

## ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1989-1990

The year's increased focus on a museum long range plan and upgrading the building and collections is planned to lead to eventual accreditation. The Society found itself more involved in preservation and community activities. Jack Foster, as Ball-Sellers House Curator, is residing in the house. Darline Hannabass continues as Museum Director.

### **June 1989**

President June Robinson presided over the newly elected board: First Vice President Bette Clements; Second Vice President John Vihstadt; Recording/Corresponding Secretary Kathy Hamblett; Newsletter Secretary Sara Amy Leach; Treasurer Martha Sachs; Immediate Past President Evelyn Syphax; Directors Sara Collins, Agnes Mullins, Jane Nida, Donald Orth, Libby Ross and Karl Van Newkirk.

The museum's new air conditioning unit was installed on the second floor and new brochures have been developed.

### **July 1989**

The preservation of the Travers Family Cemetery on South Monroe Street continued to be an issue.

### **August 1989**

Progress in the search for archival storage space was realized with the initial meeting between the Arlington County Libraries Director and members of the Society's board.

The County Fair exhibit, "Arlington's Roads and Bridges," received a ribbon.

### **September 1989**

The September meeting held at Clarendon United Methodist Church featured aviation in Arlington with James M. Goode speaking on Hoover Field, predecessor of National Airport; Ray Wells, a Goodyear blimp crewman; and information on preservation and rehabilitation to be done at National Airport.

The Hume School bell was rung 202 times on September 17 in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution. Homemade ice cream was enjoyed.

An Overview Conservation Survey was conducted September 28 for the State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Virginia State Library and Archives to provide observations and recommendations concerning environment and storage conditions and to assist in preservation of the collection.

### **October 1989**

Walking tours of the North Highlands and Dawson Terrace neighborhood led by Bruce McCoy, and Columbia Pike led by Sara Collins were held October 14, Historic Arlington Day. We participated in the CPRO "Discover the Pike Parade" October 7.

### **November 1989**

"Spires & Steeples: Worship in Arlington Through the Years" was the theme of the membership meeting held at St. Thomas More cathedral. Featured were Msgr. Justin D.

*October 1990*

McClunn of the Diocese of Arlington, Lillian Green of Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church, and the Rev. William J. Cumbie, Mount Vernon Baptist Association.

The Arlington Heritage Alliance, a pro-active group committed to historic preservation and conservation in Arlington County, has been formed.

### **December 1989**

A special meeting of the board was held December 7 upon hearing of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's plans to excavate the Abingdon ruins.

The annual holiday open house was held at the museum December 16. The children's program had been cancelled due to snow, but the Arlington League of Women Voters' reception was held December 9. Some of the Fraser family portraits, a recent gift, were placed on display.

Researchers were recruited for a long-term project to produce a graphic and written portrait of Arlington County in 1860.

### **January 1990**

The annual Show and Share Program was held at the museum. Motions relating to preservation of the Abingdon ruins were adopted. The long-anticipated repairs to the office floor resulted in closing of the building until March.

### **February 1990**

A program in the County library series honoring Black Americans was cosponsored by the Society. Casell Butler, local civil rights activist donated his papers to the Virginia Room.

### **March 1990**

Eleanor Lee Templeman, well-known historian, author and artist, died March 2 at her Arlington home.

The board approved contracting with Stephanie Eisenbarth to serve as a part-time curator at the museum and voted to urge approval of Maywood's designation as a neighborhood historic district.

The membership meeting focused on 20th-century commerce in Arlington with Richard Hurt and Robert Peck speaking.

Abingdon Elementary School student work done in conjunction with study of the history of the Abingdon estate and the current construction/preservation question was displayed and an open house held at the museum.

### **April 1990**

A tour of Virginia boundary stones and Abingdon ruins was led by Bernard Berne and Norman Novack.

### **May 1990**

This year the membership meeting was made a part of the annual banquet, held May 11 at the Holiday Inn-Arlington at Ballston. Dr. Alfred Goldberg provided interesting — often amazing — information on "Fifty Years of the Pentagon."

The yard sale and plant sale was a successful fundraiser.

The Society cosponsored the Arlington Heritage Festival at Dawson Terrace.