

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXIX

NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, March 24, 2010

PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia

TIME: 7:30 PM

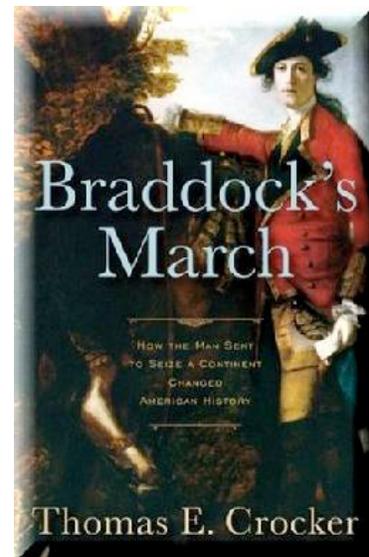
SPEAKER: Thomas E. Crocker, Author

Braddock's March: How the Man Sent to Seize a Continent Changed American History

Alexandria author Thomas E. Crocker will discuss his book *Braddock's March: How the Man Sent to Seize a Continent Changed American History* (Westholme Publishing). Crocker's book tells a modern audience the story of the epic march by Major General Edward Braddock and a force of British regulars and American volunteers through the wilderness and their ultimate, devastating defeat. Braddock's expedition is a key, but little-known, turning point in American history.

Braddock's March is of special interest to Alexandrians because Braddock stopped in Alexandria and used it as a major staging point for the expedition. The Congress of colonial governors that Braddock summoned at Carlyle House was a turning point in America's relations with Great Britain. In his lecture, Mr. Crocker will discuss the expedition, with particular reference to its importance in Alexandria's history.

Braddock's march was a heroic effort by a general, who flogged his men, cursed Americans and abused the hospitality of his hosts, to blaze a trail through uncharted wilderness and haul dozens of large cannon over mountains formidable even now. The first *(Continued on Page 2)*



About Our March 24 Speaker, *(Continued from Page 1)* wheeled vehicles ever to cross the Appalachian Mountains, the first effective use of rifles in combat, the opening of the road for westward expansion, the creation of a national hero in George Washington, and a unique showcasing of many of America's Founding Fathers early in their careers — the expedition also sowed the seeds for the American Revolution. The book challenges the conventional wisdom that the Braddock campaign was a one-shot loss by an arcane British general and makes the case that it was one of the most important events in the American colonial period, with a profound impact on American military and political developments of the Revolutionary period and beyond.

Thomas E. Crocker is a partner and co-chair of the International Trade group at Alston & Bird LLP, a large Atlanta-based law firm. He specializes in regulatory aspects of international business, including export controls, US sanctions and embargoes, foreign investment reviews, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He regularly practices before the Departments of the Treasury, Commerce, State, and Homeland Security and, on occasion, the U.S. Congress. Earlier in his career, Crocker was a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department, where he served on the staff of Secretary Kissinger's Under Secretary for Arms Control & International Security, as a political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, and as desk officer for Spain and Malta. Much of his work was in the areas of base negotiations and expansion of NATO, as well as bilateral political relations..

A native Washingtonian who grew up in Georgetown just a block and a half from General Braddock's line of march up Wisconsin Avenue, he graduated from Princeton University and Columbia Law School. He and his wife Beth have two teen-aged sons and have lived in Alexandria for over 25 years. Braddock's March is Crocker's first published book, although there may be more in the works.

April 28 Society Meeting (7:30 PM at The Lyceum) 2010 Alexandria History Awards with Lecture by Robert G. Stanton. The 2010 Alexandria History Awards will be presented by Senator Patsy Ticer at our April 28 meeting. Also, the Alexandria High School History Awards will be presented to an outstanding student from each of Alexandria's four high schools. A reception will follow the awards ceremony and lecture.

