

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1984-1985

July, 1984

A special meeting for new members of the Board was held in July. President Collins introduced it as a time for reviewing the structure of the Board and the Society, orientation, and goal setting.

It was announced that the Society will participate in the Arlington County Fair and that a special summer picnic will be held in July.

August, 1984

A brief Board meeting was held. Several new committee chairmen were confirmed and plans finalized for the County Fair and for Historic Arlington Month.

September, 1984

The Society went on record as recommending that the name on Highway 66 be changed to George Washington Parke Custis (GWP Custis) Highway and that the silhouette of Martha Washington be covered.

Bobbi Schildt, an Arlington Public Schools teacher was the speaker. Her topic was "Freedman's Village." She had become interested in the topic while working with her class on a NEH/Arlington Schools grant project and found the research possibilities endless. It was announced that her class was preparing a museum exhibit on the Freedman's Village to put up later in the year.

October, 1984

The Board received a proclamation dated September 13, 1984, signed by County Board Chairman Ellen Bozman declaring October to be Historic Arlington Month. The plans for extended hours for the museum were announced; Jack Foster would be in charge of volunteers for the current year. A revised Museum Rental agreement and Regulations were distributed. It was announced that Kathy Holt would lead another Smithsonian tour of Arlington.

The annual House Tour was held the second weekend of the month.

November 1984

Mrs. Agnes Downey Mullins, director of the Robert E. Lee Memorial and expert on the Lee family, spoke on Mary Anna Randolph Custis Lee -- illustrating her talk with slides and narrative. Mrs. Mullins pointed out that men writers have been chiefly unfair in her life and influence, and discussed Mrs. Lee's talents, ability and experiences in holding her family and resources together during the war.

December 1984

Extended Museum hours were announced: Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 2 to 5 p.m.

President Collins introduced Norman Novack as Chairman of a Budget and Finance Committee. He presented the possibility of establishing a Century Fund (a long term fundraising campaign aimed at six years from the present when the building will be one hundred years old.) The Historic Preservation Committee, chaired by Bette Clements, announced a pre-planning meeting on the topic of Clarendon. New tenants/keepers were found for the Ball/Sellers home. The grant of \$2,500 from the Olmstead Foundation for the Magazine was announced. It was agreed that the Arlington Museum would cooperate with the Alexandria Museum in its displays and a loan policy would be established. Estimates for the cost of replacing the roof were presented; some of the worst leaks were being repaired because available funds do not begin to cover the estimates.

The Society received news from the Arlington County Tax Assessor that due to a new interpretation of state laws, non-profit agencies are now liable for paying real estate taxes for this and three prior years. The Society bill would be \$12,000.

January 1985

The January General Membership meeting was a show and tell meeting. Master of Ceremonies Sterling Springston introduced Doris Campbell Bangs, Phyllis Johnson, Ruth Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lewis, Harold McCoy, Anna Belle and Munson Lane, Samuel Krigbaum (represented by Catherine Saulmon), Dorothy Springston, Peggy Fisher (represented by Ruth Rose), Ella Pfeiffer, Don Dixon, Arthur True, Lucy Thompson, Ivan Washburn, and Carlos Campbell. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Crandal Mackey and their two year old daughter were contributed to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gray. Several of the program participants presented their artifacts to the museum.

The "Women in 20th Century Arlington" exhibit, presenting a sampling of many women who contributed to life in Arlington County in the 20th Century had its grand opening January 15.

February, 1985

The Board wrestled with the problem of the tax bill and was reported working with the County Board and others to solve the problem. A number of possible fund raisers and future activities were considered. A committee to establish an on-going Arlington Hall of Fame was authorized.

March, 1985

It was announced that the County had asked the Society to pay back taxes, for which they would then be reimbursed.

The program speaker was Ruth Rose, who talked about "Growing Up With the Lees." She presented material from her extensive research -- chiefly using the words of Charles Carter Lee, through his letters and other writings.

April, 1985

The April Board meeting considered such important maintenance items as upgrading the electrical system, installing a security system and putting on a new roof. The Hall of Fame proposal was adopted as presented: there will be six nominees the first year, with installation planned for the December meeting. Two or three additional persons will be added each year.

The Arlington Historical Society welcomed members and guests to the historic presentation of "Pocahontas: A National Drama in Three Acts," written by George Washington Parke Custis, Esq., performed by Readers in Residence at the spring banquet. It was very well received.

May, 1985

The May meeting found the Society in a dilemma, with eight candidates for six Board positions. Nominees presented for the officer positions were elected and installed with the Board of Director election postponed until autumn. 1985-86 officers will include:

President - Allen Kitchens
First Vice President - Catherine Saulmon
Second Vice President - Bonnie Fairbanks
Recording Secretary - June Robinson
Corresponding Secretary - Mary Elizabeth Fricano
Newsletter Secretary - Linda Warden
Treasurer - Greg Bayen

Newly installed President Kitchens commended outgoing President Sara Collins on the accomplishments of her administration and outlined challenges for the Society during the following months and years.

Mrs. Eloise Jenkens presented the historic background; showed slides; and discussed the present location and condition of the District of Columbia boundary markers.

The day following the meeting, members of the Society and their friends went on a bus tour of the boundary markers on the Arlington County section of the original district and to the north corner.

A plant sale was held on the museum grounds in May.

June, 1985

The June Board meeting saw the 1984-85 Directors meeting with all nominees for Director positions, officers and current chairmen. Plans for a number of activities, including the County parade, the County fair and pre-planning for a fund raising and membership drive were considered.

Photographs for the First Historic Arlington Photography contest and show which would succeed the Women's exhibit were received late in the month. They will go up in July.