

# ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW 2007-2008

## **July 2007**

A new exhibit opened at the Museum celebrating some of the interesting personalities buried at Arlington National Cemetery, both military and non-military.

## **August 2007**

At a social early in the month, Arlingtonian Greg Mumford recalled some of his experiences in the 1960s with the singing group Strawberry Alarm Clock and played some of its music, including his 1967 hit song, Incense and Peppermint. Later in the month, Museum Bookstore Manager Eleanor Pourron organized and staffed the AHS booth at the County Fair, assisted by other AHS members.

## **September 2007**

At the membership meeting, author George Dodge presented a program on the history of Arlington National Cemetery that included video clips of Medal of Honor recipients, explorers, actors, and the Iwo Jima flag-raisers who are interred there.

## **October 2007**

Tom Dempsey organized and staffed the AHS booth at Gulf Branch Nature Center's annual Pioneer Day. The children who attended the annual fall children's event at the Ball-Sellers House enjoyed making their own scarecrows outdoors in the lovely autumn weather. On the 26th, Society members joined Arlington House staff members in celebrating Historic Arlington Days by donning period costumes for an evening candlelight tour of the grounds, while telling the stories of some of the 60 soldiers buried right next to Arlington House.

## **November 2007**

At the membership meeting, author Elizabeth Brown Pryor discussed her book, Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters.

## **December 2007**

The Society had a booth at the Aurora Hills Women's Club's annual boutique on the 8th; the proceeds of the boutique will be donated to AHS for maintenance of the exterior of the former Hume School, which now houses the Society's Museum. The Ball-Sellers House welcomed a hiking group and Campbell

School children. On the 18th, the Board welcomed Society members to a holiday reception at the museum, which was beautifully decked out and boasted several new exhibits appropriate to the season, including ones on toys, trains, and dolls and dollhouse furniture.

### **January 2008**

At the membership meeting, author Charles S. Clark discussed the recent Arlington Historical Magazine article that he co-wrote with Mary A. Rogalski: "The Arlington Encountered by Captain John Smith." The Ball-Sellers House hosted some 80 students from Kenmore School.

### **February 2008**

Pursuant to a September 2007 Board vote, regular museum hours on Saturdays and Sundays in February resumed. A thorough inventory of the Society's museum artifacts was begun; the last previous complete inventory was accomplished in 1992.

### **March 2008**

At the membership meeting, Steve Vogel discussed his book, *The Pentagon: A History*. At the end of the month, several new exhibits opened at the Museum, including the unveiling of an original Ronald Reagan letter sent to Mrs. Lorraine Buhrmann's Oakridge School kindergarten class in April 1981. The letter was in response to their get-well cards following his wounding during the attempted assassination in March 1981. Other new exhibits were those on bottles, the history of Hume School, and Hollywood personalities buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

### **April 2008**

The Board decided to develop additional display space upstairs in the museum by shifting and consolidating artifact storage and then refurbishing the larger part of the second floor for display purposes. In shifting artifact storage, a project was also undertaken to freeze all textiles, both as a routine pest control measure and in preparation for evaluation of our extensive textile collection by a professional textile conservator. An Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute (ALRI) class led by Karl VanNewkirk visited the Ball-Sellers House.

### **May 2008**

Docents from Ball-Sellers House and from the museum enjoyed the food, company, and beautiful weather at the annual docents' cookout at the museum on May 3rd. Tom Dempsey and Eleanor Pourron manned our booth at the annual

Potomac Overlook Park event on the 4th. The demonstration kitchen garden at the Ball-Sellers House was planted by neighbor Jud Buchanon and his children, and the house and garden were visited by a Smithsonian tour group. The Society's annual dinner was held on the 17th at the Cherrydale United Methodist Church hall. The speaker was Ken Hyde of the Wright Experience, whose talk about Orville Wright's flights in Arlington in 1908 and 1909 included video footage of some of those flights. Officers and directors were elected at the annual meeting, held on the 22nd at the Central Library Auditorium; the meeting also included a presentation by Francis X. O'Leary, Treasurer of Arlington County. His topic was "The E. Wade Ball Story: Arlington's Biggest Scandal."

### **June 2008**

The Society's Ball-Sellers House Committee participated with the Glencarlyn neighborhood in celebrating Glencarlyn Day on June 7th, a day of festivities and open houses, from our very old one to some newly renovated ones.