



# The Reinboard

February 2006

PRDA  
NEW  
SLETTER

## Carriage Days at the Winmill Carriage Museum Morven Park

**Saturday March 25th**  
10 am- 4 pm

Bring a covered dish & chair to sit on

(Donations to the carriage museum appreciated)

RSVP to Hollie Satterfield @  
vawhip@crosslink.net  
or 540 592-3052

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## Martin's Auction

**April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**  
see page 8

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## Annual Winmill Show

June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Sat: Pleasure Show

Sun: Clinic - \$65 per session

Judge/Clinician: Bill Long

### Editor's Note:

I am in the process of updating the 2006 mailing list.

If you know of someone who has not received this newsletter, please call or email me with their name and address.

I apologize if I miss anyone - in the process of turning over the names I may have missed some of the names.

Thank you, Cindy

540-752-1118 or  
achaeon26@hotmail.com

### Membership Deadline

**March 15<sup>st</sup>**

To be included in future  
newsletter mailings and emails

*membership form included  
in this newsletter*

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## President's Message (from the Annual Meeting)

**President's Address** – In reviewing the past year, the Board has worked together enthusiastically and well to produce the club's major annual events. There were seven dinner meetings, mostly held at the Holiday Inn in Leesburg. Attendance was excellent throughout. We have found that we would very much like to do more than our individual volunteer time allows. We need to appeal to the other club members to assist in producing the various events. All of the Board members serve on all the committees and it takes all of us to produce these events.

Our bank balance is very healthy and gives us the needed financial backing to hold our show, etc. We always try to budget events accurately, stay within budget, and produce at least some income for our association.

We have been a 501(c)3 organization for three years and would welcome donations and corporate support. We are under-utilizing this tax status which took time and effort to obtain.

Due to other commitments, I have informed the Board that I do not wish to be considered for the presidency of PRDA in the coming year. However, I will remain on the Board and will work for the club whenever I can.

I have enjoyed my association with the Board members and with the membership. I feel that we have worked together in developing and maintaining various club functions. I wish to thank every one for working together so well and cooperating with me.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Bedford (outgoing President)

## PRDA 2006

### OFFICERS

**President:** Queenie Kemmerer

**V. President:** Hollie Satterfield

**Secretary/** Elizabeth Moore

**Treasurer:**

### **Board Members:**

Nancy Bedford	Paul Traub
Elizabeth Moore	Lee Heuer
Joan Hancock	Wayne Porter

### NEWSLETTER

**Editor:** Cindy Stylianos 540-752-1118  
achaeon26@hotmail.com

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### WEBSITE

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

### YAHOO MESSAGE BOARD

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PRDA>

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The Reinboard is published by the Potomac  
River Driving Association (A Registered  
501(c) (3) Organization)

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## Virginia and Maryland Driving Clubs



Potomac River Driving Association  
James River Driving Club  
Piedmont Driving Club  
Shenandoah Valley Driving Club  
My Lady's Manor Driving Club

Northern VA  
Central VA  
Northern VA  
Western VA  
Maryland

smithforge@juno.com  
cchildre@collegiate-va.org  
wgallen@vcmails.com  
dondero@ntelos.net  
jmskelly@direcway.com

## January 14, 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes

### Spur and Spoon House, Foxcroft School, Middleburg, VA

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Nancy Bedford, President, welcomed the 18 members and guests who attended. She thanked Foxcroft for letting us use their lovely alumnae house for our meeting. The members and guests introduced themselves, and Nancy recognized our special guest, Paul Maye.

**Treasurer's Report** –Elizabeth Moore, distributed a report dated January 14, 2006. The bank balance is \$5,020.95. She attached a summary of the income from the three events the club sponsored during the year. The February clinic lost \$30.00. Net income from the June show and silent auction was \$1,162.00. Net income from the Too Hot to Trot clinic was \$2,490.47. The beginning balance as of January 18, 2005, was \$2,047.40. So, our financial position has improved significantly. [ $\$5,020.95$  minus  $\$2,047.40 = \$2,973.55$  increase].

#### **Newsletter (*The Reinboard*)** –

Cindy Stylianos, editor, asked that members **please** give her news items and pictures of themselves. She is able to include snapshots, etc., and this makes the news letter much more interesting.

#### **Membership Roster** –

Melanie Smith has been so kind as to maintain the membership roster, including the email group. Unfortunately, Melanie is not able to do this now. She has given Hollie the information she has for 2006. Cindy Stylianos would like to maintain the roster. Since she will be mailing the newsletter, it is the most efficient thing to do. Hollie and the other board members agree and appreciate Cindy offering to do this.

