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Bulletin

Renaissance School
teacher Sally
Duncan and her
Local History class
displaying a quilt
from the ACHS
collection.



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Thank you NEH, and NEDCC!

We are proud to announce that we have received a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant to help preserve our historic collections! The NEH, created in 1965, promotes humanities education, facilitates research, provides opportunities for lifelong learning, and preserves and provides access to cultural resources through its grant making. Because, as its website states, "democracy demands wisdom" (<https://www.neh.gov/about>). NEH accomplishes this by funding top-rated projects, selected by panels of independent reviewers. This year, NEH is supporting 226 humanities projects nationwide with a total of \$31.5 million in grants. NEH awarded ACHS \$10,000 to preserve and share our collection of irreplaceable local history because they believe that conveying the lessons of history strengthens our republic (<https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-announces-315-million-226-humanities-projects-nationwide>).

This would not have been possible without our close collaboration with the Northeast Document Conservation Center (<https://www.nedcc.org/>)! The NEDCC was founded in 1973 as the first independent conservation laboratory in the nation. NEDCC specializes in "treating collections made of paper or parchment,

such as works of art, photographs, books, documents, maps, and manuscripts." NEDCC also offers digital imaging, audio preservation, preservation training, assessments, and disaster preparation consultation. The organization is trusted worldwide for information on the best practices for preserving paper-based and digital collections. Thanks to the NEH grant, NEDCC will perform a general preservation assessment of our library and museum collections and provide our staff and volunteers a workshop on preservation management and collection care.

For over eighty years, the ACHS has collected and preserved artifacts and records of Charlottesville and Albemarle County history, which in turn have inspired scores of educational programs. What began as a small curio collection has grown to 1,000 linear feet of materials divided into museum and library collections. The ACHS Museum Collection consists of more than 200 boxes of objects and artifacts related to the history of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, including: ceramics, glassware, pottery, textiles, costumes, jewelry, souvenirs and advertising ephemera, archaeological artifacts, photographs by local photographers, oral history recordings, historic maps and prints, oil paintings, antique furniture, and architectural remnants. The Library Collection

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*"Of all possessions, a friend
is the most precious."*

— Herodotus (484-425 BCE),
the Father of History

We've done a lot in the last two and a half years to "reimagine and reinvent the role of the historical society in the twenty-first century." But, perhaps nothing we've done has been more valuable than making some new friends and strengthening our ties with old ones. As we approach the end of another year and start to look forward to the next, it would behoove us to look back and appreciate those who helped us get to where we are today.

Thank You continued from page 1

includes thousands of volumes in our research library, 300 linear feet of manuscripts, and an additional 300 linear feet of storage in the McIntire Building basement. Items in the collection range from the mid-eighteenth century to the early twenty-first. These collections represent the history, material culture, and collective memory of the people of Charlottesville and Albemarle County – a place with a long and unique history from the days Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe trod the town streets and enslaved people were sold in the Court Square to the sites of numerous desegregation fights to modern struggles over Civil War memory and social justice. Now, thanks to NEH and NEDCC, this history, and the lessons we can learn from it, will be better preserved for generations to come.

Also, thank you everyone who has donated objects and documents to our collections. History could not be preserved without your thoughtfulness and generosity.

More friends helping preservation

Like the Frances Brand portraits that we had on display at The Center at Belvedere this summer, there are other paintings the ACHS is responsible for. A portrait of Paul G. McIntire has hung in the ACHS Library for many years, watching every move of every visitor, volunteer, and researcher who enter that space. On an adjacent wall has long hung the portraits of R.T.W. Duke Sr., a two-time U.S. Congressman, and his wife Elizabeth. And there are others. For many of these paintings, the artwork is lovely, often the subjects are persons of significance and controversy in local history, and we owe it to the donors to take care of them. But, time always takes a toll. The canvas becomes stretched, the paint loses some of its luster and is always battling dust, light, and humidity. They need to be conserved. But, conservation work is expensive. That's where a friend can come in handy. Earlier this year, Lucy Tonacci, a descendant of the Dukes, visited the Historical Society full of energy and good humor, and she made us an offer we couldn't refuse—a donation of \$5,000 to conserve the portraits of R.T.W. and Elizabeth. Her generous donation comes with a catch to match her \$5,000 to go towards the conservation of other artwork in the ACHS's collection. So, friends, we are calling on you to help us match her \$5,000 to put towards conserving other valuable pieces of local history. Thank you, Lucy!



