



# Arlington Historical Society

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Arlington Historical Society

March 2021

## President's Dispatch

### Inside This Issue

	Page
President's Dispatch	1
Upcoming Events	2
Successful Stambaugh Event	2
Three Sisters	3
Febrey-Lothrop Estate Update	4
In Memoriam	5
Annual Meeting Notice	5
Arlington Business Tribute	6
Giant Give Back Campaign	6
AHS in the Community	7
Members Coupon Code	7
Stewardship of Your Money	8

My father, a lifelong Arlingtonian loved to tell me stories about Arlington. I remember him pointing out the Pentagon and the airport and describing what was there before they were built. I remember him telling me that when he was an Arlington policeman, he helped guard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was also on site at Stratford Middle School when it was desegregated. I remember driving with him along Glebe Road with him as he pointed out all the changes and told me about how his sister and he often took the bus into D.C. Born in the 1930s, he witnessed firsthand the transformation of Arlington and his stories made me proud to be an Arlington resident. Sadly, my father passed away in 2005, but I wish he was here to talk more about the past. It is these stories that reveal our history.

Over the past few months, we have had several people share their Arlington stories. AHS member Susan Ball McBride reached out to tell about when she was a young girl playing in her grandfather Frank Ball's yard at the Glebe House. She told us her grandparents sent her home because they had some "fine people" coming over for a meeting. That meeting was to discuss the creation of the Arlington Historical Society.

Frank da Cruz, former Arlington resident, reached out asking questions about the Hall's Hill area. He shared his story about growing up across the street from Hall's Hill and said he was "haunted by the memory of the (segregation) wall" and wanted to learn more about it after he read Wilma Jones's notable book about her life in Arlington. Frank shared his memories of Arlington in a book he is writing for his family and we learned from him more about Arlington in the 1950s and 1960s.

In January we shared a video about former Arlington legislator Warren Stambaugh and his legacy. As we prepared this video, we learned many stories about Stambaugh's life. One of my favorite stories was shared by lifetime resident and AHS member Jim Almand who told the story of when Warren and he were campaigning and decided to give each other's biographies at a campaign event instead of their own.

Stories are what bring history to life. They humanize the facts of our past and help us understand that people can live through the same event in history but have quite different experiences. As Peter Forbes, noted photographer and author stated, "Stories create community, enable us to see through the eyes of other people, and open us to the claims of others." One of the goals of the Arlington Historical Society is to tell the stories of the many people of Arlington. Our events focus on these stories and we would love to have you join us to listen. Do you have a special story to tell about your history in Arlington? Please share it with us at [info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) so that we can share your stories with others.

### Arlington Historical Museum

1805 South Arlington Ridge Road  
Closed until the coronavirus threat has passed.

### Ball-Sellers House

5620 3rd Street, South  
Open by appointment only  
due to the coronavirus threat.

### Virtual AHS

Website: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

Facebook: Arlington Historical Society

Twitter: #ArlingtonHistory

Instagram: ArlingtonHistory

### AHS Board Meeting

Board meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every month and are being conducted virtually until further notice due to the coronavirus threat.

Please let us know if you, as a member, would like to attend.

## Upcoming Events

*The coronavirus pandemic continues to shutter venues for big gatherings, so AHS presents our series of free monthly public events via Zoom. They are held on the second Thursday of the month. For more details, please visit the AHS events page at <https://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events>*

### April 8 at 7:00 pm (Virtual): Rediscovering Upton's Hill History

(Register: <https://forms.gle/SQ5STFikuxZUrHQn6>)

Upton's Hill was an important logistics center for the Union Army. The site included three forts, five camps, a commissary depot with brick ovens for baking bread, medical facilities, and even a photographic studio. Local historian Peter Vaselopulos will reveal how its historical value far surpasses just the Febrey-Lothrop-Rouse estate.



### May 13 at 7:00 pm (Virtual): The Hume School: Past, Present, and Future and Member Voting

(Register: [tiny.one/AHSAnnual](https://tiny.one/AHSAnnual))

Museum Director Mark Benbow and AHS President Cathy Hix will discuss the history of the Hume School, as a school and as a museum and now how AHS is working to refurbish it to make it a great museum for a great county's history. This will immediately follow the Annual Members meeting where members will vote for the Board of Directors for the next year.

### June 10 at 7:00 (Virtual): The Frasers of Green Valley

(Register: <https://forms.gle/x1MigtS1kZ7u43he7>)

Local historian Martin Suydam will discuss the little-known Fraser family who built Green Valley Manor on what is now the Army-Navy Country Club.