#### **Website [prda-inc.org]** –

Carol Pivarnik maintains our website. We need to get in touch with her and let her know what needs to be updated on the site.

#### **Winmill Pleasure Show in 2005** –

The show was held on June 4 at the Morven Park Equestrian Center, Leesburg, Virginia, and was ably judged by Susan Andrews. It was a low-key, relaxed event with 20 classes that were welcoming for novice drivers and green horses and ponies. We used the smaller ring and the classes ran smoothly in pleasant weather. It was not an ADS-rated show, but run according to the ADS notebook. Thus, we were able to minimize expenses and run on a lower budget. The report of income and expenses is attached to the Treasurer's report. The silent auction was a smashing success led by Hollie Satterfield and Sunny Cummings. This income made our net profit from the show. A huge "thank you" to Hollie, Sunny, all the donors, and the bidders. The club presented Hollie Satterfield with two bottles of champagne in much-deserved recognition of her silent auctions for so many years.

#### **Winmill Pleasure Show in 2006** –

The show will be on June 3 and 4, 2006. We had hoped to get a date in the fall, but Morven Park is booked all fall. The Show Committee Chairman is Paul Traub. The Board voted once again to keep this a non-ADS recognized show for another year. We need to see whether we can attract entries in spite of the several other shows planned close to our dates. The Show Committee hopes more members will volunteer to help. Working on the show is a good learning experience for volunteers, as well as being vital to the success of the show. We need about 20 volunteers to put on our show and we would like to double or triple the number of entries. this matter. All members of Potomac River Driving Association would need to vote on this before we could legally change our structure.

There followed a discussion about shows in general. Paul Maye, who is running the Upperville Horse Show, broached the subject of having some driving classes there, sponsored jointly by our club and the Upperville show. The members present were interested in hearing more about what might develop along these lines.

*continued on page 4.....*

## Events Calendar

### March

11 & 12	Carriage Driving Trade Show & Conference	Westfield, MA	www.driving-forum.com
5	Membership Deadline for the newsletter		achaeaan26@hotmail.com
25	Winmill Carriage Museum Day	Morven Park	540 592-3052

### April

28 & 29	Martin's Carriage Auction	Lebanon, PA	Wayne P. 703-751-5717
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### June

3	PRDA Annual Show	Morven Park	prize list TBA
4	PRDA Clinic w/Bill Long		

## Classified Ads

If you have an item for sell or trade (members get one free classified add per issue)  
please send info to [achaeaan26@hotmail.com](mailto:achaeaan26@hotmail.com).

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540-272-1134 ( cell )    301-834-9951 ( home )  
[carriagedriving@msn.com](mailto:carriagedriving@msn.com)    [www.mayeshowponies.com](http://www.mayeshowponies.com)

*Annual Minutes continued.....*

### **Too Hot to Trot Clinics –**

Wayne Porter reported that this past August we had the largest classes ever. There were 22 students - most came to all four sessions. Many of these folks live a long way south of Morven Park, but there is nothing to introduce people to the sport of driving where they live. Hollie and Wayne worked together to make this event a success. Hollie's publicity was evidently very good. The students do not have to bring anything; they only need to be interested in finding out about the sport. Paul Maye volunteered his services as instructor. Our insurance policy specifies that we must have a professional at these clinics. At the last session, everyone who has attended all sessions gets to drive. There were so many students that the last session was held twice so each new driver would have more actual driving time. Wayne and Hollie plan to run this clinic again in 2006.

### **Winmill Carriage Museum Day and Picnic –**

This event was held on April 2, 2005, at the museum at Morven Park. Jack Day, assistant curator to Lee Heuer, was once again our guest speaker. He gave a very informative tour of the carriage collection, which is looking lovely in the renovated museum setting. We had a potluck luncheon with door prizes, hat prizes, and a "what is it?" quiz of horse-related items collected and presented by Jack Day. We finished a very enjoyable day with a tour of the mansion house.

We are invited again on March 25, 2006. Jack Day and Owen Snyder will come. Well-known authority Mr. Day will lead the group through the museum discussing each vehicle. He will also bring his "What Is It?" items to stump the experts. Every time he brings his mystery objects, we learn something esoteric about carriage driving and the care of horses. Mr. Snyder will give a talk about carriage wheels, axles and their care and maintenance. He and Mr. Day will give a brief visual inspections and general advice if members bring their vehicles to the museum. The vehicles will not be unloaded, but this offer may be of help to some members.

