

# The Innkeeper

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

SUMMER 2023





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
KERRY MEAD

## Transitions

Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer! We hope you take the opportunity to sit down in a cool spot with a cold glass of iced tea and this newsletter, and spend some time catching up on all the fun events the Friends have been involved with over the past six months.

Throughout the Spring, and even through the heat of the Summer, the Friends have not only continued our normal activities for this time of year, we have been providing outstanding historical content to you, the Cary community, through our blog posts, History Happened Here markers around town, Historic Houses on the Move series, and our social media monthly focus issues. Our August focus is Cary's festivals and parades, so log into your Instagram or Facebook account and make sure you're following the Friends to see all the fascinating history we're sharing there.

As we quickly approach the changing of the seasons, a change is in store for the Friends, as well. We've started thinking deeply about our role in the community, looking back at where we came from, and looking forward to how we can continue having a positive impact on the community. We have realized that, with recent changes in Town government (like the creation of the Historic Preservation Commission), and the changing face of downtown Cary, our role must change too, to keep pace.

We are now embarking on a re-envisioning of the Friends purpose in the community, and developing a strategic plan to carry us into the future. We'll be working on this endeavor throughout the Fall, and will share with you the changes we'll be making in our next edition of *The Innkeeper!*

### Join us!



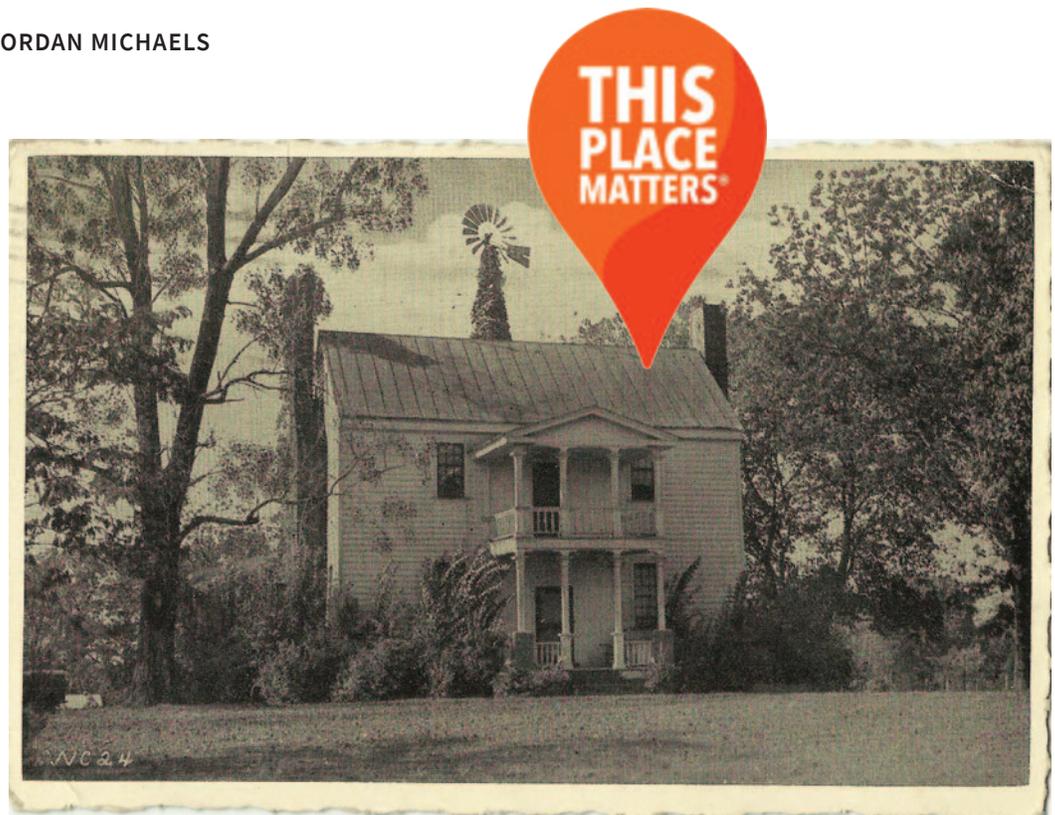
If you have a passion for history and want to make a difference in the community, scan this code and fill out the online volunteer form. We will reach out to you and find the perfect opportunity to engage your interests and skills!

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The Page-Walker welcomed more than 350 campers this summer, participating in 10 weeks of specialty camps. This year's camps included drums, guitar, games, photography, beat-making, and hotel adventure. Bluegrass Jam Camp with PineCone returned after a 3-year hiatus, and Digital Storytelling debuted. It was also the final summer of our clown camp, which had been offered in Cary for 32 years with Calvin Klown Productions. This year also welcomed a new Program Assistant for Camps, Steve Svedi, a high school social studies teacher with WCPSS.

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](mailto:brent@posmoroda.com).



## It's Official!

### Nancy Jones House is Cary's Latest Landmark

**O**n June 22, 2023, the Cary Town Council voted to designate the Nancy Jones House a local historic landmark. This was a culmination of more than a year of effort by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC officially began the landmarking process in March 2022 when, after a site visit, it voted to procure a nomination report from an outside consultant.

