

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1998 – 1999

New president Frank D. Impala began his year with a message to the membership stating his goals:

- Establishing stronger ties with the county board
- Improving the society's financial situation
- Increasing membership

July – August 1998

Lynne Sturtevant and Bette Clements chaired the society booth at the Arlington County Fair. It featured the society's website.

September 1998

Jack Foster resigned as curator of the Ball-Sellers House.

Dr. Jerome Ford conducted informal appraisals at an Antique Road Show at the Ball-Sellers House. It was well attended and so enjoyable the attendants insisted the program be repeated.

At the first general meeting of the society for the year, Dr. Dean Allard spoke on "Arlington in Transition."

October 1998

The October 15th Reunion (co-sponsored by the society, the Virginia Room of the Arlington County Library, and the Ballston Partnership) was titled "Where We Shopped – Clarendon."

Historic Arlington Days were observed from October 16-18. Jim Murphy was chairman of the three-day celebration, which began with a candlelight tour of Arlington House on Friday, and included a special exhibit at the museum and a workshop of scarecrow-making at the Ball-Sellers House on Saturday. On Sunday morning forty people attended a brunch at Evans Farm Inn.

Mrs. Jean Hume visited the museum and donated a portrait of the wife of Frank Hume.

November 1998

At the quarterly meeting of the society Gail Baker, Chair of the Arlington Heritage Alliance, introduced speakers Thomas W. Richards and William H. Hunley. Mr. Richards was a former chairman and member of

the Arlington County Board and Mr. Hunley was Immediate Past Chairman of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Both gave interesting and informative talks.

On November 14, Bette Clements, Chair for Museum Docents, conducted a training session for museum docents at the museum.

Angie Dodson moved into the Ball-Sellers House as Curator.

December 1998

The board of directors voted to accept an invitation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to offer tours of historic sites in Arlington during the Trust's convention in October 1999. Gail Baker was named to chair a committee for the tours.

The board voted to eliminate the category of "Junior Membership" formerly provided in the by-laws.

January 1999

The meeting scheduled for January was canceled because of a severe snowstorm.

Jim and Joan Palmer reported that raccoons had again been found in the building.

February 1999

Delegate James Almand was patron for a bill in the Virginia Assembly for a grant of \$30,000 to the society.

The board of directors established a speakers bureau; Sherman Pratt was selected to chair the committee.

Archivist James Palmer called attention to unidentified photographs in the society's collection of African-Americans. An exhibit of these pictures for identification was installed by a committee consisting of the Palmers, Juanita Smoot, and Eric Stewart at the Aurora Hills Library.

New pages of material were added to the society's website for Black History Month.

March 1999

The speaker for the March 11 meeting was author Anthony S. Pitch, who spoke on his book *The Burning of Washington: British Invasion of 1814*. Autographed copies of the book were sold.

Bette Clements announced that the society would participate in a state-wide program titled "Time Travelers" on the fourth Friday of each month.

George Dodge gave a summary of our board meeting and suggested

we initiate a session where we review our actions. President Impala appointed him to chair such a session to be held October 25, 1999, with Constance Azzi as facilitator.

April 1999

The board of directors elected replacements for two officers: Kevin Appel was elected treasurer, and Talmadge Williams was elected a director.

The April 22 Reunion at the Central Library was on Walker Chapel and Chain Bridge. The session was moderated by Howard Thorkinson.

The society's annual banquet was held April 30 at the Army Navy Country Club. The well-attended event was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dow Nida, while John and Mary Vihstadt served as co-chairmen. The speaker for the evening was Fred Barnes, Executive Editor of the *Weekly Standard*. Awards were given to Agnes Mullins, Jack Foster, and Norman Novack.

May 1999

Officers for the year 1999-2000 were elected at the annual meeting, held May 16.

Dr. Jerome Ford held another antique appraisal session at the Ball-Sellers House; it was so well attended that several people were turned away, even though Dr. Ford graciously stayed beyond the announced hours.

Phyllis Johnson gave a program on genealogical research at the Ball-Sellers House.

The Virginia General Assembly has awarded the Society a grant of \$25,000 contingent on AHS's raising matching funds.