

# Newsletter



Annual Meeting  
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HLF Office relocated to the Omicron Delta Kappa's Lexington Train Station, 224 McLaughlin Street, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.



# From the President's Desk

Dear Members and Friends of HLF,

This past September 29, HLF held its Annual Meeting at historic Beaumont. It was the saving of that beautiful house from demolition that provided the impetus for the founding of HLF in 1966. At the meeting, several heirs of the original HLF Board members and officers shared interesting and humorous memories of those early preservationists. It was a wonderful event, and we missed all of you who were not able to join us for it.

One of the important and historic Lexington buildings that HLF saved in 1973 was the Dold Building, at the corner of Main and Washington streets. That building, which is in need of a significant amount of restoration work, is being sold, and HLF has been involved with the parties to the sale to ensure that quality restoration work will be done, and that the usage of Dold Building will continue to be consistent with the retail fabric of downtown Lexington.

Although HLF has been actively seeking a major preservation project toward which we could direct our resources, there has not been an opportunity to do this for the past several years. The City's history, however, is visible not only in its treasured "landmark" buildings, but also in its older, historic neighborhoods. For this reason, HLF is in the process of developing a new "micro-grant" program designed to help homeowners with limited financial resources to maintain the exterior appearance of their homes in a manner consistent with the historic character of these neighborhoods. We hope to coordinate our program with the City of Lexington's plans to assist homeowners with other kinds of needed repairs.

At the end of the year, HLF, like so many other not-for-profit organizations, will be asking you to consider making a gift to us. Because we do have financial resources in an investment account, some have questioned why we need additional funding. In fact, HLF does not raise enough money annually to cover our ongoing administrative overhead, so we are required to withdraw money from our investment account to pay rent, personnel, and other monthly expenses. If we must continue to draw against that account for this purpose, ultimately we will not have those resources available when another major preservation opportunity does present itself, or even to pay for the new micro-grant program. Please consider this as you decide how to allocate your year-end donations.

Best regards,

Dee Joyce-Hayes  
President

*Cover image: Historic Beaumont.  
Courtesy of Leslie Giles.*

## Board of Directors 2024

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Post Office Box 901  
Lexington, VA 24450  
540-463-6832  
hlf@rockbridge.net  
www.historiclexington.org

# 2024 Annual Meeting and Founders' Award Presentation

On Sunday, September 29, HLF was honored to hold the 2024 Annual Meeting at historic "Beaumont," located on Lee Avenue in Lexington. Formerly known as the Barclay House, the home was threatened by redevelopment back in the 1960s, and that threat served as the catalyst for the local preservation leaders to establish Historic Lexington Foundation. With special thanks to our hosts, homeowners Franziska and Allen Haight, attendees were delighted to explore the architecturally significant home and enjoyed a delicious selection of savory and sweet bites by Full Circle Catering. The program included a unique series of informal reminiscences of "early HLF" by their family members and friends: Mary Stuart Gilliam (by Jay Gilliam), Don Clayton (by Sarah Clayton), Royster Lyle (by Cochran Lyle), Louise Moore (by Molly McCluer), Carrington Tutwiler (by Lisa Tracy), and Gillie Campbell Tutwiler (by her daughter Gillie Campbell).

It was a special pleasure for board president Dee Joyce-Hayes to announce and present one Founders' Award during the Annual Meeting. HLF board member *emeritus* Bruce Macdonald was surprised with the award, which was inscribed, "In recognition of an individual whose imagination, artistic talent, and dedication have provided major contributions to historic preservation." A longtime member of the HLF board, Bruce is an artist and marketing whiz who has generously given time and talents to numerous HLF projects, programs, and publications over many years.

HLF also extends a sincere thanks to Kappa Alpha Order and Lexington Real Estate Connection, co-sponsors of the 2024 Annual Meeting.



