



Molly: Arlington in the 1940's

Molly's hometown is Jefferson, Illinois, but her experiences growing up on the home front during World War II were not so different as those for kids growing up here in Arlington. Communities like Arlington and Jefferson worked together to get through tough times: families participated in scrap drives and bond rallies, dealt with food rationing and planted Victory Gardens, and banded together to defend itself.

Guide to Images:

Flip this card to see images of life in the 1940s. Below are descriptions of each image.

1. War Bonds rally at Clarendon Circle, ca. 1943. Celebrities, community groups and veterans worked hard to promote war bonds throughout World War II.
2. Arlington Boy Scouts Scrap Drive, 1943. Scrap metal would be sent to factories to be melted down and made into new materials needed by soldiers.
3. Victory Garden, ca. 1944. Civilians planted Victory Gardens to help keep healthy food on their tables amidst food shortages caused by the War.
4. Women's Army Corps members (WACs), Pentagon Motor Pool, 1943.
5. Dwelling survey, Air Raid Warden Service, 1942. The Air Raid Warden Service was created to help citizens prepare for and react to possible air raids.
6. Staff at Arlington Hall Station, working on cracking enemy codes, ca. 1943.

However, Arlington was also a different place than Molly's Jefferson during World War II. Because Arlington is so close to the nation's capital, many people moved here to be close to new jobs created for the war effort. There were many new families – so many that Arlington's schools got crowded and the county had to build more. However, there were also young and single new residents, and many of them were women. These young women came to the area looking for jobs that used to be filled by men; now they were fixing cars, cracking codes, typing up reports, and doing other activities that were vital to winning the war and keeping the home front going. For Molly's family and families in Arlington, World War II was an exciting and sometimes scary time in our history, but by coming together, they were able to weather the storm.

**Courtesy of the Virginia Room
At Arlington Public Library**

Arlington during World War II

See the front of this card for information about each of these images of Arlington in the 1940s.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

Form with handwritten entries, including a table titled 'Dwellers in Apartment'.

Name of occupant	Room designation	Room no.	Room area	Infants
Stephen L. Darling	Room 1	101	100 sq. ft.	0
William H. Darling	Room 2	102	100 sq. ft.	0
Red Darling	Room 3	103	100 sq. ft.	0
William H. Darling	Room 4	104	100 sq. ft.	0
William H. Darling	Room 5	105	100 sq. ft.	0

Other handwritten entries include: Name of building: *101*; Name of street: *101*; Name of city: *101*; Name of state: *101*.

6.

