



# NEWSLETTER

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March 2014

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow AHS Members and Friends:

The focus of this letter is the Arlington Heritage Center (AHC), an idea whose time came, went, and may be coming back again – if supporters work to make it happen. Cutting to the chase, a window of opportunity has opened unexpectedly in the form of the Courthouse Square redevelopment project adjacent to the County headquarters building at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Planning is just beginning, with a period for citizen input on what this massive project should look like and include. Now is the time for AHC supporters past and present to make our voices heard as the County strives to fashion a balanced and productive project.

By way of background, a decade ago the County Board, at the urging of the Arlington Historical Society, the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, and the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, established a task force headed by Charlene Bickford to determine whether developing the AHC was a good idea and, if it was, where the AHC should be located. The budding AHC concept was an outgrowth of efforts by the Arlington Historical Society to reinvigorate the County’s local history museum program operated by the Society in the historic Hume School building since 1962 and efforts by the Black Heritage Museum to establish a museum on a site overlooking the former Freedman’s Village that would be vacated with the closing of the Navy Annex building across from Arlington National Cemetery. The AHC was to embrace the idea of a one-stop center to tell the story of Arlington County through exhibits, educational programs, and special events. It was hoped that Congress would pass legislation enabling Arlington County to acquire part of the former Navy Annex property for the AHC, but Arlington Cemetery wanted the entire property for expansion. During the negotiations, Arlington County raised the idea of including the property under Southgate Road, which separated the Navy Annex from Arlington National Cemetery, in the deal, which came to be seen as a land swap of Southgate Road for the potential AHC site.

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### LOVE HISTORY?

Become a docent for AHS, and immerse yourself in local history at the Arlington Historical Museum.

See page 7.

## Save the Date!

Join us for a fun evening at the  
AHS Annual Banquet at the Holiday Inn/Rosslyn

on

## Friday, May 30th

Acquisition of land for the AHC from the federal government near the Navy Annex site is still under negotiation, but even a clear shot at access to space there would not solve the capital cost problem to build the AHC. A new “window” has opened and should be seized upon if AHC is to become a reality. This is the new Courthouse Square, one of whose structures will be a County Government building, the perfect site for AHC on the ground floor. Putting the AHC in Courthouse Square could substantially alleviate the capital cost problem of developing the facility. Courthouse Square is readily accessible by Metro and will have underground parking for car travelers. The location would be accessible for visitors to Arlington seeking information on places of interest, places to eat, and places to stay. The AHC would serve as a gateway to local and federal resources in Arlington and could include, inter alia, the Arlington Historical Museum (now in the Hume School), the Black Heritage Museum, a research/education center (perhaps operated by Arlington’s Center for Local History of the Arlington Library—formerly the Virginia Room), a theater, Virginia crafts, and the Visitors and Convention Bureau--all providing maps, brochures, and other information of interest to visitors.

The Courthouse Square planning process will continue through 2014. It is important that potential stakeholders in the revitalized AHC concept make common cause to speak up and insure that this opportunity does not pass us by.

John P. Richardson, President

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## **AHS Board Makes Changes in AHS Bylaws**

By Gerry Laporte, AHS Corresponding Secretary

On February 3, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Arlington Historical Society made changes to the Bylaws of the Society. The changes affect Article V of the Bylaws, relating to committees. The major change is that the Nominating Committee will now be comprised of at least three members of the Society appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Previously, the Bylaws provided that the Nominating Committee would “normally” be made up of the three preceding presidents of the Society, with the Immediate Past President serving as chairman. The Nominating Committee presents candidates for officer and director positions to the membership of the Society for election.

The changed Bylaws now also provide for the appointment of the Audit Committee, consisting of at least two Directors, by the President with the approval of the Board. The Bylaws previously mentioned the Audit Committee in the article concerning the duties of the Treasurer, but did not provide specifically for the appointment of the Audit Committee.

Article V of the Bylaws now reads as follows:

### Article V. Committees

1. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall establish a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members of the Society not later than March 1 of each year to present a slate of proposed officers and directors whose terms are to begin upon election at the annual meeting of the Society in May or, the case of the Treasurer, at the beginning of the next fiscal year, to the membership for election at the meeting. The committee and the officers of the Society shall inform the membership of the contents of the slate sufficiently in advance of the meeting to facilitate informed voting.
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.
3. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may establish such other temporary or permanent committees as are necessary.

