

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1986-1987

Greater community involvement in the activities of the Society and the museum was sought during the year. Restoration of the exterior of the museum building and the grounds at a cost greater than originally planned led to a fund drive that reached out to all parts of the county. Results of the restoration are looked on with pride by residents in the Arlington Ridge community as well as by Society members. Several of the program meetings were televised by the local cable station.

In a continuing improvement program, the Society applied for and received a grant for professional assessment of the museum.

Membership reached an all-time high.

Officers and Board include: Catharine Saulmon, President; Sterling Springston, First Vice President; Norman Novack, Second Vice President; June Robinson, Recording Secretary; Dorothea Abbott, Corresponding Secretary; Linda Warden, Newsletter Secretary; Larry Craven/Greg Bayens (appointed in December), Treasurer; Allen Kitchens, Immediate Past President; and Directors — Herselle Milliken, Darline Hannabass, John D. Sinks, Joshua Taylor, Jr., Fran Milhouser, and John Vihstadt.

June 1987

Outgoing and incoming officers and Board members met to review the past year and to make plans for the future. Toward the end of the month the museum was closed while exterior restoration — including a new roof — was begun by the Hitt Company. Seventeen layers of paint were removed, and white paint was applied on the woodwork and decorations.

July 1987

The “new look” was completed, including landscaping, a new parking lot, and the return of a wrought iron fence as shown in a 1917 photograph. The original and wrought decorations on the gables were revealed to admiring members and others in the Arlington community. A celebration picnic was held on the grounds to mark the reopening and a schedule was drawn up for members to water the new lawn and plantings daily.

August 1987

Board activities centered around a fund-raising campaign that involved an appeal to community leaders and businesses, as well as to members, to meet the expenses of restoration.

A photo quiz developed by Kathy Holt for the AHS booth at the County Fair was a popular attraction.

Scott Springston served as chairman of a successful yard sale. The Society received a Museum Grant Award from the Institute of Museum Services, which provided for professional assessment of the museum and its collection.

September 1987

Program Chairman Norman Novack introduced a series of programs relating to twentieth-century Arlington. Warren Clardy, Ed and Elizabeth Campbell, and Elizabeth Shearer spoke of life and events in the early 1900s.

On September 17 the museum bell was rung two hundred times in observance of the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States.

October 1987

Sterling Springston served as chairman of the annual house tour, which explored Brumback-built homes in Arlington. The Society entered the computer age with the acquisition of a computer and a printer.

Almost all of the \$25,000 needed to pay the debt incurred on additional restoration costs had been collected.

November 1987

Norman Novack, Tom Whipple, and Alice Suffit spoke on the history of government and politics in Arlington County. The televised program was held in the ACT (Arlington Community Television) studio at the Arlington campus of George Mason University.

An exhibit of photographs was held at the museum, showing pictures of Arlington that were entered in the annual photography contest.

At the suggestion of Anna Belle Lane, a reception was held featuring the authors of most of the books sold in the museum shop. Authors who participated, autographing copies of their books and meeting members and readers included Philip Bigler, Kathy Holt, Nan and Ross Netherton, Randy Swartz, Jane Chapman Whit, and Don Wise. Members of the Arlington Genealogical Club were represented, and artist Rudolph Wendilen, who developed the new seal for the Society, also attended.

Trees on the back hillside were thinned.

December 1987

Christmas decorations were put up in the museum, and a holiday reception and open house was held. The annual bonfire and yule log burning at the Ball-Sellers House celebrated the end of the year.

Treasurer Larry Cravens resigned and Greg Bayens was appointed to that position.

The *Magazine* was distributed, bigger than ever before, with a funding grant from the George and Carol Olmsted Foundation.

January 1988

The general meeting was cancelled because of bad weather.

February 1988

A special program on the personality and learning of Abraham Lincoln was presented.

March 1988

The program considered two communities — Glencarlyn and Maywood. Cecil King and Bob MacAtee were the speakers.

A training session was held in the museum for Arlington public school social studies teachers.

Arrangements were made for interior painting during the summer months.

April 1988

Dr. Paul Garber, "Father of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum," was the speaker at our annual dinner meeting observing the anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight from Fort Myer. Evelyn Syphax served as banquet chairman.

Conchita Mitchell was chairman of the very successful auction which was held at the Holiday Inn Ballston.

The museum and its holdings were professionally assessed under a grant from the Institute of Museum Services.

May 1988

A special program to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the museum featured the sixth and seventh presidents of the Society, who had worked to acquire the Hume School and create and develop the museum. Dow Nida, Jack Foster, Eleanor Lee Templeman, and Jack R. Jones presented the program. Special guests included Mrs. Katie Massey Bryner, former teacher at the Hume School, and Katherine Roberts, former recording secretary of the Society.

Catharine (Teddy) Saulmon received accolades from the Society for her two years of service as President.

A decision was made to place the original photographs of the photo archives in the Arlington Library for better community access and security.



EDITOR'S NOTES

The editor wishes to acknowledge the work of Dr. Dean Allard, Jr., who assisted in compiling the "Chronology of Arlington Boundaries," which appears on page 25.

Correction: On page 24 of the 1987 *Magazine*, reference is made to the cessation of passenger service on the W&OD Railroad. The date given is incorrect. The correct date for the final end of passenger service is May 31, 1951. Those who would like to read more about this are referred to: Herbert H. Harwood, Jr., *Rails to the Blue Ridge*, Falls Church: Pioneer American Society, 2nd rev. ed. 1969; and Ames W. Williams, *Washington & Old Dominion Railroad*, Alexandria, Va.: Meridian Sun Press, 1984.