

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXX

NUMBER 1

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 22, 2010

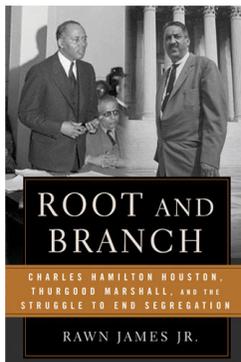
PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: Rawn James, Jr., Author

The Strange Legal Strategy that Defeated Segregation

Author Rawn James, Jr., will discuss “Sailing East for Western Shores: The Strange Legal Strategy that Defeated Segregation” based on his new book *Root and Branch: Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall and the Struggle to End Segregation* (Bloomsbury, 2010).



In *Root and Branch*, James explores the life of Charles Hamilton Houston, who graduated from Amherst College and Harvard Law School and served in the army during World War I. As dean of the Howard Law School, Houston modeled the rigor and organization of Harvard Law School and the U.S. Army to produce top-rated lawyers who committed their careers to overturning Jim Crow laws. One of his students was Thurgood Marshall. The book portrays the partnership of Houston, Marshall, and other civil rights lawyers. They repeatedly went before the U.S. Supreme Court and its affiliates to argue in favor of ending lynching, the poll tax, all-white juries, pay inequality, and unequal educational opportunity for blacks and whites.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* is widely considered a seminal point in the battle to end segregation, but it was in fact the culmination of a decades-long legal campaign. *Root and Branch* is the epic story of the two fiercely dedicated lawyers who led the fight from county courthouses to the marble halls of the Supreme Court, and, in the process, laid the legal foundations of the civil rights movement.

A graduate of Yale University and Duke University School of Law, Rawn James, Jr., (right) has been practicing law for nearly ten years in Washington, D.C., where he lives with his wife and son.



Two Share AHS Treasurer Duties

The AHS Board of Directors is grateful to have two members fulfilling and sharing the duties of Treasurer. Rob Stalder now holds the position of Treasurer and Jackie Cohan is serving as Assistant Treasurer.

As one of her last official duties, past Treasurer Anne Paul compiled and presents the Statement of Revenue and Expense for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, on the following page. The AHS Board and membership would like to express their deepest thanks to Anne for her dedicated service and meticulous work in her many years as Treasurer.

C-SPAN Airs AHS Lecture

This summer, audiences across the country were able to see the May 26 lecture by Tony Cohen. In July, C-SPAN 3 aired “Unshackling History: Recreating Experiences from American Slavery” and also added to its online video library. For those who missed it or would like to see it again, it can be viewed online at <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/293955-1>.



October 27 Society Meeting (7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum) – Freedmen’s Cemetery Archaeology Lecture by Dr. Steven J. Shephard

October is Virginia Archaeology Month and this year’s theme is “Written in Stone: Exploring the Commonwealth’s Historic Cemeteries,” so it especially timely that Dr. Steven J. Shephard, an archaeologist with Alexandria Archaeology, will present “Excavations at the Contrabands and Freedmen’s Cemetery and the Concept of the Proper Coffin in the Mid-19th Century.”



From 1864 to 1869, the Contrabands and Freedmen’s Cemetery was the burial place for at least 1,800 African Americans seeking their freedom behind Union lines. Archaeologists conducted a series of four excavations in preparation for developing the property into a memorial park. The results of the excavations and documentary research indicate that there was an idea of what a “proper” coffin was like in mid-19th-century America. In his illustrated lecture, Dr. Shephard (right), one of the Freedmen’s Cemetery project researchers, will discuss the history of the cemetery, some results of the excavations and the idea of a “proper” coffin.



This lecture is the third in the Freedmen’s Cemetery lecture series. Lectures in this series explore the history and culture of African Americans in 18th- and 19th-century Virginia.

Alexandria Historical Society, Inc.

Statement of Revenue and Expense

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

I. Checking Account

Balance July 1, 2009	\$ 2,533.41
Total Deposits	6,335.00
Total Expenses	7,476.58
Total Deposits less Expenses	[- 1,141.58]
Bank Balance June 30, 2010	\$ 1,391.83

II. Savings Account

Balance July 1, 2009	\$ 7,156.39
Total Deposits – Interest (12 months)	15.98
Total Expenses	None
Balance June 30, 2010	\$ 7,172.37

III. Endowment Fund

Balance July 1, 2009	\$ 8,008.15
Total Deposits	543.91
Total Expense	None
Balance June 30, 2010	\$ 8,552.06

IV. John Patten Abshire C. D.

Balance April 25, 2009	\$ 14,403.75
Total Deposits *	4,460.29
Total Expenses	None
Balance June 6, 2010	\$ 18,864.04

* At the May 12, 2009 Board Meeting, it was decided to restore the C.D. to its original 2000 amount of \$ 18,645.37. Interest for 14 mos. was \$ 319.40.

V. Abshire Savings Account/Money Market Account

Balance June 30, 2009	\$ 7,336.51
Total Deposits – 12 months interest	8.66
Total Expenses *	4,140.89
Balance June 30, 2010	\$ 3,204.28

* Money transferred to J. Patten Abshire C.D. Account was converted from Savings to a Money Market Account on May 6, 2010.

Statement of Accounts

2010

Checking	\$ 1,391.83
Savings Account	7,172.37
Endowment Fund	8,552.06
J. Patten Abshire C.D.	18,864.04
Abshire Savings Account	<u>3,204.28</u>
	\$ 39,184.58

**ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

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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 WEBSITE:

www.alexandriahistorical.org



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Alexandria, Virginia 22314