## Notice of Annual Meeting and Recommended Changes to AHS Constitution

From Annette Benbow, Recording Secretary and Gerry Laporte, Corresponding Secretary

The annual meeting of the Arlington Historical Society will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia. The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect officers and directors of the Society for the coming year and to consider other matters that may come before the meeting. All members of the Society have a right to vote on matters coming before the meeting.

Among the matters that will come before the meeting is a recommendation from the Board of Directors of the Society to amend and restate the Constitution of the Society. The Constitution is the organizational document of the Society that sets forth rules of governance outside our Articles of Incorporation that need member approval to be changed. It takes a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting to change the Constitution.

The Board of Directors has recommended to the membership that our Constitution be changed by amending it and restating it so that it reads better after the amendments. The amendments are analyzed below, article by article. After the analysis, the changes to be made are shown, with recommended insertions underlined and recommended deletions stricken through. A clean copy of the Constitution as recommended to be amended and restated follows, at the end of this notice. A vote on these changes will take place at the annual meeting on May 8. Under the resolution recommended by the Board, the changes would be effective upon adoption by the membership.

### Article-by-Article Analysis

**Article I.** The Board recommends that Article I of the Constitution, which gives the name of the organization, be amended to refer to the Articles of Incorporation of the Society and make clear that the name of the organization comes from its Articles of Incorporation.

**Article II.** The Board recommends that Article II, which gives the purposes of the Society, be amended and simplified to refer to the Articles of Incorporation of the Society, where the language governing its legal purposes is found, rather than partially restating that language without specifically referring to it.

**Article III.** The Board recommends that Article III of the Constitution, which sets forth the objectives of the Society, be amended to simplify the language.

**Article IV.** The Board recommends that Article IV, which concerns membership, be amended to delete the requirement that members must be adults to vote and to correct the spelling of the word "Bylaws".

**Article V.** The Board recommends that Article V, on officers, be changed so that the Society would have only four officers elected by the membership, a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, rather than six. The current elected offices of First and Second Vice President would be combined into one office of Vice President, and the elected office of Corresponding Secretary would be abolished. The purpose of these changes is to simplify the officer structure. The new article would also provide for appointment of additional non-elected officers by the Board of Directors in its discretion. Appointed officers would not be entitled to ex officio seats on the Board. Finally, the article would provide for a term of two years for the President, while continuing to provide one-year terms for the other elected officers. The extension of the President's term to two years is an attempt to recognize the difficulties experienced by holders of that office in recent years in implementing their ideas with a short, one-year term.

**Article VI.** The Board recommends that Article VI, which provides for composition of the Board of Directors, be amended to specify that the Board will consist of the elected officers of the Society (as at present except that the number of elected officers will be four rather than six), the Arlington Historical Museum Director if a volunteer, and no less than four nor more than ten additional Directors elected for one-year terms. The amendment provides for a change in board structure from a fixed number of six additional Directors to a variable number of four to ten additional Directors. This represents an attempt to provide additional flexibility in structuring the Board. Under the amendments, the Immediate Past President would not be entitled to an ex officio seat on the Board, as is the case at present. The Immediate Past President could be elected to the Board as an officer or additional Director if he or she is nominated and commits to so serve.

**Article VII.** Under the proposed amendments, Article VII would concern amendments to the Constitution. It would carry forward the current provisions on amendments, except that it would increase the number of members required to bring an amendment to the membership for a vote to five percent of the voting membership from three members. The Board is of the view that three members is too low a threshold and much lower than customary for organizations like ours. The five percent threshold matches the current membership quorum requirements in the Society's Bylaws. In addition, the references to the "Recording Secretary" would be changed to re

fer to the "Secretary," to conform to the recommended officer restructuring recommended for Article VI and discussed above. Finally, the article would be renumbered Article VII from Article VIII, where the provisions on amendments formerly appeared, and the subsequent article on Bylaws would also be renumbered. This renumbering is advisable due to the repeal on May 11, 2000 of former Article VII, which provided for a Building and Endowment Trust Fund, without a renumbering of subsequent articles of the Constitution.

