President’s Message
Karl Van Newkirk, President, Arlington Historical Society

My fellow members of the Arlington Historical Society:

The action this summer seems to be at the Ball-Sellers House. As you may have noticed the last time you visited, there is a “hole” in the lawn between the house and the driveway. This hole was created by the outflow from a sump pump that was installed some time back in the cellar of the house; the pump was deemed necessary to prevent water damage to the underpinnings of the house during periods of high rainfall. Unfortunately, the outflow from the pump has been gradually eroding the lawn; the damage was partially hidden in the grass, but as the hole became larger, it endangered the safety of anyone walking near it.

After much discussion, the Ball-Sellers House Committee decided that installing a rain garden in that portion of the lawn would both capture the outflow from the pump and be easily visible to pedestrians, and thus much less of a hazard. In addition, Arlington County, as part of its efforts to reduce and control stormwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, has a program (StormwaterWise) that will pay a portion of the cost of creating and installing projects like this. Sounds like a win-win!

As with all such good ideas, the execution is a little more complicated than the original thought. The area where the rain garden is to go was once occupied by part of the house – it can be seen in photographs taken in the early part of the twentieth century. That wing of the house was apparently demolished sometime prior to 1915. Before digging up the lawn to make a rain garden, it would be appropriate, if not necessary, to perform an archaeological investigation of the area.

A respected local archaeologist, Patrick O’Neill, has agreed to conduct the investigation, beginning in early August. Meanwhile, a small test pit has been dug, in order to conduct a “Soil Infiltration” test – a measure of how well the soil absorbs water – and also to give a first look at what may lie beneath the surface. The results are tantalizing. There were clearly food remains, mostly oyster shells, but also a beef bone. It may be that a trash pit or pile has been discovered. There were also several bricks, which is interesting, since the primary building materials of the house are stone and wood, not brick. Who knows what the full investigation will uncover?

If you are as fascinated as I am about this, please join me in volunteering to help with the digging!

Karl
Archaeological Dig at the Ball-Sellers House
Annette Benbow, Director, Ball-Sellers House Museum

Starting in August, the Ball-Sellers House will be excavating the east side of the 1740s cabin to unearth evidence of the addition that was torn down before 1920 (see recreated image in photo) and to look for artifacts that can tell us more about the people who lived in the oldest remaining structure in Arlington.

Patrick O’Neill will lead the project. He is an experienced archeologist and has worked on projects that include Arlington House for the National Park Service, Fort Ethan Allen for Arlington County, and George Washington’s Union Farm for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

If you’d like to volunteer, we’d love to have you! School-age children are welcome with an adult. The test pit dug at the house has yielded several types of glass, oyster shells, and animal bones.

Pictured at right: Ball-Sellers House Overlays by Archeologist Patrick O’Neill

To sign up and learn more, email: Annette.benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Historic Arlington Funeral Home Pew Donated to AHS
Johnathan Thomas, Vice President, Arlington Historical Society

In May, longtime proprietor of Arlington’s Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Ned Thomas, Jr. (shown in photo, far right), offered to AHS the gift of a large pew once used in the historic Arlington Funeral Home. The popular temporary resting place of so many Arlingtonians was lost a few years back due to unremitting development on Fairfax Drive. Mr. Thomas had the foresight to rescue at least one of the 11-foot benches from the wrecking ball and saved it for several years. The pew, which had provided a seat of comfort for many grieving Arlington families for over 50 years, was too large for any of AHS’s properties, so we secured a home for it at the Arlington Central Library through Library Director Diane Kresh. Coincidentally, the bench is now just across the street from its former home in the historic Arlington Funeral Home.
New Museum Exhibit: Arlington’s Gang War of 1966

Johnathan Thomas, Vice President, Arlington Historical Society

One of my earliest memories is as a six-year-old on the night of June 14, 1966—the night of Arlington’s infamous Gang War of 1966. My uncle, Chip Thomas, then an auxiliary police officer in Arlington, was called to the Safeway parking lot at Lee Highway and Harrison Street because a shootout between rival motorcycle gangs the Pagans (from southern Maryland) and the local Avengers was going to take place.

