



Image: The John F. Kennedy Eternal Flame memorial under construction in Arlington Cemetery - October 6, 1965 (Library of Congress)

## President's Update

Karl Van Newkirk, President, Arlington Historical Society

As I write this message, it is January, named for the two-faced Roman god of transitions and beginnings. It's very appropriate to pause for a moment to look at where we've been, and more importantly, where we're going.

**Fund Raising:** This has been an area of weakness for several years, which has largely prevented the Society from taking on any new or ambitious projects. But now, under the leadership of Board member Johnathan Thomas, we have re-vitalized our annual Bellringer campaign. We don't have final numbers yet - contributions are still being received and processed - but things are looking promising. Thank you, Johnathan!

**Museum Operations:** The Museum has long been limited in its hours of operation to weekend afternoons. Accommodating those who wished to visit during the week - such as school groups - has been difficult to impossible. But our Volunteer Coordinator, Robert White, working with Matt Keough, our Docent Coordinator, has been able to recruit enough volunteer docents to open one Wednesday afternoon per month - and this will soon expand to two. Thank you, Robert and Matt!

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### Board of Directors

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## We Need Your Email

Sign-up at [ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org](http://ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org)

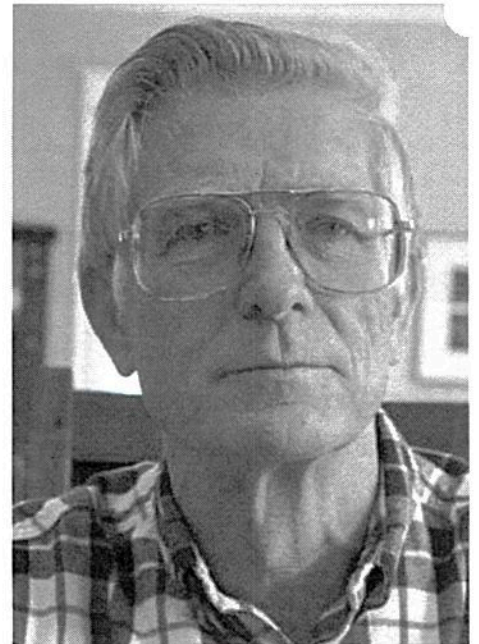
President's Update: Continued from Page 1...

Also, Museum Director Dr. Mark Benbow has recently acquired two new display cases. He plans to install an exhibit of Civil War artifacts found in Arlington and recently donated to our collection. The exhibit will also include the results of indefatigable artifact hunter Ciro Taddeo's labors: he has found a photograph of an Ohio man, Captain Richard Reynolds, who commanded Company E, 145th Ohio Volunteers when that unit was stationed here in Arlington in the summer of 1864. Thank you, Mark and Ciro!

Ball-Sellers House: Although the house is closed for the winter, BSH Director Annette Benbow has not been resting. She is working on a revamp of the contents of the house, and the way the docents present it, to better represent the way the house would have looked when John Ball and his family were residents. She says, "I want to make it feel like the Balls stepped out just a few minutes before you (the visitor) arrived." Thank you, Annette!

Historical Research and Education: Magazine Editor Max Gross has overseen publication and distribution of our annual Magazine, and Program Director and Board member Jennifer Jablonski Dubina continues to schedule interesting public programs every month; we are currently booked through May - check our website for details. Thank you, Max and Jen!

Public Outreach: An ad hoc committee, led by Board member Garrett Peck, has been hard at work developing a revision and upgrade to our website. Although I haven't seen it yet, it has been described as "really cool," "like an online magazine," and "an ever growing repository of information about all things Arlington." Roll-out is currently planned for February. Thank you, Garrett! Meanwhile, Newsletter Editor Matt Briney, Co-Editor Jennifer Beckman-Shaw, and I have been discussing the conversion of the Newsletter to an email format, replacing the current printed version. This would enable us to be more flexible in the Newsletter content, more current in our coverage, and do it all at less expense. We're anticipating a final decision soon, and putting it into effect in time for the next (Spring) edition. Thank you, Matt and Jennifer!

