ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW
2000-2001

July 2000
The Ball-Sellers House was featured on Neighborhood News (Fox channel 5); a Colonial games program later in the month attracted dozens of participants. The special exhibit in the Arlington Historical Museum, “Scouting in Arlington,” opened on July 31 (see The Arlington Historical Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 4, October 2000, pp. 39-43).

August 2000
At the Ball-Sellers House, the 1880s house received a new roof. The monthly program featured herbs. The Society’s booth at the Arlington County Fair (August 17-20) drew many visitors; it was located beside the booth of the Arlington Black Heritage Museum, which was advantageous for both organizations.

September 2000
The Society’s program meeting (September 14), led by Albert C. Eisenberg, was titled “Collecting the Civil War: Artifacts and Their Stories.” Conservators in the area of textiles, books, and more were featured at the Ball-Sellers House program.

October 2000
Scarecrow making drew children to the Ball-Sellers House in October. The house concluded its season with a record 502 visitors. Willard Webb planted and maintained a demonstration garden throughout the season to show the kinds of plants the Ball family might have grown in the 18th Century. Historic Arlington Days, which again included candlelight tours of Arlington House, were observed October 13-14. The Arlington Reunion program (October 20) was about Glencarlyn.

November 2000
The monthly program meeting of the Society (November 9) featured H. Henry Ward, speaking on “Washington National Airport: Early Days and Renovation.” The Ball-Sellers House committee launched a fund-raising drive to be able to meet planned maintenance needs of the property. Society members contributed through the Bell-Ringer Campaign.
of America: Arlington, a pictorial account of the 20th century in Arlington prepared by the Society, became available for sale. Several Arlington Boy Scouts, as an Eagle Scout project, began an inventory of the artifacts and photographs held by the museum.

December 2000

Historical architect Genell Anderson visited the Ball-Sellers House in connection with research on Benjamin Banneker. The 1880s portion of the Ball-Sellers House weathered a broken pipe in severe weather; no serious damage was sustained. The Arlington Reunion program (December 14) was on Arlington Forest.

January 2001

The Society’s program meeting (January 11) was titled “Moving the Mail: History of Clarendon Post Office”; Michelle Lane was the speaker. The museum exhibit, “Scouting in Arlington,” closed at the end of the month.

February 2001

A special program co-sponsored with the Arlington Black Heritage Museum (February 16) featured Anthony Cohen speaking about “The Underground Railroad.” The Arlington Reunion program the preceding day was about Nauck. About 120 students from Kenmore Elementary School and a Smithsonian tour of about 40 visited the Ball-Sellers House, during a month in which the house is normally closed. A several-month effort to “spruce up” and improve the Arlington Historical Museum drew to a close; the work included installation of new window shades in the main exhibit room, renovation of the first floor restroom to make it handicapped-accessible, installation of new gutters and downspouts, renovation of the upstairs area to create an office/administrative work space, painting all the interior areas open to the public, and exterior painting of all windows, metal grills, and woodwork (complete re-sodding of the front lawn was also accomplished later in the season).

March 2001

The long-planned “permanent” exhibit, “Unique County, Colorful History: Arlington at 200” opened at the Arlington Historical Museum on March 10. The exhibit highlights the history of Arlington from pre-Columbian times through the present, divided into six broad periods: pre-1800; 1801-Civil War; Civil War; Reconstruction-1900; 1900-WWII; and
1946-present. The opening program for the Arlington Bicentennial, held at the Women in Military Service Memorial on March 4, included a tour of Arlington House and its slave quarters with a new slavery / Freedmen’s Village exhibit, and also a play about the boundary stones featuring Mr. Ellicott and Mr. Banneker. On March 8, at the Central Library, “An Interview With George Washington Parke Custis” featured Mark Penrod as Mr. Custis and Allen Kitchens as his interviewer, Joseph Gales, Jr. On March 15 a panel discussion on Arlington’s School Desegregation was held, with five Arlingtonians who participated in the events at the time discussing their roles: Ellen Bozman, Elizabeth Weihe, Theda Henle, Dorothy Hamm, and Mike Timpane. The Washington Post wrote about the Ball-Sellers House in a feature on area house museums.

April 2001
At the April Ball-Sellers House program, reenactors from the First Virginia Regiment told visitors about 18th Century soldiers’ experiences and demonstrated skills and abilities required on the battlefield in early America. On April 27, the Society’s annual banquet was held; the principal speaker was the Honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States, who spoke on the history of the bridges connecting Arlington and the District of Columbia. The room was filled to capacity, and many would-be attendees were turned away.

May 2001
On May 5, George Dodge and Sherman Pratt led a tour of Fort Myer and Arlington National Cemetery. The final meeting of the Society for the year was held May 10; the election of officers for the year 2001-2002 was followed by a panel discussion titled “Hume Family Reminiscences.” The panelists were Jean Hume, Susan Hume McIntosh, and Ann Hume Loikow. Master Gardener Judy Funderburk led a Ball-Sellers House gardening event at the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden where she gave tips about thriving gardens. Log cabin expert Doug Reed visited the Ball-Sellers House for study purposes, calling it one of the nation’s finest examples of its kind.

June 2001
A new program, “Hometown History Fair,” brought dozens of visitors to the Ball-Sellers House, where they saw interpreters from the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, reenactors from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, 1860-1865, Company B (Virginia), and representatives from The Old Guard.
Museum, Fort Myer, the Arlington Historical Museum, and Arlington's Bicentennial Committee. The Society mourned the loss of Marian Sellers Wallace, who donated the Ball-Sellers House to the Arlington Historical Society.

**General**

The Society, acting through its Board of Directors, participated and contributed to several significant community issues and activities over the course of the year. Although these issues were too complex and drawn out to be addressed in detail in this brief review, they included the Fort Ethan Allen Dog Exercise Area controversy, the proposed transfer of Section 29 in Arlington National Cemetery for use as grave sites, participation in the Arlington County Bicentennial celebration, and a multi-jurisdictional effort to maintain and restore the original boundary stones of the District of Columbia. This last item included participation in a May 20 ceremony recognizing the repositioning and restoration work at the stone located in the Patrick Henry Apartment complex, near the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and John Marshall Drive.