



The Spectacle

Fall Open House - A Special Message for those Volunteering

Thank you so much for your desire and dedication in making this year's open house a success. As you may know, we are doing some different things this year. It will be very exciting but, perhaps, just a little confusing. Included in this message are instructions that will hopefully make it all make sense.

- Please plan to arrive by 6:00pm. You may come earlier if you wish to eat your dinner here in the OAB but don't come later. Because of the lecture starting at 7:00pm we need to be dressed and ready a little earlier than in past years.
- There has been some difficulty getting the necessary car passes from the cemetery. So, we are providing the guards at the main gate with a list of all the volunteers who will be coming on October 10. If you do not have a valid pass you will need to give your name to the guard as you enter.
- The lecture, by Dr. Thomas Battle, is an exciting addition to this year's event. Because of this we want to give all our volunteers an opportunity to hear as much of the lecture as possible. There will be two lectures, both at the Old Amphitheater. One will be at 7:00pm and one at 8:00pm. The first has been timed before the first group of visitors enters the house. It will last approximately thirty minutes. As soon as the lecture ends, an announcement will be made to the visitors that they may then begin making their way through the garden to the house. If you would like to attend the 7:00pm lecture you may do so. **Be careful of your time though. You must**



Arlington House at night

be at your scheduled station before the visitors arrive there. For that reason, you should leave the lecture no later than 7:20 (or 7:25 if you can walk quickly!).

- **We will rotate positions this year.** Staff members will relieve volunteers during rotation, if the volunteer is rotating to another area of the house. At 9:30pm we will start letting volunteers leave **BUT** you must wait for an Arlington House staff person to give you the okay—we don't want visitors left to wander unsupervised in the House.
- Keep in mind that it may be necessary to alter this schedule so please remain as flexible as possible. We will try to limit the inconvenience as much as possible.

Please review the historical information about your assigned location and prepare accordingly.

See you Friday!

New Cemetery Guards

Arlington National Cemetery has hired a new security company to staff the cemetery guard force. The new guards are very strict about cemetery access. If you do not have a current cemetery access pass the guards will call Arlington House to confirm that you are a volunteer and then require you to pick up a temporary pass at the Visitor Center. Please call Delphine if you need a cemetery pass.

Furniture Arrangement

Some of the furniture in the rooms at Arlington House has been rearranged. In May 2003 Arlington House employed a team to write a Collections Management Plan. As a result of this study and with the help of Oscar Fitzgerald, PhD., Director of the Navy Museum (retired) and furnishings expert, we are implementing the Furnishings Plan.

Movement of the objects serves different purposes. Our first priority is the preservation of the resource – the museum collection. Objects need to be rotated throughout the year to minimize damage caused by visible light, UV, heat, humidity and visitors. The couch that was in the Center Hall is at the Harpers Ferry Conservation Center because of damage caused by visitors. This is the second time in four years.

Because some of the furniture is reproduction or outside our scope of collection it has been moved out of direct view of the visitor. This gives the house a more authentic feel, as does the current location of objects like the foot stools in the bedrooms, the set up in the White Parlor and the Dining Room. There are now six matching chairs instead of three distinctly different styles of chairs. The chess set, previously located in the Lee Boys' Chamber, is now in the Office and Studio where it was supposed to go according to the Furnishing Plan written by Agnes Mullins in 1978.

Once everything has been moved all staff and volunteers will receive a list of objects with their new locations. If you have questions please contact Catherine Weinraub or Mary Troy.

Volunteer Schedule - 2003 Evening Open House

Station	7:20 - 9:30	8:15 - End
Front of House	Walt DeGroot	Staff
Front Door	Staff	Staff
Center Hall	Delia Rios Jim Pearson	Judy Volonoski Walt DeGroot
White Parlor	Nona Wartella	Jo Schoolfield
Morning Room	Jo Schoolfield	Nona Wartella
Second Floor	Charlotte Needham Elaine Street	Lisa Kittinger Delia Rios
Pantry	Rebecca Jones	Charlotte Needham
Schoolroom	Karen Kinzey	Rebecca Jones
North Wing Hall	Lisa Kittinger	Elaine Street
Winter Kitchen	Judy Volonoski	Staff



