



The Spectacle

From the Office Down the Hall

Retiring from the Field

When Robert E. Lee resigned from the army in 1861, he left a 32-year career behind. A lot has been made of the reasons he resigned, the political impacts of his decision and most of all, the role he played in the South after his retirement. In fact, these things have so captured the stage of his life that the work and contributions of his previous three decades have faded almost wholly into the shadowed, flat background. But when Lee retired, who do you think knew the most about the foundations of Fortress Monroe? If not for Lee, Saint Louis might not be a river city today. And what about Chapultepec where, according to General Winfield Scott, Lee “performed the greatest feat of physical and moral courage performed by any individual in my knowledge...”?

There is a good reason Lee was being offered command of the army before he resigned. In many ways he was at the peak of his career not as he watched opposing friends square off on the hills around Gettysburg, but rather on April 12, 1861 as he met with Scott in Washington.

On October 29, 2005, George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) Superintendent Audrey Calhoun will put on her uniform for the last time. Audrey plans to retire to Louisiana. As a young seasonal, Audrey began her career in Yellowstone National Park 35 years ago, then was soon wearing period dress as a permanent park ranger at Arlington House. She has been Superintendent at GWMP for 11 years. Last month I stood beside her on the Portico following a special evening program. It was late and the city lay before Arlington House



Arlington House

like jewels on black velvet. Fireflies wove a glittering pattern on the warm summer air and she said, “it is really beautiful—I had to see it one last time.” Like Lee, Audrey fears that she may never set foot on Arlington soil again after she retires.

Audrey has faced a number of challenges during her career, both personal and professional. In particular, as she took the helm of GWMP, she was faced with organizing the long and thematically diverse Parkway—probably a task more akin to herding cats. Yet the Long Range Interpretive Plan—the first to be completed in the National Capital Region—will come off the printer this month, finally bringing the various elements of the GWMP story into one book. Audrey worked tirelessly—much

to the chagrin of her division chiefs—to gain friends for the park and protect Parkway resources. But it is her successes at Arlington House that really stand out for us. Not surprisingly, some of these more tangible achievements were also very subtle such as saving 12 acres of Arlington House Woodlands when 24 were on the block. However, as I sit in my relatively new office, my personal favorite may have to be Audrey’s role in the transition of Arlington House staff from their cramped offices in historic structures to a new and improved OAB, opening up the slave quarters for exhibits in the process.

In a recent interview, Audrey said the most

(continued on page 3)

History Happenings

Why We Do What We Do

Eighty years ago, after a long, and, at times, bitter campaign, Congress passed legislation that authorized the restoration of Arlington House. Although a simple document, this resolution continues to provide guidance to the National Park Service in its role as caretaker of this important historic site. Throughout the United States, national parks look to their enabling legislation (EL) when making management decisions. In the case of Arlington House, our EL delineates the period to which the mansion should be restored and interpreted, how it should be furnished, and why the American people thought the house should be restored and preserved for future generations. In modern parlance, we would call the EL our mission statement.

During the early years, when the War Department was restoring and managing the house, the EL was blatantly ignored. After the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) was requested to assist with the furnishing of the mansion, a “change of plan” was decided upon. In direct violation of the enabling legislation, the War Department, largely at the insistence of CFA director Charles Moore, decided to furnish and interpret to “the first half of the republic.” This decision was based, in part, on the popularity of the Colonial Revival movement which was still popular in 1925. The mansion was restored to the period of GWP Custis, and no furniture manufactured after 1830 was accepted. Rooms that never existed, such as the “State Dining Room” were “restored.” This approach utterly negated Lee’s role and presence at Arlington. Even after the National Park Service assumed control of the mansion in 1933, the “Custis” interpretation continued for many years.

