

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1980-1982

Minutes of September 11, 1981

The Society met at the Arlington Historical Museum with the President, James Huddleston presiding.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance in the Operating Fund of \$10,413.45, and in the Ball-Sellers Fund of \$1713.30.

Kathy Holt called attention to the new flagpole. Contributions for the purchase of the flagpole were made by John Fricano, The Women's Division of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, The Library of Congress in recognition of Don Wise, and Joseph McDonough. Kathy also recognized a gift to the Museum of a printing press, 1874, which belonged to Paul Johnson's grandfather.

Dorothea Abbott gave a report of the booth at the County Fair and announced sales of publications in the amount of \$190.36.

Ruth Ward announced that the dedication of the Ball-Sellers Museum would be on Sunday, October 18.

The program for the evening was a twenty-eight minute film from the Virginia Travel Service entitled "The Past is Prologue." The program was presented by Warren Clardy, program chairman.

Minutes of November 13, 1981

The Society met at the Museum.

The President reported a gift of \$2500 from the Olmsted Foundation toward publication of the Magazine.

An announcement was made of a meeting of the Northern Virginia Association of Historians on November 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the George Mason Law School, with Senator Warner as the speaker.

Announcement was made regarding a series of four lectures on "George Mason, The Man, and the Bill of Rights" in which the Society later participated, in March.

Kathy Holt reported on the opening of the Ball-Sellers house. One hundred guests attended the formal opening. The house can now be seen by groups who call Kathy to arrange for guided tours.

Art and Mary Dewald and Kathy Holt gave an interesting program in three parts on Cherrydale.

Minutes of January 8, 1982

The Society met at the Museum. In keeping with the tradition established in January 1981 by then President, Doris Bangs, the program for the evening was SHOW AND TELL. Attendance was good and several guests and new members were introduced.

President James Huddleston called special attention to the seminars on George Mason and expressed appreciation for a cash donation from the Woman's Club of Arlington and to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company for a \$200 donation to be used in reproducing the Society's slide show.

Beth Sundquist gave information about a new publication, *Historic Northern Virginia: Understanding and Protecting our Shared Heritage*, which can be purchased for \$12.50 from the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission, 7630 Little River Turnpike, Suite 400, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

The principal speaker of the evening was Mr. Lyman Kelly. In introducing Mr. Kelly, Jack Foster called attention to the fact that on January 1, 1932, Arlington County became the first county in the United States to operate under the County Manager form of Govern-

ment. Mr. Kelly, the sole surviving member of the first County Board, moved to Arlington at the age of five in 1907 into the seventh house built in Clarendon and has continued an insurance agency for sixty-three years in Arlington.

Mr. Kelly gave an account of the election of the original board. The 1931 election fielded fifty-one candidates who did not run under political party labels. It wasn't until 3:00 p.m. the day after the election that the votes were finally counted and the five winners announced -- Harry A. Fellows, Chairman; John C. Gall; Fred A. Gosnell, Sr.; Elizabeth B. Magruder; and Lyman Kelly. Roy Braden of Hopewell, Virginia, was appointed first County Manager. The first project undertaken by the Board was a water system, and the second was a sewer system.

Several members wearing costumes participated in the program. Warren Clardy introduced the theme of the evening wearing a hat which had belonged to his father and shared a newspaper printed November 9, 1949. Jean Davis modeled a WAVE uniform which she wore from the spring of 1943 until June 1947, and called attention to a good conduct medal she earned. Ruth Rose, wearing an 1860 dress, showed hand-made garments of that era belonging to the Museum collection. Kathy Holt, wearing her grandmother's lace dress of 1914 and a black velvet beaded shawl from the collection, called attention to a bag and instruments which had belonged to Dr. Welborn and to a set of Franklin survey maps of Arlington County maintained and updated until 1948 by insurance companies. Fran Millhouser, wearing a black silk dress (c.1904) from the Maria Saegmuller collection, showed an invitation her ancestor Abigail Bailey received to an 1824 ball in Cincinnati, Ohio, honoring General Lafayette. Martha Sachs modeled a 1914 wool gym suit, middy blouse and bloomers from the Museum collection. Anne Rose modeled a white linen skirt and red cashmere shawl from the collection. Beth Sundquist modeled a thirty-six year old suit in excellent style and condition which she bought in 1947. Barbara Giles modeled a green embroidered wool house dress (c. 1890) from the Museum collection.

Jack Burns showed photos: 1) 1934 engineering project in the beginning of the sewer construction, 2) barn on the Saegmuller property, 3) Stratford Hills -- view of property now known as Crescent Hills and another of a field George Mason Drive now runs through, 4) Nelson Jewett photographs of the 1928 flood at Old Chain Bridge.

