



# HRLS

## *Director's Report and Highlights*

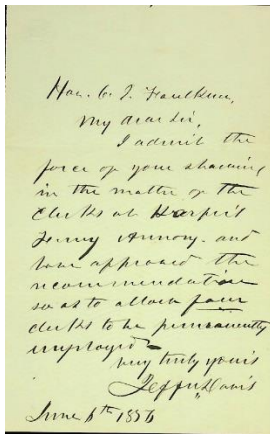
*October 2023*

### ***Calling All Archivists***

The Archives at Handley took the lead in organizing the “Archives Fair” in October. Over 30 exhibitors, from archives, heritage sites, and other repositories throughout the Shenandoah Valley were on hand at the Bowman



Library to participate in an “Ask an Archivist” panel responding to patrons’ questions. Afterward, they made themselves available to provide information about their collections, services and programs at their individual tables.



### ***Speaking of Collections***

Archives recently received a collection of papers from Henry W. Clowe, superintendent of Harpers Ferry Armory from 1855 to 1858. Clowe saved these papers from the destruction of the Armory during the Civil War, and they have since been in the possession of his family. The papers document arms manufacture and testing, Armory operations, and personnel issues. The image to the left shows an 1856 letter from Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War, to Charles J Faulkner, representative of Virginia’s 8<sup>th</sup> district, concerning the appointment of four clerks to the Armory.

### ***Friends Surpass Expectations***

All within a five-day timeframe, the Friends held a Donation Day and the Fall Book Sale, raising over \$17,115 to support the Library. In addition to their regular preview night for Friends members, a Member Morning Celebration was held to allow members to shop and to enjoy coffee and donuts before the sale was open to the public.



## ***Building a Very Special Resource***



Handley Library Branch Manager Adrienne Davis and Handley Library Youth Services Manager Katie Moss attended the weeklong initial session at the ‘Family Place Library Institute. Attendance at the Institute is the first major step toward “Family Place Library” accreditation, a process that can take between 18 and 24 months. Family Place Libraries build on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parental involvement and supportive communities play a critical role in a young child’s growth and development. The overall goal of the Family Place Libraires is to develop and institutionalize a family friendly environment by transforming libraries into community centers for early literacy, early childhood development, parent education and engagement, family support and community information.

## ***Also of Families***

The Handley Library partnered with the Laurel Center for a “Silent Witness” display in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The red silhouettes honored the local victims of domestic violence. Additionally, the display included library materials and information about local resources that could help individuals who find themselves in these situations.



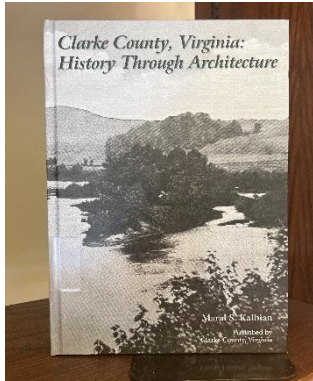
## ***“Teal” Trick or Treat***

Bowman Library was a “Teal Pumpkin” site for trick or treaters looking for treats that were non food and would include fun for those that have dietary restrictions. Nearly 500 people paraded through the library in costume, including parents, grandparents, and older siblings. Small gift items, music and crafts were the order of the day as well as a story time for some of the youngest participants.

## ***More “Tricks than Treats”***

The Handley Youth Services Department hosted the popular “Franken Toys” event just in time for the spooky Halloween season. Twenty-five tweens and teens attended this after-hours event in partnership with the Valley Makers Association. Participants they took old toys apart and “Franken-steined” new ones together. This maker program allowed the participatnts to channel their inner spooke to make something both creative and creepy.





## ***Local History and Local Authors***

Making books about local history and books by local authors more accessible to patrons, the Handley Branch has dedicated a portion of the West Reading Room to showcase these items. Information Services is in the process of cataloging these items, making patron awareness and access even easier.

## ***And Local “Electifying” Information***

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative brought equipment and demonstration trailers to Bowman Library to talk about energy, electricity, and safety precautions in the home and around power lines. Intended for youth and families, the presentation and demonstrations were well attended by over 60 people participating.



### **Contributors:**

**Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager**

**Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library**

**Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager**

**Lorna Loring, Librarian of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**

**Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head**

**Kylie Olohan, Technical Services Manager**

**Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager**

**Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach**

**Todd Strader, Clarke County Branch Manager**

**Ann White, Deputy Director**

***The Handley Regional Library System .... [www.handleyregional.org](http://www.handleyregional.org)***