

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow AHS Members:



In my first Letter from the President, I'd like to take the time to thank all of our members, volunteers and donors for their support of the Arlington Historical Society. Your efforts preserve the history of Arlington and make it available to the community at no cost through the Hume School, Ball-Sellers House and Arlington Historical Museum.

In past newsletters, much focus has been given to the lack of financial support from Arlington County. We should see this as a source of pride. We, as individuals, are doing what the government is not: saving the history of Arlington. These efforts are necessary to show the next generation that there was an Arlington before all the hotels! We have become the stewards of Arlington's history.

The theme for my term as President is action. The Arlington Historical Society is at a cross-road, and action needs to be taken. We can either make history or become history. Hence, this is a call to action to the stewards of Arlington's History: AHS members. We need your contributions; whether you donate time or money, you are making a difference in preserving history.

– Ali Ganjian

AHS EVENTS CALENDAR

Save these dates for exciting AHS programs to be held in the remainder of 2012. For updates and additions, please visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

SEPTEMBER

Arlington Reunion Series: H-B Students
Co-hosted with Arlington Central Library
Thursday, September 20, 10 a.m. - noon
Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

NOVEMBER

Membership Meeting & Public Program
Thursday, November 18, 7 - 8 p.m.
Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

DECEMBER

Membership Winter Social
Saturday, December 1, 7 - 8 p.m.
AHS Hume School, 1805 S Arlington Ridge Rd.

RENEW YOUR AHS MEMBERSHIP!

AHS memberships – except for Life Memberships – expired on June 30.

Renew online at:
www.arlingtonhistory.org/join

See page 7
for details and a
membership form.

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BALL-SELLERS HOUSE HAPPENINGS



GLEN CARLYN DAY

The first Saturday in June brings residents of the Glen Carlyn neighborhood together to celebrate the bonds that unite them.

This year, on June 2, volunteers at the Ball-Sellers House served refreshments and gave tours to neighbors and others. Residents, such as the one pictured at left, were invited to dress in period costume.

Right: Past Ball-Sellers chairs **Jane Patrick Casey** (left) and **Martha Orth** welcomed visitors at the Ball-Sellers House on Glen Carlyn Day.

Photos courtesy of Jane Patrick Casey



HISTORY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT 18TH CENTURY HOUSE

On March 31, 10 University of Maryland students from **Professor Richard Bell**'s class – about ordinary citizens living in America at the time of the Revolutionary War – visited the Ball-Sellers House.

Pictured at left: Bell (center) with a student (left) and **Professor Don Linebaugh** (right). Linebaugh is the director of the historic preservation program at the University of Maryland.

Photo courtesy of Jane Patrick Casey

DOCENT SOCIAL RECOGNIZES AHS VOLUNTEERS

On Saturday, June 16, docents from both the Ball-Sellers House & Arlington Historical Museum were recognized at the annual Docent Social. Docent Coordinator **Matthew Keough** commented that “it was a sunny perfect day, so we were able to set up the tent and have the picnic on the front yard of the museum. We handed out service pins for people who have volunteered for 5, 10, 15, and even 25 years of service.”



The social opened with a moment of silence to acknowledge the sudden death of docent **H. Steven Dolan**, who passed on Thursday, June 7. Dolan not only volunteered as a docent; he also contributed to the Arlington Historical Magazine. He will be deeply missed by fellow docents and the Arlington Historical Society. See his obituary on page 4.

Want to volunteer for AHS? Opportunities are available as a museum docent, and in the areas of fundraising and research. If you're interested, please call (703) 942-9247 or contact us online at www.arlingtonhistory.org/contact.

AHS RECEIVES DONATION FROM WOMEN'S CLUB

The Aurora Hills Women's Club held their Annual Tea at the Hume School on May 3. AHWC President **Carole Delong** presented the Arlington Historical Society with a check in the amount of \$5,000. The donation, which has become an annual tradition, is made from the proceeds of the AHWC Holiday Boutique held each year in December. These funds are set aside for the preservation of the Hume School. During the Annual Tea, AHS also presented the Aurora Hills Women's Club with a plaque to recognize their ongoing support.



FRIENDS OF HUME SCHOOL HOLDS VOLUNTEER DAY

By **Chick Walter and Bonnie Flynn, Coordinators, Friends of Hume School**

Friends of Hume School enjoyed another successful neighborhood volunteer day on May 5, with about 70 volunteers. It was a record turnout, largely due to the participation of three Mormon singles congregations from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Mormon singles outnumbered our steady ARCA and Garden Club participants, and their energy, ingenuity and ability to organize their efforts are much appreciated.

The grounds at Hume School were weeded and mulched, and we undertook some new projects along the stairs down to S. Lynn Street, and some surgical invasive Wysteria removal along the north side fence. A group of volunteers assisted the County Parks staff with a Parks Enhancement Grant installation at the I-395 exit onto Arlington Ridge Road.

As always, a highlight of the day was the delicious chili dogs provided by our neighbor, **Rich Kelly**.

