

Winter 2010

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COUNTY BOARD REWRITES HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Gerry Laporte

At a meeting on December 12, 2009, the Arlington County Board voted to rewrite the County ordinance that establishes the County's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and provides for the designation of local historic districts. The rewrite updates the ordinance and provides additional authority for the HALRB. It should go a long way towards streamlining the work of the HALRB. Historic preservationists owe a debt of gratitude to Rebecca Ballo and other members of the County Government staff for their hard work over many months on the new ordinance.

The rewritten ordinance names the Arlington Historical Society as a source of members for the HALRB, as the old ordinance did. The reference to the Historical Society was retained under an amendment offered at the meeting by County Board Member Mary Hynes, at the urging of the Historical Society. A majority of members of the HALRB had proposed deleting from the ordinance the references to the Historical Society and other civic groups as sources of HALRB members. Several of them agreed with the view that deleting the references to civic groups avoided difficult line drawing.

The Historical Society argued that its fifty-year history and consistent participation in HALRB matters over many years clearly distinguished it from other civic groups.

The County Board postponed consideration of one aspect of the historic preservation ordinance - the legal standard of review to be applied by the County Board in reviewing decisions of the HALRB. The County Board voted to consider that aspect of the ordinance at its meeting in February 2010.

JANUARY & MARCH MEMBER'S MEETINGS

Join us at these upcoming Arlington Historical Society meetings with feature presentations on interesting topics by engaging speakers. Free refreshments follow the presentations. The meetings are held in the auditorium at Central Library, located at 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22201. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

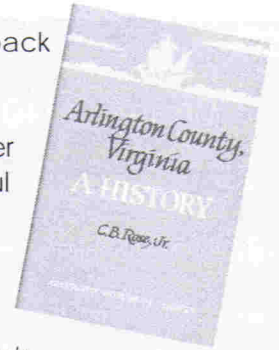
Thursday, January 14 - "Subversive Arlington: The American Nazi Party and Gang Warfare of the 1960s" Local historian Charles Clark, author of several articles for the Arlington Historical Magazine, speaks about this turbulent era in Arlington's history.

Thursday, March 11 - "The History of Women's Clubs in Arlington"

GOOD NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM BOOK SHOP

Eleanor Pourron

Good news for the New Year comes from the Museum Book Shop. Two histories are back in print and better than ever. Cornelia B. Rose's book, *Arlington County, Virginia: A History*, has been reprinted by the Arlington Historical Society with a grant from The Washington Forrest Foundation. The original text remains the same but Society member Willard Webb has created an expanded index that makes the book even more useful as a history of Arlington County. Thanks also to Susan Nelson who helped the Society obtain the grant. Copies of the book are available at the Museum Book Shop for \$25.00. Remember that Society members receive a 10% discount.



In more good news, we now know that Benjamin Franklin Cooling and Walton H. Owen's book, *Mr. Lincoln's Forts* has been revised to include lots of new material that didn't make it into the old edition. More information about units serving at the forts has also been included. This is "the" book to have for local Civil War history information especially since the anniversary of the war will soon be here. Copies will soon be available in the Book Shop at a cost of \$50.00. We are hoping we can also arrange for a book signing sometime in the early spring.

Stop by the Museum Book Shop and see the other books available for sale. History is alive and well at the Arlington Historical Museum.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Arlington National Cemetery isn't the only cemetery of note or historical interest in Arlington. As you drive around this winter and spring, you might drive by one of these other old cemeteries.

The **Travers Family Graveyard** is located at 1309 South Monroe Street. At least 15 members of the related Travers, Whitehead, and Dyer families were interred here, including John N. Travers who died in 1837. His will asks that this space "bee reserved for a bury ground for the family on my west line neavour to bee parted with or tilled as long as eternity shall last."

The **Old Ball Family Burial Ground**, located on Washington Boulevard between North Lincoln Street and North Kirkwood Road, is one of Arlington's oldest family burial grounds. Ensign John Ball (1748-1814), a veteran of the American Revolution is buried there. Also buried there are many of John Ball's descendents, including John Wesley Boldin, a Civil War soldier (Company D, Third Pennsylvania Cavalry), and members of the Marcey, Stricker, Donaldson, and Croson families.

Mt. Olivet Methodist Church Cemetery, located on North 16th Street near North Glebe Road, is Arlington's oldest church site in continuous use. Among those buried in the Mount Olivet cemetery is Sue Landon Vaughan, one of the founders of Decoration Day (now Memorial Day). In Mississippi during April 1865, she began the practice of

decorating the graves of Civil War dead, both Confederate and Union.

The **Southern Shreve Cemetery** is located between North Frederick Street and North Harrison Street off of North 10th Street, behind St. Ann Catholic Church. Five generations of the Southern, Shreve, and related families are buried there. Samuel Shreve arrived in Arlington about 1780. The earliest grave (1832) is that of John Redin (Sixth Continental Line), a veteran of the American Revolution.