We will have a picnic lunch. Everyone should bring a chair and a dish to share. Nancy Bedford is trying to arrange for a tour of the DuPont Equine Medical facility for the group. We would very much enjoy it. We plan to invite members of the Piedmont and My Lady's Manor driving clubs to the Museum Day and Picnic. Hollie Satterfield will send these invitations.

### **Potomac River Driving Association and Piedmont Driving Club –**

Ann Watkins, the President of Piedmont Driving Club, has approached several members of our Board to suggest that perhaps our two clubs should merge. At the January 10, 2006, Board meeting we discussed this idea. As of January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Piedmont board had not discussed this. Our Board would like to know what the Piedmont board thinks this would mean to the clubs. We have many reservations about merging, so we will take our time about making any recommendation to our members regarding this matter. All members of Potomac River Driving Association would need to vote on this before we could legally change our structure.

### **Nominating Committee and Election –**

One important purpose of the annual meeting is to elect members of the Board of Directors. The beginning dates of the directors' terms are staggered so that the whole Board does not come up for reelection at the same time. The Board members whose terms were expiring are Nancy Bedford and Hollie Satterfield. Joan Hancock and Hollie Satterfield were the Nominating Committee. All the current Board members have stated that they are willing and able to serve. In addition to Nancy and Hollie, the candidates were Sunny Cummings, Cindy Stylianos, and Connie Connolly.

The new Board met immediately to elect officers. These are: Queenie Kemmerer, President, Hollie Satterfield, Vice President, Sunny Cummings, Secretary, Elizabeth Moore, Treasurer and Recording Secretary

All candidates were elected unanimously. Our Board has been understaffed and we welcome the three new members, as well as welcoming the continued participation by Nancy and Hollie.

As stated above, Cindy Stylianos will handle membership records, liaison with our web master, and *The Reinboard*. Wayne Porter will assist Sunny Cummings with email communications as needed.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments in the dining room

## The Story of Old Jack

*Hollie Satterfield obtained the kind permission from the author to print this true story.*

Now this mule had been a brainstorm of two brothers, my grandpa, and his brother, who was farming down in Arkansas. Before setting this mule to plow, my great uncle passed away, but before he went on to greener pastures, he willed this mule, and a jenny that was about a hand shorter, to my grandpa. Grandpa went to pay his respects to his brother's family, and about a month later pulled back in the driveway with this pair riding in the back of the mill truck. The pair, according to family lore, had the longest ears of any critter any of the family had ever seen! Matter of fact, grandpa swore the truck left the ground a few times while maneuvering down some of our sweet little Kentucky hills "Cause them ears caught the wind so bad!" Well now, them mules were the finest critters to ever hit the county, according to Grandpa, and I'll agree to a point, you got to remember, "I didn't meet them until they had been broken in around 1955 or so." They were used as a team from 1947-1963 but their initial "education" was not what a fella could call a thing of beauty! Seems grandpa had been breaking them in slowly, the way any good man would do, and he was of the opinion that they were ready to take the family to meeting one Sunday morning (but according to Grandma, he just wanted to show them off).

Anyway, Grandma got in her Sunday finest, Grandpa was wearing his Sunday bibs, the mules were in their finest harness, and they were all ready to go! And go they did! Seems ole Jack, the head mule (who thought he was in charge of everything holy and otherwise), decides this would be a good day to explore the rest of the county. They hadn't gotten out of the driveway when Jack takes hold of the bit, yanks the reins out of Grandpa's hands and they went exploring. He went off the road about half a mile from the driveway, went over the hill, through the creek, up a holler and then slowed down a bit when he came to a dried up pond. Now Grandpa, although not what you'd call a colorful talker, had been practicing up on a few words on this journey so far, and when they got to this pond, he figured the worst was over. OOPS! Not yet! The team took to that "almost" dried up pond like they were the mother of all ducks! They plowed on through, ripping a furrow that a fella could fall and get lost in, and everything was suddenly covered, from one end to the other, with that nasty, stinking pond goo that only someone that fell in one would know! But on they went! Finally, after going almost seven miles, over sapling trees, creeks, ponds and through a neighbors barn, they started into town. Now there was a feed mill just on the outskirts of town that had a big trough out front, under a big sycamore tree, where folks would water down their critters when waiting to get their grain milled. Ole Jack decides that this would be a right nice place to stop for a spell, just to get his wind and relax a bit. Grandma and Grandpa were both covered in mud and Grandpa had one of those looks on his face that would melt iron. Although not real tickled with the day's event so far, he kept his cool, and calmly got out of the wagon, walked up to ole Jack, grabbed a fist full of ear and whispered something to him. Without so much as a sip of that clear, cold water, he got back up in the seat, turned them around. They then made the long leisurely journey back home because not only were they not dressed properly for church, they happened to be at the wrong church, in the wrong town...