When you get a chance, stop by and see how beautiful the Hume School grounds look! Thanks to all, and we look forward to continued steady improvement efforts with this community team.

Friends of Hume School volunteers gathered May 5 to help improve the area around the Arlington Historical Society's Hume School Museum.



ARLINGTON WALKERS LEARN ABOUT AHS

By Rebecca Kupper, AHS Recording Secretary

Nearly 75 hot and sweaty walkers descended upon the Arlington Historical Society's Hume School at the end of a neighborhood walk on June 10.



Rebecca Kupper, AHS Board Recording Secretary, and **Karl Van-Newkirk**, AHS director and longtime docent, discussed AHS history and the Hume School with the visitors, many of whom lived in the neighborhood. A number of people were surprised to find out how much content there was and the numerous exhibits preserved at Hume.

Many walkers said they would be back to visit the museum. One father was thrilled to see a picture of his daughter, **Maya Giacobbe**, displayed in the museum showing her winning the prize for drawing the Hume School for the Arlington Vehicle Registration decal for 2011-2012. He hadn't realized it was being shown in the museum!

The event ended with two students ringing the Hume bell.

Walkers who visited the Hume School Museum in June learned about AHS. (Photos courtesy of WalkArlington.)



TAKE A WALK IN ARLINGTON

WalkArlington offers 20 Walkabout routes, including one near the Hume School. Routes cover most of Arlington County, each with their own map and page on the website, www.walkarlington.com/pages/walkabouts.

For more information or to subscribe to an online newsletter, email info@walkarlington.com.

WalkArlington, an initiative of Arlington County Commuter Services within the department of Environmental Services, gets "more people walking more of the time" by promoting the health, environmental, community-building, and commuting benefits of walking.

IN MEMORIAM

Catherine "Teddy" Saulmon passed away on May 6, 2012. Saulmon served as a docent at Arlington House for more than 30 years. She was the president of the Arlington Historical Society and served on the Arlington Historical Affairs and Landmark Review board. She is survived by her four children: son **Ernie Saulmon** and wife **Bobbi**, daughter **Susan Trice** and husband **Bob**, daughter **Conchita Mitchell** and husband **David**, and daughter **Sarah (Sally) Gabler** and husband **Ed Neunlist**; nine grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews.

H. Steven Dolan passed away on June 7, 2012. Dolan was an Arlington Historical Museum docent and contributor to the Arlington Historical Magazine. Son of **Hugh** and **Jeanne**, he is also survived by a sister, **Marianne Konka**; two brothers, **Kevin** and **James Dolan**; six nephews and five nieces.

AHS BANQUET FEATURES RENOWNED CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN

By Tom Dickinson, AHS 1st Vice President

Ed Bearss sometimes gives as many as five speeches in a single day.

The 89-year-old historian emeritus of the National Park Service has such a busy public speaking schedule that he's in front of audiences at least 150 times per year.

So the Arlington Historical Society was particularly lucky to have Bearss at its 2012 Annual Banquet, which was held June 18 at the NRECA Conference Center in Ballston.

Speaking to more than 150 banquet attendees, Bearss gave the keynote presentation about Civil War life in the Arlington (then Alexandria County) area. He discussed the first fatal encounter of the War: the Elmer Ellsworth-James Jackson confrontation at the Marshall House in Alexandria on May 24, 1861.

Bearss spoke about the 1861 federal confiscation of the Custis-Lee Mansion and estate, its conversion into a federal cemetery and burial ground for Union dead, and the eventual Supreme Court decision that provided compensation to the Custis-Lee family long after the war. He closed with a description of the Battle of Fairfax Courthouse.

Bearss is an expert on almost every aspect of U.S. military history. He began his career with the U.S. Park Service at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1955. Since 1978, Bearss has regularly led narrated tours for the Smithsonian Institution Resident Associates Program of battlefields all over the United States, particularly those involved in the Civil War, and also including battlefields from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and Native American battles. Bearss is a Purple Heart World War II combat veteran of the Marine Corps.

Thanks in part to Bearss' presentation, the AHS banquet drew the largest crowd in many years. Among the attendees were: **Chris Zimmerman** and **Libby Garvey**, Arlington County Board members; **Dr. Talmadge Williams**, president of the Black History Society and Museum in Arlington; **Charlie Clark**, journalist for the Falls Church News-Press; and **Michael Leventhal** and **Emily Cassell**, from the Arlington County Historic Preservation and Economic Development offices, respectively.

DID YOU MISS THIS YEAR'S AHS BANQUET?

Log on to Arlington Historical Society's Facebook page to see photos from the banquet and a video excerpt of Bearss' speech.

www.facebook.com/ArlingtonHistoricalSociety



Tom Dickinson (left), AHS past president, presented a Lifetime Achievement plaque to noted historian Ed Bearss at the AHS annual banquet in June. (Photo courtesy of Tom Dickinson)

Also at the banquet were six AHS past presidents and several members of the Arlington County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. **Patty Kime**, former AHS board member, and her husband, **Carl**, led the coordination and execution for the event. Dinner was catered by Hard Times Cafe, and beer was provided by **Dr. Mark Benbow**, AHS Museum Curator, from DC Brau, a local brewery.

