, Mrs. Dunham mentioned that there were boxes

of papers and photographs relating to the earliest beginnings of education in Cary that were stored in the basement of Cary Elementary School. Accompanied by other concerned residents, we asked the Wake County Board of Education if we could preserve the papers. We were told that only a bona fide organization would be allowed to do so. In response, we formed the Cary Historical Society, Inc., categorized the papers and preserved them in acid-free materials and fireproof boxes. We then created committees to address other preservation needs. One of those committees was the Historic Sites Committee, and it laid the foundation for the effort to save the **Walker Hotel**.



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

Membership

By Carol Aupperle and Linda Fuller

With new energy and an updated mission statement that promises to help Cary preserve its history for generations to come, there has never been a better time to join the **Friends of the Page-Walker**. New membership levels allow you to choose your level of involvement with the **Friends**, while you enjoy the outstanding benefits of this dynamic group.

The new membership levels are:

- **Individual**, offered at a cost of only **\$30**. For your small contribution, you receive this **Friends** newsletter and discounts on Winter Concert Series tickets.
- **Family** membership offers you the opportunity to educate your entire family about preservation and Cary's history at a cost of only **\$50**. In thanks, you also receive

this **Friends** newsletter and discounts on Winter Concert Series tickets.

- **Community Partner** membership provides a wonderful opportunity for civic groups to express their support for the only preservation group that is based in Cary and is totally committed to preserving the history of our fine community. For your contribution of just **\$100**, your group receives this **Friends** newsletter, with our thanks to your organization noted in writing for all readers to see, and two Winter Concert Series season tickets, which you can award to your own members for their “jobs well done”.
- **Sustaining** membership provides you with a way to step up and express stronger support for the mission of **Friends**. Your contribution of **\$100 to \$249** brings you this **Friends** newsletter, discounts on your Winter Concert Series tickets and a copy of the wonderful book, *Around and About Cary* by Thomas M. Byrd and illustrated by Jerry Miller [Ann Arbor, MI: Edwards Brothers, 1994], which gives you an intimate look at Cary's colorful history.
- **Business** membership offers an excellent opportunity for your business to show its support for the work of **Friends** throughout our community. Your **\$250 to \$499** donation brings you this **Friends** newsletter and two Winter Concert Series season tickets, which you may share with your employees and customers.
- **Silver Sustaining** membership allows non-business owners their own special way to express additional support for the fine work of the **Friends**. Your contribution of **\$250 to \$499** brings you this **Friends** newsletter and two Winter Concert Series season tickets that you may use yourself or share with friends.
- As a **Business Partner**, you let the community know just how important you believe the mission of **Friends** is to the future of our community. For a contribution of **\$500 or more**, you receive this **Friends** newsletter, which will note our special thanks to your business in each issue, and you will receive two Winter Concert Series

season tickets to share with your employees or customers.

Contact the **Friends** today (contact information appears later in this issue), and join us as we bring the pride and invigoration that is synonymous with the **Page-Walker Arts & History Center** to landmarks throughout Cary.

A Page-Walker Moment

By Dean Teitelbaum



Walter Hines Page

Admiral William S. Simms was commander of United States naval forces in Europe during World War One. He was also known as a very difficult officer to deal with, and had a sharp and sarcastic tongue towards many ranking officers. What did he think of Ambassador Walter Hines Page?

Mr. Page, the American Ambassador, aided and encouraged us in all possible ways. Immediately after my arrival in London he invited me to call upon him and his staff for any assistance they could render. In his enthusiastic and warm-hearted way, he said, “Everything we have is yours. I will turn the Embassy into the street if necessary”; and throughout the war he was a tower of strength to the cause. He gave us his time and the benefit of his great experience and personal prestige in establishing cordial relations with the various branches of the British Government -- and all this with such an absence of diplomatic formality, such courteous and forceful efficiency, and such cordial sympathy and genuine kindness that he immediately excited not only our sincere

admiration but also our personal affection.¹

Not bad for a country boy from Cary.

Historic Preservation

By Bob Myers

The newly formed **Historic Preservation Committee** is charged with leveraging the reputation and energy of the **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel** to establish protection for historic structures in the Cary area. Our mission is to:

- Identify and prioritize historic sites and research and document their historic significance
- Pursue legal protection through historic preservation easements, local historic landmark designations and National Register of Historic Places listings
- Team with other area preservation organizations, local government and community groups to pool the resources necessary to establish protection
- Alert the community at large to the issues that pertain to specific sites and to the subject of historic preservation in general

Members of the committee are assigned to address the preservation needs of several areas:

- Carpenter Village Historic District (highlighted in this issue; see "Our Visit To Carpenter")
- Green-Level Historic District
- Cary Downtown Historic District
- The Nancy Jones House

Two members are concentrating on preservation needs outside these established focus areas. We are encouraged by the support that we have already received from two

¹ From *The Victory at Sea* by Rear-Admiral William Sowden Sims (Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1920)

distinguished guest speakers, Gary Roth, President of Capital Area Preservation, and Don Belk, Senior Planner with the Town of Cary.

