

## Note From Our President . . .

Dear friends, supporters, and fellow members,

First and foremost, AHA would like to thank each of you for your support throughout 2021. It was a busy year for us, and we are grateful to our friends and neighbors for your steadfast engagement on issues concerning the Village of Aldie and its surrounding area. As they say, it takes a village.

In this report, you'll see updates on some of our accomplishments and challenges in 2021, including our continued advocacy regarding the Aldie Assemblage, our work to restore the historic brick wall along Route 50, and our participation in an effort to install traffic calming measures in Aldie Village. I would add to those that we remain dedicated to supporting the Aldie community. We participate in cleanup days at Mt. Zion Cemetery, and give a Good Citizen Award every year to a deserving student from each grade in Aldie Elementary. We continue to participate in the Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study. We partner with other preservation organizations and historic villages on matters of common interest, and we work diligently to be as proactive as possible when issues arise that have an impact on our Village.

All of that being said, I want to take a moment to reflect on why it is that we do all of this. What is it about this place—Aldie Village, rural Loudoun—that drives each of us to volunteer our time and work so hard to maintain Aldie's small-town charm, and historic character, integrity, and fabric for ourselves and for future generations? I can't answer this question for everyone. But for me, this is personal. The Village of Aldie is my home. I chose it, and I continue to choose it every day. And having connections all around the state of Virginia, I see just how special, unique, and absolutely irreplaceable Aldie is. It is a testament to centuries of Virginia's history, a symbol of Virginia's natural beauty, a piece of Virginia's industrial past, and an accessible haven for those who want to explore the Virginia Piedmont. It is a continuation of a village way of life that is worth preserving. There is no place on Earth quite like the Village of Aldie, and I am committed, as I know you are, to ensuring its bright and vibrant future.

I am proud of the work AHA has done over the last several months, and as an organization, we are eager to see what fresh opportunities 2022 will bring. In the meantime, and always, we welcome input and engagement from our Aldie community. Volunteering, donations, and membership are so important for our organization, and we'd like once again to thank everyone who has supported us throughout 2021. We encourage you to get involved, and look forward to working together in 2022!

Most sincerely,

Katie Johnson, President

### **2021 Aldie Heritage Association Board of Directors**

Katie Johnson, President; Guy Gerachis, Vice President; Matt Kukis, Treasurer; Wendy Kirwan, Secretary

#### **Directors**

Graham Campbell, Bill Carney, Cade Clark, Malcolm Collum, Gene Gulland, Cheryl Hutchison,  
Marla McIntyre, Cliff Sweatte and Laura Tekrony

# Aldie Assemblage Update

AHA continues to advocate for an appropriate solution for the Aldie Assemblage. After negotiations between the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and Guy Gerachis over the sale of the Aldie Assemblage fell through in November, the Piedmont Environmental Council stepped forward with a matching offer on December 7th.

AHA fully supports this purchase offer.

It is our understanding that PEC intends to restore the Tavern to historic district code, and will work with the Aldie community and preservation partners to determine the best use for each of the Assemblage parcels. We firmly believe that the PEC's ownership of the Aldie Assemblage will guarantee that these historic properties will be preserved, that the historic fabric of the village will be protected, and that it will remove the threat of inappropriate development on this historically and environmentally sensitive site.

PEC has proven time and again that they are committed to the preservation and conservation of Loudoun County's important natural and historic resources, including in their work at Roundabout Meadows east of the Village of Aldie. Their purchase offer for the Aldie Assemblage provides a positive solution that will finally relieve the County of any further obligation for these properties, and will at long last close this difficult chapter for both the County and the Aldie community.

AHA is excited to work with them to ensure a bright, vibrant future for the Aldie Assemblage.

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## AHA Awarded Grant to Restore Historic Wall

At a ceremony in September of 2021, the Loudoun Preservation Society awarded the Evelyn Johnson Memorial Grant of \$2500 to AHA to help restore the historic brick wall along Route 50 near the Mercer House. In the years leading up to this award, AHA did extensive research on this wall, tracing its history back to the beginnings of the Village, and helped to preserve bricks from a portion of it that could not be saved. We hope to see restoration work completed on the remaining portion of the wall—about 65 feet—by spring or summer of 2022.

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## Traffic Calming in the Village

In the summer of 2020, Supervisor Buffington's office approached AHA President Katie Johnson regarding possible traffic calming measures on Route 50 through the Village after hearing from a concerned Aldie resident. Following a speed study, which determined that there was a significant speeding issue on this section of Route 50, and in conjunction with County staff, VDOT, LCSO, and our neighbors, AHA worked to see new measures installed throughout the Village to mitigate speeding and improve safety. In 2021, four pole-mounted speed display signs were placed facing both east and west, which both notify drivers of their speed and collect speeding data. An additional automatic \$200 fine was also approved for speeding violations in the Village.

### *Did You Know . . .*

Aldie precinct voted 54-5 to stay in the Union on May 23, 1861, one of only two Loudoun precincts to vote that way. Miller John Moore voted to stay in the Union, but his son Alexander voted to secede and join the Confederacy.



The Aldie Elementary 2020-2021 5th Grade Class worked with AHA in sponsoring the Little Library in the Village.

## Aldie Elementary and The Little Free Library!

The Village of Aldie now has a Little Free Library! AHA was proud and honored to support Mrs. Lerch's Aldie Elementary class in this effort. Located at the playground behind Aldie United Methodist Church, it's stocked with children's books—take one, leave one, and fill your spring and summer (and beyond) with stories! AHA would like to thank the students in Mrs. Lerch's class for leading this effort, and Aldie United Methodist Church for providing the perfect location.

