



Arlington Historical Society

Winter 2008
Newsletter
Volume 52, Number 3

In This Issue

Hume Needs Your Help

Calling Toy Lovers

News from the Board

News from Ball-Sellers

Progress on Hume
School Grounds

Curator Wish List

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors

George W. Dodge,
President
Tom Dempsey,
Vice President
Linda Y. Gouazé,
Recording Secretary
Joi Ionni,
Corresponding Secretary
Kevin R. Appel,
Treasurer
Gerald Laporte,
Immediate Past President
Tom Dickinson, Director
Richard Herbst, Director
Conchita Mitchell, Director
Jennifer Sale, Director
Joan White, Director

Mark Benbow, Curator

Arlington Historical
Society
P.O. Box 100402
Arlington, VA 22210
703 892-4204

Hume Needs Your Support

Jennifer Sale, Chair of the Hume School Building Committee, has completed a building analysis of Hume School. The study identifies ten critical issues and what needs to take place to address those concerns. The critical concerns include flaking interior and exterior paint, damaged plaster, damaged ceiling tiles, needed masonry wall work and other items. All of the items have been prioritized. In addition her report details a Preservation Maintenance Plan to guide her committee.

Jennifer and her committee have already been hard at work. They've had to clean up the 2nd floor after the damage done by a raccoon. They've had the 1st floor toilet replaced and basement toilet repaired. The front door has been repaired. Chick Walters Grounds Committee has also been hard at work. All of this has been accomplished on a tight budget with lots of volunteer time. Now you can help and it doesn't require strapping on your tool belt or digging in the dirt. Just pull out your checkbook.

To put the building analysis and preservation plan in place, we need your help. All of this costs money. But money spent to house our history is money well spent. We must keep Hume in sound condition – inside and out. Any amount will be appreciated. Please send your contributions to the Arlington Historical Society at PO Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210. Help us keep Hume as a landmark of which we can all be proud.

Calling All Toy Lovers! Toy Exhibit at Museum

Mark Benbow

A new exhibit, "What Santa Brought to Arlington: Toys from 1920-1950", is open at the Arlington Historical Society Museum at the Hume School. I've been reviewing the collection and found that the Society has a large collection of antique toys so I developed this exhibit. It includes a very nice antique Lionel train from the 1930s, a 1920s erector set, Big Little Books, cars, doll house furniture, games, and my

favorite artifact, a 1930s aluminum dirigible! The exhibit opened on Saturday, November 24 and will run through January 2008. Come see the toys and take in a little childhood Christmas cheer!



News From the Board

Linda Y. Gouazé, Recording Secretary

The Board was busier than ever this fall, both as a body and in individual actions - chairing Historical Society committees and other activities.

We met in a special session on October 2 to review and approve our FY2008 Budget, which emphasizes much needed improvements to our museum in two ways: by funding our new curator and by including more money for the increasingly urgent physical needs of our museum building.

As we begin to home in on the difficult task of raising funds to support these improvements, it was heartening to receive some good news in that area. We were visited at our November Board meeting by Diane Perry and Alice Andors, President and Past President, respectively, of the Aurora Hills Women's Club (AHCW), who announced the AHCW's donation of \$2,500 in proceeds from their 2006 Christmas boutique to the Society. This donation is designated for use in the repair and restoration of the former Hume School building which houses our museum. Their announcement of that generous donation was made even better by their news that the AHCW intends to continue this practice by donating proceeds from their 2007 and future Christmas boutiques to the Society, designated to the same purpose. Thanks, AHCW!

The Society had a table at the AHCW's very successful 2007 Christmas boutique, held December 8, 2007 at the Mount Vernon Baptist Church hall on South 23rd Street.

Organizing our participation in the AHCW boutique was one of several special events managed this fall by our Vice President and Special Events Committee

Chair Tom Dempsey, in conjunction with Eleanor Pourron, Museum Bookstore Manager. Tom and Eleanor also organized our table at Gulf Branch Nature Center's October 13 Pioneer Day event and handled our December 18 Museum Open House.