In 1955, Public Law 107 officially designated Arlington House as a permanent memorial to Robert E. Lee. Gradually the house was furnished and interpreted to the period of Robert E. Lee as specified in the original

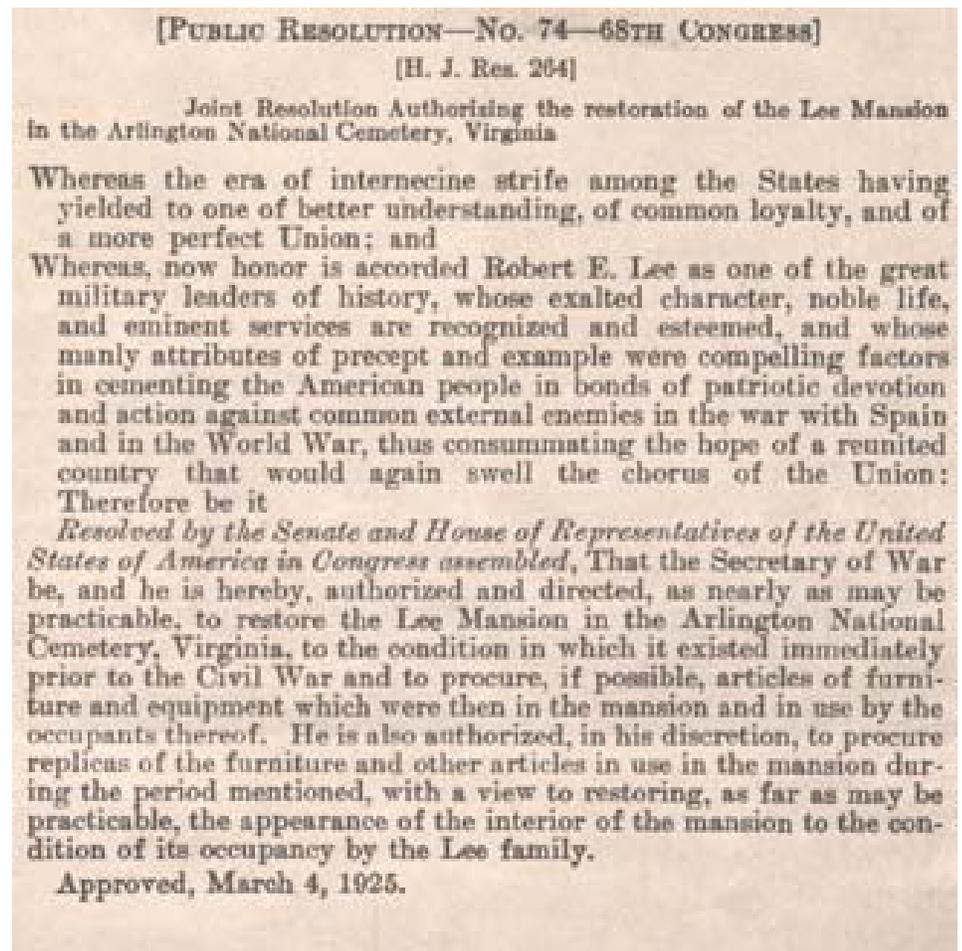
legislation. Although many changes have been made to adhere to the EL since that time, the process of restoring Arlington to the “period immediately prior to the Civil War” continues. In recent years, the staff of Arlington has increased its efforts to remain faithful to the spirit and dictates of our enabling legislation. What exactly does this mean for us today?

- Visitors often ask why we don’t have more portraits of Lee in the house. “Immediately prior to the Civil War” the mansion contained only the West portrait of Lee. Portraits were expensive, and during that time the house served as a memorial to Washington, not Lee.
- The possibility of allowing visitors to walk through the family parlor has been considered. Of all the rooms in the mansion, the most evidence exists for the accurate

furnishing of the family parlor. To allow visitors to walk through the room, its appearance “immediately prior to the Civil War” would be significantly compromised.

- The EL stipulates that original furnishings should be acquired. After many years of extremely diligent efforts, tentative funding has been secured for the purchase of most of the original objects in the house. The acquisition of the furniture may happen as early as next spring.
- Interpretation, which for many years failed to mention Lee at all, now places Robert E. Lee at its center as specified in the EL. Yet the role and importance of the Custis period is still alive and well in all of the site’s interpretive efforts.

(continued on page 3)



Evening Open House

The annual Evening Open House is set for Friday, October 7th, 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. The theme of this year's open house is "Music at Arlington." Rita Browder, baroque violinist, will play the George Washington Parke Custis violin. The violin has recently been restored, and was a gift to Custis from George Washington, his step-grandfather. The *Federal City Brass Band* will provide period music in the Flower Garden. The Men's Chorus from Mount Zion Baptist Church will also perform.