After reviewing the report and the comments from the State Historic Preservation Office, the HPC held a public hearing on November 9, 2022 to consider the ordinance designating the Nancy Jones House a local historic landmark. The ordinance was unanimously approved by the HPC and then sent to Town Council for approval, which it granted in June. A few council members spoke eloquently in support and the vote was unanimous.

The HPC is incredibly grateful for the support of the Friends of the Page-Walker and the Town Council in protecting this important historical asset. Now that the Nancy Jones House is designated as a local landmark, the town, as the property owner, will need a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to make changes to any of the protected historic characteristics of the property, which in this case include the exterior and a few select interior elements. Minor COAs can be approved by staff; major COAs will need the approval of the HPC. If you'd like to learn more about the landmarking process, click [here](#)

The HPC also thanks the Friends for their support during Preservation Month this past May. The events were all well attended, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Friends to help get the word out and showing up in support. We hope to grow on this success next year!

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## About the Nancy Jones House

In the Friends' blog post about Cary's oldest remaining residential structure, Carla Michales writes:

The Nancy Jones House stands today between Cary and Morrisville. In its heyday, it was a singular house on what once was the original stage coach road between the capital, Raleigh, to the newly formed University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the former state capital at Hillsborough.

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The house was built along the stage road from Raleigh to Hillsborough and would have been one of the most impressive houses along the way. It was one of the very few houses that was painted bright white, which would have made it stand out for more than just its imposing size relative to modest wood-built, one-story homes along the way. Located about 10 miles from Raleigh, it would have been a convenient stop for travelers to get out, get some liquid refreshment and a meal and stretch their legs. There is no indication that it was ever an inn, simply a stage coach stop.

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One of the most celebrated stories about the Nancy Jones House is the tale featuring the governors of North and South Carolina, who both happened to be at the Nancy Jones House, possibly imbibing some of [Nancy's] delicious peach brandy. ... The story goes that in 1838 the North and South Carolina governors were both at Nancy Jones' house/stage coach stop and imbibed the first round of beverage in short order. It would appear that the refill was a long time in coming. Thus, one governor remarked to the other "It's been a damn long time between drinks!"

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Today, the Nancy Jones House stands ready for a new beginning, some 220 years after it began its life, around 1803. What the Town will use it for remains unclear, but the house's historical, cultural and social significance cannot be overstated. Let's hope a truly fitting use for the house will be decided on in the very near future, that it will include the telling of its history and provide public access, and that renovations will showcase a shining white house along the old stage road from Raleigh to Hillsborough once again. When that happens, let's toast the occasion with peach brandy!

Read the full blog post [here](#).





## History Comes to Life at the Page-Walker

In July, Cary witnessed a truly unique and interactive event that brought local history to life. Organized by Katherine Loflin, a Friends board member and the founder of The City Doctor Productions, "Cary In The Revolutionary War Era" took center stage in the picturesque gardens of the Page-Walker Hotel.

The success of the event was made possible through collaboration among various entities. The Page-Walker Arts & History Center generously donated the beautiful event space, while the Asbury Station Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution added to the historical ambiance by loaning remarkable "cut-outs" of George and Martha Washington for attendees to use for pictures.

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## REVOLUTIONARY CARY

KATHERINE LOFLIN



Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, another great supporter of the event, played a significant role by portraying General George Washington. He closed the program with a heartfelt reading of excerpts from the Declaration of Independence. Also among the crew were fellow Friends board members Barb Wetmore and Carla Jordan Michaels, as well as Sheryll Albert and Judy Newman, who all played roles in ensuring the event's success.

The true highlight of the event, however, was the involvement of young audience members in the impromptu reenactment of Cary's Revolutionary War era history. After Katherine shared some stories from Cary's history during the Revolutionary War era, she took a chance by inviting children on stage for some impromptu acting. Under Katherine's direction and to everyone's delight, the risk more than paid off! These budding thespians (and local historians) added a unique charm to the event by brilliantly reenacting defining moments in the lives of the two Nathaniel Joneses and Nancy Jones.

For the children and the adults, colonial table games such as "Shut the Box" and "Pickup Sticks" provided an opportunity to experience the Revolutionary War era first-hand. The enthusiasm for these games was so great that children were heard asking their parents if they could buy them to play at home—a refreshing change from their usual battery-powered technology!

Special thanks also to Mayor Pro Tem Don Frantz, Cary Town Council Member District B, for attending the event. He was kind enough to snap a photo of George Washington (aka Mayor Weinbrecht) with two guests who couldn't resist that unique photo opportunity.

This event truly exemplifies the spirit of community, local history, and collaboration in Cary. It demonstrates how partnerships among local organizations, businesses, and public officials can create a successful event and foster a sense of shared history and experience for the community. Katherine has been asked to reprise the event next year, allowing more people to experience the captivating history of "Revolutionary Cary."



