



Arlington Historical Society

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUMMER 2018

NEXT MEETING:

July 24 2018, 7pm
1805 South Arlington Ridge
Road, Arlington, VA 22202.

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CIRCLE THE DATE

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*INDICATES MONTHLY PROGRAM AT MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

July 12, 2018: From the Skies of Ft. Myer to the Skies of Europe: The Development of the Aeroplane and Its Impact on World War I*
August 4 2018 Ball Sellers

Military Day

August 17-19 AHS at the County Fair

September 14th Ball Sellers

Harvest Festival Tentative*

November 8th 2018: The History of Fort Myer*

President's Dispatch

Cathy Hix, President

Fellow Members of the Arlington Historical Society,

In May of 2018 our new Board of Directors began our work for the upcoming year. As the new President, I am thrilled to lead AHS and we are excited about the upcoming year. We will continue to remember the 100th Anniversary of World War I and in February 2019, we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the integration of Arlington Public Schools. Expect events and programs throughout 2018-19 to honor both of these historic events.

We have already had a busy spring. On May 9th, we held our annual banquet at Washington Golf and Country Club where we benefited from beautiful weather and an amazing venue. Guest speakers included former NFL football player and W-L alum Eric Sievers and President and CEO of National Capital Bank and Yorktown alum Richard "Randy" Anderson. We appreciate our members coming out to support this event.

Other events this spring have included the sold-out Wine and Wisteria event which we managed to hold despite the rainy spring season, the program titled A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose with author Paula Whitacre. We also received a very generous fundraising opportunity when the owners of The Book House, a beloved Arlington business that is closing, allowed AHS volunteers to sell the remaining books at the site with all profit going to our society.

The Arlington Historical Society will continue to be busy during the summer. We had a fantastic event on June 28th when we partnered with the Arlington World War I Commission to honor and remember WWI. The event Arlington Remembers the Great War was held at the Navy Atrium and served as a fitting tribute to the Arlington citizens who served in this war. We also plan to have a booth at the county fair in August and hope that you will stop by and visit.

Arlington Historical Society events are staffed by volunteers who are passionate about Arlington History. As a member of this great society, we hope to see you in attendance at our many events this year. We are also always looking for volunteers for the many activities we participate in to celebrate Arlington's history. Check out our website for more information: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>

Editors Note: A Hearty Welcome to our New President!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Public Programs:

July 12, 2018: From the Skies of Ft. Myer to the Skies of Europe: The Development of the Aeroplane and Its Impact on World War I: The Wright Brothers' test flights at Fort Myer in Arlington County were an important link in the development of US military aviation. Steve Suddaby, past president of the World War One Historical Association, will discuss this and explain how the crises of the First World War caused the European powers to accelerate the development of the "aeroplane". He will also describe the impacts of aviation on the war itself. Steve Suddaby is a four-time winner of the Thornton D. Hooper Award for Excellence in Aviation History. In the last 25 years, Steve has focused his research on the aerial bombing campaigns of WWI. He and his father Allen have published the English translation of the history of French aerial bombing under the title *French Strategic and Tactical Bombardment Forces of World War I*. Steve is a retired national security analyst. **This presentation is in Rowley Hall, Room G127, NOT the Reinsch Library Auditorium.**

November 8th 2018: The History of Fort Myer: The history of Fort Myer is a deep and rich as Arlington's itself! From its modest beginnings during the Civil War as Fort Whipple to the premier cavalry post of the US Army and up to the present day, events occurring at Fort Myer have shaped our Nation's (and the world's) history . Help commemorate the end of World War I and Veteran's Day by learning about Fort Myer's role in this conflict and beyond. Historian Kim Bernard Holien served as a military historian for the US Government starting in 1979 and from 1995 was the Fort Myer Military Community historian until his retirement in 2013. He earned his bachelors degree from Bethel College and his masters degree in history from George Mason University in 1984. He is the author of the *Battle at Ball's Bluff*.

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 the campus from the 26th Street North entrance. We hope to see you there!

Other Historical Events:- History around the Community

07/18/2018: History Talk: Julia Rhinehart: World War I Yeomanette: 7:00-8:00pm at the Aurora Hills Public Library. Women were first allowed to officially enlist as Navy yeomen. Julia Rhinehart, a resident of the Glencarlyn neighborhood and a Virginia native was among the women who was not a nurse who enlisted to aid the US war effort. Find out who she was, what conditions were like as a Navy yeomanette in 1917, and why we know so much about her. Help commemorate the end of World War I by appreciating and learning more about the sacrifices of our forebears.

08/4/2018: Ball Sellers Military Through the Ages Day: Join the Arlington Historical Society as it hosts a group of historians and reenactors demonstrating Arlington's Military History through the ages. Have your tintype taken by a Civil War photographer, learn how to march and drill with the Continental Army, learn about WWI from a Yeomanette, or help fight WWII on the Homefront! Check out our social media and website for more details!

09/14/2018 Ball Sellers Harvest Festival Day: Come out in September to Ball Sellers to see what it would be like at harvest time in Arlington! Enjoy tasting and cooking period foods, play period games and enjoy some colonial music and delights!