Invite your family and friends. Reservations are required. Please call (703) 235-1530 to arrange for free tickets. Tours are at 7:30 pm, 8:00 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:00 pm.

Volunteers should try to arrive by 6:30 pm. All volunteers and staff must be dressed and in place by 7:00 pm. Please allow extra time to dress, as needed. We will be dressing in the OAB (Old Administration Building) dressing rooms, conference room and attic.

As always, the Arlington House staff thanks all volunteers who have agreed to volunteer for this special event for their time and dedication. This event would not be possible without your generous assistance.

If you would like to volunteer for the Open House and you have not notified Delphine please call so we can add you to the schedule.

If you must cancel please notify Arlington House immediately at (703) 235-1530.

From the Office Down the Hall (continued from page 1)

important thing she accomplished during her tenure was the creation of the partnership at Glen Echo Park, a feat that frees the National Park Service staff from buildings and schedules and allows them to focus on telling the Glen Echo Story—including the story of its racially charged past. With these things done, she soon plans to pack up her red sports car and head south much as Lee did in 1861. She says she has a house on several acres with a chair on the porch that is waiting for her in the Louisiana uplands. But who knows, Lee made his biggest splash *after* he left his full and rich career. I think we may hear from her again.

Kendell Thompson
Site Manager
Arlington House,
The Robert E. Lee Memorial

History Happenings (continued from page 2)

- The interpretation of the mansion's rooms is of critical importance. Immediately prior to the Civil War, the room south of the White Parlor was converted to Mrs. Lee's morning room, in part because of her restricted mobility. After many years of serving as the false state dining room, the room was eventually refurnished and reinterpreted as the morning room. Others rooms such as the play room and the winter kitchen are the subject of further study to see if they reflect an accurate appearance for our specified period. How likely is it that the slaves were performing open hearth cooking in 1860?

- The landscape is equally important in interpreting the life of Robert E. Lee. Consequently, the Save America's Treasures grant was sought so that the quarters can be restored to their antebellum appearance. Recently, increased efforts have been made toward restoring the flower and kitchen gardens so that the entire site reflects the specified time period called for in the EL.

- The site brochure was recently rewritten to better convey the daily living conditions that Robert E. Lee experienced as a member of the household. Religion, a cornerstone of daily life at Arlington, is now mentioned for the first time. The roles of women, children, and slaves, who made up the majority of occupants, largely absent in the past, are now discussed in the brochure.

These are but a few examples of how the enabling legislation continues to guide management decisions at Arlington House. In the early 20th century, countless individuals, including Frances Parkinson Keyes and Congressman Louis Cramton, valiantly fought to have Arlington House restored. A century later, it remains to those of who love Arlington and are responsible for its care to be faithful to the vision and plan so eloquently set forth in our timeless enabling legislation.

Karen Kinzey, Historian



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 Spectacle online
<http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle.html>

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

Area Special Events

October 1-2

Living history encampment at Pitzer Woods and demonstrations on Little Round Top, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Reenactment and living history weekend in Stanardsville, VA, 20 miles north of Charlottesville off Route 29. Details: www.greeneva.com or 434-985-6663.

October 2

Artillery demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, MD, (I-495, exit 3A). 1, 2 and 3 pm. Free with park admission. 301-763-4600 or www.nps.gov/fowa.

Living history, "The Ship's Company," naval demonstrations, displays and models at Fort Ward in Alexandria, VA. Noon-4 pm. Free. www.fortward.org or 703-838-4848.

October 7-9

Seminar, "The Image of War," detailed information on battlefield photography at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA. Includes demonstrations, battlefield tours, slide shows and more. \$295. 301-528-2825 or email gadelman@historyassociates.com.

Reenactment and living history at Laurel Hill (VA), birthplace of J.E.B. Stuart. Music, civilian and military demonstrations, food, speakers and book signings. Battles at 1:30 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Candlelight tour and evening skirmish Saturday. Camps open 10 am. Proceeds to benefit the Birthplace Trust. www.jebstuart.org.

North-South Skirmish Association's National Competition at Fort Shenandoah near Winchester, VA. Live-fire competitions featuring all variety of vintage weapons. Free. More info: www.n-ssa.org or 248-447-5909.