## Where's Waldo?

**Down the Rabbit Hole with Carla Jordan Michaels & Barb Wetmore, with assistance from Michael Rubes and Kris Carmichael**

Sometimes history research is a bit like Alice taking a tumble into the rabbit hole. You never know where you will end up or what you will find! Recently, a group of researchers trying to answer questions about the Ivey-Ellington House fell down the proverbial hole and ended up looking for answers regarding E O Waldo's Drug Store.

We started with this photo, which had surfaced some time ago and had reappeared in a query from Michael Rubes who is working on a presentation about the Ivey-Ellington House. That's all it took to set off in the search for answers.

To follow the research adventure, please read our blog [here](#).

# Enjoy the Summer Colors!

It's summer in the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens, and one thing is perfectly clear...



When Mother Nature gets together with our merry band of volunteer gardeners, there will be bright blooms and more shades of green than you could ever imagine! Our beds are loosely organized by historical use – ornamental, medicinal, culinary, and industrial – and in each one you'll find something of beauty and interest. Pick up a brochure from the garden kiosk to learn more. When is the best time to visit our gardens? How about now!



# Historic Houses on the Move



Cary residents have had the opportunity to attend “summer school” at the Cary Regional Library to learn a little more about Cary’s history. The library asked the Friends of the Page Walker Hotel to present a series of summertime lectures on “Historic Houses on the Move”. The Friends featured three historic houses, all of which have traveled from their original locations to find new homes.



In June, Carla Michaels presented a program on the Nancy Jones House, still located on Chapel Hill Road, but moved about 500 yards to the east. The Nancy Jones House is the earliest surviving house in the Cary area, and as a result, has 230 years worth of fascinating stories to share. Carla created a blog post using her presentation slides to capture some of these tales. Read the full blog post [here](#).

Next, in July, Katherine Loflin presented the entertaining history of the H.

Felton Williams House, now incorporated into Bull City Cider Works on East Chatham Street. Katherine tantalized us with unanswered questions: who was the architect who designed the house, why was a brick company from Lillington involved, what do the letters “WPTF” stand for (okay, we know that one!) but why were they significant? If you missed the presentation, check out this post on the Friends Facebook page. Scroll down to July 11 to see her presentation [here](#).



August queued up Michael Rubes who recounted the history and mystery of the Ivey-Ellington House, now standing on Academy Street on the old Library Green. Although the Ivey-Ellington is one of Cary’s most architecturally distinctive houses, some of the history is shrouded in mystery; surprisingly, there is a dearth of photos from its early days! In spite of that, Michael gave a wonderful presentation to cover the history of this architectural gem.

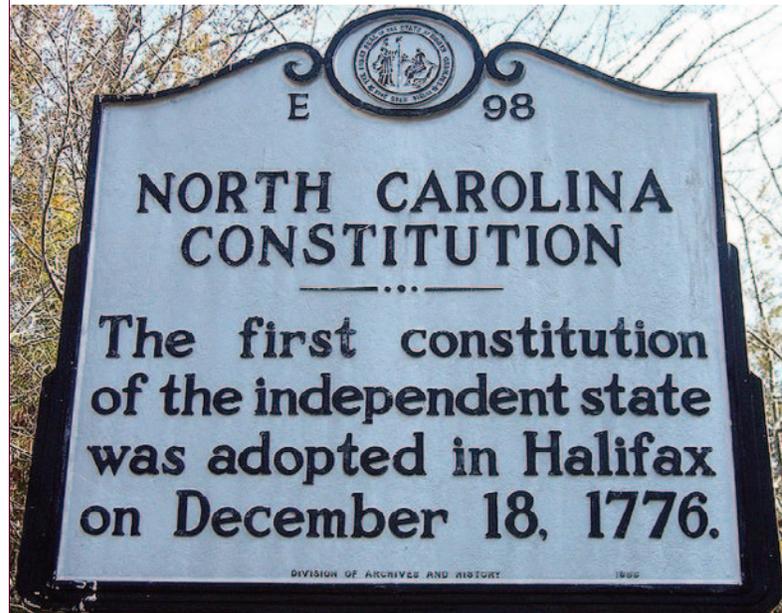


### Cary: The Gourd Capital of the World

Earlier this year we were pleased to accept a donation from the North Carolina Gourd Society, an original seal of the Gourd Village Garden Club which originated in Cary in 1938.

According to local historian Tom Byrd, this “road to fame” began in 1934 when a group of local ladies bought a packet of mixed ornamental seeds and divided the contents to see what would grow.

The ladies, who had read several magazine articles about gourds, were surprised at the success of their experiment. They contacted the International Gourd Society to obtain more exotic seeds and went on to exhibit their gourds at the 1937 NC State Fair. The exhibit generated so much excitement that they organized the Gourd Village Garden Club! This seal helps us to be able to share that part of Cary’s history.



