



Newsletter

Volume 55 No. 2



www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Letter from the President

Visits to my son at the Air Force Academy have afforded me the opportunity to explore a few small, local historical museums (Colorado Springs, Cripple Creek, Victor, and Cañon City), which are in many ways similar to our own exceptional Hume School Museum. However, one feature that in every case stands out in difference is the way the Museums (and their respective supporting historical societies) are funded. These Museums' operating budgets include funding from admission, membership fees AND from local municipalities. The municipalities clearly recognize that these museums furnish a huge return on investment by attracting and drawing in tourists and visitors, in addition to serving functions essential to maintaining civic culture: preserving local history, supporting public education, and providing a research source for often unique historical information.

In the case of the Arlington Historical Society, we receive no funds from Arlington County. We charge no admission for entrance to our superb museum. As a result, we must rely solely on membership fees, and occasional other donations from a very few generous benefactors to fund our operations and maintenance costs, which continue to rise—despite your Board of Directors' over 100 collective hours spent trimming and cutting every possible cent from our expense budget. We have no paid staff; all of our Directors, Committees, and wonderful Docents serve as "full-time" volunteers. In spite of rigorous financial scrutiny and deep cuts in almost every line item, our Society budget again this year will be in deficit approaching \$15,000. Clearly, this is not a sustainable basis for funding our Society and our two unique, wonderful historical facilities. Your Board is responding on several fronts, investigating funding from other sources, such as corporate sponsorships. Articles in this Newsletter provide details on these initiatives. I welcome any suggestions or assistance on how we might improve our income situation to stabilize our budget in the black. Ad hoc grants and donations are of course always greatly appreciated! However, since annual dues are our single largest source of income, I urge you to renew your membership if you haven't (see enclosed form), and to encourage your friends, colleagues, associates, family near and far who have an interest in Arlington's rich history to join.

In addition to revenues, we are also in need of an HTML-savvy volunteer website coordinator/manager. In the interim, I apologize if our website is not up-to-date at all times. We also are in need of a Director who can serve as Treasurer, and someone to take over as Chairman of the Ball-Sellers Committee. Thank you all for your continuing support! Just as we have much to look back on, we have even more to look forward to!

Thomas Dickinson

In This Issue:

2 & 3

Carlin Springs:
A Road Through
Time

4

Cyclic Textile
Maintenance with
APS

5

New Feature!
"Why Do We Call
It...?"

6

Events and
Fundraising
Information

Carlin Springs: *A Road Through Time*

Carlin Springs Road starts at the Ballston Mall and Glebe Road and meanders south towards Columbia Pike. Does the Carlin Springs Road go to the old springs? A look at an historical map in the Arlington Historical Society's Hume School Museum gift shop shows the approximate location of the springs as east of today's Carlin Springs Road and south of Four Mile Run.

Early History

In the nineteenth century visiting springs for health and recreation was a popular pastime in Virginia. A railway station was erected in the 1870s near two springs on a wooded tract of land with deep ravines and streams once owned by both the Ball and Carlin families. John F. Carlin decided to develop a picnic and excursion resort which could be reached by train from Washington and Alexandria. The springs were bricked in and pavilions for dancing and dining were built near the station along with a tournament course at the top of the hill near what is now 5th Street South. All major political meetings of the area were held at Carlin Springs. There was a popular swimming hole at the confluence of Lubber Run and Four Mile Run. The operation of the resort by the Carlin family was brief, with the land being included in a sale to the developers of the Glencarlyn neighborhood in 1887. The resort buildings were demolished with the natural park setting preserved and dedicated in 1891. The name of Carlin Springs village was changed in 1896 to Glencarlyn. Arlington County acquired Glencarlyn Park, one of the largest in the County, in 1943. The springs and historical marker can still be seen today from the park trails.



Above: Photo taken at Carlin Springs around the turn of the last century, from a photo now in the Arlington Historical Society Collection at the Virginia Room, Arlington County Public Library.



Above: Carlin Springs today. The bricked in springs still produces water. Photographs by William Sale.