Conference, "The Generals and their Presidents," in Middleburg, VA. Sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area. More info: www.mosbyheritagearea.org or 540-687-6681.

Living history, Civil War encampment at Tryon Palace in New Bern, NC. Visit the gardens and camp free. 9 am-5 pm Friday and Saturday; 1-5 pm Sunday. www.tryonpalace.org or 800-767-1560.

October 8

Tour, "Retreat from Gettysburg," begins near Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg PA, ends in Williamsport, Md. This is a "convoy tour" following the course of the Confederate "wagon train of woe." \$35. Details: www.grace-under-fire.us.

Lecture, "Yankee River, Rebel Shore: The Union Navy and Civil Insurrection Along the Potomac and Rappahanock Rivers," at the USS Constellation in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. 2 pm. Free with admission. www.constellation.org.

Bus tour, "Chancellorsville," annual Friends of Fort Ward bus tour leaves from Fort Ward in Alexandria VA at 7:45 am. \$85. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 5. www.fortward.org or 703-838-4848.

Tour, two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station battlefield. Begins 10 am at the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Route 29 north of Culpeper VA) at 10 am. \$5. 540-547-4106 or www.brandystationfoundation.com.

Lantern Tours on the Hupp's Hill battlefield in Strasburg VA. Tickets at the Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp's Hill. 7-9 pm. 540-465-5884 or www.waysideofva.com/stonewalljackson.

Battlefield Hike, ranger-led five-hour walk over the First Manassas Battlefield (VA). Begins at noon at the visitor center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

October 8-9

Living history, "John Brown's Legacy: Beyond the Gallows," special military and civilian programs at the Harpers Ferry

National Historical Park in WV. Free with admission. 304-535-6029 or www.nps.gov/hafe.

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history and ranger programs at Drewry's Bluff, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park (VA). 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Free. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

October 9

Preservation Bike Ride to benefit the Kernstown Battlefield Foundation (near Winchester VA). Courses marked for 25- and 55-mile rides. Registration 9 am. Contact Larry Duncan at 540-662-1824 or email lduncan@kernstownbattle.org.

October 15

Living history walking tour, "Courage! The Civil War in Washington," explore the streets of the national capital with a "citizen." Meets at Cosi Coffee, 10th and "E" NW in DC at 11 am. \$10 adults. 301-588-9255 or www.historicstrolls.com.

Battlefield Hike, ranger-led five-hour walk over the Second Manassas Battlefield (VA). Begins at noon at the visitor center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

October 15-16

Symposium, "Great Controversies of the Civil War," sponsored by Pamplin Historical Park south of Petersburg VA. Reservations, fee required. 877-PAMPLIN or www.pamplinpark.org

Reenactment, annual event on the Cedar Creek Battlefield, south of Middletown VA. Encampments, military and civilian demonstrations and battles each day. More: www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org or 888-628-1864.

(continued on page 5)

Area Special Events (continued)

Living history, “John Brown Raid Anniversary,” features portrayals of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in WV. Free with admission. 304-535-6029 or www.nps.gov/hafe.

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Gettysburg National Park (PA). Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history, “U.S. Sanitary Commission,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or www.civilwarmed.org.

October 21-22

Civil War Ghost Walks, candlelight tours on the “battlefield” at Endview Plantation in Newport News VA. 7-10 pm. \$7. 757-887-1862 or www.endview.org.

October 21-23

Seminar and Tours, “The Irish and Germans in the Civil War,” includes lectures, tours of Gettysburg, Antietam, some meals, music. Based in Chambersburg PA. Details: 717-264-7101 or email chaden@chambersburg.org.

October 22

Tours, ranger-led, in-depth tours of the Monocacy battlefield at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick MD. Free. Details: 301-662-3515 or www.nps.gov/mono.

Tour, two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station battlefield. Begins 10 am at the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Route 29 north of Culpeper VA) at 10 am. \$5. 540-547-4106 or www.brandystationfoundation.com.

Walking tours and living history, “Spirits of New Market,” scary living history lantern tours of the New Market (VA) battlefield leave every half hour from the Hall of Valor Museum 7-8:30 pm. \$10 adult/\$5 children. Living history during the day with camp life

and military demonstrations. 866-515-1864 or www.vmi.edu/newmarket.