An estimated 100 shots were fired by gang members that night, but no one was killed. The only injury was sustained by a state trooper hit on the leg by a ricocheted bullet. More than a dozen gang members were arrested in the largest outbreak of shooting in the county since the Civil War. Thankfully, my Uncle Chip made it home unscathed and brought with him an Avenger member’s jacket, which remained in the family for the next 50 years.

Today, thanks to my cousin Rex Thomas, the jacket is hanging in a case at the Arlington Historical Museum as part of a 50th anniversary exhibit on “Arlington’s Gang War of 1966,” which will run through the summer. In addition to the jacket are photographs and other artifacts from the Avengers’ co-founder and leader, Wayne Hager (shown in photo), who, at age 75, recently provided an on-the-scene version of the events of that night to an audience that included Judge Varoutsos of the Arlington Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Falls Church News-Press columnist Charlie Clark, and WJLA: ABC 7 On Your Side investigative reporter Kimberly Suiter.

Visit the Arlington Historical Museum and see the exclusive photos from Mr. Hager’s collection and read the story which gained fame in 2008 due to Charlie Clark’s detailed story for the Arlington Historical Society.

Upcoming Exhibits at the Arlington Historical Museum

Dr. Mark Benbow, Director, Arlington Historical Museum

We have some great exhibits coming up later in 2016 and 2017 at the Arlington Historical Museum (the Hume School). Lomax AME Zion Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and will be lending us material for an exhibit.

For the holidays, I’ll put up the annual Holiday/Christmas Exhibit.

This fall is the 100th anniversary of Virginia going dry in 1916, so I’ll have a Prohibition in Virginia exhibit next year, followed by an exhibit on Arlington breweries.

In 2017, I am planning a display on the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering the First World War. I am also finishing off the Civil War fort exhibits and adding more artifacts to the other cases, so come by the Hume School and see what’s new!

AHS Needs Volunteers!

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Robert White (robertwhite7@aol.com)
AHS Celebrates 60 Years of Its Own History
Max L. Gross, Editor, Arlington Historical Magazine

The Arlington Historical Society held its annual banquet on Friday evening, May 13, 2016, celebrating 60 years of its existence. A special birthday cake was ceremonially cut by the President after the dinner and served to the 100-plus members and guests in attendance. The event was held at the Columbus Club of Arlington in the historic George N. Saegmuller House, the headquarters of the Knights of Columbus Edward Douglass White Council.

At the banquet, President Van Newkirk presented three honorary awards to deserving individuals. The annually given Cornelia B. Rose Award for Contributions to Arlington County History was presented to Dr. Alfred O. Taylor, Jr. A lifelong resident of the Nauck neighborhood in south Arlington, Dr. Taylor has recently published a book on the history of that community, highlighting notable contributions by various members of the oldest black community in Arlington.

The periodically awarded Lifetime Volunteer Award was presented to Eleanor Pouron, who for twenty years has served as the volunteer manager of the Arlington Historical Museum (the historic Hume School), stocking it with books and other materials that help to educate visitors about the history and heritage of Arlington County.

Matthew T. Keough, the coordinator for docents at the Arlington Historical Museum for the past nine years, was presented with the annually given Volunteer of the Year Award.

The guest speaker for the evening was Congressman Don Beyer, a member of the House of Representatives representing Virginia’s 8th congressional district (which includes Arlington), and formerly Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. Congressman Beyer tied his career to his own interesting family genealogy, with a particular emphasis on his grandmother Clara (Mortenson) Beyer, who served for many years as a notable personage in the Department of Labor, who traveled the world, and who brought the young Congressman in contact with many of the high-and-mighty of Washington via her festive dinner parties.

