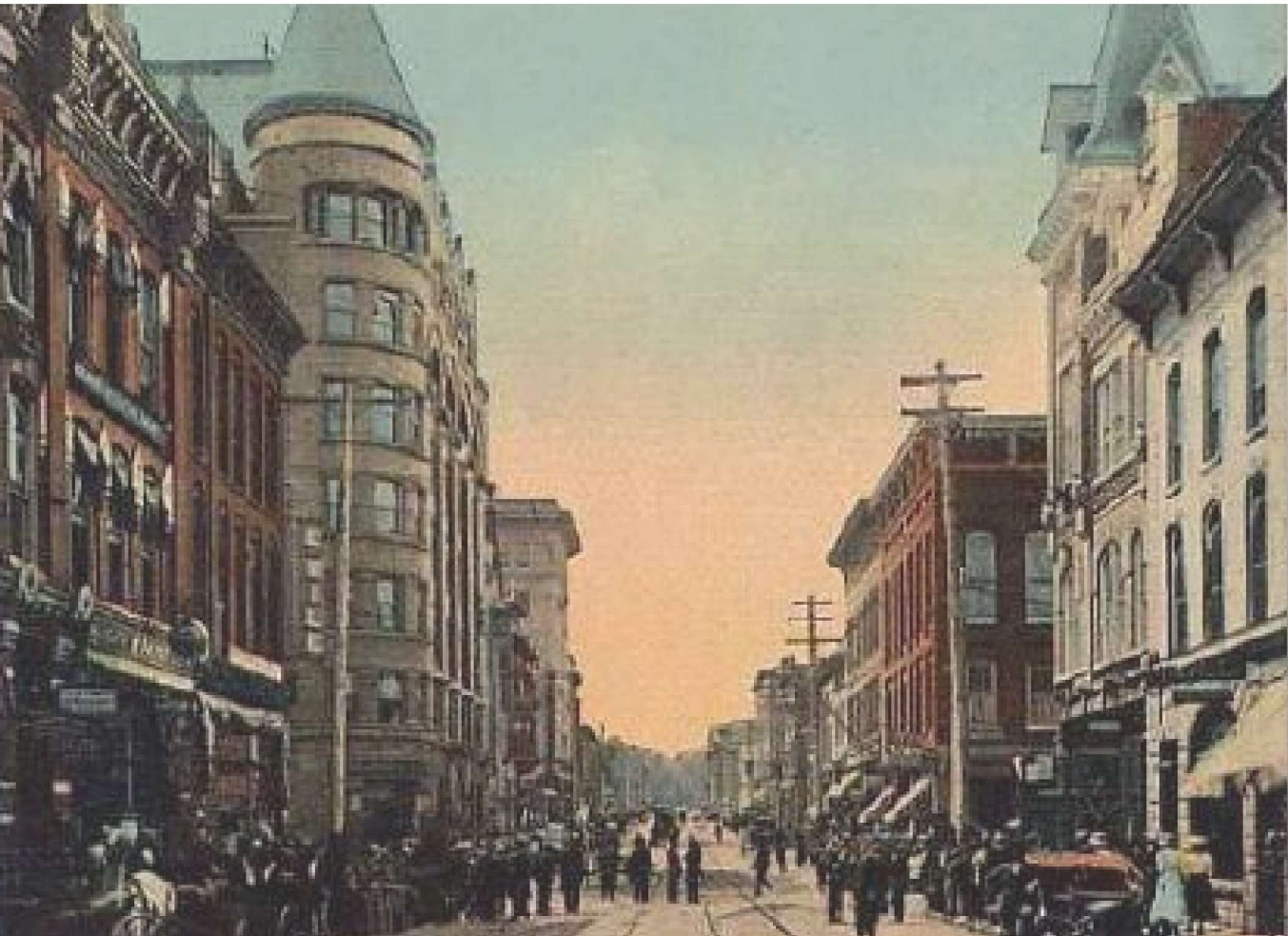


SUMMER 2022

FOCUS ON

PRESERVATION



ROANOKE VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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*Please send RVPF Newsletter submissions to
Whitney Leeson, wleeson@roanoke.edu.*

George Kegley

Founder and Friend

The summer issue of "Focus on Preservation" is dedicated to George Kegley whose contributions to the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation were significant indeed. In recognition for his years of service to RVPF, we renamed our annual awards for preservation in his honor--The George Kegley Preservation Awards. George not only helped establish the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, he remained a most loyal board member over the intervening decades and served multiple terms as chair of both the Endangered Sites Committee and Preservation Awards Committee.

George's love of history was legendary. He helped organize the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, served as director of the Virginia History Federation, worked with the Historical Society of Western Virginia, and edited the *Journal of the Historical Society of Western Virginia*. These are just a few of his many accomplishments in the field of historic preservation. We lost a strong advocate for the past with George's death. As Alison Blanton said to the Roanoke Times: "I kind of feel like it's the passing of an era, because he has been the go-to person for things about history for so long."

