

Virginia Research Facilities—Shenandoah Valley—Warren County

The Laura Virginia Hale Archives of the Warren Heritage Society

101 Chester Street
Front Royal, Virginia 22630

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Archivists and Volunteers

Open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. throughout the year
Closed for major holidays only.

Fees: We have no entrance fees for the Archives; research assistance is free for the first half hour, and then a fee schedule begins with the second half hour of research; however, all research fees are waived for members.

Archives

The Laura Virginia Hale Archives of the Warren Heritage Society serves the County of Warren and all of its towns, especially the county seat of Front Royal. The Laura Virginia Hale Archives are located at the Warren Heritage Society's main grounds.

The Archives are named for the preeminent historian of Warren County history through the 1900s. Despite paralysis brought on by polio contracted in childhood, Laura Virginia Hale researched and wrote well over 30 books and pamphlets on Warren County history.

Be Prepared

Camera use is determined on a case-by-case basis with our Archives staff, but we offer scanning services and any document or microfilm which can be digitized may be uploaded to a USB drive.

Our copying services are provided by staff, and are 25¢ per copy. Although small, Warren County's history is deep and fascinating, and ranges from topics related to George Washington and Thomas, Lord Fairfax during the colonial era to AVTEX, the largest post-World War II factory, which operated in Virginia until its closing in 1986.

Collections

Our collections include genealogical materials, an image collection, maps, store and factory ledgers, the files of the local chapter of the Textile Workers Union, materials concerning Massive Resistance and the 1958 school closing, diaries, journals and letters to and from soldiers during the Civil War, deeds and other legal documents from the earliest days of colonial settlement through the mid-1800s, Sanborn Insurance maps of Front Royal, a vast cemetery finding aid and the list goes on.

Finding Aids

We have in-house indexes and other finding aids, and we sell copies of our own publications in book, map, and journal form. A friendly staff will assist visitors and researchers through the week.

Students are welcome!

The Laura Virginia Hale Archives of the Warren Heritage Society have been established, organized and staffed since the 1980s, and have recently been discovered by researchers from regional colleges and universities. We have trained interns for Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia; have cooperated with Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia; and have assisted in the research and publication of two Masters theses completed by students from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Our modernized facility was expanded and updated in 2007–2008 and is comfortable to work in and convenient to access. We are ADA-accessible with an ADA-approved bathroom, and offer free Wi-Fi access.

What are you waiting for? We'll see you here on Chester Street!

Patrick Farris, Executive Director
Warren Heritage Society

Photo Identification: Left to right, standing: Jim Heflin, Archivist and Nathan Poe, volunteer. Left to right seated: Jean Hodges, volunteer and Deborah Corey, Assistant Archivist

Updated: 5 June 2014