Our group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the **Page-Walker**.

Pull Up A Chair!

By Anne Kratzer



One of the goals of the **Friends** is to acquire period furnishings for certain rooms in the **Page-Walker Arts & History Center** that are used for meetings and research purposes. One of these rooms is the **library** that houses the **Walter Hines Page Collection**. Thanks to the generosity of our **Friends**, we were able to purchase an 1890's French country table. Folding chairs just didn't complement the room, so generous members came to the rescue. We were able to purchase four late 19th-century rush chairs and we are currently searching for three more compatible chairs for the library. The **Friends** thank these generous donors for sponsoring a chair:

- Blanche and Koka Booth, for their grandchildren Kristie, Bryan, Charlie and Justin
- Doris Buchanan, for Wiley P. and Mary C. Jones
- Dean Teitelbaum, for Gayle Teitelbaum
- Ralph and Daphne Ashworth, for Anne Kratzer
- Rosanna Adams
- Anne and Jerod Kratzer
- Carroll and Sheila Ogle
- John and Julia Morrison

Donations to support the effort to provide furnishings for the **Page-Walker** were also given by Peggy Van Scoyoc, the Nelson Wetmore family, Olene Ogles, Cathy Richmond, and Sarah Sheffield. The **Friends** thank these friends for their generous donations.

Our Visit to Carpenter

By Lee Alcorn and Marla Dorrel

Hundreds, if not thousands, pass through the town of **Carpenter** twice a day, yet they never stop to visit. A stop in Carpenter offers a visit back in time. Recently, we stopped to take a quick tour by walking past the historic homes and buildings and going into the Carpenter Farm Supply Store.

Two hours later we left with a greater understanding and appreciation of what life was like in the early 1900's. We heard stories relating the history of the buildings and the people who grew up there. One of the most interesting stories, especially in this election year, was about the old US Post Office. The post office consists of a portable set of mailboxes, and depending on which political party won the presidential election, the post office would be moved across the street between the Carpenter family store and the Farrell family store!

After a short visit, one leaves with the realization that it would truly be a shame to lose this unique piece of history and potential future gathering spot. The next time you pass through Carpenter, stop for a soda and an education.

The Town of Cary is currently conducting a master planning process for the **Historic Carpenter Area**, and it is important for those who treasure the character and community of the Carpenter Crossroads to participate and share their views. To find out more, contact Don Belk, Senior Planner for the Town of Cary (469-4084 or Don.Belk@townofcary.org), or visit <http://www.townofcary.org/depts/dsdept/engineering/engproj/historiccarpenter.htm>

Page-Walker Arts & History Center Program Report

By Sara Maulsby and Darrell Stover

The Town of Cary Public Works division coordinated the replacement of two new HVAC

systems on the second floor at **Page-Walker**. The new units are smaller than the ones they replaced, resulting in some welcome additional storage space in the closets.

For calendar year 2004, we are anticipating the following numbers for facility use:

- **Courses:** approximately 900 hours, 550 people and revenue of \$48,000
- **Rentals:** approximately 450 hours, 2,950 people and revenue of \$24,000
- **Community use:** approximately 1,250 hours, 9,500 people.

Courses to look forward to in the Winter-Spring include ongoing programs such as:

Guitar, T'ai Chi and Belly Dance on the third floor; Genealogy Forum, Writing, Pastels and Drawing, Beginning Quilting, and Civil War Re-Enacting on the second floor; and T'ai Chi, Qi'gong, Japanese Cooking and Piano is Fun, Levels I-VI on the first floor.

Winter-Spring events include the Holiday Open House (see the "Holiday Cheer Abounds in Cary" article later in this issue for details) and the **Friends of the Page-Walker Concert Series**; exhibits by the Fine Arts League of Cary in November/December, the MLK, Jr. Dreamfest in January/February, and Bob Rankin in March; continuation of the Photographer's Eye slide presentation and lecture series; and scheduled meetings of the Sacred Harp Shape Note Singers and the Triangle Calligrapher's Guild, both open to the public.

Introducing the community and schools to Cary's history using the study guide, *Cary-On!*, remains a high priority. We are interviewing for a staff position at **Page-Walker** that will help us in accomplishing this goal!