We think you will enjoy the following George "shout-outs," or "love notes" as Rupert Cutler termed them, from a few of the many individuals impacted by his presence in our community. We will all miss the depth of his knowledge and the breadth of his compassion and grace.

Farewell George.

“The more you do, the more involved you get with the people you are working with, and the more interested you are.”

George Kegley



Photo Credit: Roanoke College

George Kegley



Photo Credit: Sissy Kegley

Founding member of the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, Inc., George Andrew Kegley of Roanoke, Virginia, passed away in his sleep on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Lewis Gale Hospital after a brief illness.

He lived 93 exceptional years, through his writing for the *Roanoke Times*, historical and church publications, and most importantly, volunteering beyond the norm for so many good causes, touching the lives of far more folks than we will ever know.

After retiring from the *Roanoke Times* as a business editor with 44 years of service, George became one of the community's most active volunteers. In addition to his work with the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, George sat on the Boards of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, the Western Virginia Land Trust, the Rescue Mission, Blue Ridge Literacy Volunteers, and the Catholic Charities & Transitional Living Center; served as editor for the *Journal of the Historical Society* and the *Virginia Lutheran*; and coordinated the summer campership program of the Lutheran Cooperative Ministries. He previously served on the Board and as Secretary of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (now Preservation Virginia), the first statewide preservation organization in the nation.

George resided at Monterey, a Greek Revival home constructed in 1845, which is protected by a historic preservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. It is also the only property in the City of Roanoke protected by a conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (115 acres). George was a native of Wythe County and 1949 graduate of Roanoke College.

As Robert Frost wrote in "After Apple Picking," "But I am done with apple picking now. Essence of winter sleep is on the night, The scent of apples: I am drowsing off." George never knew an apple that wasn't a friend nor worthy of pressing into cider. Many of George's friends and family fondly recall helping him with cider making over the years.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Louise Fowlkes Kegley. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, James Kegley and Fred Kegley of Wytheville.

He is survived by four children, George Andrew "Andy" Kegley (Nan) of Wytheville, Mary Louise Kegley "Sissy" of Roanoke, Robert Kegley (Melissa) of Wytheville, and Richard Kegley (Kristy) of Atlanta; nine grandchildren, Calder Kegley (Megan) of Charlottesville, Grace Kegley of Charlottesville, Reed Kegley of Little Rock, Arkansas, Nathan Guererro (Francesca) of Arlington, Maria Guerrero of Porto, Portugal, Emma Thomas (Gavin) of Philadelphia, Amy Fleming (Scott) of Suffolk, and Katterine and Clara Kegley of Atlanta; seven great-grandchildren, Sawyer and Finley Kegley of Charlottesville, Sara and Hugo Guererro of Arlington, Hazel Louise Thomas of Philadelphia, and Beau and Chase Fleming of Suffolk; nephews, Rick Kegley of Wytheville and Dan Kegley of Chilhowie; niece, Sally Kegley Little of Gate City; and sister-in-law, Nancy Kegley of Wytheville.

Memorials in George's name may be made to Blue Ridge Literacy, Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM House), St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and The Historical Society Western Virginia.

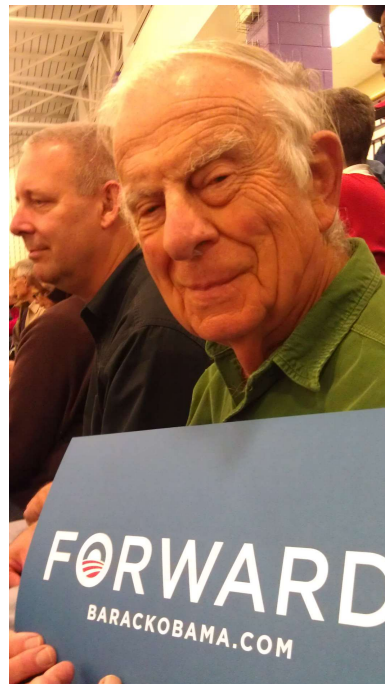


Photo Credit: Sissy Kegley

Remembering George

John Long

I was never around George without learning something interesting. It was in 2007 that I got to carpool with George to some out-of-town meeting or another. I don't recall the purpose of the meeting, but I certainly remember the drive. That year was, of course, the 400th Anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown. George told me about visiting Jamestown in 1957, the 350th, along with his uncle, F. B. Kegley (local historians and genealogists will recognize that name as the author of the epic 1938 tome "Kegley's Virginia Frontier."). On that trip, F. B. described to George his visit to Jamestown in 1907 for Virginia's 300th birthday. And there I was, in the age of satellite dishes and cellphones, transported back in time a full century, basking in the recollections of two groundbreaking historians of our corner of Virginia.