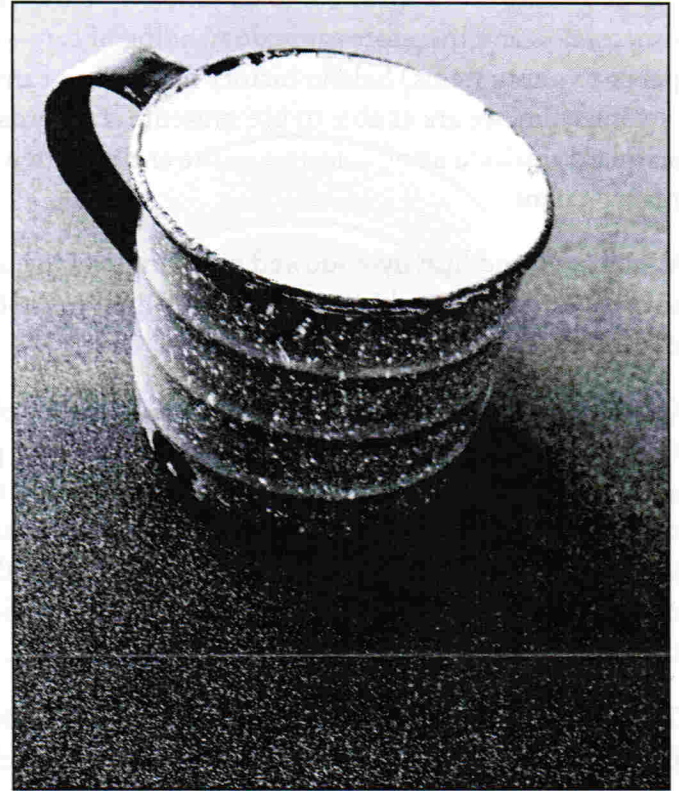
Carlin Springs: A Road Through Time

Cont.

Communal Drinking Cup at Springs

An historic photograph from the AHS collection at the Virginia Room, Arlington County Public Library, shows visitors drinking from the Carlin Springs around the turn of the 20th century. Travelers were fortunate to drink from many cool running springs in Arlington County. The AHS collection also includes a blue-and-white enamel cup with handle, which was used as a common drinking cup at the spring east of Lyon Village Community House, c. 1930 (Donated by Mrs. Charles Bittering). Prior to the introduction of the paper cup, the common drinking cup or “tin dipper” was used at public fountains, springs and wells. Public health concerns would prompt the abolition of communal drinking cups and provide a market for the disposable paper cup (remember Dixie cups?) and later the polystyrene cup and plastic water bottle. Luckily the famous springs and the beauty of the wilderness at Glencarlyn Park are still to be enjoyed by all. The Springs’ legacy—public discourse on health, the environment, and the disposable consumer society—will no doubt continue.

“The springs and historical marker can still be seen today from the Glencarlyn Park trails.”



Above: Blue-and-white enamel cup with handle used as a common drinking cup at the spring east of Lyon Village Community House, c. 1930 (Donated by Mrs. Charles Bittering).

References:

Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County*, 1959
Nan and Ross Netherton, *Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History*, 1987
G. M. Hopkin's *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C.* 1878

Online Fundraising Campaign Starting Soon

AHS is committed to helping the community by providing public events, collaborating with schools, and running our two free museums. However, we need your financial support in order to continue furnishing these valuable services. The Hume School's 18-year-old-air conditioning unit has broken and needs to be replaced. The Ball-Sellers House needs major repair work and we have lost our funding for publishing the Arlington Historical Magazine. Thus we have set a goal of raising \$10,000 by December 31, 2010.

To help us reach this goal we are using a program called Alumni Fidelity (www.alumnifidelity.com). We are planning to solicit contributions from our entire membership via Alumni Fidelity's e-mail service in October. We have also posted a “Donate Here” button on our website, which you can use to donate right now! The Society is using Alumni Fidelity solely to help us set up this donation website and send these e-mails. Please note that your e-mail address will not be shared.

Thank you very much for all your support! We couldn't do this without you!

