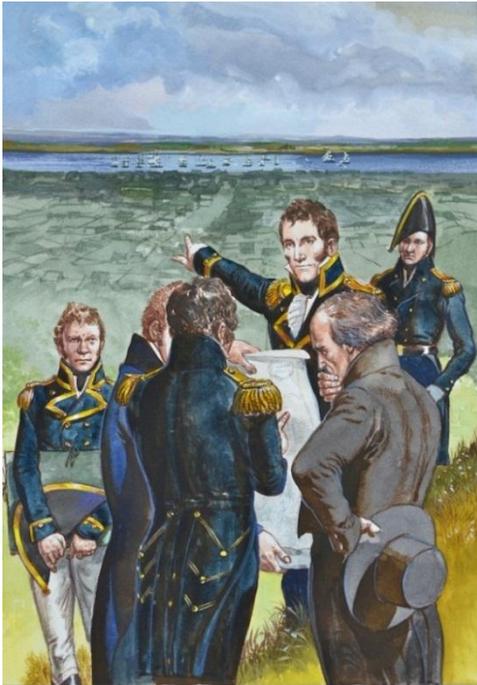


**DATE:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
**PLACE:** The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**SPEAKER:** Stuart L. Butler, former Assistant Branch Chief, National Archives & Records Administration

## LECTURE

### “Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and its Militia in the War of 1812”

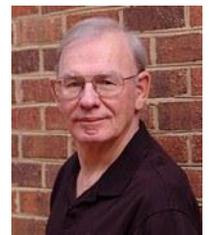


To commemorate the War of 1812 bicentennial, historian and author Stuart L. Butler will discuss his recent book, *Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and its Militia in the War of 1812*. In his review of Butler’s book, Ralph Eshelman, author of *The War of 1812 in the Chesapeake* writes, “Any scholar of American history will want this book in their library; every library in Virginia should have a copy on its shelves and every citizen of Virginia should read it.”

*Defending the Old Dominion* is the first book to address the impact of the War of 1812 on Virginia as well as the significant burden imposed on the Commonwealth in financing the militia. The militia was so lacking in adequate training, ordnance and arms that its ability to defend Virginia against British incursions was severely compromised. Mr. Butler also tells the intriguing story of the nearly two thousand slaves who fled to British ships, some of whom joined British forces and fought against Americans in the hopes of earning their freedom.

An expert in this historical period, Mr. Butler has also written *Virginia Soldiers in the U.S. Army* (Athens, 1987); *Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812* (Athens, 1988; revised 2011) and *Real Patriots and Heroic Soldiers: General Joel Leftwich and the Virginia Brigade in the War of 1812* (Westminster, 2008). Additionally, he has written several articles on the War of 1812 for the *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, *Albemarle County History Magazine*, *Maryland Historical Magazine* and *Prologue*, the quarterly journal of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Mr. Butler retired from the National Archives and Records Administration in 1999 after thirty years as an assistant branch chief with the former Old Military and Civil Branch, where he specialized in early American military records. He attended Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University, and holds an M.A. degree in American History. Mr. Butler is a contributor to the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, and is a current member of the Citizens Advisory Council for the Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. He resides in Williamsburg, Virginia. *Free for all Society members, but seating is limited and early arrival is recommended.*



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## Spring Lecture Schedule

**May 6: The Internal Enemy, Slavery and War.** Alan Taylor, Pulitzer Prize winning author and Professor of History at the University of Virginia, will among other topics relate how runaway slaves were offered freedom and resettlement in the British colonies as well as the opportunity to serve in their naval and land forces. *Free for all Society members.*

**May 20: Rosie the Riveter.** Mary Ann Jung, lead actress and Director of Renaissance History and Shakespearean Language at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, will perform the role of Rosie the Riveter using authentic and very entertaining World War II costumes, accents and attitudes. *Free for all.*

**June 25: African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.** Professional genealogist for the Alexandria Legacies Freedmen's Cemetery Descendants Project Char McCargo Bah, freelance writer and editor Christa Watters, acting director of the Alexandria Black History Museum Audrey Davis, retired government worker Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson and retired attorney James E. Henson, Sr. will discuss the harrowing narratives of African Americans who shaped Alexandria. *Free for all.*

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Alexandria History Awards

On Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, students and individuals who have made significant contributions to the understanding and appreciation of history will be honored. Each year, AHS honors authors, researchers and exceptional history students from Bishop Ireton, St. Stephen's, St. Agnes and T.C. Williams. This year, we are privileged to have Father Thomas Ferguson, a 1984 history award winner from Bishop Ireton, as our guest speaker and presenter. He will talk about how his early interest in history has influenced his life's work. *Free for all.*

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## Bus Tour of the Civil Defenses of Washington

On Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, noted military historian Dr. Frank Cooling will lead a special guided bus tour to many of the Civil War Defenses that surrounded Washington. The event is sponsored by Friends of Fort Ward. Pre-registration is required and there is a charge. Please contact Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site for more details and to register at 703.746.4848.