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:

Charles "Chuck" Donaldson was born and raised in Cherrydale. He is a 7th generation Cherrydaler, his paternal line of descent being Andrew, Thomas, John, Harry Dorsey, Harry, and Walter "Pete" Donaldson. Chuck is a Washington-Lee High School graduate (Class of 1948) who joined the Navy at the age of 17. After his tour of duty, he joined the Arlington County Police Department, serving for 30 years as a motorcycle officer and as a detective. In 1953, he married Jewell Phipps, and one of their sons still owns the family home.



One of his memories of growing up in Arlington is the day a group of Native Americans (headed by Chief of the Crow Nation Plenty Coup) held a pow-wow in the back yard of the house across the street from his childhood home. What he remembers best is how scared he was seeing the people assemble in full regalia, including full length headdresses! The Native Americans were visiting the home of the owner, a high ranking official in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The pow-wow consisted of a campfire, a picnic, blessings (and maybe a curse or two) on the property and its present and future owners.



Bob Newman and Chuck Donaldson (on the right) attended the recent Cherrydale "Old Timers" Reunion.

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 Arlington Amusement Beach was located on the Potomac near where 14th Street Bridge is today. Opened in the early 1910s, it lasted until the area was developed for the Pentagon and its surrounding roadways in 1940.

The Beach advertised it provided a "Clean Sand Beach", "Wonderful Shade Trees", "Clean, Clear Fresh Water", with "Always a Cool Breeze"! The park also provided "100 Clean Amusements", including a Merry-go-round, canoe rentals, the occasional Chautauqua show, and "Night Bathing".

There were also the plane rides — Captain Elmer Marcey had bought his plane from the Army Air Corps at the end of World War I and flew it from the Beach. For 50 cents you could have a thrilling ride over the surrounding countryside!



Artifact of the Issue:

This arrowhead was found on Quebec Street

in the mid 1950s. It was just a few inches below the ground surface under the boughs of a huge pine tree, which marked the edge of Dorsey Donaldson's cherry orchard.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS— THE VINE—

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.

Summer at Ball-Sellers

Summer has always been very busy at the Ball Sellers House! Back in the 1700s, John Ball and his family would have been busy working the crops, chasing off pests from the fruit trees, or taking a well deserved swimming or fishing break in Four Mile Run. There would always have been chores to do, but who could argue with the allure of Four Mile Run, or the beauty of the woods of Glencarlyn? Just like the Ball or Carlin Families would have been busy in the past, our docents and volunteers have been planting the garden and the Plot Against Hunger for the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

Ball Sellers Volunteers hosted a wonderful Wine and Wisteria evening, guided visitors from the Arlington County Home Tour, and showed off our historic treasure to a Smithsonian Associates Tour.

Right: Ball Sellers was well represented in the annual Glencarlyn Day Parade! Our costumed interpreters even made the front page of the Glencarlyn Civic Association newsletter!



Looking Backwards

This section of the newsletter will list a few of the anniversaries of historical events. We will look back at the different events occurring during the same months of various centuries in Arlington and beyond. This issue focuses on the summer.

1918: WWI was raging, Arlington Boys fought the Second Battle of the Marne.

1818: While the Carlin family was at Ball Sellers, General Andrew Jackson invaded Spanish Florida.

1718: In 1718 there were a few land grants in Arlington, but in North Carolina, Blackbeard had just besieged Charleston, and was seeking refuge in Bath County, North Carolina.

1618: Arlington was home to Native Americans, and had been visited by visitors from Jamestown.

**DO YOU LOVE HISTORY?
DO YOU WANT TO MEET
COOL PEOPLE?
DO YOU WANT TO BE
AROUND TANTALIZING
ARTIFACTS AND
AMAZING HISTORY?
IF SO VOLUNTEER!
AHS NEEDS
VOLUNTEERS!
If interested,
Contact Volunteer
Coordinator Robert
White
(robertwhite7@aol.com)**

**NOTICES AND NOTIFICATIONS
NOTICE OF BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

By Gerry Laporte, AHS Secretary

The Board of Directors of the Arlington Historical Society amended the Bylaws of AHS recently on two occasions. AHS must notify its members of Bylaws changes in the next newsletter of AHS, which is the reason for this notice.

On March 6, 2018, the board amended the Bylaws to establish a standing Finance Committee of the Board and to eliminate the Audit Committee. The new Finance Committee consists of at least two board members nominated by the President and approved by the board plus the Treasurer. Its duties are to develop AHS's annual budget for adoption by the board, oversee AHS's financial reporting and disclosure process, monitor choices of accounting policies and principles, and undertake other financial tasks related to the operations of the Society as may be deemed appropriate by the board. The members of the Finance Committee other than the Treasurer are also responsible for reviewing the accounts of the Treasurer each year and issuing a report on its review, a duty formerly handled by the Audit Committee.

On April 3, 2018, the board amended the bylaws to change the name of the "Family" membership category to "Dual" membership and to eliminate the "Donor" membership category.

You can find an updated copy of AHS's Constitution and Bylaws on its website at www.ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org.