Hurricane Isabel

Hurricane Isabel passed through the Washington DC area on Thursday and Friday, September 18 and 19, bringing strong winds and rain, knocking down trees and cutting off electricity throughout the area. Many trees fell in Arlington National Cemetery but Arlington House weathered the storm with very little damage. Two days before the storm's arrival maintenance staff from the George Washington Memorial Parkway started closing the shutters on the house and placed plywood over the remaining windows. It became rather dark inside the house with all the windows covered. There was talk of closing the house on Wednesday for visitor safety. Arlington House was closed on Thursday and Friday



Arlington House: South Wing windows covered with plywood

(as was the federal government) and reopened to the public on Saturday. The boarded up house was shown on the local television news.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by October 20th with November information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Significant Historic Events in October

October, 1834

Lee, who was “heartily sick” of the petty bickering at Old Point Comfort, was asked by General Gratiot, Chief of Engineers, to become his assistant in Washington.

Although Lee was anxious to get away from Hampton Roads and to have his family near Arlington, he said he had no interest in office work. Nevertheless, Gratiot encouraged him to try the position and Lee agreed.

Freeman, I, 127-28.

October, 1848

GWP Custis was at work painting his “Battle of Monmouth.” In a letter to John Spears Smith of the Maryland Historical Society he boasted of having “Two religions... the Religion of Christianity and the Religion of the Revolution!”

October, 1849

Sculptor Clark Mills worked at Arlington making plaster cast of the Houdon bas-relief of Washington owned by Mr. Custis. (Mills sculpted the equestrian statues of Washington in Washington Circle and

Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Park.)

Mrs. Lee and the children rejoined Colonel Lee in Baltimore after spending the summer at Arlington. The slaves who usually accompanied them were left at the home because “Lee thought it unwise to expose them to the influence of the abolitionists then active in the city.”

October, 1851

GWP Custis was attempting to Improve Arlington. New steps were built around the portico, hexagonal bricks were being fired in Washington for its floor, and a new roof was to be placed on the stable. Arlington Mill on Four Mile Run was also being extensively repaired. Mrs. Custis wrote her grandson, Custis Lee, You will hardly know the old place when you get back.”

October 1, 1808

Mary Anna Randolph Custis was born at “Annefield,” Clark County, Virginia, a Fitzhugh estate in the upper Shenandoah Valley. “Annefield” was the home of a cousin, Anne Meade Page, with whom Mrs. Custis was visiting.

October 2, 1865

Robert E Lee took the oath of the office as president of Washington College, Lexington, Virginia. The unpretentious ceremony, which began at 9 AM, was kept simple out of deference to Lee’s wishes. Le signed his name to the oath but said nothing during the entire proceedings

On October 6 he wrote to a friend that he had entered his duties “in the hope of being of some service; but I should prefer, as far as my predilections are concerned to be on a small farm, where I could make my daily bread.”

October 3, 1865

General Lee urged General P.G. T. Beauregard to write a history of his Civil War campaigns: Everyone should do all in his power to collect and disseminate the truth in the hope that it may find a place in history,

and descend to posterity.”

October 5, 1861

Solders of the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin, and the Nineteenth Indiana marched from Washington via the Georgetown Aqueduct to Fort Tillinghast (today, part of Fort Myer) on the Arlington Estate. Joined by the 24th Michigan regiment, the unit became known as the Iron Brigade (of the West) after the Antietam campaign. It was the only all-western brigade in the Army of the Potomac and became the most decorated unit in the Federal army. Its most notable commander, General John Gibbon, a North Carolinian by birth, is buried immediately to the east of the Arlington flower garden.

The soldiers, who had joined hundreds of the others already occupying Arlington estate, went into winter quarters, and remained until March 10, 1862. “The soldiers felled trees and constructed their own camp from the ground up, including officers’ quarters, cookhouses, and stables. For themselves they erected small log cabins roofed with canvas, with mud chimneys and sheet-iron stoves.”

October 10, 1856

GWP Custis traveled to Philadelphia to attend the national exhibition held by the U.S. Agricultural Society. He was deeply touched by the applause that accompanied his introduction at the grand dinner, the climax of the event. He reminded the audience of mote than two thousand “of the pride Washington had taken in being a farmer;” and he urged them to remember that “ the liberty they now enjoyed had been won at such memorable places in their state as Independence Hall and Valley Forge.”

