Presidents Dispatch

Johnathan Thomas, AHS President

Your hard-working Arlington Historical Society board members are thrilled to announce big changes to the AHS in 2017. Soon after joining the AHS board a few years ago I suggested we need a new website with a modern feel and a place where we could showcase Arlington County historical photos and memorabilia. I quickly learned that if you have a suggestion for a non-profit organization such as ours, you are likely tasked with making it happen. So, with the help of outside web designers, Matt Briney and Chris Lafay, and our heroic volunteer, fellow AHS board member Annette Benbow, we all jumped in and made it happen. By the time you read this we should be fully functional with what I think is a very cool website and one that should whet your local history appetite as we continue to add memorabilia. We’ve even set it up so you can help advertise your business on the site and help a good cause, the AHS. Please visit the site at ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org and take a tour, you might even consider testing the “Donate” tab if you like what you see.

In June, behind the dedicated work of former AHS board member and retired County Treasurer Frank O’Leary, the Society held its largest event in modern history titled, “The Day War Came to Arlington.” Much of the night featured speakers enlightening the audience about the dramatic events that occurred in and around Arlington on that fateful day, September 11, 2001. We’re working to add video highlights of the night to our new website. Continued on Page 4

Editors Note

The Arlington Historical Society would like to give a huge thank you to Jennifer Shaw for her time editing the Newsletter! Beginning this issue, there will be a few changes to the newsletter, as there is a new editor, Dakota Springston. Mr. Springston has added a few new features and historical profiles, such as the Three Sisters, where he will profile a local person, place and relic, but the same great features and recaps will still be here, along with important information about programs and upcoming events. AHS and the editor are looking for back issues of this newsletter, if you have them we would like them! Also, contributions of brief articles and/or news regarding Arlington’s history are most welcome! Contact information is found on page 11 of this newsletter.

Editors Disclaimer: While we greatly appreciate the contributions of our many authors, the views expressed in these articles are solely those of the designated author, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the society, and/or the editor of this newsletter. ~Dakota Springston
Upcoming Public Programs:

September 14th, 7pm at Marymount: the Other Side of Desegregation: Learn what happened in Arlington as it struggled to more fully desegregate its schools by busing. Hear what it was like from a panel of black and white students, parents, and teachers.

October 12th, 7pm at Marymount: Washington’s own Capital Brew master: Christian Heurich: Join Dr. Mark Benbow as he explores the world of Christian Heurich (1842–1945) who was not only Washington D.C.’s most successful brewer, he was the world’s oldest, with 90 years’ experience. He walked across central Europe learning his craft, survived a shipboard cholera epidemic, recovered from malaria and worked as a roustabout on a Caribbean banana boat—all before age 30. Heurich lived most of his life in Washington, becoming its largest private landowner and opening the city’s largest brewery. He won a “beer war” against his rivals and his beers won medals at World’s Fairs. He was trapped in Europe while on vacation at the start of both World Wars, once sleeping through an air raid, and was accused of being a German spy plotting to assassinate Woodrow Wilson. Drawing on family papers and photos, the author chronicles Heurich’s life and the evolving beer industry before and after Prohibition. Dr. Mark Benbow is an assistant professor of American History at Marymount.

November 9th, 7pm at Marymount: Arlington Hall Women in WWII: Who were they? What did they do? This select group of women took their secrecy oath seriously and many have taken their knowledge of their activities during World War II to their graves. Liz Mundy, a historian of the National Security Agency (NSA) knows. Their story can be told today (mostly…). Find out what went on after the girls prep school at Arlington Hall was turned over to the military in the darkest days of World War II.

Directions to Marymount (for our Public Programs):
A number of people have asked questions about parking at Marymount when AHS has its events at the university’s Reinsch Library at 2807 N. Glebe Rd. If you enter the main entrance off of North Glebe Road you can ask the guards for a spot. It’s a short (but hilly) walk to the library on a nice evening.

You may also park in the main garage, accessible off of the 26th Street North entrance. There is handicapped parking available right outside the library as well if you enter campus from the 26th Street North entrance. We hope to see you there!