A Brief History of the George N. Saegmuller House

The Columbus Club of Arlington is the former home of George Saegmuller (1847-1934), a German-born American inventor, businessman, farmer, and public servant. Saegmuller built the large stone residence after his original frame house burned in 1894, using bluestone quarried on the property. The George N. Saegmuller House, as it’s known today, was the first house in Arlington to have running water and a telephone line. Saegmuller lived in the mansion with his family until his death in 1935. The property became the headquarters of a local council of the Knights of Columbus in 1951.
Aurora Hills Women’s Club Annual Tea
John P. Richardson

The Aurora Hills Women’s Club (AHWC) held its annual tea on May 5th at the Crystal City Sports Pub, since constant rain had ruled out use of the Hume School front lawn, its traditional venue. For AHS, the highlight of the event was the presentation by AHWC President Karen Tucker of a check in the amount of $6,900, accepted by AHS President Karl Van Newkirk and then Vice President John Richardson.

Karl said upon receiving the check that AHS was extremely grateful for the continuing generosity of AHWC to AHS, noting that the contribution was almost at the same level as the previous year’s, despite AHWC’s having cancelled its annual Christmas boutique, a major money-raiser for the organization. Ms. Tucker said that AHWC remains committed to doing what it can to support the care and maintenance of the Hume School building and grounds.

AHWC supports Arlington charitable organizations that serve local needs and also provides programs of general interest and education to its members. The organization holds two major fundraisers per year: a holiday wreath sale and an annual fund drive. The AHWC tea is a marvelous event with most of the 30 ladies sporting spring hats and a sumptuous spread of sandwiches and sweets accompanying the traditional pots of tea. AHS is indeed fortunate to be high on the AHWC list for charitable contributions each year; we hope to continue to deserve this honor.
On June 2, 2016, AHS, in cooperation with Columbia Lodge No. 285 of Arlington, presented this year’s awards for outstanding historical essays by upcoming seniors in Arlington Public Schools. The topic for this year’s essay was: “Discuss how the opening of the Metro in the 1970s affected Arlington and how you think it might continue to influence the county’s development in future years.” The awards ceremony was held in the Alumni Room of Washington-Lee High School.

Top prize went to James Gusmer of Washington-Lee for his essay titled “The Battle of Wilson Boulevard.” Second and third prizes were awarded to Ricardo Mestre of Washington-Lee and Aisha Ibrahim of Wakefield High School, respectively.

Attending the ceremony were the students’ parents, their teachers, and Cathy Hix, Supervisor of Social Studies for Arlington Public Schools. AHS President Karl Van Newkirk and AHS Board Director Robert White, also representing Columbia Lodge No. 285, presented the awards. Gusmer’s winning essay will be published in the 2016 edition of the Arlington Historical Magazine.

May Public Program: Mosby’s Men
Max L. Gross, Editor, Arlington Historical Magazine

Eric Buckland, LTC, USA (ret.), knows an awfully lot about the American Civil War. In particular, he is a specialist on Mosby’s Rangers, or the 43rd Virginia Cavalry Battalion, who pestered Union forces with considerable success during that war. As many as 2,000 Virginians served under Confederate cavalry commander John S. Mosby at various times. The unit suffered 112 men killed in action, 456 made POWs, and at least 103 wounded in battle, according to Buckland, who has written five books on Mosby’s Rangers. Focusing primarily on the men who served under Mosby’s command rather than on specific battles, the author’s first volume, Mosby’s Keydet Rangers, focuses on the 58 men Mosby recruited from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). The remaining four books, entitled Mosby’s Men, Volumes 1-4, recount the lives of about 100 other men who served under Mosby. Buckland’s interest has been in recalling the full lives of these men before, during, and after the Civil War.

