

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

2017–2018

During its 2017-2018 fiscal year, from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, the Arlington Historical Society continued endeavoring to preserve and promote interest in the history of Arlington County, Virginia, its mission for the past 61 years. This report discusses the Society's activities in various program areas in which it was active during the year.

Arlington Historical Museum. The Arlington Historical Museum is the most ambitious and best-known program of the Arlington Historical Society. The Society has operated this program in the historic Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road since the early 1960's. The museum contains permanent exhibits on Arlington County history from pre-Columbian times, when Native Americans inhabited the area, to the present. It also contains temporary exhibit space.

In the 2017-2018 year, the museum was open to the public on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons and by appointment, staffed by trained volunteer docents. The Society opens the museum by appointment to group tours sponsored by various organizations, including student groups from Arlington Public Schools.

The Society recorded approximately 500 museum visitors for the year. In recent years, the museum staff has increased its use of social media such as Facebook as part of its efforts to promote the museum and increase attendance. During the past year, the Society published a revised edition of its brochure on the Hume School, which it uses to promote the museum.

The museum has a "hands on" interactive section with historic objects that children (and adults) can handle, part of its efforts to attract families and young children. Since the museum program is operated in a building constructed as the Hume School in 1891 and operated as a public school by Arlington County until 1958, a small room on the second floor of the building is set up to resemble a 20th century classroom, another effort to engage younger visitors.

During 2017-2018, the museum staged a temporary exhibit consisting of a holiday display of popular toys such as a chemistry set and an electronic quiz game. Titled "Smart Gifts of Yesteryear" the exhibit was curated by Haley

Wallace. The museum is currently staging another temporary exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War in 2017-2018. The exhibit contains artifacts and photos honoring the Arlington soldiers who died in the war.

The Hume School building in which the museum program operates itself is an historic artifact on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the oldest structure built as a school in Arlington County. The Society preserves the brick building and its grounds and keeps them open to the public free of charge as part of its mission to preserve and promote interest in Arlington County history. The Hume School building serves as the headquarters of the Society as well housing the museum program.

As part of its museum program, the Society works with public agencies and private organizations to organize exhibits on Arlington County history outside of the Hume School building, sometimes loaning artifacts from the Society's museum collection.

Dr. Mark Benbow, Associate Professor of American History at Marymount University, served as Museum Director during the past year. Haley Wallace, a professional curator, was Museum Curator. Sheldon Greenbaum, another museum professional, was a curatorial volunteer. Robert White oversaw maintenance and repair of the historic Hume School building.

As they have for the past 14 years, a group of volunteers from the Arlington Ridge Civic Association and other community groups, including young adult singles organizations from local Mormon churches, spent two Saturdays, one in the autumn and a second in the spring, in a clean-up of the Arlington Historical Museum grounds. The effort was coordinated by neighbors Chick Walter and Rich Kelly. This civic support for the property contributes greatly to the appearance of the old Hume School and its grounds.

Ball-Sellers House. The Society has operated the Ball-Sellers House at 5620 S. Third Street in Arlington's Glencarlyn neighborhood as a historic house museum since 1975. The main building on the property includes the John Ball log house, a one-story structure with loft built by owner John Ball and his family in the 1740's as a yeoman farmer's house. The building also includes an attached two-story farmhouse built in the 1880s. The original log house is the oldest building in Arlington County. It contains many period elements. The grounds contain two smaller historic accessory structures. The Ball-Sellers House is on the National Register of Historic Places.

During the 2017-2018 year, the Society opened the John Ball house to the

public on Saturdays from April to October, on Memorial and Independence Days, and by appointment. The Society maintains displays in the John Ball house of historic artifacts and reproductions of period-appropriate furniture, clothing, and household goods. The Society operates the Ball-Sellers House through a committee chaired by Annette Benbow.

The Society staffs the Ball-Sellers House with at least one trained docent when open to the public. All docents are volunteers. In the 2017-018 year, the Society recorded approximately 350 visitors to the Ball-Sellers House. In the previous year, it had recorded 731 visitors from July 1 to June 30. The decrease was due primarily to the conduct of an archeological dig on the property that attracted many visitors in the previous year, including many archeological fieldwork volunteers. An unrecorded number of visitors read the historical marker at the house and examine the grounds when volunteers are not on duty.