Other Historical Events:

Marymount University Annual Constitution Day Luncheon at Gerard Phelan Dining Hall-Sept 20 @ 12:15-1:15pm: Please join us at Marymount University for “The Emoluments Clause and the Trump Presidency” presented by Gautham Rao, a legal historian of revolutionary America and the Early American Republic, as this years Constitution Day Luncheon. He is currently working on projects about the legal history of slavery and the law of conspiracy in American history. He is also co-authoring a historian's amicus brief on the meaning of the Foreign Emoluments Clause for the case Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) v. Donald J. Trump. The event is open to the Public and looks to be very interesting! Marymount always provides an excellent show. More information can be found at Marymount's website, or by contacting Dr. Mark Benbow.

Do you know of other historical events, or have an event that you would like to work with AHS on? Please let us know, and we look forward to working with you!
Every issue, the Arlington Historic Society Newsletter will offer the feature Three Sisters, showcasing three things that make Arlington what it is. There will be a person, a place and an artifact from the AHS collection, all illustrating a unique facet of the history of Arlington.

**Person of the Issue:**
Arlington has many “unsung heroes”, who have helped not only to make Arlington what it is today, but have helped our American nation. This issue is dedicated to two great Arlingtonians. Recently, Arlington has lost two of its heroes, with the deaths of Leonard “Doc” Muse, and Martha Miller, both icons in Arlington. “Doc” Muse, a fixture of the Green Valley Pharmacy, leaves behind a legacy of service, kindness and a history of one of the longest running businesses in Arlington. Martha Ann Miller, was a part of desegregation efforts in Arlington, and recently published a book detailing her experiences. Both Muse and Miller were living history in Arlington, and can be counted among the many great people to have called Arlington home over the years.

**Artifact of the Issue:**
Featured this month is a Civil War James Artillery Shell, which the Donaldson Family found on their family farm, and donated to the Historic Society in the late 1950s. This projectile represents a fascinating part of Arlington’s Civil War history, and was most likely fired from Union Posts in DC, at Chain Bridge, or a Union Naval Ship on the Potomac. If you want to see more, come check out the collection at the historic Hume School!

**Place of the Issue:**
Arlington is made up of many historic places, homes, streams, forests, stores, parks and schools. Each issue we will feature a different one of these historic places, and showcase a little of what makes Arlington, Arlington.

The Charles Drew House is one of the unsung historic places of Arlington, and helps to show the historical legacy of one of Arlington’s heroes, Dr. Charles Drew. The home was purchased in 1920 by the Drew Family of Washington, D.C, and has been in the family ever since! It’s occupants have included the famous Dr. Drew, his brother (a world famous swimming coach) and numerous other members of the Drew Family. The house is still in the Drew Family, and the current owners are Catherine Drew, her husband Wayne Botts and their three children. The Drew's are proud to show off their scrapbook which includes historic tax bills, old family photos, water bills, and numerous other interesting historical papers! The home was featured in an excellent Arlington Magazine article, showcasing the generations of history in the walls. Catie and Wayne are some of Arlington’s many excellent gardeners, and are also active in the Arlington’s Urban Agriculture Movement, AFAC, community Events, and the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department.
The event has been followed this summer with our Public Programs series as part of our on-going effort to provide free lectures so our members can learn more about the fabulous history of Arlington County. Keep an eye on our monthly email blasts so you can add future speaking engagements to your calendar.

A personal game I like to play is “Who Would Be on My Mount Rushmore?” Recently, I gave thought to who would be on my Mount Rushmore of Arlington history if I only had four people to select. Keep in mind, we didn’t take the name Arlington until 1920 but our land has always been rich with American history. That being written, I decided the great Chief of the Powhatan, Wahunsenacawh’s, face would be first on my Mount Rushmore. Yes, it’s been written that he could be a ruthless warrior but Native Americans lived on and passed through Arlington land long before European settlers arrived and Chief Powhatan is the most famous of all the local Native tribesmen. It’s been said he and his men camped at what became known as Powhatan Springs near the Dominion Hills Swim Club and where I played as a child.

One thought for the next face on my mountain might be that of Capt. John Smith. As many historians argue, after sailing up the Potomac River the English captain never actually set foot on what would become Arlington soil. Maybe not but he did put us on the map! On his famous 1608 map, when he drew the first detailed map of the new colony which included what would become Arlington. But apparently Smith was not well liked or respected by many English, so I passed.

