

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, AHS Members:

It's been a very busy and productive last few months with a variety of Society activities and events.

In February, a large original oil portrait of **Frank Hume**, for whom the Hume School and our museum is named, was donated to the Society by his descendants. This remarkable and almost unblemished portrait shows Hume as a young man in his Confederate uniform. It is a unique addition to our collection, and it is on display on the second floor of the museum. I'm sure you will find it a fascinating portrait and a very important piece of portraiture. Our deep gratitude to Hume descendants **Susan Hume McIntosh**, **Ann Hume Loikow**, **William Haywood Hume** and **Robert Howard Hume** for this unique, highly treasured, and extraordinary donation.

Remember that the Society is always grateful to receive donations, both financial and physical items such as the portrait. If you have any objects, family items, old films or photographs that are in any way connected to Arlington, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Society. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

As you read in the March newsletter, **Maya Giacobbe**, a student at Wakefield High school and resident of the Arlington Ridge neighborhood, was named the winner of the annual Arlington County vehicle registration decal design contest. To our great advantage and good luck, the primary design element of Maya's winning submission is a beautiful, sunny-day photograph of the AHS Hume School Museum. Congratulations and thank you to Maya! The decal is a great reminder of this terrific hidden gem in our community.

Also in March, at our regular membership meeting and public program at Arlington Central Library, AHS board member **George Dodge** did a magnificent and fascinating reenactment or portrayal of Alexander Hunter, a Confederate soldier who was born and raised at Abingdon House (ruins remain at Reagan National Airport), and grew up as a neighbor to Robert E. Lee and his family at Arlington House. **Craig Syphax** and I had the privilege of interviewing Hunter about his life and time as a "Johnny Reb," and he recounted in detail each of the three times he was captured and escaped during the "great war of Northern aggression." This event was attended by almost one hundred people, one of the largest attendance figures ever for an AHS program.

This is an indication of the lasting and pervasive interest in the Civil War, which is now being commemorated in the 150th year since its start. May 23 marked 150 years since Virginia seceded from the Union, and the invasion or occupation of Arlington and Alexandria, and the first casualties of the War, which took place the following day at the Marshall Hotel in Alexandria. Col. Elmer Ellsworth of the New York Zouaves had just torn down a large Confederate flag flying over the hotel when he was shot and killed by the hotel owner James W. Jackson, who was then shot and killed by one of Ellsworth's soldiers.

Please see President, page 2

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AHS ANNUAL BANQUET

Friday, June 17, 2011
6 p.m.

Walton H. Owen, II

Co-author of
"Mr. Lincoln's Forts"

Army Navy Country Club,
Arlington, VA

PRESIDENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thus began the four years of unrelenting, horrible bloodshed in the state of Virginia, where more battles were fought and more soldiers died than in any other state. History is not always pretty, but we hope by remembering it, we will not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Mark your calendars now: AHS will greet the sesquicentennial with our Annual Banquet at the Army Navy Country Club at 6 p.m. June 17. Our guest speaker will be **Walton H. Owen, II**, associate director of Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria and co-author of "Mr. Lincoln's Forts," the definitive and detailed volume about the 68 defensive perimeter forts, batteries, gun emplacements, earthworks, and installations that were constructed by the Union army to protect the District of Columbia from Confederate attack. Owen will offer fascinating insights and details about the 22 sites located in Arlington. This is an event not to be missed! Banquet invitations to members were mailed in late May; an electronic version is available on our website, arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. Cost for members is \$55. See page 5 for further details.

Lastly, please keep in mind that we are always in great need of volunteers to serve as docents, on the board of directors, and on various committees, such as Ball-Sellers, collections management, museum building maintenance and repair, fundraising, membership, programs, newsletter, magazine, community outreach, public school liaison, website manager, etc. If you have a few extra hours a month to spare, or any comments or suggestions, please contact me.

I'd also like to thank Walter Baumann for his past donations to the Society, which were unfortunately not included in the recent list of donors in the Magazine. I'd also like to thank and recognize former President Gerry LaPorte for his assistance in many areas, particularly in getting HALRB approval to replace our stolen downspouts!

Hope to see you on June 17 at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington!



Tom Dickinson
Tomwd3@gmail.com
 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:

June 20
 July 18
 August 15

Meetings are free and open to the public.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Arlington Historical Society seeks a web manager to update and maintain its website, www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering for this position, please contact volunteer coordinator Matthew Keough at matthewt.keough@gmail.com.

DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF HISTORY?

