

THE BALL-SELLERS HOUSE PROJECT

By

Dean C. Allard and Ruth M. Ward



John Ball House with east room (before 1915)



Ball-Sellers House, ca. 1955

More than eight years ago, an amazing letter was received from a McLean attorney suggesting that Mrs. Marian Sellers of Vienna, Virginia, might donate to the Arlington Historical Society the historic homestead of John Ball located at 5620 South Third Street.¹ That structure had been included on one of the previous house tours of the Society, and local historians recognized it as a site of much importance for Arlington's heritage. In fact, it is in all likelihood the oldest house in Arlington. Nevertheless, this proposal came as a very welcome surprise since there was no previous indication that Mrs. Sellers was considering such a generous gift.

Over the remaining months of 1974, discussions were held with Mrs. Sellers and her attorney regarding this intriguing possibility. The Society was ably represented by Mr. Chester Brasse who, for a number of years, had volunteered his legal services to our organization. It soon became evident that, if the property was in fact to be conveyed to the Society, Mrs. Sellers had several, understandable conditions in mind. Most importantly, she sought assurances that the property would be "completely restored" and was "solely to be maintained . . . for historical purposes." The Society also promised to meet her legal expenses, provide an expert appraisal of the monetary value of the property, and agreed to explore the possible acquisition by itself or Arlington County of two adjacent lots owned by Mrs. Sellers. If the latter purchase could not be made, Mrs. Sellers wanted it understood that she was free to develop these lots as she saw fit.²

These informal and extremely friendly negotiations had been authorized in June and September 1974 by votes of the Society's Board of Directors and the general membership. Before finally agreeing to accept the property, however, the feasibility and desirability of the entire project needed to be determined. For that purpose, Donald J. Orth, the President of the Society during 1974-1975, established a committee charged with "negotiating the gift and exploring sources of funds for the possible purchase of two lots adjacent to the property and for the restoration and maintenance of historical buildings associated with the gift."³ The Committee was co-chaired by the authors of this article and eventually consisted of the following individuals:

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Dean C. Allard | Donald J. Orth |
| Charlotte Benjamin | Martha Orth |
| Sally Boss | Linda Page |
| Chester M. Brasse | Ruth Ward |
| Barbara Frisbie | Anne Webb |
| Lucille Ireland | Willard J. Webb |
| Dow Nida | Gay Yelverton |

One of the Committee's first efforts was to enlist the interest of Mr. Walter M. Macomber, a nationally-known historical architect who had overseen the restoration of the Society's Hume School museum some years earlier. After his visit to the property in the fall of 1974, Mr. Macomber concluded that the east wing of the house, which was believed to be John Ball's original homestead, was a significant example of eighteenth century log construction. He noted that the west wing, probably built in the 1880s, had less historical significance. Nevertheless, that portion

"lent itself admirably to . . . use as a caretaker's apartment." So far as the cost of restoration was concerned, the architect felt that the total budget would run about \$25,000, an estimate that proved remarkably close to the actual expenditures that were made over the next eight years of rapid inflation. Macomber's overall conclusion was that John Ball's house was "a unique little building and I strongly believe it to be worthy of preservation, particularly as it must be within my knowledge, the last remaining building of its type in Arlington County."⁴

In addition to Mr. Macomber's report, the Committee was encouraged by endorsements received from the civic association for the Glencarlyn neighborhood, where the house was located, and the Arlington Bicentennial Commission. These early indications of community support led the group to believe that there was good prospect of raising the estimated \$25,000 required for the restoration of the eighteenth century wing as a museum and the nineteenth century portion as living quarters for caretakers who could maintain the property. The Committee was not equally confident that it could command the additional \$30,000 estimated to be necessary for the acquisition of the two adjacent lots. Nevertheless, it was recognized that their purchase was highly desirable as a means of maintaining open space around the Ball house. Based on informal discussions with representatives of the county, the Committee hoped that Arlington park funds might become available for that purpose.

In November 1974, all of these considerations were discussed by the Society's Board of Directors at a meeting convened to decide whether final approval should be given to the acceptance of the John Ball house. At that time, several directors expressed concern that the Society, which was already committed to maintaining its museum on Arlington Ridge Road and to the annual publication of a magazine, could overreach itself in assuming an additional obligation.⁵ Although a majority of the Board eventually voted to agree to the donation, they recognized the wisdom of these words of caution. From the start, the Ball house committee members were determined to assure that the funds and volunteer efforts required for their project would be over and above those needed for the Society's other activities. Hence, they anticipated that the net effect of this undertaking would be to strengthen the Society as a whole, rather than to dilute its other efforts.