The **Ball Carlin Cemetery**, located at 300 South Kensington Street, is where members of the Ball and Carlin families were buried between 1766 and 1908.

Walker Chapel and it's cemetery are located at 4102 North Glebe Road. Walker Chapel, was dedicated July 18, 1876. The Chapel was named for the Walker family who donated the Walker Grave Yard as a site for the church. The earliest recorded burial in the cemetery is that of David Walker, who died in 1848.

(Source: www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org)

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERING FREE ADMISSION IN 2010 BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXPAND MUSEUM ACCESS TO ALL

In a bold move, at the November 18, 2009 board meeting, Virginia Historical Society trustees voted to waive admission fees next year. This decision comes as part of a long-term strategy to promote access to the society's collections and remove obstacles to sharing history. Effective January 2, 2010, it will not cost guests any money to visit the VHS museum or research library. The Virginia Historical Society is presenting the following new exhibitions in 2010:

◆ *Cold War Crisis: The U-2 Incident* (January 16 - May 30, 2010)

◆ *Memories of World War II: Photographs from the Archives of The Associated Press* (May 9 - August 1, 2010)

◆ *Bizarre Bits from Virginia: Oddities of the Collection* (June 12, 2010 - February 13, 2011)

◆ *Virginia Rocks: Rockabilly Music in the Old Dominion* (August 28 - December 30, 2010)

◆ *Organized Labor in Virginia* (September 4 - December 30, 2010).

◆ *The Portent: John Brown's Raid in American Memory and The John Marshall High School Corps of Cadets* opened in October and will continue to be on display until April 11, 2010.

Museum hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call (804) 358-4901 or visit www.vahistorical.org. The Museum is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond, Virginia.

ARLINGTON CHANCERY RECORDS ON LINE

The Library of Virginia (LVA) is pleased to announce the completion of two more digital scanning projects. The processing, indexing, and digital reformatting of the Arlington and Tazewell County chancery causes is now complete. The images have been added to the Chancery Records Index at www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/. The Arlington County index spans the years 1790 through 1842 (additional post-1842 causes will be added at a later date). These localities join thirty-five counties and cities whose chancery causes have been digitally reformatted and made available through the Library's innovative Circuit Court Records Preservation Program, which seeks to preserve the historic records of Virginia's Circuit Courts.

To date, The Library of Virginia has posted over 3.8 million digital chancery images. Seven localities are presently being scanned and will be posted in the coming months. However, due to the recent reductions to the Library of Virginia's budget, the pace of the agency's digital chancery projects will necessarily proceed more slowly.

Chancery causes are cases that are decided on the basis of equity and fairness as opposed to the strictly formulated rules of common law cases. Chancery cases are especially useful when researching local history, genealogical information, and land or estate divisions. They are a valuable source of local, state, social, and legal history and serve as a primary source for understanding a locality's history. Chancery causes often contain correspondence; property lists, including slaves; lists of heirs; and vital statistics, along with many other records. Some of the more common types of chancery causes involve divisions of the estate of a person who died without a will; divorces; settlements of dissolved business partnerships; and resolutions of land disputes.

VOLUNTEER DAY A BIG SUCCESS

Chick Walter, Coordinator of Friends of Hume School

All expectations for the September 26, 2009 Volunteer Day for Hume School grounds [and the Interstate 395 exit landscaping] were exceeded, and the dedicated co-organizer, Bonnie Flynn has been ecstatic over the results.

It marked the first time we were actually able to complete all planned tasks comfortably. Thanks to the more than forty participants and donors, we are truly gaining control over the invasives and weeds that have challenged us over the five years of effort that have gotten us to this point. We are able now to devote an increasing proportion of volunteer effort to new plantings on the rear hill to choke out the weeds that we previously fought.

In addition, our Mormon singles team, joined by Arlington Historical Society President Jennifer Sales and neighbor Stephanie Moran, put the finish coat of paint on the front iron fence. In addition, neighbors Eric Rishel and Steve Epstein did an above-and-beyond job of engineering stepped, gravel-filled dams to control the washout from the Museum's two roof drains that empty onto the hill.

We had a great response from several neighbors for plant donations, which our Garden Club and Mormon partners planted on the hill. We also received generous donations that will aid us in buying a more strategic group of plants for the next effort. As usual, a large turnout from the Mormon

singles meant no weed on the back hill saw sunset that day.

Our nearby neighbors graciously provided much-needed overflow parking, which freed a few spaces for gravel deliveries and late arrivals.

A great deal of our success this time can also be attributed to Rich Kelly's generous use of his maintenance crew to mow, weed-whack, and chemically treat the rear hill over the past few months. In addition, his hotdogs and chile fueled a pleasant social time at lunch.

