

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1992-1993

June 1992

The Arlington County Fire Inspector inspected the Hume School Museum for the first time since 1988; with minor exceptions, everything was in order. Johanna Baker was appointed Museum Director.

July 1992

An internship program was initiated, in coordination with George Mason University, with Nancy Griepentrog as the first intern. Repair work began at the Hume School Building.

August 1992

Stephanie Eisenbarth resigned as Curator of the Hume School Museum, and was replaced by Holliday Ridge. The Society had an outstanding exhibit at the Arlington County Fair.

September 1992

The membership meeting featured Mr. Robert McAtee's reminiscences about his lifelong residence in Maywood. The Society celebrated the 205th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution by ringing the Hume School bell, followed by homemade peach ice cream for the bell-ringers.

October 1992

The Society sponsored a boat tour of Arlington's Potomac shore, with historic commentary by Society President Bruce McCoy, as part of Historic Arlington Day. The Ball-Sellers House was featured on the Channel 31 television program *County Line*. The Society cosponsored, with George Mason University, a course on *The Developmental History of Arlington County*, taught by President Bruce McCoy. A program on life in the past, featuring objects from the museum collection, was developed and presented to grades K-2 at Key School.

November 1992

The membership program, entitled *An Evening of Political Discourse*, was dedicated to the memory of Mary Marshall.; the speakers were Ed Campbell (member, Arlington County Board, 1936, 1940-47), Elizabeth Campbell (member, Arlington County School Board, 1948-56, 1960-64), Henry Lampe (member, Virginia House of Delegates, 1970-72), and Walter Franklin (member, Arlington County Board, 1976-83). A special lecture program, *New in Arlington County*, addressed the impressions of a newcomer to the area.

December 1992

The Open House and Holiday Party featured musical entertainment by the Washington-Lee Madrigal Singers and by musicians Wayne Britz and friends. Repair work began on the windows in the Victorian portion of the Ball-Sellers House.

January 1993

Fairlington: From Carlyle to Condos was the topic of the membership meeting, held at the Fairlington Community Center; the speakers were John D. Sinks, Jim Munson, and

Catherine Fellows. William Allen resigned from the Board of Directors due to scheduling problems.

February 1993

Twenty-two people enjoyed the Society-sponsored tour of historic and governmental buildings in Richmond, led by Bette Clements.

March 1993

After being closed for a number of months for repairs, the Hume School Museum reopened with three new exhibits. The reception opening the exhibits was to substitute for the regular membership meeting; unfortunately, it had to be postponed due to inclement weather. A tour of the western boundary markers of the original District of Columbia was led by Karl VanNewkirk.

April 1993

The *Developmental History of Arlington County* class, cosponsored by the Society and George Mason University, was again offered to the public. The Society also sponsored a tour to Michie Tavern and Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's "other" home in Bedford County, led by Herbert Collins. The Heritage Walk for the month, sponsored by the Society, featured Dawson Terrace.

May 1993

A second joint Society-GMU class, *Field Program of Arlington History*, was offered to the public. The final spring Society bus tour featured sites associated with Patrick Henry, and was led by Herbert Collins. The Society's annual banquet was held at the Arlington Career Center; Maurice J. Terman spoke on historical sites shared by Arlington and Falls Church. The annual meeting of the Society was held at the Barcroft Community House; the featured speakers were Karen Darner (49th District Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly), James Hunter (Chairman, Arlington County Board), and Lawrence Goldschmidt (member, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board). Also, the Officers and Directors for 1993-94 were elected and installed.

HUME SCHOOL MUSEUM

For a number of years there had been concern about the safety of the heating and electrical systems in the Hume School Building. The two furnaces were over thirty years old and the electrical wiring became very hot and fuses often blew even when only one or two lights were turned on. In addition, part of the soffit on the left front of the building fell to the ground and animals entered through the hole; there were also several water leaks in the roof as well as in the foundation wall in the basement.

At the urging of the Director of Facilities, Jane B. Nida, a request was made to the trustees of the Society's Building and Endowment Trust Fund to cover the costs of (1) upgrading the entire electrical system, (2) replacing two furnaces, (3) adding air conditioning modules to the furnaces, (4) insulating the second floor ceiling, (5) repairing the roof and foundation leaks, and (6) installing track lighting for the exhibits as requested by the Museum staff. The trustees approved the transfer of \$17,990; the Society's annual operating fund financed the remainder of the cost of this work (\$5,000).

During January and February 1993, the Museum staff and volunteers reconfigured the exhibits on the first and second floors of the Museum. The new exhibits *After the Great War: Reflections of Arlington in the 1920s*; *Shaping the African American Community*; A

Chronology of Local and National Events; and Divided Loyalties: Arlington During the Civil War were opened in early March 1993.

The volunteer Museum Director, Johanna Baker, resigned at the end of April and the Museum Curator, Holliday Ridge, resigned her contract effective May 1993; both left to take full-time paid positions.

On May 15, 1993, Darline Hannabass was appointed Acting Museum Director, to serve during the interim until a new volunteer museum director is found.

BALL-SELLERS HOUSE

Under the superb care of resident Curator Jack Foster, the Ball-Sellers House continues to be a source of delight to all who visit. The highlight of preservation efforts this year was the painting of the house for the first time in twelve years. Since the siding on the Victorian wing is original, dating to 1880, we decided to paint the house in its original authentic colors. Mr. Matthew Mosca, Historic Paint Research Specialist, discovered the original colors to be cream with brown trim and red windows and doors. The porch ceiling had been blue, as had the door panels. In May 1993 we completed painting the house in accord with these original colors. At the same time, a fresh coat of white paint was put on the cabin. During this time, we also restored six of the windows in the Victorian wing and discovered them to be hand-made, even though machine-made windows were available in 1880.

We were a big part of Glencarlyn Day on June 5, with the house open, new exhibits mounted, and a spinning demonstration.