Buckland brought some of his vast knowledge of this topic to a well-attended meeting of the Arlington Historical Society on Thursday, May 12th at the Arlington Central Library. Entertaining as well as informative, the author gave a brief overview of the story of Mosby’s Rangers and then focused on the lives of a few specific rangers who served under Mosby. As Buckland noted, some of Mosby’s Rangers achieved brilliant success after the war, while others lived mean, ordinary lives. But all were heirs of a proud heritage despite the final outcome of the war for the Confederacy.
June Public Program: Historic Cemeteries of Northern Virginia
Max L. Gross, Editor, Arlington Historical Magazine

Before the June 9, 2016, AHS program held at the Arlington Central Library, I considered AHS President Karl Van Newkirk the most informed individual about Arlington history that I knew. After hearing Charles A. Mills speak at our program about his book *Historical Cemeteries of Northern Virginia* (Arcadia, 2015), I have somewhat revised my opinion. Members who failed to attend this most extraordinary program missed a real treat.

Mills has authored literally dozens of books about Northern Virginia history, including *Hidden History of Northern Virginia* and *Echoes of Manassas and Alexandria: 1861-1865*. But a glance at his bibliography indicates that he has also written on Carl von Clausewitz, Sherlock Holmes, and Zen Buddhism, among other topics. The range of his interests is most impressive, but most of his work has been on Northern Virginia, especially the era of the Civil War.

Space does not permit even a cursory review of Mill’s hour-long, illustrated presentation about interesting personalities who lived in Northern Virginia. Society members will have to read his book *Historical Cemeteries of Northern Virginia* to learn the details about the “Remeum,” the remains of which sit above Pohick Church in Prince William County, or about “Ripon Lodge” in Woodbridge, the home of Richard Blackburn, the architect and builder of George Washington’s home at Mount Vernon. Did you know that the famous boxer Joe Louis is buried in Arlington National Cemetery? Who knew that cemeteries could be so interesting?

July Public Program: Clothing the Classes in Wm. Carlin’s Alexandria
Max L. Gross, Editor, Arlington Historical Magazine

Members of the Arlington Historical Society are familiar with the Ball-Sellers House in the Glencarlyn neighborhood, the oldest extant house in Arlington, built in the late 1740s by John Ball and now owned by AHS and open to the public. Perhaps less well known is that after the death of John Ball in 1766, the house was eventually sold in 1772 to William Carlin, a tailor in Alexandria. Three generations of Carlins lived in the house and farmed the land until 1887. The family was sufficiently influential that the surrounding neighborhood today is called Glencarlyn (Carlin), and the main street that runs through it is named Carlyn (Carlin) Springs Road.

But who was William Carlin, the first purchaser of the Ball house? The Society was given a glimpse of the man by Kate Egner Gruber, currently Curator at the Yorktown Victory Center near Yorktown, Virginia, who spoke at Arlington Central Library on July 14, 2016.

William Carlin was a Yorkshire-born (in 1732) Englishman who moved to London for a period before migrating to Alexandria at an unknown date. There he established himself as a tailor, eventually working at a location at the corner of present-day King and Royal Streets in Alexandria. Some of his story can be told because in 1763 he began to keep an account book recording his receipts and expenses that he maintained until 1782. This account book is today located in the library at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, although a microform copy is also housed at the Smithsonian Institution. It is the only known extant account book of its type that records data about colonial Alexandria.

Using data found in the ledger and combining it with other sources from the era, Ms. Gruber was able to tell a

(Continued on page 8)
compelling story of how people dressed and what they paid for things during the colonial era. The speaker noted that tailors were the second largest profession in colonial Alexandria, ranking only after carpenters and woodworkers. Despite all the competition, Carlin eventually became the favored tailor of such luminaries as George Washington, George Mason, and other wealthy citizens of the region. Although tailors seldom became wealthy, Carlin clearly achieved some degree of prosperity.

