

of Preservation Historic Winchester, Inc.



Spring 2015

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National Preservation Month 2015: See! Save! Celebrate!

Once again, PHW took the month of May to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month, teaming up with the Friends of Handley Regional Library for an "encore" of last year's program on the area's historic house museums. This year, given PHW's work with the Winchester Little Theatre on their restoration project at the former Pennsylvania Freight Station, the programs focused on the history and architecture along the local railroads.

PHW and the Friends of the Handley Regional Library had an excellent turnout for the two National Preservation Month activities. The Wednesday evening documentary "Slow Train to Yesterday" was shown to a full house, with an excellent introduction and question and answer session led by railroad historian Mason Cooper.

The Saturday afternoon program, presented by Bob Cohen and Sandra Bosley, was another hit. Although the crowd was smaller, the presentations illustrated both the early days of railroading and the associated railroad buildings in the area, exploring facets of the "bigger picture" in railroading history and the evolution of industries using the railroads.

By popular demand, an excerpt which was cut for time from Sandra Bosley's portion on the Baker family grocery business is printed below. Look for a reprise of the presentation in the fall through PHW and an article in an upcoming Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Journal publication.

WINCHESTER'S BAKER CHOCOLATE LEGACY

William H. Baker expanded the Baker & Co. family grocery business into chocolate manufacturing in 1894. Although the chocolate was not produced in Winchester - in the days before temperature controlled environments, Winchester was too hot to produce a good product through most of the year - it still left lasting ripples in our history and architecture.

Within the first decade, and despite lawsuits for copyright infringement with the Walter Baker & Co. chocolate manufacturers, the business expanded to a new location in Red Hook, New York, churning out a reported eight tons of chocolate, cocoa, and cocoa butter a day. The **(Cont. page 2)**

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National Preservation Month (cont.)

factory at 54 Elizabeth Street in Red Hook had access to the Central New England Railway and river transport to and from New York City.

W.H. Baker's home, called the Gables, is still standing on the corner of Washington and Boscawen Street. The design is the most exuberant display of nearly every imaginable late Victorian-era architectural confection in Winchester, but it was not a one-of-a-kind house. It was, in fact, designed by mail order architect George F. Barber, and at least one twin of W.H. Baker's home was built in Orange, Virginia.

Baker's sons did not have his passion for chocolate and sold the business in 1924 to the Walker Candy Company. Learn more about the "Winchester Baker" chocolate in the article "Red Hook and the Chocolate Wars" by Claudine Klose at <http://www.abouttown.us/index.php/all-abouttown-articles/local-history/292-Red-Hook-and-the-Chocolate-Wars>.

Learn more about the unfair competition lawsuits around the various Baker Chocolate manufacturers on page 50 of American Bottler from May 1921, available as a free e-book on Google at <https://books.google.com/books?id=pJVRAAAAYAAJ> ♦



The Gables at 5. S. Washington Street, circa 1987. According to the current owner, the house was constructed entirely of imported materials because William Baker, the original owner, wanted to say it was entirely of foreign construction.

WLT Restoration Campaign Pledge

As a supporter of Preservation of Historic Winchester, I pledge \$ _____

- As a single payment
 In installments of \$ _____ over a period of 3 years
 Monthly Quarterly Annually

To the Winchester Little Theatre Restoration Campaign

Donor Information:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Acknowledgement Information:

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

- We/I wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to: WLT Restoration Fund

Return this form to:

WINCHESTER LITTLE THEATRE
RESTORATION FUND
Winchester Little Theatre
315 West Boscawen Street
Winchester, VA 22601

More information on the WLT Restoration Campaign may be found online at:

http://www.wltonline.org/winchester/Restoration_Campaign.html

Winchester Little Theatre is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

CAN YOU FIND IT?

These architectural details are located at the Handley Library, 100 West Piccadilly Street, on its three street side faces (Braddock, Piccadilly and Fairfax Lane). Look up, down, and all around to find them! Details may be seen in more than one location.

This scavenger hunt was produced by Preservation of Historic Winchester in celebration of National Preservation Month 2015. Visit us online at www.phwi.org or at our office in the Hexagon House, 530 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA.



