

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

TIME: 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Jim Bartlinski, Director, U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum Chairman,
Fort Bragg

LECTURE

“An officer ... of the greatest valor”: 2d Lieutenant Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer, an Airman of the Great War



A native of Westminster, Maryland, Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer was a 21-year-old college student when the United States entered World War I. The young man had grown up with stories of cavalry charges and pitched battles told by aging Civil War veterans, some of whom had fought at Gettysburg less than twenty-five miles away. Schaeffer registered for the draft in 1917, but couldn't wait to get into the service, so he enlisted in the U.S. Army a few months later and began training as an aviator. That fall, he sailed for France.

After a summer spent flying many combat missions over the Western Front in 1918, Schaeffer was severely wounded when his French Breguet Bre. 14 B2 Bomber was riddled with fire by German fighter planes belonging to the famous Red Baron's "Flying Circus". Though the Red Baron himself, Manfred von Richtofen, had been killed the previous spring, his unit was still the terror of the skies. Schaeffer survived the fight but ended up in a French hospital, with five bullet wounds over his body. His war over, Lloyd Schaeffer returned a hero, went into business in the Washington area, married and raised a family.



Our speaker, Jim Bartlinski, is Director of the U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina, but previously served as the Curator of the Carlyle House here in Alexandria. In the course of his research at the Carlyle House, Bartlinski became interested in Lloyd Schaeffer's life and story as Schaeffer was the individual who saved the eighteenth-century mansion from the wrecking ball in 1940 and operated it as a museum. In 1969, Schaeffer sold the site to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, which restored and reopened it in time for the Nation's Bicentennial in 1976.

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the American entry into World War I, making it a fitting time to recall Lloyd Schaeffer's life, military service and contribution to our local history. Bartlinski's talk, ***"An officer ... of the greatest valor": 2d Lieutenant Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer, an Airman of the Great War***, will take place on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:30 PM at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street. The lecture is free for members of the Alexandria Historical Society, and there is a nominal charge of \$5 per person for non-members. Doors open at 7:00 PM. An on-site membership table will give people a chance to join the Society the night of the lecture. Parking is extremely limited at The Lyceum, but there are garages and parking nearby. To learn more about the Alexandria Historical Society, please visit www.alexandriahistoricalsociety.wildapricot.org.

PRIVATE TOUR OF THE MOUNT VERNON MANSION AND DISTILLERY ON APRIL 6!

April 6, 2017: "A Neighborly Visit: A Special Evening at Mount Vernon." George Washington had many business and personal acquaintances in Alexandria throughout his adult life, and cherished these connections. As a young officer in the Virginia militia, he recruited local troops for the French and Indian War; as a farmer, he shipped tobacco and flour and received merchandise from overseas through Alexandria merchants; he had a vessel built in an Alexandria shipyard; he saw to it that the district surrounding the new Federal capital included Alexandria when Washington, D.C. was first laid out; and later in life, he celebrated his birthday and other special occasions at Gadsby's Tavern.

The Board of the Alexandria Historical Society invites you to a special evening with a special neighbor: a private after-hours tour of the Mansion at Mount Vernon as well as the Distillery and Grist Mill on Thursday, April 6, 2017, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. The tour of the Mansion includes areas not usually open to the public and the visit to the Distillery includes a rye whiskey tasting, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar for evening refreshments. The ticket price for the evening is \$35 for AHS members and \$40 for non-members. The size of our group is limited to only 40 people, so please get your tickets **now** by visiting our website at www.alexandriahistoricalsociety.wildapricot.org.

Other Upcoming AHS Events

April 26, 2017: Annual Alexandria Historical Society History Awards. Please join us in celebrating four local students and their achievements in history. Our speaker will be Jessie MacLeod, Associate Curator at Mount Vernon, where she has worked since 2012. She was lead curator for the exhibition, ***Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon***, which opened on October 1, 2016. Jessie received a Bachelor's in history from Yale University and a Master of Arts in public history from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

May 24, 2017: "1861 Washington Peace Conference: The Final Attempt to Avert War." Mark Tooley discusses the last-ditch, bipartisan effort to avoid the Civil War.

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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