

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Almost every year, we can find events in our past, in our rich and diverse history, to commemorate or celebrate. We tend to do so in anniversary milestones of 10, 25, 50 or 100 years. The year 2011 is no different. This year, we will mark the 10th year since the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. It is our solemn obligation to participate in the commemoration of that tragic event in our community. Ironically, in a little known bit of local history (excluding all of you faithful, knowledgeable AHS members, of course!), on that very same date of September 11, we will also mark 70 years since the groundbreaking for construction of the Pentagon! Due to personal contacts with Pentagon building manager's office, the Society has benefitted from the donation of several Pentagon-related artifacts, many of which are already on display at the AHS-Hume School Museum.

The year 2011, of course, also marks the sesquicentennial (150 being one of those odd interval years) of the start of the Civil War. Here in Arlington, we are truly blessed with a rich inheritance of the legacy of that horrible, catastrophic conflict – reason enough to give pause for long and contemplative reflection on what we hopefully have learned and gained from that searing experience. We are here in the shadow of Arlington House, where a Colonel in the Federal Army named Robert E. Lee fought with his conscience and his divided loyalties, and came to the wrenching conclusion to resign his U.S. Army Commission to take command of the Army of the Confederate States of America in Richmond.

Every day, as we traverse the streets and highways and sidewalks of Arlington, we are walking in the footsteps of the hundreds of thousands of Union soldiers who were once encamped or stationed here. At one time or another, it is safe to say that almost every Union soldier spent some time in Arlington; to nowhere else in the country can that statement be applied.

We see that legacy in common place names throughout the County: Military Road, Ft. Hunt Park, Ft. Barnard Park, Long Bridge Park, Fort Myer (then know as Ft. Whipple), Ft C.F. Smith, Ft. Ethan Allen, etc., all of which were part of the Civil War Defense Perimeter sites and military installations built as a protective, defensive “cordon sanitaire” around Washington, D.C., in the immediate aftermath of the First Battle of Bull Run. We can still see clearly the fragmentary remnants of a couple of the 22 installations that were built in “occupied” Arlington: the earthworks at Ft. Richardson and an extension revetment from Ft. Strong.

The next time you are in or drive by Ballston Mall, recall for a minute and visualize the giant black gas balloon under the command of Colonel Thaddeus C.S. Lowe, our first aerial reconnaissance officer, rising from that very location, Lowe peering through his telescope at movements of Confederate troops out west in Fairfax county, and telegraphing his airborne intelligence to soldiers on the ground below...right where you are now!

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AHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2011
7-8:30 p.m.

"Images of the Civil War"

Archival images from the
documentary *The Civil War*
by filmmaker Ken Burns

Arlington Central Library
Auditorium
1015 N. Quincy St.

Please see President, page 2

PRESIDENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In collaboration with the Arlington County Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Committee (try saying that with a mouthful of hardtack!), the AHS will be involved in numerous Civil War-related programs, activities and events over the next four years. Please see the preliminary schedule of events elsewhere in this issue of the AHS Newsletter.

As both Confederate and Union soldiers did 150 years ago, in their honor and memory, I hope you will step forward to volunteer contribute your own ideas and energies as we solemnly commemorate "The Great War for the Preservation of the Union" or "The Great War of Northern Aggression," depending upon your own background, perceptions, and predilections.

[For the sake of full disclosure, I am a transplanted Yankee. My great-great grandfather, Thomas William Green, was a Union Corporal, in Company H of the 8th Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers. He fought with the Union for four years, including at Gettysburg, and was mustered out in August 1865. During the 100-year commemoration events of the Civil War, I was living in North Carolina, and I remember clearly the distinct sense of pride still present amongst the people related to the contributions and extreme sacrifices made a hundred years earlier by their ancestors. Today there are many amongst us for whom the Civil War is largely unknown, at best an academic footnote. The lessons to be learned are no less powerful today than they were in 1961, another important year of anniversary commemoration.]

As always, thank you all for your continuing support and generosity for the Society. And a special thank you to Diane Gates for five years of service as a member of the AHS Board of Directors. Diane will remain as Program Committee Chair, to our great benefit! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to get involved with AHS. We are always in need of volunteer support and expertise, and currently, we especially need a web manager!