**Article VIII.** Renumbered Article VIII will carry forward the provisions on Bylaws from the previous version of the Constitution, except that the spelling of the word "Bylaws" would be corrected and the tense of the verb would be changed from "will" to "shall" to match the usage in other articles of the Constitution.

**Former Article X.** Former Article X, which provided an effective date for a previous version of the Constitution, is recommended for deletion as unnecessary and cumbersome to understand and administer when making amendments to the Constitution after the initial effective date.

**Changes to be Made by Amendments (Recommended Insertions Underlined; Recommended Deletions Stricken Through)**

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

The name of this organization, as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation, is The Arlington Historical Society, Inc.

Article II. Purposes

The Society is organized as a Virginia nonstock corporation for the purposes set forth in its Articles of Incorporation.

Article III. Objectives

The objectives of the Society are to preserve and promote the history of Arlington County, Virginia.

Article IV. Membership

Categories of membership shall be specified in the Bylaws. Members in good standing shall have the right to vote.

Article V. Officers

The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the members, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may appoint, including one or more other Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, and Assistant Treasurers. The President shall serve for two years; the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve for one year; and any such other officers shall serve for the term specified by the Board of Directors in appointing them.

Article VI. Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers, the Arlington Historical Museum Director if a volunteer, and no less than four nor more than ten additional Directors elected by the members for terms of one year, the precise number to be established from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. No decrease in the number of Directors shall have the effect of shortening the term of any incumbent Director.

2. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Society subject to the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VII. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a motion adopted by the Board of Directors, or by a written motion filed with the Secretary by five percent of the voting membership of the Society. The Secretary shall notify the membership in writing of the proposed amendments and they may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided that two weeks shall have elapsed since the sending of the notice.

Article VIII. Bylaws

The operations of the Society shall be governed by Bylaws, which supplement this Constitution.

**Clean Copy of Amended and Restated Constitution**

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**Have Passport, Will Travel!**

The Passport Project is a new AHS program to encourage Arlington County students (and adults) to learn about and embrace the amazing history that surrounds and shapes their everyday lives. Mock passports are expected to be available to students in April, along with a smartphone app sponsored by the Mobility Lab. Participants will be sent on a quest to visit 10 local historical spots. After visiting each location, they can present a "selfie" (or other proof of visit) to AHS staff and receive a unique stamp in their book. Participants will be awarded a prize upon completion. Future editions of the passport will highlight new selections of historical sites.

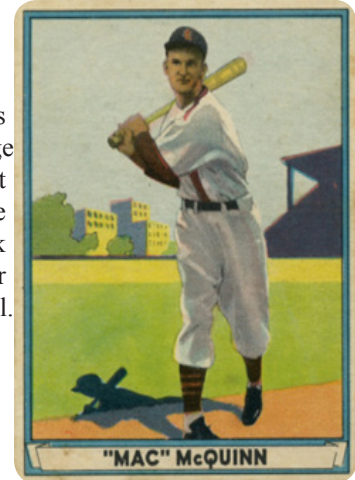
## News From the Hume School

**Dr. Mark Benbow, AHS Museum Director**

There is a new exhibit at the Arlington Historical Museum at the Hume School. "Arlington's All-Star First Baseman: George McQuinn" celebrates the career of Arlington native George McQuinn, who played for several major league baseball teams from 1936-1949. He spent most of his career with the St. Louis Browns, helping them win their only American League Pennant in 1944. He also was one of the leaders of the World Champion 1947 New York Yankees. McQuinn was born in a small home in the Ballston area in 1910, and was a member of the Washington-Lee High School class of 1929. The exhibit runs through the end of April.

After the George McQuinn exhibit the museum will feature an exhibit on brewing in Arlington. The Consumers/Arlington Brewing Company was in business in Rosslyn from 1890-1918. The brewery then became the Cherry Smash bottling plant. The exhibit is tied to the new book by AHS Board member Garrett Peck on the History of Brewing in DC, which is being released this month by The History Press. In the meantime, I am continuing to refresh and refine the museum's exhibits, and should have the new children's area open soon.