Following his keynote speech, Bearss received a standing ovation from the audience. **Tom Dickinson**, AHS immediate past president and banquet master of ceremonies, recognized Bearss with a first-ever Lifetime Achievement plaque. In so doing, AHS honored an Arlingtonian war hero and a living American legend "for a lifetime dedicated to promoting interest in and preserving the history of the United States."

Maybe Bearss will mention that in his next speech.

REPORT FROM AHS MUSEUM CURATOR

By Dr. Mark Benbow, Museum Director

Here are a few updates about the Museum at the Hume School. I have an intern, **Fahmia Edrisy**, who is one of my students at Marymount University. She is helping me manage the collection artifacts that are in storage. She also helped me clean out and repaint two of the permanent exhibit cases as part of my ongoing efforts to refresh the exhibits at the school. When you come by the museum, you'll see I have reorganized several cases and added new artifacts, although there is a lot more still to do. Soon I will be repairing a wonderful model of one of the Civil War forts that was made for the museum fifty years ago and has been damaged in storage. Once it is repaired, I will be putting it back on display.

I am also currently working on an exhibit about the 1908-1909 Wright Brothers' demonstration flights at Fort Myer. (See info box below.) An initial, incomplete part of the exhibit is on view, but I have more to add to the display from a recent visit to Dayton, Ohio, the Wright Brothers' hometown.

NEEDED: If anyone has a small DVD player or old laptop to donate that we could use in displays, please contact me at mabenbow@marymount.edu. The museum badly needs more multimedia capability.

Museum Curator Dr. Mark Benbow has updated several display cases at the Hume School Museum. Stop by to see these and other artifacts.



ON THIS DAY IN ARLINGTON HISTORY

August 25, 1967: George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, was assassinated at the Econ-o-Wash laundromat on Wilson Boulevard. He was shot by fellow Nazi John Patler, who was convicted and sent to prison for 20 years. Rockwell's associate at party headquarters, a house at 928 North Randolph Street, would write "Turner Diaries," a novel that would inspire Timothy McVeigh to bomb the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. *(Excerpted from Charles S. Clark's article in the 2005 edition of The Arlington Historical Magazine)*

September 3, 1908: Orville Wright begins conducting flight tests at Fort Myer of the flying machine that he and his brother Wilbur have developed. The Army wants to see how maneuverable the machine is, and Orville circles the field repeatedly. Each day the flights are longer until September 12, when he remains in flight for an hour and 15 minutes. Five days later, he crashes on the Fort Meyer field. Lt. Thomas Selfridge is killed, becoming the first victim of an airplane crash. *(Excerpted from an uncredited article published in the 2008 edition of The Arlington Historical Magazine.)*

RENEW YOUR AHS MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

AHS Membership expired June 30 for all members except Life Members. Renew today at www.arlingtonhistory.org/join or complete the Membership Form below and mail it to AHS, P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA, 22210.

Member benefits include:

- Keeping the Arlington Historical Museum & Ball-Sellers House open to the public free of charge
- A quarterly newsletter
- Copy of the annual AHS Magazine
- Discounts at the AHS Museum bookshop
- Invitations to special member-only events



Arlington Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 100402 • Arlington, VA 22210-3402
 (703) 892-4204 • www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Membership Form

AHS' new membership year began July 1. Have you sent in your renewal yet? Membership dues and contributions provide most of the revenue for AHS, including the operating budgets for the Arlington Historical Museum and the Ball-Sellers House. Send back your membership renewal letter, making sure the information we have on file is accurate. Also help us save printing and postage costs by giving us your e-mail address (if you have one) so we can communicate with you electronically. No additional dues are required for Life Members, but we do want to ensure we have correct information in our files. Please use this form if you do not have your membership renewal letter. Thank you for your continuing support!

Member Information

New Member Gift Membership Renewal

Member Name: _____

Additional Name(s): _____
(For Family level and above)

Mailing Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

May we send you newsletters and occasional communications electronically? Yes No

Please choose your desired membership level

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor* \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family* \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Nonprofit \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor* \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 |

Donation: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

*Includes all individuals at one mailing address

Please return the completed form, with your check payable to **Arlington Historical Society**, to:
 Arlington Historical Society, PO Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210-3402

Please consider volunteering your time

If you are able to volunteer your time and talent please select the position in which you are interested:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Web / Publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts / Exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs / Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The Arlington Historical Society, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated under the laws of Virginia.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 1956 and incorporated under the laws of Virginia for literary and educational purposes that support research, collection, preservation, discovery, restoration, and dissemination of the local history of Arlington County.

WWW.ARLINGTONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

**HISTORY AWAITS.
COME VISIT!**

HUME SCHOOL MUSEUM

1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.
Open Saturdays & Sundays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free
Come visit our permanent exhibits on
the 200+ year history of the county.

BALL-SELLERS HOUSE

5620 South Third St.
Open Saturdays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
April through October
Also arrange a visit by calling 703-379-2123.
Free admission, but donations appreciated.

AHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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