



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 55, NO. 3 WINTER 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

History is all around us, as are the people who have made history, as well as the fragments of the physical world that have not been permanently lost or destroyed. This was made abundantly clear to all who attended the Arlington Historical Society public program at Central Library on November 4, entitled "Tribute to Arlington Veterans." It was the Society Board's intent to pay tribute to all past and present service members by recognizing several local veterans, who represented those who served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Panama, the first Gulf War, Bosnia/Kosovo, and the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thanks to the diligence and determination of **Diane Gates**, our Program Committee Chair, we had local veterans from all of these phases of our military history.

With each and every one of these veterans of combat came unique and fascinating stories of individual courage, strength, dedication, performance under duress, honor and duty in service to our country. What is most striking is that all of these people have served honorably and bravely, and then have returned to civilian life and blended in quietly with the fabric of our local society. There is no way to know of the heroics and dedication of these soldiers and of all of those whom they represent because they do not, by nature, call attention to themselves. Only in such an event as that provided by AHS are such individuals brought forward and to our attention, and duly recognized and honored for what they (and their families) have given and sacrificed in defense of our values and our freedoms.

Therefore, in this space, as we celebrate the peace of the holidays and look forward with optimism to the New Year, let us look back with gratitude to these men and woman, and all whom they represent, who served our country in war and in peace: World War II - **Fred R. Carmichael Sr., Robert B. McAtee, David D. Peete, Thaddeus Taylor**; Korea - **Elizabeth A. Haynes and David D. Peacefull**; Vietnam - **James R. Campbell and Dan Dennison**; First Gulf War/Desert Storm - **Michael Conrad Agresti, III, Carl M. Kime**, and the **Rev. Ernie T. Moore**; Iraq/Afghanistan - **Christian Rankin and Terron Sims II. Andy Barr**, Korean War Vet, was also scheduled to attend, but he had to cancel. (It was my great surprise to learn that Mr. Carmichael, an usher at my church whom I'd seen for years but did not know, was a World War II veteran, with a typically proud and illustrious military service record! Indeed, history is all around us, as are those who made it!) Special thanks also to **Les Albers**, veteran, military historian, and history teacher at W-L, who served as program moderator for our Tribute to Arlington Veterans.

We have completed yet another great year tending to and promoting the illustrious history of Arlington, and the years ahead promise many more great public programs, exhibits and events at the Hume School and Ball-Sellers House. 2011 will mark the Sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War; commemoration plans are already underway. Thank you all for your continuing interest, participation and support in AHS. If there are programs you think we should present, or events or people we should celebrate, or if you'd like to contribute your time, treasure, or talent to the Society, please contact me at tomwd3@gmail.com, or call 703-841-4992. Happy Holidays and a healthy, prosperous New Year to all!

Tom Dickinson



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AHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 20, 2011
7-8:30 p.m.

"Black Entrepreneurship in
Segregated Arlington County,
Virginia"

Nancy Perry, George Mason
University, Research Faculty
Department of Geography

Arlington Central Library
Auditorium
1015 N. Quincy St.

2010 DOCENT ACTIVITIES

By Matthew Keough, Docent Coordinator



Ball-Sellers House

The Arlington Historical Society docents at both the Hume School and the Ball-Sellers House have had an exciting year. We have had some sad losses but have welcomed some new additions to the docent lineup. There have been some challenges and unique situations, like the pumpkin sale. On the other hand, we had a very festive time at the Docent Social on April 24 and look forward to exciting things in the future.

The docent schedule has seen a lot of changes over the past year. We were all saddened to learn of the death of a long-time docent and former AHS President, **Bob Watson**. We also miss seeing **Laura Watson** docenting on the fifth Sunday of each month, since she has retired from volunteering. More recently, we were saddened to learn that a founding member and docent, **Bette Clements**, had another stroke (see page 7). We also thank **Janet Lefferts** and **Seymour Stiss**, who are both retiring, for their long and dedicated service to the AHS. There have also been some welcomed additions to the docent lineup. Both **Savannah Timme** and **Ali Ferrell** were new this year and have become regular docents at the Hume School. **Peter Vliet** graciously agreed to substitute for **Seymour Stiss** and has become a full-time docent. Some newer additions, such as

Dana Lynn, **Tina Yu**, **Linda Endquist**, and **Michelle Dacus Car**, have also greatly helped the stability of the docent schedule. We are always looking for more docents, so please contact me if you are interested in joining this exciting group of people.