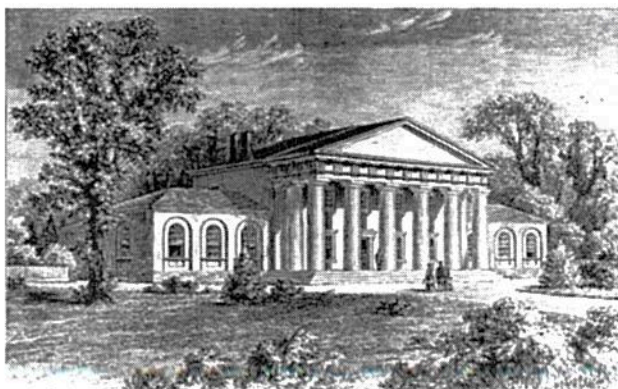


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## Online Resources

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Available at:  
[ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org/Learn](http://ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org/Learn)



## History of Arlington County

Historic Arlington, © 2001, by the Arlington County Bicentennial Task Force and the County's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, rev.ed.  
Historic Arlington, 1608-1932 by Ludwell Lee Montague. Arlington County Historical Committee 1968.

# The Origins of the Arlington Sister City Association

Karl Van Newkirk, President, Arlington Historical Society

In 1991, the chairman of the Arlington Economic Development Commission, David Dodrill, made a recommendation to the Arlington County Board to develop sister city relationships. The thinking in the AEDC was that a sister city program could augment the quality of life in Arlington and make it a more attractive place to live and work.

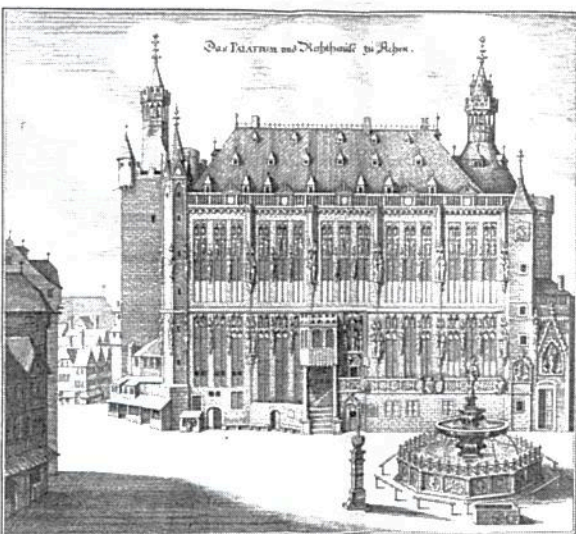
Acting on AEDC's advice, the County Board chairman asked local lawyer and former State Assembly member John Melnick to chair a commission on the subject. The commission's 22 members represented a broad spectrum of Arlington's civil society.

One of the commissioners was businessman Richard Carver, former mayor of Peoria, Illinois and later Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. During his Peoria years, Carver had had an intern from Aachen, Herbert Zantis, who later became the minister for cultural affairs in the imperial (Aachen was the capital of Charlemagne's empire 800-814 CE) city. They forged an enduring friendship marked by regular communication. After checking with Zantis, Carver proposed that Arlington approach Aachen to explore the establishment of a sister city relationship.

At first there was a certain wariness about embracing a German entity as Arlington's very first sister city by the County Board chairman at the time, Albert Eisenberg, who was acutely aware of the murderous anti-Semitism of the Nazi regime. But when he learned of Aachen mayor Jürgen Linden's atoning efforts vis-à-vis the memory of Aachen's decimated Jewish population and its few survivors, Eisenberg led Arlington's Jewish community to support the choice of Aachen with enthusiasm.



*Photo: Aachen Cathedral, Aachen, Germany*



*Aachen City Hall, engraving by Matthäus Merian in 17*

It was then Aachen's turn to be reticent. German society was divided by conflicting attitudes towards the Americans: some deeply appreciated U.S. steadfast support for the West German state and German unification after the breach of the Berlin Wall. Others focused on U.S. military interventions or support for coups in client states.

By early 1992, the situation in Aachen had clarified. By then, Jack Melnick had been designated as the first president of the newly formed Arlington Sister City Association (ASCA). Melnick headed a delegation of eight leading Arlingtonians to the imperial city. The group also included two County Board members, the county manager, a state senator, a representative of the school board, the director of the Arlington symphony, and Richard Carver in his new role as chairman of the Aachen committee. Several months later, on 17 September 1993, documents were signed in the historically resonant Aachen Rathaus (City Hall) officially bringing the new partnership into existence.