If so, please consider sharing it with the Arlington Historical Society. AHS is soliciting artifacts, as well as found films and photographs of historic structures and landmarks in Arlington. Please contact the AHS collections committee, P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210.

www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org



Artifact Watch: This carving of a peanut was placed in the White House driveway during the Jimmy Carter Administration.

ALEXANDER HUNTER AND THE CIVIL WAR IN VIRGINIA

AHS board member and native Arlingtonian **George Dodge** portrayed Confederate soldier Alexander Hunter at an Arlington Historical Society program on March 17.

Dodge, also an attorney and author, wore a Confederate soldier uniform and told about Hunter's Civil War exploits and experiences. Hunter, who wrote "Johnny Reb and Billy Yank" and "The Huntsman in the South," served in the 17th Virginia Infantry and 4th Virginia Cavalry during the war. The Hunter family lived on the land that is now Ronald Reagan National Airport; Hunter was a neighbor of Robert E. Lee.

Moderators for the program were **Tom Dickinson**, AHS president, and **Craig Syphax** of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. Both Dickinson and Syphax are members of the Arlington County Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Committee.

Right: George Dodge wore a Confederate soldier uniform for his portrayal of Alexander Hunter during a March AHS program.

Below: Craig Syphax (left) and Tom Dickinson (right) with George Dodge.



GIVE THE GIFT OF HISTORY

AHS memberships make great gifts!
Visit the AHS Museum or www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org for details.

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>.

ARLINGTON'S ATTIC: NEW ARRIVALS EXHIBIT

By Linda Y Gouazé, Collections Management Committee

In the last issue, I outlined the registration process that is occupying a good deal of the Collections Management Committee's focus — the very detailed process by which new artifacts are assigned accession numbers and integrated into our permanent artifact collection. The single essential ingredient for this process is, of course, an artifact, and it must be one that the AHS Acquisitions Committee has already accepted as the property of the Arlington Historical Society.

ARLINGTON'S ATTIC

The Acquisitions Committee is constantly evaluating offers to donate artifacts to the Society in order to determine if the items offered would be appropriate additions to our permanent collection. Like museums of every size, we also have a backlog to keep us busy.

We tend to get pretty excited about receiving a new artifact that illuminates Arlington's history, but it is often a good while before a new item is used in a topical exhibit where AHS members and other museum visitors can see it. So, to share our excitement with you all right away, we have revived a custom that was standard practice at our museum some years ago: A New Arrivals exhibit.

As artifacts are accepted by the Acquisitions Committee, they will be exhibited in a simple way for several weeks in the tall, lighted case opposite the bookstore counter. Some new artifacts are already on display there, so please take a look at our New Arrivals exhibit the next time you stop by the museum.

Interested in volunteering with the Collections Management Committee?
Call Linda Gouazé at 703-859-6631 or email ahsinfo@yahoo.com.

AHS 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

June

Annual Banquet
Friday, June 17, 6 p.m.
Speaker: Walton H. Owen, II

Army Navy Country Club,
Arlington, VA

AHS Member cost: \$55
Please see page 5 for details.

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

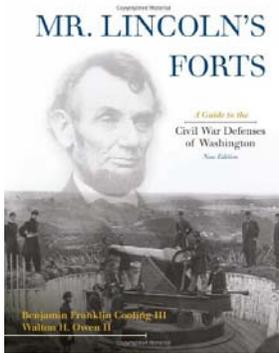
December

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

AHS ANNUAL BANQUET ON JUNE 17

On June 17, the Arlington Historical Society will hold its annual Membership Dinner and Fundraiser at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington.



This year, AHS is teaming up with the Arlington County Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Committee and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. We are honored to have as our speaker **Walton H. Owen, II**, associate director and curator of Alexandria's Fort Ward Museum, one of the most significant Civil War perimeter defense forts in the Washington, D.C., area. He is co-author of "Mr. Lincoln's Forts – A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington," a book highly regarded as the definitive guide to the ring of defense facilities built to protect Washington from Confederate attack. Owen will speak in detail about the 22 Civil War defense sites in Arlington, providing rich insights and interesting anecdotes about these sites – those whose remnants survive, and those that are lost and gone, surviving only through the extensive research and publication of his book.

Please consider contributing to the Arlington Historical Society to help meet our important mission of supporting research, collection, preservation, discovery, restoration and dissemination of the local history of Arlington County.

Contact the Arlington Historical Society by phone or via the website, arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org, to make reservations. Cost for members is \$55.

WOMEN'S CLUB DONATES NEARLY \$5,000 TO AHS

Aurora Hills Women's Club president **Carole DeLong** and treasurer **Diane Perry** presented a check for \$4,800 to **Tom Dickinson**, AHS president, at the club's May 5 tea, an annual event at the AHS museum. This was the fifth very generous donation from the club to a special fund used to pay for the preservation and restoration of the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Sites and a locally designated historic property.

