

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

2003-2004

July 2003

Volunteer Rebecca Kary planted a demonstration garden at the Ball-Sellers House.

August 2003

Resident curator Stacie Lemmon hosted a group of her students at the Ball-Sellers House, giving many of these inner city youth their first glimpse of a house museum. The Rock Spring Garden Club approached the Ball-Sellers House about developing and executing a landscape plan, to be funded in part with a grant, if awarded, sponsored by the Principal Financial Group.

September 2003

The topic at the first membership meeting of the year (September 11) was "The People of Arlington: A Century of Change." Except for water in the cellar, the Ball-Sellers House bore up well during tropical storm Isabel. Volunteers from the Ball-Sellers committee, docents, and Glencarlyn neighbors dried the cellar. Volunteer Ron Prehoda did some maintenance work in the 1880s portion of the Ball-Sellers House, which he donated.

October 2003

Historic Arlington Days were observed October 10-12. On the night of October 10, the annual candlelight tour of Arlington House celebrated the earliest construction of the house, and the program "Voices of Freedom" commemorated the 140th anniversary of Freedman's Village. Saturday's activities included a dedication ceremony for Welburn Square, named for the doctor who opened his Ballston practice in 1905, and a book signing by AHS members /authors Willard and Anne Webb. A program on making scarecrows, managed by Don Orth, attracted about 20 visitors to the Ball-Sellers House. Later in the month, Dr. Jerome Ford informally appraised family treasures at Heirloom Appraisal Day at the Ball-Sellers House. About 20 students from Barcroft School learned about the house from B-S committee member Betty Vertiz. On October 23, Michael Leventhal, Arlington County Historic Preservation Coordinator, addressed the Arlington Reunion on "How Arlington Preserves Its History."

November 2003

The November 13 program meeting was on "The Development of Arlington's

Immigrant Communities”; Dr. Tsehaya Teferra, editor of the *African Refugee Network*, Roquia Haider, managing editor of *Bangladesha*, and Leni Gonzalez of LULAC were the speakers. The program was co-sponsored by the Arlington Heritage Alliance. The Ball-Sellers House Committee hosted an end of season open house reception to recognize and thank the volunteers and donors. In connection with the garden club landscape project, Glencarlynn neighbor Ross Dickerson located the four corners of the Ball-Sellers property.

January 2004

The monthly program meeting on January 8 featured Hank Hulme, Jr., former Director, Arlington Public Works, speaking on “How Arlington’s Streets Were Named.” Ball-Sellers Committee representatives Jane Patrick Casey and Angie Dodson, along with AHS president Jim Murphy, presented the concept of the garden landscape project to the Design Review Committee of the Historic & Landmark Review Board, and it was approved.

February 2004

On February 12, a program featuring Mollyn Furman, “A Visit with Sojourner Truth,” was co-sponsored by the Black Heritage Museum and the Arlington Historical Society. The Ball-Sellers House received a grant for \$1,000 from National Garden Clubs, Inc., sponsored by The Principal Financial Group. Rock Spring Garden Club pledged a matching sum.

March 2004

The monthly program meeting, held on March 11, was a presentation on the inhabitants of Arlington prior to the arrival of the Europeans; W. Karl VanNewkirk and Martin Ogle, Chief Naturalist, Potomac Overlook Park, were the speakers. Over one hundred students from Kenmore School visited the Ball-Sellers House.

April 2004

The Ball-Sellers House opened for the season. Relying on Williamsburg and Monticello for reference, Dean Allard and Angie Dodson planted and maintained a demonstration garden to show visitors the kinds of plants the Ball family might have grown in the 18th Century. On April 9, a group of visitors from Aachen, Germany and their Arlington hosts visited the Arlington Historical Museum by bicycle. “The Heights of Arlington,” including Ashton, Fort Myer, and Alcova Heights, was the subject of the Arlington Reunion on April 15. At Arlington House, a special program titled “Lee’s Great Decision,” observing the anniversary of General Robert E. Lee’s resignation from the U.S. Army on the eve of the Civil War, was held on April 16.

May 2004

Directors and officers were elected at the May 13 program meeting; Tom Parker, former Chief, Arlington County Economic Development, spoke on “Stimulating Progress in Arlington: The Public/Private Partnerships.” Ross Dickerson surveyed the Ball-Sellers property, which had never been surveyed. The annual banquet was held on May 26 at the Clarendon Ballroom.

June 2004

The Ball-Sellers House Committee, under the direction of chair Jane Patrick Casey, completed its *Operations and Interpretation* manual, a reference for current and future administrators charged with the stewardship of the site. One of the committee’s most significant accomplishments in recent years, it describes procedures for preserving and maintaining the house and property and for conducting programs and managing volunteers and finances. In connection with Glencarlyn Day, five re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment demonstrated the chores and pastimes of Revolutionary War-era camp life.