

News & Views

SUMMER 2015



Historic
Lexington
Foundation
Incorporated

HLF: 540-463-6832
hlf@rockbridge.net
www.historiclexington.org

ANNUAL MEETING

Buffalo Forge was the setting for this year's Founders' Award Ceremony. This historic site has been witness to much of Rockbridge County's early history, pre- and post-Civil War. In the 19th century, Buffalo Forge was an important iron smelting operation, consisting of a forge complex and about eleven other buildings, all located on what is now Forge Road, about 12 miles south of Lexington. The property is dominated by a long and gracious manor house known as Mount Pleasant. The complex began in 1819 and consists of an ancient mill and mill race and extensive slave quarters. Iron production at Buffalo Forge ceased in the fall of 1868. Susan Brady allowed us to use this lovely estate for our annual

Mt. Pleasant with guests.



*Suzanne Rice
announcing
an award.*



*Beverly Tucker presenting awards
to Teddy and Ann Parker Gottwald
(above) and the Paxton House
Historical Society (below).*

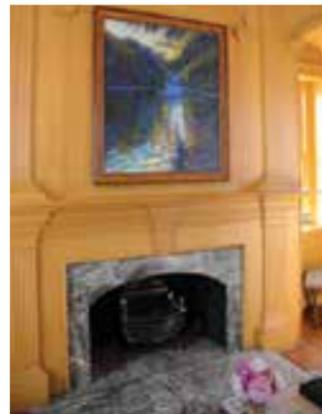
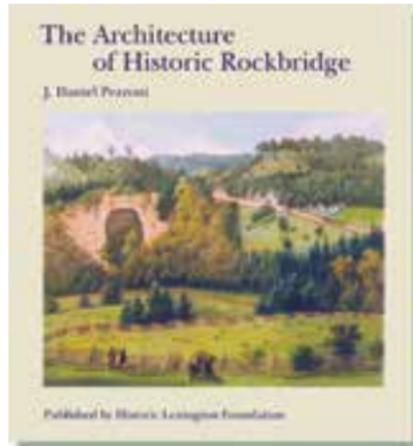


ANNUAL MEETING CONT.

meeting, and we were graced with a perfect early spring day. We broke tradition by giving **five** 2015 Founders' Awards for restoration excellence, four of which are located along Lexington's Main Street. This year's awards were given to Teddy and Ann Parker Gottwald for their work on the Alexander-Withrow Building and the McCampbell Inn, to Charles and Kim Cory for restoration of the Jacob Ruff House, to Gene and Nancy Sullivan for restoration activity on the Francis H. Smith House, and to Ugo Benincasa of R.E. Lee Properties, LLC, for the rehabilitation of the Robert E. Lee Hotel, all on Main Street. Also honored at the annual event was the Paxton House Historical Society for its restoration of the Paxton House in Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista.



Left: Guests enjoying the event. **Right top:** Featured speaker, Tom Camden. **Right bottom:** Beverly Tucker and Ugo Benincasa. **Far Right:** Book cover and interior image of Thorn Hill.



COMING SOON

Almost two years in the making, HLF's new book, *The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge* by Dan Pezzoni, will be published late this year. It's a fitting companion to our *Architecture of Historic Lexington* (1977) by Pam Simpson and Royster Lyle with photos by Sally Mann (who contributed several to our new volume as well).

Architecture of Rockbridge is a museum-quality hardbound edition (just \$49.95) abundantly illustrated with more than 300 images, about half in full color. Like its sibling, it's not only meticulously researched but also a rare literary achievement: a work of important scholarship that's engagingly written. Organized thematically, its 330 pages will captivate armchair readers and historians alike.

We'll soon announce plans for a gala autumn book-launch event and associated celebrations. The design of our new *Rockbridge* volume echoes its *Lexington* forebearer's—they belong together on every bookshelf and will be available as a pair in advance at a great discount.