Society President George Dodge partnered with the National Park Service again this year to present our traditional fall event at Arlington House on October 26. George and Board members Tom Dempsey, Joi Ionni, and Tom Dickinson appeared in the Arlington House



gardens in costume, reading aloud by candlelight the bios of a few of the sixty officers buried right around the house. This event was supported by the "Historic Arlington Days"

proclamation which Joi Ionni, Corresponding Secretary, arranged for the County Board to issue.

Jennifer Sale, Board member and Museum Building Committee Chair, has completed a detailed analysis of the physical deficiencies in the former Hume School building that houses our museum. She is also searching diligently for grants to help fund the repair of those deficiencies. Partly to enable us to qualify for a broader range of such grants, the Board has voted to increase the total number of hours our museum is open by returning to our earlier practice of remaining open during February for our usual Saturday and Sunday hours.

AHS Board member and Newsletter Editor Conchita Mitchell publishes herewith her second beautiful newsletter and also took on the task of distributing Magazine Editor Karl VanNewkirk's magnificent 2007 issue of the AHS Historical Magazine. She made a

major contribution to the 2007-2008 Membership Directory published by your correspondent, who also worked with George Dodge to launch the Bell-Ringer Campaign - and is now anxiously awaiting the returns on this major annual fundraising effort!

The Board wrapped up its 2007 activities by converting our December 18 Board meeting into a Museum Open House for all AHS members. We hope you found the time to come by, chat with the Society President and Board members, enjoy the light refreshments while basking in the sepia-toned ambience, and spend some time examining in detail the superb new exhibit—*What Santa Brought to Arlington from the 1920s through the 1950s*—created from our extensive collection of antique toys by our Curator, Dr. Mark Benbow.

News From Ball-Sellers House Martha Orth

The last Saturday of October marked the end of the Saturday open times for the Ball-Sellers House. We start up again the first Saturday in April. During our season we hosted a number of interesting events: a Smithsonian tour, scarecrow making, a senior citizens history class, a walking club and a walking tour of Washington's Forest. In December, we are welcoming some classes from Campbell School and a hiking club.

We have recently found a descendent of William Carlin (whose family lived in the house for over a hundred years). He is David Richards, descended from William Carlin's daughter Rebecca, who married John Richards. The Richards family plans a reunion at the Ball-Sellers in the spring.

Progress on Hume School Grounds Chick Walter

Next time you're in the area, visit the grounds of Hume School and the contiguous County Historical grounds behind it to see what has been accomplished in less than three years. With a great turnout at the recent volunteer day, volunteers did a final



grooming and clearing of the grounds and hill for the planting that took place. Arlington County has installed the planned shrubs and trees that are part of a small Parks Enhancement Grant received by the Arlington Historical Society. In mid-summer, the asphalt path was replaced leading from the Hume stairs to South Lynn Street at South 16th. After three years of effort and countless volunteer hours, the grounds are in a maintainable condition.

The County is thanked for their support. Also, special thanks go to Bonnie Flynn and Nancy Kent who shepherded Parks Enhancement Grants through the application process on behalf of Arlington Ridge Civic Association and the Historical Society. Special thanks also to Eric Rishel, Jennifer Moran, Deb Loftus, and Bonnie Flynn who kept the trees and roses watered through the summer drought. Thanks also to Don Clarke and Dick Herbst who have donated extra time to prune and clear the grounds.

Please send items for future newsletters
to conchitamitchell@aol.com by
3/11/08 for publication on 4/1/08
6/10/08 for publication on 7/1/08

Mark Benbow's Curator Wish List

The Arlington Historical Society is looking for artifacts to expand their collection and current displays for their museum at the Hume School. If you have any of the items listed below and would care to donate them, the museum will gladly acknowledge donors in their exhibits (and you may get a tax deduction as well!) This list does not include everything we need, just some of the items we especially desire. Some items may be listed in multiple categories. At the bottom of the list you'll find a list of things we do not currently need. If you have something interesting that's not listed, please contact us. Among the items we'd like to acquire are...