The second face is that of George Washington Park Custis, the grandson of Martha Washington, later adopted son of Martha and George Washington, and father-in-law to Robert E. Lee, whom we all know later made a fateful decision at Arlington. Why Custis? Well, he took a chance at a young age and dedicated himself to building his Greek style mansion, Arlington House, named after his family’s estate on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. A century later, local residents liked it so much they adopted the name Arlington for our county and the house became our county’s symbol.

For the third face on my Mount Rushmore of Arlington, some would suggest Robert E. Lee because of his passion for the area and his willingness to defend it but in the current environment we live in his name has become a lightning rod. Thus, I opted for one of my favorite Arlington characters, Commonwealth Attorney Crandal Mackey, who took a group of businessmen in 1904, my great-grandfather included, and cleaned out gambling joints and brothels from Rosslyn and the old Jackson City, near the 14th Street Bridge. Apparently, Mackey feared no one.

For the fourth face, I decided that Dr. Charles Drew’s should be on the mountain. I didn’t know a lot about Dr. Drew until I met and listened to his daughter, Charlene Drew Jarvis, speak at an AHS annual banquet a few years back and I was captivated. I could write an entire article about Charles Drew, if my editor gave me the space, but I’ll leave you with knowing he organized the very first large-scale blood bank and pioneered the discovery for storing blood plasma for transfusion; something near and dear to my recovering young Arlingtonian friend, Paige Cranwell.

Send us some of your suggestions for past Arlingtonians to be shown on a Mount Rushmore, there are so many choices, and thank you for being a special part of the Society.

~ Johnathan Thomas, AHS President
Arlington is currently in the process of celebrating the WWI Centenary, or the 100th anniversary of the First World War. Arlington played a very interesting part in the First World War, sending some of our “boys” off to fight in Europe, sending young ladies as nurses, and acting as a training ground for soldiers, sailors, marines, and even some of the first military fliers. Arlington is finding various ways to honor these soldiers and civilians, and to remember these events; this newsletter will also take part, and will focus on a different WWI character or event and discuss their part in the “Great War.” The focus this issue will be Irving Newman. Irving Newman was a young Army Air Corps Flier, whom had grown up in the Cherrydale neighborhood. Newman was considered to be an all American, and was eager to join the flying corps. Irving first flew at Fort Myer, and being one of the early pilots, he first flew a “Jenny”, and was loved by his fellow “flyboys,” with whom he often joked with about his height (see image — Newman, on the right, was quite tall). Irving was an instrumental part of the “Flying Corps” of the Army, and was considered to be one of the “best” that the Army had. Newman was soon become a flight instructor for the Army, using his expertise to train new Army (yes, Army, the Air Force was not separated from the Army until 1946) pilots for Uncle Sam’s Flying Corps, whom would soon be going to France to fight the “German menace.” Irving was an excellent instructor, and trained several pilots who would go on to become famous aces, and was a founding member of the Army Flight Training School, which had moved to Fort Worth, Texas. Tragedy struck while in Texas however, and Irving was killed when his plane #5146 crashed during a training mission. Irving is remembered on the WWI memorial in Cherrydale, and in the minds of the people of Arlington, and in the history of the United States Army and Air Force. His life shows the impact that one person can have, and how Arlington helped to shape the United States, and the world around them.

Below Right: Irving’s Plane crashed, Ft. Worth, TX.
Below: Irving Newman’s Flag.
In case you missed a program, or wanted more information about one, here are brief recaps provided by Max Gross, AHS Magazine Editor, except where otherwise noted. Special thanks to Marymount University, and Marymount History and Politics for helping insure these great events happen!


