

Arlington Historical Society Year in Review

2002-2003

July 2002

Both houses at the Ball-Sellers House were painted and new shutters were installed.

August 2002

The Society signed up a number of new members and sold many books and other materials at its booth at the Arlington County Fair (August 15-18). Bob Strunk, of Commonwealth Restorations, offered maintenance and repair work to the Ball-Sellers House.

September 2002

A new exhibit on the Pentagon opened at the Museum on September 7. Dr. Jerome Ford informally appraised family treasures for a gathering of 50 for the Ball-Sellers House. The monthly program meeting on September 12 featured Michael Yopp, Architect/Historic Preservationist at the Pentagon Renovation Office, speaking on *The Pentagon: Restoration and Renovation*. The ADT smoke detection system at the Ball-Sellers House was replaced.

October 2002

Historic Arlington Days were observed October 4-6. On the night of October 4, the annual candlelight tour of Arlington House celebrated the bicentennial of the earliest construction of the house. A program devoted to scarecrow making drew 65 visitors to the Ball-Sellers House in October. The Addison Heights neighborhood was the subject of the Arlington Reunion program. The Ball-Sellers House concluded its April-October season with 417 visitors. During the season, Angie Dodson planted and maintained a demonstration garden to show visitors the kinds of plants the Ball family might have grown in the 18th Century.

November 2002

Don Hawkins, Architect/Historical Cartographer, spoke at the November 14 monthly program meeting on *Arlington's Historical Geography*. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Arlington Heritage Alliance. Under the direction of Bob Strunk, Commonwealth Restorations provided many improvements as a gift to the Ball-Sellers House, including a new door, shutter hardware, dehumidifier drain, new porch post, and foundation repointing. Members of the Ball-

Sellers House Committee hosted an afternoon open house to celebrate improvements to the house and to thank volunteers, donors, and other friends for the role they played in the success of maintaining, preserving, and interpreting the house. The event drew 50 individuals. Under the guidance of Scott Johnson, a Boy Scout troop visited the Ball-Sellers House, introducing 11 students to the property.

December 2002

The program at the Arlington Reunion on December 9 was *Genealogy, a Hunt for Family*.

January 2003

The monthly program meeting on January 9 featured a lecture and slide presentation on *Northern Virginia in the War of 1812* by Lt. Col. Sherman Pratt, U.S. Army (Ret.). About 170 students of Loren Zander from Kenmore Elementary School visited the Ball-Sellers House.

February 2003

On February 13, the Society, the Arlington County Department of Libraries, and the Black Heritage Museum co-sponsored a program for Black History Month entitled *Freedman's Village at Arlington: Gateway to Freedom*. A panel of descendants of workers at Arlington House and residents of Freedman's Village traded family stories. Resident curator Angie Dodson indicated her plans to leave the Ball-Sellers House. The committee interviewed nine applicants for the position. Ball-Sellers House Committee Chair Jane Patrick Casey spoke about improvements at the house to the Glencarlyn Citizens Association.

March 2003

On March 6, the Arlington Reunion, postponed from February due to snow, focused on the Arlington View neighborhood. At the March program meeting William F. Myers, Rector Emeritus of St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean, gave a presentation on *Potomac River Lore*.

April 2003

The Ball-Sellers House opened for the season. *Arlington School Days* was the subject of the Arlington Reunion on April 17. Stacie Lemmon and Deirdre Palmer took up residence at the Ball-Sellers House.

May 2003

Directors and officers were elected at the May 8 program meeting and Karen

Byrne Kinzey, Historian at Arlington House, and Anne Webb, Archivist, gave a presentation on *Markie's Journal*. Master Gardener Rebecca Kary planted items in the Ball-Sellers House demonstration garden to help visitors understand the herbs and vegetable crops Colonial Virginians might have used.

June 2003

The Society's annual banquet on June 7 featured remarks by Kim Holien, Historian at Fort Myer, and a showing of the film of the 1909 Wright Brothers' airplane demonstration flight at the fort. The Ball-Sellers House participated in Glencarlyn Day by hosting a Revolutionary War encampment with costumed re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment demonstrating the chores and pastimes of Revolutionary War-era camp life.