



Diamond Hill News

Published by the Diamond Hill Historical Society, Lynchburg, VA

March 2010

www.diamondhill.org

Vol. 32, No. 3



Robert Glover Robertson

1307 Clay Street was built for Robert Glover Robertson and his wife Frances Shephard Perrow in 1898 two years after their marriage. The house was in easy walking distance of their Perrow kin living at 507 Thirteenth Street.

During his lifetime Robert was recognized in the industry of drawing and handling leaf tobacco as one of the most prominent figures in Virginia, and, indeed the entire South. Many men in the business say that he handled more leaf tobacco than any other individual in the state. His knowledge of growing, curing and storing tobacco ran back to a time within his boyhood recollection.

Among the many business interests directed by Mr. Robertson, perhaps the most prominent was the Lynchburg Tobacco Warehouse Company of which he was president from the time he organized it in 1910. The company had four warehouses, the Booker, the Pace, the Farmers and the Planters. He was also president of the Lynchburg Implement Company and was secretary of the Perrow-Evans Hardware Company.

Robert Robertson was born on this father's tobacco plantation in Appomattox County, January 1, 1862. One of eleven children, he was the son of Dr. David Pharr and Mary Ann (Glover) Robertson, both natives of Appomattox



Frances S. Perrow Robertson

County, where they lived and died. His father was a graduate of the New York Medical College, and for many years had an extensive county practice at Spout Spring. During the War Between the States the government assigned him to home duty as a physician. He also conducted a large tobacco plantation, making a specialty of the Dark shipping tobacco.

Robert, the youngest son, was educated at Union Academy and completed a course at Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York, by the age of twenty. In the meantime he performed some of the work and management in his father's tobacco fields, in the curing steps, and early acquired an expert knowledge of grading. He managed his father's plantation until he was twenty-eight, and his independent start in the tobacco industry was made on a farm given him by his father.

In partnership with D. S. Evans he opened the first warehouse that he erected at Brookneal in Campbell County, and also started a store there. He continued in business there three years and kept his interest at Brookneal for several years after moving to Lynchburg. Mr. Robertson became floor manager for W. S. Fore and Company in their tobacco warehouse. The



Robert and Fannie Robertson

following year he became a partner, and after twelve years bought out the Fore interests and in 1910 organized the Lynchburg Tobacco Warehouse Company. He eventually owned three plantations, the Snapps Mill Place in Appomattox County, the McKinney Place, and an additional five hundred acres he bought from his brother Dr. D. Mott Robertson who died in 1919. He also formerly owned the Riverview Stock Farm, a noted stock and tobacco plantation in Charlotte County.

He was an active president of the Lynchburg Interstate Fair Association and took a special interest in the display of agricultural products. He never lost his love and interest in farming. He was a member of Court Street Methodist Church and was a Mason who belonged to Marshall Lodge. Mr. Robertson died April 4, 1930.

In 1896, Mr. Robertson married Frances Shepherd. Perrow, daughter of A. D. Perrow, of Campbell County. Fannie, as she was known, died January 24, 1946. The couple were the parents of nine children. Today, some of their descendents reside in Lynchburg, among them are the well known artist Anne Adams Robertson Massie, Dr. John Mott Robertson, M. D., and realtor Leighton Robertson.

(Article written by Mary Kathryn McIntosh-adapted from History of Virginia, VOL. 5, Bruce, Alexander pp.132-133. Obituary of Robert Robertson, News and Daily Advance, Lynchburg)

Robertson House (1898)

Kat Becker purchased 1307 Clay Street in October 2009. She was attracted to the location to downtown and the neighborhood. She has had to adjust to some things being closed on Sunday, a situation seldom encountered in northern Virginia where she also has a residence. Kat's parents retired to Smith Mountain Lake and then moved to a rural part of Campbell County which brought her here to tour our historic districts.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Kat is a creative director of web and print for government projects and is able to work much of the time from home. When not working, she is an outdoor enthusiast who frequently hikes the area. Kat is looking forward to working on her new house. Her first priority is the porch. We wish her the best in home ownership on Diamond Hill.

Spring Yard Maintenance

Get the landscaping season off on the right foot with these spring yard maintenance tips. Bring your "spring cleaning" spirit outdoors and clean old mulch off perennial beds, lest they be smothered. Apply compost to beds and get new compost piles going. Make sure rototillers are prepared for tilling gardens.

Part of spring yard maintenance entails caring for your lawn and readying your mower for the long mowing season ahead. While you shouldn't neglect these chores, you can take solace in the fact that spring yard maintenance doesn't require nearly as much time as mowing does during the summer.

Sodding as one option for installing new lawns, while seeding is another. As with sodding, early spring is an excellent time for seeding lawns.