## !! SAVE THE DATES !!

**May 13, 2021**

Virtual AHS Annual Meeting  
Members Vote on Board of Directors  
Register: [tiny.one/AHSAnnual](https://tiny.one/AHSAnnual)

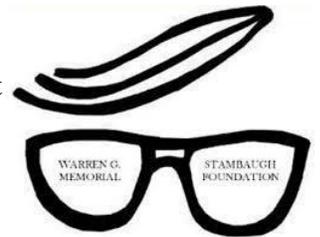
**September 9, 2021**

AHS Annual Banquet  
Commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11  
Washington Golf and Country Club

## Fall 2020 Stambaugh Event a Success

This fall, the Arlington Historical Society partnered with the Warren G. Stambaugh Memorial Foundation to host an event celebrating the legacy of Warren G. Stambaugh and raising funds for the preservation of the Arlington Historical Museum at Hume School. The event aired throughout January on Arlington Independent Media and raised over \$35,000 for the preservation of the school.

AHS is very grateful for the support of James Almand,\* David Bell, Dr. Mark Benbow, Rosemary Ciotti, Karen Darner, AHS President Cathy Hix, the Honorable Patrick Hope, Samantha Gimons, Carly Merrill, and the staff at Arlington Independent Media for all their work on this project. A special thanks goes to Frank O'Leary for his tireless efforts in envisioning and leading this project to fruition. We are also grateful for the many individuals and businesses who supported this project. For those who missed the event, it is now viewable on our website at <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/2021/01/i-remember-warren-event/>



\* Correction: In our December 2020 newsletter, we inadvertently identified James Almand as a former Virginia Senator. He actually served as a Virginia delegate in the General Assembly from 1978-2004. We apologize for the error.

# Three Sisters: Person, Place and Artifact

By Zoe Beardsley

*“Three Sisters” showcases three historical things that make Arlington so unique. Our three sisters consist of a person, a place, and an artifact from the AHS collection.*

## Person: Joan Trumpauer Mulholland

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland was an American Civil Rights activist in the 1960's who by age 23 had participated in over 50 sit-ins and demonstrations. Mulholland was a freedom rider, a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and crossed paths with some of the most influential people in the Civil Rights Movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer and John Lewis.

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland was born Joan Trumpauer on September 14, 1941 in Washington D.C. Her mother, originally from Georgia, was descended from slave-owners. Both of her parents worked for the government and were segregationists.

Mulholland grew up in Arlington, Virginia, and from a young age she was acutely aware of the racism that permeated her daily life. As she grew older, her desire to do something about it grew. When Mulholland graduated high school, she wanted to go to a small university in Ohio, but her mother, afraid of integration, made her attend Duke

University in North Carolina. From the start Mulholland resisted, not rushing a sorority (a move so unheard of that the University sent a counselor to check on her) and in her second semester joined the Durham sit-ins, where she got arrested and taken for a psych evaluation. After a year at Duke, Mulholland dropped out and moved back to Washington D.C. where she joined the Nonviolent Action Group (NAG), a SNCC affiliate based at Howard University.

In the summer of 1961, Mulholland participated in Freedom Rides, where she and other white and Black activists travelled to the south from Washington D.C. to expose how Jim Crow Laws in the south still upheld racial segregation even though the federal government had banned it on interstate buses, train lines, and in waiting rooms. As a Freedom Rider, Mulholland was arrested in Mississippi and taken to a penitentiary, where she was housed on death row for 2 months. When Mulholland was released, she decided to enroll in Tougaloo College, a historically black college in Tougaloo, Mississippi, becoming the first white person to ever do so.

In 1963 while at Tougaloo, Mulholland and other students and Civil Rights activists organized a sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter in Jackson, Mississippi. This sit-in was one of the most violent, with Mulholland and the other activists being beaten and berated, having condiments smeared on them, and being pulled out of the store by their hair. Other activists were burned with cigarettes and hit with brass knuckles. After the sit-in Mulholland continued to fight for equality, participating in the March on Washington, organizing with SNCC and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and joining the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march.

After the Civil Rights Movement, Mulholland moved back to Arlington and worked for the Smithsonian Institution and the Departments of Commerce and Justice before teaching English as a second language at an Arlington elementary school. Mulholland has appeared on Television and in documentaries. She has five children and is retired, living in Arlington and continuing her activism through The Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation, which is dedicated to educating youth about the Civil Rights Movement and how to make a difference in their communities.



