

# Arlington Historical Society

www.ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org

Volume 52, Number 1

## From the Desk of George W. Dodge...

To the chagrin of many people, I have decided to stay on another year as president due, mainly, to unfinished goals that I have set for our organization. Foremost is the plan to change the current museum exhibit to a neighborhood history exhibit and an exhibit on Arlington National Cemetery which profiles the lives and accomplishments of some of those interred in our most famous military cemetery. A sampling of this exhibit has begun which features the eight actors in Arlington: Lee Marvin-Oscar winner in "Cat Ballou," Constance Bennett-co-starred with Clark Gable, Cary Grant and Basil Rathbone, Audie Murphy-king of the B-movies of the 1950's, Faye Bainter-Oscar recipient in "Jezebel," Ilona Massey—aka baroness Frankenstein, Wayne Morris and Priscilla Lane—each of whom worked with Ronald Reagan in "Brother Rat" and Phyllis Kirk—The Thin Man TV series with Peter Lawford and the 3-D horror classic "House of Wax" with Vincent Price. Also to be covered are the three Iwo Jima flag-raisers buried in Arlington, Major Archibald Butt—the Roosevelt and Taft aide who heroically perished on the *Titanic*, William and Helen Taft and Robert Lincoln—son of Abraham Lincoln. Eventually the Kennedy's, Medal of Honor recipients and others will be covered. I wish to thank our corresponding secretary Joi Iommi for discovering and researching some of those persons listed above.

How can you help? We are requesting that you look through your personal items or collections and if you have any pictures or artifacts on those interred in Arlington and would like to loan or deed them to the AHS for museum use then please let me know. They need not be celebrities. Information on your uncles, grandfathers, spouses, sons etc. that are in Arlington are welcome should you desire to disclose this information. I understand if you choose not to disclose family information—I once was involved in litigation (successfully) to prevent someone from obtaining information about my deceased first born, five-year-old daughter. However, our objective is to tell the inspiring stories of certain persons interred in Arlington, including Columbia Gardens.

We need, for example, John and Robert Kennedy campaign buttons—I doubt if anyone however, has memorabilia regarding President William Taft. Magazine or movie related items on the actors buried in Arlington or bios on those buried in Arlington such as "Pride of the Marines" starring John Garfield which is based on Medal of Honor recipient Al Schmid; Tuskegee Airmen, or Cliff Robertson's portrayal of JFK in "PT 109" would be welcome. US postage stamps of those buried in Arlington are also needed: Marines Joe Basilone, John Lejeune, and Dan Daly for example. Books by Ludwig Bemelman (creator of Madeline) and old (pre 1965) New Yorker magazine covers by Bemelman—author and illustrator of more than 40 books for children and adults—are needed—yes, he's in Arlington. We are also looking for Arlington neighborhood history. We can make the museum into a showcase; a Taj Mahal, but it will take a commitment from our membership to accomplish this lofty objective. Second, I would like our board and membership to pursue socials and historical outings. As we know there are so many historical sites here in the region. We need to have fun in our activities. I want us to participate in and enjoy our appreciation of local history.

*George W. Dodge*  
President

## Upcoming Events

### Arlington Historical Society

#### Music Social

Saturday, August 4, 2007

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

at the Arlington Historical Society Museum

Come meet and hear some music from Arlingtonian Greg Mumford. While singing with the rock band Strawberry Alarm Clock in 1967 Greg had the number one hit single in the country with the song "Incense and Peppermints." The song has become iconic as representing the 1967 "Summer of Love." Refreshments will be served.

### Rucker Portrait Presentation

Friday, August 10, 2007

3:00 p.m.

at the Arlington County Justice Center (Counthouse)

The courthouse fire of May 20, 1990 destroyed the portrait of George Rucker—Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1890. Mike Rucker of the Rucker Company has arranged for the reconstruction of that portrait and it will be unveiled at this occasion. Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments.

### Arlington County Fair

August 16-19, 2007

at the Thomas Jefferson School at

7<sup>th</sup> Street and Globe Road

Contact Eleanor Bourton at

703-420-7046 to volunteer for a time slot.

We need persons at our booth for 2 hour times slots on Friday,

August 17 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00

p.m. and on Saturday, August 18,

2007, 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on

Sunday, August 19, 2007 from 7:00

p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is an excellent

way to get yourself to the fair which

opens on Thursday, August 16, 2007

at 7:00 p.m.