## Mark Your Calendar

### NC Constitution on Display in Cary

In celebration of Constitution Week, there will be a special one-day display of the original 1776 NC State Constitution and Declaration of Rights with other foundational documents from the NC Archives. "One Day Wonder" is being co-hosted by the Asbury Station and Samuel Johnston Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Members of the DAR and Sons of the American Revolution will be present in colonial dress at this very special one-day event.

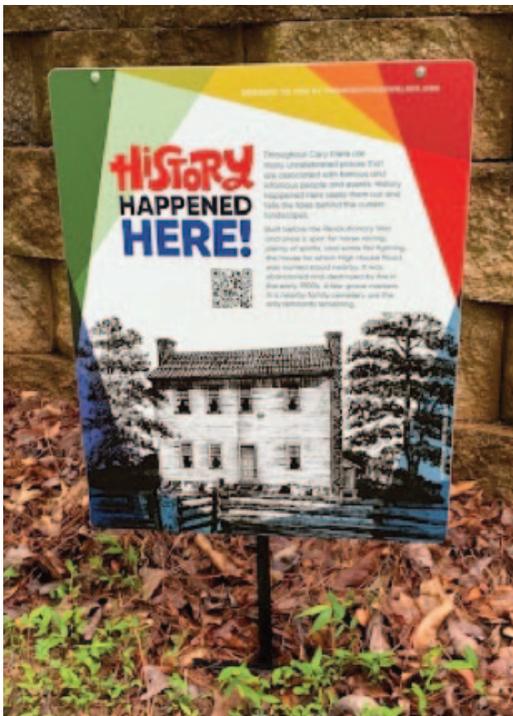
The event is free and will occur September 22, 10 am – 6 pm at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Below: The stereoscopic viewer continues to intrigue visitors who visit the Friends booth at events such as this year's Spring Daze at Bond Park. The Victorian-era viewer offers 3D images from early days of the 20th century to those who gaze through its lenses.



Left: On the last Friday in April each year, National Historic Marker Day invites volunteers and communities to come together to maintain their markers. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation established National Historic Marker Day in 2021 to highlight the value that historic markers bring to the entire country and encourage volunteers to help preserve them. Thank you to the volunteers who participated with the Friends to clean some of Cary's historic markers on April 28.



Along the Black Creek Greenway near the intersection of High House Road and Northwest Maynard Road, you'll see a new sign along the trail. This is the first in the Friends' "History Happened Here" sign project. Scan the QR code on the sign to learn the history of the house that stood nearby, from which High House Road got its name.

Look for more signs that share the history of times past as we develop them and install them around town.

The Friends gratefully acknowledge Jerry Miller for the use of his artwork on the signs and the Cary Cultural Arts Committee for their grant that made this project possible.

# Herbfest



The Friends hosted our 12th annual Herbfest on Sunday afternoon, May 7, on the beautiful grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. Last year, after hosting the festival on Saturdays for years, we chose to move to Sunday afternoon. The response from our vendors and attendees was so positive that we have adopted the change and held this year's event on Sunday as well.

The weather was just beautiful as our guests enjoyed and supported our special group of vendors, which included five plant vendors who sold a variety of plants, trees and herbs. We also welcomed vendors who offered herb & gardening crafts for sale and a variety of organizations that shared information and education about trees, native birds, and the environment. "Master Gardener" volunteers were there to answer questions about gardening—they answered nearly 100 questions! We so appreciate all of our vendors for their participation and support.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who work year-round to support our Anne B. Kratzer Educational Herb Garden and our Pollinator Garden. Both gardens shone like beautiful gems for our festival guests and were enjoyed by all. Our signature Butterfly Release was graciously hosted by Kris Carmichael, Operations & Program Supervisor for the Page-Walker Arts and History Center. Thanks also to all of the volunteers who provided delicious baked goods for our Young Friends bake sale—the sale was once again enormously popular and successful.

And thanks to the staff of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center, guests could visit this beautiful and historic building and enjoy a special self-guided tour using the walking tour brochure.



## Hidden in Plain Sight

### The Story of the 1913 Cary High School Cornerstone

A cornerstone of one of the Cary High School buildings — yes, buildings! — has come full circle. If you are new to Cary, you may not realize that there have been three Cary High School buildings on the site of the current Cary Arts Center. The cornerstone of the 1913 building has returned to a location very close to its original site on the former high school campus.

Cary High School was founded in January 1871 due to the commitment to education of A. F. “Frank” Page, founder of Cary. The original Cary High School was a wooden frame, two-story building built on land donated by Frank Page. The school educated children from the local area and beyond. The reputation of educational excellence in Cary spread across the state and propelled Cary to apply for and be accepted as the first publicly funded high school in the state of North Carolina in April 1907. In the early 1910s, it became apparent that a larger, more modern building was needed. In 1913, a state-of-the-art brick school building took the place of the wooden structure. But as the reputation of a “Cary education” continued to grow, it became apparent, once again, that another, even larger, building was needed. So, around 1938, the brick school building was razed, students squeezed into existing buildings on campus during construction, and the third Cary High School was built in 1940. The building that is now known as the Cary Arts Center served Cary students until a fourth high school was constructed at the current campus on Walnut Street in 1960.

