

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEAR IN REVIEW

1986-1987

Activities in the 30th Anniversary year of the Arlington Historical Society focused on complying with the terms of the grant to renovate the museum building and meeting the requirements of the Historical Landmarks and Review Board (HALRB) for renovation plans. Other continuing activities revolved around the discovery that some Arlington communities include a number of "Sears houses" and the resulting research and tour; as well as the effort to save the site of Fort C.F. Smith.

Officers and Board included: Catharine Saulmon, President; John Vihstad, First Vice President; Sterling Springston, Second Vice President; Greg Bayens, Treasurer; June Robinson, Recording Secretary; Dorothea Abbott, Corresponding Secretary; Linda Warden; Newsletter Secretary; and Board members Herselle Milliken, Ruth Duvall, James Huddleston, Phyllis Johnson, Norman Novack, and Joan Young.

June 1986

Outgoing and incoming officers and board members met to review the past year and to make plans for the future. Suggestions were received for expanding the Society/Museum presence in the Arlington community in the future.

The Society operated a booth and Kathy Holt conducted community walking tours on the occasion of opening the East Falls Church Metro Station.

August 1986

Board activities centered around planning for the County Fair booth and the annual house tour. Committees developed plans of action.

A special meeting resulted in the development of a Civil War Heritage Committee which would have as one of its chief goals the preservation of Fort C.F. Smith in the face of development of the Hendry Tract in North Arlington.

September 1986

The program meeting on the topic of Sears houses introduced the October House Tour. Reed Martin, a resident of Cabin John, Maryland, recounted the history of Sears houses, showed slides of various house styles, and described research he had done in Cabin John and Arlington where a large number of Sears houses had been constructed.

October 1986

The issue of saving Fort C.F. Smith continued to impact on Board activities.

All of the 2nd and 4th grade teachers in Arlington County visited the museum briefly as part of an in-service day.

The annual Open House and Tour of Sears Houses in Arlington drew crowds from Maryland and Washington, D.C., as well as members of the Society and other Arlington residents.

The *Arlington Historical Magazine* was distributed, thanks to a grant from the Olmsted Foundation toward publication costs.

November 1986

The Society met in the Dominion Hills Recreation Center, where they welcomed a number of local residents who heard Anna Belle Lane review the history of Boulevard Manor and Spy Hill from the time of the first land grant in 1707 to the present.

December 1986

The Society continued its research and concern with the Fort Smith site. Approval was received from HALRB on details of the proposal to renovate the museum using the grant money from the state and county.

The annual Christmas decorations went up and the Christmas Open House in conjunction with the Glebe House and the Ball-Sellers Yule bonfire celebrated the season.

January 1987

The popular Show and Tell program featured Kathy Holt, Matthew Richard Dickey, Jim Huddleston, Catharine Saulmon, Dr. Claudine Bryant and Norman Novack. Sterling Springston introduced as "living history" performances by Linda Warden and Sara Collins; Michael Savage; Joshua Taylor; and John and Louise Sinks. Several of the artifacts were afterward presented to the Museum.

February 1987

The Board awarded a contract to supervise remodeling of the Museum building to Hitt Contracting, Inc. of Arlington.

The first annual Auction was held at the new Holiday Inn. It was judged a social and financial success.

March 1987

Joshua Taylor presented a slide show and talk on the architecture of Arlington County, based on a script prepared for part of a project done for HALRB.

April 1987

The Nominations Committee presented a slate of officers to be elected at the May meeting. The Long Range Planning Committee recommended that the Society apply for a Museum Assessment Grant.

The Society received news that the County Board had approved a plan to designate earthworks and part of the field of fire of Fort C.F. Smith as an Historic Park. Archaeological work was underway. The next role for the Society, it was agreed, should be a contribution to the historic interpretation of the park. John Sinks was lauded for his work as chairman of the project.

Membership was reported at an all-time high: 558.

The annual Dinner Meeting was held at Fort Myer.

May 1987

During the business meeting which preceded the program, officers and board for 1987-88 were elected.

The program featured three speakers on the topic of the Civil War: Kim Holien, who

spoke on the Confederates in Arlington County; John Sinks, who described activities in Southern Illinois; and Agnes Mullen, who talked of the role of women in the Civil War.

The spring party at the Ball-Sellers house coincided with the blooming of the wisteria.

The Society celebrated the bicentennial of the U.S. constitution with an all-day tour to Montpelier and other sites in Orange County.

The month of May ended with receipt of the news that the long-awaited renovation/repairs to the Museum structure would begin in June.



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