

# ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW 2010–2011

## October 2010

*Mr. McGuire's Pumpkin Patch*, featuring pumpkins, gourds, mushrooms, and holiday trimmings for sale, was open for business on the Arlington Historical Museum grounds.

On October 16, the Friends of Hume School and the Arlington Ridge Civic Association held Fall Volunteer Day at the Arlington Historical Museum and several nearby sites. Nearly sixty volunteers weeded, planted new shrubs and plants, pruned the three garden areas, and performed general cleanup.

## November 2010

The program for the membership meeting, held at Central Library on November 4, was "Arlington's Veterans Share Their Stories." It was the Society Board's intent to pay tribute to all past and present service members by recognizing several local veterans who represented those who served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Panama, the first Gulf War, Bosnia/Kosovo, and the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## December 2010

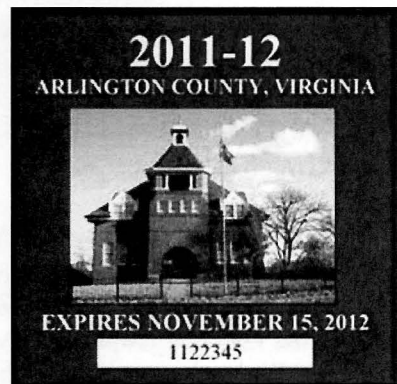
On December 3 we held our annual Holiday Reception for Society members and friends at the Arlington Historical Museum.

## January 2011

At the membership meeting on January 20, the program was "Black Entrepreneurship in Segregated Arlington County, Virginia," presented by Nancy Perry of the George Mason University Research Faculty.

## February 2011

"Hume, Sweet Hume," a photograph of the histories Hume School, which houses the Arlington Historical Museum, was announced as the winner of Arlington's 2011–2012 vehicle decal contest. The winning decal was designed by Wakefield High School



student Maya Giacobbe. It will appear on more than 155,000 vehicles over the course of the year.

Also in February, a large original oil portrait of Frank Hume, for whom the Hume School and our museum are named, was donated to the Society by his descendants. This remarkable and almost unblemished portrait shows Hume as a young man in his Confederate uniform. It is a unique addition to our collection, and it has been placed on display on the second floor of the museum.

### **March 2011**

On March 17 at the regular membership meeting and public program at Arlington Central Library, AHS board member George Dodge presented a reenactment/portrayal of Alexander Hunter, a Confederate soldier who was born and raised at Abingdon House and grew up as a neighbor to Robert E. Lee and his family at Arlington House. Craig Syphax and Tom Dickinson interviewed "Hunter" about his life and time as a Johnny Reb, and he recounted in detail each of the three times he was captured and escaped during the "Great War of Northern Aggression." This event was attended by almost one hundred people, one of the largest attendance figures ever for an AHS program.

### **May 2011**

The Society hosted an information/display table at the Potomac Overlook Park Open House held on May 1.

On May 5, the Aurora Hills Women's Club again held their Spring Tea at the Arlington Historical Museum. They used the occasion to present a very generous donation of \$4800 to the Society, to be used for the preservation and restoration of the museum building. The building is on the National Register of Historic Sites and is a locally designated historic property.

The program at the membership meeting on May 19, was titled "Images of the Civil War," and featured archival images from the documentary *The Civil War* by filmmaker Ken Burns.

The Society hosted an open house for Oakridge Elementary School teachers and staff at the Arlington Historical Museum.

### **June 2011**

The Society's banquet was held at Army-Navy Country Club on June 17. Our guest speaker was Wally Owen, co-author of "Mr. Lincoln's Forts," who focused his remarks on the 22 Civil War perimeter defense locations that existed in Arlington. Owen noted that the Army-Navy Country Club is located on the site of Fort Richardson, where earthworks are still present and clearly visible. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of AHS board and banquet committee

members Patty Kime and Alice Andors, the event was a wonderful success and a most enjoyable evening.

### **July 2011**

On July 24, the Society honored and hosted more than a dozen of the museum docents at a social event at the Arlington Historical Museum.

### **August 2011**

On August 5, a new second-floor air conditioning unit was installed at the Arlington Historical Museum. The old unit was 20 years old and leaked condensation through the ceiling, which caused a number of problems.

At the Arlington County Fair, held from August 10–14, the Society both maintained an exhibit booth and supported and co-sponsored the visit of the Virginia Tourism Commission History Mobile. This very well produced display focuses on the deep impact of the Civil War on Virginians of all walks of life—military, civilian, slave, young, old, rich, and poor—and will be traveling the state over the next four years.

### **September 2011**

School children in Arlington honored those who died at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, tolling the bell at the county's historic Hume School museum 184 times, 10 years to the moment after American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building. Twenty-eight Oakridge Elementary School students participated in the event, which also marked the opening of the museum's new exhibit on the Pentagon and the 9/11 attack. The Arlington County Fire Department showed their support by sending a crew and engine to the ceremony. The event drew neighbors, community members and former Pentagon employees who were in the building on that historic day.

The Arlington Historical Society and the Washington-Lee High School Alumni Association jointly hosted a program titled "Memories of Washington-Lee High School through the Decades" on September 15, in the Arlington Central Library auditorium. A panel of Washington-Lee graduates, representing each decade beginning in the 1930's, discussed life at Washington-Lee and Arlington, when they were students. General discussion and questions from the audience followed. Memorabilia from the Washington-Lee High School Class of 1944 were featured on display in the Library's Virginia Room.

On September 19, the Society co-hosted "Queen City: Down the Road, Before the Pentagon," at the Arlington Central Library. The program was part of the "Tell Arlington's Story" project.

### **October 2011**

The Arlington Historical Society and Arlington Heritage Alliance presented a walking tour of historic Fort Myer on October 12. It offered an exclusive look at some of the base's most famous sites, including the parade grounds where Orville Wright conducted the first military test flight, the base stables, home to the Caisson Platoon that serves military funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, and more.

Fort Myer, now part of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, boasts a rich history that dates to the Civil War. It is home to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The walking tour was conducted by base historian Kim Holien and also included a view of Victorian-era generals' quarters, Civil War fort ruins, base auditorium Conmy Hall and the Patton Society.

### **November 2011**

The Arlington Historical Society and Arlington Heritage Alliance sponsored a local version of the PBS film series "Prohibition", with a program entitled "Prohibition in Arlington." The program was held at a joint meeting of the organizations on Thursday, November 10, at the Arlington Central Library, and featured a presentation by Garrett Peck, literary journalist and author of the book "Prohibition in Washington, D.C.: How Dry We Weren't."

On November 19, the Society co-sponsored the program "Indians of Arlington County" with Potomac Overlook Regional Park. Held at the park, the event featured Park Director Martin Ogle, who spoke and gave a walking tour of areas of the park known to have been inhabited by Indians in prehistoric times.