

## ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1988-1989

The year was marked with a study of the resources of the museum following the ideas presented by the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) study of the previous year. A new director and curator began taking inventory of the photograph and artifacts collection. The ground floor room was completely renovated.

### **June 1988**

A team of new officers held their first meeting in June: President Evelyn Syphax; First Vice President Darline Hannabass; Second Vice President Sterling Springston; Recording Secretary June Robinson; Corresponding Secretary Kathy Hamblett; Newsletter Secretary Linda Warden; Treasurer Martha Sachs; Immediate Past President Catharine Saulmon. Directors included Bette Clements, Norman Novack, Fran Milhouser, Joshua Taylor, Jr., Greg Bayens and Herselle Milliken. It was agreed that each of the Directors would assume oversight for one or more committees.

Of immediate concern was the study and implementation of the Museum Assessment Report. Darline Hannabass agreed to serve as Museum Director.

### **July 1988**

There were no meetings in July; the museum was "turned inside out" for interior painting. A large number of volunteer members appeared to move the cases and artifacts away from the walls and to replace them when the painting was complete. The basement level was given over to storage.

### **August 1988**

An active, creative team headed by Fran Millhouser developed a display for the Arlington Fair that took a "theme" ribbon for its celebration of 100 years of Rosslyn.

### **September 1988**

The Board considered suggestions: from Jack Foster that he move into the Ball-Sellers House and become its live-in curator; from Bruce McCoy that he serve as curator for the Museum.

The September program featured County Board Member John Milliken speaking to members in a meeting held at the Lyon Park Community House on the topic, "Keeping Arlington County a Liveable Community Now and in the Future."

On September 17, the school bell was rung 201 times in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution, plus one year. Home made ice cream was served.

### **October 1988**

For Historic Arlington Day President Evelyn Syphax led members on a bus tour of Arlington which included a stop at the dedication of the new court house and a special tour of Arlington Cemetery.

The Society entered the County Parade. The annual photography show was scheduled for an opening on October 30.

### **November 1988**

Mrs. Agnes Mullins, Curator of Arlington House, gave a presentation honoring George Washington Parke Custis.

Later in the month a successful Author lecture and booksigning held in conjunction with the Friends of the Library was held at the Arlington Central Library.

### **December 1988**

The Museum was enriched with a donation of four museum cases from the Freer Gallery. A new exhibits committee spent hours removing layers of paint and material from the display cases in the Nannie Hume Jewett Room, painting them, and installing new exhibits.

The renovated room was the feature of a Holiday Open House in mid-December. A children's party and story teller was featured during the Christmas holiday week.

### **January 1989**

The moderate January weather brought out a large crowd for the Show and Share meeting.

### **February 1989**

President Evelyn Syphax was in demand as a speaker for Black History Month, on television and in local schoolrooms. She acted as advisor for a museum display on Arlington's black heritage.

Hosts and Hostesses were thanked for their service with a chili dinner in the museum.

### **March 1989**

The Board geared up for a series of social events which would include the auction, yard sale, banquet, and garden party.

A standing room only crowd attended the membership meeting to hear a talk on "Mr. Lincoln's Forts."

### **April 1989**

Although it was postponed because of rain, the Yard Sale was a resounding success. Members heard State Senator Ed Holland as speaker at the annual Banquet held at Fort Myer.

### **May 1989**

Following the election of new officers for 1989-90, members heard a fascinating talk on Camp Alger and World War I in Northern Virginia.

The Garden party, held in conjunction with the Arts Council, on a beautiful day, attracted many members.

Hosts and Hostesses gathered at the Ball-Sellers House for a chicken and pot luck supper.