It isn’t clear how the solid marble cornerstone from the 1913 building survived, but the cornerstone was “rescued” by a local citizen who was working for a local businessman, David Martin. Mr. Martin was tasked with tearing down the building known as the “Teacherage” on the campus. The Teacherage served as housing for single and married teachers and had also served in previous years as the girls’ dormitory when Cary High School was a boarding school. When the Teacherage was razed, the cornerstone made its way to the private home of the man who helped Mr. Martin. And there it sat, facing his house, for many years, the inscription and notable history hidden from the sight of passers-by. Recently, this gentleman wanted to wrap up some “loose ends” and was put in touch with the Page-Walker Arts & History Center, which immediately took possession of this gift of Cary history.

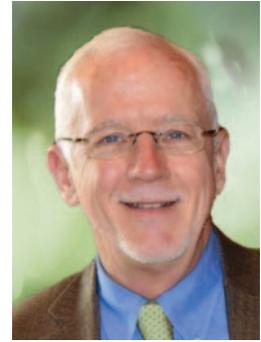
A perfect spot has been found for the cornerstone, close to where it originally was installed in the 1913 building. The cornerstone has come full circle, and continues to tell an important part of the story of education in Cary, one of Frank Page's "cornerstone" values.

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



## Myrick Howard

### A Star for the Friends



We have always maintained that the “stars were aligned” during the entire journey to restore the Page-Walker as an arts and history center for Cary. And the first star was Myrick Howard, who made our journey possible. He is celebrating his retirement from Preservation North Carolina (PNC) after 45 years of making an extraordinary positive difference in historic preservation. Under Myrick’s leadership, PNC has saved more than 900 endangered properties, placed more than 4,000 acres of open space under its protective covenants and generated more than \$700 million in private investment. PNC also advocated for the creation of rehabilitation tax credits by the General Assembly in 1997, which has resulted in the investment of more than \$3.4 billion in historic buildings! What a legacy!



I first met Myrick in the late 1970s, a few years after we formed the Cary Historical Society. One

of the Society’s goals was to be a watchdog for endangered historic buildings, and our first test was the 1775 Lane-Bennett House, the oldest building in Cary. Unfortunately, it was in the path of the Regency Park development, owned by Jeff Sugg. All of our preservation contacts urged us to get in touch with Myrick, the Executive Director of the Historic Preservation Foundation, known now as Preservation North Carolina, and it was excellent advice! We were extremely impressed with Myrick’s ability to work with the developer to find a solution to preserve the house. Unfortunately, because of its location on the property, the house had to be moved. Although we weren’t able to find a site in Cary, Myrick did find a preservationist who

moved it a few miles away to Ebenezer Church Road in Raleigh and beautifully preserved it.

When the Walker Hotel was put on the market in 1980, it was Myrick whom we called. Many possible solutions to save the hotel were explored over five years, and Myrick was the calm presence and problem solver throughout this very anxious period. When all avenues failed, Myrick proposed a plan in which the Town would purchase three acres of land and the hotel (at that time, valued at \$4,000 due to deterioration) from the seller for \$235,000 and then lease the hotel and one acre to PNC. When a newly formed non-profit organization, the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, received its official non-profit status, PNC would turn the lease over to the Friends to raise funds to restore the hotel as an arts and history center for Cary.

At that time, the Friends were debating whether to call the organization the Friends of the Walker Hotel, or the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, to include our Town’s founder, Allison Francis (Frank) Page, who originally built the hotel. It was Myrick who mentioned that preservation organizations with hyphenated names seemed to be able to raise more funding. We liked the sound of that! In 1985, thanks to Mayor Harold Ritter, a supportive Town Council, Myrick and PNC, the hotel was leased to the Friends for restoration and our ten-year journey began! Myrick’s first day of work with PNC in 1978 was certainly the most important “star” in the history of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center!

Myrick has received numerous honors for his efforts, among them the induction into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1996 by Governor James Hunt, and twice being named the Tar Heel of the Week by the News & Observer.

The Friends thank Myrick for his passion for historic buildings, his creativity and fortitude, and his unwavering and brilliant support for the Friends and the Page-Walker! As Walter Hines Page, Frank’s son, would say, “Well done, my friend!”

## SHARING CARY HISTORY

## Doug Pennington &amp; Curtis Westbrook



In January 27, 2023, Peggy Van Scoyoc interviewed **Douglas Pennington** via Facetime from his home in Kentucky. Doug was the first Black student to desegregate Cary Elementary and Middle School at the head of Academy Street in 1966, when he was entering the eighth grade.



Prior to that, Doug attended the segregated Kingswood Elementary School for grades 1 – 7. At all-white Cary Elementary and Middle School, Doug did well, even earning a place on the Junior Beta Club, a type of honor society. Before graduating, he made a few white friends there.

Then Doug went on to Cary High School on Walnut Street for grades 9-12 in 1967. Cary High had begun desegregating by then, so he was not the only Black student there, but he did help to further desegregation throughout the four years he attended. During his senior year, Doug became something of a football star, which made him fairly popular.

