

**Arlington Historical Society
Proceedings
1957 - 1958**

Meeting of September 13, 1957

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Barnes & Kimel Auditorium. The Secretary's report on the activities of the Society during the past year was read. The Treasurer's report showed collections during the year of \$375.50 and disbursements of \$70.89, leaving a balance on September 13, 1957, of \$304.61.

Mr. Anderson, Chairman of the Publications Committee, reported that plans for the Society's first annual publication were well advanced. Mrs. Templeman, Chairman of the Historical Research and Records Committee, reported that a Northern Virginia Heritage engagement calendar for 1958 would be on sale in October. This project was sponsored by the Society both to make a permanent record of places of historical interest in the area and as a means of raising funds.

Mrs. Elizabeth Goebel, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for 1957-58 which was approved by unanimous ballot. The following were elected:

President	Frank L. Ball
First Vice President	Robert Nelson Anderson
Second Vice President	Percy A. Crittenden
Secretary	Cornelia B. Rose, Jr.
Treasurer	Ashton C. Jones, Jr.
Directors - 1957-1960	Walter Horn Harrison Mann

Copies of the pamphlet "The Indians of Arlington" published by the County as its contribution to the 350th Jamestown Anniversary celebration were distributed to the members present. A collection of Indian artifacts found during the summer on the right-of-way for the extension of the George Washington Parkway was on display.

Dr. T. Dale Stewart, Curator of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution, gave an illustrated talk on "Indians of the Potomac Area."

Meeting of November 8, 1957

The Society met in the Barnes & Kimel Auditorium. Members were urged to support H. R. 9231 which would

preserve the east vista and wooded area on the north and west sides of the Custis-Lee Mansion from encroachment by the National Cemetery.

The President announced that Mrs. Templeman had presented a copy of the Northern Virginia Heritage Calendar for 1958 on behalf of the Society to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Washington.

Committee chairman for the coming year were announced: Publicity - Joseph B. Johnson; Historical Research and Records - Eleanor Lee Templeman; Publications - Robert N. Anderson; Program - Walter E. Bell, Jr.; Membership - C. L. Kinnier.

A collection of mementos of Mosby and his men was on display, brought by members of the Society and guests. Mr. Robert N. Anderson had brought a collection from his library of all books written by or about Mosby.

The President recognized members in the audience who were descendants of Mosby men: Father R. Dixon Beattie, Mrs. Roy Ross, Mrs. W. H. Ellis; Stuart Thomson, Lee Thomson, Miss Agnes Thomson; Mrs. Lawrence Sims, Mrs. R. N. Collier; Robert Nelson Anderson, Mrs. Richard W. Eaves, Robert Nelson Anderson, Jr.; and Mrs. Walter Horn.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Virgil Carrington (Pat) Jones, author of *Ranger Mosby* and *Grey Ghosts and Rebel Raiders* who spoke on the operations of Ranger Mosby in this area.

Meeting of January 10, 1958

The Society met at the Barnes & Kimel Auditorium with First Vice President Robert N. Anderson in the Chair.

It was announced that the first volume of "The Arlington Historical Magazine", annual publication of the Society, was off the press.

It was announced that Mrs. Violet Critzer had been appointed Chairman of the Membership Committee to replace Mr. C. L. Kinnier, resigned.

The Chairman of the Historical Research and Records Committee, Mrs. Templeman, acknowledged the gift of a number of items concerning Abingdon, the birthplace of Nellie Custis. These had been donated to the Society by Mrs. Guy Withers of the Colonial Dames of America and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and included photographs and booklets.

The Society adopted a resolution of condolence to be sent to the family Charter Member Charles W. Stetson, author of *Four Mile Run Land Grants* and *George Washington and His Neighbors* and a significant contributor to the preservation of the history of Arlington.

Guests of honor were Mr. Frederick Griffiths, Curator of Gunston Hall, Mrs. Pierre Gaillard, member of the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall, and Mr. Tom Chapman, Clerk of the Courts in Fairfax County and Secretary of the Fairfax Historical Society. Mr. Chapman displayed an original document signed by both George Washington and George Mason.

Mrs. Helen Hill Miller, author of *George Mason Constitutionalist* spoke on the local and national role played by George Mason of Gunston Hall. During his lifetime what is now Arlington was, of course, a part of Fairfax County.

Meeting of March 14, 1958

The Society met at the Barnes & Kimel Auditorium.

The President announced the resignation of Mr. Joseph B. Johnson as Chairman of the Publicity Committee. He stated that Mr. George Pettengill had agreed to follow the development of plans for a Central Library in the County with the hope that the Society might be able to work out some depository arrangement there.

Recent gifts were acknowledged: a 1929 timetable of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad from Mrs. H. P. Simpson; a copy of the 1946 anniversary special issue of the *Arlington Sun* from Mr. Bjorn Oddsson; and a number of old newspapers with items of historical interest to Arlington from Mrs. Hazel Moore. Mrs. Henry C. Jewett has presented a large oil portrait of her father Frank Hume to the Society. Pending location of an adequate display space it is in the custody of Mr. Hume's granddaughter, Mrs. Warren Birge.

Miss C. B. Rose, Secretary of the Society, spoke on "A Glimpse of Arlington in the Early 18th Century" based on gleanings from recently unearthed records at Fairfax Court House.

Meeting of May 9, 1958

The Society met at the Barnes & Kimel Auditorium.

The President expressed the deep regret of the Society at the passing of one of its members, Miss Agnes Thomson, daughter of one of Mosby's men and an active participant in Arlington affairs.

The President appointed a Nominating Committee: Walter E. Bell, Jr., Chairman, Douglass Hayes, and Harrison Mann; to bring in a slate of officers at the September meeting.

Following a report by Mr. George Pettengill on the progress in getting a Central Library for the County, a resolution was adopted urging the County Board to include a local history room in its plans, and to make it possible for the Society to deposit its materials there.

Mrs. Krebs reported that the pageant "Hushed Were Their War Cries", put on last year by the Arlington 350th Jamestown Anniversary Committee would be given again for one week at the end of the month.

It was announced that plans were in the making for the publication of a second volume of "The Arlington Historical Magazine" in the Fall. Mr. Robert N. Anderson, Chairman of the Publication Committee solicited contributions of articles from the members.

The speaker of the evening was President Ball who reminisced about Arlington at the turn of the century when it was quite different in appearance and social structure from what it is now. On display were photographs and other materials lent by President Ball, Mr. Argyle Mackey, and a member of the Marcey family.

Addendum

The Society has copied two items of general interest lent by Mrs. H. P. Simpson for the purpose. These are a letter written by her father, who was a nineteen year old naval engineer on board a Union war ship at the battle for Fort Fisher, and a diary kept by her step-grandfather, Thomas Wallsh who was a non-combatant in the Union forces. The diary covers the period June 11, 1863, to the end of November that year and recounts the march of Mr. Wallsh from Falmouth on the Rappahannock to Gettysburg and back to Brandy Station where he was captured by the Confederate Army.

With the assistance of the Arlington County Fire Division and through the cooperation of the Roland Larkin Wrecking Company of Baltimore, the Society recovered a pair of mule shoes, placed on the old Consumer's Brewery smoke stack in Rosslyn by Philip May who had the contract for hauling bricks when the building was built in the 1890's. These buildings, long an Arlington landmark, have been razed.

By Cornelia B. Rose, Jr., Secretary