

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 22, 2011

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

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: Barb Winters, Author

“Letters to Virginia”

When Barb Winters volunteered to sort, read, and organize the six boxes of old letters, photos, diaries, and other records dropped off at the Local History Special Collections Department of the Alexandria Library, she had no idea she would become so involved with the lives of three families from her adopted home. For over three years, Barb processed, read, and organized more than 800 family letters donated in 2000. These letters, written by members of the Eaches, Fendall and Tackett families, spanned three generations, two major wars, and more than one hundred years. Since the publication of *Letters to Virginia* last fall, Winters has eagerly shared the stories of these three families by speaking with community groups.

Barb worked for ten years for the Alexandria Library, including nine years in the Local History Special Collections section of the Kate Waller Barrett Branch from 2000 to 2009 before retiring in 2010. In addition to her work on the letters, she was involved beginning in 2002 in the digitizing of over 2000 records from a special assessment of properties in the Old Town Historic District of Alexandria conducted in the late 1960s. Before working at the library, Winters wrote articles for the Chicago Bulls and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Barb is the recipient of the 2011 T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award. [continued inside]



New Officers Announced

The Board of Directors would like to thank Audrey Davis for her dedicated service as President over the past three years and Co-Treasurers Rob Stalder and Jackie Cohan for their service this past year.

The following officers will serve for the 2011-2012 term:

President	Bill Dickinson
Vice President	Peggy Gross
Secretary	Ted Pulliam
Treasurer	Anne Paul

The Board of Directors welcomes new members David Cavanaugh and Adrienne T. Washington whose terms end in 2014. The following members continue their terms on the AHS Board:

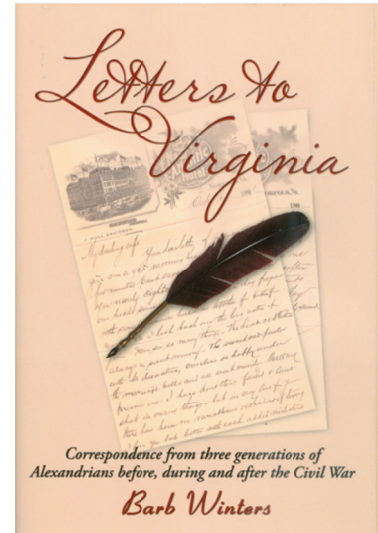
Debbie Ackerman	(Term to end 2013)
Lisa Adamo	(Term to end 2013)
Amy Bertsch	(Term to end 2012)
Tal Day	(Term to end 2013)
Linda Greenberg	(Term to end 2013)
Karen Wilkins	(Term to end 2012)
Audrey Davis	Ex Officio – Immediate Past President
Mary Ruth Coleman	Ex Officio

Fall Speakers Announced

Please save these dates so you don't miss either of these enlightening speakers! On Wednesday, September 28, Don Hakenson, recipient of a 2011 AHS Special Award, will present "This Forgotten Land: Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans," based upon his book *This Forgotten Land Volume II: Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans Buried in Alexandria, Virginia*. Don is the Past President and current board member for the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. He has served as a History Commissioner for Lee District in Fairfax County for five years and is also a founder and member on the board of directors for the Franconia Museum. He is a Civil War advisor for the Mosby Foundation in Warrenton and for the Friends of Laura Ratcliffe in Herndon. He is author of five books related to the Civil War and has written several articles on Mosby and local Civil War history.

Then on Wednesday, October 26, Ted Pulliam, author of the newly released *Historic Alexandria: An Illustrated History*, will discuss "Stories of Alexandria," exploring people and events that make up the Alexandria story. Ted's work on historical subjects has been published in the *Washington Post*, *American History* magazine, *WWII History* magazine, and the *Alexandria Gazette-Packet*. In addition to serving on the AHS board as the Secretary, he is member of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and serves on the board of directors of the Friends of Local History.

[Cont.] In *Letters to Virginia*, Barb provides the context of the lives of 15 Alexandrians, drawing the reader into interpersonal relationships of members of these three families from 1817 to 1940 and providing detailed insight into Alexandria's history. The result is a compelling narrative that reveals Alexandria's past by people who lived it and experienced war and deadly disease, fame and fortunes, deep devotion and cruel deception. It is an intimate tale of their lives, told by them through hundreds and hundreds of handwritten letters they left behind, uncensored and unread until the 21st century. It is, in effect, the diaries of their daily lives and loves, struggles and accomplishments. It reflects what life was like during those times in Alexandria.



Copies of *Letters to Virginia: Correspondence from Three Generations of Alexandrians Before, During and After the Civil War* will be available for purchase and signing following the program.

AHS Participates in Civil War 150th Kick-Off

On May 21, Alexandria kicked off its commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial with a large living history event at Market Square, and the Alexandria Historical Society was among the dozens of organizations participating. Thanks to board members Bill Dickinson, Debbie Ackerman and Tal Day for staffing the AHS table and sharing membership information and copies of the *Alexandria Chronicle* with some of the several hundred people who attended. "Life in Civil War Alexandria" featured soldier and civilian reenactors, live period music, and interpretation of Civil War railroads, photography, medicine and more!



Historic Summer Fun

Here's just a sample of the fun events Alexandria's historic attractions are offering this summer so check them out!

June 26, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Garden Party at Lee-Fendall House
703.548.1789 www.leefendall.org

July 31, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Presidential Salon at Gadsby's Tavern Museum
703.746.4242 www.gadsbystavern.org

August 6, noon to 4 p.m.
House Warming 1753 at Carlyle House
703.549.2997 www.carlylehouse.org

August 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Civil War Camp Day at Fort Ward
703.746.4848 www.fortward.org

**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



**201 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**