The
ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Please join us for the

2017 Annual Alexandria History Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 – 7:30 PM, The Lyceum – 201 South Washington Street

The awards will be presented by:

Julia E. Randle and J. Lance Mallamo,

Chairs of the AHS History Awards Committee

Debra P. Ackerman,

AHS President and Chair of the High School History Awards Committee

The 2017 T. Michael Miller History Awards **will be presented to:**

Francine Weiss Bromberg, **Retired City Archaeologist, Alexandria Archaeology**

Kim Bernard Holien, **Military Historian and Former Intelligence Officer**

Our Keynote Speaker is:

Jessie MacLeod, **Associate Curator at George Washington's Mount Vernon**

The High School History Awards **will be presented to:**

Isabelle Davidson, **Episcopal High School**

Sarah Innis, **Bishop Ireton High School**

Amanda C. Eisenhour, **T.C. Williams High School**

Benjamin Johnson, **St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School**

With concluding remarks by: ***Mayor Allison Silberberg***

Winners of the 2017 T. Michael Miller Award

Francine Bromberg dedicated twenty-six years of her career to Alexandria Archaeology, first serving as Preservation Archaeologist, then Acting City Archaeologist and finally City Archaeologist. She has made exceptional contributions to the preservation of Alexandria's rich archaeological and historic record and to advancing scholarship on the City's history, particularly on behalf of African Americans. Under her tutelage, much was learned about those buried in the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery, the former slaves who formed a community at Ford Ward and both the free and enslaved people who lived and worked at Shuter's Hill, an urban plantation that once existed to the rear of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Ms. Bromberg also explored the history of Alexandria Quakers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

But Ms. Bromberg's key accomplishment—one for which she will perhaps be remembered best—is her careful oversight of the excavation and stabilization of the hull of a fifty-foot eighteenth-century ship discovered at the site of the Indigo Hotel in November 2015. The large, heavy ship was scuttled along the shore of the Potomac in the late eighteenth century and was discovered along with remains of the John Carlyle's 1755 public warehouse, wharves and three privies, and the news of the discoveries and Alexandria's maritime history was disseminated to over one hundred news outlets as far away as England, Italy and Turkey.

Other accomplishments include locating and excavating the Moore-McLean Sugar Refinery, helping to establish the archaeological Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program at Alexandria Archaeology and collaborating with the Alexandria Black History Museum on projects such as the Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery (which produced a comprehensive nine-hundred-and-fifty-page report) and highway marker for L'Ouverture Hospital and Barracks. Ms. Bromberg is also a prolific author with an extensive publication record. Two of her most important are ***We Dig Alexandria*** and ***The Quaker Burying Ground in Alexandria, Virginia.***

Before coming to the Office of Historic Alexandria, Ms. Bromberg worked as an assistant archaeologist at a Roman site in Dorset, England in 1971; as an archaeological supervisor at the Tell Jemmeh Excavations undertaken by the Smithsonian Institution in Re'im, Israel; for the National Park Service in Washington, DC, surveying approximately eighty sites of national significance for the Historic Sites Survey Project; and at a cultural resources management firm—Parsons-Engineering Science—on historic projects that include the development of Reagan National Airport and Camden Yards. In all, Ms. Bromberg accumulated forty-seven years of experience doing archaeology in the mid-Atlantic region.

Francine Bromberg attended the University of Pennsylvania in its renowned Anthropology/Archaeology program, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the Bachelor's honors program. She then earned her Master's degree in Anthropology/Archaeology from The Catholic University of America. Her thesis, "Site Distribution in the Coastal Plain and Fall Zone of the Potomac Valley from ca. 6,500 BC to AD 1,400" is frequently cited in scholarly literature on late Woodland and early historic Native American occupations in Virginia, including Dr. Stephen Potter's seminal book, ***Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley (1993)***.