Docents at the Ball-Sellers House sometimes dress in 18th century colonial attire. On opening day in 2018, colonial re-enactors demonstrated wool and flax spinning and period hand tool usage. Two other docents provided tours of the John Ball log house and offered baked sweet treats.

The Ball-Sellers House hosted several group tours in the last year, including one for Arlington Public Schools administrators, another sponsored by Smithsonian Associates entitled “Glimpses of Old Arlington,” and a session of Encore Learning’s annual class on Arlington local history.

The Ball-Sellers House again partnered with the Arlington Food Assistance Center to manage the vegetable garden on the property. If enough crops are produced, they are donated as food for Arlington’s neediest residents.

In Spring 2018, the Ball-Sellers House hosted its first annual “Wine and Wisteria” Virginia wine tasting event. The title and timing were selected to observe the blooming of the estimated century-old wisteria vine that grows above the pergola on the property. A key goal was to bring visitors to the property who would not otherwise be drawn to it. About two thirds of the 40 guests had never been to the property before. Bruce Schutte of Wine Pro Tours provided expertise in commenting on the tasting wines and Virginia wine making history.

Public Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Tours. The Society continued sponsoring almost monthly public lectures, panel discussions and tours about Arlington history over the past year. This year, all these events were held at Marymount University’s main campus on North Glebe Road and Old Dominion Drive.

On July 13, 2017, the Society hosted Arlington history columnist Charlie Clark

for a lecture on Arlington's vanished businesses.

On September 14, 2017, the Society sponsored a panel discussion on Arlington's road to full school desegregation featuring students, parents, and school administrators from the county's African-American community. They shared personal perspectives on Arlington County's efforts to desegregate its schools since the 1950s.

On October 12, 2017, Dr. Mark Benbow spoke on his new book "Washington's Capital Brewmaster: Christian Heurich," which draws on family papers and photos to describe the brewer's long life and impact on the D.C. region.

On November 9, 2017, author and Arlington native Liza Mundy spoke to a full house on her award-winning book "Code Girls of Arlington Hall." The book tells the story of the mostly young American women who secretly served as U.S. Army and Navy codebreakers during World War at Arlington Hall, the former women's junior college located on Arlington Boulevard between S. Glebe Road and S. George Mason Drive.

On January 11, 2018, George Axiotis, a local author and amateur historian, spoke about his book "Two Hills: A Story of Survival Between the Lines," a historical novel based on people and events in North Arlington during the Civil War, as seen through the eyes of a young woman.

On February 8, 2018, George Derek Musgrove, co-author of "Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital," discussed the four-century story of race and democracy in Washington, D.C. and its influence on Arlington.

Allison Finkelstein, Chair of the Arlington County World War I Commemoration Task Force, spoke on March 8, 2018 about the early efforts of women to conduct rehabilitation and establish physical therapy programs for men wounded in the war.

On April 12, 2018, archaeologist Patrick O'Neill discussed his findings from the archaeological excavation at the Ball-Sellers House in 2016, during which thousands of artifacts were recovered. The project provided insight into how people lived as well as how the house was constructed and evolved.

On April 21, 2018, Kevin Vincent led his annual George Washington's Forest History Walk with a record-setting 52 people. The walk started at the Ball-Sellers House and covered about three miles. It highlighted the historic survey conducted in 1785 by George Washington and Moses Ball, the brother of John Ball, of their adjacent tracts of land in what is now Arlington.

The Society's annual meeting on May 10, 2018 included a lecture by local author Paula Whitacre on her book "Julia Wilbur: A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time." The book discusses the life of an abolitionist who helped former slaves in Alexandria City and County (now called Arlington County) during the Civil War.

Zachary Wilske, a historian at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, spoke on June 14, 2018 about immigration policies during World War I and how they impacted U.S. military efforts and immigrant communities.

Community Outreach. In August 2017, the Society set up and staffed an indoor booth at the Arlington County Fair. The booth featured a history quiz and historical maps on which fair goers could find their homes. It also included a face-in-hole figure that could be used to take a photograph of a fair goer as a Union soldier that manned Arlington's forts during the Civil War. Many fair goers stopped by to take the quiz, buy a book, or just talk history.

On Saturday, September 23, 2017, the Society set up and staffed an outdoor booth at the annual Clarendon Day festival, which was well attended.