Doug and his family lived in Morrisville. He remembered areas of Morrisville where signs were posted, warning Black people to stay away, because Ku Klux Klan rallies were held there. To this day when visiting relatives, he will not go near those areas.



In June 5, 2023, Peggy Van Scoyoc interviewed **Curtis Westbrook**. In 1969, Curtis arrived in Cary to open his one-man real estate office on Chatham Street. Throughout the years, he knew most of the developers in town. Many of the people who bought houses from him were new arrivals to North Carolina.



In the early 1970s, Curtis learned that IBM's large facility in Research Triangle Park was about to open. Realizing that many of IBM's employees were going to be transferred to Wake County, Curtis did research about the local schools. He wrote up a flyer, then booked a hotel room and meeting room at

a Holiday Inn in Kingston, New York. He then contacted IBM there and said he had information about North Carolina schools and would be making a presentation at the Holiday Inn, if any employees might want to come.

The room filled up quickly, and a line formed out the door and down the sidewalk. He quickly ran out of flyers, so the hotel copied more until they ran out of paper. The IBM announcer who introduced Curtis said, "If you plan to buy a house there, this is the man to see."

Very soon, Curtis became a very busy man. He was instrumental in bringing about the huge population explosion that occurred in Cary in the early 1970s, when the town became a bedroom community for RTP.



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

The Friends are pleased to share that Thomas Fisher, a high school senior from Cary High School, is the recipient of our 2023 \$1,000 Friends of the Page-Walker Scholarship. Thomas lives in Cary and is the son of Sheila and Charles Fisher.

Kathleen Keller, a Business/Marketing/Entrepreneurship Education Teacher at Cary High School, writes that Thomas's "...goals for advancing his education are lofty but more than achievable for someone with his intellect and extraordinary composure. He is a solid student with an extraordinary work ethic and high moral standards. He finds joy in helping others and that strong sense of sharing and giving is one of his greatest strengths. He is a tenacious worker and will always do what it takes to succeed and find that successful conclusion to a project or situation." Ms. Keller, in her recommendation letter, goes on to say "I am sure Thomas's successes will continue at every level."

Also contributing to his selection was the submission of his insightful essay. Addressing the topic, "The Impact of Growth on the Culture of the Cary Community", Thomas applauds Cary's diverse population and believes that the "...overall growth in the population and jobs in Cary and the surrounding Raleigh-Durham area has had a positive effect on diversity in Cary. The impact of this overall growth is evident in my school, in local shopping and restaurants, and in the many cultural events held in Cary."