The April 13, 2017 meeting of the Society (held at Marymount University) featured Dr. Cindy Gueli, author of “Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington’s WWII Government Girls,” telling the story of a less well known aspect of World War II. Just as with earlier wars, as the men left the workforce to join the ranks of our armed forces, opportunities for women to accomplish a wider variety of jobs arose. While many are familiar with the image of “Rosie the Riveter,” and those who took on other formerly male dominated jobs, this lecture focused on other support for the war effort, especially by those with clerical skills and those who lived and worked for the War Department. More than 200,000 women from across the United States flooded into Washington during the war years to meet this demand. While many entered the women’s military units, such as the WAVES (Navy) or the WACS (Army), the majority took jobs as civilian secretaries and stenographers. A part of Dr. Gueli’s presentation dealt with the housing crisis that this vast influx of women caused in Washington and its suburbs, including Arlington. The housing arrangements were complex and gave rise to many incidents. In addition, male-female relationships were discussed, covering the war years and immediately after, when the number of women vastly outnumbered men. Dr. Gueli noted that most of the women married and/or settled down, remaining in Washington rather than returning to their previous homes. While many of the “war workers” continued to work for the federal government, others went on to found their own companies, or work for private businesses, while others became the devoted “homemakers”, who became the “movers and shakers” of life during the years when Arlington was the “fastest growing County in the Nation”, including leading the charge for progressive government as well as working for the desegregation of our schools, thus making Arlington what is it today.

May: I was a Union Man: Lewis and James Marcey’s Civil War Experiences, by Jessica Kaplan

Jessica Kaplan lives in one of the surviving Marcey homes just off Military Road in Arlington. Curious, she wondered who these Marcey’s were, who, in the late 19th century, even had a community (Marceytown) named for them. Using copies of the records of the Southern Claims Commission (as many of the originals have disappeared), genealogical research, and surveys of land records, Ms. Kaplan has attempted to piece together the story of the Marcey families. The presentation included themes of division and loyalty, and looked at some of the issues that faced Alexandria County (now Arlington) in the 1860s. On May 11, 2017, she gave a presentation to members of the Arlington Historical Society at Marymount University about her home and neighborhood. James and Lewis Marcey, two brothers of the once prominent family, owned farms on either side of what is now Military Road during the 1840s-1870s. During the Civil War, Union troops occupied what is now Arlington, eventually erecting 22 forts within the present day boundaries. While none of the forts were on Marcey property, the soldiers crossed and re-crossed their land, cut down their trees, confiscated their crops and built Military Road through the middle of their lands. For those who missed the program, Ms. Kaplan’s information was published in an article in the 2016 issue of the Arlington Historical Society Magazine.
June: The History of Theodore Roosevelt Island, by Brad Kruger, NPS, Editor
Brad Kruger of the National Park Service brought to life the long and varied history of Theodore Roosevelt Island. Throughout the ages Roosevelt Island has been home to many different peoples and organizations. The first residents were Native Americans (the Anacostin, whom were encountered by Captain John Smith), for whom the Island was first names for i.e. Analostin, or Analostan. John Mason, son of prominent Virginia Patriot George Mason, held jousting tournaments on the island at his summer home (also named Analoston) and cultivated gardens which were internationally renowned, as well as raising “Arlington” sheep. During the Civil War, the island was occupied by United States Colored Troops, whom would train and drill on the island. Analostin would also be home to the Analostin Club, which would host famous rower Ned Hanlan in a famous race against a Potomac Boat Club rower in 1880. The island would later be used as a campground by the Ballston Troop of the Boy Scouts (Troop 104), producing an iconic photograph on the Island. The Island has a long history, and is an excellent window into the changes of Arlington, and how the past is still alive all around us.

