



Dear AHS Members and Friends,

As some of you know, I plan to step down as AHS president this May, having served for the past two years. I will remain on the AHS board and continue to be supportive of the organization, particularly with fundraising and development. The Nominating Committee will present a strong slate of Officer/Director nominees for election at the Annual Meeting May 14, which I hope all of you will attend.

I won't dwell on what we have achieved in the course of the past two years but will note that during this time AHS has reasserted itself as a major player on the Arlington historical and cultural scene. We have taken the lead in supporting creation of the Arlington Heritage Center at Courthouse Square and have doubled the number of our regular programs, which are now featured on WETA's "Boundary Stones" and Arlington TV. We are about to open two exciting new exhibits at the Arlington Historical Museum (Hume School), the first a collaboration with the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington on the black experience in Arlington and the second telling the stories of the three U.S. Navy ships named USS ARLINGTON. The Ball-Sellers House has welcomed more visitors and broadened its outreach to the community. This is the third year that we have sponsored the annual Historical Essay Contest for Arlington Public School 11th graders, with cash prizes provided by Columbia (Masonic) Lodge #285.

A goal that I wish to highlight in this final letter as AHS president is to raise enough funds to engage an Executive Director on a part-time if not full-time basis. AHS's work is too important and too varied to be undertaken solely by volunteers, yet this has always been our experience. The AHS mantra – "to help Arlingtonians better understand our community through its history" – requires professional management in order to be addressed properly. Success in achieving this goal will require going beyond individual membership to the business community and to county government. I should note that this model is standard operating practice for all successful historical organizations in the Washington metro area. We can make it work if we try.

Thank you for your support to the Arlington Historical Society.

John P. Richardson

President

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Insert: Banquet
Registration Form

At the Museum**Mark Benbow, AHS Museum Director**

Hello. Have you been to the Arlington Historical Museum recently? If not, you'll notice some changes as I refresh the existing exhibits and add new ones. Some of the recent changes you'll see if you come to visit include permanent exhibits such as—

The Cherry Smash Company from Rosslyn including artifacts donated from the Fowler family that owned the company (shown here)

The *USS Arlington* (AGMR-2) including a specially built model donated to the society.

Local businesses, including some old favorites like Hot Shoppes and McQuinn Sporting Goods.

We are also proud to announce we have a new exhibit on the African-American community in Arlington. In addition to the above-mentioned exhibits, I also rotate new temporary small exhibits during the year. In 2014 the museum hosted exhibits on Arlington native All-Star baseball player George McQuinn, Cherry Smash and Arlington Brewing, and antique toy cars, airplanes and ships. This year we are starting off with a series of exhibits on the history of Arlington's own Marymount University. These exhibits were created and designed by some of my Public History students at Marymount. Come visit the Hume School and see what new displays we've created! We're open Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-4:00. Special tours may be arranged as well.

**AHS Out and About**

Come see us! The AHS will have a table at the 30th anniversary Potomac Overlook Open House and Heritage Festival on Sunday May 3rd from 1-4 p.m. This event will include music, entertainment, food, community exhibits, games, the Taylor Elementary School Maypole Dance, and much more!

Potomac Overlook Regional Park 2845 N. Marcey Road
Arlington, VA 22207 703-528-5406





New Face

By day, Tracy Hopkins is an engineer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but it her fascination with local history that makes her an Arlington Historical Society member. Tracy regularly points out DC boundary stones and other facts, such as, “Sandra Bullock went to Washington-Lee High School,” to her patient husband and two teenage children. Her other volunteer efforts have included PTA treasurer, Lyon Park Community Center Board, and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. For the Arlington Historical Society, Tracy is already a Ball-Sellers House docent, and she is pleased to serve as a Director.

Board Makes Conforming Bylaw Changes Gary Laporte, Corporate Secretary

On November 18, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Arlington Historical Society made minor revisions to the Bylaws of the Society. The revisions conform the Bylaws to (1) changes in the Constitution of the Society approved by the membership at its annual meeting in May 2014 and (2) recent and more substantive changes in the Bylaws made by the Board and previously publicized to the membership in this newsletter.