Will a Cather Word Search

Willa Cather is probably the best-remembered author from Winchester. She was born in 1873 on her maternal grandmother's farm in the Back Creek Valley near Winchester, Virginia. Her father was Charles Fectigue Cather, whose family had lived in the valley for six generations. Her mother was Mary Virginia Boak, a former school teacher. Within a year of Cather's birth, the family moved to Willow Shade, a Greek Revival-style home. The Cathers moved to Nebraska in 1883. She was affected by the dramatic environment and weather, the vastness of the Nebraska prairie, and the various cultures of the European-American, immigrant and Native American families in the area, which featured prominently in many of her works. She returned to her Winchester roots for her final novel, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*, an atmospheric portrait of antebellum Virginia set against an unblinking view of the lives of Sapphira's slaves. (Biography from Wikipedia.org)

R N S C O A C Z G M A E I R V G G T I E
R A R D E S S A B W D U O L C D E R C E
U J S B P D H U G A X X P Z P P G U C D
J N F Z J H M K H O R J J M K T Q O U I
V A E P X J T S K M Y I R E X R N C Q V
W H W D P X W Q J K S Z H E K O E Y Q I
M H K I R O D J K M D I F P G I A A J D
J Y Y Z L A J T Z Q G W W R P W L W N O
F Z A L U L G S B D H U Q M A A G N I N
R Y I N K R A L E H T F O G N O S E H T
T W H V T Y V C L A U W N V R Z O E X H
C J E S U O H K A O B E L E H C A R W E
U D N X D Y N U K T R D O K H M M G G D
Q S U F V Q P I S M H T F R P M J T F I
V L H A Y E L L A V K E E R C K C A B V
W Q J P L S Z T R O R B R H A H Z T J I
Z N M C L U I V B Z L Z W H T R I H B D
H Q W V P N J D E Y Y Q O H C P Q G I E
F R X B E Z D K N E F G A I I U N I A V
S F W E N O P I O N E E R S R D R N Z D

Look for these words related to Willa Cather's life and writing:

- ARDESSA
- A WAGNER MATINEE
- BACK CREEK VALLEY
- GORE
- MY ANTONIA
- NEBRASKA
- NIGHT AT GREENWAY COURT
- ON THE DIVIDE
- O PIONEERS
- RACHEL E BOAK HOUSE
- RED CLOUD
- SAPPHIRA
- THE SONG OF THE LARK
- THE TROLL GARDEN
- WILLA CATHER
- WILLOW SHADE

(Over, Down, Direction)

ARDESSA(2,E) WILLOW SHADE(2,11,NE)
A WAGNER MATINEE(17,7,SW) WILLA CATHER(3,6,SE)
BACK CREEK VALLEY(19,15,W) THE TROLL GARDEN(15,17,NW)
GORE(17,9,SW) THE SONG OF THE LARK(20,10,W)
RACHEL E BOAK HOUSE(18,12,W) SAPPHIRA(17,10,NW)
O PIONEERS(6,20,E) RED CLOUD(18,2,W)
ON THE DIVIDE(20,8,S) RACHEL E BOAK HOUSE(18,12,W)
NIGHT AT GREENWAY COURT(18,20,N) O PIONEERS(6,20,E)
NEBRASKA(9,19,N) NIGHT AT GREENWAY COURT(18,20,N)
MY ANTONIA(1,7,SE) NEBRASKA(9,19,N)
GORE(17,9,SW) MY ANTONIA(1,7,SE)
A WAGNER MATINEE(17,7,SW) GORE(17,9,SW)
ARDESSA(2,E) BACK CREEK VALLEY(19,15,W)
THE TROLL GARDEN(15,17,NW) A WAGNER MATINEE(17,7,SW)
THE SONG OF THE LARK(20,10,W) RACHEL E BOAK HOUSE(18,12,W)
SAPPHIRA(17,10,NW) O PIONEERS(6,20,E)
RACHEL E BOAK HOUSE(18,12,W) ON THE DIVIDE(20,8,S)
RED CLOUD(18,2,W) NIGHT AT GREENWAY COURT(18,20,N)
WILLOW SHADE(2,11,NE) NEBRASKA(9,19,N)
WILLA CATHER(3,6,SE) MY ANTONIA(1,7,SE)
ARDESSA(2,E) GORE(17,9,SW)