I usually try not to mourn the departure of a friend like George Kegley. Rather, I give thanks that my life coincided in history with his; that I was blessed enough to exist at the same time as he did.

Whitney Feldmann

George Kegley was such a mentor for me for so many years. We both shared a love of history and local history especially. When Mark and I returned to Roanoke in the mid 1970's, George became my fact-checker for Roanoke Valley history. I must admit, he was ALWAYS correct. Last year he answered questions and sent me a packet of information about William Fleming and his gravesite at Monterey that proved invaluable for research for the Nancy Christian Fleming Chapter of the DAR.

I served with George on several boards such as the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy where we often relied on him for the final word on many land conservation issues. Preservation of land was another love that we shared. I admired his practical approach and willingness to put his beautiful property under easement as well as to implement best management practices.

George and I served on the RVPF Board for many years. We worked on numbers of projects together such as the Downtown Walking Tour brochure and the historic plaque committees. In the early 1990's George became Chair of the Endangered Sites Committee, founded by Robert Frantz in the 1990s (as George reminded me this past Nov. at our annual meeting). George also chaired the Preservation Awards Committee. George whipped us in shape every fall and spring to nominate and thoroughly research either endangered or awarded sites. As the current Awards chair, I don't know how he did it with such ease and again was always correct in his knowledge and instincts regarding the nominations. In 2019 we named the annual Kegley Preservation Awards for him.

Finally, I was one of George's greatest fans and it won't be the same without him to guide us on the right path whether in Preservation, Land Trust and so many of his other community interests. I will miss his editor's pen and reporter's nose and his droll and always on point advice. He was a sweetheart.

Bob Clement

Last summer, I reached out to George on behalf of my sister who is doing some genealogical work on our family tree. It seems that my grandmother on the Clement's side was a McClanahan and she discovered that there was a cemetery in Roanoke in which the McClanahan's were buried. She called and asked me if I knew where it was to which I replied I did not. I immediately called George because I knew if anyone would know its location, he would. And sure enough he did.

George graciously suggested that he meet both me and my sister nearby and drove us to the cemetery which is located on a small bluff overlooking the Republic Commercial Container business on one side, Melrose Avenue NW on the one side, and 24th St. on the other. The cemetery was extremely overgrown but I believe George said there were 14 plots there. Upon seeing the site, George was concerned of the state of the cemetery so he ended up asking the sheriffs department if they could maintain it by keeping the weeds and vines cut back last summer which they did. The cemetery is on land owned by Habitat. George was so excited that my sister and I had expressed an interest in this small cemetery that he graciously and without hesitation voluntarily suggested we meet him nearby on an extremely hot summer day so that he could personally take us to its location. Otherwise we would never have found it.

Evie Slone

I will always remember George as one of the most gracious and friendly volunteers that I've worked with or known. He was always willing to serve in so many capacities. He had diverse talents and insight in so many matters! I felt that RVPF was so fortunate to have him as an active board member. Always there. Always willing to help. Always making such a unique and valuable contribution to the organization and the history of the Roanoke Valley.

He was an extraordinary historian with in-depth knowledge of just about any place or person. His mind was a detailed history book filled with information and one of a kind stories. He was a walking encyclopedia! He was also an expert reporter and editor! His writing talents and inquiry skills were the best around. And he looked the part too! Although I really got to know him after he retired, I could imagine him behind a paper filled desk and an Underwood Typewriter with one hand on the phone and pad/pencil handy.

Mike Maxey

My favorite memory (among many) of George is when he approached me about taking steps to remember former Roanoke President Morehead. George's case involved the compelling story of how Morehead retired from the Roanoke presidency to go to Europe after World War I to help Europe recover. It was there where Morehead was instrumental in founding Lutheran World Relief which became one of the primary agencies addressing world hunger. George displayed his respect for history, his love of humanity, his care for hunger relief, and his bias for action in that conversation. I knew that if George said that we needed to remember President Morehead, he was right. Typically, none of the conversation focused on George personally. I am glad we all were in orbit around George's goodness.

Lynsey Allie

When I started work at the Historical Society in 2015, about two weeks in, George came for a meeting and he reached over the front desk where I sat and gave me a buckeye. He said, "these are good luck and you're going to need it". It was such a nice gesture from someone so highly regarded in the Society to someone brand new, that it has stuck with me these past seven years. I still have the buckeye he gave me that day. It is shriveled up as I don't think they're intended to be kept long term, but I can't bring myself to throw it out. George was always regarded as a wealth of knowledge on local history - which is definitely true - but he was also one of the kindest people I have ever had the "good luck" of meeting.



