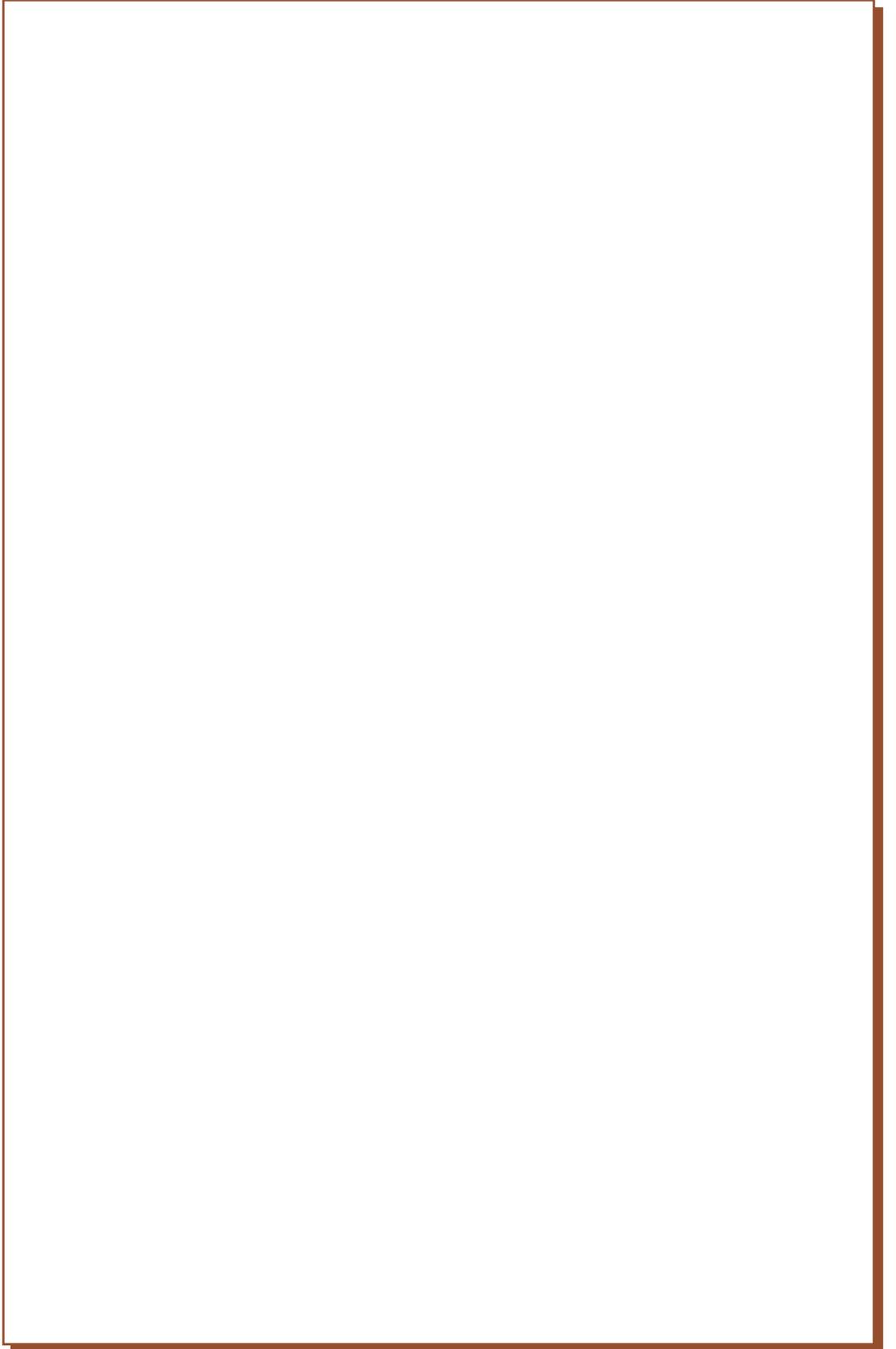




Spring 2009 Newsletter



Ball-Sellers Update

The Ball-Sellers Committee, responsible for the maintenance and administration of the house, has a new chairman. Kevin Vincent has long been interested in the old house, having led several special tours of it in connection with his interest in the Washington-Rochambeau Association. He has also been a member of the Historic Affairs Landmark Review Board of Arlington County. We are indeed fortunate to have Kevin serve in this capacity for the Arlington Historical Society. If any Society members are interested in the colonial and revolutionary era heritage of Arlington County, please contact Kevin at kevin.vincent62@gmail.com. The Ball-Sellers house is the only remaining building from the 18th Century left in Arlington, and the Committee could use your help in preserving and interpreting this precious historic resource for future generations of Arlingtonians.

Ball-Sellers, A History by Willard Webb

In the mid -8th century, yeoman farmer John Ball built a one-room log cabin with a loft in what is now Arlington, Virginia. Later he added a lean-to and covered the structure with clapboard. Amazingly, this primitive cabin survives today. The house is a rare example of the dwelling of the ordinary person during the 1700s. Plus, it is the oldest house in Arlington.

John Ball obtained a 166-acre land grant along Four Mile Run from Lord Fairfax in 1742. To construct his cabin, he felled trees and hewed logs. He notched the logs and chinked the cracks with mud daubing. Visitors today can see the original logs with the daubing, as well as the wide plank floors. The rare oak clapboard roof is among only a few board roofs preserved in the nation.

John, his wife Elizabeth, and their five daughters lived in this little house. An inventory of Ball's estate indicates they lived a simple life in the sparsely furnished dwelling. They farmed, raising wheat and corn, and kept sheep, cows, pigs, and bees. Ball also

had a mill on Four Mile Run, and part of his mill stones remain on the property.

Following John Ball's death in 1766, William Carlin, an Alexandria tailor who included George Washington and George Mason among his clients, purchased the house. Three generations of the Carlin family owned the property for more than 100 years. The third generation, brother and sister Andrew and Anne, ran a dairy farm and built the 1880 house that adjoins the Ball cabin. They may have planted the giant wisteria vine that still blooms near the house.