Special event, “The Haunting of Liberia Plantation,” part of the Manassas (VA) Museum System. Moonlight and lantern tours of the grounds with strange tales thrown in. 5:30-9 pm. \$15 advance/\$20 at the door. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.

Battlefield Hike, ranger-led five-hour walk over the First Manassas Battlefield (VA). Begins at noon at the visitor center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

October 22-23

Annual U.S. Sharpshooter’s Living history weekend — programs at Pitzer Woods and Little Round Top. Also infantry living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Spangler’s Spring, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

October 23

Special tours, “Tales of the Spirits,” spooky stories at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton MD. Tours 5-9 pm. Special program 7:30 pm. First come, first served. Details: www.surratt.org or 301-868-1121.

October 29

Living history and special tours on the Averagesboro Battlefield near Dunn NC. Event includes military and civilian demonstrations and displays, battlefield and museum tours (which will include visits to the newly acquired William Smith Plantation House) and a Civil War Ghost Walk. 9 am-10:30 pm. Free, donations welcome. 910-891-5019 or www.averasboro.com.

Living history, “Haunted Cave Tours,” includes Civil War at the Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp’s Hill in Strasburg VA. Fee charged. 540-465-5884 or www.waysideofva.com/stonewalljackson.

Haunted Harvest Hayride at the Staunton

River Battlefield State Park near Randolph VA. 10 pm. Free. 434-454-4312 or www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org.

Battlefield Hike, ranger-led five-hour walk over the Second Manassas Battlefield (VA). Begins at noon at the visitor center. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

Special program, “Ghost Stories around the Campfire,” Lee Hall in Newport News VA. 7 pm. \$7. 757-888-3371 or www.leehall.org.

October 29-30

Living history, “The Eyes of the Army: The Cavalry Factor,” special demonstrations and 1 pm firing drills at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (WV). Free with admission. 304-535-6029 or www.nps.gov/hafe.

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history, “Signal Corps,” demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield (MD) at 1 pm each day. Free with admission. 301-432-5124 or www.nps.gov/anti

Special program, “Getting the Message Through,” Signal Corps activities with simultaneous demonstrations at Washington Monument State Park (South Mountain) near Boonsboro MD and the Antietam National Battlefield. 1 pm both days. Free. 301-432-8065.

Living history, “The Battlefield Embalmer: Preserving the Civil War Dead,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or www.civilwarmed.org.

Significant Historic Events in October

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. He 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 United States 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 more 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 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 know 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 was 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

(continued on page 7)

Significant Historic Events in October (continued)

“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, 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 English 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 15, 1891

William Henry Fitzhugh “Rooney” Lee, 54, died and was buried at Ravensworth, Annandale, Fairfax County, Virginia. At the time of his death Fitzhugh Lee was a United States congressman from the Eight District of Virginia.

October 16, 1824

The Marquis de Lafayette probably paid his respects to Ann Lee, the widow of General Henry Lee, at her home in Alexandria. If Lafayette did visit the widow of his old comrade in arms on this occasion, Robert E. Lee, 17, probably met him for the first time. [Freeman’s date is certainly incorrect, and his source may have confused Lafayette’s December visit with an October parade through the streets of Alexandria.]

October 16, 1837

Robert E. Lee, concerned that his eldest son, Custis, now five years old, was being spoiled by relatives and slaves, wrote to his wife, “Our dear little Boo seems to have among his friends a *reputation* of being hard to manage, a distinction not at all desirable...I pray God to watch over and direct our efforts in guarding our dear Son, that we may bring him up ‘in the way he should go.’ “

October 17, 1859

Busy making repairs at Arlington, Robert E. Lee was summoned by Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart to immediately report to the Secretary of War. Setting out at once in civilian clothes, Lee learned that some kind of insurrection was taking place at Harpers Ferry, Virginia—the John Brown raid on the Federal arsenal. Lee was asked to take command of all the military forces, including militiamen from Maryland and Virginia and marines from Washington Navy Yard. By 11 o’clock PM, Lee arrived at Harpers Ferry by train and had the militiamen and marines surround the fire-engine house at the arsenal, where the survivors of the raid had taken refuge with their thirteen hostages.