Civil Rights Era

- ◆ General artifacts - Our collection is currently sadly lacking artifacts from the Civil Rights struggles of the mid 20th century or earlier. We'd love to acquire artifacts from the Civil Rights movement in Arlington, 1950-1970. This could include flyers, buttons, programs, newsletters or signs that indicated "whites only" or "colored" such as those used on drinking fountains, etc. Also please consider contacting the Arlington Black Heritage Museum with donations. We would also like to acquire yearbooks from any Arlington school from the 1950s showing first integrated classes.

Politics

- ◆ Ballots from Arlington elections before 1960
- ◆ Political pamphlets from before 1950 - These need to be Arlington-related. Those from national or state elections are fine if they were issued by political parties in Arlington.
- ◆ Prohibition buttons, advertisements, pamphlets, programs, etc. - These should be from Virginia Prohibition campaigns (pre 1920) including material from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and Anti-Saloon League (ASL).

Schools

- ◆ Photos from late 1920s Washington-Lee baseball team
- ◆ Yearbooks from before 1930 would be welcome as well
- ◆ Yearbooks from 1950s showing first integrated classes
- ◆ School books from pre-1960 - only if they are in reasonably good shape and can be identified as having been used in Arlington County.

Businesses

- ◆ Bottles, labels, etc. from Arlington/Consumers brewery - We'd also love to hear family stories from those who worked at this brewery.
- ◆ Bottles and labels from Cherry Smash
- ◆ Medicine bottles from Arlington County drug stores
- ◆ Patent medicine bottles found in Arlington
- ◆ Menus or matchbooks from Arlington restaurants, pre-1970
- ◆ Pawn ticket(s) from the Key Bridge Loan Company, Rosslyn
- ◆ Flyers, postcards, price lists, etc. from Arlington businesses before 1960 - The colorful letterheads and envelopes used by many businesses before 1920 would be especially welcome!

Publications

- ◆ A copy of the *Washington Shopping News* from the 1930s or 1940s
- ◆ Programs from Arlington Churches - pre-1960 only please
- ◆ Church history pamphlets or books from Arlington churches

Paper Items

- ◆ Ballots from Arlington elections held before 1960
- ◆ Menus from area restaurants, pre-1970
- ◆ Artifacts from the 1946 Centennial Fair

Mark Benbow's Curator Wish List

- ◆ Pawn ticket from the Key Bridge Loan Company, Rosslyn
- ◆ Programs from Arlington Churches, pre-1960
- ◆ Arlington/Alexandria newspapers, pre-1920
- ◆ Advertisements, pamphlets, programs, etc. from the Virginia Prohibition campaigns (pre 1920) including material from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and Anti-Saloon League (ASL)
- ◆ Sanborn (insurance) maps showing Rosslyn or Hume School - Quality color copies are welcome.
- ◆ Postcards of local businesses, pre-1960

Transportation

- ◆ Bus tokens or tickets from Arlington buses, pre-1970
- ◆ Photographs (preferably original, not Xerox copies) - We have donated most of our photo collection to the Arlington County Library Virginia Room, but we could still use a few photos for planned exhibits.
- ◆ Photo of Rhonda Gilliam (employee of local school district) - Even a yearbook photo would do!
- ◆ Photos of Columbia Pike pre 1940 - These can be photos of the street, of businesses or churches or homes along Columbia Pike.
- ◆ Stereoviews of places or things in Arlington
- ◆ A photo of Swiller Brothers Music Store

Maps

- ◆ Sanborn (insurance) maps showing Rosslyn or Hume School

Odds and Ends

- ◆ Any fossils dug in Arlington County
- ◆ Antique toys in reasonable condition are welcome if the original owner was a child in Arlington.

Things We Do Not Need

There are some items that we do not need. These include...