When the Carlins sold the property in 1887, the land was subdivided into a community known today as Glencarlyn, the oldest subdivision in Arlington. The house survived and was used as a school, a summer cottage, and a home. The last owner, Marian Rhinehart Sellers, gave the house to the Arlington Historical Society in 1975 so that it might be preserved and open to the public.

Owned by the Arlington Historical Society, the Ball-Sellers House is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in America.
(Taken from the Society website)

Photos of Arlington County

Matthew Gilmore, author of *Historic Photos of Arlington County*, will be the speaker at the Thursday, May 14 meeting of the Arlington Historical Society. The event is co-sponsored by the Arlington Public Library and will take place in the Central Library Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Gillmore, a former reference and collection development librarian, is the author of *Historic Photos of Arlington*. His book presents a black-and-white photographic perspective of Arlington County. It includes views of Arlington as a 19th century rural community to 1970s images of local businesses, county parades, development of suburban tract homes, government buildings and national institutions. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at this event.

Museum Wine Tasting Fundraiser Scheduled for April 23

Enjoy wine? Want to support a good cause? Then join the Arlington Historical Society for its first-ever wine tasting fundraiser at the Arlington Historical Museum on Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. This event is limited to 25 people.

This will be an entertaining and educational evening with wine experts from The Curious Grape in Shirlington. The April event will be the first in a series of wine tasting fundraisers focusing on different wine topics, wine growing regions, etc.

April 23: Old World vs. New World: This tasting pairs wines from some of Europe's best known growing regions (France, Italy, Germany, etc) with wines made from the same grape, or made in a similar style, from a New World country to demonstrate the differences between old world style wines and new world wines. Cheese and snacks will accompany the wines.

Buy your ticket early to make sure you don't miss this great event! Cost is \$65 per person. You will be able to order any of the wines you taste from The Curious Grape. A portion of all wine orders will be donated to the Arlington Historical Society as well. To reserve your slot, contact Alice Andors at andorsali@comcast.net or 703-609-6085.