Following the Board of Directors meeting, final steps were taken for the property's transfer. The necessary legal papers were completed and executed by both parties in January 1975.⁶ Despite the previous discussions with Mrs. Sellers and her lawyer regarding conditions in the donation, these documents indicated that the property was an outright gift, without any restrictions whatsoever on its use by the Society. On 24 February 1975, a ceremony was held at the property during which Mrs. Sellers recalled her childhood days as a resident of the house and her hope that it could be preserved. She then presented the keys to President Orth. In response, Orth expressed the Society's enormous appreciation for the gift and noted that the Society was accepting this site to "preserve and hold in trust for the citizens of the county and all of Northern Virginia . . . We have saved many of the mansions of the affluent and powerful, but, this cabin represents the small farmer who settled the country . . . Here we are making an attempt to preserve that part of our heritage."⁷ The monetary dimensions of Mrs. Sellers' generosity

became evident several months later when the property was appraised as being worth \$85,000 by Mr. Alfred D. Heck, a prominent Arlington realtor.⁸

In the meantime, steps were taken to raise the necessary funds for the structure that now became known as the Ball-Sellers House in joint honor of its original builder, and Mrs. Sellers, the Society's generous benefactor. This drive received notable impetus in December 1974 when an anonymous member of the Historical Society donated \$1000. Over the next year, numerous appeals were made to other Society members and to community groups and foundations. By the end of 1975, approximately 150 separate gifts had been received that amounted to \$13,000, or about half of the total donations that would be received for the project. A major part of that sum was represented by a grant for \$5,250 from the Service League of Northern Virginia, which remained by far the largest gift received from any single source. The Service League's welcome interest also was represented by three of its members who served very effectively on the Ball-Sellers Committee. Other major gifts were provided by the Glencarlyn Civic Association, which lent its enthusiastic support throughout the project, as well as the Holbert L. Harris Foundation of Alexandria and the Washington Forrest Foundation of Arlington. Most of the other donations, which ranged in amount from \$5 to \$250, were more modest, but each of these gifts was a welcome indication of the broad base of community interest.

In addition to raising restoration funds, continuing efforts were made to persuade Arlington County to acquire the two building lots that Mrs. Sellers had offered for sale.⁹ The Glencarlyn neighborhood and the Ball-Sellers Committee noted that this property was the focal point for a notable historical precinct bounded by John Ball's house; the lovely Victorian structure facing on Third Street that had been built by General Samuel F. Burdett, one of the founders of the community; and by the Glencarlyn Community House, library, and cemetery. Despite these attempts, however, county funds were not forthcoming and, in the fall of 1975, Mrs. Sellers sold the two lots to Mrs. Francis C. Stetson who, in the next year, moved her handsome family home to the site.

Aside from fund raising, thorough research into the history of the Ball-Sellers House was essential. By the summer of 1975, Anne Webb, a member of the Committee, prepared an excellent article that discussed the original land grant to John Ball of 1742, the activities of John Ball and his family up to the time of his death in 1766, and the Carlin family which owned the property from 1772 to 1888. This account appeared in the *Arlington Historical Magazine* in October 1975.¹⁰ At the same time, the house was fortunate to attract the interest of Dr. Dell T. Upton, an architectural historian on the staff of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, who made the first of several visits to the structure in April 1975. Soon thereafter, Dr. Upton prepared a report nominating the house for inclusion on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. In this document, he observed that the eighteenth century wing, which consisted of a dirt floored basement, main room, lean-to addition, and large loft, was notable for its original log construction, doors, plaster, and trim. He also stated that the late nineteenth century wing included mantels and doors dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, apparently salvaged from an earlier structure. But,

Upton especially stressed that:

The loft is the most notable feature of the Ball-Sellers House, for it contains a rare surviving clapboard roof, protected by a later roof built around it but independent of it, thus preserving the original almost intact. It consists of riven oak clapboards, about four feet long, attached to roughly split rafters with collars which were raised at an early date to allow more headroom.