- ◆ Newspapers - Newspapers from, the Kennedy assassinations, Moon Landings, start or end of World War II, Nixon's resignation and any other major historical event that occurred after 1940 unless it occurred in Arlington. If you have any pre-1950 Arlington newspapers please contact us and we'll consider them on a case-by-case basis.
- ◆ Confederate money
- ◆ Civil War bullets - unless you found them in Arlington. Other Civil War relics are welcome.
- ◆ Campaign buttons, signs, bumper stickers or any other such artifacts from any post-1940 presidential election
- ◆ Unidentified horse or mule shoes, even if you dug them in Arlington
- ◆ Rusty tools from the 20th century
- ◆ American flags from Arlington Cemetery
- ◆ Milk bottles from dairies outside of Arlington
- ◆ Postcards of Arlington National Cemetery
- ◆ Virginia license plates - Arlington County plates are welcome in good condition

If you have any of the items on our list but you don't want to donate it, if you are willing to let the Historical Society borrow it, please contact us.

Have an artifact to donate? All artifact donations must be pre-screened by our Acquisitions Committee. Please email a description and photo, if possible, to info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or leave a message at (703) 892-4204.



Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 8 - The Story of What Captain John Smith Encountered in Arlington in 1608. 7:00 p.m. - Central Library - The speaker will be Charles S. Clark. Charlie is a long-time member of the Arlington Historical Society and has contributed articles to the Arlington Historical Society Magazine including one on John Smith in Arlington in the October 2007 magazine.

Thursday, January 17 – Pola Negri Movie Night - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Ages 17 and above. Attend to learn about one of the queens of the silent screen and Gulf Branch's most exciting (human) resident. Pola Negri lived in the Nature Center when it was still a private home. There will be a discussion of the life and times of this screen siren and a big screen viewing of one of her movies. Popcorn and soda will be served. For more information call 703-228-3403. \$5 fee per person due at the park on the day of the program. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Rd., Arlington.

Saturday, January 19 - Fort Ward Hosts Tribute to Alexandrian Robert E. Lee on His Birthday - Fort Ward Museum will host a birthday tribute to Robert E. Lee, commanding general of the Confederate Army and one of Virginia's most distinguished citizens, on Saturday, January 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On this day, the 201st anniversary of Lee's birth, Fort Ward will serve birthday cake to visitors, display period portraits of Lee from the museum's collection, and highlight Lee's connections to Alexandria. Confederate reenactors from the 17th Virginia Infantry, a unit that included many Alexandrians, will honor Lee with a salute, drills and camp life impressions. Admission to this event is free, and free parking is also available. Fort Ward is the best-preserved fortification in the Defenses of Washington, which were built to protect the Union capital during the Civil War. The museum

offers changing exhibits, tours, lectures, and interpretive programs throughout the year. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site is located at 4301 West Braddock Road. For more information, please visit www.fortward.org or call 703-838-4848.

Wednesday, January 23 - Civil War Discoveries: Codes and Signals - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Ages 7-11 - Join in for this hands-on history program. During the Civil War, flags and codes were used to send secret messages. Attendees will make and use a cipher disc and signal flags to send messages across the park. For more information call 703-243-7329. \$3 fee per child due at the park on the day of the program. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at the Tractor Barn at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St., Arlington.

Sunday, January 27 - Log House Tour - 1:00 - 1:30 p.m., 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. - All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. What's behind the locked door of the intriguing log house? It's constructed from timbers saved from a house built in 1871. See the upstairs, talk with a naturalist, and sample an old-fashioned treat and discover what life was like over 100 years ago. For more information call 703-228-3403. \$1 fee per person due at the park on the day of the program. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Rd., Arlington.