Although we do not know the precise circumstances of William Carlin’s purchase of the Ball property in 1772, we do know that John Ball’s widow Elizabeth continued to live in the Ball house until her death in 1792. Perhaps Carlin purchased the house and its surrounding farmland to provide funds for Mrs. Ball to live out the remainder of her life, while his sons took up the farming of the land before finally taking possession of the house in 1792. This is a mystery that William Carlin’s account book does not enable us to solve.

Friends of Hume School Spring Cleanup
Chick Walter, Coordinator, Friends of Hume School

Thanks again to all who supported our continued maintenance of the reclaimed grounds around the Hume School / Arlington Historical Museum this year. We had strong support from the Arlington County Parks Department, the Mormon singles congregations from our local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), and veterans from the Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA), who first began this project in 2004-2005. Arlington County Parks and Recreation began actively helping us in 2005 via their Remove Invasive Plants program, which really jumpstarted our effort to clear the virtual jungle behind Hume. The Mormon group joined us in May 2006, providing a huge boost in manpower / womanpower, in addition to the group of ARCA retirees who began the effort and continue to organize it.

It is gratifying that many of the ARCA and LDS folks have stayed with the effort for several years—and as long as a decade. This provides us important continuity and supervision of activity. It is always good to see returnees among the young Mormon group; having several folks familiar with the effort makes it easy to quickly instruct others. In addition to our Saturday, May 7th turnout, we had help from a couple ARCA activists ahead of the Saturday morning group effort. Nancy Kent, who provided her pruning expertise, has been with us since 2005, representing ARCA, the local Tree Stewards, and the Green Manor Garden Club. Neighborhood activist Greg Super did some weed-whacking at the I-395 exit ahead of Saturday, which was quite useful, as the new guardrails VDOT installed have limited what we can readily do to control weeds there. Senior LDS members Jay Liddle and Kellee Koenig provided continuity and supervision over the activity on Hume School grounds. ARCA’s Steve Epstein again directed effort on the I-395 exit landscaping—another ARCA reclamation project from a decade ago.

Dawn Clarke and my wife Sandy handled the food inside the Museum, as they have since the Mormon group joined us in force in the spring of 2006. Rich Kelly and his family provided the lunchtime chili dogs, a tradition since 2006. Rich and his family have also taken on the mowing and fertilizing around the Museum for the last several years. Rich is also our co-
coordinator and sounding board, as is Nancy Kent, filling in since partner Bonnie Flynn moved away.

Saturday morning, May 7th, marked our 12th year of formal Volunteer Days to clear and maintain the grounds around the Hume School / Arlington Historical Museum. We currently run both a Spring and Fall Volunteer Day to keep ahead of the weeds and growth that were once an impenetrable jungle on the hill behind the Hume School.

**AHS Membership Update**

*Tracy Hopkins, Board Director, Arlington Historical Society*

If you received this newsletter in the mail, congratulations! You are one of 331 Arlington Historical Society members as of May 31, 2016. Thank you for your continued support of AHS.

Annual memberships expired on June 30, 2016, and 2016-17 membership renewal letters were mailed in early July. If your membership expired, please be sure to renew promptly to continue your benefits! Note that members who are new or have renewed since March 1, 2016, are already members for 2016-17. Life Members are just that—Life Members—and do not need to renew annually.

Just to refresh your memory, here are some of the benefits of membership:

- Knowledge that you are helping preserve and promote Arlington history and build community in Arlington.
- Subscription to the AHS newsletter.
- Subscription to the Arlington Historical Magazine.
- 10% discount at the Arlington Historical Museum shop.
- Priority ticketing and discounts on the annual banquet and other ticketed events.
- Recognition in the Arlington Historical Magazine (Sponsor level and higher).
- Free admission / shop discounts at 800+ cultural institutions through the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program (Donor level and higher).
- Recognition in the annual banquet program (Business and Life Members).