On September 30, 2017, the Society participated in Archaeology Day at Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason on the Mason Neck peninsula in southern Fairfax County. Archaeologist Patrick O'Neill selected a sample of artifacts discovered in the 2016 archeological excavation at the Ball-Sellers House to display. Other volunteers from the Society provided information on the dig, explained the significance of the artifacts, and provided a slide show of photos that illustrated the project and its findings.

On June 2, 2018, volunteers from the Society dressed in colonial attire participated in the annual Glencarlyn Day festivities, including walking in the community parade, for the third year in a row. Their participation demonstrated solidarity with the community in which the Society's house museum known as the Ball-Sellers House is located.

The Society routinely serves as a resource on local history for the Arlington County and Federal Governments and local businesses and organizations. During the year, the Society served as a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Federal agencies contemplating changes or rehabilitation to Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, the U.S. Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Netherlands Carillon, and Theodore Roosevelt Island.

Gerry Laporte, an officer and director of the Society, served on the Alexan-

dria City Manager's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Renaming Jefferson Davis Highway as a result of a request made to the Society by Arlington County. The advisory group recommended that the highway in Alexandria be renamed Richmond Highway. This recommendation was accepted by the Alexandria City Council, which voted on June 23, 2018 to so rename the highway effective January 1, 2019.

Gerry also served as the representative of the Society on the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, as he has since 2001.

Karl VanNewkirk, a member of the Society's board, served as the Society's representative on the Arlington County World War I Commemoration Task Force. Tom Dickinson and Cathy Hix, other members of the board, served on the task force as an at-large member and representative of Arlington Public Schools, respectively.

The Society maintains a speaker's bureau of members prepared to make presentations on Arlington History to outside groups. Presentations made during the 2017-2018 year include:

- On August 16, 2017, Tom Dickinson served as a guide for a local history bus tour for new teachers and staff of Arlington Public Schools.
- On September 20, 2017, Mark Benbow spoke at the Aurora Hills Library about the Little Tea House, a beloved restaurant with lovely gardens and views that operated at 1301 South Arlington Ridge Road from 1920 to 1963.
- On October 11, 2017, Mark Benbow spoke to a group at the Aurora Hills Branch Library about life in Arlington's Civil War forts and camps.
- On January 9 and February 13, 2018, Karl VanNewkirk gave a two-part talk on the history of Arlington County at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington.
- On January 11, 2018, Society President Johnathan Thomas spoke to the Arlington Rotary Club about the history of the Washington Golf and Country Club.
- On February 1, 2018, Tom Dickinson spoke to the Aurora Hills Women's Club about Frank Hume, a turn-of-the-19th-century local businessman and philanthropist who donated land to the County for the Hume School.
- Karl VanNewkirk taught eight sessions of a course on Arlington County history for Encore Learning in April and May of 2018.

- On April 5, 2018, Tom Dickinson gave a presentation to the Arlington Republican Women's Club on Arlington history from 1608 to 1961.
- In April 2018, Martin Suydam and Mark Benbow met with members of the 2018 Leadership Arlington class to discuss the history of Arlington Ridge.
- In June 2018, George Axiotis spoke at a book club in Falls Church, discussing the history behind his Civil War-based book, "Two Hills: A Story of Survival Between the Lines," which the group read, and which had been the subject of the Society's January lecture.
- On June 9, 2018, Tom Dickinson reprised his February 1, 2018 presentation on Frank Hume and the Hume School at the Aurora Hills Library.
- On June 28, 2018, Karl VanNewkirk spoke to Arlington Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association on the Arlington Historical Society.
- On June 28, 2018, Mark Benbow delivered the keynote speech at "Arlington Remembers World War I," a fundraiser hosted by the Arlington County World War I Commemoration Task Force and the Arlington Historical Society at the Navy League Building Atrium.

The Society donated the annual fee of \$200 to Civil War Trails, Inc. to maintain, market, and administer that organization's interpretive sign at the historic site of Freedman's Village in Arlington.

Research, Publishing and Book Sales. During the year, the Society continued to maintain its website at www.ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org. The website contains information and links to information on Arlington County history as well as information about the Society itself. The Society makes available video recordings of many of the lectures it has sponsored on YouTube through its website. The Society also maintains a Facebook page, with daily postings on "this day in Arlington history," as well as other postings on Arlington history generally. The Facebook page currently is "liked" by 3,409 users. The Society's Twitter account (@ArlHist) increased its followers to 183.

