



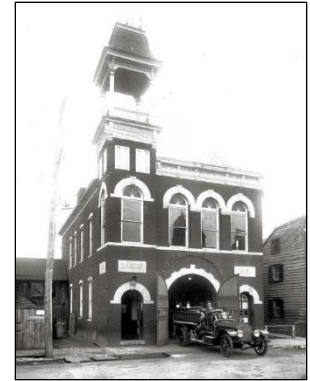
HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

February 2023

Accessing History

The Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, located in the lower level of Handley Library began digitizing its photographs over twenty years ago. Today, just over 28,000 images have been scanned and 24,668 are available online through the Library's website. The photographs in the collection include examples from the earliest years of photography, such as daguerreotypes, which were the first



commercial photography technology in the 1840s, to the digital photography of the present day.

Portrait photographs are very popular among researchers, as are images of local places and historic buildings. Above is a recently processed photograph of the Friendship Fire Company Band circa 1918. Friendship is one of the oldest fire companies in Winchester, dating back to the late 1700s. The second photograph, also in the Archives' collection is a picture of one of Friendship's numerous stations over the years. Built in 1892 and located at 12-14 East Cork St., it is now the Youth Center for First Presbyterian Church. Archives photos can be accessed using the PastPerfect database online through the Library's website: <https://handley.pastperfectonline.com>.



Stitching History

In February, the Friends partnered with the Winchester Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America for a special "**Stitch in Public**" day at the Bowman Library. The day included a stitching workshop where patrons could learned how to make the three basic stitches used in embroidery: the running stitch, the back stitch, and the split stitch. The highlight of the day included community volunteers embroidering the names and birthdates of individuals who had been enslaved at Belle Grove Planation (1797), a 7500-acre plantation,

one mile south of what is now Middletown, and the site of the Battle of Cedar Creek during the Civil War. The embroidered names will become part of a quilt that will hang in Belle Grove, a National Trust for Historic Preservation Site.

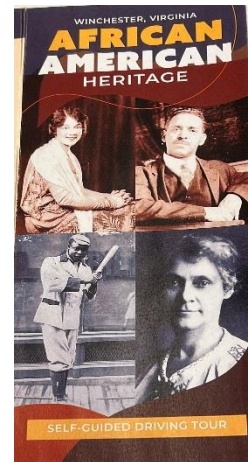
Watching History

Seeing the possibilities provided by the audio/visual equipment at the Barns of Rose Hill, the Clarke County Library took a major step in expanding its programming by partnering with the Barns for a showing of the documentary film, “Harry and Snowman”. The showing included a virtual visit by the producer and director Ron Davis. The film documents the story of Dutch immigrant, Harry DeLeyer, who journeyed to the United States after World War II and developed a transformative relationship with a broken-down Amish plow horse he rescued off the slaughter truck bound for the glue factory. Harry paid eighty dollars for the horse and named him Snowman. In less than two years, Harry & Snowman went on to win the triple crown of show jumping, beating the nation’s blue bloods. They become famous and traveled around the world together in a friendship that lasted a lifetime. Over 80 individuals enjoyed the large-screen presentation. “Harry and Snowman” is available on DVD from the Library.



Displaying History

Located on the lower level of the Handley Library outside the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives Room is a special display created for Black History Month. The display focuses on the people, places and stories included in the revised, self-guided, African American Heritage Tour sponsored by the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau located at 1400 S. Pleasant Valley Rd Winchester, VA. 22601



Reading About History

World “Read aloud Day” was observed at the Bowman Library with local celebrities reading books to the children of the families that attended the event. Among the guest readers were local teachers, a police officer, a local musician, and a “Young George Washington”.





Preparing to Make History

The Handley Youth Services Department officially soft-launched the STEAM to GO! Kits that began to circulate throughout the library system in February. These interactive kits are based on a theme and contain a book paired with learning toys and activities. Twenty-five kits will exist in the system and be shared throughout the branches, with 10 located at Handley, 10 at Bowman, and 5 at Clarke County. Within the first few days of the soft-launch all of Handley's kits were checked out. From coding to crafts, all ages can enjoy these accessible materials with something as simple as their library card.

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The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org