

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1983-1984

President Warren Clardy presided over the activities of the Arlington Historical Society in 1983-84 through five regular meetings and other special activities.

September

At the September 9 meeting, members endorsed the Community Archives program of the Arlington County Library with the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Arlington Historical Society, by a vote of its membership, hereby endorses the Arlington County Library's grant application for its community archives program.

It was reported that the Historical Affairs Landmark Review Board had worked out a plan with a Vienna resident to preserve an historic 1840's log cabin by agreeing to disassemble and move it to Vienna where it would be reconstructed.

The trophy won by the Society's entry in the summer antique auto section of the Arlington County Parade was displayed. Catherine Saulmon and Kathy Holt had found, prepared and driven the car--while dressed in costumes of the period.

The Society also reported a successful booth at the County Fair in August where it displayed its activities and sold a number of the publications.

Don Croson, historian for the Mt. Olivet Church, presented a slide/talk show on the history of the church. He reflected that Mt. Olivet had its beginning in 1854, just as a number of movements were beginning in this country which were to lead to the Civil War. During the war years it saw service of various kinds and was virtually destroyed, only to be rebuilt and expanded in the century that followed. He traced its growth and activities and introduced one of the young members who showed some of the program activities which tied the past with the present.

October

Six houses were open to visitors on Historic Arlington Days in October. Chairperson Frances Millhouser was assisted by Sandy Florance and Jane Larsen and a number of other members. The tour opened with a Friday evening candlelight tour of Arlington House, followed by a Saturday afternoon tour of five houses, as well as open house at the Museum Building.

November

During the business section of the November 11 meeting it was announced that the Olmsted Foundation had agreed to pay the cost of the magazine for another year. It was reported that the Foundation directors based their decisions on the distribution of the publication as well as the research involved.

A set of study guides produced by the Arlington Public Schools with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts program, was brought for display. The guides had been presented to the Arlington Library and will be used as the basis for several Society programs in the future.

An open invitation was extended by President Clardy to civic associations interested in having an historical meeting to call on the Arlington Historical Society.

An appeal was made to anyone having photographs or other early material on Arlington to contribute it to the Arlington County Library, the Friends of the Library and/or the Arlington Historical Society.

The November program featured Scott Silsby, Director of the Arlington Gulf Branch Center, speaking on Indian activity in the Arlington area--"Little Falls: A Cultural Magnet". He reviewed the movements and settlements in the area, ending with a plea to individuals who find artifacts that may indicate an Indian site to contact him. His present task is to synthesize all identified Arlington Indian collections and to bring them up to date.

December

At the December Board meeting it was voted that the Board of the Arlington Historical Society urge the Arlington County Board to adopt the proposed plans of the Bicentennial Constitutional Committee and agreed that the Arlington Historical Society will assist as much as possible the historical research, tour development or other activities of the Bicentennial Constitutional Convention Committee.

On Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18, the Arlington Historical Society gave a gift

to the community of holiday celebrations through three centuries at two museums. Visitors and Members were invited to participate in a Yeoman's Christmas of the 1700's at the Ball-Sellers House and in Christmas 1850 and 1920 at the Museum Building. A healthy crowd participated in the bonfires, singing and exploring Christmases past.

January

Seymour Stiss, Director of the "History by the Block Project" and Curriculum Specialist for the Arlington County Schools, presented the program--"Arlington: Past and Present" for an icy January 12 meeting. Joseph Taylor, who had prepared the unit "Learning about Your Local Community. . ." had been the photographer for the Society program. The presentation concentrated on Clarendon, Ballston, Shirlington and other areas of the County currently undergoing changes. Using photographs from historic collections, as well as current scenes, they were able to show the now and then of many familiar sections of the County.

February

A Smithsonian Tour, coordinated by the Society, provided a full bus load from the metropolitan Washington area with a new look at the history and growth of Arlington County from early times through the present. The tour included the eighteenth century John Ball log cabin, Indian artifacts at the Gulf Branch Nature Center, Arlington House, Alcova, a stop at Fort Myer for lunch, visits to many of the communities which began as small villages (*i.e.* Clarendon, Glen Carlyn) and a tour of the Museum Building. Members of the Society were among the many Arlington residents who participated.

March

The well-attended March 9 dinner meeting held at the Army-Navy Country Club offered members an opportunity for socializing. Arrangements were handled by Program Chairman Allen Kitchens with the help of Mrs. June Verzi and First Vice President Sara Collins. President Warren Clardy gave members a brief look at the history of the club and the community in which it is located--beginning as part of the Fraser estate more than two hundred years ago. During the Civil War the club land, which lay along the ridge which overlooks the capital city, was part of Fort Richardson, one of the twenty-one forts which ringed Washington. The fact that the club has more than 10,000 members, making it one of the largest clubs in the nation, was pointed out. "Lights Up Review" provided one half hour of popular entertainment to conclude the evening.

April

An emergency--water leaks in the roof of the museum--was announced at the April Board meeting and the start of a campaign to raise funds to replace the twenty-three year old roof was planned.

May

Annual elections took place at the May meeting, with the following officers elected and installed: President Sara Collins; First Vice President Allen Kitchens; Second Vice President Catherine T. Saulmon; Recording Secretary June Robinson; Corresponding Secretary Mary Elizabeth Fricano; Newsletter Secretary Greg Bayens; Treasurer Rebecca Mauzy; and Directors Constance Ramirez, Joan Young and Michael W. Jones. Other Directors continuing include Jack H. Foster, Ruth Rose and Bette Clements.

It was announced that Curator Kathy Holt had been honored with special recognition at the Volunteer Awards Ceremony for the Metropolitan Washington area for her work with the museum and Arlington history.

Following the business meeting, President Collins gave a brief talk outlining her goals and ambitions for the society during the coming year.

Curator Holt, wearing a black feather boa, presented a slide/talk program--"Making Arlington a Respectable Place to Live: The Crandal Mackey Raid" to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the raid. Guests present included a trustee of the Columbia Historical Society, the granddaughter of Crandal Mackey and members of her family. The program featured the efforts of Crandal Mackey, Commonwealth Attorney of Alexandria County, who campaigned for the office on a promise to clean up the vice and gambling establishments which flourished along the Arlington side of the Potomac River. On May 30,

1904, Mackey formed and armed a posse which proceeded by railroad to Jackson City (at the end of the Long Bridge--14th Street) to confiscate gambling paraphernalia, break up bottles and furniture, etc. Following the program, the guests and members of the Society who had known Mr. Mackey reminisced about those "good old days."

A final activity for the year found a bus load of members and friends travelling toward the 1732 German settlements of Morrisonville and Lovettsville in Loudoun County. They had a walking tour of the town, a special visit to the museum and lunch at the Village Inn. The tour had been announced as a benefit for the Museum's roof restoration project.