

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1999-2000

July-August 1999

The Society sponsored a booth at the Arlington County Fair where three hundred signatures were collected in opposition to the transfer of woodlands from the National Park Service to Arlington National Cemetery.

Reenactors portraying Revolutionary War soldiers demonstrated an encampment for Ball-Sellers House visitors. In a later Ball-Sellers House program, a nutritionist discussed herbal remedies and products.

September 1999

A program chaired by Scott Cohen covered the subject "Famous Arlingtonians from R.E. Lee to Sandra Bullock." Mrs. Anne Carter Zimmer, great-granddaughter of Robert E. Lee, was the featured speaker.

Colonial craft demonstrations at the Ball-Sellers House gave visitors a glimpse at how the people who lived during John Ball's time made items they needed for daily use. Artisans showed quilting, spinning yarn, carving wood, and weaving.

October 1999

A candlelight tour of Arlington House was held as part of Historic Arlington Day, and nearly sixty children made scarecrows at the Ball-Sellers House.

Later in the month, Jane Patrick Casey assumed the position of chairman of the Ball-Sellers House Committee, succeeding Willard Webb. The Ball-Sellers season ended with a record-high number of visitors, 489.

November 1999

The program at the November 9 meeting featured Wally Owen, author and site manager at Fort C.F. Smith. Mr. Owen talked about the new look at the fort. The following Saturday, Col. Sherman Pratt conducted a tour of Civil War fort sites.

The Ball-Sellers House Committee hosted a dinner to thank volunteers and to celebrate a successful season at the house.

December 1999

The topic of the Arlington Reunion, chaired by Peter Dickson, was the Ashton Heights neighborhood.

January 2000

Scott Silsby, president of the Virginia Chapter of Archaeology, spoke on the relationship between archaeology and anthropology and its effect on Arlington's natural history, with illustrations of several fascinating artifacts.

Jack Jones, a long-time member of the Society who co-chaired the fund raising committee to renovate the Hume School, died on January 29.

February 2000

The subject of the February 17 Arlington Reunion, chaired by Gray Gillem, Sr., was the Arlington View neighborhood.

The museum was closed for the month of February.

March 2000

The speaker for the March 9 meeting was Edward G. Fenwick, who gave the history of five generations of the Fenwick family in Arlington.

At the March 6 budget hearing held by the Arlington County Board, Society President Impala presented a proposal for an Arlington History Center.

The Society lost two past presidents. Dow Nida died March 3 and Evelyn Syphax died March 14.

April 2000

A record number of visitors came to the Ball-Sellers House April 1 season opening. Later in the month, Revolutionary War-era soldier reenactors in uniforms showed visitors what life was like for a soldier of the 1770s.

At the Arlington Reunion on April 13, Les Alberts moderated a session that explored life in Arlington during World War II.

The annual banquet was held April 29 at the Army Navy Country Club. The speaker for the evening was the Honorable Gayden E. Thompson, Deputy Undersecretary of the Army (International Affairs); his address was titled "Honoring the Veterans of the Korean War."

May 2000

Dr. Jerome Ford informally appraised over 100 items for visitors who brought old china, glass, small furniture, and more to the Ball-Sellers House.

Two historic preservation college students interviewed members of the Ball-Sellers House Committee. Students from Kenmore School visited the house and learned about Colonial-era Virginia history.

At the annual membership meeting, the third and final ballot required to dissolve the Building and Endowment Trust Fund was taken and voted upon favorably. The officers proposed by the nominating committee were unanimously elected.

June 2000

In conjunction with Glencarlyn Day, the Ball-Sellers House hosted an event featuring Colonial crafts: rug hooking, quilting, yarn spinning, and wood carving. Through the first three months of the season, the house had welcomed nearly 300 visitors, which was ahead of the same period the previous year.