Arlington  
Historical  
Society

## Arlington Historical Society Board of Directors

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### Past Events

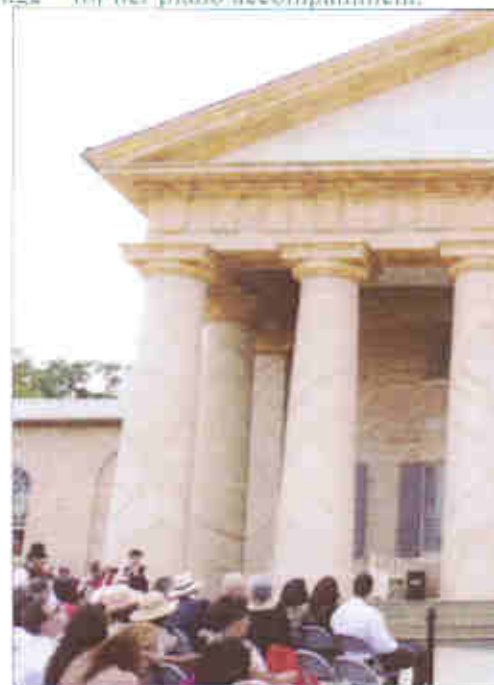
The Arlington Historical Society assisted with the Arlington Reunion program "100 + Years Doing Business in Arlington: the George H. Rucker and Ashton P. Jones Families and Their Place in Arlington History." The event was held on Friday, April 27, 2007 at the Central Library Auditorium. Special thanks to Sara Collins for her work on this event.

On April 28, 2007 we conducted a Docent Cook-out at the Arlington Historical Museum. Our new Arlington Historical Society tent was unveiled. Special thanks to Charlene Bickford who grilled, the attendees who brought side-dishes and to Martha Orth for organizing the cook-out.

On May 10, 2007 at our Membership Meeting at Central Library a good crowd of 50 persons showed up to hear guest speaker Fred Valentine, former outfielder for the Washington Senators from 1964-1968. However, due to an illness in the family he was unable to attend. Nevertheless, the show went on and thanks to Diane Gates who prepared a Washington baseball power point in just a few hours notice the event was actually successful.

On May 19, 2007 at our Membership Dinner Meeting, guest speaker David A. Bell, retiring Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington County spoke. Mr. Bell has served as Clerk of the Court for 31 years—the longest tenure of an

elected constitutional officer in Arlington County history. He discussed his experiences in the Virginia legal and political process. The dinner was held in the social hall at Cherrydale Methodist Church, 3701 N. Lorecom Lane, Arlington, Virginia. I am learning that we don't eat much as a group because even at the remarkably low dinner cost of \$15.00 a person we still had leftovers. Special thanks to Mary Strehle who organized the dinner and to Bethel #1 who provided entertainment and last but not least to mombo—Virginia Dodge—for her piano accompaniment.



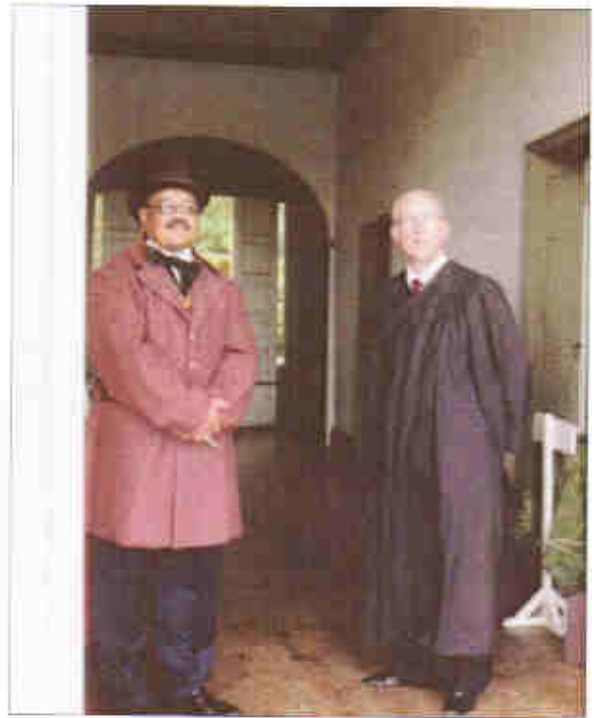
Photos by George Dodge

## HISTORIC WEDDING AT ARLINGTON HOUSE

On June 30, 2007, several members of the Arlington Historical Society, including the groom, Dr. Talmadge Williams, participated in perhaps the only wedding in the Arlington House parlor since June 30, 1831—the wedding of Mary Custis and Robert E. Lee. The actual wedding of Talmadge to Nina Gutierrez was part of a series of National Park Service programs highlighting the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee. Participants were dressed in period dress in this interpretation of the wedding, not a re-enactment. AHS wedding participants included groomsmen George Dodge, Dave Johnson, Gerald Laporte, and Craig Syphax. AHS member and docent Ann Swain served as a bridesmaid. Hundreds of persons attended this wonderful event and its reception at the Women's Memorial Museum.



*The newweds on the porch of Arlington House*



*Rev. Leonard Hamlin and Judge James Almond*



*Gerald Laporte and Ann Swain*





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*Arlington Historical Society* (AHS), founded in 1956, is a non-profit organization incorporated under Virginia laws. The Society supports research, collection, preservation, discovery and dissemination of Arlington County history. AHS meetings are held on the second Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in September, November, January, March and May, unless announced otherwise. These short business meetings are open to the public and are followed by presentations on various aspects of history.

The Arlington Historical Museum is located at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road and is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Museum is closed in February.) Please call 703 892 4204 for additional information.

Would you like to comment on any of the articles or contribute to the AHS newsletter? Please send your comments and articles to Editor, AHS Newsletter, P.O. Box 100402  
Arlington, VA 22210.