Looking ahead to 2022, now that COVID restrictions are easing at the school, AHA hopes to resume volunteering and fundraising when needed to help support the wonderful Aldie Elementary teachers and students! We hope to work also with the Aldie Elementary PTSA in raising funds for educational software and a possible running track around the school!

## Cash Flow - 2021 01/01/2021-12/31/2021

### Category

#### INFLOWS

Aldie High School Reunion	\$0.00
Road Rally	\$0.00
<b>Membership / Donation</b>	<b>\$1,435.00</b>
Checks	\$1,045.00
Cash	\$40.00
PayPal Received	\$350.00
Interest Earned	\$7.24
PayPal Withdrawal to Checking	\$765.12
Refunds / Adjustments	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$1,817.36</b>
<b>CASH ON HAND (ORNAMENT SALES)</b>	<b>\$205.00</b>

#### OUTFLOWS

<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
AHA D&O Insurance	\$685.00
PO Box	\$150.00
Postage	\$19.05
Virginia Registration	\$35.00
Website	\$248.68
<b>TOTAL Administrative</b>	<b>\$1,137.73</b>

#### Events & Fundraising

Aldie Harvest Festival	\$0.00
Aldie School Reunion	\$0.00
Road Rally	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL Events &amp; Fundraising</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

#### Annual Meeting

Printing	\$0.00
Refreshments	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL AHA Annual Meeting</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

#### Sponsorship & Improvements

Biz Buzz (MBPA)	\$150.00
Aldie PTA / Plaque	\$51.17
Protect Mt. Zion	\$155.86
NOVA Parks	\$400.00
LHVA	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL Marketing and Promotions</b>	<b>\$957.03</b>

#### Donations & Awards

Aldie Good Citizen	\$150.00
<b>TOTAL Donations &amp; Awards</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

**TOTAL OUTFLOWS** **\$2,244.76**

<b>Starting Balance (01 JAN 2021)</b>	<b>\$72,645.56</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$1,817.36</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$2,244.76</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$427.40</b>
<b>Ending Balance (31 DEC 2021)</b>	<b>\$72,218.16</b>

#### PayPal Transactions

	Inflow	Outflow
Received	\$395.00	\$0.00
Fees Paid	\$0.00	\$11.09
Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Refunded Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Withdrawals	\$0.00	\$765.12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$395.00</b>	<b>\$776.21</b>
<b>Starting Balance (01 JAN 2021)</b>		<b>\$429.61</b>
<b>Ending Balance (31 DEC 2021)</b>		<b>\$48.60</b>

## Want to Become a Member of AHA?

The mission of the Aldie Heritage Association is to promote the history, character and heritage of Aldie, VA and the area surrounding the 200 year-old-Village. If you would like to help us in our mission, please become a member or volunteer!

Just go to [www.aldieheritage.com](http://www.aldieheritage.com) and click the "Join" link!

# Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion, Mt. Defiance & Goose Creek Bridge Historic Parks Gilbert's Corner Regional Park, NOVA PARKS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

I think it's safe to say we have made it out on the other side of Covid! Aldie Mill was busy last year with visitors, despite not operating much of the time due to low water. The busiest time seemed to be the month of December, normally quiet at the mill, when miller Mike Devine ground grain to be used in nearby Mt. Defiance Distillery's upcoming "Aldie Mill Edition" of their Old Volstead's Whiskey! Release date is to be determined but stay tuned!

The Aldie Heritage Association continued to sponsor our annual Spirited History Whiskey Dinner, a continued successful fundraiser for the Mill's education programs. Our September 2021 whiskey dinner was held outside on the mill patio, and raised nearly \$2,150, thanks in part to AHA's sponsorship.

School programs were non-existent throughout Covid, although we did have students make use of our on-line virtual tours. The current school year will remain quiet, but hopefully by next year, students and teachers will return.

We opened Mt. Zion Church on the fourth Sundays of the month last year and hosted one public program. Guided tours of Mt. Defiance Historic Park, site of the June 19, 1863 cavalry battle of Middleburg, took place each Saturday during the warmer months of 2021. And our busiest NOVA park by far among the five here in the Aldie/Middleburg area was Gilbert's Corner Regional Park, where residents and visitors continued to enjoy the outdoors during the pandemic. New to Gilbert's Corner in late 2021 was our StoryWalk® for children. The StoryWalk® Project is an international movement combining literacy, exercise, nature, and family bonding. These trails with laminated pages from story books posted at intervals are an innovative and fun way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Stop by to read our latest story and watch out in the near future for our Poetry Walk at Gilbert's Corner!

Looking ahead in 2022, Aldie Mill will be opening for the season the weekend of April 9/10, and we hope to be fully operational after repairs currently being done on the metal flume. Mt. Zion Church will open again this year on the fourth Sundays of the month, April through October. Here are some programs and activities you can look forward to in the coming months:

- On-Site with Insight Loudoun History Series taught by Rich Gillespie, on select Thursday evenings beginning on April 7th. For more information and to register, visit [http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity\\_Search/5872](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/5872)
- Scouting Mosby's Rangers: A seven-part series about the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry at Mt. Zion, beginning on April 3rd. For more information and to register, visit [http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity\\_Search/5749](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/5749)
- Afternoon Tea at the Mill returns on June 4th with our Downton Abbey Tea & Program. Details to come.
- Colonel James Monroe returns to Aldie: date to be determined soon.
- Guided Tours of the battlefield at Mt. Defiance, most Saturdays beginning in late April
- Our annual Spirited History Whiskey Dinner—September 10th this year!

As always, NOVA Parks is grateful for the ongoing support of AHA and the continued interest our residents have in all of our parks. Thanks for being such wonderful neighbors!



*The Annual Spirited History Whiskey Dinner at the Mill was a huge success again last year!*

Tracy Gillespie  
NOVA Parks Historic Site Manager