The Articles of the Bylaws that were revised are set forth below, with deletions stricken through, additions underlined, and explanations following in parentheses. A full copy of the Bylaws, as revised, can be found on the Society’s website at www.ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org under the tab “ABOUT”.

The Arlington Historical Society, Inc. BYLAWS

Article II. Officers

3. In case a vacancy arises in any office except President or ~~First Vice President~~, it may be filled for the unexpired term by action of the Board of Directors. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President or ~~First Vice President~~, the ~~First of Second~~ Vice President, ~~respectively~~, shall automatically advance and the office of ~~Second~~ Vice President shall be filled as herein provided.

Article III. Duties of Officers

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors. In case the President is absent from a meeting, the ~~First or Second~~ Vice President shall assume his duties pro tem. (The changes shown in the two above paragraphs were made because the offices of First and Second Vice President have been replaced by one office of Vice President.)

2. The ~~Recording~~ Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the ~~b~~Board of Directors, send notices of Board meetings, make a written report of the work of the Society for publication in the *Arlington Historical Magazine*, and perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

3. ~~The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society.~~

(The changes shown in the two above paragraphs were made because the offices of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary have been replaced by one office of Secretary and to correct a typographical error in the word “Board”.)

34. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and have custody of dues and of all subscriptions and donations of money, and shall keep an account of them. The Treasurer shall disburse the money of the Society for expenses in accordance with the approved budget of the Society. ~~Elected~~ Officers and appointed officials shall be reimbursed for appropriate expenditures upon submission of signed expense receipts. The Treasurer shall submit written reports at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the membership.

(This change was made to reflect that four officers are now elected by the members but that other officers may be appointed by the Board.)

Continued on page 4

Bylaw Changes Continued

Article IV. Board of Directors

2. ~~Six~~The directors who are not elected officers shall be elected by ballot or voice vote at the annual meeting of the Society, and shall take office immediately.

(This change was made to reflect that the Constitution now provides for a variable board of four to ten members in addition to the elected officers, rather than a fixed number of six additional directors.)

Article V. Committees

2. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall establish an Audit Committee consisting of at least two directors other than the Treasurer to audit the accounts of the Treasurer each year as described in Article III, Section 4 of these By-Laws. (This change was made to reflect a consistent correct spelling of the word "Bylaw".)

Article VI. Meetings of the Society

3. Five percent of the ~~adult~~-voting members of the Society shall constitute a quorum.

(This change reflects that the Society no longer has junior members.)

Article VII. Meetings of the Board of Directors

2. Five Board members or at least 50% of the sitting directors, whichever is the lesser of the two, shall constitute a quorum.

(This change was made to correct a misspelling)

Article IX. Amendments to Bylaws

The power to adopt and amend the By-Laws shall be vested in the Board of Directors, and may be exercised at any regular meeting of the Board, by a majority vote of the members present, provided that notice of the intended action was included in the call of the meeting. in the By-Laws shall be Changes published in the following newsletter of the Society. (These changes were made to reflect a consistent, correct spelling of the word "Bylaw".)

Article X. Effective Date

The effective date of these By-Laws, as amended, shall be ~~May 10 November 18, 1991~~2014.

(These changes were made to reflect a consistent spelling of the word "Bylaw" and the effective date of the conforming and other changes to the Bylaws as provided in the Board resolution adopting them.)

House History Workshop 2015

Back by popular demand and to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month, the Arlington Historical Society, Arlington County Preservation Office, Arlington Central Library – Center for Local History, and Preservation Arlington will host another workshop to help Arlington residents research the history of their homes. If you are interested in local history and want to see how your own life is connected to Arlington's heritage, this program's for you! Participants who attend the workshop will:

- Learn how to research the history of their own home or any historic property in Arlington of interest.
- Use the collection of maps, building permit data, photo archives, and other materials available at the main library's Center for Local History (CLH) and the Arlington County Historic Preservation Office.
- Be guided through the available resources, no matter their skill level.

The workshop will consist of two parts, starting with an introduction to available resources that will be illuminated through two case studies by Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Coordinator of Arlington's Historic Preservation Office. Participants will leave the workshop with useful tips for getting started. The second part will consist of a hands-on exploration of historical records in the Center for Local History. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at the Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N Quincy Street, Arlington, VA from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. To register for this program, visit the event website: <https://ahshousehistoryworkshop2.eventbrite.com>.