Frances Brand self portrait.

Frances Brand and new friends at The Center at Belvedere

Frances Brand (1901-1990) made many friends. She was a U.S. Army major, a civil rights activist, a world traveler, a devoted churchgoer, and a portrait artist, among other things. Some remember her as a colorful eccentric who loved to dress in purple, while others knew her as a committed and lifelong social activist. Brand retired from the military in 1954, studied art at Mexico City College where she earned a fine arts degree, then moved to Charlottesville in 1959. In the 1970s, Brand undertook a series of portraits of individuals from Charlottesville and Albemarle County that would become the Gallery of "Firsts." Containing 157 portraits, most completed between 1974 and 1978, Brand continued to add to the collection until her death in 1990. Many of Brand's subjects were civil rights activists, in line with her own desire to understand and empower people

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Virginia Daugherty, Van Johnson, Mildred Spicer, and Nancy O'Brien (l to r) at The Center at Belvedere's "Re-Opening the Gallery" July 21st reception. Van and Mildred, City of Charlottesville employees, were instrumental in providing long-term storage for the Brand "Firsts" collection.



Nancy O'Brien, now and then.
Photos courtesy of Sterling Howell.

Frances Brand and The Center continued from page 2

whose backgrounds were different from her own. She described the collection as the "Firsts" because she felt that each subject was an important trailblazer in some way.

The collection of "Firsts" is most valuable in its entirety, which is why Brand willed at her death in 1990 all her finished and unfinished paintings to her granddaughter, Cynthia Brand. They remained on display in the gallery at Brand's Charlottesville home until they were gifted in 2006 to the ACHS. In partnership with Charlottesville Parks and Recreation, the collection is stored permanently at the Herman Key, Jr. Recreation Center.

Since 2006, the ACHS has raised funds through grants and private donations to professionally restore and conserve a small portion of the collection. Some of Brand's friends, in particular Virginia Daugherty and Nancy O'Brien, have worked closely with the ACHS over the years to preserve and showcase the collection and with it, the artist's legacy. But there is still more that can be done. Many of the paintings are in good condition, but over half of the 157 total portraits require some level of care before they can be publicly displayed.

In July and August, a selection of twenty-five "Firsts" portraits were installed at The Center at Belvedere--the first time they were taken out of storage in a decade. The twenty-five portraits selected for this exhibit illustrate the scope of the collection, with many subjects who were firsts in their field of study, work, or public service, but also including others with less notable accomplishments that

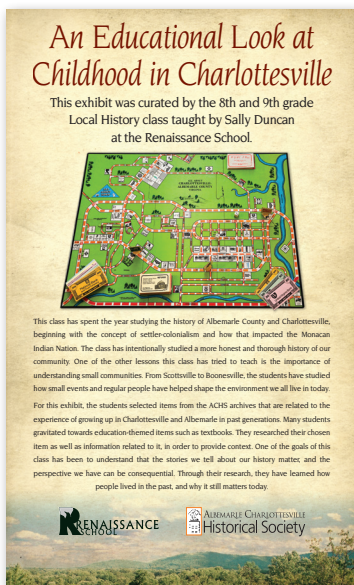
were nonetheless considered important by Brand. She tried to represent a myriad of races, classes, religions, and professions. While on display, the portraits were visited by some of the subjects themselves, by other individuals who remember Brand, and by others who had never heard of her before. Thanks to all of you who helped make this exhibit happen! The work of the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society to collect, preserve, and interpret local history, including Frances Brand's Gallery of "Firsts," would not be possible without the support of our many friends, such as the \$10,000 in donations we received to support the Brand collection. These funds will go towards conserving more of the portraits and for future exhibitions. Would you like to see the "Firsts" on display again? Help us match the \$10,000 and this will ensure we can bring these important local history "Firsts" back on display in 2023!

If you missed the exhibit, you can find digital images of the paintings on our website (<https://albemarlehistory.org/frances-brand-firsts-collection/>) and you can learn more about Brand and her subjects on Cvillepedia (https://www.cvillepedia.org/Frances_Brand). In addition, we are working on a photographic essay of the Brand portraits to publish in the next *Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History*.

In addition to the Brand exhibit, we have also held a number of in-person programs at The Center at Belvedere, thanks to our new friends there. And, we have more planned for the future. You can learn more about The Center and their programs at <https://thecentercville.org/>.

