

Arlington Historical Society Year in Review

2001-2002

July 2001

Renovations to the building and new landscaping for the grounds of the Arlington Historical Museum were completed. These were funded, in part, by a grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Museum continued to feature the exhibit for the County's Bicentennial, *History of Arlington, Pre-1801 to the Present*.

August 2001

"Children's Gaming in Colonial America," a Ball-Sellers House program, drew 45 visitors who played and learned about games popular 200 years ago. The Society had many visitors to the booth at the Arlington County Fair (August 16-19) and sold an unusually large number of publications and other materials.

September 2001

The monthly program meeting (September 13) featured Dave Eckert on "Four Mile Run: The Way It Used To Be." On September 15, the Society was joined by Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fiset for the dedication of the Hume School historical marker at the Museum. At the Ball-Sellers House, Dr. Jerome Ford informally appraised family treasures on September 16, and Discount Energy Services installed new insulation to combat the perennial problem of freezing pipes. The contractor provided a substantial discount in recognition of the historic and nonprofit nature of the house.

October 2001

The Society was the beneficiary of the *Remodeled House Tour* on October 14. Five newly-remodeled Arlington homes were open to the public. The October 18 Arlington Reunion was "Recreation and Pleasures of the Past." A program devoted to scarecrow-making drew 70 visitors to the Ball-Sellers House on October 21.

November 2001

Dr. Stephen S. Fuller, Professor at the Public Policy Institute at George Mason University, spoke at the monthly program meeting (November 8); his talk was titled "Transformation Over Time: Arlington's Economic Life."

December 2001

The Douglas Park neighborhood was the subject of the Arlington Reunion program on December 14. The Ball-Sellers House received a grant from the Washington Forrest Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 to go toward a new roof for the house. Receipt of this grant met the goal established the previous year to raise \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs. At the end of the calendar year, the house had drawn 694 visitors, a record. Several new docents increased the pool of volunteers available to interpret the Ball-Sellers House, and members of a chapter of Children of the American Revolution assisted at two events. Also, Willard Webb planted and maintained a demonstration garden during the season to show visitors the kinds of plants the Ball family might have grown in the 18th Century.

January 2002

The speaker for the monthly program meeting on January 10 cancelled at the last minute and Society members Willard and Anne Webb stepped in and gave a wonderful presentation on "The Colonial Glebe Houses of Virginia."

February 2002

On February 15, Retired Air Force Major General Irene Trowell-Harris spoke at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial on "Black Women in the United States Uniformed Services" in a program co-sponsored with the Black Heritage Museum. The Arlington Reunion (February 21) focused on the Highland Park/Overlee Knolls neighborhood. About 110 students from Kenmore Elementary School visited the Ball-Sellers House this month.

March 2002

The March program meeting featured a presentation by retired naval historian and past president of the Society Dean Allard on "The U.S. Navy's Radio Station in Arlington."

April 2002

"One Hundred and More Years of the Arlington Fire Department" was the subject of the Arlington Reunion (April 18). The Ball-Sellers House opened for the season this month. Relying on Williamsburg and Monticello for reference, resident curator Angie Dodson planted a demonstration garden so visitors could see the kinds of plants the Balls might have grown. At the April program, re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment demonstrated

the skills and abilities required on the battlefield in early America. The 1750s house received a new roof. The contractor, Western Cedar Roofing, donated the roof for the well house.

May 2002

Directors and officers were elected at the May 9 program meeting and Dr. Mark David Richards spoke on “The County Comes Back to Virginia: Retrocession 1846-47.” Guests at the Society’s sold-out annual banquet, on Neighborhood Day, May 11, heard remarks by *Washington Post* columnist David Broder. Demonstrations of rug hooking, quilting, and weaving, plus a collection of antique tools, drew visitors to “Colonial Crafts,” a program at the Ball-Sellers House on May 18.

June 2002

At “Hometown History Fair,” a Ball-Sellers House program, visitors learned about area historic properties from representatives of The Old Guard Museum, Fort Myer; the Arlington Historical Museum; Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial; and Fort C. F. Smith. Maintenance and repair continued at the Ball-Sellers House with the installation of a new porch.