



*“To promote an understanding of the life and times of President Woodrow Wilson, his impact on the world, his relevance today and for the future.”*

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## **President & CEO of Presidential Library to Give Talk on the History of Wilson’s Birthplace**

STAUNTON, VA – Since Woodrow Wilson’s visit to Staunton in 1912, there has been a fascination with the home of his birth. The Birthplace, also known as the Manse, was home to the ministers of the First Presbyterian Church of Staunton for 83 years. In 1929, the church congregation decided that the manse was an unsuitable pastoral residence due to the number of curious visitors who would show up to see the home where President Wilson was born. This decision led to the founding of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation in 1938, today known as the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum.

Robin von Seldeneck, President & CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, will share the back story of the birthplace and how it evolved from 1846 until today. This talk will cover architectural changes to the building over the years, as well as the stories of people who were directly involved in its creation, from the ladies of the Church who raised needed funds to build the home, to the story of Grace, an enslaved woman owned by the first Minister to reside at the manse.

Free and open to the public, the talk will take place in the Library and Research Center at the Presidential Library (235 E. Beverley Street) on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum is located at 20 N. Coalter Street in Staunton and includes Wilson’s birthplace, a museum, gardens, and a library and archive. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday, and 12 – 5 p.m. on Sundays. The WWPL’s archival collections are accessible through its e-Library or by appointment. For additional information, call 540-885-0897 or visit [www.woodrowwilson.org](http://www.woodrowwilson.org).

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