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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Fluvanna Historical Society Convenes Planning Meeting For Regional Historical Societies

The Fluvanna County Historical Society hosted a meeting of local historical societies and public libraries from throughout central Virginia on January 22 to discuss a joint project for digitizing and sharing archival documents and photographs. The concept would be for the participants to work together to form a consortium of regional repositories of historical assets for that purpose. It is the group's goal to make digital images of local holdings available through a publically accessible online encyclopedia.

"We are just in the planning stages and hope to engage friends from nearby societies to participate," said Historical Society Executive Director Judy Mickelson. Leading the discussion were Jack Robertson, of the Monticello Library, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., and Elaine Taylor, Program Director for the of Louisa County Historical Society. The afternoon meeting was very well attended with 21 participants representing 8 historical societies or institutions involved in historic research and preservation. The group will meet again in early March.

With some of the most valuable collections of documents and records in the United States, local historical societies have not always been able to protect their records adequately or to make them available to the public in a useable format. This meeting was a preliminary effort to assist in that effort by bringing the resources of many different organizations to focus on the best means of establishing digital records and making them available to the public. The group plans to continue to work together to cooperate in obtaining grant funding or other means of carrying out the program in all the participating societies.

The Fluvanna County Historical Society has been in the forefront of preserving its documents, artifacts and photos in conformance with nationally established archival standards. Its Archives Committee, headed by Diane Everline, consists of a team of trained archivists who receive training and technical updates throughout the year. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer archivist at the local historical society, please contact Judy Mickelson at 589-7910 or at judemickel@aol.com.

www.fluvannahistory.org