Alison Blanton

To me, George Kegley was the ubiquitous Energizer Bunny that put a positive spin on being a "yes man." He was everywhere - whether it be an event, meeting or gathering about history, refugees, preservation, inner-city youth, books, politics, land conservation, apple cider, church, literacy, trails, or food banks (to name just a few)! He always showed up. If he was late, it was because he was coming straight from another commitment. Not only did he show up, but he always contributed - whether it was telling you the history, making a connection, or writing something down in the little notepad he kept in his breast pocket (a reminder of old newspaper days!). He always said "yes" when asked to do something and typically had already done it by the time you got home.

George and I are both late-night people and I would usually get a phone call around 10pm or later and knew it was George! In spite of being so active and involved, George also took time for small things - every year he would give me a buckeye for good luck and I know he passed these out to many others as well.

Judy Harrison

Not only did I know George through RVPF I also feel like I had a "little" more connection with George through his wife Louise who was the granddaughter of J B Fishburn, who built Mountain View Mansion. For years I have been the Docent there and in the beginning I had to do much research. George and Louise helped me and after Louise's death George would always help when questions came up.

George was Chair of the Endangered Sites Committee prior to me and his memory was amazing. George would work on his email about 9 at night and I would call and talk to him when I saw that he answered an email. It seemed like he knew everything about Roanoke's history. Not only did he answer my questions but he also told me stories. I loved talking to him and he always taught me something that I didn't know. George was a quiet man but full of knowledge and always willing to share. He was a true gentleman and I miss him very much.

Rupert Cutler

I guess my favorite memory of George Kegley, among many good memories, was when he showed me around his Blue Hills home place at the time he was taking the necessary steps to donate a conservation easement on his farm to the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy (then called the Western Virginia Land Trust). We went for a bumpy ride (was it in an old truck?) across the pasture between the cows, and I admired the view. George had managed to obtain a grant from the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District to cover the cost of installing a fence to keep the cows out of Tinker Creek—a requirement to obtain the tax-saving benefits of a conservation easement. After the tour, George showed me around his historic home including his never-to-be-forgotten office with walls lined with books and a desk piled high with papers—probably copy for the next issue of the Historical Society of Western Virginia Journal. No one I've ever known simultaneously volunteered for so many charitable organizations and left his good mark on so many Roanoke Valley organizations as George Kegley. Kind, knowledgeable, persevering, good humored, a blessing to our community.

Joey Moldenhauer

You can't take the country back out the boy. There was never an apple or berry that George didn't like. I used to help him make cider at Monterey on his ancient apple press. Beside the joy of hearing his lifetime stories and historical knowledge, George would occasionally stop work and sample his product. Pouring out a sample for us, George would always propose a toast to "the nectar of the Gods, nothing better." George would come over to my place to pick red wine berries with which his wife, Louise, loved making the jam. She didn't like to eat the jam, but gave a jar to me and friends. It was delicious! George always wore short sleeve shirts when picking. When I ask him one time if the tics, chiggers and thorns didn't bother him, he said "oh, I don't have time to worry about that stuff." I'm sure when he was a boy, he never worried about long sleeve shirts, maybe never had any.

Matt Chittum

When *The Roanoke Times* fired up a new printing press about 20 years ago, I wrote a history of the paper, its printing facilities, including a hand-cranked affair known as "Mankiller," its publishers and editors, and its moves around downtown. The day the story published, I got a call from George Kegley asking me to confirm something I'd written in the article that he'd never seen before. "Well, you've found something we didn't know," he said. My chest swelled with an acknowledgment like that from George.

George and I were both raised by *The Roanoke Times* in a sense, but we missed working together by a few months. He retired just before I started. His reputation, however, hovered around the newsroom for all of my time at the paper. Stories of his mountain-high stacks of files and papers were legion. I came to know George over the years instead as a source for the many stories I wrote about Roanoke's history, and an accessible and reliable one at that. He was forever ready to help. I left the Times in 2020, sneaking out mid-pandemic, and with little fanfare. After 26 years of doing my best to inform and influence events in my hometown, I felt a little forgotten. But later that year, I was presented with the Kegley Preservation Award by the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation for my reporting on local history. To be remembered for that part of my career, and with an award bearing George's name, was more than an honor. It was a treasured validation. Thanks, George. Many, many thanks.

Elizabeth S. Kostelny

As CEO of Preservation Virginia, I can tell you George's presence is sorely missed. As background, Preservation Virginia's mission today is a result of the organizational combination of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (still the legal entity) and Preservation Alliance of Virginia, a statewide public policy and advocacy organization founded in the 1980s. George was part of the founding of the latter and a participant and supporter in both organizations. George is a giant in the historic preservation and history field. He participated in so many ways with his support of statewide policy issues including the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program at the General Assembly to his nominations to our Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places and Preservation Awards programs, and his strategic thinking on local issues in the Roanoke Valley region. George was always my first call.