July: The Vanished Businesses of Arlington, by Charlie Clark, based on program notes, edited by Dakota Springston
This talk was a journey back in time from when Ballston was “Balls Crossroads”, through the era of Jackson City, and the Rosslyn lumberyards all the way to the present, when fifteen restaurants have been shuttered in the last three years! Among the many topics mentioned in the whirlwind tour of the lost businesses of Arlington were many crowd favorites, including, Speedy Gonzales in Ballston, Virginia Hardware, the Shell Station at Chain Bridge (once owned Lincoln Mackey, Crandal’s son), crowd favorites Tops, Kann’s, Hot Shoppes, the Twin Bridges Marriot, Buckingham Theatre, and countless others. The lecture included many different venues that have been popular in Arlington, and showed how Arlington has grown and changed throughout the years, from a small farming community with dirt roads to a thriving metropolis, with multiple metro lines and numerous high rises, as well as a great number of restaurants. “The Vanished Businesses of Arlington” also showed establishments and locations that have survived, such as Mario’s, Cherrydale Hardware, Bill’s Hardware, and several others. Also touched upon were the numerous times where old buildings were reused, such as Lyon Hall, or Liberty Tavern, Linda’s Café, and how their character is still alive in Arlington today. Charlie Clark touched upon more than just the buildings, or what sign was on the wall at Eskimo Nells, but looked at how the changes in Arlington have been emblematic of a larger change, looking for instance at the Progressive Cleaners in Cherrydale (now Cherrydale Auto Parts), and their famous motto “Arlington is Progressive and so are we.” The illustrated talk traced how Arlington has grown since the great growth of the 1940s and 50s, and how Arlington grappled with the periods of social change during the turbulent decades that followed. This was an interesting topic for all who attended, as it helped showcase Arlington as a place that is growing and changing, but still retains its character and unique atmosphere. This is also a everlasting project for Clark, who is constantly expanding his work in his column in the Falls Church News Press “Our Man in Arlington” where you can read more of his work.

Don’t miss our upcoming programs!! We have a great slate lined up of speakers and research! Be sure to check here in your newsletter, online at our website, and on our Facebook for more Information! There is always something exciting happening at AHS! Do you have an idea for a program, an event or research you would like to present? Then please contact us! Let’s keep making, and keeping history alive, in Arlington!
The Wisteria Vine that grows at Ball Sellers House is truly one of the natural marvels of Arlington County, and always guarantees a great show! “The Vine” in this newsletter will cover Ball Sellers House, and include the latest information from Ball Sellers.

Artifact Cleaning Continues!
Volunteers have been working all year to clean the artifacts unearthed in last year’s archaeological dig at the Ball-Sellers House and on September 30th we will give a sneak peek of some of the artifacts at Gunston Hall’s Archaeology Day, at the historic home of founding father, George Mason, who may have had clothing tailored by our own William Carlin!

Most Saturday afternoons this year, you would have heard water swishing, toothbrushes brushing, and occasional exclamations of amazement as volunteers cleaned dirt from the thousands of artifacts that will be added to the Arlington historical Society’s collection. It has been just as fascinating cleaning the artifacts as it was getting them out of the ground. Volunteers cleaned about 30 boxes of artifacts including stone artifacts used by Native Americans that predate the Ball-Sellers House, salt glazed pottery from the 1700s, hand-painted ceramic pieces, glass of every hue and use, some Civil War artifacts, and even intact medicine bottles from the turn of the last century. Showing selected artifacts at Gunston Hall helps distinguish the historic significance of the Ball-Sellers House among other historic houses built in the same era. John Ball and his family were among the first to permanently settle on the land that is now Arlington County. This event will also help kick off the next phase of the project which will be piecing together and researching what we found. Join us at Gunston Hall’s Archaeology Day on September 30 from 10-4 pm 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, Va. If you have any questions or would like to help with the artifacts, please email Annette.Benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

AHS Needs Volunteers!
If interested, Contact Volunteer Coordinator Robert White (robertwhite7@aol.com)
Savannah Landefeld of Yorktown High School was selected the winner of this year’s Arlington Public High School historical essay contest. Ben McCracken of Washington-Lee won second prize with his essay. For the fifth consecutive year, AHS and Columbia Masonic Lodge #285 teamed up to sponsor this contest and awarded cash prizes to the winners. While the contest is open to all high school students in the public school system, this year both winners were rising seniors. The prompt for this year’s essay was: “The Progressive Era in America between 1890 and 1920 was a time period of political reform and social activism to clean up the ills of the nation. In Arlington, Crandal Mackey, local commonwealth attorney, used his power to clean up a part of Arlington, often referred to as the “Monte Carlo of America.” Was Crandal Mackey successful in his quest and did Arlington continue this social activism through the 1900s?” Ms. Landefeld’s winning essay will be published in the 2017 edition of the Arlington Historical Society Magazine. Congratulations to our winners!
The AHS 2017 Gala

Francis O’Leary organized this year’s gala event, and what a show it was!
The Captain of the USS Arlington spoke, along with the keynote, who brought us deep into the events of the September 11th terrorist attacks. “War Came to Arlington” highlighted one of the many wars which Arlington has been a part of, and was an excellent event. Thanks to all for a great show!