Finally, we welcome Ms. Addy Monterrosa, a new volunteer with extensive archive and museum experience, Ms. Monterrosa is helping with the ongoing cataloging of AHS's artifacts in storage and with helping us develop policies to better preserve the artifacts in our collection. Welcome Addy!



## AHS Events Calendar

### March 2014

Geography is Destiny: Arlington through Four Centuries

Don Hawkins

Thursday, March 13, 2014, 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N Quincy Street, Arlington VA

Arlington originally came into being as part of the Federal District mandated by the Constitution. Though separated politically in 1846, its position relative to the city of Washington imposes upon the county a vital complementary role in its development. The lecture emphasized how, because of its proximity and its geography, the county has served the agricultural, industrial, transportation, defense and residential needs of the nation's capital, while developing into a prosperous independent community.

### April 2014

Capital Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in Washington, D.C.

Garrett Peck

Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
Mad Fox Brewery  
444 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA

### May 2014

Little Saigon: Remembering the Vietnamese Community in Arlington

Kim O'Connell

Thursday, May 8, 2014, 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N Quincy Street, Arlington, VA

### June 2014

June 12, 2014,  
Location: TBD  
Title: TBD

Topic: The Battle of Fort Stevens  
Presenters: Frank Cooling and Loretta Neuman

### Ball-Sellers House Looking for Volunteer Docents

The Ball-Sellers House 2014 visitor season begins on April 5 and we would like to invite you to share your love of history at the oldest house in Arlington. Farmer John Ball built his house in the 1750s at what is now 5620 3rd Street, South. We are open every Saturday 1:00-4:00 pm from April thru October. As a docent, you'll learn about the history of this Arlington treasure and the neighborhood, meet great people, and get to sit out under our hundred-year-old wisteria arbor! Why not give it a try? Call Martha "Marty" Orth at 703-941-4086 or e-mail Annette Benbow at [annette.benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:annette.benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) to volunteer.

### Ball-Sellers House Sponsoring Washington's Forest History Walking Tour

**When:** April 19 at 1:30 pm (rain or shine)

**Where:** Starts and ends at the Ball-Sellers House, 5620 3rd St., South

**Cost:** Free (but donations are appreciated) and registration is NOT required

**Who:** Anyone of any age who can walk about 4 miles on easy terrain

**Your Guide:** Kevin Vincent, a member of the Arlington Historical Society, who has done extensive research on the early history of Arlington and designed this walk for Walk Arlington.

George Washington owned property throughout Virginia including land in present-day Arlington. He purchased 1200-acres in 1775 and after the Revolutionary War returned home and surveyed his property. Now home to subdivisions and soccer fields, a small portion has been preserved as parkland. On the walk, you'll see the Ball-Sellers House (the oldest house in Arlington), visit the survey markers used by Washington in 1785, and visit the site of a mill built by George Washington Parke Custis, Washington's step-grandson.

### Plan Your Group Visit!

Do you know a group in the community that is looking for a fun outing? Did you know that we open the Ball-Sellers House by request? Last year we had group visits by Cub Scout packs, Arlington's Encore Learning Program, and the Questors, to name a few. The Ball-Sellers House has something to offer visitors of all ages. Contact Martha "Marty" Orth at 703-941-4086 or e-mail Annette Benbow at [annette.benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:annette.benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) if you'd like to see the house at a time other than our normal Saturday hours.

## Arlington County Historical Society Program: When Metro Came to Town

By Garrett Peck, board of directors

Why did the Metro run up the Wilson Boulevard corridor rather than along the recently constructed Interstate 66? Why didn't the Metro line go up the Columbia Pike corridor as at least some of the original planning envisaged? How did Arlingtonians feel about the building of the Metro through their county? How was the Metro through Arlington funded? What were the politics involved between the DC government, the Arlington County government and the Federal Government regarding the building of the Metro? We all know how much the Metro has changed Arlington, but what was Arlington like before its construction?