Make sure to register early because registration is limited to the first 36 participants!

AHS Nominating Committee Slate for 2015-2016 Officers/Directors

The AHS Nominating Committee for 2015-2016 consisted of Lynne Porfiri (Chair), Jay Reiner, and John Richardson. The Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of AHS 2015-2016 officers and directors for election by the membership at the AHS annual meeting on May 14 (see separate article). An asterisk (*) indicates an incumbent; a plus sign (+) indicates a new candidate. Dr. Mark Benbow, Museum Director, is a director *ex officio* and is

OFFICERS:

President: Thomas Dickinson + (past president)
 Vice-President: Karl Van Newkirk *
 Secretary: Gerry Laporte *
 Treasurer: Mike Febrey *

DIRECTORS:

Luis Araya *
 Ali Ganjian *
 Tracy Hopkins * (elected February 25, 2015)
 Jennifer Jablonsky *
 Garrett Peck *
 Lynne Porfiri *
 John Richardson + (immediate past president)
 Johnathan Thomas +
 Michelle Vanek +
 Robert White +

BRIEF BIO SUMMARIES:

Tom Dickinson: Retired Dept. of Defense Telecommunications Specialist
 Karl Van Newkirk: Retired military systems analyst
 Gerry Laporte: Retired Securities & Exchange Commission attorney
 Mike Febrey: Certified Public Accountant
 Luis Araya: Bureau Chief, Dept. of Environmental Services, Arlington County
 Mark Benbow: Assistant Professor, Marymount University
 Ali Ganjian: Technology Advisor, Wells Fargo
 Tracy Hopkins: Engineer, Environmental Protection Agency
 Jennifer Jablonsky: Education Specialist, Smithsonian African American Museum
 Garrett Peck: Verizon Telecom marketing specialist
 Lynne Porfiri: Real estate specialist, Arlington County
 John Richardson: Retired U.S. government official, biographer
 Johnathan Thomas: Senior Vice-President, Mortgage Lending, United Bank
 Michelle Vanek: Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives
 Robert White: Retired U.S. government Geospatial Systems

AHS Annual Banquet – Save the Date!

The AHS annual banquet is fast approaching, so be sure to mark your calendars. The banquet will be held on Friday, June 5, at the Holiday Inn/Rosslyn (same as last year), starting at 6:30 PM. The banquet committee consisting of Lee Carrigan, Steffani McFarland, Lynne Porfiri, Jen Jablonsky, and Robin Gross is organizing what we are sure will be a well attended and successful evening.

Our promised speaker had to cancel at the last minute, and as of this writing we are seeking a speaker of repute with a good story to tell. The banquet will also feature two important annual AHS awards: the Cornelia B. Rose Award, given to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to promoting or preserving Arlington history; and the Volunteer of the Year Award, which is self-explanatory.

The banquet this year will provide an opportunity for local businesses and other organizations to sponsor tables and otherwise demonstrate a commitment to the AHS mission of “helping Arlingtonians better understand our community through its history.” Sponsoring groups will receive public recognition in the banquet program and in other ways. This newsletter contains a tear-off form to mail in with your check. The reservation form includes ticket prices and meal choices. You may also reserve on the AHS website (arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) and pay with PayPal. Come and bring your friends! It’s going to be a great evening.

Ball-Sellers House Launches 40th Anniversary Season!

Throughout our 2015 season, the Ball-Sellers House Museum is commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Arlington Historical Society acceptance of the house from Marian Sellers in 1975. Mrs. Sellers gave the house to the Society for \$1 in 1975. Named the Ball-Sellers House to honor the builder and the donor, we are planning several ways to commemorate this milestone. Please plan to join us. We have something for everyone. Besides our regular hours every Saturday (April-October) from 1-4 when we offer free tours to visitors all ages. Here's what else we have for you this season:

April 4: Opening Day: with free colonial snacks and beverages.