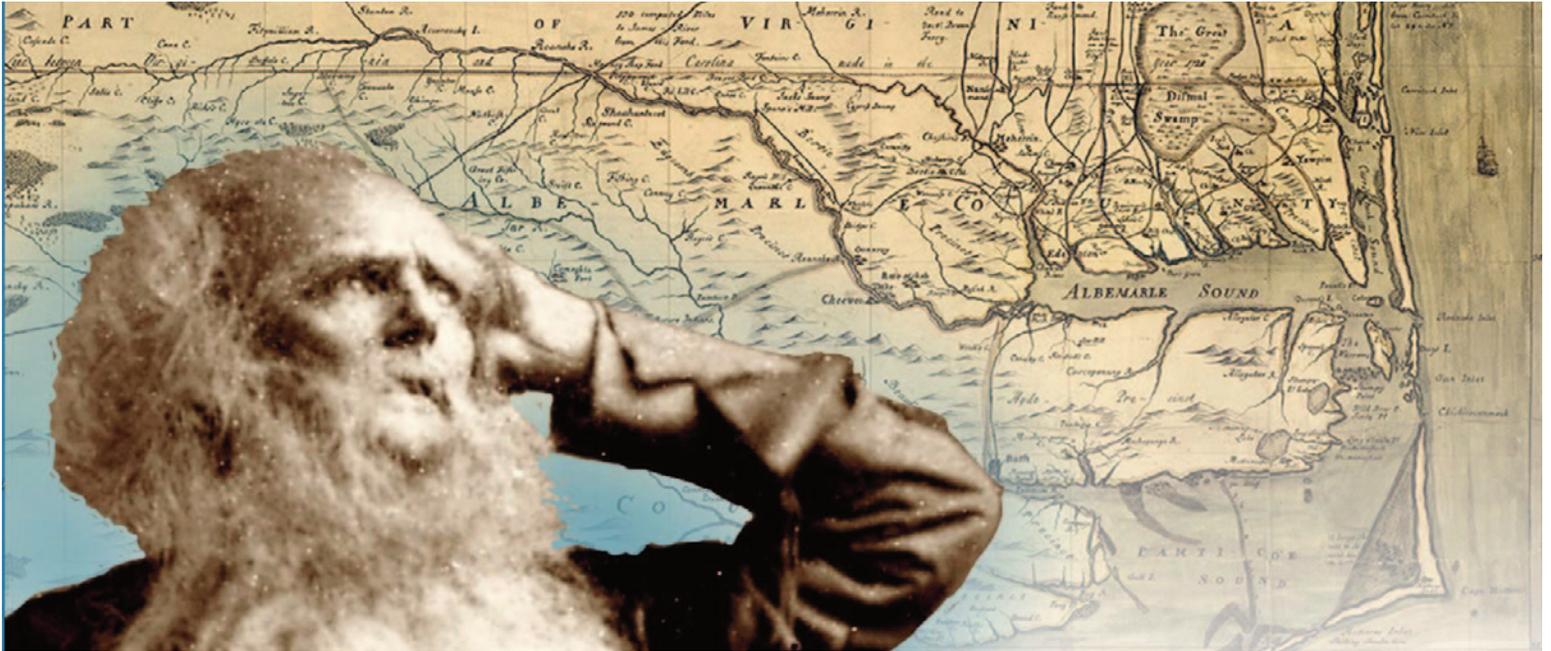


## Thomas Fisher Awarded Friends 2023 Scholarship

In the Fall, Thomas will attend Appalachian State University and plans to major in Health Care Management.

The Friends established our Scholarship in 2012 to advance our mission of enriching the community by serving as guardians for the Page-Walker Arts & History Center, advocating preservation of Cary historic sites, archiving history and facilitating history education, and promoting the cultural arts. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior who is a Cary resident and who has been accepted into and plans to attend a college or university. The award includes a permanent plaque with the recipient's name that is displayed at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center.

## Reading Between the Lines



In the last issue of *The Innkeeper*, we told you about an exciting discovery in the Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Duke University – the Rufus Henry Jones Collection of documents and letters. In coming newsletters, we will feature excerpts from these letters and let you know what we have learned about the Jones family and North Carolina history. We have transcribed the letters as written — spelling and punctuation included. Enjoy!

In this letter, Wilson Willis Whitaker is writing to his future brother-in-law, Rufus H Jones. Whitaker married Amelia Ann Jones on November 29, 1842, just a few months after he wrote this letter. From the letter dated March 23, 1842 from W. W. Whitaker to Rufus H. Jones, Esq., we find these two excerpts:

### 1. My dear Rufus...

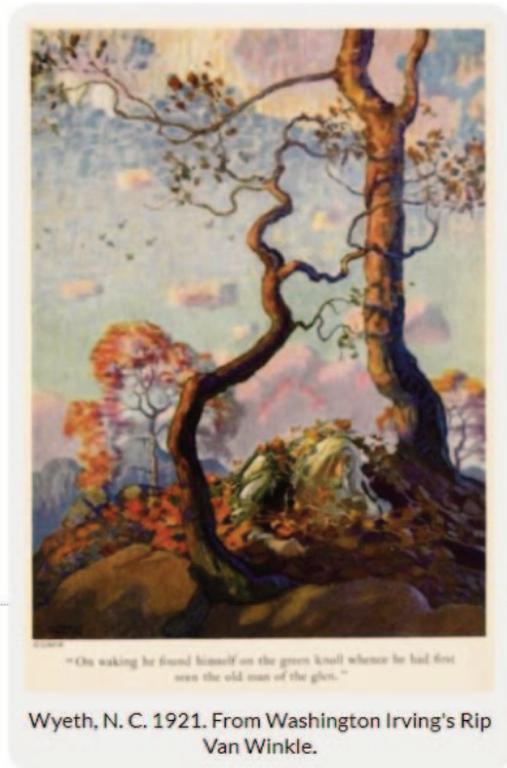
The weather is so very mild & pleasant, and things out doors look so very fresh & inviting, that our cow hardly believes in the reality of the beautiful objects, which meets him at every view. Such is the unusual calmness and warmth of the season, that one is almost induced to believe, that we have been playing the part of Old Rip for the last month, & that it is an April Sun that now dazzles the sights of our half waking eyes.

What is the reference to “Old Rip” in this idyllic description of a North Carolina spring? Who knew that moniker “Rip Van Winkle State” was “the derogatory nickname given North Carolina in the early decades of the nineteenth century. From 1815 to 1835, the state was deemed to be so undeveloped, backward, and indifferent to its condition that it appeared to be as comatose as Rip Van Winkle.” I would say we have left “Old Rip” far behind!

### 2. Mr Whitaker goes on

The people begin to talk with interest upon the result of the ensuing election. They say that they cant See how now an appropriation to repair the palace, could have induced Gov Morehead, to believe, that he was

*continued*



authorized, in building an ice house, and they furthermore say, that they cant understand why Gov Morehead should be above telling them, how much it cost to build said ice house.

The palace refers to the former governor's mansion which sat at the end of Fayetteville Street where Memorial Auditorium is now located. This mansion was built in 1838, but obviously lacked some amenities that Governor Morehead enjoyed at his home in Greensboro. Whitaker was obviously poking fun at the ice-house and the improvements to the Governor's residence, along with political opponents.