October 10, 1857

GWP Custis died at Arlington House. “”For some time he had been failing steadily, and at last had been persuaded to go to bed— something he had hardly done in previous illnesses. When he realized that he would not rally from the congestion of the lungs



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Phone
703-235-1530

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

that was dragging him down, he had gone over his will and various business matters with Mrs. Lee, then had slowly sunk into unconsciousness. About midnight, October 9, he had rallied enough to ask her to summon everyone to take leave of him while he knew them, and after talking a little to each one had asked to be remembered to his son-in-law, and to Custis Lee, who by this time was in California. Then he had asked from Mr. Dana, their minister with whom he took communion"—apparently for the first time.

"'God have mercy on me in my last moments,' they heard him murmur about sunrise. 'Lay me beside my blessed wife,' he whispered a little later. Feebly, he shook his head when the doctor tried to give him some brandy. 'You know I never liked spirits,' he said. About noon his harsh breathing had suddenly ceased, as quietly and peacefully he passed away."

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Dana from the White Parlor on Tuesday, October 13.

October 12, 1824

The Marquis de Lafayette arrived in the District of Columbia. He was greeted by an official party which included GWP Custis and escorted to the Capitol where Mr. Custis had the Washington tents erected under the Rotunda.

October 12, 1870

Robert E. Lee died at Lexington, Virginia. He had suffered a cerebral thrombosis on September 28 and had remained critically ill until his death. ON October 11 he lapsed into "a half-delirium of dreams and memories... Sometimes his voice was distinct. "Tell Hill he *must* come up,' he said so plainly and empathetically that all who sat in the death-chamber understood him." His last words were, "Strike the tent!" Shortly after nine in the morning he passed away.

October 13, 1857

The funeral service for GWP Custis was held in the White Parlor. The immediate family and the slaves were present. According to a local newspaper account, almost a thousand

people attended the gravesite ceremony—including a brass band the Washington Light Infantry and veterans of the War of 1812. Services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Dana.

That night Agnes Lee wrote, "Every one was very kind, many, crowds—of the so called 'great,' the obscure, soldiers, servants, all drew near to pay this last tribute to one who in life had been so kind. The morning was very bright but O it was a sad sad day."

October 15, 1824

The Marquis de Lafayette spent the entire evening at Arlington House, although he returned to his hotel in Washington at night.

October 15, 1870

The funeral of Robert E. Lee was held with a special effort to avoid pageantry "or the display of any spirit contrary to that which Lee had exhibited during the difficult days of the reconstruction." All of Lee's children were present, as well as two of his closest staff members, Colonel Walter H.. Taylor and Colonel Charles S. Venable. General Pendleton read the service for the dead without a eulogy. Many former Confederate soldiers filed silently by his bier in the chapel and sang the old southern hymn "How Firm a Foundation" at the end of the service.

October 15, 1873

[Eleanor] Agnes Lee, 32 died at Lexington, Virginia. She had been sick for some time and had been bedridden for more than a month. On the evening of the 14th she asked, "Doctor, must I prepare to live or die?" "To do both, Miss Agnes," he replied. To Mildred Lee she said, "I never cared to live long. I am weary of life. How strange I should die between my Father and Annie. He died on the 12th and Annie on the 20th."

October 20, 1862

Anne Carter ("Annie") Lee, 23, died of typhoid fever at Warren White Sulphur Springs, North Carolina. "Lee had known of her illness and had been most apprehensive, but he was not prepared for her death when he received the announcement of it. After he got the letter, he pulled himself together and went over the

official correspondence of the morning in Major Taylor's company, without revealing his loss or showing his emotion...When Taylor unceremoniously re-entered the tent a few minute's later, Lee was weeping." To Mrs. Lee he wrote, "I cannot express the anguish I feel at the death of my sweet Annie. To know that I shall never see her again on earth, that her place in our circle, which I always hoped one day to enjoy, is forever vacant, is agonizing in the extreme. But God in this, as in all things, has mingled mercy with the blow, in selecting that one best prepared to leave us. May you be able to join me in saying, 'His will be done.'"

Mrs. Lee has Annie buried in Warrenton, North Carolina but hoped that some day the body could be brought back to "her own dear home" at Arlington.

October 21, 1850

GWP Custis presented a block of Vermont marble on behalf of the Washington Light Infantry to the mayor of Washington as a contribution to the Washington Monument.