May 3: Garden Day in Glencarlyn. Sunday we team up with the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden and the Arlington Food Assistance Center to help you get the most out of your garden. We'll provide tips on green sustainability, and information about gardening today and in the Colonial Era.

May 25: Memorial Day Monday open 1-4 pm.

May 30: Washington Forest History Walk with local historian Kevin Vincent. After the Revolutionary War, George Washington returned home and surveyed the 1200 acres he had bought before the war with John Ball's brother, Moses. On our 3 mile walking tour you'll see the Ball-Sellers House (the oldest house in Arlington), visit the survey markers used by Washington in 1785, a DC boundary stone, and the site of a mill built by George Washington's step-grandson.

June 6: Glencarlyn Day extended hours from 10-4 with free colonial snacks and beverages to help Glencarlyn celebrate its heritage.

July 16: The House That John Built and Then Some! 7:00 pm at the Arlington Main Public Library auditorium: Martha Orth will show pictures of the Ball-Sellers House never before seen in public and talk about who lived in the Ball-Sellers House, why the house is important, and how a small group of committed Arlingtonians made this museum a reality.

September 7: Labor Day. Monday open 1-4 pm.

September: The Historical Value of the Ball-Sellers House: An Architectural Tour.

University of Maryland Architectural Historian, Dr. Donald Linebaugh will explain why the Ball-Sellers House is a historical treasure. He and his students will also show their 3-D virtual model of how the house developed over the centuries. Watch for details.

October: The Arlington Antiques Appraisal Fundraiser for the Ball-Sellers House is BACK! Watch for details.



Other Commemorations:

We're publishing a 2nd edition of Martha Orth's book "The House That John Built" in paperback with maps, diagrams, and photos.

"Roving Exhibits" on the Ball-Sellers House in display cases at the main public library's Center for Local History, other library branches, and the Arlington Historical Museum. Watch for details. New brochures on who has owned the house, how the house was preserved and made into a museum, and family life of the Balls' in the Colonial Era.

If you like what you see here and want to be a part of Ball-Sellers House, we are looking for docents or helping hands at our events. We welcome you, your creativity, and your enthusiasm to help share Arlington's history. We'd love to provide private tours to your group throughout our April-October season. Just contact Annette Benbow

Selected Lecture Summaries

By Max L. Gross

Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal

Sue Eisenfeld (pictured right) and her husband, Neil, are hikers, and they hike often in the Shenandoah National Park, which they dearly love. In their many treks, they discovered many graveyards, ruins of old farms and other traces of human habitation. Who were these people that once lived there? And what happened to them? And how did they feel about being uprooted from their ancestral homes to make way for the creation of Virginia's favorite National Park?

To find answers to these questions became the passion of Ms. Eisenfeld, and she has provided answers in her recent book, *Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal*, (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2014). On February 12, 2015, an audience of about 85 interested citizens braved a cold winter evening to hear the author's answers at a fine program sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society held at Marymount University, whose Department of History also served as the host.

About 5,000 inhabitants of the lands that now define the Shenandoah National Park were disrupted by the decision of President Calvin Coolidge to establish the national sanctuary. All received compensation (never enough) for the lands they were forced to evacuate, but nevertheless they were forced to leave homes and farm plots that some had lived in for generations. A lover of the Park, the author wrestles with the dilemma posed by the forced evacuation of these people and the "greater good."

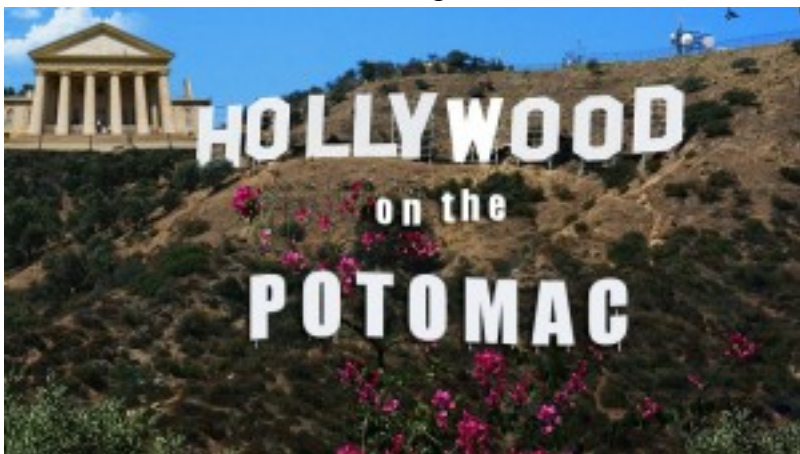
Her burden was to tell the stories of some of these people who were forced by the government to uproot their lives and move elsewhere. What happened to them? Most, of course, but not all, are now dead, but the author was able to track down a number of descendants who knew the story from their parents or grandparents. Surprisingly, she found little bitterness, but many memories of sadness.

