

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting of September 12, 1975

The Society met at the Arlington Historical Museum. The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,329.84 of the operating account and \$4,156.62 on the Ball-Sellers House Fund.

Mr. Dean Allard, chairman of the Ball-Sellers House Fund, reported that the house was now listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. President June Verzi reported on the reception held by the board of directors on September 7, to which civic, service, and community organizations had been invited. The purpose of the reception was to make organizations aware of the Museum, the Society, and its activities.

Donald A. Wise presented to the Society a map he had produced showing all the original patents and early land grants in the County. Copies may be purchased for \$2.00 at the Museum.

Mrs. Frances Shively, curator of the Lee-Fendall house in Alexandria, spoke on "Henry (Light-Horse Harry) Lee."

Meeting of November 14, 1975

The Society met at the Arlington Historical Museum. The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,443.48 on the operating account and \$4,109.77 on the Ball-Sellers House Fund.

The Ball-Sellers House Fund had received a grant of \$5,250 from the Service League of Northern Virginia. To date \$12,800 had been raised.

Mr. John McLeod, president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society, spoke on "Archaeology in Northern Virginia."

Meeting of January 9, 1976

The Society met at the Arlington Historical Museum. The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,515.95 on the operating account and \$3,871.99 on the Ball-Sellers House Fund.

President June Verzi announced that the Society would be publishing a history of Arlington County written by C. B. Rose, Jr. due to a grant being made by a Northern Virginia foundation. All proceeds from the sale of books would go to the Society's Endowment Trust Fund.

Mr. Harold L. Peterson, chief curator of the National Park Service, spoke on "The Revolutionary War Soldier—Myth and Reality."

Meeting of March 12, 1976

A Bicentennial dinner to celebrate the Society's twentieth anniversary was held in the ballroom of the Officers' Club, Fort Myer. Entertainment was provided by the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Fifteen former presidents attended the dinner and reminisced on events and happenings during their respective terms of office.

Meeting of May 14, 1976

The Society met at the Arlington Historical Museum. The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,572.03 on the operating account and \$5,151.61 on the Ball-Sellers House Fund.

Mr. Donald J. Orth, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1976-77, which was elected unanimously: President, Hy-

man J. Cohen; First Vice President, Martha B. Orth; Second Vice President, William M. Lightsey; Secretary, Sara Collins; Treasurer, Jeanne Rose; Directors, Frank L. Ball, Jr.; Cass Cocklin; Lee E. Metcalf; Evelyn Syphax; June Verzi; and Col. William M. Wright.

Mr. Dean Allard, an historian with the Navy Department, spoke on "Alexandria's Navy in 1776."

Historic Arlington Day

The annual observance of Historic Arlington Day began with a candlelight tour of Arlington House on Friday evening, October 17, followed by the house tour and open house at the Museum on Saturday, October 18. The following homes were visited: Ball-Sellers House, home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Ware Page, 5620 Third Street, South; home of Judge and Mrs. Homer Randolph Thomas, 864 North Jefferson Street; home of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Hutchinson, 5501 Third Street, South; home of Mr. Eric Kevitz, 2710 South Hayes Street; and home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Friedman, 3460 North Roberts Lane.

The Aurora Hills Woman's Club served refreshments at the Museum.

Christmas Reception

On Sunday, December 14, 1975, the Society held its annual Christmas reception at the home of Dr. and Mrs. William T. Back. President June Verzi presented red carnations to each new member attending.

Garden Party

The Society held a garden party on the grounds of the Ball-Sellers House on Saturday, May 22. The party was a success, having raised \$700 for the Ball-Sellers House Fund.

Ball-Sellers House

The Ball-Sellers House and two lots at 5620 Third Street, South, were deeded without restriction to the Society in 1975. Since then architects and archeologists have examined the building and property. The house is that of a rarely found eighteenth century home of a yeoman farmer. Archeological excavations have uncovered pieces of eighteenth and early nineteenth century pottery, a clay smoking pipe, and metal objects.

Of the more than \$17,000 raised, about \$10,500 has been spent on improvements such as electrical repair, termite control, and painting the house, and renovation. A small modern kitchen was installed in the resident-caretaker addition in order to free the cabin for restoration. The cabin section underwent foundation repair to make it structurally sound, and a fireplace was laid. This section still needs a new floor, roof, and heating system.

More than two hundred donors from local foundations, business and community groups, and private citizens have made restoration possible. The Society is encouraged by and grateful for this widespread support.

Gifts: 1975-76

Aurora Hills Woman's Club: Projection screen.

Mrs. Frank L. Ball, Sr.: Two pictures, one of Ensign Jahn Ball's home and one of Edwin Ball's home; a pistol from family of Emma Cathill, Edwin Ball's wife; and seven panels of handmade Victorian lace curtains.

- Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bowman: Historic picture cards and loan of set of fifteen post cards of Washington and Arlington sold on trains of W., A., and Mount Vernon Railway.
- Mrs. George T. Brumback: Roster of Second Division of Cavalry for September 15, 1863 and a button hook.
- Mr. John Burns: Spectacles and a scale.
- Mr. and Mrs. David Clark: Doll's dress of mid-nineteenth century.
- Mr. and Mrs. Rafe Cloe: Child's trundle bed, circa 1940.
- Mr. R. F. Cocklin: Illustrations of Revolutionary War battles.
- Mrs. Helen Barrows Crist: Early 1900 clothing belonging to her mother, Mrs. George H. Barrows (nee Marion Stearns), a long-time Arlington resident.
- Mr. Daniel A. Dugan and his sister, Dorothy Dugan Matthews: On permanent loan: Spinning wheel belonging to their maternal great-grandparents, India Deeble Sellers and Valentine Walker Sellers.
- Mrs. Lillian Everett: 1890's school desk.
- Mrs. Lowell Fischer: Red Cross insignia designed for the Bicentennial.
- President Gerald R. Ford: Copy of the Proclamation restoring citizenship to Robert E. Lee.
- Mr. Bob Gossard and Mr. Carl Ziebe: Window glass.
- Miss Florence Hickerson: Porcelain bedroom container.
- Mr. and Mrs. Casey Ireland: Victorian parlor table.
- Mr. Walter H. Kadel: Three pawn shop balls from Rosslyn Pawn Shop.
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keller: Stereo photo of Arlington House.
- Mrs. Edward McNiece: Civil War currency.
- Mr. Colin Parkins: Three mannequins.
- Mrs. George Ricker: Victorian gramophone.
- Miss Jeanne Rose: Four McGuffey's Readers.
- Mr. and Mrs. William W. Smith: Dresses and household articles.
- Mrs. Sharon Stoneburner: Old bottles and prescription boxes.
- Mrs. Eleanor Lee Templeman: County map with 334 historical sites with sixteen pages of identification, divided into places in existence and places destroyed; and charts map, 1801, showing two routes from Alexandria to Winchester, one by way of Leesburg Pike and one by present-day Columbia Pike.
- Mrs. June Brumback Verzi: Bicentennial flag.
- Miss Grace Weir: Nineteenth century hoop skirt dress belonging to her mother.
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Wibirt: Loan of Victorian wall phone.
- Mr. Donald A. Wise: Two maps—"Map of Colonial Patents, Grants, and Treasury Warrants in Arlington County, Va." and an overlay of modern-day Arlington County, with the right to reproduce them for Society use; 50 copies of his booklet, "George Washington's Four Mile Run Tract," for the Society to sell.