

Proceedings of the Arlington Historical Society 1958-1959

Meeting of September 12, 1958

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Mount Olivet Church, 1510 North Glebe Road. The President pointed out that this was a proper place for the Society to meet since it was the first church established in Arlington (1854). The exact date is not known, since the early records of the church have been lost. The approximate time is established by the fact that a moving spirit in its establishment, George Wunder, stated that he had to leave off shucking corn to attend the first meeting. Services have been held here regularly for 104 years except for one year during the Civil War.

The Treasurer's report was read, showing a balance on hand as of September 11, 1958, of \$646.15. The Secretary's Annual Report of the activities of the Society was read and accepted. The Membership Committee reported a total of 163 members as of the date of the meeting.

Douglass R. Hayes made the report for the Nominating Committee, presenting the following slate which was unanimously elected:

President	ROBERT N. ANDERSON
First Vice President.....	PERCY A. CRITTENDEN
Second Vice President.....	WALTER E. BELL, JR. ...
Treasurer	DOW H. NIDA
Secretary	CORNELIA B. ROSE, JR.
Directors, 1958-1961	FRANK L. BALL, JACK H. FOSTER
Director, 1958-1959 *	ELIZABETH GOEBEL

* To complete the unexpired term of Walter E. Bell, Jr.

D. C. Hastings, Superintendent of Potomac Yard, spoke on the history of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad, illustrating his talk with the projection of photographs from *A Brief History of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad* by John B. Mordecai (1940).

A drawing was held for door prizes: beer bottles from the old Consumers Brewery and the Arlington Brewery, salvaged by two Junior members of the Society, Michael and Christopher Bell.

Meeting of November 14, 1958

The Society met at Mount Olivet Church.

The following committee chairmanships were announced: Audit—Charles J. A. Johnson, Jr.; Finance—L. Laszlo Ecker-Racz; Program—Douglass Hayes; Membership—Mrs. Violet Critzer; Historical Research and Records—Mrs. Eleanor Lee Templeman.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee reported on an audit of the Society's books for the past two years which had found all accounts in good order.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that a budget had been pre-

pared for the Society which allowed for total operating expenses of \$205, exclusive of the cost of the *Magazine*, which it was estimated would produce a deficit, but that a balance could be brought about through the addition of new members.

The Treasurer reported cash in bank of \$799.00. The Chairman of the Membership Committee reported 173 members as of the start of the meeting.

Gen. Joseph D. Patch, author of *The Battle of Ball's Bluff*, spoke on this battle of the Civil War.

Meeting of January 9, 1959

The Society met at Mount Olivet Church.

The Membership Committee reported that the Society had a net membership (excluding those who unfortunately had died, or who had moved away) of 172 of whom five were sustaining members and eighteen were Junior members.

It was reported that the second issue of the *Arlington Historical Magazine* was off the press and on sale for \$2.50.

Gifts to the Society were acknowledged: photostats of the bill introduced in the General Assembly to accept Arlington (Alexandria) County as part of Virginia in 1847, from Harrison Mann; and papers dealing with the bicentennial of the marriage of George Washington from Mrs. Frank L. Ball.

Mrs. Templeman, Chairman of the Historical Records and Research Committee, reported that loans of old documents and manuscripts had been made by County residents; one of these, a letter dealing with the fall of Fort Fisher written by the father of Charter Member Mrs. H. P. Simpson, had been reprinted in the current issue of the *Magazine*.

Charles C. Wall, Director of Mount Vernon for twenty-five years, spoke on "George Washington, the Man and the Myth."

Meeting of March 13, 1959

The Society met at Mount Olivet Church.

C. L. Kinnier reported for the Membership Committee that there were now 174 members of the Society. The Treasurer reported that after payment of the printer's bill for the *Magazine*, the Society's balance on hand was \$330.

The President expressed the sorrow of the Society at the sudden and untimely death of Charter Member Fred G. Bliss on March 2, 1959.

Two recent gifts to the Society were reported: a copy of the 1924 Arlington County *Directory*, from Mrs. H. P. Simpson; and a full-scale copy of the 1900 "Howell" map of the County, from Griffin T. Garnett.

The President reported that the Directors had addressed communications to the School Board and the County Board in the interest of preserving as much as possible of the sites and remains of Forts Scott and Ethan Allen. The Society agreed to support H.R. 5138, introduced in the Congress by Representative Joel T. Broyhill, the purpose of which was to extend the grounds of the Custis-Lee Mansion so as to make possible restoration of the garden.

Mr. Hayes, Program Chairman, introduced J. Maynard Magruder, Chairman of the State Library Board, who in turn introduced Charles P. Cella, Jr., Assistant State Archivist, who spoke on the collection of documents transferred from Arlington to the State Library in February 1954.

Meeting of May 8, 1959

The Society met at Mount Olivet Church.

The Treasurer reported \$510 cash in hand with total receipts from September to date of \$755 and \$920 paid out. Mrs. Hazel Moore reported for the Membership Committee a total of 209 members of whom 35 had joined since the last meeting.

The Secretary reported that the Society had been invited at short notice to send a representative to the hearing on H.R. 5138, and that Mrs. Anne C. B. Allen had agreed to make a presentation on the Society's behalf.

The President announced that a book had been given to the Society by Robert N. Anderson in which the Chairman of the Research and Records Committee would record gifts made to the Society. He also announced the acquisition through the courtesy of Mrs. Frank L. Ball of a history of the C. & O. Canal contained in a statement of Mrs. C. D. Shoemaker of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

The President announced that Paul H. Oehser, in charge of publications for the Smithsonian Institution, had accepted the chairmanship of the Publications Committee for next year. The President appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Frank L. Ball, Chairman, Mrs. Eleanor Lee Templeman, and Douglass Hayes, to bring in a slate of officers for 1959-60 at the fall meeting.

On the motion of Frank L. Ball, seconded by Walter Horn, the charter membership rolls were reopened, Mrs. Ella Rees elected to charter membership, and the rolls closed again.

Miss Agnes M. Downey, Charter Member of the Arlington Historical Society and Park Historian with the National Capital Parks, spoke on the use of photographic evidence in restoration, illustrating her talk with slides of photographs of the Custis-Lee Mansion.

Special Events

Members of the Society were granted a special admission price for a "Carols by Candlelight Service" at Woodlawn Plantation on Sunday, December 14, 1958.

About 30 members of the Society visited "Altha Hall," at a special viewing on April 18, 1959. This mansion, Arlington's finest example of Greek revival architecture, built by Andrew Adgate Lipscomb in 1886, has since been demolished to make way for an apartment project.

By CORNELIA B. ROSE, JR., *Secretary*