A lively question and answer session followed the author's illustrated presentation. Obviously Ms. Eisenfeld's story is of great interest to the many who love the Shenandoah National Park, visit it regularly, and are curious about life as it was lived before the Park came into existence



When Hollywood came to Arlington

Rob Farr, currently the Director of Arlington TV and also a teacher of film history at George Mason University, once had another interesting position. He worked for the County, and one of his responsibilities was issuing permits to film producers wanting to make movies in Arlington. This also involved giving advice on useful locations to do the filming. Over the course of his career, he became quite familiar with the film industry and of films that had been shot locally. Of course many of these films were "political" and were more often set in DC, but sometimes involved Arlington as well. These included many TV series, such as *West Wing*, but also many movies, such as *Charlie Wilson's War*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *The Pelican Brief*, and many others.



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On a frigid January 8, 2015 evening at Marymount University, the Arlington Historical Society sponsored a delightful presentation by Mr. Farr to an audience of about eighty. His informative as well as humorous talk was illustrated by a number of film clips showing sights familiar to all in the audience. What was fun was not only the scenes of well-known places, but also Mr. Farr's informed humor as when noting that at least on one occasion, the actor descended a well-known metro stop in DC only to emerge from one in Toronto. The Arlington movie-goer would certainly know that "this is not one of ours," but wouldn't have known that Canada was so close by.

Mr. Farr began his presentation with one of the first films ever made (1908), a documentary of Orville Wright's first unsuccessful effort to fly his airplane at Ft. Myer. It crashed, of course, and Wright was severely injured, but as we all know, he and his brother, Wilbur, made a successful flight at Kitty Hawk, NC. The program was a delightful one and greatly enjoyed by the audience in attendance.

The Road to Happiness: The Story of the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway

Remember! When you are driving along the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway, you are not driving on just any interstate or state highway. It is not simply an avenue to connect one place with another, it is a national park! And a very special one at that—one dedicated to the memory of our first President, George Washington. As a National Park, this road is maintained by the National Park Service, rather than the Federal Highway Administration or the Virginia State Highway Commission.

This was the fundamental message given by National Park Ranger David Lassman in his March 12 presentation to the Arlington Historical Society meeting held at Marymount University. To an intrigued audience of about sixty, Mr. Lassman presented the origins of the Parkway, for which he used the metaphor, "Highway to Happiness." This was the title of a film, made in Virginia, which highlighted the poor state of the roads in the 1920s era and had the clear aim of promoting the building of better roads to accommodate the automobile that was increasingly becoming an aspect of American life. Mr. Lassman showed a brief segment of the film to highlight his lecture.

Dedicated in 1932 on the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth by President Calvin Coolidge, who had been an enthusiastic supporter of the project, the highway and the lands on either side of it, abutting the Potomac River, had as its first purpose to serve as a memorial to our first President. It may also—incidentally—have been meant to give a boost to improved road building throughout the state and the country. With such roads, Americans would be a happier people, the champions of the new road building averred. By such means, the memory of George Washington continued to serve as an inspiration for the continued growth of our country.

Built on the roadbed of an earlier trolley line, the original stretch of the road connected Mount Vernon with Memorial Bridge, although a much larger project was originally envisioned. The northern extension, which continued along the river to connect with the beltway, was accomplished by the Park Service under considerable pressure from President Eisenhower in the mid-1950s. It too is administered and maintained by the National Park Service, but generally bears the name, "the George Washington Memorial Parkway."