Questions or comments? Please call 978-807-0134 or e-mail MatthewT.Keough@gmail.com

 **AlumniFidelity**[®]
The finest way to add is to multiply.[™]

Cyclic Textile Maintenance

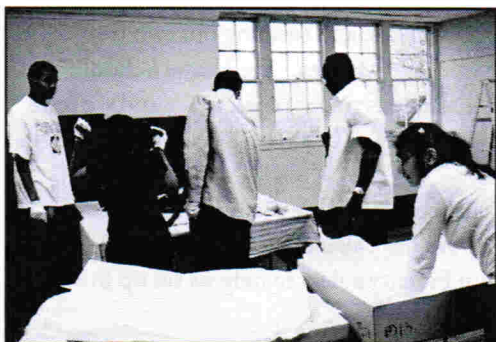
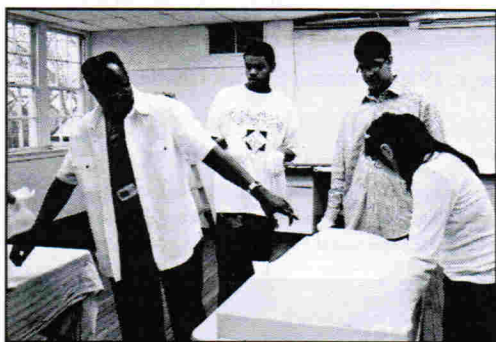
Students Preserve Fragile Artifacts

Textiles are more attractive to common destructive pests and more vulnerable to inexorable chemical processes—and therefore more demanding of care—than most of the 3-D artifacts (as distinguished from paper or photo items) held in history museums of any size. But, since such care is largely done by hand in any museum, we are as able to use museum standards in caring for our textiles as is a larger museum. These standards include using acid-free tissue and acid-free storage boxes, temperature/humidity control, and pest management.

While large and heavily-endowed museums can invest in sealed containers and clean rooms for storage to simplify their care problems, our best weapon against depredations to our textile collections is sure and steady cyclic maintenance.

On a twice-yearly schedule, our cyclic maintenance plan for each textile involves unpacking, inspecting, vacuuming, and repacking as loosely and “fluffily” as possible, using the aforementioned acid-free materials, and storing in our climate-controlled museum building. Inspection and vacuuming constitute our first line of defense against insect pests like clothes moth larvae, carpet beetles, and silverfish. We didn’t find any infestations during this past year. Sticking strictly to the twice-yearly vacuuming schedule—hopefully, with the continued outstanding help of the Arlington Public Schools (APS) team—will give us our best shot at keeping things that way.

These photos illustrate the vacuuming process the 2009-2010 APS team undertook—and completed flawlessly—and help to explain why we are so grateful for their help.



Photos by Barbara Kelley

Clockwise from top left:

Cornell Hunter ensures that APS team members use correct museum techniques to shift a 19th-century cotton dress from its acid-free storage box to the worktable for vacuuming.

A student prepares to wield the shoulder-mounted vacuum as other students lay out the old dress. The dress will then be vacuumed through a piece of protective screening to keep the vacuum from pulling up the fragile textile.

The team carefully cleans the fragile dress. Per museum best practices, all team members wear white gloves when handling artifacts.

A team member readies the acid-free storage box for the dress’s return by lining it with fresh acid-free tissue. She also stacks additional tissue next to the box for gently stuffing sleeves and interleaving between textile layers as the dress is repacked.

WHY Do We Call It...??

Ever Wonder How Rosslyn Got Its Name?

In 1860, William Henry Ross, husband of Caroline Lambden (sometimes spelled Carolyn), received a large farm on the Virginia waterfront opposite Georgetown from his father-in-law, Joseph Lambden, to which he gave the name Rosslyn. One possibility for the origin of the place name is the combination of the couple's names. A second possibility derives from the area's geographic features: Lyn or lynn is an obsolete spelling of linn meaning, variously, a torrent running over rocks, a pool of water, or a ravine with precipitous sides.

The occupation of Arlington by Federal troops during the Civil War drove the Rosses from their home, and they were in France in 1869 when they sold the farm to a group of people who subsequently formed the Rosslyn Development Company. This company acquired additional acreage which also was sold off in lots in the Town of Rosslyn.