AHS at the Fair
By Kathryn Holt Springston
August saw the AHS at the Arlington County Fair, a Arlington tradition since 1976. The first “Arlington” (actually Alexandria) County Fair was held in 1804, as a contest arising between George Washington Parke Custis (of Arlington) and John Mason (of Analostan) over who had the better wool from their Merino Sheep. Custis had breed his own “Arlington” Merino Sheep from Mount Vernon stock, and was very proud of his sheep. The Exhibition, or Fair, was held at Arlington Springs, where there was picnic served, “feats of trick riding were performed”, awards were given for different crops — “the biggest head of cabbage” was awarded a special prize, and silver Loving Cups were awarded to the best shorn sheep. The Exhibitions fizzled in the 1810s with the collapse of the wool market, and Arlington didn't have a fair until C. Francis Lay, William Steele, Dottie Steppe, Kathryn Holt and others helped to bring the Fair back in 1976, which Arlington has enjoyed ever since! At the AHS booth this year, Fair Goers had the chance to meet Charlie Clark, have copies of his latest book signed, as well as find their home on historic maps of Arlington!

Hume School Happenings
There is always something happening at the AHS Museum at the Hume School, and right now is the exciting WWI exhibit put together by Dr. Mark Benbow. The exhibit includes World War I uniforms, photographs, and civilian items that help show Arlington’s experience during the “War to End All Wars.” The exhibit is part of a larger effort to mark and remember the centennial of the First World War, and honors the Arlingtonians who were a part of this “Great War.” Arlington’s WWI history is often eclipsed by WWII history, and by the large surge of growth after the war. This is an interesting look at what Arlington was like one hundred years ago! Some items in the exhibit were even provided from Mark Benbow’s personal collection. Stop by and see it soon!
AHS in Action:

A question that I often get is “what has the Historical Society done lately?” Sometimes people don’t realize that an Historic Society does more than just study the past, or have meetings. AHS is a active part of Arlington, and there is always something in the works. Currently, AHS is working on multiple projects, including conservation work on newly found relics, helping Arlington County Schools implement local history instruction in the classroom, re-cataloguing our collections so that they will be preserved for the future, along with numerous other projects. We are also expanding our Public Speaker Program, and are working to show our lectures online. AHS is also working on a project to strengthen preservation in Arlington County, and to save our existing historical resources before they disappear. AHS is always looking for ways to engage with the community, and educate the public about history, and we need your help do to that. If you have an idea, let us know, or if you want to be a part of saving Arlington's history, we are always looking for volunteers and ideas! Together, we can not only save our history, we can make it!

AHS Blast from the Past

Each issue will try to feature a “AHS Blast from the Past” to complement what AHS is currently doing, and to show how AHS has been a positive force in Arlington County, and in local history. In 1987, AHS hosted an authors event, where Arlingtonians could meet and greet local authors, including Nan Netherton, Eleanor Templeman, and Rudy Wendelin.

Right: Rudy Wendelin meets a young Smokey the Bear fan!
Photo Credit: Scott Springston

Often at AHS we find interesting old photos, or old bits and pieces of memorabilia, and we try to share these with our members and the public. This photograph was provided by the Honorable George Varoutsos, and was taken about 1947, and shows a very cool part of Arlington History.

Who thinks they remember where it was? If you know, or if you remember going here, let us know your stories (or guesses as to where this is), and we may print them in the next newsletter!
The Arlington Historical Society, founded in 1956, is a non-profit organization incorporated under Virginia laws. The Society supports research, collection, preservation, discovery, and dissemination of Arlington County’s history. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Arlington Historical Museum at the Historic Hume School. Board meetings are open to the public.

History Awaits. Come Visit!

Arlington Historical Museum
1805 South Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington, VA 22202
Hours: Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Ball-Sellers House Museum
5620 Third Street South
Arlington, VA 22204
Hours: Saturdays 1:00-4:00 P.M. (April through October)

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