Visit the Society at
<http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>
for updates and items of interest.
Be sure to renew your membership.
A form is available on the website.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, February 9 - Fort C.F. Smith Park & Historic Site Walking Tour - 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Ages 7 and above. - Learn about the park's Civil War history and explore its diverse habitats during a tour of the park's 19 acres. Dress for the weather. For more information call 703-243-4342. - Free. - Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at Fort C.F. Smith Park at the Tractor Barn, 2411 N. 24th St., Arlington.

Saturday, February 9 - Civil War Discoveries: Design A Fort - 11:00 a.m. – Noon - Ages 7-11 - A hands-on history program. After learning about how Arlington's Civil War forts were designed and how cannons were placed and used in them, attendees will design forts to protect the city. For more information call 703-243-7329. \$3 fee per child due at the park on the day of the program. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at the Tractor Barn at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St., Arlington.

Saturday, February 9 - Hanssen Spy Tour - 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Adults. - The infamous spy and traitor Robert Hanssen had connections with Long Branch Nature Center. Attend for a discussion of the FBI's nature center operations and the cold hard cash stashed there! You may have read the books or seen the movie, now discover additional facts about what happened. Get the inside scoop on your very own spy tour. For more information call 703-228-6535. \$2 fee per person due at the park on the day of the program. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington.

Tuesday, February 12 - Dave Drake, Extra-Ordinary Potter - 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. - Adults. - In honor of Black History Month, learn about the life and works of David Drake, a 19th Century African-American artist, poet, and craftsman. The huge ceramic jars that Dave created are considered gems: rare, durable, and beautiful. Through a slide show, you will see some of the notable pieces of pottery he made; and read and hear the expressive, spare poetry which he inscribed on his pots. Free. - Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Rd., Arlington.

Saturday, February 23 - Fort Ethan Allen Park Walking Tour - 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Ages 7 and above. - Fort Ethan Allen has the most extensive remaining features of any of the Civil War forts left in Arlington. The program will explore the remaining earthworks and show how and why the fort was built. Free. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at Fort Ethan Allen, 3829 N. Stafford St., Arlington.

Wednesday, February 27 - Log House Special: Black History Month For Kids - 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Ages 7-10. - Dave Drake, an African-American from South Carolina, wrote verses on many of the giant-sized pots he made. Attendees will see pictures of Dave's pottery, learn about his life and times, and make a pot like Dave's. \$3 fee per child due at the park on the day of the program. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747. Meet at the Log House at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Rd., Arlington.

Mark your calendar for Historical Society programs at 7:30 p.m. on March 11 and May 13, 2008. The meetings will take place at Central Library. Programs to be announced.

Arlington Historical Society
PO Box 100402
Arlington, VA 22210

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
ARLINGTON VA
PERMIT NO 1578



Paul Ferguson presents the
Historic Arlington Day Proclamation
to Linda Grouazé and George Dodge



Arlington Historical Museum

1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Open Saturdays & Sundays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free
Come visit our permanent exhibits on
the 200+ year history of the county.



Ball Sellers House

5620 South Third Street
Open Saturdays, 1-4 p.m., April
through October with special events
scheduled during this time. There is no
admission fee, but a donation is
appreciated. You may also arrange a
visit by calling 703-379-2123.

<http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

Arlington Historical Society Board of Directors

President, George W. Dodge

703-528-6422
gdodge@georgedodgelaw.com

Vice President, Tom Dempsey

703-807-5191
tedempsey@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary, Linda Gouazé

703-469-1803
gouazely@verizon.net

Corresponding Secretary, Joi Ionni

703-938-0433
jionni@arlingtonva.us

Treasurer, Kevin R. Appel

703-248-9450
kraesq@comcast.net

Immediate Past President

Gerald J. Laporte

703-527-6783
g.laporte@verizon.net

Directors

Tom Dickinson

703-841-4992
annt.tomd@verizon.net

Richard Herbst

703-892-5290
herbstgdad@aol.com

Conchita Mitchell

703-892-4780
conchitamitchell@aol.com

Jennifer Sale

703-635-7899
jen@slipt.com

Joan White

703-492-6065
pastnpresent@aol.com