October 21, 1857

Lee learned of the death of his father-in-law, GWP Custis. He wrote in his private memorandum book, "The shock was as unexpected as afflicting. Determined to go immediately to my wife to give her all the comfort and aid in my power." Subsequently Lee obtained leave to return to Arlington to settle Mr. Custis' estate.

October 26, 1925

The *New York Times* carried an article headlined "Lee Memorial Plans To Be Dropped": "Following a visit of Charles C. Moore, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, paid to President Coolidge today, it became known that an entire change of base in regard to the project virtually had been determined upon. The mansion will be restored not in the decorative style it had as occupied by General Lee, but in the period style of the earlier years in which it was occupied by members of the Custis family."

Moore, who had become the *de facto*

(continued on page 6)

Area Special Events

October 4

Bus tour, "Touring the Defenses of Washington," sponsored by Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. Day-long tour leaves from Fort Ward. \$85 includes box lunch. Details: 703-838-4848.

Battlefield hike, guided walk covers the First Battle of Manassas at the Manassas National Battlefield. Leaves from visitor center at 1 pm. Park fee applies. Details: 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

October 4-5

Living history at the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters at Pitzer Woods. 717-334-1124 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Special program, "John Brown: Beyond the Gallows," special tours, displays and living history at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Free with park admission. 304-535-6299 or www.nps.gov/hafe.

Living history weekend at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland, tactical and camp life demonstrations. Park fee. 301-432-5124 or www.nps.gov/anti.

Annual living history, encampment and reenactment at Laurel Hill, birthplace of JEB Stuart near Ararat, Virginia. Fee charged. Details: www.jebstuart.org.

October 5

Living history, artillery demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, Fort Washington, Maryland off exit 3A from I-495 (Beltway). 1, 2 and 3 pm. Free with admission. 301-763-4600 or www.nps.gov/fowa.

October 10-12

Conference on the Art of Command, "Command and Control at Gettysburg," in Middleburg, Virginia. Speakers include Jeffrey Wert, Bob Krick and others. Gettysburg battlefield bus tour included. Sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area. More info, registration: www.mosbyheritagearea.org or 540-678-6681.

October 11

Bus tour, "Loudoun Cemeteries," special focus on Civil War personalities. Includes visits to Leesburg, Waterford, Goose Creek, Bloomfield, Middleburg and Upperville, Virginia. Led by Stevan Meserve. 9 am-5 pm. Leaves from Claude Moore Park Visitor Center. \$40, lunch not included. 703-421-5322.

Living history, "Camp Life of Union Soldiers," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or www.civilwarmed.org.

Bus Tour, "John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour," 12-hour tour sponsored by the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland. Reservations: 301-868-1121 or www.surratt.org.

October 11-12

Seminar, "A Soldier All His Life: Longstreet at Gettysburg," includes battlefield tours, presentations, entertainment, auction, more. With Carol Reardon, William Piston, Richard DiNardo. For more info, contact the Longstreet Society at 914-381-2147 or email mlagonia@optonline.net.

Living history at the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 150th New York Infantry at the Pennsylvania Memorial and the 8th Virginia Infantry at Pitzer Woods. 717-334-1124 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history at Drewry's Bluff, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond, Virginia. Naval life portrayed, tours all weekend. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Free. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

Living history, "Annual Plantation Harvest Days," features storytelling, music, dance and more at Pamplin Historical Park south of Petersburg, Virginia. Free with admission. 877-PAMPLIN or www.pamplinpark.org.



October 18

Battlefield hike, guided walk covers the Second Battle of Manassas at the Manassas National Battlefield, Manassas, Virginia. Park fee applies. Details: 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

Bus Tour, "John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour," see Oct. 11.

October 18-19

Annual reenactment on the Cedar Creek battlefield, just south of Middletown, Virginia. For more info, call 888-628-1864 or see www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org.

Living history at the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters at Pitzer Woods. 717-334-1124 or www.nps.gov/gett.

October 18 & 25

"Forts 101, A Beginner's Guide to Washington's Civil War Forts," at Fort Ward in Alexandria, Virginia. Event includes slide lecture, two walking tours and examination of artillery projectiles. 10-11:30 am each day. \$25 for both sessions. Reservations: 703-838-4848 or www.fortward.org.

