

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

DATE: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

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

TIME: 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Dr. Nancy Davis, curator emeritus at the Nation Museum of American History,
Smithsonian Institution

LECTURE:

William Ramsay and Business in Eighteenth-Century Alexandria



The Alexandria Historical Society presents Dr. Nancy Davis, curator emeritus at the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Smithsonian Institution, who will discuss Alexandria merchant William Ramsay and his 1753 – 1756 ledger books. Ramsay's ledgers provide a fascinating lens into business and the material culture of eighteenth-century Alexandria.

The ledgers are currently held at the NMAH Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution, and detail the mercantile activity of Ramsay in the town of Alexandria. The ledgers were first conserved, and then made available to Dr. Ann Smart Martin and her material culture class at the University of Wisconsin, Madison to conduct a thorough investigation of the contents of the ledgers.

According to Dr. Davis, "The account records in the 900-page William Ramsay ledger books at the National Museum of American History (NMAH) Archives provide a rich opportunity to study mercantile activity in eighteenth-century Alexandria. The conservation and investigation of these 1753 – 1756 documents unlocked a treasure trove of information on the people, the goods, and the payment methods of our port city."

Dr. Nancy Davis is a curator emeritus who recently retired from NMAH. She received her Ph.D from George Washington University in 1987. Before joining the staff of NMAH, she worked at the Maryland Historical Society.

Doors open at 7:00 PM and the program begins at 7:30 PM. The program is free for Alexandria Historical Society members; there is a nominal fee of \$5 for non-members. Memberships can be purchased at the door. There is street parking nearby as well as parking garages within a few blocks.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended. To request a reasonable accommodation, please email jackie.cohan@alexandriava.gov or Virginia Relay 711.

Alexandria Historical Society Seeks Board Directors

The Alexandria Historical Society is recruiting for several new board directors. Any member who is interested in becoming a board director or wishes to suggest an appropriate candidate should contact AHS president Patrick Ladden directly before April 10, 2018 at patrickladden@gmail.com or 703-919-5262. Board directors usually serve three-year terms and should have an interest in Alexandria history and an interest in creatively supporting the mission of the Alexandria Historical Society. The board meets the second Tuesday of the following months: February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November. Board directors are encouraged to attend all AHS programs possible.

2018 Annual Alexandria Historical Society History Awards Ceremony—Wednesday, April 25th

The Alexandria Historical Society will present the 2018 Annual Alexandria History Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Alexandria at 7:30 PM. Each year AHS celebrates four local students and their achievements in history, as well as other major contributors to the history of Alexandria. The featured speaker is retired director, Lance Mallamo, of the Office of Historic Alexandria. This celebratory event is free and open to the public.

Upcoming AHS Lectures

May 23rd: *Exploring the Covert Capital: Landscapes of Denial and the Making of the U.S. Empire in the Suburbs of Northern Virginia*—7:30 PM at The Lyceum

Dr. Andrew Friedman's *Covert Capital* is a cultural and social history that chronicles how the CIA and other "national security" institutions created domestic space around their own headquarters and abroad.

June 27th: *The Stupendous Works of a Great Architect: Exploring the History of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial*—7:30 PM at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

Tim Winkle, curator at the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Smithsonian Institution, and volunteer archivist at GWMNM, will discuss the origins, history and collections of GWMNM. Please note: this event will be held at the GWMNM at 101 Callahan Drive, 22301 in Alexandria and NOT at The Lyceum. Arrive early—at 7:00 PM—if interested in a trip to viewing platform at the top of the memorial, weather permitting. It affords a breathtaking, panoramic view of Alexandria!

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NEWSLETTER**

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Patrick J. Ladden, alexandriahistoricalociety@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Jackie Cohan, jackie.cohan@alexandriava.gov

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