

# ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

## 1997-1998

### July-August 1997

The Society's booth at the Arlington County Fair (August 21-24) featured a display on Arlington's older neighborhoods, put together by Anne Webb. Other members of the organizing committee included Bette Clements, Hal Handerson, Dow and Jane Nida, Norm Novack, Jim Palmer, Sherman Pratt, and Willard Webb. Several old-time Arlington residents stopped by to share their memories, and some new members joined the Society; we made enough to cover our expenses and have some money left over to put into the fundraiser. The July program at the Ball-Sellers House (July 12) was a video presentation about an historic grist mill, and on August 23, Sarah Bryan played fiddle music for visitors to the house.

### September 1997

On September 6, the program at the Ball-Sellers House was on fabric stamping quilt design. At the September board of directors meeting (September 8), the board voted unanimously to bestow the title of *Treasurer Emerita* upon Darlene Hannabass, in recognition of the many years of service she performed in that office. At the same meeting, the society's by-laws were amended to reflect the current practice of holding regular Society meetings on the second Thursday in September, November, January, March, and May, with the May meeting being the Annual Meeting. The meeting on September 11 featured a panel discussion by Dean Allard, Sally Michael, Frances Finta, and Marty Almquiste on *Arlington Neighborhoods: Roots to Renaissance*. The Long-Range Planning Committee held an open meeting at George Mason University (Arlington Campus) on September 13. On September 18, the Arlington Reunion program was on the Arlington Ridge neighborhood. Historic Arlington Day was observed in conjunction with Arlington Neighborhood Day on September 27, and included the formal opening of a new exhibit at the museum; the annual Arlington House candlelight tour was held as usual on the preceding evening.

### October-November 1997

Sara Collins, who retired in 1996 after 22 years as Virginiana Librarian of the Arlington Library, and who served the Society in a number of official capacities, including the presidency in 1984-85, received the Forrest C. Pogue Award on November 1. This award is bestowed annually for outstanding and

continuing contributions in the field of oral history. The Arlington Reunion program on November 6, co-sponsored by the Virginia Room of the Arlington Public Library and the Society, was a discussion of several neighborhoods west of Glebe Road, including Livingston Heights and Garden City. The Society exhibited and offered its publications for sale at the History Book Fair on November 8; exhibitors who specialize in publications of all kinds on history, biography, genealogy, archaeology, and architecture were represented. On November 13, the speaker at the regular membership meeting was Tom Faust, Arlington County Sheriff; his topic was titled *The Sheriff in Arlington: History, Change and Incumbency*. On November 20, the Society was among the organizations honored by the Arlington Voters in Partnership Program; Dr. Harold Handerson, Museum Director, accepted the award on behalf of the Society at a reception sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

### December 1997

The board of directors voted at their December 1 meeting to more than double, from \$229,000 to \$500,000, the insurance coverage for our artifacts. Against a backdrop of our museum's *Neighborhood* display, Sara Collins, program chair of the Society, and Ellen Bozman, outgoing chair of the Arlington County Board, reminisced about various county neighborhoods on the *Sights and Sounds of Arlington* cable TV program (government channel 31). A covered dish supper was hosted by Marty Orth on December 7 for the docents of the Ball-Sellers House. Society President Watson and Museum Director Handerson attended the organizational meeting of the Potomac Heritage Partnership on December 10; the museum is one of the partner organizations of this coalition which promotes the preservation and interpretation of the Potomac River's natural and cultural resources.

### January 1998

The topic of the membership meeting, held on January 8, was *Lustron Homes*; the speaker was Eric Dobson, director of the Clarendon Alliance. Marty Orth, chair of the Ball-Sellers Committee, submitted her resignation to the board of directors; she remained a member of the committee in order to continue her work with the education subcommittee. Willard Webb was appointed to succeed her as chair, with Jane Casey as vice-chair. The Arlington Reunion program (January 15) was *Some Notable Arlington Houses*. On January 22, Museum Director Handerson, Bette Clements, and Sophie Vogel traveled to Richmond to meet with fellow members of the Virginia Association of Museums and also to lobby a number of our local legislators in behalf of state funding for grants to museums. The annual meeting of the Northern Virginia Association for History, an

umbrella organization for local historical societies and museums, was held on January 31 at the Alexandria Black History Resource Center.

### **February-March 1998**

The possibility that the Bazil Hall House, on North George Mason Drive, might be demolished and replaced by multiple single-family houses came to the attention of the Society; in response, the president wrote a letter to the county board, the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) was informed, and "letters to the editor" were published in the *Northern Virginia Sun* and the Society's newsletter. The Arlington Ridge Garden Society visited the Arlington Historical Museum and offered suggestions and assistance for beautifying our grounds. Representatives of the Society attended and spoke on the topic of the possible transfer of 12 acres of woodland at Arlington House (for use as burial sites) at the March 5 meeting of the National Capitol Planning Commission. Sherman Pratt also briefed Rep. Moran's staff prior to the March 31 meeting of the United States House Interior Committee, at which this matter was considered. On March 12, *Washington Post* photographer Gerald Martineau presented a slide show, *Reflections of Glencarlyn*, to the general membership. The Arlington Reunion program for the month (March 19) was a discussion on Barcroft and its surrounding neighborhoods in the Columbia Pike West area. Dr. Robert Watson, the Society's president, received the Pendleton Award on March 20 for his book *Into the Missile Age*. On March 22, the Arlington Public Library sponsored a Women's History Month program; featured speakers included Sister Majella Berg, Ellen Bozman, Elizabeth Campbell, and former Society president Evelyn Reid Syphax.

### **April 1998**

The board of directors voted to transfer \$15,000 from the Building and Endowment Fund to the Acorn Society account. The series of Saturday programs at the Ball-Sellers House resumed on April 18 with an archeological walking tour of Glencarlyn led by Dale Waters. The Society's annual banquet was held on April 23 at the Fort Myer Officer's Club. Robert Sonderman, National Park Service Archeologist, presented a slide show entitled *Looking for a Needle in a Haystack: Forging Links Between Archeology and Law Enforcement*, about the investigation of an incident at Fort Marcy Park.

### **May-June 1998**

The Society's annual meeting was held on May 14, and included the election of officers and directors for the year 1998-99 (see page 4). The Arlington Reunion program on May 21 was titled *Return to Ballston*. Jack Foster, long-

time resident curator of the Ball-Sellers House, submitted his resignation in order to move to more commodious quarters. Planning began, under the guidance of Lynne Sturtevant and Bette Clements, for the Society's booth at the Arlington County Fair. The May 9 program at the Ball-Sellers House, *Getting Started in Genealogy: Your Family History*, was presented by Phyllis Johnson, past president of the National Genealogical Society. The following month's program, held in conjunction with Glencarlyn Day on June 6, featured four local artisans: Joi Kidurka (spinning yarn), Bob Watson (woodcarving), Will Webb (chair caning), and Lucy Clark (hooking rugs).