Our young friends... Renaissance School

It's often assumed that young people have no interest in history. But, we've seen that proven wrong. As we announced in the last Bulletin, the 8th and 9th grade Local History class taught by Sally Duncan at the Renaissance School curated an exhibit for the ACHS this spring. The exhibit, *An Educational Look at Childhood in Charlottesville*, includes artifacts from the ACHS collections, contextualizing descriptions researched and written by the students, and a video showing interviews of the students and their reflections on the project. If you haven't been by the McIntire Building in a while, you should stop by to see the exhibit and reflect on the importance of history education.



second internship as the UVA Nau Center Institute for Public History (IPH) (<https://publichistory.as.virginia.edu/list-internships>) intern at ACHS. Ineke picked up where she left off working to turn Cvillepedia.org into the go-to site for local history. We're hoping to all be working for this young lady one day. And, this time Ineke had the support of a UVA IPP intern, Mohneet Kaur, who was working remotely all the way from Florida. The Race & Sports oral history project also got some intern energy from Marin Sautter through a UVA IPH internship funded by our recent American Historical Association grant.



Vivaswath Naini.
Photo courtesy www.linkedin.com

And, UVA is not the only source of interns. In 2021, we were approached by a Liberty University international student who was having trouble finding a public service opportunity during the pandemic which she needed to complete her degree. Kendra O started working on tasks in our library, finished her needed hours, and kept on coming back to do more. In the last year, Kendra contributed over 770 hours to the ACHS library. Now, she is back home in South Korea, and we wish her well.

University Interns

We've also been reaping the rewards of making friends with bright UVA students this year. The Pen Park project got some big help this past spring and summer from UVA Career Center Internship Placement Program (IPP) (<https://career.virginia.edu/internship-placement-program>) interns Aqsa Atif and Charles Elson. They entered over 1,000 names and other information into a relational database that will help us analyze the genealogy work compiled by Sam Towler in pursuit of identifying the unmarked graves of the enslaved community at Pen Park. Our efforts to gain more grant funding received a powerful push by Viva Naini, who came to us through the Virginia Alumni Mentoring (VAM) Bridges Project. Viva helped us identify new grant opportunities, assisted us in utilizing new grant coordinating tools, and has been analyzing our financial health in comparison to similarly sized and situated historical societies around the country. We're keeping our eyes on this young man, he's going to do big things. We were also very fortunate to have Ineke LaFleur return this summer for her

Congratulations JMRL, our old friend!

On September 7th, the Virginia Library Association announced that it had selected Jefferson-Madison Regional Library as its 2022 Virginia Library of the Year! Of course, we were immediately ecstatic for our old friends and colleagues in the local library system. But, it got even better when we looked closer at the announcement. VLA states that JMRL was selected "in large part for the way they celebrated and honored their 100 years of public library service, while acknowledging the roots of that century...were in a segregated system." VLA identified two projects associated with the library system's centennial that caught their attention: the semi-permanent exhibit on display at Central Branch, produced in partnership with ACHS, and the documentary film about the library's history by Lorenzo Dickerson, "Free and Open to the Public," (to which ACHS also contributed assistance).

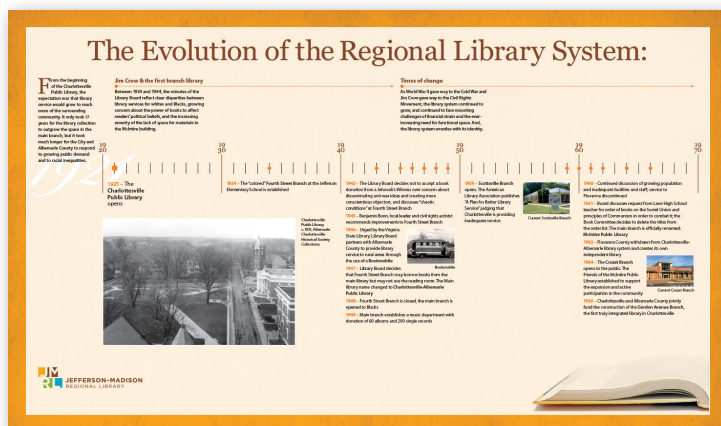
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It all started back in mid-2020, when we were just trying to figure out how to survive the height of the pandemic. Amid the shutdowns and quarantines, JMRL Library Director, David Plunkett, approached Tom Chapman, and asked if the ACHS could research and design an exhibit to tell the story of the library's 100-year history. Tom was very new to the ACHS Executive Director job at the time, and recognized the value of this partnership. We also learned that Lorenzo was working on a documentary film about the library and would like to see what useful information the Historical Society possessed. A year later, JMRL had their exhibit, Lorenzo was premiering his film at the Paramount, and the ACHS was preparing to publish vol. 79 of the *Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History*, which includes the article "The Jefferson-Madison Regional Library at 100: Access, Knowledge, and Technology," co-authored by Addison Patrick, Sterling Howell, and Ellen Blackmon. Over that time, and the time since, the relationship between JMRL and ACHS has only grown closer.