A Web History of Hume School

Laura Rush, with American University's Interactive Journalism Program, has created a wonderful web-based history of Hume School. Through interviews and research, she has compiled an interesting and in-depth look at the building that houses our museum. Visit <http://cohort11.americanobserver.net/laurarush/article-humeschool.html> to see videos and photos of her work. Laura's videos include interviews with Society President George Dodge, Janet Lefferts, Eleanor Pourron, Karl Van Newkirk and John Abbott, who was one of the last students to attend Hume School.

AHS Seeking Nominations for Board and Leadership Positions

The Nominating Committee of the Arlington Historical Society is seeking nominations for board and officer positions until April 10, 2009, for election at the annual meeting of the Society in May. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Gerry Laporte, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, at (703) 527-6783 or G.Laporte@verizon.net. The Committee is seeking nominees for all positions established under the Society's by-laws, including President, Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member.

Movie Nights at the Library

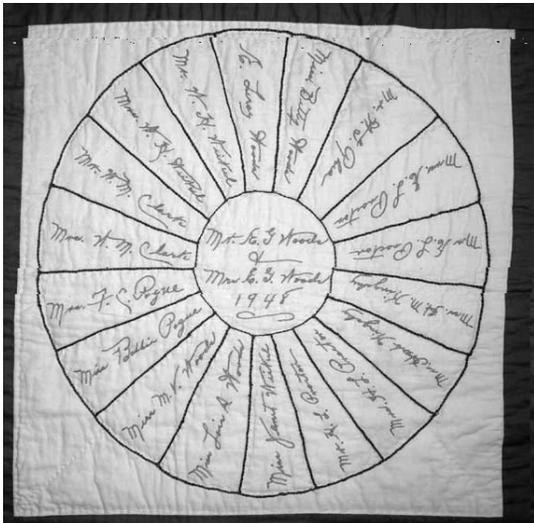
The Society and Library are working to offer two movie nights at the Central Library. The tentative dates are June 17 and June 25, 2009. The events will take place from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Last year in June, two movies of Priscilla Lane, who is buried in Arlington, were featured. This year, the movies of Lee Marvin, who is also buried in Arlington National Cemetery, will be featured. He served in the Marine Corps during World War II. Refreshments will be served during the movies. On June 17, the first movie will likely be *Seven Men From Now* (1956) and the second movie will be *The Dirty Dozen* (1967). On June 25, the movies will be *The Killers*, *Cat Ballou*, *Paint Your Wagon* or *Ship of Fools*. Look for more information.

Docents Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers to come in one Saturday or Sunday a month to help open/close the museum, sell books, and answer questions about the museum. This is a great way to learn about Arlington history and meet interesting people! No experience is necessary. We are especially looking for people who are willing to serve as a docent on the 2nd Saturday, 4th Saturday, and 4th Sunday of each month. If interested, please contact Matthew Keough at 978-807-0134 or MatthewT.Keough@gmail.com.

1948 Friendship Quilt

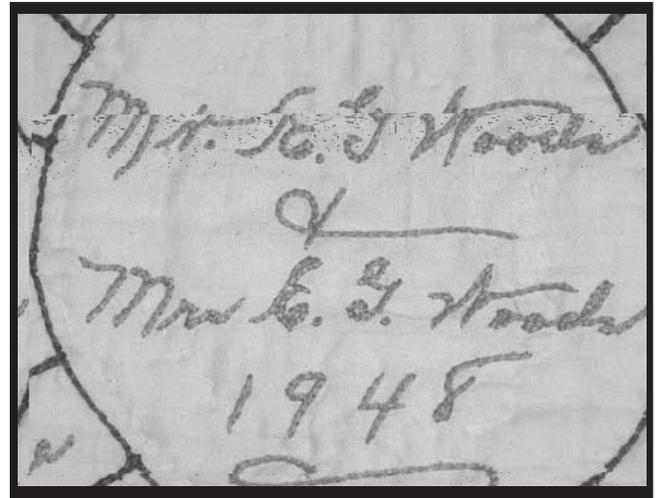
A recent find has much of the Barcroft Community talking. A former Barcroft resident found a 61 year old quilt in a chest. The quilt is in excellent condition and has the names of about 500 Barcrofters and others embroidered on it. The quilt is about 8 feet square and is made up of 25 quilted squares. Local Barcroft quilters have helped to identify the quilt as a classic wagon wheel design. The quilt is made from cotton fabric. The colors are strong because it has not been exposed to sunlight. The names are embroidered using a variety of styles but it appears that some of the embroiderers did more than one square. In addition, the Barcroft community has created a list of all 500 names on the quilt.