FINISHING PHW'S 50TH YEAR

Another year has almost passed us by here at PHW, and with the end of the year comes the Annual Meeting to start us off anew. As we prepare to enter our 51st year, let's take a moment to collectively catch our breath and say WOW. We spent the 2014-2015 year at PHW looking back at our history with a series of blog posts (now collected in one place at www.phwi.org/anniversary.php), continuing our educational outreach programs, contributing to the Winchester Little Theatre Restoration Campaign, and finishing our last month in the fiscal year with the joint See! Save! Celebrate! program with the Friends of Handley Regional Library. It was a year of highs and lows, from seeing the Taylor Hotel project come to fruition to the partial demolition of the Aulick House. PHW has remained in close contact with the City on the ongoing Piccadilly Street realignment project and is helping to make sure the interpretive panels will have accurate information on the neighborhood, including the Virginia Woolen Company, Dr. Finley's office, the mill housing, and the retreat of the Confederate forces through town after the Battle of Third Winchester.

REVIEWING PHW'S FINANCES

With the 50th year winding down, PHW is tidying up our year-end reports, reviewing what has worked and what has not. The Holiday House Tour feedback has gone into effect and we hope to bring you a few improvements to the tour experience in 2015. PHW has toured several properties and made inquiries about others for potential Revolving Fund purchases, though we've not yet found the next perfect project that's within our budget and our purview.

As the PHW Board of Directors reviews our finances and budget for the upcoming year, a membership dues increase is planned to go into effect for the \$25 (individual) and \$45 (family/small business) membership categories. We thought long and hard about this increase, but after reviewing the rise in postage, printing, and general operating expenses that come with more program activities such as the lectures and tours, combined with the fact PHW dues have not increased for over twenty years, we

feel the time is right to modestly raise the base membership dues. The increase is planned to go into effect after the fall 2015 Memberfest activity (date pending).

This topic will be discussed in more detail at the upcoming PHW Annual Meeting on June 28 during the business portion. The dues increase does not require a membership vote, but we encourage you to attend if you have questions or concerns about this increase.

Starting the New Year with the Annual Meeting, June 28

PHW will officially start our 51st year with the Annual Meeting on June 28. This year, it will be held at the Winchester Little Theatre so that PHW members will have a chance to see the preservation project we, as members of PHW, are supporting. As in past years, the meeting will be held on a Sunday afternoon, with the business meeting beginning at 2 PM. Unlike past years, we'll have access to an actual stage and seats for the business meeting!

In addition to the year wrap up and the discussion of finances and membership dues, PHW will be electing several new members to the board and presenting the 2015 preservation awards. The Winchester Little Theatre Restoration Team will also present a program on their restoration efforts and keep you up to date with the project. Weather permitting, after the presentation a walkabout of the exterior to see the work up close will be offered.

Although lawn games will not be on the social agenda this year, we will have a reception of tea sandwiches and other light refreshments as in the past. WLT will have slates for sale, which can be purchased for \$10/each and signed. Much like other projects which used engraved bricks for sidewalks to raise funds, your signed slates will be used on the actual roof at the Pennsylvania Freight Station.

It promises to be a fun send off for the 50th and welcome to the 51st year of PHW. We hope to see you there! ♦



Preservation of Historic Winchester

Hexagon House ♦ 530 Amherst St. ♦ Winchester, VA 22601

NEWS

Spring 2015

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 34
Winchester, VA

Upcoming Events

June 28: PHW's 51st Annual Meeting

Join us at 2 PM at the Winchester Little Theatre, 315 W. Boscawen St., to conclude our 50th year and kick off the 51st. Following the business meeting, the WLT Restoration team will bring you up to date on their restoration, including an exterior walkabout (weather permitting). Stick around for a reception with light refreshments and socializing with your fellow PHW members.



December 5 & 6: Holiday House Tour

Mark your calendars for the Holiday House Tour! PHW will be visiting Fairmont Avenue and Amherst Street, with the Bough and Dough Shop once again in the Winchester Little Theatre. We are looking for a few more houses and beginning our program ad recruitment. As always, we need plenty of volunteers for docents, too! If you are interested, please contact the PHW Office at 540-667-3577 or phwi@verizon.net to let us know how you can help. ♦

Are you a PHW Member?



Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc., is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Winchester's architectural heritage. PHW depends on income from membership and contributions to achieve its goals.

All contributions above membership are tax deductible.

Join today by completing this form and returning it to PHW, 530 Amherst St., Winchester, VA 22601.

___ Individual \$25 ___ Family/Business \$45
___ Corporate \$100 ___ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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