What was the big deal about the ice house? It seems like a minor issue. But in politics, it's the small things that can create havoc for a campaign or an administration. It was no different more than 180 years ago! This incident bit Governor John Motley Morehead at the start of his administration with his move to the "Palace" from his home, "Blandwood", in Greensboro. As today, opponents "pounce" on any detail that might cause havoc for the opposition. Political times haven't changed a bit!

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## Correspondence from the Past

BARB WETMORE

This summer, a team of volunteers began transcribing documents and letters from the Rufus Henry Jones Papers, 1777 – 1919, a collection at the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University. Carla Michaels and Barbara Wetmore visited the library last year and made digital copies of the treasure trove of documents with the aspiration of transcribing them one day.

Enter our incredible volunteers who enthusiastically dove into this task and have delivered more than 20 transcribed letters in the first two months of the project.

A huge THANK YOU to Morley Brown, Denise Cardella, Kris Carmichael, Marilyn Carney, Charlott Ellinton, Tom Hemrick, Kat Molk, Laura Niemi, Sharon Oast, Irina Semyanko, and Betsy Stewart. Their careful analysis of 19th-century handwriting is revealing slices of everyday life of an early, very influential Cary family.

Rufus Henry Jones grew up in the historic Nancy Jones House and was the first elected mayor of Cary, in addition to being one of the town's first commissioners. He was an educator and part owner of Cary Academy when it was a private school and a founding member of Cary Methodist Church.

# SHOW YOUR CARY PRIDE!

Get your own iconic Cary photos

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

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



# Cary Through the Years Update Now Available!

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

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



# A BIG THANK YOU!

The Town of Cary, especially Town Council and the Historic Preservation Commission, for designating the Nancy Jones house as a local historic landmark. Preserving this historic gem has been a goal of the Friends for decades, and landmark designation is an important part of that.

**Myrick Howard**, a guiding star in the preservation of the Page-Walker hotel (see article in this edition for more information)

**Peggy Van Scoyoc** for single-handedly amassing an impressive oral history collection through decades of interviews with local history makers.

**Kathryn Loflin** for establishing new collaborations across a broad spectrum to share Cary's history with the community in wonderfully engaging ways.

**Pat Fish** for decades of serving as the Friends treasurer and making Herbfest happen every year.

**Barb Wetmore** for leading the White Plains Cemetery committee; and **Marla Dorrel** for leading the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens committee. Their teams keep both of the community jewels shining!

All of the Friends who contribute content to this newsletter, with special thanks to **Carla Michaels** and **Barb Wetmore**, who consistently contribute a large portion of that content in the form of interesting, well researched articles and images.

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## Our Board Members

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

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members **Robbie Stone, William Lewis, Kris Carmichael** and **Jennifer Hocken**.



-  [www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel](http://www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel)
-  [www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/](http://www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/)
-  [www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory](http://www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory)
-  [www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/)

# LET'S BE Friends!

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

Thank you for your continued support, and please begin or renew your membership. If you haven't renewed for this year, please do so today. And please ask a friend to join!

We have migrated our membership management to our web site. You will receive an email notification when your membership is due for renewal. You can check, begin and renew your membership online through our [website](#). Our new membership management system now sends annual renewal reminders.

Alternatively, you can renew by mail. A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears at the end of this newsletter. Please print, complete and return it today!

## Members List

The Friends thank our members who support our mission.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Anne Kratzer         | Kerry Mead              |
| Barbara Wetmore      | Lisa Banks              |
| Brent Miller         | Lisa Dove               |
| Carla Michaels       | Lois Nixon              |
| Catrena Hall         | Lynn McKenzie           |
| Chandra Roughton     | Margaret Kehoe          |
| Charlene Jones       | Marla Dorrel            |
| Cheryl Salmon        | Michael Edwards         |
| Cortney Bonvillain   | Michael Rubes           |
| David Dukro          | Molly Grundner          |
| David Lindquist      | Nancy Ryan              |
| Deborah Vaughan      | Pat Fish                |
| Don Wright           | Paul Wasylkevych        |
| Ed Yerha             | Peggy Van Scoyoc        |
| Gale Adcock          | Sarah Martin            |
| Jack & Nancy Leavell | Sheila Ogle             |
| James Bustrack       | Stephanie Cessna        |
| Jennifer Midthun     | Susan Crittenden        |
| John Lytvinenko      | Susan Joan Smiley Baker |
| Jordan Gussenhoven   | Susan Wessels           |
| Kathryn Wiebusch     | Trish Kirkpatrick       |
| Ken & Mary Collins   | Vicky Bohannon          |



**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](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org)  
[www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org)

President Kerry Mead



[www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel](http://www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel)



[www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/](http://www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/)



[www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory](http://www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory)



[www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/)

**Plan a Visit** The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is located at 119 Ambassador Loop.

Directions: Located on Ambassador Loop on Town Hall Campus. The campus is off North Academy Street, between Chapel Hill Road and Chatham Street in downtown Cary. More information can be found [here](#).

# Begin or Renew Your Membership Today!

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, visit [www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://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:

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### Brick 2:

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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