Now it was reported, by a very trustworthy source, that upon arriving back home, Grandma got off the wagon and Grandpa and Jack went behind the barn for some further "discussion," regarding the long trip, and one of Grandma's favorite, but now, lost hats. Nobody knows what was said that day, but it must have been quite a talk. The next morning Grandpa came down to breakfast with a black eye and a real sore shoulder, however... from that day forth, those mules would come to be harnessed with a short whistle, would work all day long without so much as a backwards look and also knew the way to the "right" church, in the "right" town, without so much as picking up the reins.

## Martin's Carriage Auction

For those in PRDA that are not familiar with this event, Martin Auctioneers has three carriage auctions annually. Spring, Summer and Fall. You may have heard club members remark that they bought a nice carriage, harness, etc., at "Martin's."

People come from far and wide to attend. It is the biggest carriage and carriage-related sale in the east. It is held at the Lebanon fairgrounds in Lebanon, PA. Lebanon is about 3.5 hours from Middleburg. The main auction is always on Fridays in the main fairgrounds hall, with an additional auction outside the hall on Saturday. Carriages that have been booked for auctioning in advance are auctioned on Friday. Those that did not make the cutoff date for the Friday venue are auctioned on Saturday. Additionally, on Saturday there are several tents auctioning all kinds of driving and general horse related items. The spring auction this year is April 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

To assist new PRDA members to go to Martin's, the PRDA board is putting together carpools for those new members who want to go. They may not be in the market right now for a carriage or think they lack the knowledge to make a correct choice and will be overwhelmed by it all. It IS somewhat overwhelming, but the Board believes that having knowledgeable friends along will go a long way in alleviating any worries. Getting your feet wet at an auction like this will better prepare you for when you decide to purchase a vehicle. I went for several years before I purchased a vehicle there, and I was glad I did.

In putting carpools together, the Board will strive to put new members with experienced members for the trip. Additionally, the Board will try to secure the services of Jack Day, an internationally known collector. The Board's plan is for Jack to lead a preview on Thursday night of the carriages that are going to be auctioned on Friday. Members may ask him any questions regarding suitability of a particular vehicle for their horse of pony, what would be a fair price to pay, and any other questions they may have.

This is a wonderful place to see the many types of carriages, gigs and carts that are available to driving enthusiasts; even if you're not in the market right now. I go every year to almost every auction, and I always learn something new or see a vehicle I've never seen before. It's worthwhile to go just to get a feel for how the auction goes and what is available. The Spring auction always has the most vehicles for sale, as people are gearing up for the diving season.

Our plan is to go up to Lebanon on Thursday afternoon, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We will secure rooms at one of the several local motels in advance. We will make arrangements for Thursday and Friday nights for those who want to stay for both Friday and Saturday auctions and get back home.

For more information on the auction and/or to make a carpool reservation, please contact Wayne Porter at: 703 751 5717. Hope to see of you there.

### **The Winmill Carriage Collection At Morven Park**

Take a trip into the past by visiting the Winmill Carriage Collection at Morven Park. You will see a wide variety of antique vehicles used between the mid 1800's and the early 1900's. See how suburbanites commuted to the city in Dennett and Stanhope Gigs. Gentlemen going out for the evening would travel in a Hansom Cab much like the ones seen in Sherlock Holmes movies. The Silsby Steam Pumper was one of the first to use a rotary motor. The Sprinkler Wagon was popular in cities to keep the dust down. These vehicles were donated by the late Voila Townsend Winmill of Warrenton, Virginia in 1967 and include many of the 120 carriages she collected over a period of forty years.

Of particular interest is the miniature Road Coach once owned by "Tom Thumb" of the Barnum and Bailey Circus. Mrs. Winmill bought this coach after having two accidents with her larger coaches, which injured both her father and husband. She drove six ponies to the small coach and was a favorite attraction at the International Horse Show and Gold Cup Races for many years. Also on display is the antique Hearse that was actually used for Mrs. Winmill's funeral in 1975.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 31, 2006

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Queenie Kemmerer, President	Paul Traub, Show Chairman
Hollie Satterfield, Vice President	Nancy Bedford
Sunny Cummings, Secretary	Connie Connolly
Elizabeth Moore, Treasurer/Recording Secretary	Joan Hancock
Cindy Stylianos, Membership and <i>Reinboard</i> Editor	Wayne Porter

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Leesburg, Virginia.