Tom Dickinson
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 703-841-4992

AHS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

AHS board meetings are held at the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hume School Museum, 1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.

Upcoming meetings:

April 18
 May 16
 June 20

Meetings are free and open to the public.



GIVE THE GIFT OF HISTORY

AHS memberships make great gifts!
 The enclosed membership form is also available at the AHS Museum.

Memberships include:

- A quarterly newsletter
- Copy of the annual AHS Magazine
- Discounts at the AHS Museum bookshop
- Invitations to special member-only events

CHANGE FOR AHS

Do you want to help out the Arlington Historical Society every time you make a credit card purchase? The Arlington Historical Society has partnered with SwipeGood, a company that maximizes your loose change for charity. To get started, go to the AHS page on Swipegood and sign up your credit or debit card. SwipeGood rounds your purchases up to the next dollar, letting you donate the change to AHS. That means each purchase you make helps in a small way to support the research, collection, preservation, discovery, restoration and dissemination of the local history of Arlington County. For more information or to sign up, visit <http://swipegood.com/charity/arlington-historical-society>.

HUME, SWEET HUME: AHS SHOWCASED ON DECAL



Arlington County's new decal, featuring the historic Hume School, was designed by Wakefield High School student Maya Giacobbe.

By Lindsey Wray, Newsletter Editor

The Arlington Historical Society may be on the minds of Arlington residents, but now it will also be on their cars.

"Hume, Sweet Hume," a design of the historic Hume School, which houses the Arlington Historical Society, is the winner of Arlington's 2011-2012 vehicle decal contest.

The winning decal, announced at the Feb. 15 Arlington County board meeting, was designed by Wakefield High School student **Maya Giacobbe**. It will appear on more than 155,000 vehicles.

More than 2,500 decal design votes were cast Jan. 12 to Feb. 13. Giacobbe's "Hume, Sweet Hume" received about a third of the votes. Other finalists for the decal design competition were a snowy photo, a photo of the large clock near Courthouse Plaza and an illustration featuring a bike path and the Rosslyn skyline.

Each finalist receives a \$500 savings bond from Wachovia.

HISTORICAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

This year is the sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War. Here are some of the many commemoration events in the region.

March

Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington

March 20, 2 p.m.

Presented by award-winning author Walton H. Owen II, who co-wrote *Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*. Held at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Free. 703-591-0560.

April

Civil War Trails Walking Tour of Old Town Manassas

April 10, 2 p.m.

Tour with emphasis on Civil War forts, railroad depot history and military railroad diseases in camps. \$15 admission fee. 9101 Prince William Street, Manassas. 703-368-1873.

Robert E. Lee's Great Decision: the 150th Anniversary of R.E. Lee's Resignation from the U.S. Army

April 16

Arlington House, inside Arlington National Cemetery. Free admission. Reservations required; call 703-235-1530.

May

Fairfax Civil War Day

May 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Commemoration will take place at the Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. 703-591-0560.

July

Manassas National Battlefield Park Commemorative Event

July 21, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the NPS will co-host an event marking the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas. Speakers will

explore the legacy of Civil War and the opportunities of the sesquicentennial. A weekend-long series of events will follow. Free and open to the public; registration is required. www.virginiacivilwar.org.

November

Sesquicentennial of Lincoln's Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac

November 12

The original review consisted of 70,000 soldiers divided into seven marching divisions; the sesquicentennial will consist of approximately 5,000 soldiers/Civil War civilians and local citizen organizations divided into five marching divisions, each headed by a ceremonial detachment and marching band representing each of the five uniformed services. See www.lacra.org.

To learn about more area events, visit www.virginiacivilwar.org, www.arlcivwar.org, or the Virginia Room at Arlington Central Library.

ARLINGTON'S ATTIC: REGISTRATION OF ARTIFACTS

By Linda Y Gouazé, Collections Management Committee

ARLINGTON'S ATTIC

Every profession constantly seeks to improve and modernize itself, so frequent review of processes and procedures is a necessary part of any professional endeavor. In that spirit, we recently reviewed our Registration (sometimes called Accession) process and found that our procedures are in need of an update to meet current professional museum standards.