Oral History Update

By Peggy Van Scoyoc

The Cary oral history project is still going strong. We have completed forty-two interviews, capturing the stories of long-time residents on tape. Thirty-six of the interviews have been transcribed into written form. Twenty-nine interview tapes and transcripts have been

deposited at the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill as part of the Southern Oral History Program and filed under our own heading of Cary. Eight more interviews are currently being prepared for submission; these will bring our total to thirty-seven interviews in our own Cary section. The original tapes are placed in the Wilson Library because the university has the means to preserve and protect them, and they are made available to the public and to other colleges and universities. UNC staff members tell us that our interviews are often used by scholars doing research on the life and local history of the area. The public is welcome to visit the Wilson Library on the UNC campus whenever it is open and ask to listen to the tapes or read the transcripts of any of the oral histories in the Southern Oral History Program collections.

Some of the topics that have been explored in the Cary interviews so far have included:

- town history from before the Civil War to now
- farming, local businesses and stores
- transportation
- schools and education
- churches and religion
- doctors and medicine
- politics and prominent Cary citizens
- town services
- the community and civic organizations
- childhood and teen years
- entertainment
- world history affecting Cary
- preserving historic buildings
- and even a few ghost stories!

We treasure every story and hope to capture many more in future interviews.

Holiday Cheer Abounds in Cary

By Sara Maultsby and Darrell Stover

Kick off the season with a full day's worth of holiday cheer on **December 4, 2004** in historic downtown Cary!

Celebrations begin with the **Heart of Cary's Old Time Winter Festival** held from Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on the streets of downtown Cary. Festivalgoers can enjoy arts & crafts, entertainment, food, activities, and more. Start (or finish) your holiday shopping!

Holiday cheer continues with the annual **open house** from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the **Page-Walker Arts & History Center**. Decorated for the holidays by the **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel**, you'll be able to visit the **Cary Heritage Museum**, view "then and now" photographs of Cary environs, enjoy refreshments, music by the **Moment's Notice Jazz Trio** and participate in activities that celebrate the holiday season.

We hope to see all of our **Friends** at this exciting event.



Our Deepest Sympathy

By Anne Kratzer

The **Friends** extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Shafter "Buck" Buchanan. Buck passed away this year. Buck and his wife, Doris, have been long-time supporters of the **Page-Walker**, giving generously to its restoration, as well as to the creation of the **Cary Heritage Museum** and **library** furnishings.

Doris also donated one of her paintings to the **Friends** to commemorate the dedication of the **Page-Walker Arts & History Center** in 1991. Entitled, "Waiting for the Train," it features a woman in the late 1800's waiting on the porch of the Hotel for the train to arrive. The painting hangs in the **Music Room** and is a wonderful reminder of Doris and Buck Buchanan.

Calendar of Events

- **Nov. 3, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m.:** Concert – **Deborah Trauley**
- **Nov. 28, 9:00 a.m.:** Decorate the **Page-Walker Hotel** for the holidays

- **Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting with pot luck dinner
- **Dec. 21, all day:** "Wrap Session" at Barnes & Noble, Cary Town Center
- **Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **Jan. 30, 7:00 p.m.:** Concert – **Bill Leslie & Friends**
- **Feb. 2, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m.:** Concert – **EBZB Production**
- **March 2, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **March 20, 7:00 p.m.:** Concert – **Petar Jankovic**

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 spring 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:

Mary Adcock, Lee Alcorn, Ralph Ashworth, Mercedes Auger, 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 Maulsby 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.

Member Spotlight

Our current membership drive is still in full swing. Our goal is to have at least 100 paid memberships this year, and we are about halfway there.

Members of the **Friends** as of October 2004 include two **Silver Sustaining** members, ten **Community Partner** members, ten **Family** members and twenty-one **Individual** members.

If you are not currently a member, please consider joining (see "Membership" article). If you are a member, please encourage your friends and neighbors to join. If you wish to be recognized as a member in future issues of this newsletter, please contact *The Innkeeper* production staff (see the "About *The Innkeeper*" article later in this issue).

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.

Grant Protects Future Special to the Online Edition

By Anne Kratzer

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Committee**, the Friends were able to send our most valuable artifact, an original watercolor of **Walter Hines Page**, to the Etherington Conservation Center in Greensboro for restoration and conservation work. The watercolor was presented to Walter Hines Page in 1913 to commemorate his first speech to the Pilgrim Society as the ambassador to the Court of St. James. The Pilgrim Society was an association of British and American dignitaries who met to solidify common goals. The watercolor was repaired, and the three copy blocks that had been placed on the front of the painting were reframed and displayed next to the painting in the **Cary Heritage Museum**.

Thanks to the generosity of the Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Committee, present and future area residents will learn about the importance of the members of Cary’s founding family.

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