It was made to raise money for the missionary work of the Barcroft Bible Church. It was given to the church's first missionary, along with kitchenware and linens, before he left for the Congo. It is believed that the missionary left the quilt behind thinking it wasn't needed in the tropical climate. Funds were raised by having people pay 25 cents each to have their names embroidered on the quilt. The quilt has been donated to the Barcroft Bible Church, which is now located in Fairfax County.

For more photos, the list of names and the complete story, visit the website of the Barcroft School and Civic League at <http://www.bscl.org/quilt.htm>.

(Photos and information were taken from bscl.org)



History Walks

The Arlington United Methodist Church and the Arlington Historical Society present the church's Sesquicentennial History Walk. Celebrate the 150th anniversary of this historic church by visiting its several locations in the Columbia Pike area and meeting some local characters along the way. The Walks will take place on Saturday, May 23 at 2 p.m. and Saturday, May 30, at 2 p.m. Meet at the church, located at 716 South Glebe Road, Arlington. This leisurely walk of about a mile and one half with stops to meet Civil War and local resident reenactors at various sites will conclude at the church at about 3:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. The history walk is free but reservations are recommended. Call Sara Collins at 703-521-0522 or the church office at 703-979-7527 for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, March 28, 2009 – 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. - Fort Scott Park Walking Tour for ages 7 to adult. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Built by the Union Army in 1861, this fort had a commanding view of the Four Mile Run valley and protected approaches to Washington from the south. Explore the remaining earthworks while discussing how and why the fort was built. Free. Meet at Fort Scott Park, 2800 South Fort Scott Drive Arlington, VA 22202. *

Saturday, March 28, 2009 - noon to 4:00 p.m. - Open Forge at Gulf Branch Nature Center. Watch, participate and learn as members of the Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac use fire and muscle to form raw materials into useful tools and beautiful objects. Free. No registration needed. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207. Information: 703-228-3403

Saturday, March 28, 2009 - 11:00 a.m. to noon - Civil War Discoveries: Codes and Signals. Ages 8-12. During the Civil War both armies used flags and codes to send secret messages. Make and learn how to use a cipher disc and then use signal flags to send messages to "allies" across the park. \$5 fee due upon registration. Meet at Fort Ethan Allen Park, 3829 N. Stafford St, Arlington, VA 22207. *

Sunday, March 29, 2009 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. - Plant a Pioneer Garden at Gulf Branch - Ages 5 to Adult. Join at the log house to learn about the agricultural traditions and planting rhymes of the area. Then plant some traditional crops in a small field. Participants can take a few seeds home to plant, too! \$5 fee per family payable at the program. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207. *

April 1, 2009 to August 1, 2009 - at the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center - *Sites and Stories: African American History in Virginia* tells stories about people and events related to African American historical sites listed in the Department of Historic Resource's Guidebook to Virginia's Historical

Markers (2007). Virginia Historical Society photographs and objects illustrate more than twenty stories from across the Commonwealth. The exhibition hopes to encourage visitors to travel to the physical sites of the historical markers, such as Farmville, Brunswick County, Albemarle, Dutch Gap, and Norfolk.