This will be a major focus of the Collections Management Committee for some time, so we welcome new members who may find this very detail-oriented activity enjoyable.

The Registration process includes steps to verify AHS ownership of an object (by ensuring that the title is legally transferred with a completed Acceptance & Deed form), to document its appearance and provenance (i.e., history of ownership), to assign its permanent accession number, to mark or tag it with its assigned accession number, and to determine its initial storage location.

All of these steps are taken, essentially, to be certain that we can find every one of our 7,000+ artifacts at any moment, that we can definitely identify which artifact we have found when we find it, and that we have good reason to know that we have clear legal title to the object we have found.

If you are interested in helping with this project, join Registration meetings on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Please volunteer by calling Linda Gouazé at 703-859-6631 or by emailing the Society at ahsinfo@yahoo.com.

AHS 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

Save these dates for exciting AHS programs.
For updates and additions, please visit
www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

April

Docent Lunch, TBD

May

Open House - Potomac Overlook Regional Park
Sunday, May 1
AHS will host an information/display table

“Images of the Civil War”*

Thursday, May 19

Archival images from the documentary
The Civil War by filmmaker Ken Burns
in recognition of the Civil War Sesquicentennial

June

Annual Membership Dinner, TBD

September

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, September 15

November

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, November 17

Co-sponsor program with Potomac Overlook
Saturday, November 19, 7-8:30 p.m.
"Indians of Arlington County"
Karl VanNewkirk

December

Winter Social
Saturday, December 3, 7-8:30 p.m.
Hume School

*All Membership Meeting/Program events will be held
7-8:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library. For more information: Diane Gates, 703.228.5955, dgates@arlingtonva.us

A LOOK BACK AT THE FEBREY-KINCHELOE HOUSE

By Sara Collins, AHS Member

Members of the Overlee Community Association voted in February for a renovation plan that includes tearing down the Febrey-Kincheloe House, the 1890s structure that currently serves as the association's clubhouse. The existing Victorian-style clubhouse is expected to be torn down by the end of the year. Although the building is not listed under the National Register of Historic Places, it has a rich history, told here by Sara Collins.

There has been a lot of interest in the Febrey family and their homes since it was announced recently that the Febrey-Kincheloe house is scheduled for demolition. The home at 6030 Lee Highway is the clubhouse of the Overlee Community Association, a private recreation club. The club plans to build a new clubhouse and enhance the three swimming pools on the grounds there.

The house was built by Ernest Jackson Febrey, grandson of Nicholas Febrey, who was the founder of this distinguished Arlington family. An apple orchard that was on this farm is now the back parking lot for the pools. Later this house was purchased by Dr. Kincheloe, a physician, and after his death, his widow managed the Crestwood Sanitarium until selling it to a group of neighboring families; they formed the Overlee Recreation Center, which opened on July 4, 1957. A creek now covered by John Marshall Drive and Ohio Street had been favorite destination for children of the area.



The historic Febrey-Kincheloe House will be torn down by the end of 2011.

Photo by Uriah Kiser

Another Febrey home is nearby and was visible in earlier days from Ernest Febrey's home. We know that one as Maple Shade, built in 1851 by Henry W. Febrey. The home has a souvenir of the Civil War – a bullet from a local skirmish became embedded in a wall. This house still stands at its current address of 2230 N. Powhatan St.

Another house mentioned in Eleanor Templeman's "Arlington Heritage" page on Febrey homes is no longer standing; it had been built at Powhatan Springs by Moses Alexander Febrey. Another of the Febrey sons, John E. (1831-1893), married a cousin, Mary Frances Ball, and built the house with which we are probably most familiar, the large grey shingled home still standing on large property on Wilson Blvd. near Seven Corners. John died in 1893, and his farm was sold to Alvin Lothrop of Woodward and Lothrop Store and later became the residence of Randolph Rouse. It is often referred to as the Lothrop Estate or the Febrey/Lothrop property. [Woodward of that firm owned another house in Arlington.] Its official designation is E.J. Febrey property.