On a personal note—during a meeting with George in 2004, he expressed surprise that I so easily found our meeting place at Center in the Square. I mentioned that I had grown up staying with my grandmother for Roanoke summers. He looked me up and down and broke out in a big smile. He said, "You are Dottie Churchill's granddaughter!" How he made that connection, I will never know. My grandmother died in 1981, but I must carry some resemblance of her. I share that story because I think it goes to a character defining trait that George epitomized. No matter the circumstances, no matter the issue, no matter what side you took on a preservation cause, George started from a place of friendship, kindness and connection. George was a gift and inspiration to us all.

Mike Pulice

Of all the kind favors George did for me, one of the most beneficial was driving me around to many of the little-known historic sites in the valley after I moved here in 2001. They are all places I came to know better, mostly because of George. He later published my book on the Deyerle family builders, for which I am deeply indebted to him.

Rob Logan

I first came to know George through our work with the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. He was always such a delight. One of the kindest and most knowledgeable people I've ever known. One day, while at one of our meetings, he mentioned that he was going to an alumni event for Roanoke College later that day. I was planning to go to the same event, so we ended up going together. It was so much fun making the rounds with George. He knew everyone in the room!

Nelson Harris

George Kegley was a gem. His knowledge of Roanoke history, wise counsel, personality, and encouraging spirit benefited me and many others over the years. When he passed, George was editing my chapters on my forthcoming "The Roanoke Valley in the 1950s," as he had done with so many of my previous works. He was invaluable in that regard, correcting grammar and punctuation plus adding his own personal anecdotes with many of the happenings of that decade. For those of us involved in researching and celebrating local history, we will forever stand in his shadow.

Maribeth Mills

George was a constant presence in my career over the last 16 years. As a young preservation professional in a new city, I wanted to feel connected to the people, places, and stories that made Roanoke. I remember early on in my time with the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, George called me over at an event we were having at the History Museum of Western Virginia when it was still in Center in the Square. He proudly showed me a horse-drawn buggy from 1900 that had belonged to his grandparents and shared his fond memories of riding in it on Sundays as



a young boy. He was the embodiment of the connection I was trying to make with my new home. He loved our community's history and natural places and dedicated so much of his time to the preservation of both. He was truly an inspiration to me, and I will miss his kind smile and that slightly mischievous twinkle in his eyes.

Isabel Thornton

Among so many fond memories of George and distinct conversations about Roanoke's history, it is not the specific conversations but the feeling of being in his presence that resonates. His smile and laugh, the way that he always had documentation of some form of history to share or talk about, the way that he listened so intently, and how all of those qualities together made you feel that he was truly present and interested in being in a discussion with you in a way that is so rare now.

Linda Miller and Dr. Mark Miller

From the time we met George Kegley, we knew he was a man with a mission--a multi-faceted mission that focused on the history of the Roanoke Valley and its preservation. As archivist and historian for Roanoke College, he was eager to have us join his efforts. If the phone rang after 10:00 p.m., we would look at each other and say, "George!" More often than not, it was. The conversation could entail help with a project or grant, give a talk, work on a project, join a committee, organize a conference. We usually said "yes" because it was George. His enthusiasm was contagious, and we were happy to help.

On the other hand, George was always willing to help with a college question, for example: "Do you recognize this pin?" or "When you were at RC, did students believe that touching or kicking the post between the Administration Building and Trout Hall guaranteed you would pass the upcoming exam/or that you would graduate?" His energy and enthusiasm were infectious. He was a tireless crusader for history and its preservation, and contact with him made all of us who could help better people.

Jeanne Bollendorf

George Kegley was a constant in my life since moving to Roanoke and I have felt his loss deeply. Like many whose lives he touched, we all knew at some point he would no longer be with us, but we could never be ready for that day. George and his wife, Louise have been involved in so many important community causes and our paths crossed through local history and historic preservation. It was because of George that I became involved with the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. When I was the Executive Director of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, he encouraged me to join the board of RVPF and that began more than a decade of preservation volunteerism. I appreciated George as a quiet, but steady and welcoming presence in my life for many years. He was also amazingly effective at twisting arms! If he asked you to do something, you did it, out of respect. Because if George vouched for an organization, you knew it was worth making a donation and if he could commit his time, then surely you could do the same. One of the most fun things I did at George's behest was to compete in Blue Ridge Literacy's scrabble tournament. As a retired editor, you can imagine that reading and literacy were near and dear to him. Any time I was with George I could count on having a good time and doing something good in the community - we should all have such a friend!

Katie Gutshall

I will remember George as someone who always showed up and was eager to volunteer and extend a helping hand. He kindly offered me a ride to my car one night after an RVPF award ceremony and it was so nice getting to chat with him. His kindness and deep knowledge of Roanoke history will be missed.

