



# *Diamond Hill News*

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## **Mark Little and Todd Leap Win LHF Merit Award**

At the Lynchburg Historical Foundation's Annual Meeting on January 10, 2013, Mark Little and Todd Leap received the LHF Merit Award in recognition of their extensive restorative work on their home at 618 Pearl Street – The Blackford House. Joe Seiffert, Chairman of the LHF Awards Committee read the following brief history of the house as part of the awards ceremony:



“A Greek Revival house, it was bought by Charles M. Blackford for his bride in 1856. In her 1894 Memoir, Mrs. Blackford recalled that the house ‘has been vastly improved, indeed it has been practically rebuilt since we moved into it, but we enjoyed it as much then and thought it as perfect and as comfortable as we do now.’ Few of the changes, however, affected the original façade. As it was a home of one of the city’s most prominent families, the house witnessed many stirring scenes during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. In 1894, Susan Blackford, who had lived there thirty-eight years wrote, ‘Few people live as long and as happily in one residence.’ General Robert E. Lee was a guest in the house while attending the Protestant Episcopal Council as a delegate. In 1931, the house was sold and the contents auctioned, and eventually the building displayed as much as any of its neighbors the ravages of what has come to be termed ‘urban blight.’ In 1976 there were seven apartments within the house. As we can see this home has been carefully restored.”

We extend our congratulations to Mark and Todd for their extraordinary contribution to the architectural history of Diamond Hill and to the City of Lynchburg. Well done.



## Waging War at the Museum

Have you been to the Lynchburg Museum lately? If not, you still have until May 5th to experience a great exhibit, “An American Turning Point, The Civil War in Virginia.” The exhibit features over 200 significant artifacts and state-of-the-art interactive audiovisual programs. In Waging War, visitors are asked to explore why the Civil War was the first modern war, what was the deadliest enemy, should black men be asked to fight for the North or South, and did the war really end at Appomattox?

Since the Civil War initiated vast changes in technology and invention, the exhibit explores the use of balloons, railroads, and communication devices. Visitors are challenged to text on their cell phones to see if they are as fast as a telegrapher, who sent the message in 54 seconds that President Lincoln had been shot. Also included is an exhibit on James Hanger, one of the first amputees of the Civil War and founder of a company that still produces prosthetic limbs today.

One major exhibit element is the battlefield scene where visitors experience a 3D setting complete with sound effects. Artifacts include items recovered from the USS Monitor shipwreck, a pocket watch owned by General Stonewall Jackson, maps, photographs, JEB Stuart’s revolver, and an octant, (a navigation device) used on the CSS Virginia. Also on display are weapons that show the evolution of firearms, original art depicting the battle between the Monitor and Virginia, the well-known portrait of General Jubal Early and a compass used by Confederate cartographer Jedediah Hotchkiss who mapped the Shenandoah Valley.

Visitors will also learn about the “Angel of Marye’s Heights,” who carried water to wounded Union troops between the lines at the Battle of Fredericksburg. And Siah Carter, a slave at Shirley Plantation on the James River, who rowed to a Union gunboat to gain his freedom and then serve in the U.S. Navy on the USS Monitor.

## Diamond Hill News

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<i>Director 12-13:</i>	Fran Briley

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<i>Tours:</i>	Ray Pulliam
<i>Website:</i>	Mari Smallshaw
<i>Newsletter:</i>	Kathryn Becker Jeff Schneider
<i>Neighborhood Watch:</i>	L. Robert Halpin
<i>Children’s Activities:</i>	Mari Smallshaw
<i>Auditor:</i>	Todd Leap
<i>Endowment Fund:</i>	Jim Carrington
<i>Remembrance Committee:</i>	Ray Pulliam
<i>Parliamentarian:</i>	Pat Gatti

Any updates to the above committee’s chairpersons will be published in further releases.

### Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November. 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.