ASCA now was required to "privatize" in the form of a membership association with 501(c)3 tax status. The reason was clear: quite aside from the financial implications of running a sister city program out of the county manager's office, the sister city project avoided becoming an appendage of government. A broader philosophy of citizen engagement was at work, based on justifiable confidence that the community would rise to the occasion. In 1994, John McCracken took over the Aachen committee from Richard Carver and then assumed the role of ASCA chairman as well. Over the following seven years the first high school exchanges were organized.

Arlington and Aachen explored a variety of possible collaborations in sports and the arts, and the first internships were organized. A new sister city relationship was launched with the Mexico City subdivision of Coyoacan. Soundings were undertaken for a relationship with Reims, the capital of France's Champagne district (This relationship was formalized in 2004).

Much has happened since: In 2000, President Bill Clinton accepted the Aachen Karlspreis (Charlemagne Peace Prize), awarded because of his roles in the Northern Ireland peace process and the Balkans crises; he then donated the prize money to ASCA. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, in which Arlingtonians were among the victims at the Pentagon, Aachen provided generous expression of sympathy and solidarity. New sister city relationships have been forged with San Miguel, El Salvador, and Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, and hundreds of Arlingtonians now participate each year in the varied programs of the county's five sister city partnerships. (This article is extracted from *Twenty Years On: Honoring the Founding Generation*, by Carl Lankowski.)

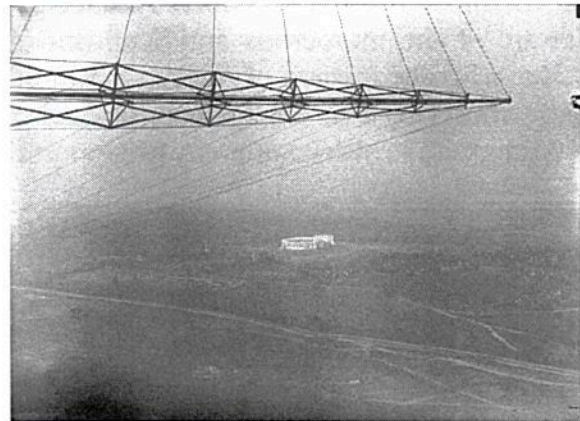
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## Photos from the Past

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*Arlington Dairy Truck, October 1942*  
Howard Liberman



*Arlington National Cemetery by Airship, 1915-1923*  
Harris & Ewing



*Opening Day Stratford Junior High School, September 1, 1959 - Warren K. Leffler,*



*Civil War Soldiers in Arlington Overlooking Georgetown - 1861 - George N Barnard*

# What's for Dinner?: Buying Groceries in a Century of Change

## A New Exhibit at the Arlington Historical Museum

. Mark Benbow

**Where: Arlington Historical Museum at the Historic Hume School**

**When: Now through May, 2016**

**Time: Saturday, Sunday 1:00-4:00, plus two Wednesdays a month**

There is a new temporary exhibit at the Arlington Historical Museum (the Hume School) running through May. It features pictures, packaging, and advertisements showing how getting groceries—an everyday activity—has changed so much in Arlington in the last 100 years. History isn't always about the huge momentous events. Looking at how our forebears went about their normal lives is just as illuminating.

Buying groceries in Arlington County has changed with the growth of our community. Initially families grew most of what they needed and sold the excess in open air markets to city dwellers in Washington, D.C. In the early 1900s as northern Virginia's population increased and communities like Barcroft, Ballston, Clarendon, Cherrydale, and Glencarlyn took root, entrepreneurs started stores in their homes where their neighbors could get mail and buy basics. At stores like the one Oscar Haring ran in Barcroft or Cecilia Kidwell ran in Ballston, the front rooms served as the store while the family lived upstairs.

In the years leading up to World War II, Arlington grew as a suburb for Federal workers and grocery stores grew, too. Stores like the District Grocery Store (DGS) increasingly began to take on characteristics of the markets we go to today—generally now in stand-alone buildings. It was still common for clerks to pick requested canned goods from perfectly stacked displays behind the counter where customers could not reach for themselves.



