

# Historic Petersburg FOUNDATION

Fall 2014

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Pam Covil

*Our mission is  
"to lead the preservation  
and restoration of Petersburg's  
historic architecture, and  
neighborhoods and to tell  
their story."*

## President's Message

November 2014

Happy Thanksgiving! Welcome to fall in beautiful Petersburg, Virginia!

First, the thanks –

Our three Dave's are stars of the class this season for these reasons:

1. Dave McCormack for guiding us on a possible free-market solution to the age-old problem of 109 S. Market Street. Hopefully, Dave and Bobby and Dean and Charlie will find tax credits, large money, and some way to save the highly visible property on the corner of Market and Wyrthe Streets. Just collected \$2,000 from the owner, thanks to orders from the court. More to follow on this gallant effort.

2. Dave Alexander for impersonating Paul Bunyan as he chopped, cut, and ripped out vines, trees, brush, and debris from our Liberty Street project sites. Earlier, Dave cleaned up bamboo and trash from the Morris House rear yard and he has worked several times on the 135 location, to the point that we have now closed on the sale of this wonderful residence! He also cleared enough brush so Dominion Power could bring in huge trucks to repair wiring at 111 Liberty!

3. Dave Cardona for opening up his marvelous personal residence for our Bus Tour on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 40 folks made this day a convivial and educational experience, as we enjoyed lunch on the giant back porch of Haw Branch Plantation, following a serious and informative Civil War tour of Namozine Church and Sailor's Creek Battlefield, very ably conducted by expert historian Chris Calkins. The tours of Dave's home were just plain awesome, as we learned so much from Dave and his helpers which may be the reason the 2014 bus tour chairman Dave Cardona actually made a profit!



While the group was assembled on the beautiful veranda of Haw Branch I made a presentation of a membership certificate to Ms. Megan Elizabeth Kitchen, the very first Young Patron Member of HPF! Of course, this sharp young lady is now the Chairman of the Young Patron Committee with the

*Continued on page 3*

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## Upcoming Events

Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc. will present its **37th Annual Christmas Tour** on December 13 and 14 from 3 – 7 p.m. Tour historic properties decorated for the holiday season and enjoy refreshments at locations each day.

*Check the website for more information as the date nears.*



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## Historic Petersburg

# *37th Annual Christmas Tour*

**December 13 and 14, 2014 • 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc. will present its **37th Annual Christmas Tour** on **December 13 and 14** from 3 – 7 p.m. Tour historic properties decorated for the holiday season and enjoy refreshments at locations each day. **Tickets \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.** **Check back here and on our Facebook page for more information as the date nears.**

### Among the properties featured on the tour are:

131 Franklin Street  
138 Liberty Street  
22 Marshall Street  
Historic Farmer's Bank  
435 W. Washington Street  
Gillfield Baptist Church  
Tabb Street Presbyterian Church  
Second Presbyterian Church  
McCray's Shoppe at Old Towne  
521 W. Washington Street  
Mayfield – 3348 W. Washington Street  
Petersburg Public Library  
Petersburg Area Art League  
406 N. Market Street



Photos courtesy of  
John A. Rooney, Jr.



# President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

purpose of enlisting new young members to carry out our good works. Her formal education in historic preservation will help attract good folks who share our penchant for restoration of lovely properties in our neighborhoods. Welcome, Megan! Thanks to Councilman Ken Pritchett and Preservation Virginia Executive Louis Malon for helping with the membership presentation at Haw Branch.

Thanks to all three Daves for their very hard work, loyalty, and making things happen!

Thanks also to Bob Kennedy who is completing a more than year-long development of a series of 26 articles that are the basis of Professor Dan Roberts' "Moment in Time" pieces heard on public radio. The most recent articles have focused on Blandford Cemetery, Farmers' Bank, St. Paul's Church, and Hastings Courthouse and will conclude with Native American topics. These broadcasts will continue for another year and will be accessible on the PreservationPetersburg.org website in the near future! Part of the Peter Jones Trading Station Initiative, these are elements are an ongoing "branding" effort to further drive interest in Petersburg's rich history and related tourism.

## **Now for the giving --**

By way of summation, we have sold and delivered four real estate holdings in 2014; a profitable bus tour just concluded; we collected \$2000 from the owner of 109 S. Market St.; we have established a Young Patron membership category; we have recruited new members like Mr. Louis Malon of Preservation Virginia; we have several new enthusiastic Board Members like Ms. Kathleen Morgan, Preservation Planner for Petersburg, and Board Members RoxzAnne Meisner and Kay Freeman are busy putting together the Historic Petersburg Christmas Tour with Ms. Martha Mann Atkinson stepping up to be the "Director of Docents" for 13 and 14 December, and Mr. Dean McCray -- soon to announce super plans for fun-raising activities!

