

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXIV

NUMBER 5

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

DATE: Wednesday, May 27, 2015
PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria
TIME: 7:30 PM
SPEAKER: Paula Tarnapol Whitacre, freelance writer and editor

FREE LECTURE

“What a Place I Have Found”: Julia Wilbur in Civil War Alexandria

In 1862, Julia Wilbur came to Alexandria as a relief worker on behalf of the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society. She started out with no clear idea of what she would do or where she would live. What led her to come, a woman alone in the midst of the Civil War? What did she try to accomplish, and with whom? And how do we know?



Paula Tarnapol Whitacre coordinated the 2013-2014 transcription of Wilbur’s diaries by Alexandria Archaeology volunteers and has dug into related primary sources at the National Archives, Haverford College, the Library of Congress and elsewhere. Her presentation will focus on Wilbur’s time in Alexandria, with enough “before” and “after” to understand how Wilbur got here and what she did after the War.



Whitacre holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Johns Hopkins University. A former Foreign Service Officer, she has been a freelance writer and editor in Alexandria for almost 20 years. She is a board member of Friends of Alexandria Archaeology and is working on a full-length book about Julia Wilbur.

The event is free but please arrive early—seating is limited

Winner of the 2015 T. Michael Miller Award and High School Award History Winners



On April 22, [Edward H. "Ted" Pulliam](#), best known to the Alexandria historical community as "Ted," won the 2015 T. Michael Miller Award. He has been a vital contributor to Alexandria's history during the twenty-first century through research and writing as well as active membership in a broad range of historical Alexandria institutions. Winners of the Alexandria High School History Award recipients were [Joseph Green](#), Bishop Ireton High School (Teacher: Marie Markussen), [Brooks Young](#), Episcopal High School (Teacher: Richard Dixon, Ph.D.), [Eric Thomas Karsten](#), St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School (Teacher: D. Gus Grissom, Ph.D.) and [Jacob Katz](#), T.C. Williams High School (Teacher: Michelle Hudgens).

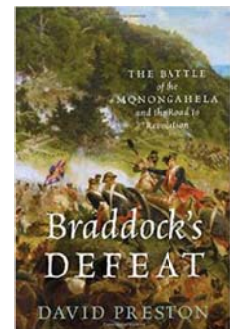
Upcoming AHS Lectures

[June 24: "Viva Voce Voting in Alexandria."](#) Donald DeBats, University of Virginia Visiting Research Fellow and Professor and Head of American Studies at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, will discuss the public recording of citizens' votes in Alexandria in the 1850s. Virginia men cast their votes by speaking their choices aloud before the community, but the system of viva voce voting was abandoned as a condition of re-entering the Union following the Civil War. What can mid-nineteenth-century poll books tell us about Alexandria's culture at the time, the voting choices individuals made and why elections were treated as festivals? **Free to all.**



From the Voting Viva Voce
University of Virginia website

[September 23: "Braddock's Defeat: The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution."](#) David L. Preston, Westvaco Professor of National Security Studies at the Citadel, will offer a re-interpretation of General Edward Braddock's Expedition of 1755 and focuses on a unique set of characters that includes George Washington and Benjamin Franklin as well as discussing three new manuscript discoveries. The disaster altered the balance of power in America and spawned ideas of American identity that culminated in the American Revolution. **Free to AHS members only.**



Other Events in Alexandria

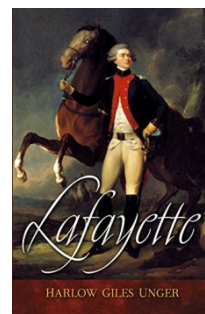
[May 30: "Savor the Flavor: The Food of the 18th Century."](#) Starting at 12:00 PM, bring your appetite for learning as you travel back in time to the eighteenth century for Carlyle House's Annual Hands-on-History Tent! Children and their families are invited to explore the history of colonial food through various crafts and hands-on activities that include open hearth cooking demonstrations, ice cream making, butter-making and discovering an eighteenth-century kitchen. There will also be a bake sale with eighteenth-century treats available for purchase for \$1. All proceeds from the bake sale will benefit the education programs at Carlyle House. This event is designed for children ages 3-12 but all are welcome! **Admission to the event is free but donations are welcome (suggested donation \$1).**

May 31: Leading up to the June visit of the French tall ship Hermione, a special “**Lafayette in Alexandria Day**” will take place on Sunday, May 31 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, featuring open houses at nine Alexandria museums and a 1:00 PM kick-off at Market Square with the launch of the web-based game “Tides of Revolution: The Hermione Game.” **Free to all.**

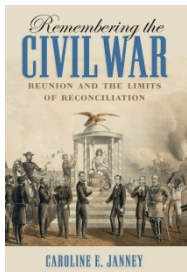


June 10-12: Lafayette Ship—Hermione—Visits Alexandria. On June 10-12, visitors to Alexandria, Virginia, can explore an exact replica of the ship that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington with news of full French aid in 1780, helping turn the tide of the American Revolution. French tall ship Hermione will sail 3,819 miles across the Atlantic from France to the U.S. to commemorate Lafayette’s historic voyage before docking in Alexandria, the ship’s Washington, D.C. port of call and one of 12 iconic stops on its tour. **Fees:** visit website www.visitalexandriava.com/hermione.

June 11: “Teenage Hero: The Marquis de Lafayette.” Of all the heroes of the American Revolution, only the nineteen-year-old Marquis de Lafayette commanded the unanimous acclaim and veneration of all Americans. In his stirring biography of the young French hero, noted scholar Harlow Giles Unger describes how Lafayette left a life of luxury to fight—and nearly die—for liberty in America, how he coaxed the despotic king of France to send an army and fleet to ensure American victory at Yorktown and how Washington embraced the boy-general as his “adopted son.” Admission includes a 20 percent discount on Mr. Unger’s book, “Lafayette,” which he will gladly sign following the lecture. The lecture will take place at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, at 7:30 PM. Call 703.746.3960 for more information. **Fee: \$10.**



June 18: “Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation.” Professor of History Caroline Janney of Purdue University, winner of the Charles S. Sydnor Award from the Southern Historical Association and Jefferson Davis Award from the American Civil War Museum, will talk about the tenuous process of reuniting and reconciling the nation after the Civil War. What were veterans really thinking in all those famous photographs of men shaking hands across the rock wall at Gettysburg? What about women? And what did the war mean to the United States Colored Troops? The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, 7:30 PM. Call 703.746.4994 for more information. **\$5 donation.**



AHS Membership

Dues for the Alexandria Historical Society are due and payable on July 1 each year. There are 6 membership levels. Please contact us if you are interested in either a Gift or Student Membership.

- Gift
- Student -- \$10
- Individual -- \$20
- Couple (up to 2 members) -- \$30
- Sustaining (up to 2 members) -- \$50
- Patron (up to 2 members) -- \$100

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Debra P. Ackerman, alexandriahistoricalociety@gmail.com

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