There have been some challenges over the past year. The Ball-Sellers security system and fire detection system both need to be replaced because of some false alarms that have been occurring. The head of the Ball-Sellers Committee, **Kevin Vincent**, has done a great job keeping the board of directors informed of the updates that need to occur at the house. Luckily for Kevin, he has found a new job, but this means we are in search of a new head of the Ball-Sellers Committee. Thanks to the docents, the oldest standing house in Virginia is still thriving and ready to invite more new eyes to come see its treasures. At the Hume School Museum, there was a pumpkin sale in the front lawn during the month of October. This created more work for the docents due to the increase visitors and people asking for change. Thanks especially to **Eleanor Pourron** for making sure the bookstore was always fully supplied. The air conditioner also broke, so this created an eyesore, with buckets in the middle of the museum to catch the falling water over the summer.

Although we faced many challenges over the past year and will face more challenges in the future, there is still a great deal to be excited about. The annual docent social was held on April 24 at the Hume School Museum, and it was a resounding success. Thanks to **Jennifer Crane** and **Diane Gates** for helping to coordinate the logistics of this fantastic event. Another event, a docent gathering/holiday reception, was held on December 5. In addition, **Lois Chadbourne** is working on a new docent orientation packet which will help new volunteers become better acclimated to the Arlington Historical Society! Personally, I want to give a huge thank you to all the current and former docents of the Arlington Historical Society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

Civil War Forts of South Arlington

January 8, 9 a.m. to noon

Visit and learn about historic forts. Lubber Run Center, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington. Registration + \$15 fee required: 703-228-4747; activity #622740-B.

February

Love and Legacy

February 14, 2 p.m.

Susan Inskeep Gray, curator of the Fairfax

Museum & Visitor Center, tells the story of the Civil War romance of Antonia Ford of Fairfax, a suspected Confederate spy, and Union Army Major Joseph C. Willard. 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Free. 703-385-8414.

Civil War Forts of North Arlington

February 26, 9 a.m. to noon

Visit and learn about historic forts, many of which are now county parks. Meet at Fort Ethan Allen Park, 3829 N. Stafford St., Arlington. Registration + \$15 fee required: 703-228-4747; activity #622740-C.

March

Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington

March 20, 2 p.m.

Presented by award-winning author Walton H. Owen II, who co-wrote *Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington* with Benjamin Franklin Cooling. Held at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Free. 703-591-0560.

To learn about more area events, visit the Virginia Room at Arlington Central Library.

RECORD TURNOUT FOR VOLUNTEER DAY

By Chick Walter
 Coordinator, Friends of Hume School
 President, Arlington Ridge Civic Association

With perfect working weather, nearly 60 neighbors came out for Fall Volunteer Day at Arlington Historical Museum/Hume School grounds on October 16. The record numbers were largely due to a local **Mormon/Latter Day Saints** singles group of more than 40 people. With this many hands we were able to add two locations to our restoration and maintenance efforts: the small triangle in the center of the I-395 exit, and the triangle in the center of the Ft. Scott Drive intersection with S. 23rd Street. This is in addition to the main effort around Hume School, and the southwest side of the I-395 exit, which we have maintained for about five years now. And volunteers still finished earlier than in the past.

Bonnie Flynn oversaw a dozen workers at the I-395 exit. The center triangle required a lot of work, as it had become overgrown. **Schon Oppert** joined in by clearing debris down by the flashing lights that ARCA got VDOT to install with the urging of **Bob Dolehide** and **Andrea Walker**, and the assistance of State Senator **Patsy Ticer** and Representative **Bob Brink** and their staffs.

At the triangle in the intersection of Ft. Scott Drive with S. 23rd Street, local Garden Club members **Katie Buck**, **Ethelmary Maddox** and **Joan Quinn** planned and oversaw a new beautification effort, with the help of three LDS folks, on the triangle at the Ft. Scott intersection with S. 23rd St. Expect to see tulips there in the spring.