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## Notice of Proposed Amendment to By-Laws of the Alexandria Historical Society

The Alexandria Historical Society Board of Directors recommends that the By-Laws of the Society should be amended by adding a new Section 5 to Article II, Election of Officers and Directors:

"Except as provided in Section 2 of this Article, in the event an officer of the Society or member of the Board of Directors should resign or become unable to serve, the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor to serve for the balance of the term. If polling of the Board of Directors should be conducted electronically before a scheduled meeting, the record of voting and appointment of a successor shall be set out in the minutes of the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors."

The By-Laws of the Society in their current form are published on the Society Web page, <https://alexandriahistoricalociety.wildapricot.org/bylaws>. The proposed amendment is technical in nature and will serve to make express provision for the appointment of a successor for any member of the Board of Directors who is unable to serve the balance of his term. The death of one Society officer and the resignation of a Board member for health reasons, both occurring less than two years since adoption of amended By-Laws in 2012, have prompted the Board to recommend this amendment.

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## President's Message

Dear Fellow AHS Member:

We are pleased to announce several exciting events for the spring 2014. These include a dramatization of the story of Rosie the Riveter, annual History Awards evening and presentational narrative of African Americans who helped shape Alexandria.

Also included are two AHS-sponsored lectures that are part of the Office of Historic Alexandria's War of 1812 Lecture Series. Speakers are Stuart Butler 'Defending the Old Dominion' (March) and Alan Taylor 'The Internal Enemy' (May). Given that seating at The Lyceum is limited, early arrival is recommended. Both lectures are free for AHS Members.

AHS is working with Alexandria's War of 1812 Bi-Centennial Team developing a variety of activities to commemorate historical events that occurred in this region primarily during the summer of 1814. These include the anniversary of the Battle of Bladensburg, the burning by British forces of public buildings in Washington DC (most notably the US Capitol and The Executive Mansion), the subsequent arrival of a powerful British Naval squadron in Alexandria, and the City's surrender. These events will provide opportunity to better understand and appreciate the city's culture, politics, and economics in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and honor those Alexandrians who served and died. The events (including AHS-sponsored lectures) are listed on the web site: [www.visitalexandriava.com/1812](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/1812)

Many thanks to those who made generous end-of-year donations. These provided the financial assets to support the upcoming Virginia Association of Museum's Conference to be held in Alexandria, honoraria for AHS speakers, and AHS history awards programs. AHS is also seeking commercial and/or individual sponsors to finance videotaping upcoming events. Please contact me if you have suggestions.

Due to expired terms, the AHS Board will have several vacancies to fill at the May 2014 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in serving, please contact Linda Greenberg ([lindaroseveargreenberg@comcast.net](mailto:lindaroseveargreenberg@comcast.net)), Audrey Davis ([audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov](mailto:audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov)), or Jackie Cohan ([jackie.cohan22@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.cohan22@gmail.com)). All are members of AHS Nominating Committee.

AHS regrets the resignation of Paul Friedman as a member of the AHS Board and we thank him for his energy, creative ideas and leadership. At the February 2014 Board Meeting, Mark Whatford, Assistant Director of Gunston Hall and member of AHS, was elected to fill the vacancy. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, an amendment is being proposed to the AHS By-laws making provision for the appointment of a person to fill an unexpired term of office. This will be voted upon at our May 2013 annual meeting.

In September 2013, AHS launched a new website. Please visit it if you have not done so already. Several of the lectures have been videotaped and are available on the site along with past issues of *The Chronicle*, calendar of events, links to other historical websites, a bibliography on Alexandria's history and a feature that allows one to join and make contributions to AHS online. Feedback on the new site is most appreciated as improvements are continually being made.

AHS looks forward to your attending the events!

On behalf of the Board,

Bill Dickinson  
President  
[bill.c.dickinson@gmail.com](mailto:bill.c.dickinson@gmail.com)

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ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Bill Dickinson, 703.370.3089

Newsletter Editor: Jackie Cohan, 703.746.4753

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](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org)



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