

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leesburg, Virginia

To Society Members and Friends of Loudoun County History:

I write this letter to you in October, 2012 as the President of the Loudoun County Historical Society. It is a position I held about ten years ago during the time our organization was in the process of undergoing a reformation. In 2004, our Society celebrated its 50th birthday and in the President's Letter that year, I reminded our members of our beginning. I would like to do this once again.

June 18, 1954: Mr. J.V. Nichols offered a motion seconded by Mr. James Head, that our organization shall be called The Historical Society of Loudoun County. The motion passed.

Our Society began its existence with those simple words. The names of our founders attest to the strength of our foundation. The board of directors included:

Mr. J. V. Nichols, Purcellville: President
Mr. W. Garnett Chisolm, Leesburg: First Vice President
Mr. James Head, Hamilton: Second Vice President
Mr. A. A. Rowberg, Lincoln: Secretary
Mr. John Kincaid, Round Hill: Treasurer

Plus members:

Mrs. Nan Lin Kincaid, Round Hill
Mrs. Thomas Delashmutt, Aldie
Mr. Edward Chamberlin, Jr., Hillsboro
Mr. Frank Osburn, Leesburg
Mr. Huntington Harris, Leesburg
Mr. Henry Crabites, Leesburg
Mr. Jerome Monks, Middleburg
Mr. Emory Plaster, Leesburg
Mr. Powell Harrison, Leesburg
Mrs. Lawrence Taylor, Lincoln
Mr. Alfred Stefferud, Hillsboro
Mr. Edward Marsh, Purcellville
Mrs. Fairfield Whitley, Round Hill
Gen. J. D. Patch, Leesburg

Honorary Members were:

Gen. George C. Marshall, Leesburg
Mr. David Finley, Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Aldie

These names should ring down to us through time. These people represented the very best that Loudoun County had to offer in terms of dedication and leadership. Loudoun County numbered 25,000 people in 1954. Fifty eight years have passed and today we number more than 312,000 people. We live in a faster world today. Loudoun now has

new roads, new communities, new schools and perhaps most importantly, new ways of communication. We are becoming a suburban county and our agricultural roots are constantly under threat. It is because of this that our Society is struggling.

We reformed our Society about ten years ago and for a period of time there was a new resurgence of interest in making our organization more active in the promotion of Loudoun County's rich history and heritage. Leadership passed from me to Lewis Leigh, Jr. and from Lewis it passed to Tracy Gillespie and from Tracy it passed to Mary Fishback. Sadly, along the way the resurgence of interest weakened to the point that more and more of the work fell upon fewer and fewer individuals. Ultimately the strain was too much and the board imploded.

Lewis Leigh Jr., Taylor Chamberlin and I met in the aftermath of this implosion. We discussed our Society's future and came to the conclusion that there are many organizations in existence today that promote the rich history which Loudoun County has to offer. Most reading this letter would agree that on any given weekend there are many lectures and events being offered that in some way touch upon our local heritage. What our Society has that is special and unique is our annual LCHS Bulletin. The three of us have banded together to try to keep our Loudoun County Historical Society alive so that the Bulletin may continue to publish the excellent articles that we have all known and enjoyed over the years. Lewis Leigh, Jr. agreed to take on the position of Treasurer and Secretary and Taylor Chamberlin agreed to be Vice President. The three of us will stand watch over our dwindling resources in hopes that those with an interest will come forward and help us. We will make every effort to get another Bulletin out next year. I can promise you that we will try to do this. I cannot promise you that we will succeed. I do not mind trying and failing. I do mind failing to try.

The 2012 Bulletin exists because of the good work of the wonderful folks who submitted their essays for review and editing. The editing and layout of these Bulletins takes a lot of time and dedication. We have Greg Friedmann to thank for this and we are all grateful to him for his skill and selflessness in editing and producing this year's edition.

We hope that you will enjoy these fine essays. I believe that you will learn, as I have done, new things about our history and heritage.

In closing, I ask that you contact us if you have an interest in continuing the work of publishing the Bulletin for The Loudoun County Historical Society. We would welcome your enthusiasm and we would welcome your help in keeping our organization alive and well. Most importantly, we need your help in writing articles for the 2013 Bulletin. Would you please help us?

Respectfully submitted,

Childs Burden