Mr. Lassman's presentation was delightful and filled with interesting and even humorous details and vignettes. A lively question and answer period followed in which the speaker demonstrated his consummate knowledge of the subject.



Whither the Arlington Heritage Center?

John P. Richardson

The Arlington Heritage Center (AHC) is an idea whose time came, faltered, and has perhaps come again. What might AHC be, if it were to materialize? The goal remains a physical location that would bring together Arlington history, other cultural contributions, and publicity for the county's attractions for tourists and other visitors. Originally planned for the Navy Annex site off Columbia Pike and based on the commitment of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA) to a brick-and-mortar museum in the immediate vicinity of Freedman's Village, current thinking would place AHC in a county building (new or repurposed) in the redeveloped Courthouse Square.

AHS has been a participant in the public portion of Courthouse Square discussion about AHC, which has generated interest among county planners as one way to concretize a "cultural space" identified as a desideratum in the plan. AHS president John Richardson, joined by local architect Jerry Vanek, met on February 10 with senior county staffers overseeing Courthouse Square, who were supportive in principle. While the planners are looking at a December presentation to the County Board on Courthouse Square, they agreed that it would not be premature for AHS to reach out to former and potential AHC stakeholders in order to gauge potential interest and commitment.

Recent discussions have not addressed funding in any detail. Siting AHC in a county building would in and of itself establish a public-private partnership since taxpayer funds would be part of the construction and overhead, if not necessarily equipping and maintaining the facility. Arlington County traditionally has not been financially supportive of its historical-cultural heritage; e.g., taxpayers in other nearby jurisdictions underwrite maintenance and repair of local historical properties, as well as providing, in most cases, a portion of running expenses for local historical societies. Private organizations supportive of the AHC concept would have to generate financial support in order to make the public-private partnership work. The goal makes both parts of the partnership essential.

WORTH A LOOK! By Tom Dickinson

Many are surprised to learn of the abundance of physical reminders, remnants, and vestiges of the Civil War in Arlington. Shortly after the War started in April, 1861, the Federal Government in Washington began to take steps to defend and fortify the Federal capital city. By the end of the war, this network of defenses grew to include 68 forts, more than 90 gun emplacements for large artillery cannon and mortars, roads that connected the forts, and miles and miles of earthworks, revetments, and trenches. These were built west-and south-facing, to defend against an expected attack upon and invasion of the capital by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, which was marshaling its forces just a few miles to the west, between Fairfax and Manassas. Physical reminders are everywhere in Arlington. Prominent among them are Military Road, which runs from Chain Bridge to Lee Highway. The best and most intact of the 22 forts built in Arlington are C.F. Smith, Ethan Allen, and Richardson. A particularly striking earthwork of Fort Richardson surrounds one of the greens at the top of a broad overlook on the golf course of Army-Navy Country Club. Lesser known and less visible than these forts is a very prominent and distinctive section of the long stretches of earthworks shoveled out and piled up by Union soldiers to defend themselves, the forts, and the Capital City. Every day, thousands of Virginia commuters whiz blissfully past one of these earthworks, located between Spout Run and I-66 just west of Rosslyn. Speeding by, one might notice a single narrow bridge span overhead, about a half mile east of where Spout Run and I-66 intersect. When I-66 was being built during the 70s, special care was taken to preserve these earthworks, and a lonely footbridge was built over I-66 to allow access from the area of Lee Highway and Veitch Street. This footbridge now connects directly to the I-66-Custis bike trail. These earthworks were thrown up by hand, using picks and shovels, to provide protective cover to allow soldiers to move freely, primarily between and among Forts Woodbury and Morton (which straddled this present day section of I-66) but also Forts Corcoran, Bennett, Haggerty, Strong, and C.F. Smith further to the east and north. As we approach the conclusion of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration, it is ever more important for the public to be aware of these few remaining artifacts located right here under our feet in Arlington, of what was once a critically important military zone bristling with men and armor to defend the Nation's capital. Definitely worth a look!



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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

**HISTORY AWAITS.
COME VISIT!**

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1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.
Open Saturdays & Sundays
1-4 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 1-4 p.m.
April - October

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

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