

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW 2005-2006

July 2005

On July 17, members of the Arlington Historical Society and others gathered at the Tiffany Gallery of the historic Maury School, now the Arlington Arts Center, to honor eleven recent historic preservation projects in Arlington. The ceremony was sponsored by the Arlington Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), and was the culmination of its annual Preservation Design Awards program. Society President Gerald Laporte, as chairman of the Preservation Design Awards program, announced the awards and provided commentary on slides showing the projects being honored.

August 2005

A large team of volunteers, headed by Bette Clements and Eleanor Pourron, put up and staffed the Society's booth at the Arlington County Fair.

September 2005

The title of the program presented at the first membership meeting of the year (September 8) was "Rediscovering the Real George Washington," by James C. Rees, Executive Director of Historic Mount Vernon. He pointed out that George Washington, contrary to public opinion, was the most robust, adventuresome, and athletic of all the Founding Fathers—and he never wore a wig. At the Ball-Sellers House on the 17th, Dr. Jerome Ford offered informal antique appraisals at the annual Heirloom Discovery Day.

October 2005

On Saturday, October 1 a special meeting of the Society was held. Called a Vision and Strategy session, the facilitated agenda included a discussion of the findings of a survey of the membership taken in September, and additional suggestions for the direction the Society should take during the second half of its first century.

November 2005

The Arlington Reunion program on November 3, cosponsored by the Society and the Virginia Room of the Arlington Central Library, focused on remembering Arlington restaurants. The November 15 program meeting was titled "Post Office Murals of the 1930s and the Arlington Central Post Office's Historic

Auriel Bessemer Murals;" Virginia Mecklenburg, Senior Curator, Smithsonian American Art Museum, was the speaker. The program was held in conjunction with the opening of the exhibit of the Bessemer murals at the Central Library.

January 2006

The monthly program meeting, held on January 12, featured Carole Herrick, author of *August 24, 1814: Washington in Flames*. Her topic was taken from the book, and was a recounting of the historic events of that day.

February 2006

Long term Society member and former president Sara Collins was one of two people interviewed about Freedman's Village for the WAMU radio show, "Metro Connection," which aired on February 3. Although the Arlington Historical Museum is normally closed during February, a special tour for staff members of Arlington County Parks and Recreation, arranged by board member Ann Rudd, was conducted on February 6.

March 2006

The speaker for the program meeting held on March 19 was Susan Anthony, who spoke on "Planning the Mid-19th Century American Wedding." Her talk particularly focused on the June 30, 1831 wedding of Lieutenant Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis at Arlington House.

April 2006

The Ball-Sellers House opened for the season on Saturday, April 1. The annual Society banquet, normally held in April or May each year, was rescheduled for September to better correspond to the anniversary of the Society's founding in September 1956.

May 2006

At the annual meeting held on May 25 the election of officers and directors for the 2006-07 year was conducted. James Massey, historic preservation consultant, spoke on "Arlington's Glebe House, Birthplace of the Arlington Historical Society: History and Renovation." Birthday cake, celebrating the anniversary of the Society's founding, was served.

June 2006

On Glencarlyn Day (June 3) the Ball-Sellers House held an open house and lawn party to honor the Society's 50th anniversary, and also to commemorate the 31st year of stewardship of Arlington's oldest house. Demonstration spin-

ning, fiddle music, Revolutionary War re-enactors, and a visit to “Eastview,” a neighboring property, were all part of the celebration.