The keynote speaker will be Robert G. Stanton who was Director of the National Park Service from 1997 to 2001 and today is Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget. As Director of the National Park Service, he oversaw major planning and resource preservation programs at the White House, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Gettysburg. Since 2001, he has served as an executive professor at Texas A&M University and a visiting professor at both Howard University and Yale University. From 1988 to 1997, Stanton served as the regional director of the Park Service's National Capital Region, which includes 40 national park units in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and surrounding states. He began his career as a National Park Service ranger 47 years ago. Stanton is a graduate of Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas and has received honorary doctorate degrees from Texas A&M University, Unity College, Southern University, and Huston-Tillotson University.

February 27 Lecture (11:00 AM at the Alexandria Black History Museum) “Feeding Our Founding Fathers” Lecture by Michael Twitty. Culinary Historian Michael Twitty, a leading expert on African-American foodways, will explore the role and work of enslaved African-Americans in providing food to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. In his illustrated lecture, Twitty will examine who the enslaved cooks were, how they were trained, and how they prepared and served food to our nation’s first leaders. Please note the time and location. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in Alexandria. Because of limited seating, reservations are necessary for the free lecture. Reservations can be made by calling (703) 838-4356.

This lecture is the first in the Freedmen’s Cemetery Lecture Series, which is co-sponsored by the Alexandria Historical Society, the Special Collections Branch of the Alexandria Public Library, and the Alexandria Black History Museum. Lectures in this series will explore the history and culture of African Americans in 18th and 19th century Virginia.

2010 Alexandria History Award Nominations. The Alexandria Historical Society is calling for nominations for the 2010 Alexandria History Award (which has been renamed the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award), to be presented to a person or persons who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural, and artistic heritage of Alexandria. Honorees will be presented with a certificate and gift at a special awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Alexandria. An outstanding history student from each of Alexandria’s four high schools will also be honored at the ceremony.

Organizations and interested individuals are invited to submit written nominations to the History Award Committee of the Alexandria Historical Society. Each nomination should be in the form of a narrative, no longer than two pages, which explains in some detail the contributions of the nominee. Copies of the nominee’s work, including publications, should be included. More than one nomination may be offered, and the committee may select more than one person to receive the History Award. The committee will give particular consideration to those individuals who have written research papers, theses, dissertations, books and materials, which publicly disseminate information on the social and cultural history of the area. AHS Board members and persons who conducted their research as part of their compensated professional responsibilities are not eligible for the award. Nominations should be received by March 12 at the Office of Historic Alexandria, 220 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2521. For more information about the 2010 History Award, contact William Dickinson of the Alexandria Historical Society at (703) 370-3089.

The 2009 Alexandria History Award honoree was Mary V. Thompson for her book, *“In the Hands of a Good Providence:” Religion in the Life of George Washington.* Other History Award winners include Dr. William Seale, T. Michael Miller, Jean Taylor Federico, General George Kundahl, Dr. Alton S. Wallace, Lillie Finklea, William Francis Smith, Dr. James D. Munson, Ellen Donald, Anna Lynch, Catherine B. Hollan, Edith

Moore Sprouse, Dr. Pamela J. Cressey, Mona Leithiser Dearborn, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Joynt, Effie Crittenden Dunstan, and Dr. Oscar P. Fitzgerald. The citations enumerating the contributions of these outstanding citizens can be reviewed on the Alexandria Historical Society website at www.alexandriahistorical.org.

**ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Audrey Davis, (703) 838-4356, Ext. 11

Newsletter Editor: Bob Madison, (703) 683-2636

The AHS Newsletter is published by the Alexandria Historical Society, Inc., and mailed free to members. To join the Society, submit your check made payable to "Alexandria Historical Society," together with your name, address, and telephone numbers, to the Alexandria Historical Society, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Annual dues are: \$10.00, Student; \$20.00, Single; \$30.00, Couple; \$50.00, Sustaining; and \$100.00, Patron. The membership year is July to June. Dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The purpose of the Society shall be to promote an active interest in American history and particularly in the history of Alexandria and of Virginia.

The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes.

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.alexandriahistorical.org**