As outgoing president, Nancy thanked the Board for their support and cooperation during her tenure. The Board members expressed their appreciation for Nancy's leadership and hard work for the club.

**Secretary's Report** - Elizabeth Moore stated that she is still working on the minutes of the annual meeting. She emailed them just this afternoon to Nancy asking comments or corrections. Nancy will respond and Elizabeth will email them to all Board members for comment.

**Treasurer's Report** - There was no formal report. There have been no changes since the annual Treasurer's report presented on January 14, 2006. Our bank balance is still \$5,020.95.

**Membership** - Cindy and Hollie will get together so Cindy can get up-to-date. Melanie Smith has paperwork regarding membership. She could not come to the meeting.

**The Reinboard** - Cindy again stated that she needs items from the members. She asked for a schedule so she will know when to publish. We did not exactly settle on a schedule, but we all agree that we need one soon. We need to let people know about upcoming events. The Board agreed that a half page ad will cost \$25.00 and a business card ad will cost \$10.00. Cindy will also get the website updated as soon as we give her the information.

Cindy will add Jack Day, Paul Maye, Nolan Barzee, Lee Heuer, and Owen Snyder to the list of complimentary *Reinboard* recipients.

**Winmill Carriage Museum Day** - This event is scheduled for March 25 at the carriage museum. There was a discussion about whether to serve wine at this event. The Board concluded that this would not be appropriate because Lee Heuer, the curator, has informed Nancy Bedford that it is against the rules. Nancy has contacted the Vet Center and is setting up a tour for us that afternoon after we tour the carriage collection and have our picnic lunch.

**Old Business** - We need to get our schedule published in the various publications relating to carriage driving. Wayne will check the Carriage Association of America (CAA) website to see if we are listed and if there is a link to our site. If not, Wayne will ask the CAA to list us and link to us. We also need to be in the Virginia Horse Journal and the Virginia Horse Council publications.

At the annual meeting Sunny Cummings had mentioned that Jack Day invited our club to come and tour his carriage collection. Sunny will set up a proposed date for this so we can invite our members. We would carpool to Jack's.

**New Business** - The Board agreed that it would be a good idea to offer our members an organized trip to Martin's Spring Auction. This will be on April 28 and 29. We hope this would appeal to the new club members who are getting started in the sport of carriage driving. We could carpool to the auction at Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The ideal would be to arrive there on Thursday afternoon in time to preview the carriages offered. We would need to spend Thursday night and all day Friday. Carpools that wanted to could stay until Saturday afternoon. The "high end" items are auctioned on Friday and the rest go on Saturday. Wayne will send Cindy a blurb about this for *The Reinboard*.

*continued on Page 7.....*

*continued...*

**Merging with Piedmont Driving Club** – There were no further developments regarding this idea.

**Nancy Bedford moved and Elizabeth Moore seconded the motion that we do not approach PDC about this; that we wait for them to talk to us. There followed a general discussion with no one giving any good reason as to why we would want to merge with another club. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Winmill Pleasure Show** – Bill Long has our dates free and will judge our show. We discussed the types of classes, the marathon [should be timed this year], etc. Nancy said that the contract Morven Park offered us requires us to commit to the rent for 10 stalls. In the past for one-day shows, exhibitors have rented almost no stalls. The Board agreed to rent the stalls, per the contract. We believe that for a two-day event, we can recoup most, if not all, of the money.

**Paul Traub moved and Joan Hancock seconded the motion that we engage Bill Long for both days. The motion passed unanimously.** Wayne will be liaison with Bill Long and make the final arrangements with him. On the second day (Sunday) Bill will give clinics; 45 minutes for \$65.00. The timed marathon will also be on Sunday.

The show committee will meet on February 18 at 2 p.m.