Around Hume School, we continued weeding, planting new shrubs and plants, pruning the three garden areas, and general cleanup. In addition to dozens of highly motivated LDS folks, some of our charter members and abutting neighbors helped guide the efforts. **Deb Geneoulas** and **Don Clarke** worked the north and south gardens and fences. Tree Steward **Nancy Kent** oversaw pruning and planting in the rear garden. **Dawn Clarke** and my wife **Sandy** handled morning refreshments, and **Rich Kelly** and his son, **Sean**, handled the lunch.

The County provided us tools and mulch at the three locations. County and Extension Service helped provide the impetus six years ago to take this effort beyond three over-the-hill retirees trying to clear stairs and walks, to a total grounds restoration and the creation of a park environment behind Hume, incorporating three County parcels in addition to the Arlington Historical Society hill parcel behind the school. Thanks to Parks Maintenance folks under **Caroline Temmermand**, **Jamie Bartalon**, and **Patrick Wegeng**. **Kurt Louis** has also been indispensable in the restoration of the stairs and asphalt path behind Hume, and the neighborhood sign at the I-395 exit.

While many were not aware of the roughly 250 LDS singles living in AHCA and ARCA, their presence will be more obvious in the future when their meeting house is completed at 745 S. 23rd Street in a renovated former office building. **Laura Harrison** is our current service chairperson for the singles group. The volunteers have given us an essential capability to tackle the work around Hume School and beyond.

Thanks to all for a restoration and maintenance effort that continues to both fulfill and exceed our original vision.



Nearly 60 people donated their time and effort on Fall Volunteer Day, held October 16 at Arlington Historical Museum/Hume School.

TRIBUTE TO ARLINGTON VETERANS

By Tom Dickinson, AHS President

Our Arlington veterans hit a collective grand slam home run at the AHS program “Arlington’s Veterans Share Their Stories” on November 4. Each and every speaker – representing WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Iraq/Afghanistan wars – provided unique and moving personal insights and thoughts on what their service to their country meant to them. It was a program diminished only by the limitation of two hours with 15 speakers. Several speakers could have easily used the entire time just for their own stories!

Diane Gates deserves a huge thank you for arranging this superb program. Also, a big thank you to **Maj. Les Albers**, Washington-Lee history teacher, for his excellent job moderating and asking thought-provoking questions of the veterans. Thank you also to **Patty Kime, Diane** and **Susan Daniel** for bringing lots and lots of refreshments and for help setting up. Thank you to **Alice Andors** for rushing from work to get the tent cards made and on the table and for helping set up.

Thanks to all service men and women and their families who have sacrificed so much for all of us. Although they are too modest to admit it, their sacrifices make them heroes because they do what has to be done – the really hard, sometimes unimaginably tough jobs – for all the rest of us who enjoy the many blessings and freedoms we sometimes take for granted.

Thank you again to all who contributed.



Arlington veterans provided personal insights and thoughts at AHS’ “Arlington’s Veterans Share Their Stories” on November 4.

AHS NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Arlington Historical Society seeks a web manager to update and maintain its website, www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering for this position, please contact volunteer coordinator Matthew Keough at matthewt.keough@gmail.com.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AHS

AHS memberships make great holiday gifts! The attached membership form is also available at the AHS Museum.

Memberships include:

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

DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF HISTORY?

If so, please consider sharing it with the Arlington Historical Society. AHS is soliciting found films and photographs of historic structures and landmarks in Arlington. Please identify and send to Arlington Historical Society, P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210.

WHY DO WE CALL IT? BAILEY'S CROSSROADS

By Alice Andors, AHS Director

This important intersection was formed when Columbia Pike was constructed (1808-1812) and reached the old road from Alexandria to Leesburg (now Seminary Road). The opening of the new Leesburg Pike (1818-1838), now Route 7, made five forks at this point.