And, so has our relationship with Lorenzo, who has become the videographer for our Race & Sports oral history project and is contracting with ACHS on multiple other projects.

When David Plunkett, informed us about the award, he wrote "This wasn't happening without all the care, thought, and work that you all put in every day." Thank you, David, and JMRL. And, congratulations on your well-deserved award!

JMRL and ACHS have a long history together. The ACHS is based in the McIntire Building which was the original library building in 1921. The ACHS's Margaret Martin O'Bryant Research Library is considered a part of the JMRL system, and thus JMRL kindly employees ACHS's Research Librarian, Miranda Burnett. You can learn more about the library's interesting history by visiting the exhibit on the third floor of Central Branch, you can view "Free and Open to the Public" on YouTube (https://youtu.be/JCJqlI7_H3k), and you can read the article in the *Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History*.



Detail of the exhibit panels produced in partnership with JMRL. Visit the exhibit on the third floor of Central Branch, Downtown Charlottesville.

Hatton Ferry Friends

Thanks again to the Margaret Hulvey Wright family for their generous donation to help us inspect and insure the Hatton Ferry. And, thanks to Historic Buckingham, the Town of Scottsville, Albemarle County, Buckingham County, Preservation Piedmont, and everyone who helped get the ferry operational again. But, Hatton Ferry still needs your help! This summer we learned that Bob Colley, longtime Ferryman, is stepping back from overseeing ferry operations to tend to other life necessities. The Friends of Hatton Ferry are staffing the ferry, but the number of volunteer Ferry Masters is limited.

It's a good thing that there are Friends of Hatton Ferry. A meeting of Friends on August 12th was convened by Martha

Louis with Historic Buckingham and Tom Chapman with ACHS at Tavern on the James in Scottsville, bringing together local volunteers and stakeholders to begin brainstorming next steps to organize a 501(c)(3) independent of the ACHS to maintain the ferry into the future.

The Hatton Ferry is the last poled cable ferry in the United States. Depending on water levels and available volunteers, the ferry runs from April through October every Saturday, Sunday, and holidays from 10am to 5pm. We are currently looking for river and history lovers willing to help. If you are interested, please email programs@albemarlehistory.org, or show up at Hatton Ferry one Saturday and inquire about joining the Friends and volunteer training. If you would like to help preserve this historic treasure consider a donation, <https://albemarlehistory.org/support/>.

In the News

History Happens and keeps Happening

As we told you last spring, ACHS is now on the air. If you tune into Z95.1 during Sherry Taylor's 6am-10am morning show, you might hear an episode of "History Happens in Charlottesville" with Sterling Howell of ACHS and Miranda Burnett of JMRL.

Volunteers

Speaking of good friends, new and old, a special thank you is due to all of our wonderful volunteers! Thus far in 2022, volunteers have contributed over 1,800 hours of work to the ACHS; 800 hours more than during the same period in 2021. You are all amazing!

Special thanks to Gail Angell and Jerry Benedict who have really gone above and beyond this year and contributed a combined 436 hours. And thank you to Abby and Amy who emerged out of the ether to offer their expertise in helping with our museum collections. Volunteers help in the ACHS library, with collections, they lead walking tours, they contribute to Cvillepedia, they help make our programs happen smoothly, and so much more. If you or someone you know feels the volunteer bug, please reach out to programs@albemarlehistory.org.

The Magazine

It's time to think about Volume 80 of the *Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History*. Do you have an article to share? Do you have any suggestions or ideas for articles? At ACHS, we believe everyone has a story to tell, and it's shared stories that connect us as friends and community. If you have a story, or know someone who does, contact editormach@albemarlehistory.org.

Friends from afar...