Although little known to architectural historians, due to the few extant examples, Upton remarked that such clapboard roofs were common in the eighteenth century. He concluded that: "Rarely has one survived in so complete a form as that of the Ball-Sellers House . . ." ¹¹

The Ball-Sellers House was added to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Landmark Register in June 1975, and accepted for the Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places in the next month. ¹² As a result, the house became eligible for state and federal restoration grants. These recognitions also indicated to members of the Arlington Historical Society that their major efforts on behalf of the property were justified.

Another essential requirement in the early days of the project was the identification of reliable tenants to protect this unoccupied structure from vandalism and also provide essential maintenance. Fortunately, Ware and Linda Page, who owned a modern house in Glencarlyn, volunteered for this assignment. In the spring of 1975, they also began to undertake some of the rehabilitation necessary to make the house livable for them and their two small children. After undertaking much painting, wallpapering, and floor sanding, they moved into the structure during June 1975. In many respects, the Pages emulated John Ball as pioneers over the next eighteen months. In a *Washington Post* article written by Linda Page later that year, which had the appropriate title "New Slant on Life in the Rough," she commented that the family's decision to undertake its own Bicentennial project may have been affected by the property's magnificent and ancient wisteria, which earlier in the year had held "the promise of sweet lavender blossoms." But, when the Pages moved in they discovered, in addition to wisteria blossoms, that hordes of termites were "sticking to our freshly painted door frames" and "crawling over our scrubbed and waxed floors." Many other visitors from the insect world also were encountered before the Society was able to engage the professional services of exterminators. Then, other surprises met the Pages, including floors covered in the morning with foggy dew and an entirely inadequate heating system that sometimes left the air in the refrigerator warmer than the surrounding room. At another point, the water pipes in the house froze and later burst, leading to a wild scene in which several people were "running madly around the house" in search of the main water cutoff valve. ¹³

To the relief of the Pages, some of the major restoration work also began during the winter of 1975-1976. The eighteenth century cabin, which was planned for use as a museum, included the only kitchen in the house. In order to allow this section to be vacated by the caretakers, a small, modern kitchen was planned for the nineteenth century wing. That step, plus the installation of modern heating in the caretaker quarters, was completed by February 1976, thus allowing future

attention to be concentrated on the historic structure built by John Ball more than 200 years ago. By the end of the Bicentennial summer, this work included rebuilding of the cabin's stone foundations, the installation of support beams salvaged from an ancient Fairfax County smokehouse, and the reconstruction of a fireplace in the precise location indicated by its original framing. Interior beaverboard wall covering and modern linoleum and hard wood flooring also were stripped from the cabin in preparation for further work. On the exterior, a large plastic window was installed that allowed one corner of the log structure to be studied. In addition, members of the Ball-Sellers Committee rebuilt the back porch of the caretaker wing and laid a curving brick walkway on the grounds. A more ambitious project was the work contributed by approximately twenty volunteers who completely repainted the structure's exterior. It seemed entirely appropriate that these individuals contributed their labor at a time when so many other community efforts recognized the nation's Bicentennial celebration.

During the rebuilding of the foundations under the oldest section of the house, a great deal of debris was removed that was carefully screened by Don Orth. He found in this material, and in objects acquired through personal forays in the crawl space under the nineteenth century wing, many interesting artifacts. A few of these dated from the eighteenth century, and many more from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They included pieces of clay smoking pipes, hand-made nails and other metal objects, and many fragments of china and pottery. Among the latter were pieces of green and blue feather-edged plates manufactured by the Wedgwood firm about 1800. Complete examples of this china, which match the shards found on the Ball-Sellers site, have more recently been acquired through donation or by purchase from antique dealers, and are on display in the house.

In contrast, earlier digs made in the summer of 1975 by volunteers from the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia provided a disappointing yield. These preliminary investigations were most incomplete, however, and one of the remaining tasks at the property is to undertake a thorough archeological investigation of the grounds. For this work, the services of a professional archeologist, to provide direction and continuity, will be essential.

Throughout the Bicentennial year of 1976, the Society also continued its efforts to involve the community in the Ball-Sellers project. In May, a well-attended garden party, organized by Barbara Frisbie, was held at the house which featured a performance of the Patowmack Ancients Fife and Drum Corps, and also led to the raising of approximately \$800 for the restoration fund. The house was opened for the Society's annual house tour and for Glencarlyn Day. An informative sound and slide presentation on the history of the property and the early stages of its restoration was prepared by Anne Webb and Linda Page. This show has been well received by the scores of community groups that have seen it over the last six years. Finally, in December 1976, a handsome, bronze plaque, donated by the Washington-Lee Society of the Children of the American Revolution and the Thomas Nelson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was unveiled and dedicated at the house.