Bette Clements showed a number of things from the files of Sheriff Clements: 1) ballots from the 1931 and 1941 elections, 2) gavel and base used in Circuit Court since 1948 accompanied by a reading of the Bailiff's announcement, 3) clippings from 1952 *Evening Star* 4) court orders from 1796, a guide for setting up fees, and 5) a jail vacation order.

Kathy Holt showed a record book from the Alexandria County alms house (c. 1860-1920) and a copy of the 1912-1924 circuit court records of Alexandria County. These are for the Historical Society Archives.

Teddy Saulmon introduced George Brumback whose family came to Arlington in the fall of 1925, settled in Cherrydale, and built 900 houses in the early development of Arlington County. Mr. Brumback had prepared a large bulletin board of photos from the Brumback developments which included Country Club Hills, brochures describing several developments, and an article from the *Times Herald* of 1938 about his father.

Art True showed some objects, including what appeared to be a cannon ball fragment, dug up on North Jackson and Second Street where a Civil War camp was located, and a door knob of laminated wood with a brass shaft.

Phyllis Kinsey who moved to the Barcroft area in 1948 donated some railroad spikes and metal pieces used on the ends of ties to keep them from splitting which she found on walks down a railroad bed along Four Mile Run.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and an opportunity for viewing and discussing the objects on display.

Minutes of March 27, 1982

The annual Arlington Historical Society Banquet was held at Gunston Hall, the Colonial home of George Mason, on Saturday, March 27, 1982. A tour by candlelight of the house preceded the business meeting. Punch and wine were served. Following a short business meet-

ing Warren Clardy introduced the Yorktown High School Madrigal Singers who entertained with a group of delightful songs.

A film about George Mason was shown.

Minutes of May 14, 1982

The Society met at the Museum with President James Huddleston presiding. The Treasurer's report showed a total of \$11,543.30 in the checking and savings accounts and \$1,564.16 in the Ball-Sellers account.

Mr. Richard Davis of the Unknown Soldier American Legion Post 44 introduced Colonel Harold Ogden (eighty-five year old veteran of both World War I and World War II) who presented the Society a medallion struck in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of Post 44. Mr. Huddleston accepted the medallion on behalf of the Society to be added to the Museum collection.

Kathy Holt reported on improvements to the building and invited members to tour the Museum following the meeting.

Carolyn Edmonds reported on landscaping to the Ball-Sellers grounds.

Martha Sachs moved the revised Constitution and By-Laws as mailed to members with the Newsletter of May, 1982, be approved. Motion was seconded and carried.

The report of the Nominating Committee (Herbert Collins, Ruth Rose, and Doris Bangs, Chairman) was read. Margaret Moody moved the slate of officers as read be elected. Motion was seconded and carried.

Newly elected President Libby Ross announced the Arlington County Parade for Saturday, June 12 and the Arlington County Fair, August 27 through 29, at both of which the Society will have representation.

The speaker of the evening was Captain Andrew G. Nelson who spoke on "Arlington Hall, a History."

Historic Arlington Day, October 3, 1981

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, opened its doors again to the Society on Friday evening, October 2, for a candlelight tour. Refreshments were served in the North Wing where repairs were in progress, and seeing inside the walls of this historic building was a treat.

On Saturday, October 3, the following houses were open: *Birchland*, home of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Page; *Toufrone*, home of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Wilkes III; the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Barbee in Ashton Heights; next to it the home of Mr. Herbert Collins with a marvelous collection of antiques and art; *Missionhurst*, headquarters of the Immaculate Heart Mission Fathers, which was built by Frank Lyon.

A new feature of the 1981 House Tour added greatly to the number of visitors to the Museum. Several miniature houses were on display in the large room of the Museum. This showing of miniature houses was a great success thanks to the help and guidance of Bob and Jean Porter, Arlington residents and owners of a shop in Occoquan.

Refreshments were served at the Museum by the Aurora Hills Woman's Club. Both the Museum and the houses on tour were enhanced by flower arrangements by garden clubs and friends of the Society.

Ball-Sellers House

See article by Dean Allard and Ruth M. Ward in the main section of the Magazine.

Holiday Reception, December 13, 1981

The holiday season was welcomed in on Sunday afternoon, December 13, at the Museum, which was festively decorated. A beautiful tree dominated the room with antique ornaments provided by Herb Collins. Wreaths, garlands, and holly throughout the building were arranged by the Green Manor Garden Club, Anne and Willard Webb, and Kathy Holt. Refreshments prepared by Society members were served. A large number of members and friends turned out to enjoy the occasion which was declared a great success.