The Society continued during the year to sell copies of two books that it had published previously, *Arlington County, Virginia: A History*, by C.B. Rose, Jr. (Port City Press, 1976) and Arlington Historical Society, *Images of America: Arlington* (Arcadia Publishing, 2000). The Society displayed and sold these books, as well as other publications on Arlington history, in the small store that it maintains at the Arlington Historical Museum. The Society also displayed and sold some publications at community outreach events.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Society sponsored a history essay contest in cooperation with Columbia Masonic Lodge No. 285 of Arlington. The Lodge provided the prize money of \$2,000. The contest was open to all students in 8th through 12th grades living or attending school in Arlington. The assigned topic was “Do Arlingtonians remember World War I?” The essay of the from student from Thomas Jefferson Middle School who won the first prize of \$1,000 is included in this 2018 issue of *The Arlington Historical Magazine*.

The Society published issue Volume 16, No. 1, of The Arlington Historical Magazine in late 2017. The magazine is an annual publication with scholarly articles on Arlington County history. Dr. Max L. Gross, former Dean of the School of Intelligence Studies at the National Intelligence University, served as Editor of the issue. The magazine contained seven articles and was 88 pages in length, matching the record length of the immediately previous issue. The magazine also contained reports on the work of the Society during 2016-2017. Copies of the magazine were sent to all members of the Society and library subscribers and were available for sale in the museum store.

The Society published two issues of its periodic newsletter in 2017-2018. The newsletter contained notices of upcoming events on Arlington history. It also included short articles on recent lecture programs and other events and exhibits sponsored by the Society and vignettes on Arlington history. The newsletter was sent by mail to all members of the Society.

At the beginning of each month, the Society sent an e-mail notice of upcoming events involving Arlington history to a list of subscribers. The notice contained information on events sponsored by the Society as well as other organizations.

Awards Banquet. Over the years, the Society customarily has presented honorary awards for contributions to the preservation and promotion of Arlington County history and to the Society itself. These awards are typically conferred at the Society’s annual banquet. The Society’s well-attended banquet was held at the Washington Golf and Country Club on May 9, 2018 this year. It raised a record amount of funds for the Society. Speakers at the banquet included Eric Sievers of Lindsay Automotive, a former tight end in the National Football League and graduate of Arlington’s Washington-Lee High School, and Randy Anderson, President of National Capital Bank.

At the banquet, the Society presented its Cornelia B. Rose Award, for contributions to Arlington County history, to Brian Normile, of BCN Design, for his work in preserving three historic commercial buildings in Clarendon: Clarendon Citizens Hall (now Northside Social Coffee & Wine), Columbia

Masonic Lodge (now Liberty Tavern), and the Dan Kain Building (now Lyon Hall restaurant). Clarendon Citizens Hall and the Dan Kain Building are locally designated historic landmarks. The Society presented its Volunteer of the Year Award to Tracy Hopkins, who served as membership coordinator during the year and whose time-consuming responsibilities included maintaining the Society's membership database.

Membership. The Society maintained the following categories of members during the year: Life (one-time dues payment of \$1,000 by an individual), Business/Organization (\$150 annual dues), Donor (\$125 annual dues), Sponsor (\$75 annual dues), Family (\$40 annual dues), and Individual (\$25 annual dues). As of June 30, 2018, the last day of the Society's fiscal year, we had 383 memberships, many of which were recorded in the names of two individuals. Life, Business/Organization, Donor and Sponsor Members as of that date were:

Life Members

Kathleen Ausley	Eleanor Hunter
A.M. Barr	Isabel Kaldenbach
Greg Bayens	Tom & Barbara Kelley
James Berkey	Martha A. Klein
Carol Laikin Carpenter	Daniel Koski-Karell
Jane Patrick Casey	Michelle A. Krowl
Charles & Beverley Kelly Casserly	Margaret Lampe
Susan Christopher	Anna Belle Lane
Loretta V. Cleek	Melvin W. Little
Herbert R. Collins	Walton H. Owen
Susan A. Dennis	Mrs. Alta Parker
George W. Dodge	King Prather
Margaret Fisher	William & Annette Reilly
Ellen Ford	Michael P. Rose
Edwin Fountain	Libby Ross
Daun Thomas Frankland	Sheryl Scull
Dr. Claudine Gay-Bryant	James Johnson & Matthew H. Shepard
Robert Henry Gills	Johnathan Thomas
Kathrine L. Hamblett	Robert & Susan Trice
Harold Handerson	Karl & Luella VanNewkirk
Don Hartline	Linda L. Warden
Howard Hogan	Laura M. Watson
Margaret Huddleston	Anne C. Webb
Vicki & Buford Hunnicutt	