## Late Season Snowfall

The late snowfall pushed spring back a couple more days and extend what has been a very cold March. According to weather records, last March was a higher-than-normal average temperature of over 56 degrees while this March came in cool, if not downright cold at about 41 degrees. But the snow that fell March 25th was truly beautiful and it didn't disrupt traffic too much. Plus the kids got one last snow-day and we all got one last opportunity to shovel the walks!



## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny arrived on Diamond Hill on Saturday, March 30th. In spite of the snowfall the previous Monday, the day turned out to be a clear, sunny and comfortable for the Annual Diamond Hill Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn at the corner of Harrison and Washington Streets.

By 10:30 the crowd had gathered, showing great anticipation for the hunt to begin. When given the word, the children, by age groups, sprung into the yard, searching amongst the plants, flowers, trees and tall grass for the brightly colored eggs that had been carefully hidden by the elusive and magical Bunny. As the children dashed into the yard, the empty baskets were quickly filled with lots of eggs and smiles abounded. After the yard was cleared of the sweetly filled eggs, everyone shared some specially prepared treats and refreshments.

Special thanks goes to our children's activities chairperson, Mari Smallshaw, for once again coordinating this great event. And thanks to all of you who contributed your time and the sweet treats to give our neighborhood children so much joy.



## Spring Clean!

Seventeen volunteers of all ages from the Diamond Hill neighborhood joined forces for the Spring Cleanup on April 13th. These energetic volunteers picked up trash; pulled weeds; worked on the Serpentine Walkway, around the Grace Street Urn, and up Grace to Washington Street to make the neighborhood shine. DHHS members and neighbors took advantage of the city-provided dumpster. Many thanks to Lou Kibby for getting this organized and all those residents for giving their time, and use of their trucks to get the "trash" to the dumpster.

## Events Around Town

### Lynchburg Historical Foundation

#### **Corks & Forks Annual Wine Event**

May 4, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Miller Claytor House

Members: \$35.00

Non-members: \$45.00

RSVP by Friday, April 26th

Tickets available at the LHF office  
or at [lynchburgtickets.com](http://lynchburgtickets.com)

#### **Workshop: The Water Bearer Statute, What Happened?**

By Ken Faraoni, Local Sculptor

May 18, 10:00 a.m.

Point of Honor Carriage House  
Meeting Room

Members: Free, Non-members: \$10

Limited seating

please RSVP @ 525-5353

### City Cemetery

#### **18th Annual Antique Rose Festival**

May 4, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Heirloom rose sale begins Friday,

May 3; special Mother's Day Rose

Walk Sunday, May 12

[www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org)

### Jones Memorial Library

#### **Quietas Castra: A Short History**

By Ted Craddock

May 15, 5:00 p.m.

For more details call 846-0501

### General Events

#### **James River Batteau Festival**

The Lynchburg Launch

June 15th

9:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Batteau Launch at 11:00

Venders, demonstrations,  
educational opportunities and kids'  
activities

#### **First Fridays**

First Fridays continues with even  
more downtown Galleries open on  
the First Friday of the month

Hours: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE

(434) 528-3950

[www.downtownlynchburg.com](http://www.downtownlynchburg.com)

#### **Friday Cheers**

Cheers returns on May 17

Details: [downtownlynchburg.com/  
events/fridaycheers.html](http://downtownlynchburg.com/events/fridaycheers.html)

## June Social scheduled

Mark your calendars for June 8 at 6 p.m. for our Annual June Social. This year the Social will be held at the home of Rad and Fran Briley, 416 Washington Street. Invitations will be mailed during May to all members in good standing. There will be a sign up sheet at the May meeting for food and tasks. On behalf of our entire DHHS membership, we would like to thank the Brileys in advance for hosting this special event.

### Next Meeting

**Tue., May. 2nd  
7:30 pm.**

at the Christian House  
(c. 1902)  
409 Washington St.

Hosts: Mari and Steve  
Smallshaw