All these questions and more were answered in a brilliant, illustrated lecture given by Kevin Craft to a full house of nearly ninety citizens at the Arlington Central Library on January 9, 2014. The lecture, sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society, was the first of the programs planned by the Society for the upcoming year.

Craft gave credit in his lecture to the historical research conducted by Professor Zachary M. Schrag of George Mason University whose book *The Great Society Subway: A History of the Washington Metro*, is the authoritative reference regarding the construction of the whole Metro system. But Craft, who is a well-known local writer about popular culture, demonstrated that he had mastered his material well and focused especially on Arlington. In many ways, his talk was a reprise of his recent article, "When the Metro Came to Town" in the November/December, 2013 issue of the *Arlington Magazine*.

The original plan of the Metro through Arlington had it going out the Highway 66 corridor, but the County Board of the late 1950s/early 1960s, fearful that Arlington was increasingly becoming mainly a high-speed transit area carrying people from the rapidly growing outer suburbs in and out of Washington, held out for a plan that would encourage economic development in Arlington itself. Arlington was in a state of decline and indeed was losing population in the 1960s and 1970s as people were increasingly moving to the outer suburbs beyond the beltway. The Board held out for the Wilson Boulevard route, championing a type of mixed-use economic development that would attract both people and business to Arlington, and finally by 1968 its plan carried the day.

The effort to build the Metro encountered significant resistance, however. Business and political figures representing highway and automobile interests generally expressed their opposition. Many Arlington homeowners also expressed skepticism, fearing that economic development would prove harmful to the county's small neighborhood character. The financial burden of building the system (Arlington voters finally voted in favor of a \$54 million bond issue in November 1968) also seemed outrageous to some. Craft cited one member of the Planning Board who expressed that a fleet of helicopters would be a more economic way of transporting commuters to and from the city.

The bond having passed, the project began. Metro first broke ground in DC at Judiciary Square in December 1969, and a ceremony marking the beginning of work at Rosslyn occurred on June 17, 1976. The Blue Line south towards the Pentagon, National Airport and Alexandria opened for business on July 1, 1977, and the Orange Line up the Wilson Boulevard corridor towards Ballston, Falls Church and Vienna opened in December 1979, opening the way, as Craft noted, for a flurry of redevelopment projects along its route that led to the Arlington of today.

The proposed Columbia Pike spur of the system never did see the light of day. A judgment was made that the population density along that route simply did not make the route economically viable, even with the development of Skyline Towers that were built specifically on the basis of the promise of the Metro.



### AHS WINTER SOCIAL

AHS held its traditional Winter Social at the Arlington Historical Museum on the afternoon of January 11. The event was a success, with some 35 AHS members, prospective members, and friends in attendance. Among the participants was Sara Collins, a mainstay of Arlington history and a former president of the Society. President John Richardson, Museum Director Mark Benbow, and other members of the AHS Board of Directors were in attendance.



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Those present were able to admire the special museum exhibit featuring Depression-Era Christmas cards donated to the Society by Frank Burdell. Long time Arlington residents, Virginia Colclough and James Plitt, also donated Christmas ornaments that were featured in the exhibit.



**ARLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND BLACK HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNOUNCE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL DISPLAY PROJECT**

**By Garret Peck, board of directors**

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA) recently announced establishment of a Joint Committee to create a permanent display at the Arlington Historical Museum on the African-American experience in Arlington. John Richardson, AHS President, and Dr. Talmadge Williams, BHMA Chairman, said that this exciting development will meet objectives of both organizations by filling a gap in the AHS story of Arlington while giving concrete expression to the BHMA dream of a permanent display on the African-American role in Arlington history.

“Although the AHS Museum holds a few artifacts associated with black medical pioneer Dr. Charles Drew, we are delighted to help tell an essential part of Arlington’s story and to enlist the support of BHMA in doing so,” said Richardson. Dr. Williams added, “BHMA welcomes the offer of an exhibit home at the Arlington Historical Museum so that more Arlingtonians can learn about the important contribution of African-Americans to the county’s history.”

The Joint Committee will commence creating the exhibit narrative and reaching out to the community to assist in giving or loaning artifacts with significance to the black experience in Arlington.