*The crowd at the Mississippi sit-in taunted the activists by yelling epithets and pouring ketchup, pepper, and other things on Anne Moody (seated at right), Joan Trumpauer (center), and John Salter (left) before it turned violent. (Photo by Fred Blackwell, Jackson News.)*



*Joan Trumpauer Mulholland (center) and Martin Luther King Jr. (right) at Tougaloo College, 1962.*

## Place: Lacey Woods Park

Located at 1200 N. George Mason Drive in Arlington, Lacey Woods Park is 14 acres and features basketball courts, a playground, a picnic shelter, a multi-use field, nature trails, wooded areas and a fire ring. The Park is named after Robert Stinson Lacey, a decorated Union captain in the Civil War.



Lacey was born in 1832, and during the Civil War commanded a company that participated in the siege of Cincinnati and campaigns in Kentucky. After leaving the army in 1866, Lacey worked for a law firm. In 1881, he built a house in Arlington, naming it Broadview, and lived there until his death. The house, located at 5151 14th Street N., was named as a Local Historic District in 2014. Lacey Woods Park honors Robert Lacey for his part in the Civil War and for his contributions to Arlington.

## Artifact: Dr. Charles R. Drew's Saxophone

This saxophone, which can be found in the African-American Experience exhibit at the Arlington historical museum, belonged to Dr. Charles R. Drew.

Dr. Drew was an American physician, surgeon, and medical researcher in the field of blood transfusions. As one of the most prominent African-Americans in the medical field, Dr. Drew was a trailblazer. In 1941, Dr. Drew was appointed Director of the first American Red Cross Blood Bank. As Director, he came up with an idea for a "bloodmobile," a mobile blood donation truck with refrigerators. After resigning from his post in protest after the armed forces ruled that African American blood would be stored separately from that of whites, Dr. Drew continued his research and taught at the Freedman's Hospital at Howard University as a surgeon and professor of medicine. His house in Arlington is a National Historic Landmark and many parks and public buildings have been named for him in the US and abroad, including in Arlington, the Charles R. Drew Elementary School, the Charles R. Drew Community Center, and Drew Park.



The saxophone was donated by Evelyn Reid Syphax and is in the key of C, a type of saxophone that is no longer used today.

---

## Update on the Efforts to Preserve the Febrey-Lothrop-Rouse Estate

The Arlington Historical Society continues to be involved with the efforts to save the Febrey-Lothrop-Rouse estate. Board member Tom Dickinson has led our work in advocating for the estate in multiple county meetings. In late January, AHS Board of Directors voted to send a statement to the Arlington County Board. That statement can be viewed on our website at <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/2021/01/ahs-statement-on-preserving-the-febrey-lothrop-estate/>.

On January 27, 2021, the county's Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), following a public hearing, resolved that the house was "at substantial risk" of being "damaged or destroyed... and therefore the HALRB must move expeditiously to protect the threatened historic resources on the property. On February 23, 2021, the County Board voted unanimously to advertise public hearings before the Planning Commission and the County Board in April 2021 on the possible designation of the property as a Local Historic District. Unfortunately, the County Board does not have the legal authority to prevent the owners of the property from demolishing the structures before those public hearings are held. The permits the owners have applied for, however, are issued administratively. The demolition permits were issued prior to the public hearings. AHS will continue to advocate for preservation and keep our membership informed.

## In Memoriam: Martha “Marty” Beggs Orth (1930-2021)



Martha “Marty” Orth passed away on February 21, 2021. When the oldest house in Arlington County was donated to AHS in 1975, she was on the committee that adopted it, raised money for it, and refurbished it to make it look like it might have in the 1750s when it was first built. She continued to care for what became known as the Ball-Sellers House for the next 40 years. Because of her dedication, AHS has been able to preserve the house and open it as a museum free to the public, just as its last owner and donor, Marion Sellers wanted.

Martha was born in September 1930 and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. She attended Southwestern College there (now Rhodes College), the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, and she obtained a Master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

In 1951, in a student exchange program, she worked in London in a Presbyterian Settlement House in the badly bombed East End. In 1953, she was a delegate from the Southern Presbyterian Church to the World Council of Churches meeting in Evanston, Illinois. She served as Director of Education and she was a teacher, Elder and Trustee in Presbyterian churches wherever she lived. She moved to the Washington area in 1965 and lived in Arlington for 30 years and in Fairfax County since 1997. She worked at the FDIC and at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as an Employee Development Specialist.