October 18, 1859

At 7 o’clock AM, when the light was sufficient for the Marine detachment to make the assault, Lee and two thousand bystanders watched as J.E.B. Stuart read Lee’s terms of surrender to the raiders inside the engine house. John Brown returned counter-proposals and the hostages added their appeals. (“One voice from within cried out in a very different tone, ‘Never mind us, fire!’ The speaker was Lewis W. Washington, grandnephew of the general. Lee, who knew him well, recognized his inflections and remarked quietly, ‘The old revolutionary blood does tell!’”). At Stuart’s signal the marines attacked the engine house. The assault was finished in three minutes. One marine and one raider were killed, and John Brown was wounded by the marine lieutenant’s dress sword. None of the hostages was injured, although Lewis Washington “refused to come out until a pair of gloves were brought, so that his neighbors might not see his soiled hands.” Lee placed Brown and other surviving members of his raiding party in the joint custody of the United States marshal and the sheriff of the county. He then investigated a totally false story about another raid five miles away, and traveled back to Washington, where he made his report at the War Department the following day.

October 19, 1914

Robert E. Lee, Jr., 70, died at “Romancoke” (Romancock), the estate on the Pamunkey River he has inherited from his grandfather, GWP Custis. His *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* had been published in 1904.

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

(continued on page 8)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

The strong, healthy boy born to "Light Horse Harry" and Ann Carter Lee on January 19, 1807 was the last Lee born at Stratford to survive to maturity. Though he spent fewer than four years there, his later boyhood visits left an impression that he carried throughout his life. An impression that would have him yearning to return to this quaint plantation.

On December 25, 1861, in the midst of war and with Arlington confiscated and occupied by Union troops, the lonely Lee wrote to Mary:

...In the absence of a home I wish I could purchase Stratford. That is the only place I could go to, now accessible to us, that would inspire me with feelings of pleasure and local love. You and the girls could remain there in quiet. It is a poor place, but we could make enough cornbread and bacon for our support and the girls could weave us clothes. I wonder if it is for sale and how much.

Sadly, circumstances prevented them from ever returning to Stratford.

This recipe, however, originated at Stratford Hall, Virginia. It is said to be a favorite cookie of the Lee family, especially young Robert E. Lee. The cookies would be baked at the Lee Plantation and served with warm cider to visitors.

Robert E. Lee Cookies

1 ½ cups (3 sticks) butter or margarine
½ cup molasses
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
4 cups of flour
4 teaspoons of soda
2 teaspoons of cinnamon
1 teaspoon of ginger
1 teaspoon of clove

Melt the butter and add the molasses, sugar and eggs. Beat well. Sift together and add to the mixture the flour, soda, cinnamon, ginger and clove. Refrigerate the dough for several hours. Break off pieces of the dough (heaping teaspoon sized) and roll into small balls. Roll the balls in sugar. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet about 1½ inches apart. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven until firm and brown, about 8-10 minutes. Makes about 10 dozen.

Information for article provided by:
www.google.com and www.stratfordhall.org

Contributed by Christine Widrig

Significant Historic Events in October (continued from page 7)

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 leaves 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 restore 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* 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."

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.

October 2005

Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Bryant Davis 10:00-12:00 Elene Paul 10:00-2:00 Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30 Delia Rios 1:00-3:00
2 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	3 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	4 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	5 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	6 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00 Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	7 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	8 Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30 Bryant Davis 10:00-12:00 Russell Simonaro 10:00-12:00
9 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	10 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00	11 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	12 Elizabeth Pryor 9:00-12:30	13 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00 Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	14 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	15 Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30 Lisa Kittinger 11:00-3:00 Hope Flanagan 1:00-4:00
16 Delia Rios 12:00-3:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	17 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	18 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	19 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	20 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham 10:30-1:00 Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	21 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	22 Delia Rios 11:00-1:00 Hope Flanagan 1:00-4:00
23 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	24 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	25 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	26 Elizabeth Pryor 9:00-12:30 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	27 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00 Gene Cross 11:00-4:30	28 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	29 Russell Simonaro 10:00-12:00 Elene Paul 10:00-2:00 Hope Flanagan 1:00-4:00
30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	31 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00					



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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Comments? Write to:

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c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
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McLean, VA 22101

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.