**EMINENT DOMAIN DESTROYS A COMMUNITY:  
LEVELING QUEEN CITY FOR THE PENTAGON**

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) will host Dr. Nancy Perry to discuss the destruction of Queen City at its public program on Thursday, April 3. In 1942, the federal government exercised eminent domain by taking 27 acres of land to build a road network around the new Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.

The land was occupied by over 900 residents of the African American neighborhood of East Arlington, also known as Queen City. Explore what the residents lost when they were forced to move and how they were compensated for that loss. The presentation will combine interviews with ten of the original residents of the neighborhood, oral histories, land records, census data, photographs, and news articles. Dr. Perry has lived in Arlington since 1974. She received her PhD in Geography from George Mason University. Her dissertation explored the influence that geography had on the lives of the African American residents of Arlington County during segregation. This presentation is a continuation of her dissertation research. The hour-long program will begin at 7:00pm at Arlington Central Library Auditorium (1015 N. Quincy Street). A question-and-answer session will follow.

The program is free and open to the public. For additional Central Library information, please contact 703-228-5990.

**Aurora Hills Women’s Club 8th Annual Holiday Boutique**

AHS once again manned an information table at the December 7th Holiday Boutique sponsored by the Aurora Hills Women’s Club (AHWC), and conducted at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on 23rd St. in Arlington. This annual event is a major fundraiser for AHWC, which has generously supported AHS for the past seven years, with a recent donation of \$9,000 heartily welcomed by AHS. The Boutique had a wide range of items for sale: elegant hand-crafted wooden toys, made-to-order door wreaths and delicious chili, all at reasonable prices despite the fundraising objective. Jen Jablonsky, Mark Benbow, and John Richardson took turns at the AHS table, fielding questions about Arlington history and selling a number of books and pamphlets.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Florence Darline Hannabass**, a former AHS officer and dedicated supporter of AHS, died December 31 of congestive heart failure. She was 91 years old.

She graduated from Roanoke College in 1943, with a major in Biology and a minor in History and Chemistry. She got her Master's degree in History at the University of Michigan.

According to her obituary in the Sun Gazette, Hannabass worked as an "intelligence research analyst with the National Security Agency... [and] was a member of the Special Libraries Association (SLA),... and was associate editor of the SLA Geography and Map Bulletin."

After she retired in 1983 she worked part time at the Arlington Public library and devoted time to AHS in a range of capacities. Her loyalty and hard work will never be forgotten.

**Mildred Ryland Winston**, a long time resident of Arlington, died January 13, 2014. She was 92 years old. Wife to the late Circuit Court Judge, William L. Winston, Winston is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

According to her obituary in The Washington Post, she taught sixth grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington, and would later become the co-owner of Chesterbrook Consignment Shop in McLean.

A funeral service was held in January 17th at Clarendon United Methodist Church, followed by interment at Prospect Hill Farm Cemetery in Haymarket. The family asked that in donations be made to the Arlington Historical Society or the Arlington Animal Welfare League, in lieu of flowers.

### USS Arlington Tribute Room Ribbon-Cutting and Museum Exhibit

By John Richardson, AHS President

The USS Arlington Commissioning Committee helped raise funds to equip a "tribute room" aboard the USS Arlington to honor the victims and first responders to the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. As the AHS representative of this committee, I was happy to participate in the January 24 ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the tribute room aboard the ship, which was docked in Norfolk. The USS Arlington, one of three new U.S. Navy ships named in honor of the three targets of the 9/11 terrorists, is a LPD-24 (Landing Platform Dock), designed to deliver more than 800 Marines aboard amphibious landing craft from the ship's stern, which lowers into the water. Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, attended and spoke briefly.

The tribute room, though small, is tasteful and reflective in its message. A feature of the room is a large quilt stitched by Arlington 8th grade students and sewn together by Candy Lumpkin, containing the names of every person who died at the Pentagon that day. Photos and texts convey the horror of the occasion and the bravery of Arlington's fire and police first responders.

The Arlington Historical Museum has started to put together a display featuring the LPD-24. We are fortunate to have found experts on the two predecessor USS Arlingtons, who have agreed to serve as consultants in designing an exhibit that will discuss all three ships of the same name: Bill Dickinson, president of the Alexandria Historical Society, and Steve Roberts, a retired intelligence analyst and ship history expert.