The current Membership Levels are:

- Single: $25
- Family: $40
- Sponsor: $75
- Donor: $125
- Business / Non-profit: $150
- Life Member: $1,000

If you’ve received your renewal letter but haven’t yet renewed, please do so right away! If you no longer have the pre-addressed envelope that was included with your renewal letter, please send your payment to:

*Arlington Historical Society*

P.O. 100402
Arlington, VA 22210
Calendar of Upcoming Events

August

Archaeological Dig at the Ball-Sellers House
August - September 2016
The Ball-Sellers House Museum
5620 Third St. South
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Help unearth Arlington’s past in this rare opportunity to help in a real archeological dig. We want to reveal details about an addition to the house that was torn down before 1920. What we uncover will help shed new light on how people lived in the oldest house in Arlington.

The Arlington Historical Society at the Arlington County Fair
August 19-21 2016
Thomas Jefferson Community Center
3501 Second St. South
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Visit our inside booth where you can take our history quiz, play “What Happened Here,” and find your home on a map from 100 years ago.

September

AHS Presents “Arlington National Cemetery: Then and Now” with Dean DeRosa
Thursday, September 8, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
Marymount University
Reinsch Library Auditorium
2807 North Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia 22207

The National Cemetery we see today would hardly be recognizable to those who first commemorated the men and women buried there. We’ll be transported back through time to look upon landscapes now long gone as the cemetery developed and expanded.

October

AHS Presents “Washington’s Brewmaster: Christian Heurich, 1842-1945” with Author Dr. Mark Benbow
Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
Marymount University
Reinsch Library Auditorium
2807 North Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia 22207

“Senate” beer and ale were the signature brews of a man who brewed in D.C. for almost 80 years. As the dean of D.C. brewing, Heurich had a major role in developing D.C. into a “capital city.”

“Prohibition in Washington, D.C.: How Dry We Weren’t” with Author Garrett Peck
Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 6:30 P.M.
Aurora Hills Branch Library
735 18th St. South
Arlington, Virginia 22202

This Fall

Lomax AME Zion Church 150th Anniversary Exhibition
The Arlington Historical Museum
1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Join in the sesquicentennial celebration of the oldest church in Arlington constructed by an African American congregation and view historic church artifacts.

The Arlington Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly.
We welcome news items, photos, and articles for inclusion in the newsletter.
Please submit copy by email to bikewoman76@aol.com or by postal mail to the address below.

Jennifer Shaw, AHS Newsletter Editor
1300 Army Navy Drive #114
Arlington, VA 22202
Snapshots: Lomax AME Zion Church Celebrates Its Sesquicentennial

Clockwise from top left:

Rev. Samuel L. Whittaker addresses participants in the 4MRV Kick-Off Walking Tour on June 4.

Vocalists Frederick A. and Audrey Peterbark and saxophonist Todd Pincham perform at Lomax Church's Black Tie Musical Concert and Dinner on June 18.

Right: Lomax Church members who participated in an AHS-conducted oral history interview pose for photographs in their church's historic sanctuary.

Watch for more coverage of Lomax Church's 150th Anniversary in the Fall issue of the Arlington Historical Society Newsletter.

On June 4th, the Ball-Sellers House helped celebrate Glencarlyn Day. Kit Sibley, the costumer for the Alexandria Community Theater, lent the Ball-Sellers House colonial reproduction clothing for us to wear in the Glencarlyn Day Parade. The paraders included Marlene Oronao, Margaret Wagner, Hoang Taing, Linda Warden, and Mark and Annette Benbow (not shown: Lois Chadbourne). After the parade, Mark Benbow set up a table called "Touching History" outside the Glencarlyn Library with historical artifacts for kids of all ages to touch and learn about. We had extended open hours from 10-4 and needed extra docents (Ken Cohn and Jennifer Shaw) for the more than 30 visitors.
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 third 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.

WWW.ARLINGTONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG
Facebook: ‘ArlingtonHistoricalSociety’