When cool-season grasses take a beating from the summer's heat, overseeding lawns is the answer to rejuvenate them. Overseeding lawns is best done in September for cool-season grasses, but early spring is your second-best choice.

Is it time for a new lawn? Is it embarrassing to refer to the current patch of weeds you have as your "lawn?" Laying sod is a great alternative to sowing seed for those who want an "instant lawn." Laying sod to start new lawns begins with soil preparation and ends with watering properly.

Spring is in the air!

All of this activity is part of the annual spring ritual we go through and stirs anticipation within us of what is yet to come.

Warning:

Frost and hard freezes are still with us, so we have to be careful on what yard and garden work we choose to do now.

Tips To Remember:

1. Raking lawns, should be done when the soil surface is not mushy but is somewhat dry.
2. Remove any disease-infected leaves and old debris from lawn, before lawn becomes too active.
3. Remove any protective tree wrapping that was put on last fall.
4. Perennials, tulips, daffodils and other emerging spring plants should be uncovered immediately. (Even temperatures dipping into the 20s at night will not hurt these plants)
5. Watch for deer, many deer repellants are available. (The trick is to apply the repellents before you see the damage)
6. Pruning of summer blooming shrubs and hedges can take place now.
7. Save early blooming spring shrubs like forsythia, lilac and rhododendrons for pruning immediately after they are done flowering.
8. As soon as soil is dry, enough to work and is no longer sticky, you can get a jump on your gardening.
9. Add composted leaves or manure, some peat moss or rice hulls to garden. (Goal is to dress about one to two inches of combination of organic ingredients and then mix them)

*Enjoy spring and
Happy gardening to all!*

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Published Sept. through May by
Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.
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Director 09-10: James J Carrington
Director 10-11: Patrick Gatti
Director 10-11: L. Robert Halpin

Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August. Owners of properties in the Diamond Hill Historic District and others interested in supporting historic preservation are welcome to attend.

Membership

Annual dues for Active Members are \$10.00 per person and the initiation fee is \$5.00 (first year). Active Membership is limited to adult members of households owning Diamond Hill property. Annual dues for Associate Members are \$10 per person (no initiation fee). All members receive this newsletter at no charge. Newsletter subscriptions for non-members are \$5.00 per year.

Publisher's Statement

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHHS) is a nonprofit historic preservation organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage—through the fostering of education, research and restoration—the historical and architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill Historic District. DHHS was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia February 22, 1979. Views expressed in the *Diamond Hill News* do not necessarily reflect the position of DHHS or its officers and directors.



**SPRING
HAS
SPRUNG!**

A History of Grace Memorial Episcopal Church and founding Pastor Rev. William H. Kinckle

On the 28th of January, 1859, at the request of Mr. Kinckle, a meeting was held of the Diamond Hill members of St Paul's to take the initiatory steps for building an Episcopal church in that part of town, and for a proper division of the congregation to that end. A lot was purchased, and under the energetic efforts of Mr. Kinckle the church was erected during the year 1860. But the war came on before the interior was finished. It was for four years appropriated as a hospital, and was at the conclusion of the war in an almost ruinous condition. In 1865, Mr. Kinckle raised the requisite money for its restoration and completion. It was formally opened by him on April 1st, 1866, and he held stated services until his death the next year.

Between the hours of one and two Saturday morning, March 2, 1867, the Rev. W.H. Kinckle, rector of St. Paul's church, died at his home, corner Seventh and Clay streets. His health has been impaired by exposure during the severe winter weather while on missions of mercy. On one of the severest days in January, during the deep snow, he walked seven miles into the country to preach a funeral, and here laid the foundation of the disease, pneumonia, of which he died. Mr. Kinckle had been rector of St. Paul's twenty years, and during that time had built two new churches, St. Paul's and Grace. He was preeminently a man of good works and godly life. He was often seen night and day burdened with fuel and provisions for the poor. One night a policeman saw two men trudging through the snow with a lot of wood. Thinking they were thieves he went to arrest them, when to his surprise it proved to be Mr. Kinckle, with his son Frank, carrying wood to some needy person. His charities were broad a few know the extent of his benefactions. As a preacher he was earnest and impressive, and as a pastor, devoted to his flock. He was genial, warm-hearted and noble, always ready with a pleasant word or a kind act, and withal a devout Christian. His funeral was from St. Paul's church, March 4, and the admiration and love for him was attested by the great crowd that attended. His re-

mains were borne to Spring Hill cemetery, and by loving hands placed in the tomb. His funeral sermon was preached by Bishop Johns, Sunday, the 31st, and in honor of his memory all the other churches closed. Rev. W. H. Williams took charge of Grace Memorial, so called on account of a memorial window to Rev. W.H. Kinckle. Later in 1867, the church was placed in charge of Rev. James Grammer and soon thereafter became a separate congregation. The church was renamed Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in his honor, for his selfless service to the poor during the war. A new and larger church was built in 1902 and remained until 1926, at which time Grace merged with St. Paul's for a brief time. Work to reestablish Grace Memorial in Fort Hill began immediately. The new church was designed by Preston Craighill and the cornerstone was laid on May 15, 1928, upon which site the church stands today.

