

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1995-1996

June-July 1995

Several key positions on the Board of Directors and elsewhere were unfilled; a search began for individuals willing to serve in these posts.

A one year's extension of the grant from the Virginia State Department of Historic Resources, to June 30, 1996, was requested. This grant is to be used, along with matching monies from the Society's resources, for repairs to the Hume School Museum building. The requested extension was granted.

The Board of Directors received a report on the acreage next to Arlington House that has been proposed for transfer from the Interior Department to the Department of the Army, for the purpose of increasing the amount of space available for burials in Arlington Cemetery. This is virgin woods that looks very much as it did at the time Arlington House was occupied by the Custis-Lee family. The Board voted to go on record as opposing the transfer until such time as archaeological and environmental surveys of the land were completed.

August 1995

The Society's booth at the Arlington County Fair was arranged differently this year; it was a single booth, and not located next to that of the Arlington Heritage Alliance, as it had been for several previous years. The table was set up so that both sides could be used. Unfortunately, this made it difficult for the hosts to meet and greet the public.

September 1995

The Society's membership and program meeting was held on September 15 at the Arlington Central Library. Mr. Lester Albers, an history teacher at Washington and Lee High School, spoke on "The Impact of World War II on Arlington." He also exhibited numerous items from his extensive collection of WWII uniforms, weapons, and other military equipment.

The Society's Museum Director moderated a session of the Arlington Reunion about Arlington trolleys. The Society will receive a copy of the tape of the meeting from Channel 31 (television).

October 1995

Historic Arlington Day was observed on October 21, and featured the Ball-Sellers House and a tour of nearby homes. Channel 31 filmed the festivities. In a related observance, the candlelight tour of Arlington House also included a tour of the Freedmen's Village site and selected graves of African-Americans.

The Society donated copies of *Arlington County, Virginia: A History* to be given as gifts to a visiting delegation from Coyoacan, Mexico, Arlington's sister city.

There was an exchange of letters between the Society and Arlington Cable TV regarding the addition of the History Channel to their offerings.

Members of the Society were invited to attend the installation of an historical marker commemorating Freedmen's Village.

November 1995

Ms. Pat Miller was appointed to the position of Director of the Society, and will concentrate her efforts on Grounds and Beautification.

The membership and program meeting was held at the Arlington Central Library on November 17. William "Mac" McClenahan, a former history professor at George Washington University and the University of Maryland, spoke on "Arlington and the Great War." This follow-up to the September program addressed the Spanish influenza epidemic and other events affecting our then-developing community.

December 1995-January 1996

Bad weather forced the cancellation of most Society activities.

February 1996

The Board of Directors discussed a proposal from the Falls Church Advisory Board for Recreation and Parks and the Falls Church Historical Commission pertaining to an appropriate memorial to Benjamin Banneker, the African-American astronomer who assisted Major Andrew Ellicott in the original survey of the District of Columbia. The Board voted to recommend to the Arlington County Board that the park adjacent to Van Buren Street be renamed "Ellicott-Banneker Park."

The Treasurer reported that the Society's financial records and income tax returns for FY 1995 had been reviewed by a local auditing firm and found to be satisfactory. The auditing service was performed at no cost to the Society.

March 1996

The membership and program meeting was held at the Arlington Central Library on March 21. In a program rescheduled from January, Mr. Stephen M. Forman spoke on "A Guide to Civil War Washington."

The Board of Directors appointed an Insurance Committee to review the Society's insurance coverage and recommend changes as appropriate. Combining the coverage of the Hume School Museum and the Ball-Sellers House was also to be considered.

April 1996

Excavation work began around the foundation of the Hume School for the installation of perforated pipe and other steps to control water leakage into the building.

The Society Archivist continued his efforts to document on film the current appearance of Arlington schools, churches, firehouses, parks, businesses, and areas subject to redevelopment. These films are to be donated to the Society, and also to the Library's Virginia Room.

May 1996

The Society's annual banquet was held on May 17 in the Galaxy Room of the Sheraton Hotel. Entertainment was provided by a string quartet from Yorktown High School. Mr. Roger Mudd was the guest speaker. A videotape of Mr. Mudd's remarks was made for the Society's archives.

The Society's annual general membership meeting and election of officers was held at the Virginia Room of the Central Library on May 23. The outgoing president made a report on the status of the efforts to prevent the conversion of land near Arlington House for cemetery purposes. Following the meeting Ms. Collins conducted a tour of the Virginia Room facilities.

The Ball-Sellers committee reported on significant events of the previous year. In addition to those items mentioned above, these included: production of a film on the house and its history by Channel 31; publication of new findings on John Ball's father; physical improvements to the Victorian part of the house; design and production of a new brochure; and the use

of the house as a historical resource for reconstruction of the cabin at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

June 1996

New officers and directors took office and began planning for the Arlington County Fair and other activities.

Ms. Sara Collins, Librarian at the Virginia Room (and a former president of the Society) announced her retirement. Planning was begun for an appropriate function to express the Society's appreciation for her work over the years.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM, 1995-96

Civil War prints. Given by Jerome Shapiro.

Barcroft photographs. Given by Gordon R. Davis.

Consumer Brewing Company bottles. Given by Dow Nida.

Indian tools. Given by Jason and Brandon Liljenquist.

1862 aerial etching of Washington facing Virginia. Given by Margaret Fisher.

1956 aerial view of Rosslyn. Given by Margaret Fisher.