Many such repairs are needed, such as exterior brick maintenance, roofing, roof flashing, downspouts, water penetration in the basement, and other similar repairs frequently required on this wonderful 1892 structure, the only one of its type in the area.

AHS Board Member **Alice Andors** is a member of the Aurora Hills Women's Club; she is instrumental in coordinating and arranging this event and serves as liaison to the Club. Our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Club for its continuing commitment and generosity!



Carole DeLong, AHWC president (left), and **Diane Perry**, AHWC treasurer (right), presented a check to AHS president **Tom Dickinson** on May 5.

WHY DO WE CALL IT? FORT SCOTT

WHY DO WE CALL IT?

Fort Scott, built in 1861 as part of the defenses of Washington, was named for General Winfield Scott (1786-1866). General Scott was made a Major General at the end of the War of 1812 and became General in Chief of the Army in 1841. He was given the title of Lieutenant General in 1855 and was in command of the United States Army at the start of the Civil War.

The county has acquired part of the Fort Scott area for use as a playground and part of the remaining earthworks to preserve the site. The road giving access to this area is known as Fort Scott Drive.

The Why Do We Call It column is excerpted from the book, *Why Do We Call It...? Thumbnail Histories of Arlington County Place Names*, published by the Arlington Historical Society. The book is available at the Arlington Historical Museum, or you can reserve a copy (or copies) by sending your check for \$9.40 per copy (\$8.95 member-discounted price plus VA sales tax) plus \$4.00 shipping and handling to AHS, P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210.

IN MEMORIAM

June Brumback Verzi, a former Arlington Historical Society president, died March 27 at age 92.

Verzi, who was AHS president 1975-76, also served on the AHS board of directors in 1976-77. She chaired the Museum Sales Committee in 1977-78.

Verzi was married to the late **Judge Linus A. Verzi**. She is survived by her son, **Thomas K. Verzi**; and grandchildren **Thomas, Christine, John, George** and **Baron**.

Funeral services were held April 2.



Elizabeth (Bette)
Clements

FORMER AHS PRESIDENT HONORED

Bette Clements, a founding member of the Arlington Historical Society and a longtime Arlington County resident, was honored April 4 by Virginia House Joint Resolution No. 5055.

Starting in 1979, Clements was involved with AHS; she served on several committees and held various positions, including president in the 1990s.

She died January 16 at age 86.

Read the resolution at:

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?112+ful+HJ5005>

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.

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

Northern Virginia Studies Conference
November 11

"At the Crossroads of History: Baileys Through the Centuries" will commemorate the sesquicentennial of Lincoln's Review of the Troops in 1861. The conference will focus on the evolving economic, cultural, and political life around Bailey's Crossroads. Proposals for papers, panels, and presentations are welcome and should be submitted no later than July 15. Conference events include a reenactment of the 1861 parade of the Union Army, the dedication of a monument to President Lincoln, and a concert featuring Civil War era music. Contact Dr. Jean H. Braden, 703-845-6357 or jebraden@nvcc.edu.

**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.

FRIENDS OF HUME SCHOOL RECEIVES VOLUNTEER AWARD

The Friends of Hume School, a dedicated group of volunteers who blend conservation with historical preservation, received the 2010 Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award at the County Board meeting on April 26.

"The Bill Thomas Park Service Volunteer Award is the highest park and recreation honor the County can bestow on one of our citizens or community organizations," said **Paul Holland**, chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission. "The County and the Park and Recreation Commission are grateful for the winners' contribution to Arlington's parks and open spaces."

Formed in 2005 by the Arlington Ridge Civic Association, Friends of Hume School is a large, community-wide group of volunteers whose work primarily serves the Arlington Ridge Neighborhood and features a unique beneficiary: the Arlington Historical Museum, formerly known as Hume School.

Roughly 40 Friends meet at least twice per year to enhance and maintain the Hume School property. Since 2005, the group has made many improvements to the property, and also have helped the Arlington Historical Society develop winning grants to fund restoration of a pedestrian footpath and the planting of native plants and trees on the school grounds. The group just completed its spring Hume School work day on May 7.

Friends of Hume School includes volunteers from Arlington Ridge and Aurora Hills neighborhoods, the local Mormon Singles Congregation, the Green Manor Garden Club, the Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club and the Arlington Historical Society.

The Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award was established to pay tribute to lifelong parks volunteer Bill Thomas, and to honor and encourage those residents who demonstrate passionate dedication and support for our dynamic programs, natural resources and public open spaces.

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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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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