On September 20, parishioners celebrated the 150th anniversary of Grace Memorial. The liturgy was Holy Communion conducted according to the 1871 edition of the 1789 Book of Common Prayer.

The highlight of the day was the presence of the youth and adults who dressed in clothing from different eras and provided history tours in the afternoon.

(This article was adapted from different sources.)



**Happy
St. Patrick's Day**

Apologies from the Editor:

The February newsletter listed Katheryn M Brown as DHHS president and vice-president.

Please find below a corrected list of 2010 Officers & Directors elected

Our thanks to the following officers and directors who will be serving our organization this year:

- ◆ President: Katheryn M Brown
- ◆ Vice-President: Mark Little
- ◆ Recording Secretary:
Mari White Smallshaw
- ◆ Membership Secretary:
Mary Kathryn McIntosh
- ◆ Treasurer: Jean Hannon
- ◆ Historian: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Director 2009-10: James J Carrington
- ◆ Director 2009-10: Josiani S. Alvarenga
- ◆ Director 2010-11: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Director 2010-11: Patrick Gatti



DHHS Fundraising Questionnaire

The Fundraising Questionnaire as endorsed by the DHHS Board of Directors asks that you complete the enclosed questionnaire and either send it back to Katheryn Brown (email or USPS-601 Pearl St.) or bring it to the March meeting. This questionnaire is important as it could well impact the current activities regarding DHHS fundraising. Thank you for your input!

Newsletter articles and mailing list corrections

If you have some news you think our members would find interesting, please send it to:

diamondhill_news@yahoo.com

Mailing list corrections should also be sent to the same e-mail address.

Snow Mold

Snow Mold lawn disease can infect most all types of grasses that must endure a period of freezing temperatures and snow cover. It is often the first disease of the year and may cause your lawn to have an unsightly appearance, especially after the snow melts. Snow Mold can even develop without snow cover. If it is cool, rainy, and overcast, then the disease can become active and affect the lawn.

There are two types of Snow Mold. One is Gray Snow Mold or Typhula Blight, and the other is Pink Snow Mold or Microdochium Patch. They have similar visual symptoms, but each affects the lawn in a different way. The control of either lawn disease may require a combination of methods. In severe, recurring cases, a combination of chemical, cultural, and biological controls may be required. In less severe cases, a light raking of the affected area may be the best answer.

Controlling either of the grass diseases is easy if the infection is not severe. A light raking of the matted area will loosen the grass and allow the new plants to grow. Be sure to rake lightly, as the ground is usually very wet and the existing grass can be easily raked up. In severe infestation, raking is also recommended, but on a larger scale. It is not advisable to use a power rake as it may also damage the existing grass.

Preventive maintenance before lawn repair is needed is usually the best answer when dealing with most diseases. This is

true for Snow Mold. Follow a balanced fertilization program that provides the necessary nutrients at the appropriate times of year. Thatch management is another important key in Snow Mold prevention. Practice core aeration of your lawn at least once a year to keep thatch levels below 1/2". Another important factor is mowing the grass short before winter. Cut the lawn to 1-1/2 to 2" at the last mowing. This should be a gradual process and not a one-time exercise. Lower the height a notch a week until the mower is set at 1-1/2 to 2". This will prevent the turf from laying over on itself, increasing the chance of Snow Mold.

If you do have an outbreak of Snow Mold, it is a good idea to reduce any piles of snow that may remain, especially in shady areas. The longer the snow remains the more moisture and cool temperatures are present. Applying a chemical disease control material to grass already damaged by Snow Mold will do little to change the severity or need for lawn renovation. Most of the chemical controls should be applied in the late fall as a preventative treatment. Contact your local county extension service for the products recommended for your area.



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

Jones Memorial Library March 17, 2010

"The History of Locally Owned Businesses"

*by Representatives of Five
Locally Owned Businesses*

Bert Dodson, for Dodson Bros. Exterminating Co, Ebo Fauber for Fauber Architecture, Mike Baer, for Baer & Sons Memorials, Hal Craddock, for Craddock-Terry Shoe Co.) & Ted Delaney for Diuguid Funeral Home) will continue a program given in October 2008. Representatives of five more Lynchburg locally owned businesses will make a brief presentation about the history of the company and answer questions from the audience. Invite a friend to come and join in reminiscing about days gone by.

Mar. Meeting

**Tues., Mar. 2
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Tyree-Slaughter House
(c.1856)
1401 Harrison St**

Hosts: Josie and Jon Alvarenga