In the same month this ceremony was held, the Page family, concluding that their pioneering days in the Ball-Sellers House were over, decided to move back to

their own home. They were succeeded in January 1977 by Joy and Jonathan Busch, who remained as caretakers until September 1978, and were followed by the Reverend E. Russell Lynn (1978-1980) and Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Jones (1980 to present). All of these tenants have protected and maintained the house and grounds and shown numerous visitors through the property. In order to allow the caretakers to continue to live in the house and provide essential services, they donate to the Society a monthly payment of \$100, all of which is applied to the maintenance of the property. Over the years, that work has included additional insulation, a new roof, painting, and other interior improvements, including the purchase of new appliances. In 1978, Chester Brasse, who continued to donate his valuable legal services to the Society, reaffirmed from the Arlington County tax assessors that this arrangement was consistent with the tax-free status of the Ball-Sellers House.

During 1977, a new stage in the restoration of the property began when preliminary approval was given for a federal grant of \$2700, to be administered through the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in Richmond. Most of this money was earmarked for the removal of the modern siding covering the logs of the eighteenth century wing and its replacement with clapboards matching a small, surviving example of the original eighteenth century weatherboards. The grant also covered the replacement of the early twentieth century windows in the cabin with those typical of the eighteenth century. In the following months, however, the latter task was reconsidered by grant officials of the Department of the Interior and the Virginia Landmarks Commission who pointed out that there was no evidence indicating the location or type of fenestration used in the original structure. This issue became the subject of complex negotiations between officials in Washington and Richmond and representatives of the Historical Society. It was not resolved until early in 1979, at which time it became necessary to abandon the window phase of the project.¹⁵ In the meantime, further restoration work on the house was deferred.

This delay was frustrating for members of the Ball-Sellers Committee, leading some of them to wonder whether the complexities of federal grants justified the modest funds that were being made available. In retrospect, though, the committee was grateful that its attention was directed to the philosophic underpinnings of its project. In effect, preservation officials in Washington and Richmond were suggesting that it was better to preserve the house's basic structure, including some modern features, than to undertake a speculative restoration based upon modern concepts regarding the original appearance of the house. The Ball-Sellers Committee came to accept that point of view and became increasingly cautious regarding modifications at the house. To large extent, the Committee's goal now became one of stabilizing, preserving, and displaying the existing architecture as a reflection of the historical evolution of John Ball's homestead over more than two centuries.

Another restraint on moving ahead with the project in this period was the inability to obtain a contractor who could assume overall responsibility for the work. Mr. Paul T. Gennantonio, an associate of Walter Macomber, acted in that capacity during 1975-1976, but due to other commitments, was unable to continue. In 1978, preliminary arrangements were made with another experienced overseer. But, in the spring of 1979 this individual withdrew from the project when it became

evident that the available funds were inadequate to complete all of the tasks that he considered necessary. In the light of their new outlook on preservation, members of the Ball-Sellers committee no longer considered a good part of this work to be appropriate.

By this time, it became obvious that the Committee would need to act as its own contractor in order to conserve its limited resources and to assure control of the project. Hence, between 1979 and 1981, when the basic work on the eighteenth century wing was completed, Committee members prepared overall plans, specifications, and schedules, hired individual craftsmen, supervised their work, purchased necessary materials, prepared the complex paperwork associated with the administration of the federal grant, and volunteered their own labor to accomplish as many tasks as possible. Throughout this period, the Committee continued to receive invaluable advice from Walter Macomber, as well as from Don and Martha Orth who now were restoring their own historic house in Virginia's Northern Neck. Welcome assistance also was received from staff members of the Landmarks Commission who due to the conditions accompanying the grant of public funds, monitored all aspects of the project.

The work on the eighteenth century wing logically began in the basement. During wet weather, water up to a foot in depth collected in this area, since the dirt floor was lower than the surrounding water table. In solving the moisture problem, the floor was graded and covered with plastic sheeting and several inches of gravel. Then, at the lowest point, a sump pump was installed to eject the water that built up after heavy rains.