The history of Arlington is the story of the people who lived here and the structures they built or in which they lived are the token reminders of that history. Who are these Febreys whose houses have been so cherished in our county? This name is seen often in county records and in articles in *The Arlington Historical Magazine*. The surname first appears in county records in the early 1800s. Nicholas Febrey is said to have been born in 1800 in the county, and the name sometimes appears as Phe-brey. His background is a mystery, although the record for his second marriage to Amanda Ball when he was 60 indicates that he was the son of Alexander N. Febrey. An oral history interview with John Gott in the Virginia Room of the Arlington Central Library shares family lore about the origins of Nicholas. John Gott was related to the Balls and Febreys.

Nicholas served in 1839 as a chain carrier in a survey, was a civic leader in our county and became one of its largest land holders. He was part of the Committee of Nine of prominent citizens of the county who protested the retrocession of the county to Virginia. He married Belinda Ball, a daughter of Bazil Ball and after her death in 1858, married her cousin Amanda, daughter of Robert Ball. They were both granddaughters of Moses Ball. In 1837, Nicholas acquired large tracts of the Washington Forest lands in the Glencarlyn area from George Washington Parke Custis and added tracts from Adams, Minor, Uptons (on both sides of Wilson Blvd.) and after his second marriage, moved to the property that Amanda inherited from Robert Ball, where Swanson Middle School is located.

Please see Febrey, page 7

REMEMBERING BETTE CLEMENTS



Elizabeth (Bette) Clements

Elizabeth Goss Clements, Bette, a longtime Arlington County resident and community activist, died at 86, at the Capital Hospice Center in Arlington, VA, from complications after multiple strokes on Sunday, January 16, 2011.

Bette was born in Newton, MA, on Nov. 30, 1924, the daughter of the former Kenneth H. Goss and Minnie A. DeBoer of Vermont. Her sister, Jeanne Goss Jones, and brother, John Goss preceded her in death. She graduated as a member of the National Honor Society from Newton High School in 1942. Bette migrated to Washington, D.C., worked at the Pentagon as a wartime secretary and studied at George Washington University. In 1946, she married Joseph Elwood Clements, now deceased, who was a former sheriff of Arlington County for over twenty years, and together they raised three sons and a daughter. She was the sister-in-law of the late Tom and Elva Lee Kingsford, Margaret and Andrew C. Clements of Arlington, VA, and Robert Jones, Seattle, WA. She was the mother-in-law of the late Nan Thorn Clements, Stafford, VA.

In 1979, at the age of 55, Bette graduated from George Mason University with honors in political science and urban studies. She enjoyed her “junior year abroad” studies at Oxford, England. She was selected as the alumnus of the year in 1980 and was appointed by Virginia’s governor to serve on GMU’s Board of Visitors from 1991 to 1995.

Bette had several career paths in her multi-faceted life. As the national director of the Sears Roebuck Foundation for Community Improvement by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, Bette travelled to cities and towns across the country helping volunteers design, initiate, and launch their projects for funding. Her focus on state and local politics took her to Richmond, VA, for a post as a legislative aide to state senators Mary Marshall and John Melnick. In her later years, Bette found her calling in real estate, working for Remax Realtors in Arlington and McLean, VA. In 1989, her efforts won her status in the Million Dollar Club, and in 1992 she was enrolled in the President’s Club.

Following a lifelong interest in history and community service, Bette joined the Arlington Historical Society and, from 1979, served two years on the Membership Committee for Business & Corporate Memberships. In 1982-1983, she was the recording secretary, and in 1983 she served a one-year term on the board of directors. From 1984-1985, she became the director for Historic Preservation and served on the Historic Preservation Committee through 1986. From 1987-1988, Bette was the building and grounds chairman and in 1988 served once again as a board member. From 1989-1990, she served as first vice-president and in 1990-1991, she became the president of the Society. She continued to serve as the immediate past president when her term expired. She also found time to fill in as a house tour guide, a volunteer coordinator, and as a volunteer at the Arlington Historical Museum (Hume School) during opening hours, as well as assisting with newsletters and event planning.