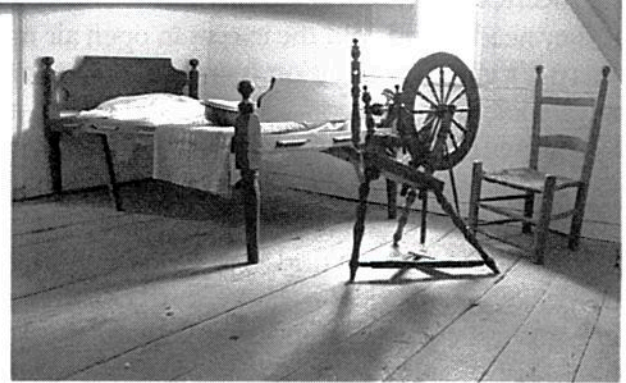
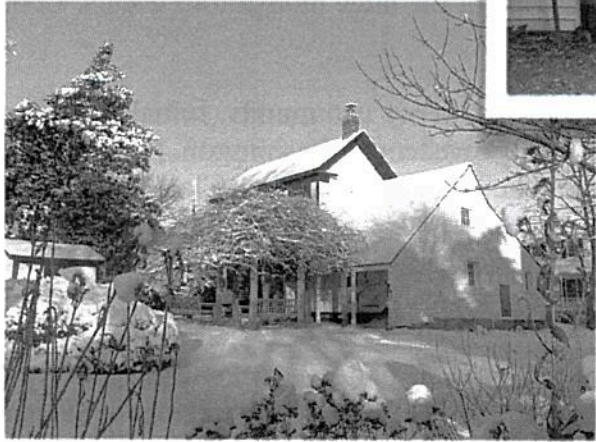
The first self-serve groceries were starting to open such as Piggly Wiggly, Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) and Sanitary—which changed its name to Safeway in 1941—allowing customers to pick items for themselves. This reduced the number of employees needed to provide customers with individual service and freed workers to stock shelves with more and greater selection of products.

After World War II, grocery stores began to look like they do today with wide rows for rolling push-carts and customers who selected all their own goods for check out at registers near the door. Post-war prosperity and the Baby Boom helped fuel the growth of suburbs and shopping centers and groceries now had to provide ample parking to accommodate customers who drove their own cars. Competition increased as stores strived to be within easy distance of growing communities like Arlington Forest.

Today chain stores dominate groceries although some small corner markets remain to quickly serve neighborhood needs. In a return to mid-19th century grocery sale methods, open air farmers markets have also taken hold again as they did at the turn of the last century.

# Get Your 2016 Ball-Sellers House Wall Calendar

Now for sale at the Arlington History Museum. We only have a handful left. It features a beautiful monthly photo of the oldest structure in Arlington and its grounds, a true Arlington treasure. \$10 while they last.

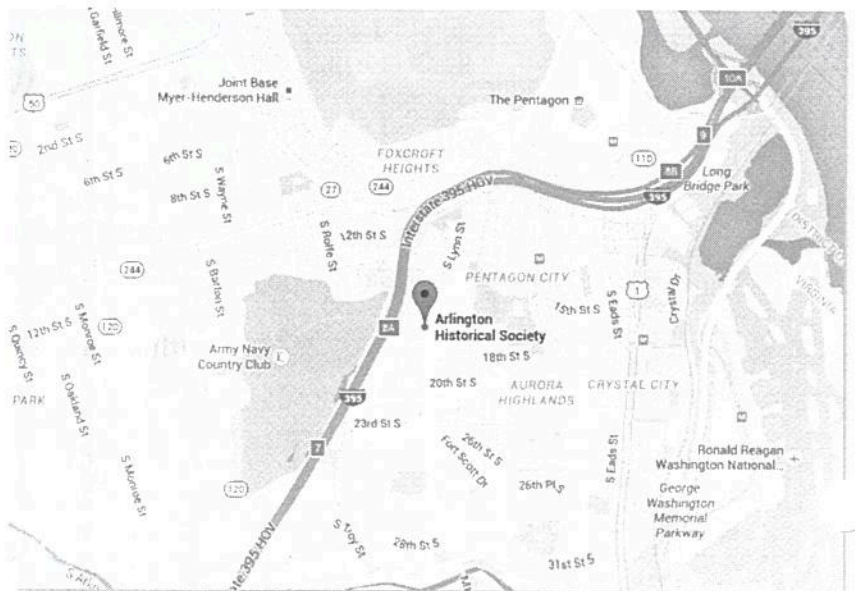


## Open Invitation to Attend Board Meetings

All members of the Arlington Historical Society are welcome to attend monthly meetings of the Society's Board of Directors. The Board meets regularly on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Arlington Historical Museum, 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road.