It also became clear that further support for the cabin was necessary in order to assure its stability. Therefore, several additional beams, supported by vertical timbers placed on concrete footings, were installed horizontally under the house. A final task was to reconstruct a stairway into the basement with heavy stones previously serving as part of the foundation of a nineteenth century log outbuilding located on John Ball's original property. That structure was now owned by Mrs. Stetson, who generously donated the necessary stones.

On the first floor of John Ball's homestead, one of the initial tasks was to reconstruct the enclosed stairway to the loft, which had been removed many years before. Marks remaining on the floor, wall, and beams clearly indicated its dimensions and design, and this evidence was followed with great skill by Charlie R. Gilman, who constructed the new stairs, using funds largely provided by the Glen-carlyn Civic Association. Mr. Gilman also built and installed two board and batten doors at the foot of the stairway and leading to the nineteenth century wing, that matched original doors in the cabin. Finally, he reinforced the rafters supporting the exterior roof and the horizontal beams in the lean-to addition.

Other work in the main room and lean-to included the replacement of those relatively few sections of the original oak-plank flooring that had succumbed to rot or termite damage. Much of the original chair rail and base board trim also survived. Missing sections were replaced with similar molding specially milled for the Society. The interior walls of the structure originally were covered with crude lathing, plaster, and many coats of whitewash. Since only small areas of this material could be preserved, most of the interior was covered with new plaster and

whitewash that resembled as nearly as possible the old examples that remained. Before this work was undertaken, two plastic plates were placed in the walls to allow visitors to study typical examples of the structural logs, old lathing, and original, crumbling plaster. The ceiling of the lean-to also was plastered and white-washed, with the exception of an area in the center that was kept open to allow the extremely important interior, clapboard roof to be viewed. All of this work was accomplished by two long-time residents of Arlington, Frank Bowen and Jim Bennett, who developed a deep personal interest in the structure that they did so much to preserve.

The principal task on the exterior of the structure involved removing the modern siding and replacing it with four-inch wide weatherboards similar to a small example from the eighteenth century that survived on the south end of the house. This work also was undertaken by Frank Bowen and Jim Bennett. They additionally installed a plastic window on the south wall that allowed the exterior of the internal roof to be seen, and erected a handsome arbor, designed by Willard Webb, to support the Ball-Sellers House's remarkable wisteria vine. Another basic job was the complete electrical re-wiring of the eighteenth century wing by a firm headed by Mr. Harry R. Raynor who, as a young boy, had played in the yard of the house. Finally, the crumbling, modern roof over John Ball's homestead was covered with heavy, cedar shingles, which dramatically improved the exterior appearance of the structure.

As all of this work was being completed, the Committee decided that a formal dedication of the Ball-Sellers House could be scheduled for the fall of 1981. In preparing for that event, members of the Historical Society once again volunteered their services in painting the structure's entire exterior, as they had done five years earlier. Inside the house, historical displays were prepared by Kathy Holt and Anne and Willard Webb that featured archeological artifacts discovered on the property and exhibits recreating insofar as possible the personal belongings of John Ball at the time of his death in 1766. These included furnishings typical of the period donated by Herbert R. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Rafe Chloe, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Burns, and other Historical Society members. Finally, there was a handsome volume prepared by the calligrapher Rene Burdetsky listing the 270 donors to the Ball-Sellers fund. Through the end of June 1982, a total of \$29,081.97 had been raised through gifts from those individuals and organizations, federal grants, payments received from the caretakers, and interest on savings accounts. \$27,367.81 of that amount had been invested in the project, leaving the Society with a small fund of \$1,714.16 for future expenses.

A reception marking the completion of the Ball-Sellers House restoration was held at the property on October 18, 1981. Despite gloomy, threatening weather, more than 100 people gathered on the lawn for the event. A committee of the Glencarlyn Civic Association served refreshments to the guests, from a table set beneath the new arbor supporting the wisteria. The principal speaker was Mr. Douglass Reed of Sharpsburg, Maryland, an expert on first-settlement building practices of American pioneers. He commended the Arlington Historical Society for preserving and exhibiting the evidence in the Ball-Sellers House that so effectively revealed these techniques. Mrs. Sellers was also present at the ceremony

and indicated her pleasure with the results of the project. Her sentiments and those of many others involved in the work were beautifully expressed by Dr. Jennifer McCabe Atkinson, a niece of Ruth Ward, who wrote the following poem marking the dedication of the house:

THE BUILDERS

So it's finally the day,
Mused Old John Ball.