*Sarah Clayton shared memories of her parents, Col. Donald and Mrs. Clayton, who were founding members of HLF, and of her childhood at Beaumont.*



*Susan Minor, HLF Vice-President, Bruce Macdonald, 2024 Founders' Award recipient, and Margaret Samdahl, HLF Executive Director.*



*Jay Gilliam and Dee Joyce-Hayes. Jay Gilliam shared stories of his mother, Mary Stuart Gilliam, one of the founders of HLF.*



# “Interwoven: Unearthed Stories of Slavery”

This year, the Brownsburg Museum is featuring one of the most artistic, most focused exhibits it has ever produced, titled “**Interwoven: Unearthed Stories of Slavery.**” The exhibit opened to the public on March 23 and is expected to be on display into 2025.

HLF staff and board members were fortunate to visit the museum for a personal tour led by Julie Fox, chair of the Brownsburg Museum, and Isabelle Chewning, a long-time museum volunteer and one of the driving forces behind the current show.

The exhibit captivates visitors from the very first poster—a map of the area where the enslaved population lived and worked. This, and all the other panels and artifacts that follow, flowed seamlessly from topic to topic as one moves through the exhibit.

The many exhibit panels are presented in a professional and compelling manner, in part thanks to the talents of German

photographer Gesche Würfel. In the summer of 2023, Würfel photographed the former dwellings of enslaved people that still stand in and near Brownsburg. During the architectural shoots, she also collected and created studio photos of the local flora, for a series entitled “Plantation Still Lives.” These photos lend heightened sensitivity and interest throughout the exhibit. Additional photos were contributed by Mary Woodson of Fairfield. The imagery is accompanied by compelling text, developed by designer Dee Papit of Brownsburg from research and historical documentation shared by other area residents and volunteers.

This compelling, collaborative exhibit continues a tradition of researching and building a creative, mind-expanding presentation of the lives of some African Americans in the late 19th century. It bears an imaginative title: *Interwoven*, and as such suggests a rich tapestry of diverse peoples occupying the region for the past 200 years or so. In a nod to the quality of the museum’s exhibit concept and content, the Brownsburg Museum was awarded a major grant of \$13,550 from Virginia Humanities to help produce and share the *Interwoven* story.

Sunday, December 1 is the last day that the museum will be open to the public, but private visits can be arranged any time by emailing [info@thebrownsburgmuseum.org](mailto:info@thebrownsburgmuseum.org) or calling (774) 279-9742. The museum is in the center of the village at 2716 Brownsburg Turnpike. For more information, call (540) 348-1600, or visit them online at [www.thebrownsburgmuseum.org](http://www.thebrownsburgmuseum.org).



*HLF members touring the exhibition.*



*The Interwoven Exhibition.  
(photo courtesy of Julie Fox, Brownsburg Museum)*

# Historic Lexington Foundation's Ribbon Cutting

**O**n August 26, 2024, Omicron Delta Kappa officially welcomed Historic Lexington Foundation to Lexington's historic train depot. HLF will lease several offices within ODK's headquarters building and have access to the elegant meeting space and the ample parking lot.

The occasion was marked by a ribbon cutting attended by Jennifer Waller, President and CEO of ODK; Tim Reed, Vice President for Membership and Operations of ODK; Tracy Lyons and Erin Terapane, representing the Chamber of Commerce; and Linda Presley-Beauford, Rose Kinard, Margaret Samdahl, and other members of the HLF board.

The two nonprofit organizations share common roots in the city of Lexington, and both will benefit by sharing resources in a unique historic setting.

The depot was moved across the street twenty years ago to make way for expansion of Washington and Lee's Lenfest Center. Pam Simpson, former president of HLF and head of the Art and Art History Department at Washington & Lee, led the campaign

to save the building from demolition at that time. Lexington architect Fred Kirchner, who also attended the ribbon cutting, helped to renovate the old depot into a beautiful and functional office building.

Our new headquarters has come full circle, from being saved by HLF to now being its home. We are grateful to ODK for their gracious welcome in sharing their building. It was meant to be.