She was a past president of the Arlington Historical Society, Chair of the Ball-Sellers House Committee for decades, always available to provide advice, guidance, and mentorship when needed to her successors. She served on the AHS Board of Directors for several years. She was also a Trustee of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Northern Neck Branch; a member of the Society of Woman Geographers; Docent at Tudor Place and at the Octagon; and charter member of the Women's Art Museum, Washington, DC. She and her husband Donald also helped preserve a second house, the Linden Farm in Farnham, Virginia. She conducted groundbreaking historical research to document both the Linden Farm and the Ball-Sellers House and she published two books: “The House That John Built” and “The People of Linden.” Her history of North Farnham Episcopal Church was placed in the cornerstone of the Parish House.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald J. Orth who was also a past AHS President. You can get a sense of the love Marty had for the Ball-Sellers House from the last time she spoke publicly about it in 2015. We are thankful to have captured her presentation on video ([A Love Affair With an Old House: The Ball-Sellers House with Martha Orth \(2015\) – Arlington Historical Society](#)). Her commitment to local history inspired many and she will be missed.

---

### Official Notice to Members of Annual Meeting

The Arlington Historical Society will hold its annual meeting of members on **Thursday, May 13, 2021**, at 7:00 pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the meeting will be conducted virtually in accordance with Virginia regulations for nonprofits. Register to attend the virtual meeting at: [tiny.one/AHSAnnual](https://tiny.one/AHSAnnual)

The business portion of the meeting, where new officers and other directors will be elected, is expected to be short. It will be followed by a presentation titled “The Hume School: Past, Present and Future”. Further information can be found at AHS’s website at [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

The Nominating Committee intends to nominate the following for election as officers and directors at the meeting: Cathy Bonneville Hix for President, Dr. Gerald K. Haines for Vice President, Sean Denniston for Secretary, John Tuohy as Treasurer and Annette Benbow, Charles Clark, Tom Dickinson, Patrick Hope, Tracy Hopkins, Jessica Kaplan, Annette Marrero-Oliveras, Lara McCauley, David Pearson, Michael Schaffner, and Karl VanNewkirk as Directors At Large.

-- Sean Denniston, Secretary

# Tribute to Arlington Businesses: B.M. Smith

*By Alexander Aguilera*

*An integral part of Arlington’s history are the businesses that provide services within our community. Many of these businesses have been part of our community for decades. AHS is launching a series to highlight the great business community of Arlington. Stories of these businesses can also be read at <https://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>*

B.M. Smith has served the residents of Arlington County since 1908 through management of residential and commercial properties. Headquartered on Columbia Pike in Arlington, B.M. Smith was originally founded by lifelong Arlingtonian Benjamin Matthew Smith.

Smith’s father, Henry W. Smith, arrived in the Washington area from Canada in the 1890s, as the trolley and transportation industries were shaping the region into a bustling hub. Henry’s original intent was to establish the Arlington Transfer Company, a transportation carrier for passengers to travel into the city. His son Benjamin, following in the public-spirited footsteps of his father, founded B.M. Smith in 1908.

Smith forged lasting relationships in the Arlington community as a local civic and philanthropic activist, serving as an interim board member and eventually the chairman of the Arlington County Board. Smith also served as a member on the Arlington Hospital Board of Directors and as the County School Supervisor. In 1968, the entrepreneur established The Washington Forrest Foundation (WFF), an independent nonprofit dedicated to serving the South Arlington community.

As many Arlingtonians are aware, Benjamin’s company B.M. Smith has played a pivotal role in Arlington’s economic and commercial development throughout its 113-year history. The company first moved to a location on Columbia Pike in the 1920s, before selling the eventual plot of the popular Arlington Village apartments to Gustave Ring in 1939. From the 1980s through 2010, B.M. Smith grew to manage 29 properties in Arlington and across the Northern Virginia region. Continuing Smith’s philanthropic commitments, the Smith enterprise also facilitated the development of multiple public works in the area, including “Pike Park”, the present location of the weekly Farmer’s Market. The company also participates in the Columbia Pike Revitalization Project, Penrose Park community events, and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, the company launched the “B.M. Smith Gives Back” initiative, allowing staff members to volunteer with Arlington-based nonprofit organizations.



*B.M. Smith’s Penrose Square building*

Today, B.M. Smith is run by David Peete, Smith’s grandson, along with four other Smith descendants. Similar to their grandfather, the family has been especially active in the revitalization of the areas surrounding Columbia Pike, primarily through involvement with the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) and others. B.M. Smith can be found across the Northern Virginia area, as well as on their [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

---

## Giant Give-Back Campaign

An anonymous member of our community nominated the Arlington Historical Society for the Giant Give Back program. During December, AHS received a portion of the money from the purchase of every community bag at the 9th Street Giant in Penrose. We are very grateful to Giant for their support of the community. HS remains on the Giant list for future donations. Any person who purchases a community bag at any Giant location in the county has the option of choosing AHS to receive a portion of the cost. Thanks to all who can support AHS through this program.