In 1837, **Hachaliah Bailey** of Westchester, N.Y., acquired the surrounding land and gave it its name. It became the winter headquarters for his small circus, which featured America's first elephant. He deeded it to his daughter-in-law, **Mariah Bailey**, wife of **Louis Bailey**, in 1843. **Mariah Bailey** upgraded the former Bontz's Tavern to the Cross Roads Inn. She fed and housed travelers, circus personnel and cattle drovers until 1861, when the Civil War put an end to the circus.

The Why Do We Call It column is excerpted from the book, *Why Do We Call It...? Thumbnail Histories of Arlington County Place Names*, published by the Arlington Historical Society. The book is available at the Arlington Historical Museum, or you can reserve a copy (or copies) 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!

**WHY DO
WE CALL IT?**

AHS 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

Save these dates for exciting AHS programs.
For updates and additions, please visit
www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

January

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, January 20
"Black Entrepreneurship in Segregated
Arlington County, Virginia"
Nancy Perry, George Mason University
Research Faculty, Department of Geography

March

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, March 17

April

Docent Lunch, TBD

May

Open House - Potomac Overlook Regional Park
Sunday, May 1
AHS will host an information/display table

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, May 19

June

Annual Membership Dinner, TBD

September

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, September 15

November

Membership Meeting/Program*
Thursday, November 17

Co-sponsor program with Potomac Overlook
Saturday, November 19, 7-8:30 p.m.
"Indians of Arlington County," Karl VanNewkirk

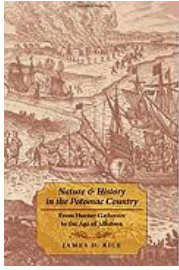
December

Winter Social
Saturday, December 3, 7-8:30 p.m.
Hume School

*All Membership Meeting/Program events will be held
7-8:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library Auditorium.

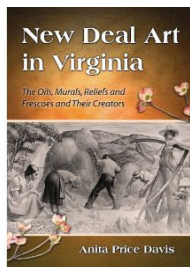
For more information:
Diane Gates, 703.228.5955, dgates@arlingtonva.us

BOOK REVIEWS BY WILLARD WEBB



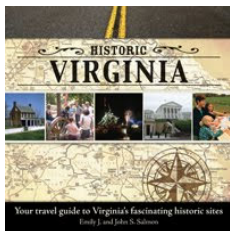
James D. Rice, *Nature & History in the Potomac Country: From Gatherers to the Age of Jefferson*. Johns Hopkins Un. Press, 2009, pp. 338.

Rice traces the history of the Potomac Valley from the earliest inhabitants through the colonial period. He looks at the history of the Potomac from a different vantage point and finds environmental factors at the center of the story. He uses extensive archaeological and anthropological research as well as the vast scholarship on colonial farming practices. *Nature & History in the Potomac Country* is a useful and innovative study of the Potomac River.



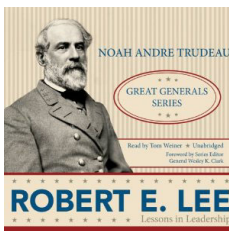
Anita Price Davis, *New Deal Art in Virginia: the Oils, Murals, Reliefs and Frescoes and Their Creators*. McFarland & Co., 2009, pp. 218.

Davis has gathered in a single volume the images of New Deal art in Virginia together with biographical information on the artists and details of the programs that sponsored art in federal buildings from 1933 to 1943. Following a general introduction, the author goes location (county and city) by location throughout the state. Arlington is represented by the seven murals by Auriel Bessemer in the Arlington post office in Clarendon: “Early Indian Life on Anolostan Island,” “Captain John Smith Meeting the Massawomech Indians,” “Tobacco Picking in the Colonial Era,” “Robert E. Lee Accepting the Command of the Armies of Virginia,” “Arlington Polo Players at Fort Myer,” “An Old Fashioned Picnic at Great Falls,” and “Apple Harvest.” Born Auriel Boszormey of Hungarian parents in what would become Czechoslovakia, he immigrated at an early age with his parents to the United States. He studied under a number of noted artists and muralists. He also did murals for post offices in South Carolina and Mississippi.



Emily J. and John S. Salmon, *Historic Virginia*. Trade Paper Press, 2009, pp.228.