### ORAL HISTORY AWARD

The Oral History Middle Atlantic Region (OHMAR) presents its annual Forest C. Pogue award, recognizing lifetime achievement in the field of oral history, to Judith Knudsen. For nineteen years, Judith has been manager of the special collections at the Arlington Public Library. She has overseen the extensive oral history program that now boasts more than 400 interview transcripts available for researchers. She organized the Arlington Remembers 9/11 project, which includes 35 interviews with firefighters, policemen and other citizens. An especially notable achievement has been securing oral history interviews with business and civic leaders in Arlington's long-standing African American community where there is a dearth of written and documentary history.

The Pogue award is named after Forest C. Pogue, an oral history pioneer, whose many contributions include conducting interviews with soldiers during the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944.

## Civil War Defenses Meeting at Hume

In hopes of increasing awareness in Arlington of key Civil War events that transpired in the Washington D.C. area, six individuals met in the Hume School boardroom to discuss how to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the battle of Fort Stevens, which will occur July 11-12.

AHS President John Richardson hosted the meeting, which was convened by Loretta Neumann of the Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Among those in attendance were Kym Elder of the National Park Service (NPS), Warren Nelson of the County's Sesquicentennial Commission on the Civil War, Bill Dickinson of the Alexandria Historical Society, and Destry Jarvis, a former Deputy Director of the National Park Service.

The group deliberated on events planned or that are under consideration, including a commemoration at Alexandria's Fort Ward over the weekend of July 11-13. The Alliance and NPS are coordinating efforts to expand the number of other activities open to the public. Loretta Neumann pointed out that while the Ft. Stevens battle took place in Washington, D.C., it should be considered in relation to the 68 forts that comprised the capital's Civil War defenses. Thirty-three, of which, are in Virginia.

## Arlington Jail Tour

By John Richardson, AHS President

I took a real eye-opener tour of the Arlington County Jail on Jan. 30, joining Sheriff Beth Arthur on her weekly inspection, and was educated along the way by Chief Deputy Sheriff, Paul Larson.

The Arlington jail belies every negative jail stereotype, since it is clean, orderly, and guided by humane principles of incarceration. The key is "direct supervision," a methodology that combines 24/7 supervision of each inmate area by a deputy sheriff, with behavior – vice the nature of the offense – guiding rewards and punishments for the ca. 475 current inmates.



Inmates are encouraged to use their time to better themselves. They do not make license plates or break rocks as seen in the movies. They can study for a G.E.D. (General Educational Development), a high school equivalency diploma; study for future college courses; or use the law library to write briefs in their own defense. Seemingly simple things like serving nutritious hot meals are also factors in maintaining a relatively relaxed environment. Sheriff Arthur pointed out that the rare case of a suicide, or an assault on a guard, is proof that the inmates respond positively to direct supervision and realize that it is in their interest to act in a constructive manner. Tours can be scheduled by calling the jail for an enlightening, reassuring experience.

## AHS-WETA Joint Project

AHS and WETA-TV have created a joint project that will take advantage of both organizations' strengths and increase public appreciation of Arlington history. The project will be based on AHS's (now) monthly Central Library lectures, from which WETA will select those of special interest and film interviews with the speakers and – occasionally – other individuals relevant to the topic. WETA will produce final videos and broadcast them, with advertising via social media in coordination with AHS. The short (3-5 minute) videos will be broadcast in advance of the scheduled lecture and serve to whet appetites for the library program. The video interviews will be posted on WETA's "Boundary Stones" blog, YouTube, and other outlets. AHS will work with WETA to insure the widest possible distribution and awareness of the filmed interviews. The project will kick off with Diane Perry's April lecture on Queen City, the predominantly black neighborhood that was scattered and destroyed to make way for construction of the Pentagon.

This is an exciting development for both organizations that will strengthen AHS's priority support to Arlington schools, neighborhoods, and minorities. WETA Interactive Web Manager, Mark Jones, is AHS's principal interlocutor on this and other joint activities. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with WETA in advancing Arlington history.



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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.

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