In April the Road Scholars program, who specializes in educational travel for adults, approached ACHS to see if we would be interested in giving a series of lectures to their Charlottesville participants. Dr. Mike Dickens, with some assistance by Sterling Howell, and Miranda Burnett, along with her research partner Martin Violette, stepped up to deliver compelling talks to Road Scholar participants, who traveled to Charlottesville from all over the U.S. Miranda uses her librarian and archival knowledge in her program "Silent Voices: Women, Slaves, and Free People of Color" to discuss the lack of women's voices in the archival record during the time of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, and the non-archival sources used to restore the missing voices of these women. Miranda

and Martin Violette give another talk on their research, the Take Them In Families Project, into the enslaved families that James Monroe sold to Florida in 1828 and what happened to them after the sale. Mike and Sterling offer the scholars a presentation explaining why Virginia got the nickname, Mother of Presidents. "Virginia, the mother of Presidents" offers a view into the eight Presidents who hailed from the Commonwealth with a focus on who they were as leaders, the pros and cons of their administrations, and what made each a unique POTUS.

Thanks to Mike, Sterling, Miranda, and Martin, Road Scholar participants head back home with a new understanding of our local history.

In Celebration

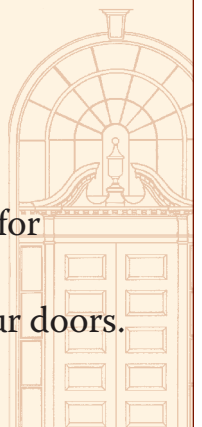
We are thrilled to announce the birth of Lily, the ACHS's newest member! Our Collections Manager and MACH Editor, Keri Matthews, gave birth in August to a happy, healthy, and tiny little girl! Both mom and baby are doing well!



Volunteer Needs – Join us!

Email programs@albemarlehistory.org or call (434) 296-1492

- **Tour Guides** for our guided history walking tours
- **Researchers** to help us answer the numerous inquiries we receive.
- **Cvillepedia.org** to help revitalize the local wiki and make it the go-to resource for local history.
- **Greeters** to provide that ACHS hospitality to every guest that walks through our doors.
- **Other??** – Tell us what you can provide for the ACHS.



On the Calendar

Sign up for virtual events on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ACHistSoc or email us at programs@albemarlehhistory.org for registration information.

- **Jan 17, 2023, 6:00pm at The Center at Belvedere (and Facebook Live) – Annual Membership Meeting: *Teaching History in Historic Times.***
A panel discussion with local history educators: Hashim Davis (Albemarle High School), Sally Duncan (Renaissance School), and Matthew Deegan (Charlottesville High School), moderated by Annie Evans, the Director of Education and Outreach with New American History at the University of Richmond.



How do educators teach true history in our politically fraught times? Hear answers to this and other timely and important questions from those on the frontlines in our local schools.

- **Feb 23, 2023, 6:00pm at The Center at Belvedere (and Facebook Live) – ACHS Speaker Series: *Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox* with Caroline Janney.**

The UVA history professor and Director of the Nau Center for Civil War History will discuss her new history of the weeks and months after Appomattox, that was less an ending than the start of an interregnum that ultimately unfolds with the messy birth narrative of the Lost Cause, laying the groundwork for the defiant resilience of rebellion in the years that followed.



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Our Vision

Our vision is to reimagine and reinvent the role of the historical society in the twenty-first century: to be a strong civic organization that embraces, in all that we do, the diversity of our community's history and experience, and promotes a greater understanding of our past, to enlighten the present and foster an inclusive history for future generations.

Our Mission

History is not the past; it is the story we tell about the past. Every person in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville has a unique and powerful story to tell. Through collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of our community, we are committed to informing, inspiring, and bringing together all people, creating opportunities for new relationships and new understandings.

Our Values

Our work is grounded in a belief in the worth and dignity of every human being. We respect people, communities, and cultures. We value discovery, creativity, integrity, and diversity. We believe in the potential for history to enrich our lives and to create stronger relationships and more vibrant communities. We approach our work with integrity and transparency.



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Our Society is built on the generosity of Our Members!!

Without YOU there is no ACHS. Renewals will be sent out on the anniversary of your original membership registration. For those members who have already renewed for 2022, we thank you! For ALL MEMBERS, recommend us to your friends, family, coworkers, and anyone who shares your passion for local history. Every person has a story to tell, and every member ensures that the ACHS will be here to collect, preserve, and interpret those stories.

Join us through our website www.albemarlehistory.org or give us a call (434) 296-1492.

Join now!



**Support
Local
History!**

Don't want to wait for the next newsletter?

You can stay connected with all things local history by finding us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Youtube](#).

You can become a member, join our email list, or check out our collections on our website. Or if you have a question or suggestion for us, send an email to programs@albemarlehistry.org.