Note: General John Mason who owned much property in Arlington and who lived at Analostan, or Mason's Island (now Roosevelt Island), had tried in the late 1700s to establish a town, South Haven, where Rosslyn is located, but became insolvent before he could do so.

For many years, the Arlington Historical Society has sold a booklet, "Why Do We Call It...?" at the Arlington Historical Museum. We're taking this information, reformatting it, correcting it, and updating it where appropriate, and re-publishing it as a softcover book, to be available just in time for holiday gift-giving. You can reserve a copy (or copies) in advance by sending your check for \$9.40 per copy (\$8.95 member-discounted price plus VA sales tax) plus \$4.00 shipping and handling to AHS, P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210. If you would like to order 10 or more copies, please contact AHS for additional discounts. The book makes a great gift, one that is sure to be appreciated.

A new regular Newsletter feature!

AHS Membership Meeting

November 2010 General Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 4th, 7pm - 8:30pm

"Arlington's Veterans Share Their Stories"

Arlington Central Library Auditorium
1015 N. Quincy St.

Diane Gates, Programs Chair dgates@arlingtonva.us 703-228-5955

Volunteers Needed

The Programs Committee needs members to help with publicity and refreshments and to provide general assistance at membership meetings and other events. For more information, please contact:

Diane Gates, Programs Chair
dgates@arlingtonva.us
703-228-5955

Renew Your Membership!

Don't forget to renew your annual membership! Annual dues cover from July 1st to June 30th. The attached membership form is also available at the AHS Museum or can be downloaded at: www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.com.

Your Annual Membership includes:

- A quarterly newsletter
- Copy of the annual AHS Magazine
- Discounts at the AHS Museum bookshop
- Invitations to special member-only events

Memberships make great gifts for friends and family!

No-Sweat Fundraising

Did you know you can help the Arlington Historical Society raise money without writing a check? If you buy things online, or if you are upgrading to Verizon FiOS (or upgrading your FiOS services), you can help AHS raise the funds it needs to operate the Arlington Historical Museum and the Ball-Sellers House. Here's how:

When shopping online, you can support the Arlington Historical Society by accessing your favorite online retailers through this site. Simply register at www.ShopForMuseums.com and select Arlington Historical Society as your beneficiary. The retailers will make donations to the Arlington Historical Society for each purchase—it couldn't be easier! Many major retailers participate, including Target, Macy's, Walmart, Gap, HSN, Buy.com, Sports Authority, and even eBay.

When ordering services, use this special **Verizon Velocity** phone number: **1-888-695-5299** and provide our code: 14251. A Verizon FiOS Triple Freedom order (phone, TV and high-speed Internet) will generate up to a \$65 donation to AHS. Best of all, Verizon will honor any special offers you see advertised or receive in the mail.

How to order new Verizon services through Velocity:

Step 1 Call **1.888.695.5299**
(MON-FRI 8:00am – 10:00pm EST, SAT 8:00am – 6:00pm EST)

Step 2 Provide our code **14251**
to the Verizon representative.

Donations are paid on the following qualified new product orders:

RESIDENTIAL PRODUCT	ONE-TIME DONATION
Verizon Internet (FiOS® or High Speed Internet)	\$25.00
Verizon TV (FiOS or DIRECTV®)	\$20.00
Verizon Phone Service (FiOS Digital Voice, Freedom™ Calling Plan)	\$10.00
Verizon Long Distance	\$10.00

Upcoming Events

“A Day With Mosby” Symposium and Benefit

October 2nd, 10:00am - 4:00pm at 500 Siler Rd. Winchester, VA (\$18 admission includes lunch)
Details and Registration call 540-664-7820 or e-mail kimberly@turnerashby184.com

Open House at Merrybrook: Residence of Laura Ratcliffe, Civil War Heroine and Spy

October 3rd, 1:30pm - 4:00pm at 2346 Centreville Rd. Herndon, VA (Free admission, refreshments)
Details call 703-720-4541 or 703-919-7811