### Upcoming Meetings

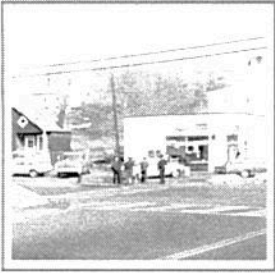
- February 16th @ 7:00 PM
- March 17th @ 7:00 PM
- April 19th @ 7:00 PM



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## Upcoming Events

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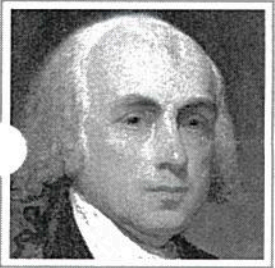


**Bridge Builders of Nauck/Green Valley**  
**Thursday, February 11, 7pm – 8pm**  
**Marymount University - 2807 N Glebe Road**

Dr. Alfred Taylor will speak about the past and present history of the African American neighborhood of Nauck.



**Martha Jefferson Randolph: Republican Daughter and Plantation Mistress**  
**Thursday, March 10, 7pm – 8pm**  
**Marymount University - 2807 N Glebe Road**



**Becoming Madison: The Extra Ordinary Origins of the Least Likely Founding Father**  
**Thursday, April 14, 7:00pm – 8:30pm**  
**Marymount University - 2807 N Glebe Road**

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## Stay Connected

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**Facebook.com**  
**/ArlingtonHistoricalSociety**



**ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.com**

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## Take in History

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### **Arlington Historical Museum**

1805 S Arlington Ridge Rd

Phone: 703-892-4204

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 1-4 PM

### **Ball-Sellers House**

5620 Third Street, South

Phone: 703-942-9247

Hours: Saturday 1-4 p.m.

*(April through October)*

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## AHS Winter Social

Bill Reilly

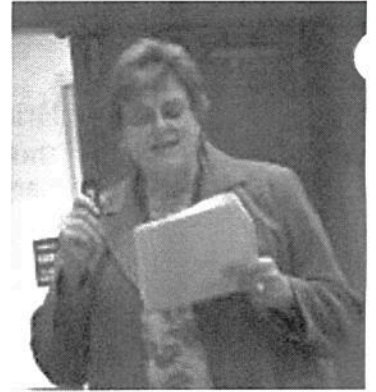
On January 9 AHS members, directors, and friends gathered for wine and light hors d'oeuvres at the annual Winter Social held at the Hume School. The ca. 50 guests heard AHS President Karl van Newkirk welcome local history buffs and guests, thank them for their support, and invite their participation in the coming year. Museum Director Dr. Mark Benbow pointed out the museum's holiday exhibits and previewed upcoming additions to the collection. Guests had one last look at the museum's Christmas tree set up and decorated by Jen Dubina (formerly Jablonski). The late afternoon event was a chance to talk about all things Arlington, reconnect with old friends, and make new ones. The museum got off to a great start in 2016!



# Those Who Gave Their Lives: Arlington's Fallen Sons in World War I

Max L. Gross

As readers of this newsletter know, Annette Benbow is Director of the Ball-Sellers House and a long-time member of the AHS Board. Last year, in the 2014 (Vol 15, No. 2) edition of the AHS Magazine, she also demonstrated her skills as a fine historical researcher and writer. At Clarendon is the Arlington County War Memorial containing plaques bearing the names of Arlingtonians who have died in America's various wars. The plaque for World War I lists thirteen names whom Ms. Benbow sought to bring somewhat back to life in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the first World War.



On November 13, 2015 Ms. Benbow, in a beautifully-illustrated presentation sponsored by the Society at Marymount University, provided even greater light about four of those individuals about whom she has been able to glean the most information. These were Oscar Housel, John Lyon, Irving Newman, and Arthur Morgan. Eleven of the thirteen are buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and Ms. Benbow presented each of the attendees with a handout with a picture of each of the thirteen men and the site of their burial.