Kim Bernard Holien is a military historian and former international affairs officer. He was born to American parents in Stuttgart, Germany, and his ambition for Foreign Service developed during his childhood when his father served as a medical officer with the U.S. Army in Germany. The family returned to the United States and the elder Holien then served on President Dwight Eisenhower's White House medical staff. The younger Holien went to work at the US State Department in 1971; it took six months for him to acquire a security clearance because of his Stuttgart birthplace. He then entered a top-secret program in which he was responsible for twenty-nine foreign posts and next went to work at the General Accounting Office assigned to foreign and veteran cases. In 1975 Mr. Holien began working for the National Archives at a large government warehouse declassifying mid-twentieth-century records, and went to work for the Army Center of Military History as a reference historian in 1979. Then in 1995 the position of the Fort Myer Military Community historian was created. He even found time to teach at John Carroll High School in the District of Columbia. Mr. Holien retired in 2013.

Ultimately, his passion for history eclipsed the excitement of a Foreign Service career. Mr. Holien is the author of ***Battle at Ball's Bluff (1995)*** and served as editor for *The Sharpshooter (1974-1979)* and *Clarion's Call (1980-1983).* Mr. Holien is a 1966 graduate of Hammond High School, earned a Bachelor's degree from Bethel University and holds a Master's degree in American history from George Mason University. He attended Army Management Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and is a member of the American History Association, Company of Military Historians, District of Columbia Civil War Round Table, American Military Institute, Northern Virginia Association of Historians, Alexandria Civil War Round Table, Sons of Norway, Bethel College Alumni Association, Heritage of Honor and Friends of Fort Ward.

Keynote Speaker

Jessie MacLeod is an Associate Curator at George Washington's Mount Vernon, where she has worked since 2012. She was lead curator for the new exhibition, ***Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon***, which opened on October 1, 2016. Ms. MacLeod also conducted research on Washington's New Room, the grandest room at Mount Vernon as well as a showpiece for him to display all of his impressive artwork to visitors. But it is also a room that was occupied at various times by enslaved people who would have lit candles and lamps, dusted figurines and cleaned up after Washington's dinner parties. Prior to attending graduate school Ms. MacLeod worked at Montpelier—James Madison's home—during its restoration project. She received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Yale University and a Master of Arts in public history from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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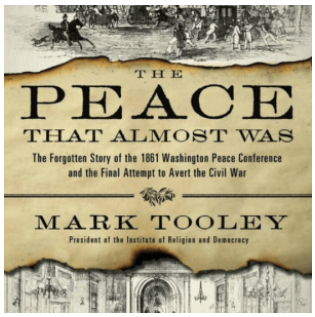
Upcoming AHS Lectures

May 24: 1861 Washington Peace Conference: The Final Attempt to Avert War

Mark Tooley presents his book entitled ***The Peace That Almost Was: The Forgotten Story of the 1861 Washington Peace Conference and the Final Attempt to Avert the Civil War.*** The Peace Conference began as the brainchild of an aging statesmen who had been in retirement for years, former President John Tyler. His ideas were endorsed by the governor and legislature in Virginia, who invited the other states in the Union in an attempt to salvage the Union and avoid open conflict. They all gathered in February 1861 at the historic—and still existing—Willard Hotel in Washington, DC. There were over a hundred statesmen who were older and had been on the national state for decades; newspapers started referring to the gathering as the "Old Gentlemen's Convention." It was the last major attempt to avert disunion and the Civil War, and took place during the so-called Secession Winter of 1861 after half a dozen states from the Deep South had already seceded.



June 28: African American Churches and the Fort Ward Community

Adrienne Washington, journalist and independent historian, will lecture on African American churches and the "Fort (Ward) Community." An African American community of former slaves was established at Fort Ward in the nineteenth century, developing a rich history through shared kinship, marriage, church and work. Ms. Washington, an Alexandria native and member of Ford Ward's Historic African American community, will provide insight into the "Seminary" community.

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER

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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.

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