In the broader community, Bette was a member of the Democratic Party, campaigning for local candidates and serving as a faithful pollster on many election days. She was a founding member and a Chairman of Arlington County’s Committee of 100. From 1992 to 2004, she served as a member of the Arlington County Board of Zoning Appeals. Bette received the Arlington County’s Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1984 and an Arlington County Community Hero award in 2001. She also wrote grants and helped organize an urban youth garden project in Washington, D.C., teaching garden to table cooking to inner city children.

Bette was an inveterate traveler, a lover of geography, architecture, music, theater, and the arts. She was also an outstanding cook and interior decorator. Bette’s tremendous positive energy and her appreciation of the good in others touched all who came into her sphere. She shared her interests with her many friends and family and enriched their lives with her childlike sense of discovery and curiosity, her enthusiasm, and her optimistic outlook on life.

A memorial donation can be made in Bette’s name for the Arlington Historical Society ACORN fund c/o Executive Director, Geraldine Mills, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Rd. Arlington, VA 22202. Phone: 817-460-4001. Email: ahsinfo@yahoo.com. Website: arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

FEBREY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Son Henry W. Febrey (1828-1881) and his wife, Margaret Payne, had eleven children, so the name appears frequently in county histories and records. While we may not see the Febrey name on county rolls today, descendants abound through the marriages with local families with names such as Adams, Shreves, Bailey, Wright, Payne, Simmonds, Schaaft, Walters and Talbott, etc. Many family members were married at Dulin Methodist Church in nearby Falls Church. Henry and his brother, John, had been trustees of the Methodist Meeting House – later Dulin church – and served many offices in that church. Most Febreys seem to be buried at the Oakwood Cemetery. One of Henry's sons, Harry Coe Febrey, became a Methodist Minister.

Henry W., referred to as Capt. from service in 1849 in the Virginia Militia, was elected to county court in 1866, served as a Justice of the Peace, represented the Washington District of the county (the northern portion) on the Board of Supervisors 1872-1873 and with George Wunder was responsible for bringing public schools to the Washington District of the county. The Alexandria Gazette carried this item in 1881: "Henry W. Febrey, Esq., one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Alexandria Co., died at the residence of his daughter, in Washington, in about the 55th year of his age. Febrey, who was highly esteemed by all who knew him, had filled all the prominent offices in the county with honor to himself and satisfaction to his fellow citizens."

Henry's son, William N. Febrey, served on the Board of Supervisors 1892-1911 and was chairman in 1911. He was county Superintendent of the Poor in 1910. Henry's brother, John E. Febrey (1831-1893), served on the School Board and was Superintendent of Schools from 1891-1893.

This quick perusal of printed sources on the Febreys and their homes points to a subject that deserves more research and recognition. Is there a historian or genealogist out there who might take on such a fascinating project? This family has contributed much to our county history as well as its architectural history.

A blog has been set up to provide updates on the planning and construction process of the Febrey-Kincheloe House: <http://overlee-pool.blogspot.com>.

HISTORY AWAITS. COME VISIT!

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.

Open Saturdays & Sundays

1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free

Come visit our permanent exhibits on the 200+ year history of the county.



BALL-SELLERS HOUSE

5620 South Third St.

Open Saturdays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

April through October

Free admission, but donations appreciated.
Also arrange a visit by calling 703-379-2123.



AHS IS ON FACEBOOK

Arlington Historical Society is now on Facebook! Join now to keep up-to-date about AHS programs and information.

- 1) Go to www.facebook.com
- 2) Login or create a new account.
- 3) In the search bar, type in Arlington Historical Society and press enter.
- 4) The AHS has two pages:

The first page is labeled AHS and underneath is says "page." This has the green and white logo of the AHS as an icon.

The second page is labeled AHS and underneath is says "organizations." This has a picture of the Hume Schools as an icon.

- 5) Click on the "like" or "join group" buttons to the right.



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The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 1956 and incorporated under the laws of Virginia for literary and educational purposes that support research, collection, preservation, discovery, restoration, and dissemination of the local history of Arlington County.

WWW.ARLINGTONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

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