Whitney Leeson

I first came to know the depth of George's enthusiasm for preservation, historic easements, and material culture when he graciously agreed to have Roanoke College students in my Historical Archaeology course spend the month of May conducting a phase 1 and phase 2 survey on his property. Tom Klatka of the Department of Historic Resources designed the survey and the students thoroughly enjoyed hearing George and Tom talk about working together to develop a land conservation strategy that protected the diverse archaeological sites on George's property. The students really felt like insiders with a responsibility for the past when George talked about "my Monterey" and wanted to know what they were doing with "their Monterey," another historic structure of the same era situated on the campus of Roanoke College. George taught my students invaluable lessons about doing right by old buildings, supporting your alma mater, and using your education to make a difference in the world. It was, however, his gift for storytelling in person (as well as in print) that made for many of our most fun discussions in the van ride back to campus. They loved hearing about George's time as a Roanoke College student.

In the decades that followed, I gained tremendous respect for George's tireless dedication to the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. I joined the board because of George and am so grateful he told me "to step up to the plate" and assume more responsibility. Almost every board meeting agenda I have put together the past few years has entailed a phone call or email to George seeking clarification or backstory on a particular issue. Fortunately, he worked late at night and was always ready with a quick reply; most of his emails arrived in my inbox time stamped between 10 p.m. and midnight. I will really miss his sage advice, can-do attitude, late-night words of encouragement, and unwavering faith in a positive resolution to life's difficulties. George was a true mentor and I am eternally grateful.

Pints for Preservation Pub Crawl

After a long covid hiatus, our annual "Pints for Preservation Pub Crawl" is back. RVPF is partnering for the first time with the Blue Ridge Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The pub crawl is a fun way to learn more about Roanoke's historic landscape while helping both organizations raise money to further their missions of preserving the valley's most important architectural and cultural icons.

Time, Location, and Tickets

Saturday September 24 from 2:00–5:00 p.m. in Downtown Roanoke

Pub Crawl begins at Hotel Roanoke's Lobby Bar; ends at Martin's

Cost: \$30/person or \$100 for a team of 4

Tickets available through Eventbrite OR contact Whitney Leeson (wleeson@roanoke.edu) to pay by check

About the Event

RVPF and AIA representatives will be at local bars and breweries in downtown Roanoke stamping pub crawl passes and handing out swag from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Compete for prizes by completing your Trivia on Tap Answer Sheet featuring questions about people and places important to Roanoke's past. No cell phone surfing for answers allowed.

Participants proceed at their own pace and in their own order after checking in at the Hotel Roanoke's Lobby Bar to pick up their pub crawl t-shirt and sign a liability waiver. Only participants wearing their event t-shirt will qualify for drink and food specials at each establishment on the pub crawl. (No purchase is required to receive a stamp or answer trivia questions.) End your pub crawl by 5:00 p.m. at Martin's where you will turn in your Trivia on Tap Answer Sheets. RVPF and AIA hosts will tally the scores and results will be announced soon after.



Photo Credit: Google Free Images

Play for Preservation--Croquet in May

Saturday May 20, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Mountain View

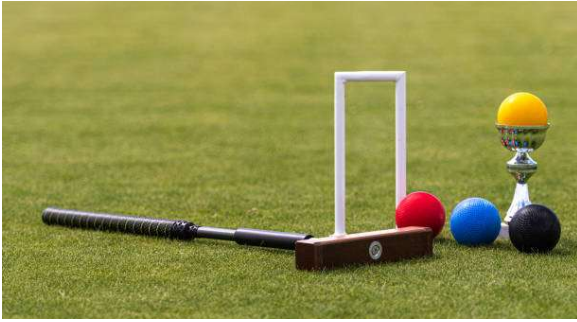


Photo Credit: Google Free Images

Save the date for our second fundraiser of the year: **Play for Preservation--Croquet in May**. Rain date will be Sunday May 21 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Mountain View. Croquet whites and soft-soled shoes are strongly encouraged. Prizes awarded to winners by age bracket as well as best dressed croquet players.

Proceeds will support ongoing preservation projects for RVPF and Friends of Mountain View.

Historic Downtown Walking Tours

Digital Tours Now Available

Alison Blanton, Whitney Feldmann, Whitney Leeson, and Rachel Ruhlen recently met at Hotel Roanoke to preview the latest version of our three popular downtown walking tours. The printed brochures are now available at most museums downtown as well as Hotel Roanoke and Virginia's Blue Ridge Visitor Information Center. Digital tours accessed via QR Code postcards are also available in the same locations.



Photo Credit: Scott Saults




THREE DIFFERENT VIEWS

The Commerce Walk
Walk through the heart of the city, starting with the bustling City Market Building, and continuing along some of downtown's most important and scenic commercial streets.