Fairfax Co. Cemetery Preservation and Restoration Seminar

October 23rd - 24th at Frying Pan Farm Park (Free admission, limited space available)
Details and Registration call 703-437-9101 or visit honorfairfaxcemeteries.org

6th Annual Fairfax Co. History Conference: Growing Historic Preservation in Virginia

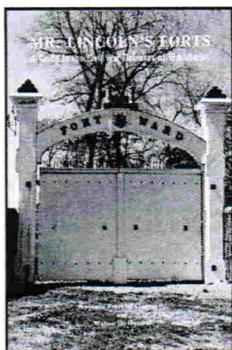
November 6th, 8:30am - 4:14pm at James Lee Community Center (\$20 admission includes lunch)
Details and Registration call 703-322-1811 or e-mail lghassoc@erols.com

Visit the bulletin board in the Virginia Room at Arlington Central Library for more events!

Book Reviews

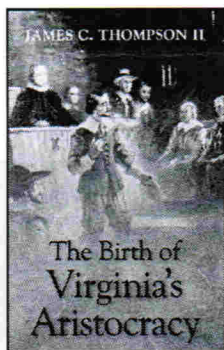
by Willard Webb

Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owens II, *Mr. Lincoln's Forts, A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*. Scarecrow Press, 2010, pp. 309.



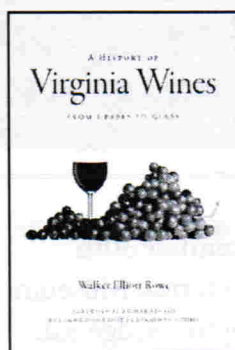
Civil War buffs, military historians, preservationists, and all those who like to explore their neighborhoods will greet with enthusiasm the revised and updated edition of this now classic work. Originally published in 1988, the general layout and content remain basically unchanged, but the photos are greatly enlarged and of much better quality. In addition, the authors have inserted plans and engineering drawings throughout the volume as the various forts are covered and then consolidated these plans and drawings together in a new appendix. The volume remains a must for all interested in the Civil War in the Washington area.

James C. Thompson II, *The Birth of Virginia's Aristocracy*. Commonwealth Books, 2010, pp. 151.



Thompson traces how the first civil society formed in Virginia, what purposes it served, who its members were, and what happened to it as it aged. The transformation of Virginia's leading families into an "aristocracy" was the final stage of the first society. The end result was a mechanism that preserved the community at-large by perpetuating the authority of Virginia patriarchs. Readers will find that the process of the formation and evolution of colonial society bore no clear resemblance to the process theorized by the political thinkers of the time, such as Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. Thompson suggests that understanding what happened in colonial Virginia will help modern observers understand the subsequent development of Virginia's history. Included are photos of portraits of prominent members of the Virginia aristocracy.

Walker Elliott Rowe, *A History of Virginia Wines, From Grapes to Glass*. History Press, 2009, pp. 129.



Thomas Jefferson became a wine enthusiast during his years in France. He returned to Virginia and planted a vineyard at Monticello, but within several years all the vines died. Subsequent efforts to develop vineyards and wine-making have been far more successful, and vineyards and wineries now flourish throughout the state. In this slim volume, Rowe traces the development of wine-making in Virginia and then looks at the top vineyards and their history. The book gives no sources and lacks an index, which limits its usefulness.

Visit the Virginia Room at the Arlington Central Library for all kinds of historical materials!

Arlington HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 1956 and incorporated under the laws of Virginia for literary and educational purposes that support research, collection, preservation, discovery, restoration, and dissemination of the local history of Arlington County.

Arlington Historical Museum

1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.
Open Saturdays & Sundays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free
Come visit our permanent exhibits on
the 200+ year history of the country



Ball Sellers House

5620 South Third St.
Open Saturdays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
April through October with special
events scheduled during this time. Free
admission, but donations are appreciated.
Also arrange a visit by calling
703-379-2123



www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

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Visit

Mr. McGuire's Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkins • Gourds • Mushrooms • Holiday Trimmings



Please stop by with friends and family to stock up for Fall!

Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/dm McGuire6/Picasa#>

Opening September 30th
at the Arlington Historical Museum
1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.