*Cutting the ribbon, ODK welcomes HLF to the c.1883 Train Station.*



*Jennifer Waller, ODK President, Tracy Lyons, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and Margaret Samdahl, HLF Executive Director.*



*Tours of the Train Station were given after the ribbon cutting.*



# Chasing the 611

Lovers of classic steam locomotives were treated to a special event hosted by Historic Lexington Foundation on Thursday, August 22. In the sanctuary of Manly Memorial Baptist Church, HLF welcomed a large crowd to an encore presentation of "Chasing the 611," originally presented at the Glasgow Public Library last spring.

The 611 is a Class J steam locomotive built for the Norfolk & Western Railway at the East End shops in Roanoke and was in regular service from 1950 to 1959. The streamlined locomotive powered rapid passenger rail service in the days before automobiles dominated our landscape. Now the official steam locomotive of the Commonwealth, the restored locomotive is still in service. HLF board member Byron Faidley, a train enthusiast, introduced the speakers to the audience.

Darryl Woodson, editor of *The News-Gazette*, and his photographer spouse Mary "chased" the 611 to capture photos and videos of the powerful locomotive in action in Rockbridge and Augusta counties last year, as well as in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, from two years ago. They shared some of those

images at the presentation. Joining them was Rockbridge County resident Will Harris, past president of the Virginia Museum of Transportation. He shared stories of the work involved in conducting scenic excursions between Goshen and Staunton, in preparing and operating the historic locomotive and eleven vintage passenger cars, and in running the excursions with dedicated, mostly-volunteer crews. A lively question and answer session rounded out the program, which was a delight to all.



*HLF Board Member Byron Faidley introduced the speakers.*



*Will Harris and Darryl Woodson shared experiences of the restoration of the 611 steam locomotive.*



*HLF's Preservation Program was held at Manly Memorial Baptist Church.*

## 2024 PRESERVATION GRANTS & EDUCATION PROJECTS

- Asbury United Methodist Church, Brownsburg
- Clover Shop, Lexington
- Evergreen Cemetery Entrance Panel
- Evergreen Cemetery Walking Tour booklet
- Green Book Marker, Lexington Visitor Center
- Falling Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Rockbridge County
- Fairfield Cemetery, Fairfield
- Hamilton School, Rockbridge County
- Oak Grove Cemetery Walking Tour booklet, Lexington
- Palmer Community Center, Rockbridge County
- Thunder BRidge, Natural Bridge Station
- Veterans Gravestone Cleaning by Dennis Bussey



*Asbury United Methodist Church, Brownsburg, recently received a Lyle-Simpson Grant for structural preservation of its sanctuary.*

## OUR FUTURE HINGES ON A PAST WELL-PRESERVED

Every day, Historic Lexington Foundation preserves, protects, and promotes the historic buildings and places that make our communities unique, beautiful, and authentic. Your generosity and financial support are vital to sustain our education, advocacy, preservation, and revitalization activities, which we undertake to honor the past and empower the present and future.

## HOW TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Your gifts make it possible to continue our mission— with your help we can shape the future of Historic Lexington and the historic Rockbridge area!  
THANK YOU!

## WAYS TO GIVE

- Online – [historiclexington.org/donate](https://historiclexington.org/donate)
- By phone – (540) 463-6832
- By mail – Post Office Box 901, Lexington VA 24450
- In person – our office is in the historic Lexington Train Station at 224 McLaughlin Street
- Donations from your IRA – contact your tax advisor for more information
- Stock Donations
- Matching Gifts – if your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift could be worth twice as much or more!
- Planned Giving – ensure Historic Lexington’s future by making a planned gift through your estate

Questions? Contact us at  
(540) 463-6832 or [hlf@rockbridge.net](mailto:hlf@rockbridge.net)



[historiclexington.org/donate](https://historiclexington.org/donate)

# Of Note



*In memory of Reed Belden, a past president of HLF, at the dedication of the Timber Grove Highway Marker.*



*HLF marker gifted to Lauderdale Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.*



*Nan Wolf, Leslie Bovay, and Barbara Walsh at the Annual Meeting/Donor Party.*



*Nancy Hahn, Don Hasfurther, and Elizabeth Boetsch at the Annual Meeting.*