The Community Walk
Walk past buildings and landmarks central to the daily lives of Roanoke's citizens.

NW Railway Walk
Get in touch with the city's railroad heritage and the rich history of Roanoke's Black community.

 The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (RVPF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit established in 1988 to preserve the Roanoke Valley's historic, natural, and cultural resources. RVPF is a grassroots, volunteer-driven organization that advocates strongly for the past while planning for the future.

Restoration Housing's Preserve Luncheon

September 15, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the City Market Building's Charter Hall



Restoration Housing's Preserve Luncheon returns Thursday, September 15 with an engaging presentation by Dr. Fred Karnas, Ph.D that will explore the intersection of health and housing. Dr. Karnas has recently returned to his work with the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation after a year-long assignment as a Senior Policy Advisor for the U.S. Treasury's Office of Recovery Programs, Emergency Housing Team. This year's luncheon will be at the City Market Building's Charter Hall from 11:30-1:00.

RVPF is sponsoring a table at the luncheon. Tickets are \$60.00 and we have a few seats still available. If you would like to join us, please contact Whitney Leeson (wleeson@roanoke.edu) by no later than August 24 . Help us help Restoration Housing fulfill their goal of providing safe, stable housing in our community.

Photo Credit: Restoration Housing

Rugby Pillars Repaired

Fourth Generation Stone Mason Preserves His Great Grandfather's Legacy

This spring concerned residents brought the damage done to the Northwest Rugby Pillars to the attention of both RVPF and the city. RVPF investigated the damage and placed them on our list of Endangered Sites in May. Thanks to quick action by the city, however, they did not stay endangered very long. By early June all repairs to the wall and pillars were complete.

The city obtained the services of Kelly Francisco Stone Masonry to make repairs to the damaged stone wall. Kelly is a fourth generation stone mason in the Francisco family. He is also the great grandson of the original creator, Price Francisco, who built these pillars for the Rugby Land Company in 1916. His son John also assisted with the repairs as did Alberto who is the third member of the Francisco team. The pillars served as the gateway to the Rugby-Melrose Neighborhood and resident have cherished them for over 100 years.



Photo Credit: Office of Neighborhood Services

Preservation Pub Talk

October 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Meet at the Green Goat along the Roanoke River Greenway in the Wasena area.

Join us at the Green Goat on October 6 at 6 pm for a talk by Samantha Rosenthal about her latest book—*Living Queer History*. October is LGBTQ+ History Month and she/they will also describe some of the recent exhibitions, podcasts, and oral history interviews sponsored by Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project, a community-based history initiative committed to researching and telling the stories of LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations in our region.

Living Queer History by Samantha Rosenthal

Queer history is a living practice. Talk to any group of LGBTQ people today, and they will not agree on what story should be told. Many people desire to celebrate the past by erecting plaques and painting rainbow crosswalks, but queer and trans people in the twenty-first century need more than just symbols—they need access to power, justice for marginalized people, spaces of belonging. Approaching the past through a lens of queer and trans survival and world-building transforms history itself into a tool for imagining and realizing a better future.

Living Queer History tells the story of an LGBTQ community in Roanoke, Virginia, a small city on the edge of Appalachia. Interweaving historical analysis, theory, and memoir, Gregory Samantha Rosenthal tells the story of their own journey—coming out and transitioning as a transgender woman—in the midst of working on a community-based history project that documented a multigenerational southern LGBTQ community. Based on over forty interviews with LGBTQ elders, *Living Queer History* explores how queer people today think about the past and how history lives on in the present.

Samantha Rosenthal (she/they) is Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of the Public History Concentration at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. She is the author of two books, *Living Queer History: Remembrance and Belonging in a Southern City* and *Beyond Hawai'i: Native Labor in the Pacific World*. They are co-founder of the Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project, a nationally recognized queer public history initiative. Her work has received recognition from the National Council on Public History, the Oral History Association, the Committee on LGBT History, the American Society for Environmental History, and the Working Class Studies Association.



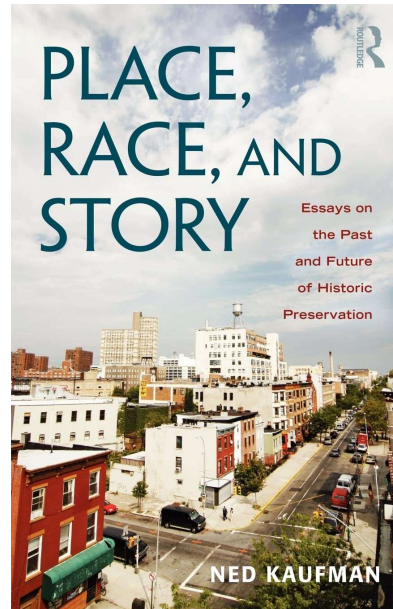
Photo Credit: Roanoke College

Historic Preservation Reads

Two Preservation Books on the History of Historic Preservation

Place, Race, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation (2009) by Ned Kaufmann