## AHS in the Community-January-March 2021

During the pandemic, AHS has been able to sustain our sharing of Arlington history through multiple virtual events. These events included:

- A January virtual event on the *1920s Census of Arlington County* presented by AHS member Mark Schwartz, Arlington's county manager. Extensive data was shared on facts learned from the 1920s census and comparisons with the Arlington of the day
- A February virtual event titled *Monuments, Memory and Meaning*, presented by University of Maryland public history professor Denise Meringolo provided a framework to help us understand considerations for analyzing controversial monuments. Ms. Meringolo incorporated several case studies of local monuments in her discussion.
- A March virtual event on *Fire Station 8* was presented by Dale Smith. This station was the first African American-operated fire station in Arlington County. In addition to sharing the history of the fire station, former Battalion Commander Smith interviewed two other retired Station 8 Firemen who shared their own stories.
- Board member Karl Van Newkirk led virtual presentations for the Kiwanis Club of Arlington and the DAR, Thomas Nelson Chapter in March.
- Board member Tom Dickinson spoke before the HALRB and the County Board as an advocate for the preservation of the Febrey-Lothrop-Rouse Estate.
- AHS is partnering again this year with the Cherrydale-Columbia Masonic Lodge to sponsor a contest for Arlington students in grades 8-12. This year's topic focuses on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 in Arlington.
- AHS is working with Boy Scout Daniel Gessel who is doing his Eagle Scout project by creating a video of Arlington's 9/11 story.
- AHS partnered with Arlington Independent Media to create daily radio spots titled "*On This Day in Arlington History*"
- AHS created its sixth virtual exhibit enabling visitors to see Arlington Historical Museum exhibits online. This latest virtual exhibit honored Black History Month with: *The African American Experience in Arlington*. All the exhibits can be viewed at <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/visit/arlington-historical-museum/>

### AHS Essay Contest

The Arlington Historical Society, in partnership with Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge 42, is pleased to announce the 2021 student historical writing contest. The topic is the terrorist attack on the Pentagon known as 9/11. Arlington students in grades 8-12 are welcome to submit an essay. The deadline is May 21, 2021. More information on the contest can be found at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OUkShZOcWnqRRMc7rD8y1cVeqrq0Jt1d/view?usp=sharing>

## Thank you to the Arlington Community Foundation



The Arlington Community Foundation issued a grant catalog during the month of December 2020. The goal was to support Arlington non-profits, hard hit during the pandemic with an opportunity to seek donations. The Arlington Historical Society was fortunate to be able to submit a grant request for \$5000.00 to assist with the outreach operations of the society. Thanks to the generosity of the Arlington community, our grant was fully funded. We are very appreciative of being afforded this opportunity by the Arlington Community Foundation.

## Get Your Member-Only 10% Discount at the AHS Online Book Store

<https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/shop/>

To get the Member-only 10% off on all purchases online just as you would if you visited our museum shop, use this Coupon Code on the Checkout page: **AHSMEMBER10**

AHS offers the largest selection of books on Arlington history anywhere. Some are not even available on Amazon or Barnes and Noble! Every book you buy helps support the AHS mission to strengthen our community by improving the understanding of our shared history.

## Stewardship of Your Money

The AHS depends on donations and membership fees to allow us to carry out our mission. During the quarantine, our museum curator and director have staggered hours to work in the museum. Additional volunteers have worked from home to add to our resources. Your financial donations have allowed us to continue the following work:

- The use of new museum software to finalize our cataloging of the 4000+ artifacts in the museum.
- The continued development of an education page on our website.
- The management of a zoom account to offer virtual programming.
- The ongoing preservation study to address current needs and plan for future renovation.

## Business Members

We are honored to have the support of the following local businesses and organizations:

Altria Client Services  
Aurora Hills Women's Club  
Dominion Energy  
Fairlington Historical Society  
Glass Distributors  
John Marshall Bank  
Prudential Financial  
Warren G. Stambaugh Foundation



P.O. Box 100402

Arlington, Virginia 22210

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ARLINGTON, VA  
PERMIT NO. 1578**

**The Arlington Historical Society**, founded in 1956, is a non-profit organization incorporated under Virginia laws. The Society supports research, collection, preservation, discovery, and dissemination of Arlington County's history.