Business/Organization Members

Aurora Hills Women's Club

Glass Distributors, Inc., Bladensburg, Maryland

John Marshall Bank, Arlington, Virginia

Donor Members

Richard & Jocelyn Anderson

Peter & Colette Arnston

Dr. Mark & Annette Benbow

Donald Beyer

Charlene & Harlow Bickford

Steve & LouAnn Caruthers

Ann C. Connell

Edwin & Rosalie Demoney

Kevin & Jennifer Jablonsky Dubina

Brenda Pommerenke & Larry George

Max & Nasrine Gross

Anthony Gryzmala

Joe Youcha & Jessica Kaplan

Idacaire & Thomas Kerwin

Antoinette J. Lee

Denny Truesdale & Jerilyn Levi

Janice & Gary Long

Beth Arthur & Joel Lovelace

Paxton Baker & Nancy Lowenthal

Charles & Josephine Ludolph

Lara McCauley

David & Conchita Mitchell

Joan Morgan

Susan K. & Warren Nelson

Mary Niebuhr

Mary Jane Nelson & John Niehaus

Nicholas & Kristen Noble

David North

Donald & Martha Orth

Eleanor K. Pourron

Daniel Perch & Rita Rutsohn

Jane & George Sara

Ciro Taddeo

William & Margaret Teed

Carl Thomas

John & Mary Tuohy

George Varoutsos

Rex Wackerle

Susan Webber

Jeffrey Williams

Sponsor Members

Bob Adamson

Susanne Bachtel

Stuart & Patricia Beatty

Burton Bostwick

Patrick Carney

Kenneth & Susan Cohn

Carla de la Pava

Christian Dorsey

William & Jane Durch

David Foster

Carol & Gerry Fuller

Richard & Mileva Hartman

Dick & Deborah Herbst

Charles & Cathy Hix

Janet Howell

Dan Donahue & Nancy Iacomini

Andrew M. Johnson

Barbara Kanninen

Chad Larson

Stephanie Martin

John Snyder & Heather McPhail

Marjory Melnick

Ingrid Morroy

Polly Nayak

Edd & Anita Nolen

Hunter Peil
Joseph & Eloise Pelton
Elizabeth & Erik Rasmussen
Nelson Rimensnyder
Fred & Anita Scott
Judith Herman & Thomas Spavins
Craig Esherick & Theo Stamos

Donald & Mary Strehle
Rip Sullivan
Tania Talento
Jeanne Broyhill & Joe Ventrone
Don & Penny Weinstein
Tom & Mary Margaret Whipple

We believe this list of members is current as of June 30, 2018. If any Life, Business/Organization, Donor, or Sponsor Member's name as of that date does not appear on this list, the omission is inadvertent. We apologize and ask that you notify the Arlington Historical Society at P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210-3402 of the omission.

Financial Information. The Society publishes financial information on its annual results of operations in its newsletter.

Donations. In fiscal year 2017-2018, the Arlington Historical Society received numerous donations, including historical artifacts for our collection and monetary and significant in-kind contributions. Thank you again to the donors.

Artifacts for Our Collection

The Society received the following donations of artifacts for its collection during the year:

Ciro Taddeo donated a World War I recruiting poster as well as an early Cherry Smash soda bottle with "Arlington, Va." on it.

Timothy Landis donated additional objects dug up in Rosslyn in the 1990s including some nice examples of gold mining material.

Barbara Frohlich of Omaha, Nebraska donated an early 1960s souvenir calendar from Thompson Van Lines in Arlington.

Mary Moore donated several Washington-Lee High School documents that came from her father, John Rogers Moore, a 1936 W-L graduate. These included her father's 1936 diploma, a framed photo of the graduating class of 1936, and framed photos of the 50th- and 60th-year reunions on the class of 1936.

Two members of the beer can collecting club The Rusty Bunch donated several Iron City beer cans featuring the 1975 and 1976 champion Pittsburgh Steelers. Native Arlingtonian Kamal Ali Salaam-El (formally Reggie Harrison) was a member of those teams and is pictured along with his teammates on the cans. New District Brewing Company from South Arlington donated several labels and a full bottle of one of their special short-run beers.

Arlington Public Schools donated a Cold War-era civil defense siren that was at Kenmore Middle School.