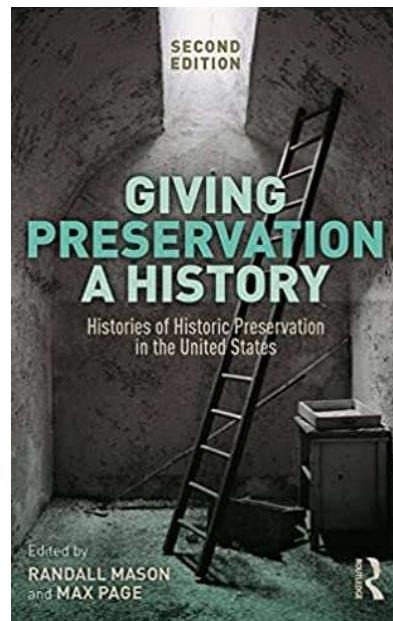
In *Place, Race, and Story*, author Ned Kaufman has collected his own essays dedicated to the proposition of giving the next generation of preservationists not only a foundational knowledge of the field of study, but more ideas on where they can take it. Through both big-picture essays considering preservation across time, and descriptions of work on specific sites, the essays in this collection trace the themes of place, race, and story in ways that raise questions, stimulate discussion, and offer a different perspective on these common ideas. Includes unpublished essays as well as established works by the author, *Place, Race, and Story* provides a new outline for a progressive preservation movement – the revitalized movement for social progress.



Giving Preservation a History, 2nd Edition (2020) by Max Page and Randall F. Mason (Editors)

In this volume, some of the leading figures in the field have been brought together to write on the roots of the historic preservation movement in the United States, ranging from New York to Santa Fe, Charleston to Chicago. *Giving Preservation a History* explores the long history of historic preservation: how preservation movements have taken a leading role in shaping American urban space and development; how historic preservation battles have reflected broader social forces; and what the changing nature of historic preservation means for efforts to preserve national, urban, and local heritage.

The second edition adds several new essays addressing key developing areas in the field by major new voices. The new essays represent the broadening range of scholarship on historic preservation generated since the publication of the first edition, taking better account of the role of cultural diversity and difference within the field while exploring the connections between preservation and allied concerns such as environmental sustainability, LGBTQ and nonwhite identity, and economic development.



Have You Heard About Our Plaque Program?

Bringing "History to the Streets"

Historic homes and buildings in the Roanoke Valley can now be recognized under a Historic Plaque Program administered by RVPF. The program not only brings 'history to the street' for those passing by your home or building, but also brands them as desirable locations for potential home buyers, tenants, and business owners to live, work, and/or invest in. Installing a plaque on your home or building helps others understand its historical significance in our community. Several sites already have plaques including Fire Station No. 1, the Virginia Museum of Transportation (Norfolk & Western Freight Station), the Municipal Building, owners of historic homes, and most recently, Restoration LLC in commemoration of their recent restoration of historic Villa Heights located in NW Roanoke.

Plaques are 10" x 7" cast bronze ovals with brown pebbled backgrounds forged by Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries (responsible for casting most National Register of Historic Places plaques across the country). The cost per plaque is \$350 and includes research for the text to be used on the plaque (the building's historic name, brief description, and construction date), the plaque's production, shipping, regulatory approvals from the city, and installation.

For additional information, visit <http://www.roanokepreservation.org/historic-plaque-program/> or email wleeson@roanoke.edu

"It has been said that, at it's best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."

William Murtagh

First "keeper" of the National Register of Historic Places



The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (RVPF) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization established in 1988 to preserve the historic, natural, and cultural resources of the Roanoke Valley (City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and Franklin County, Virginia). It was founded as - and continues to be - a grassroots, volunteer-driven organization. Since its inception, the RVPF has been active in a variety of preservation efforts. Consistent involvement and advocacy has resulted in increased public awareness and successful preservation projects. Although the Foundation's focus is on the past, its major accomplishments are the result of planning for the future.

"THE FUTURE" OF PRESERVATION



We partner with community groups to bring promote local history - Gainsboro History Walk



We advocate for preservation of important buildings - The Claytor Clinic (currently on the Endangered Sites List)



We give tours of Roanoke to share local history and preservation



We partner with RideSolutions for History By Bike Tours - Vinton Tweed Ride



We install plaques on historic buildings - formerly endangered, Villa Heights has been saved and renovated



We create and install community signs to commemorate and celebrate local history - Evans Mill & Crystal Spring



P.O. Box 1366, Roanoke, VA 24007
www.roanokepreservation.org

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