Our County Parks and State Extension Service partners continue to support our volunteer days with tools and supplies through their joint Remove Invasive Plants program, which was instrumental in seeding this whole effort about four years ago.

We also appreciate the independent effort of the local Ladies' Club to fund the painting of the School, with much-needed restoration of the windows. This effort is ongoing, and was funded by the Club's annual Bazaar held the past few years. In addition, Dick Herbst, ARCA's past President, has been doing interior carpentry to support the massive effort undertaken by Linda Guoaze to inventory and organize artifacts owned by the Historical Society. Thanks to everyone for your continuing support for the Museum and grounds.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE TO BENEFIT THE HUME SCHOOL A SUCCESS!



Frosty flurries on Saturday, December fifth only added to the holiday cheer found at the fourth annual Holiday Boutique, hosted by the Aurora Hills Women's Club. The Women's Club holds the annual Holiday Boutique to benefit the building fund of the Arlington Historical Museum, also known as the historic Hume School, a neighborhood and county landmark. Thanks to the Women's Club's generous donations, much-needed exterior painting and window repair was completed in November, with plans for the second phase of repairs and restoration underway.

Book Reviews

By Willard Webb
Visit the Virginia Room

***No Quarter, the Battle of the Crater, 1864.* by Richard Stolkin**

Stolkin has provided a detailed account of one of the Civil War's pivotal battles. The brilliantly conceived plan called for Union forces to burrow a tunnel under a Confederate fort and blow a hole inside. A powerful infantry assault would follow, which it was anticipated would drive Lee's army away from the defense of Richmond and end the war. Sadly, all did not go according to plan. A massive explosion did rip open a massive crater that became a death hole for thousands of troops, Union and Confederate. Cries of "No quarter" on both sides ended with the massacre of wounded and surrendering troops. All Civil War buffs will want to read this book.

***A Pride of Place: Rural Residences of Fauquier County Virginia* by Kimberly Prothro Williams**

Interested in Fauquier County, a particular house there, or just old houses? This voluminous book will provide you more information than you could want. From grand horse country estates to modest cottages and cabins, it carefully catalogues Fauquier houses of the County with brief histories, and excellent descriptions and photos. It will make a good addition to your local history shelf.

***Religion and the Making of Nat Turner's Virginia* by Randolph Ferguson Scully**

Scully offers a new interpretation of the rise of evangelical Christianity in the early American South by reconstructing the complex biracial history of the Baptist movement in southeastern Virginia. This, he hopes, will lead to a better understanding of the 1831 revolt by slave preacher, Nat Turner,

and his fellow slaves in Southampton County. Reaction to the revolt intensified the trend toward segregation of black and white religion in the antebellum period with lasting effects on race relations and religious culture in America. This work contributes to our knowledge of religion, society, and slavery in early Virginia and is a must for all interested in the background of race relations in Virginia.

***Mr. Jefferson's Women* by Jon Kukla**

Everyone today is well aware of recent research on Thomas Jefferson and his slave mistress, Sally Hemings, but what about the other women in Jefferson's life? Jon Kukla, a former director of historical research at the Library of Virginia, examines Jefferson's surprisingly hostile attitude toward women and then looks at the five women who played a role in Jefferson's adult life: Rebecca Burwell who rejected his early proposal of marriage; Elizabeth Moore Walker, the wife of a friend whom he attempted to seduce; Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson, his beloved wife who died after ten years of marriage; Maria Cosway with whom he had a romantic relationship while in Paris; and Sally Hemings, his wife's mulatto slave half sister and with whom he possibly fathered seven children.

***Virginia Horse Racing, Triumphs of the Turf* by Virginia C. Johnson and Barbara Crookshanks**

Horses and horse racing have always occupied an important place in Virginia life. This interest dates back to the very beginning when a stallion and six mares arrived in Jamestown in 1616. Unfortunately, they were used for food rather than racing. But both horse breeding and racing began shortly thereafter and were much enjoyed during the colonial period and throughout the following years. The authors give many fascinating vignettes about races and horses, illustrated with numerous photos. They remind us that, although the majority of thoroughbred breeding and racing operations had moved to Kentucky by the end of the 19th Century, Secretariat, the 1973 Triple Crown winner, was foaled in Virginia. Everyone who loves racing will want this book.

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1805 South Arlington Ridge Road

Open Saturdays & Sundays

1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free

Come visit our permanent exhibits on
the 200+ year history of the county.



BALL SELLERS HOUSE

5620 South Third Street

Open Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

April through October with special
events scheduled during this time.

There is no admission fee, but a
donation is appreciated.

Also arrange a visit by
calling 703-379-2123.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

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and Gang Warfare of the 1960s"

Thursday, March 11, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.

"The History of Women's Clubs in Arlington"

Both will take place in the auditorium at
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