This comprehensive guide to Virginia historic places is a book you might want to keep in your car as you travel throughout the state. It includes not only all the well known historic sites, but also a multitude of less familiar places, such as the Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library and the Monacan Village at Natural Bridge. The guide is arranged by category rather than geographically with such chapters as “African-American Civil War Sites,” “Historic Scenic Drives,” and “Natural Wonders.” It includes good photos and maps to locate the sites.



Noah Andre Trudeau, Robert E. Lee, *Lessons in Leadership*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, pp. 234.

Can there be yet another book on Robert E. Lee? Noah Trudeau, a prolific Civil War historian, obviously thinks so. After brief chapters tracing Lee’s early life, Trudeau concentrates on the Civil War years, campaign by campaign and battle by battle. He devotes special emphasis to Lee’s changing set of personal values as he proceeded through four years of bloody war. Exhaustion and failing health, Trudeau says, never extinguished Lee’s offensive mindset or dedication to his troops. Since Lee left no memoir or personal reflections, Trudeau looks to Lee’s war experience to gain a better understanding of the general and the man.

HISTORY FOR SALE AT THE MUSEUM

By Eleanor Pourron, Museum Bookstore Manager

Arlington County's history lives at the Arlington Historical Museum maintained by the Arlington Historical Society. It lives in the artifacts that are displayed or stored at the Museum and in the books and pamphlets on sale at the bookstore in the Museum. For the most part, the books being sold are those that are currently in-print and available from authors or publishers. There are no current histories of Arlington. Concerned by this lack of historical information, the Society was able to reprint the text of C. B. Rose's comprehensive history of Arlington with a grant from the Arlington Forrest Foundation. Enhancing the reprint, *Arlington County, Virginia, a History*, is a new index that greatly improves access to the information in the book. The book was published late in 2009 and is available in the Museum Book Store at a cost of \$25. (Members of AHS receive a 10 percent discount.)

However, one book never seems to be enough to satisfy everyone's interest or to answer all the questions people have about Arlington history. Therefore, the bookstore has been collecting copies of several titles that deal with Arlington history. The books have long been out of print and are not available to be reprinted. The books are in good to very good condition. Several have been autographed by the author or authors. The books are sometimes available in used book stores or online at used book sites. The Museum bookstore has a limited number of each to offer for sale. The books are:

***Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History*, by Nan & Ross Netherton, 1985.**

This is a treat for anyone who is a new or a long-time resident of Arlington. Nan and Ross Netherton were prolific writers and active leaders in providing access to historical information about Arlington, Fairfax and the Northern Virginia area.

***Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County* by Eleanor Lee Templeman, 1959.**

Templeman, a descendant of Richard Bland Lee, recounts the personages, homes, schools, churches and myriad other historical bits and pieces of Arlington's past, including the encampments and activities of the Federal troops of occupation during the Civil War. The book also contains information about adjacent Fairfax, Alexandria and the District of Columbia.

***Northern Virginia Heritage: Pictorial Compilation of the Historic Sites and Homes in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William and Stafford, and the cities of Alexandria and Fredericksburg* by Eleanor Lee Templeman and Nan Netherton, 1966.**

This provides a panoramic view of the area known as Northern Virginia with numerous illustrations, photographs and the explanatory captions that offer a brief but entertaining look at the history of the area.

The books are individually priced from \$30 to \$40, depending on condition and if they have been autographed. Stop by the Museum and pick up your own living piece of history.

IN MEMORIAM

Willard Webb, a former vice president of AHS, died of heart failure on November 23 in Arlington. Webb, who contributed book reviews for the AHS newsletter, was a historian in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for 30 years until his retirement in 1993.

Webb was a frequent contributor to the Arlington Historical Magazine. He and his wife, Anne, published a book in 2003 titled *Glebe Houses of Colonial Virginia*. Webb was also a volunteer in the Virginia Room of the Arlington Central Library, where he assisted with publications and historical information.

Webb received a lifetime service award from AHS in 2006. He was 73.

MORE SAD NEWS

Bette Clements, a founding member of the Arlington Historical Society, had a stroke on November 8. She has been moved from Virginia Hospital Center to The Jefferson's rehabilitation facility in Ballston. Visitors are welcome; Bette is in room 323.



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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.

WWW.ARLINGTONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

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 county.



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