◆ **Saturday, April 4, 2009 - 1:00 p.m. - Ball-Sellers, the oldest house in Arlington, opens for the season. It will be open every Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 until October. The house is located at 5620 South Third Street.**

◆ **Saturday, April 18, 2009 - 5:00 p.m. - Docent Social at Hume School Museum. Information to be sent later.**

Saturday, April 18, 2009 - 9:15 a.m. - Boundary Stone Bike Tour. Bike for up to 35 miles visiting boundary stones and parks. See ten historic DC boundary stones in Arlington, Fairfax County, Montgomery County and N.W. Washington. This ride will be at a leisurely pace with many stops and the ride may take all day. Riders will meet at the entrance to East Falls Church Metro Station, under I-66 on Sycamore Street, Arlington. Contact Bernard Berne at (703) 243-0179 for more information.

Saturday, April 18, 2009 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Van Trip: Jubal Early's Raid, Monocacy to Fort Stevens. Adults. In 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early attempted to raid Washington by attacking from the North. The result was the Battle of Monocacy near Frederick, MD and a skirmish in Washington at Fort Stevens. This van trip will explore the sites of these battles. \$20 fee due upon registration. The van will leave from the Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr. Arlington, VA 22203. *

◆ **Thursday, April 23, 2009 - 7:30 p.m. - Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the Museum. Reservations are required. See page three for details.**

Saturday, May 9, 2009 - noon to 3:00 p.m. -

Defending Chain Bridge Hike. Families with children ages 10 and above. Explore the remnants of Forts Marcy and Ethan Allen, built by the Union Army to defend the Chain Bridge. Learn about the design of the forts and the men who were stationed at them. Three-mile hike over occasionally rocky and steep terrain. \$10 fee per person due upon registration. Meet at Fort Ethan Allen Park, 3829 N. Stafford St. Arlington, VA 22207. *

Saturday, May 9, 2009 - 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. - Civil War Discoveries: Artillery. Ages 7-12. Learn to work as a team to load and aim a replica Civil War cannon. Talk about the different types of artillery used in the Civil War and “bombard” a replica fortification. \$5 fee due upon registration. Meet at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St., Arlington, VA 22207. *

◆ **Thursday, May 14, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - Arlington Historical Society Meeting - Central Library Auditorium - Speaker Matthew Gilmore. This is also the annual General Membership meeting and election of the Society board.**

Sunday, May 17, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. - The War of 1812 in Virginia, and the Role of the Fauquier County Militia. Speaker: Mike Lyman, Living Historian and member of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, Culpeper Minute Men Chapter and the War of 1812 Society. **

May 18, 2009–October 31, 2009 - Jamestown, Québec, Santa Fe: Three North American Beginnings a traveling exhibition at the International Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. - To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the Virginia Historical Society developed a major exhibition that examines the introduction of English, French, and Spanish culture into North America. If 1492 began a period of exploration, 1607 inaugurated another momentous chapter in world history, the colonization of America north of Mexico. This exhibit takes a

multicultural approach to the virtually simultaneous introduction of English, French, and Spanish culture into this vast area. It tells the stories of the first permanent English settlement in 1607, the first permanent French settlement in 1608, and the chartering of the first villa in New Mexico in 1609.

◆ **Saturday, May 23, 2009 - 2:00 p.m. - Arlington United Methodist Church Sesquicentennial History Walk. Meet at the church located at 716 South Glebe Road, Arlington. This leisurely walk of about a mile and one half (with stops to meet Civil War and local resident reenactors) will conclude at the church at about 3:30 p.m. for light refreshments. The history walk is free but reservations are recommended. Call Sara Collins at 703-521-0522 or the church office at 703-979-7527.**

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 7:30 p.m. - “Mary Surratt: An American Tragedy” presented by the Alexandria Historical Society. This lecture is in commemoration of the Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln. Elizabeth Steger Trindal, author of *Mary Surratt: An American Tragedy*, will tell the controversial story of Mary Surratt, who was hanged for the assassination of Lincoln. Ms. Trindal contends that Mary Surratt, who was educated in Alexandria, was innocent. The event is at the The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA. Free. Open to the public. No reservations needed.