He peered through the gray clouds
And two hundred years
At the folk who had gathered
In the cool of the fall.

But do they know?
Can they see?
Do they feel?

For years I have watched
As they strived and toiled,
Restoring the work of my hands.
They rebuilt the fireplace
And uncovered my floor,
Put stairs to the loft
And bared logs I had laid.
They cleaned and they scraped;
They hammered and sawed;
They shored up the timbers
And replaced the worn stones,
And all with a love and a joy.

But do they know?
Can they see?
Do they feel?

Do they see me out on an empty hill,
Midst the awesome beauty of the land?
Do they hear warm sounds of the thrush-song,
Or the cheery rasp of squirrel-talk?
Do they see the heart-stopping sunsets,
Or bright prisms of morning dew?
Do they feel the steamy summer,
Or the bite of the winter's chill wind?
Do they gasp at the strident red maple,
Or smile at the valiant young crocus?

Do they know how I trembled
When I stopped and said, "Here.
I will build my house here. And I'll stay.
Here will I make my life.
Here will I have my say."

They must know somehow.
Else why were they so loving --
So careful, so proud?

They should know that I'm pleased,
And that if I could,
I'd invite them in
For a bite to eat
And a cup of cider
For a draw on the pipe
And a friendly chat.

I'd welcome them all
So they'd know,
Said a smiling and satisfied
Old John Ball --
For what we have now built together,
For what we have now said together.

Although the essential preservation of the Ball-Sellers House is accomplished, continuing efforts will need to be made in managing the property. For example, attempts to locate direct descendants of John Ball,¹⁶ research in official records and other sources that might throw additional light on the activities of the Ball and Carlin families, and completion of a thorough archeological survey of the property will be highly desirable. Perhaps a thousand people have seen the house to date. In the future, special events and possibly a regular visitation schedule can allow the house to be appreciated by many additional individuals. There will be a continuing need to maintain the structure and to improve landscaping of its grounds.

It also can be concluded that the Arlington Historical Society met an obligation to preserve one of Arlington's prime historical sites for future generations. That task was possible because of the support of hundreds of individuals who donated funds, labor, and interest over a period of eight years. The breadth of community support for this project is a gratifying indication of the commitment of Northern Virginians to honoring their rich heritage.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Bradley R. Coury to President, Arlington Historical Society, April 19, 1974. (All documents cited in this article and other pertinent records on the Ball-Sellers project are maintained in the Society's archives.)

² Mr. Coury to President, Arlington Historical Society, June 24, 1974; Mr. Coury to Chester Brasse, August 19, 1974.

³ President, Arlington Historical Society to Dean C. Allard, October 2, 1974.

⁴ Walter M. Macomber to Dean C. Allard, January 16, 1975 and May 22, 1975.

⁵ See Harrison Mann to President, Arlington Historical Society, December 2, 1974.

⁶ Declaration of Gift by Marian Sellers, January 14, 1975; Deed between Marian Sellers and Arlington Historical Society, January 14, 1975.

⁷ Quoted in *Northern Virginia Sun*, February 25, 1975.

⁸ A. D. Heck to Dean C. Allard, August 8, 1975.

⁹ President, Arlington Historical Society, to Chairman, Arlington County Board, February 7, 1975, and March 7, 1975.

¹⁰ Anne Cipriani Webb, "The Ball-Sellers House in Glencarlyn," *Arlington Historical Magazine* (1975).

¹¹ This report is from Executive Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission to President, Arlington Historical Society, July 1, 1975. See also Dell T. Upton, "Board Roofing in Tidewater Virginia," *APT [Association for Preservation Technology]*, Vol. VIII, No. 4 (1976).

¹² Executive Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission to President, Arlington Historical Society, August 1, 1975.

¹³ *Washington Post*, September 28, 1975; Glencarlyn Citizens Association, *Village View*, March 1976.

¹⁴ President, Arlington Historical Society, to Chester Brasse, April 27, 1978.

¹⁵ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission letters to Ball-Sellers Committee of January 21, 1977, June 1, 1978, August 16, 1978, December 18, 1978, and January 24, 1979.

¹⁶ John Ball was survived by five daughters, whose married names were Stacy Dowdall, Mary Hardin, Milly Thompson, Winifred Rollings, and another (first name unknown) who married James Gray. To this date, the Historical Society has not been able to identify their living descendants.