

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

2004-2005

July 2004

The Ball-Sellers House received gifts of a bed warmer and a spinning wheel from Betty Vertiz.

August 2004

A large team of volunteers, headed by Bette Clements and Eleanor Pourron, put up and staffed the Society's booth at the Arlington County Fair.

September 2004

The title of the program presented at the first membership meeting of the year (September 9) was "Treasures in the Ground: Archaeology at Arlington," by Patrick O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill spoke about the results of the archaeological investigation which he performed at several locations at Arlington House. The excavations were a first step in the planned restoration/rehabilitation of the two dependencies behind the main house. At the Ball-Sellers House, resident manager/curator Stacie Lemmon moved away and Julie Edwards moved in to take her place as co-tenant with Deidre Palmer. On the 25th, Dr. Jerome Ford offered informal antique appraisals at the annual Heirloom Discovery Day.

October 2004

Historic Arlington Days were observed October 8 and 10. On the night of October 8, the annual candlelight tour of Arlington House celebrated the earliest construction of the house; visitors were also treated to period music performed by the Gilbert Light Ensemble, and to a lecture by Supervisory Park Ranger Frank Cucurillo on "Robert E. Lee and John Brown at Harper's Ferry." On Sunday, the student artists and writers who produced the Arlington Historic Architecture Drew Model School 2005 calendar were honored at a reception at the Arlington Historical Museum. On October 21, Sara Collins interviewed Arthur Vliet for an Arlington Reunion program; the title was "Growing Up in Lyon Park, Henry Clay School." A grant was received from the Rock Springs Garden Club to plant some trees and bushes at the Ball-Sellers House typical of what John Ball might have had. Several meetings were held with representatives from the Garden Club on a landscape plan.

November 2004

The November 18 program meeting was on “The Opportunity at Pimmit Run and Chain Bridge”; Steve Dryden, creator of the well-regarded illustrated map of Pimmit Run, spoke on the locale’s ecological and historic importance. A large group from Kenmore Middle School visited the Ball-Sellers House under the direction of committee member Mary Sheehy.

January 2005

The monthly program meeting on January 13 featured Ronald Beavers speaking on the “History of the Alexandria, Loudon, and Hampshire Railroad.” The AL&H, chartered in 1853, was a predecessor to the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad.

February 2005

On February 8, the program “Crowns for the Queens,” sharing the significance of hats in African-American culture through songs and the spoken word, was co-sponsored by the Black Heritage Museum and the Arlington Historical Society.

March 2005

The speaker for the program meeting held on March 10 was Charlene Bickford, co-author of *Birth of the Nation: The First Federal Congress, 1789-91*. She spoke about the First Federal Congress Project, an effort to locate and publish documents relating to what many consider the most important and productive congress in U.S. history. Under the direction of Ross Dickerson, the invasive vines and plants along the side fence line at the Ball-Sellers House were cleared and a rail fence installed as a part of our matching share of the Garden Club grant.

April 2005

The Ball-Sellers House opened for the season, and Dean Allard planted a colonial garden, including tobacco, as a demonstration of plants of the 18th century. “African-American Businesses in Arlington” was the subject of the Arlington Reunion on April 14. The annual banquet, which was co-sponsored by the Arlington Heritage Alliance, Arlington House The Robert E. Lee Memorial, the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, and the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, was held on April 27 at the Clarendon Ballroom; Brian Lamb, founder and CEO of C-SPAN, was the speaker.

May 2005

At the meeting held on May 12 the election of officers and directors for the 2005-06 year was conducted; the speakers were Ruth Preston Rose and Ross Netherton, who co-authored (along with Nan Netherton, who died before she could see the completed work) *In the Path of History: Virginia Between the Rappahannock and the Potomac*. Children's Day was held at the Ball-Sellers House on May 14. The house was also visited by a group making a film for public TV on George Washington. It was used as an image of a typical yeoman's house from the Washington time period.

June 2005

On Glencarlyn Day (June 4) the Ball-Sellers House held an open house and dedication of the landscape project done by the Rock Springs Garden Club and the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, District III.