DO YOU HAVE OLD FILMS OR PHOTOGRAPHS OF ARLINGTON?

If you happen to have or find any old films or photographs in your attic or closet that show scenes of Arlington "back in the day", AHS would be glad to give them a new home. Contact us and we will be glad to help preserve your part of Arlington History.

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Public Program Recaps

AHS has had a great year for public programs! If you haven't had a chance to attend a public program or a speaker hosted by AHS, don't miss our next program! Details can be found on page 2 and on our website. So far for this year, we had an excellent banquet at the Washington Golf and Country Club, heard from archaeologist Patrick O'Neil about the Ball Sellers House, learned about the impact of Immigration in WWI, dove into the life and times of Julia Wilbur and the impact of nursing on the Civil War. Arlington was also lucky to have heard from Mark Benbow and others at a wonderful commemoration of WWI in Arlington. Our next few programs promise to be just as interesting and informative, so don't miss them!

AHS Blast from the Past

Each issue will try to feature a "AHS Blast from the Past" to complement what has happened in the past, and connect it to the present.

Where do you think this picture is? Do you know when it was taken? Or who this is? If you know, or think you know, share with us! This "Klassy Kamp" from 1914 appears to be along the Potomac somewhere, but where is it?

Looks like a good adventure!

Our last photograph showed the Blizzard of 1958, in the Cherrydale backyard of the Holt Springston Family.



AHS Membership Categories, Dues and Benefits Changed By Tracy Hopkins

For the first time in several years, in April 2018 the Arlington Historical Society board approved changes to the organization's membership categories, dues, and benefits. As noted in the Notice of Bylaws Amendments elsewhere in this newsletter, these changes included changing the name of the "Family" membership to "Dual" membership and eliminating the "Donor" membership category to simplify the membership structure. These changes are effective for the 2018-19 membership year starting July 1, 2018.

The revised membership categories and dues are:

- Life – \$1000 (one-time)
- Business/Organization – \$350 (annually)
- Sponsor – \$100 (annually)
- Dual – \$50 (annually)
- Individual – \$35 (annually)

Benefits include:

- Helping preserve and promote Arlington history and build community in Arlington
- Invitations to members-only events
- Subscription to AHS newsletter
- Subscription to Arlington Historical Magazine
- 10% discount at Arlington Historical Museum shop
- Priority ticketing and discounts on annual banquet and other ticketed events
- Recognition in Arlington Historical Magazine (Sponsor, Business, and Life members)
- Free admission/shop discounts at 1000+ cultural institutions through North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program (Sponsor and Life members)
- Recognition in annual banquet program (Business and Life members)
- Recognition in AHS newsletter and Social Media (Business members)

AHS plans to send renewal reminders to current annual members by email or letter in early July 2018. Please renew as soon as possible to maintain your support of AHS and keep your benefits for 2018-19!

See <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/membership/>

ADDENDA

**AHS
OFFICERS:
PRESIDENT:**
Cathy Hix

**VICE
PRESIDENT
AND
VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR:**
Robert White

**SECRETARY:
(AND COUNTY
HALRB
LIAISON)**
Gerry Laporte

TREASURER:
John H. Tuohy

**THE AHS
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:**
-Mark Benbow:
Museum Director
-Annette Benbow:
Ball Sellers
Committee Chair
-Haley Anderson
-George Axiotis
-Tom Dickinson
-Gerald Haines
-Tracy Hopkins:
Chair,
Membership
Committee
-Jessica Kaplan
-Elise Milstein
-Karl VanNewkirk
-Dakota
Springston:
Newsletter Editor

Editors Note

Editors Disclaimer: While we greatly appreciate the contributions of our many authors, 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

AHS in Action:

A question that I am often asked 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. 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!

A Tasty Treat for the Summer

This perfect for summer recipe for “Caromel Ice or Creme” comes from *The Virginia House-wife*, by Arlington resident Mary Randolph.

“Take a teacup of sugar and put it on the fire until it acquires the consistency of candy. To a quart of custard with a stick of cinnamon in it, put in the above sugar. The custard and sugar when mixed must both be hot. At first you will think that the sugar has spoiled the custard, but when dissolved it flavors it delightfully. Cool. Freeze according to Mr. Washington’s crème machine for ice.”

Editors Note: In case you don’t have a Mr. Washington’s Crème Machine, (a 1794 version of today’s ice cream freezer) just mix in caramel syrup with softened vanilla ice cream!

Hume School Happenings

There is always something happening at the AHS Museum at the Hume School, and right now there is the 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 our WWII history, and by the large surge of growth in our County after the war. This is an interesting look at what Arlington was like one hundred years ago! Some items in the exhibit were provided from Mark Benbow’s personal collection. Stop by and see it soon!

The Arlington Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly.

This is your newsletter, and we love hearing from you!

We welcome news items, photos, and articles for inclusion in the newsletter.
Please submit copy to Dakota.springston@apsva.us or to the address below.

All submissions may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, etc.

Newsletter Editor, Arlington Historical Society
P.O. Box 100402





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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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*)

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 fourth 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.



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FACEBOOK: 'ARLINGTONHISTORICALSOCIETY'