October 18-19

Living history at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland. Ohio group presents demonstrations and equipment displays near the Maryland Monument. Park fee. 301-432-5124 or www.nps.gov/anti.

Symposium, "Corps Commanders of the Army of Northern Virginia," features luminaries in Lee's army. Pamplin Historical

Park south of Petersburg, Virginia.
Reservations, fee required. Call 877-
PAMPLIN or see www.pamplinpark.org.

October 23-25

Tour, "Lee's Retreat from Gettysburg: A Field Tour." \$325. Sponsored by the Civil War Education Association, 800-298-1861 or cwea@earthlink.net.

October 23-26

Tour, "First and Second Manassas," a Civil War Weekend tour. \$495/person double occupancy; \$645/person single.
Reservations: 866-CWW-TOUR or www.civilwarweekend.com.

October 24-25

Ghost Walk, spooky Civil War battlefield living history at Endview Plantation in Newport News, Virginia. 7-9:30 pm. \$5. 757-888-3371 or www.endview.org.

October 24-26

Conference on Civil War Medicine in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. For more info, call the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Md., 301-695-1864 or www.civilwarmed.org.

October 25

Bus Tour, "War in the Shadow of the Massanutten," focus is on Union Gen. Philip Sheridan's effort to crush Gen. Jubal Early's army in 1864. Battles of Milford and Yager's Mill and sites related to "The Burning" included. Departs Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia at 8:45 am, returns at 4 pm. \$55. Registration by Oct. 17. 540-351-1520.

Special program, "Hauntings at Liberia Plantation," in Manassas, Virginia. Sponsored by the Manassas Museum. Details: 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.

October 25-26

Living history at the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 21st Ohio Artillery at the Pennsylvania Memorial. 717-334-1124 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Significant Historic Events in October (continued)

(continued from page 4)

director of the Arlington House restoration, "had apparently decided that restoration of the mansion to the period ca. 1804 would permit the elimination of all traces of the Victorian architectural features and furnishings, which he and his fellow architects strongly detested and regarded as an inferior style." Of course, this change subverted the intent of the legislation passed by congress on March 4.

October 27, 1843

Robert E. Lee, Jr., the sixth Lee child, was born at Arlington. Writing to a friend, Lee joked that the boy had "a fine long nose like his father, but no whiskers."

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Lee's Apple Fritters

The receipt makes about 50 fritters and may be halved or quartered.

Allow 4 eggs to a qt of milk make a thick batter with flour & beat it well stir in a qt of apples chopped fine have a frying pan with hot lard & drop them in the more lard the better tho they can be fried in a little.

4 eggs

4c. milk

About 5 c. flour

4 c. apples, peeled and coarsely chopped

Lard for frying

The apples may be chopped in a food processor by pulsing with the steel blade. Make the batter by mixing beaten eggs and milk then adding flour. Stir in apples. In a heavy frying pan over medium high heat, melt lard to depth of at least ¼ inch. Drop batter by tablespoonsful into hot lard, turning once to brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. The batter keeps several days in the refrigerator.

(From Anne Carter Zimmer's *The Robert E. Lee Family Cooking and Housekeeping Book*)

October 2003

Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Walter DeGroot 9:30-2:00 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	3 Joan Cashell 9:30-1:00	4
5 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	6 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	7 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	8 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00	9 Walter DeGroot 9:30-2:00 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	10 Joan Cashell 9:30-12:30	11 Rebecca Jones 10:00-4:30
12 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	13 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Judy Volonoski 10:00-12:00 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	14 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	15 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00	16 Walter DeGroot 9:30-2:00 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	17 Joan Cashell 9:30-12:30	18 Delia Rios 11:00-1:00 Lisa Kittinger 12:00-4:00
19 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	20 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Judy Volonoski 10:00-12:00 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	21 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	22 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00 Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	23 Walter DeGroot 9:30-2:00 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-2:00	24 Joan Cashell 9:30-12:30	25 Delia Rios 11:00-1:00 Nona Wartella 11:00-3:30
26 Nona Wartella 10:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	27 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	28 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	29 Anne Cake 12:00-3:00 Lou Smith 12:30-3:00	30 Walter DeGroot 9:30-2:00	31 Joan Cashell 9:30-12:30	

If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>
<<Address>>
<<CityStateZip>>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator (703) 235-1530 ext 227.

