

## THE SOCIETY SEAL\*

The Arlington Historical Society is indebted to Lt. Col. Henry Leon Taylor, of Arlington, for the design of the Society's seal, which was adopted by the Society as its official insignia at the January 8, 1960, meeting. A reproduction of it is reproduced on the following page, and with this issue of the *Magazine* it is used for the first time on the cover. In describing the seal and how he came to produce it, Colonel Taylor writes:

The design of the Arlington Historical Society seal is entirely original. The idea for designing such a seal and presenting it to the Society came to me before I became a member. As a guest, I attended the banquet at the Arva Motel on September 11, 1959. The printed program had a picture of the Custis Lee Mansion on the cover. This gave me the idea for the design.

I first drew a picture of the Mansion, then sketched the American flag immediately above it in the most prominent place. I then grouped the flags, Confederate and Battle, behind the Mansion. Since Virginia was the tenth State admitted to the Union, I placed ten gold stars around and above the flags.

The name Custis Lee Mansion was placed directly under the Mansion purely for identification, since there may be those who are intimately acquainted with the architecture and might not recognize it as the famous and historical Custis Lee Mansion. The name of the Arlington Historical Society and its date of organization were placed in the outer circle.

### FLAGS OF THE CONFEDERACY

The following information concerning Confederate flags, derived from official sources, may be of particular interest:

*The Stars and Bars, or First National.*—The first National Flag adopted by the Confederate States was the Stars and Bars, with seven white stars in a blue field, one for each Confederate State at the time of adoption. This flag was raised over the Capitol building in Montgomery, Ala., at sunrise on March 4, 1861, being unfurled by a granddaughter of President Tyler, of Virginia. It is now used with 14 stars in a blue field as the flag of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

*The Battle Flag.*—At the battle of Manassas, July 12, 1861, General Beauregard was anxiously hoping for reinforcements while holding his ground against great odds. The reinforcements came, but for a time the General could not tell whether the troops were Confederate or Federal. The Stars and Bars in the dust and heat of battle could scarcely be distinguished from the Stars and Stripes. He decided that this must not happen again, that the Confederacy must have a flag that could not be mistaken. This flag was adopted in September 1861 and was the one that was to follow the cause of the Confederacy until the end. It was used in three sizes

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\* Ed. Note: "The Society's Seal" and "Bylaws" are reprinted from the *Arlington Historical Magazine* (1960). On June 30, 1972, an Act of Congress restored the original name of the mansion to Arlington House. The Society subsequently revised the seal as shown on the back cover of the *Magazine*.

only: infantry, 52 by 52 inches; artillery, 38 by 38 inches; cavalry, 32 by 32 inches. It is the insigne of the United Confederate Veterans.

*The Stainless Banner, or Second National.*—The likeness of the Stars and Bars to the United States Flag often caused confusion. Therefore, the Confederate Congress on May 1, 1863, adopted the design for a new flag. This second National Flag was pure white with the Battle Flag in the upper left corner.

*The Last National.*—It was found that the second National Flag when hanging limp could easily be mistaken for a flag of truce, and so on March 4, 1865, the Confederate Congress again changed the National Flag. This was done by placing a broad red bar across the end of the Stainless Banner, thus forming the fourth and last flag of the Confederacy. In a few days the Congress adjourned, and the flag was not made until some time later when its design was found among the records. It is now used as the insigne of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.



## **BY-LAWS OF THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

*(as adopted September 6, 1960)*

### *Article I—Membership*

1. The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes: regular, sustaining, life, honorary, and junior (up to 18 years of age).

2. New members shall be asked to execute membership form for the Secretary's information. The Society shall mail a form for this purpose with a letter of invitation to prospective new members proposed by the membership committee.

3. The dues shall be: \$2.00 a year for regular members; \$10.00 a year for sustaining members; \$0.50 a year for junior members; and \$50.00 for life members.

4. The annual dues shall be payable in advance of the date of the annual meeting. Members failing to pay their dues for six (6) months after they become payable, shall be dropped from the rolls one month after the