Other Business – **Elizabeth Moore moved and several people seconded a motion that we donate \$150.00 to Foxcroft School. We used their facility rent-free for our annual meeting. We should show our appreciation. In other years, we had rented the carriage house at Oatlands. This year the rent doubled, so Foxcroft saved us about \$150 after we give them a donation. This motion passed unanimously.**

Cindy recommended that we sponsor a clinic on turnout [carriage, horse and driver]. New drivers have many questions, especially about what they are expected to wear on picnic drives and in shows. Sunny will contact Maryalice Matheson to ask if she would do this and how much she would charge. Sunny will let Queenie know as soon as possible. We need to do this before the good driving weather.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Elizabeth Moore  
Recording Secretary

### **Bio of Bill Long – Judge for the PRDA Annual Show**

Bill Long was born in Ottawa, Canada in 1945, he moved with his family to the US at an early age. His extended family still resides in Canada. Bill drove his first 4-in-hand at the age of 8 and has been driving ever since. In 1976 he started driving for the USET at National and International competitions of Combined Driving.

Bill immediately found in that sport something that was to stick with him, and in 1982 he competed at his first World Driving Championship in Hungary representing the US at the first of 6 World Championships to date.

In 1985 he was the first American to win the Royal Windsor Grand Prix in England. The following year he was the recipient of the Whitney Stone Memorial Trophy, which is the highest honor given by the USET each year to ambassador to Equine Sports in the United States.

In 1991, Bill moved with his family to Southern Pines, North Carolina and started his own Driving Center. He resides there with his wife Linda.

Bill is currently an American Driving Society and USEF Recorded judge. With a new sponsor Bill recently started driving a new team of Holsteiners from Hungary.

## History of Mrs. Viola Winmill & The Winmill Carriage Collection

In May of 1928 Robert Winmill surprised his wife Viola on her birthday by giving her a large coach pulled by four enormous bay horses. He arranged for her to take eight driving lessons from an experienced and skilled driver, Morris E. Howlett, world-renown for his coaching expertise over several decades. Soon she was driving her coach, a four-in-hand, to hunt races, meets and to Sunday luncheon parties with guests as passengers. It became such a popular form of transportation that advance bookings were made in a specially designed book.

On a Sunday in 1930, Mrs. Winmill set out with a group to go to a party in Warrenton. Among the passengers were her father J. Allen Townsend, and her husband Bobby. The four horses started turning right down the hill of Alexandria Pike, although Viola was directing them towards the left. The wheels skidded on loose stones and the coach turned over onto its side, throwing the driver and passengers onto the ground. Bobby's hip was broken and the coach was smashed beyond repair. Although Viola was visibly shaken up by the accident Bobby, purchased another coach and soon Viola was driving her four-in-hand again. Mrs. Winmill continued driving her coach until another accident that broke her father's collarbone. With pressure from her mother, Viola gave up driving the big coach.

Viola's sister, Marion Shotter, had been offered a pony coach used by General Tom Thumb and his wife for many years in their Barnum and Bailey Circus. Marion gave the coach to Viola along with six of her Welsh ponies. Viola drove first a four-in-hand and later a six-in-hand to the coach, creating much excitement with passengers and spectators.

Viola was often asked to demonstrate her driving skills at the Virginia Gold Cup Races and the International Horse Shows, and also drove her ponies to a Wells Fargo Miniature Coach during President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Inaugural Parade.

Mrs. Winmill's carriage collection grew to more than 120 vehicles. When traveling in the US or in Europe, she always came back with something: from Killarney, Irish Jaunting carts; from Sicily, a gaily-painted donkey cart; from Vienna, a stylish Russian-type sleigh; and a fine pony carriage from Spain, to mention a few. She acquired a horse-drawn fire engine in New England, a coach from New York, and on a visit to Houston the milk float of a local dairy. Gigs, Broughams and Brakes built by famous carriage makers such as Million and Guilet and Brewster, sleighs with delicate fluted and hand painted sides, farm passenger carts, wagons and others shared space with showcased displays of the liveries of her attendants and almost everything pertaining to horses. However, these acquisitions sometimes caused complications, such as when the Norwegian carriage bought in Bergen was late in arriving at Copenhagen and delayed the sailing of the S.S. Kungsholm to New York.

By 1967 Viola's waning energy prompted her to "...make sure I have an established place for the carriage collection when I die, so they aren't loosed all over the country, and are kept in Virginia if possible." Her daughter Virginia helped by writing, telephoning and visiting many possible institutions and considered and discussed their proposals for displaying her mother's permanent collection. After much deliberation, the proposal from the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia was selected. In March of 1969 a groundbreaking ceremony heralded the start of construction for a new building to house the collection, and thirteen months later the new home for the Winmill Carriage Collection was opened.

Mrs. Winmill passed away in August of 1975, after suffering a massive heart attack. It was Viola's wish to have her casket carried to her gravesite in her old hearse during the funeral procession. The hearse was then returned to the Collection at Morven Park, where it remains today.