◆ **Saturday, May 30 2009 - Society annhe Tf1184(o)t25**

Mark Your Calendar

◆ **Saturday, June 6, 2009 - Ball-Sellers House open house as part of Glencarlyn Day. Look for colonial era reenactors, a dance demonstration and other activities.**

Sunday, June 14, 2009 - 3:00 p.m. - On the Shoulders of Giants: Project Apollo to the Moon. Speaker: Gar Schulin, former Research Assistant at the Smithsonian Institution Center for Earth and Planetary Studies; National Air and Space Museum. **

◆ **Wednesday, June 17, 2009 - 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Historical Movie night at Central Library.**

Sunday, July 19, 2009 - 2:00 p.m. - Two Programs - The Post-War Relationship of Grant & Mosby and Mosby's Keydet Rangers. The first speaker will be David Goetz, author of War Between the States articles and editor of The Memorial Wall to Name the Fallen. The second speaker will be Eric Buckland, Historian and author of Mosby's Keydet Rangers; a collection of memorials, biographical sketches, articles, personal letters, photographs and wartime reminiscences by and about those brave young men who both matriculated at the Virginia Military Institute and rode with the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry-Mosby's Rangers. **

◆ **Thursday, June 25, 2009 - 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Historical Movie night at Central Library.**

Sunday, August 16, 2009 - 3:00 p.m. - Lieutenant Governor Francis Fauquier, His Own Story. Speaker: Dennis Loba, Living Historian and Lecturer. **

Sunday, September 20, 2009 - 3:00 p.m. - Lesser Known Heroes of the Confederacy: Pelham, Pegram & Pendleton, The Gallant Young Men of the Confederacy. The speaker will be Thomas Moore, Military Historian and award winning author of *The Hunt for Confederate Gold*; former Professional Staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Director of Defense and Foreign Policy at The Heritage

Foundation; Stephen Dill Lee Institute Scholar; and Current Chairman of the Southern National Congress. **

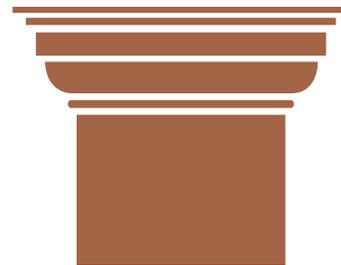
Sunday, October 18, 2009 - 3:00 p.m. - Secession & the Confederate Constitution. The speaker will be Dr. William Wilson, Dean of Honors Students, University of Virginia; and winner of one the University's highest distinctions, the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award for teaching and selfless service; author of many articles pertaining to religion, literature, philosophical theology and three volumes of *Lectura Dantes Virginiana*; and Board of Directors of the Abbeville Institute for the Study of Southern Culture. **

Sunday November 15, 2009 - 3:00 - Meet One of America's Servant Saviors: Suffragist, Mrs. Robert Walker. The speaker will be Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Living Historian and Chair of the Fairfax County History Commission; author of the pictorial essay "Clifton," on the history of Clifton, Virginia. **

* Registration required, register on-line at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747.

** Held at the John Barton Payne Building on Main Street in Warrenton. Sponsored by the Fauquier County Public Library and the Fauquier Heritage Institute.

Items marked with a "◆" and in brown, are sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society.



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Arlington Historical Museum

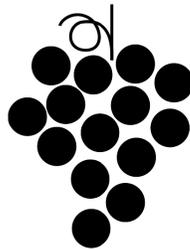
1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Open Saturdays & Sundays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free
Come visit our permanent exhibits on
the 200+ year history of the county.



Ball Sellers House

5620 South Third Street
Open Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 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.

www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org



**Wine Tasting at the Museum
with The Curious Grape**

Thursday, April 23, 2009
7:30 p.m.

Limited Space
Sign up today!

Old World Wines vs New World Wines

\$65 per person
Reservation Required
Contact Alice Andors at

andorsali@comcast.net or 703-609-6085.