HPF is rolling, so please give us your help to make Petersburg "like it ought to be."

Thanks for your support.

## **D. Eugene Atkinson**

President, Historic Petersburg Foundation  
861-1001

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## Donation from Past HPF President, Robert C. White

### REFERENCE/LENDING PRESERVATION/HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY

Past HPF President, Robert C. White donated two bookcases and books from his personal collection on architecture to HPF to be used by visitors/friends/members of HPF. The collection includes books on Historic Buildings & Architecture, Interior, Coffee Table, Construction, Technical books as well as Traditional and new How to Trade Books and Magazines.

Several years back we talked about having a reference and/or lending preservation/historic architecture library for members and folks who come to town to renovate for the first time.

We'd like to thank Rob for his generous donation.

## Cleanup at Historic Peter Jones Trading Station is Progressing Beautifully

**Historic Petersburg Foundation**, working with the **City of Petersburg** and **Councilman Ken Pritchett**, continues to improve the long-ignored open space surrounding the preserved, 300-year-old **Peter Jones Trading Station**. This historic structure, dating to the late 1600s, is the focal point of the Historic Petersburg Foundation's outstanding work to preserve the remarkable architectural legacy of Petersburg. Although the Foundation has invested over a \$120,000 to preserve the ruins of the Peter Jones Trading Station, located at North Market Street and Grove Avenue, the abutting open space still is littered with the building debris from structures that burned in the 1980s. This past weekend, as part of an ongoing effort to clean up and beautify the surrounding public space, a number of local businesses and private citizens again stepped up – at no cost to the Foundation or the City – to clean up another 50 cubic yards of rubble along with other litter and dumping in the vicinity of the Trading Station, and to stabilize, landscape, hay and seed, and beautify the adjacent slopes and paths.

**Cruiser's Collision and Restoration** of Petersburg and **Shumate Automotive** in Colonial Heights took the lead in obtaining heavy equipment, fuel, time and manpower to remove trash, address the building rubble of the Ritchie Seed and Feed which is scattered across the land near the Peter Jones Trading Station, and to stabilize the surrounding slopes – and all at their own expense of many thousands of dollars. Landscape materials, including slope stabilization matting, hay and seed were provided by **Bruce Adwell** of Rockville, Virginia. **The Bistro at Market and Grove**, courtesy of **Chef Russ Johnson**, kept the volunteer work crew well fed and happy.

Notably, these businesses and private citizens committed that if any objects of historic note, such as Civil War ordnance from the siege of Petersburg, are located they will be given to the Foundation and the City for teaching future generations. For example, during Phase Two of this cleanup, cut stone likely associated with the Station were recovered. The Foundation's goal is to be able to use the romantic and historic ruins for tourism and as a site for special events such as weddings, educational field trips, concerts and guest speakers. The efforts by these citizens and local businesses to improve this open space will continue to foster such events and encourage everyday visitors by making the surroundings more attractive.

This weekend's work was the second phase of an ongoing effort this year because the cleanup and landscaping project is a major undertaking and, as important, is entirely a volunteer effort. These businesses (Cruiser's Collision and Restoration, and Shumate Automotive) are committed to the economic well-being of Petersburg and passionate about the history of this vibrant community. **Councilman Ken Pritchett**, the **City of Petersburg** (courtesy of the leadership of **City Manager William E. Johnson, III** and **Director of Public Works Steven W. Hicks**) and the **Historic Petersburg Foundation** (under the stewardship of **President D. Eugene Atkinson**) are to be thanked for their efforts to improve the City and their strong support of this significant community clean up and beautification project.

# Historic Petersburg FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 691  
Petersburg, Virginia 23804

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Historic Petersburg*  
FOUNDATION

## Contact Us

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 Like us on Facebook

**To inquire about Historic HPF Properties,  
please contact Jeff Clark at (804) 586-9694.**

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## Board Meetings

Every fourth Monday at the new Petersburg  
Public Library

## Social Media Campaign

Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc. has begun  
a social media campaign for Preservation Petersburg, Inc.

The website URL is [preservationpetersburg.org](http://preservationpetersburg.org)  
and the Facebook page URL is

[www.facebook.com/preservationpetersburg](http://www.facebook.com/preservationpetersburg)

## Have You Renewed Your Membership Yet?

May was membership renewal month. If you haven't renewed  
yet, please send in your check or renew online soon!

Members receive quarterly newsletters, annual reports, invitations  
to educational and social events and opportunities to volunteer  
for a worthwhile cause. As a member, you will be helping us  
accomplish our mission by ensuring that future generations can  
see, touch and experience Petersburg's history first hand.

### Membership Categories:

\$250 Patron / Corporate  
\$500 Benefactor  
\$35 Active Military  
\$50 Regular  
\$100 Sponsor