In her presentation of the four lives, Ms. Benbow took the audience back into the era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with photos of their homesteads, schools they had attended, their regiments or squads, and their battlefields in northern Mexico in the campaign against Pancho Villa and the trench battlefields of Belgium and northern France. A lively audience which contained several well-schooled experts on the War sat in attendance and made the evening even more lively. Those who were unable to attend the program missed a moving and memorable evening.

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## Mrs. Lee's Rose Garden: The True Story of the Founding of Arlington National Cemetery

Max L. Gross

Carlo DeVito is an author with numerous works on a variety of topics, such as Jane Austen, Yogi Berra, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain and Bill Parcells, not to mention works on wine and beer. His latest work is about the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery and bears the title cited above, published in 2015. On October 7, 2015, Mr. DeVito gave a presentation on his subject at the Society's evening program at Marymount University.



Although the author gave a nice sketch of George Washington Parke Custis, his wife, Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis, the founders of Arlington Estate, and their daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis, who married General Robert E. Lee, his real focus was on General Montgomery Meigs, the Quartermaster General of the Union Army during the Civil War who, among other things, was given responsibility for taking over the Custis-Lee estate during the war. Lee and Meigs were both graduates of West Point, were both engineers and had been assigned together earlier in their careers in St Louis. Whatever their previous relationship, Meigs was outraged at Lee's decision to side with his fellow Virginians and the Confederate Army and vowed that he would never get his estate back. Together with Secretary of State Seward, they arranged for the property to be dedicated as a burial ground for the Union dead and to pour salt into the wound. The first graves were dug in Mrs. Lee's Rose Garden, a spot behind the mansion that was particularly precious to Mrs. Lee. Although final ownership of the estate was not settled until 1883, the use of the estate as a national burial ground dates back to 1864.

Although Mr. DeVito did not find General Meigs a particularly likable fellow, he did give him great credit for his work as an architectural engineer. Comparing him to Robert Moses, the master builder of New York City, he noted that Meigs played a similar role for Washington, DC, having supervised the building of the wings and dome of the US Capitol between 1855-1859, the Washington Aqueduct between 1852-1860, the post-war War Department Building (today the Old Executive Office Building), and the Pension Building (today the National Building Museum). His role in establishing the Arlington National Cemetery and denying Mrs. Lee a return to her rose garden is probably his most lasting national legacy.

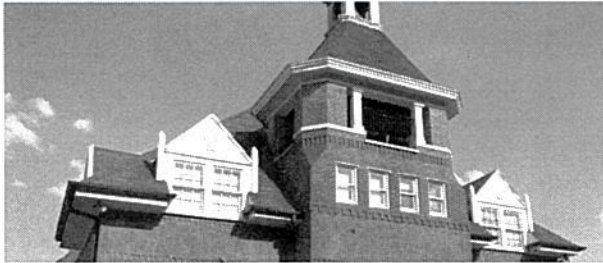


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## Visit Us

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



**Arlington Historical Museum**  
1805 South Arlington Ridge Road  
Open Saturdays & Sundays 1-4 PM



**Ball-Sellers House**  
5602 South Third Street  
Open Saturdays 1-4 PM (April-October)

Also arrange a visit by calling 703-379-2123.  
**Free admissions, donations appreciated.**

# PRESERVE ARLINGTON'S HISTORY

Support the work of the Arlington Historical Society

### Already a Member?

Consider becoming a life-time member for \$1,000. Or make an extra tax-deductible contribution.

### Tell a Neighbor

Give the gift of membership. For just \$25 you can provide a friend or neighbor the rich story of Arlington County.

### Join Today at

[arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/join/](http://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/join/)



P.O. Box 100402  
Arlington, Virginia 22210

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Paid for by members like you,  
Support our work, make a donation today.

[arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org)



On Saturday, December 5, 2015, the Arlington Historical Society held its annual Christmas Ornament-Making Party in the Hume School's second-floor meeting room. AHS member Shelya White with Jen Dubina (right) demonstrated techniques in crafting keepsake-quality ornaments from glass, craft foam, and ceramic bisque while visitors socialized and enjoyed holiday treats. The museum's holiday décor lured visitors downstairs to view exhibits, including volunteer curator Haley Wallace's seasonal display, "A Child's Wonder Under the Tree," which showcased toys and Christmas artifacts from the AHS collection.