

*A*LEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXVIII   ISSUE VI   NEWSLETTER   May 2019

Upcoming Lectures

at The Lyceum

201 S Washington St,
Alexandria VA 22314

REMINDER: HOW TO USE MEMBER CODE TO REGISTER

Go to alexandriahistorical.org and click on events. Find the register button. This button will take you to Eventbrite, where you can click on tickets and then “enter promotional code.” Once you have entered the member code, the event will drop to \$0 and you can complete your reservation. Please email alexandriahistoricalsociety@gmail.com with any questions!

We Cannot Be Tame Spectators: Three Centuries of Virginia Women's History

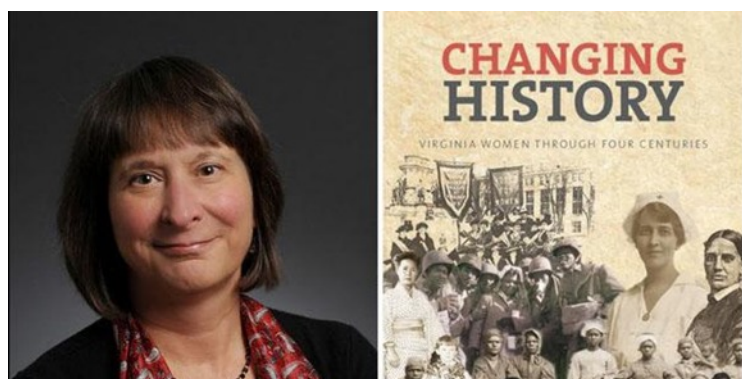
May 22, 2019, 7:30 PM

Member Code: ahswomen2019

Cindy Kierner, professor of history at George Mason University, will speak about Virginia women, including those who have made history that is both important and inspiring. As entrepreneurs and laborers, wives and mothers, educators and reformers, women—both famous and lesser-known—have influenced the course of history in the Old Dominion. Dr. Kierner is the co-author of *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries* (with Jennifer R. Loux and Megan Taylor Shockley). This engaging narrative reveals a history of Virginia women whose rights and choices have increased over time: enslaved women became free; wives became property-owners; women of all races attained greater access to education, suffrage, and other basic civil rights. Progress has not always been steady and improvements have varied by class, race, and region. Virginia's women have created an evocative legacy. Dr. Kierner will share their stories.

Kierner is Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer and past president of the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH). She has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Southern History*, the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, the *North Carolina Historical Review*, and the University of Virginia Press. Her research has received support from the American Historical Association, American Antiquarian Society, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, the Virginia Historical Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the International Center for Jefferson Studies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Cindy Kierner, co-author of *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries*



The Early History of Seaport Alexandria: New Insights from Archaeology

June 26, 2019, 7:30 PM

Member Code: ahsarch19

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist of Alexandria, tells us about new discoveries on the Alexandria waterfront.

In 2012, City Council approved a plan to revitalize Alexandria's historic waterfront. Just as 18th century Alexandrians sought to transform their sleepy tobacco town into a prosperous port, so too do today's residents envision a viable and vibrant waterside destination. Because of the unique, 30-year old Archaeology Protection Code requiring excavation prior to certain development projects, Alexandria Archaeology geared up for a period of intensive focus on some of the most historically significant areas within the National Register Old and Historic District. Block by block, project by project, the remains of wharves, warehouses, dwellings, industries, privies, and of course four ships have begun to emerge from the waterlogged depths at the river's edge. Even as individual features and artifact assemblages, these finds are highly significant, but when taken together along with a wealth of historical documentary data, a maritime cultural landscape is taking form. This presentation offers a tour of the archaeological evidence of the diverse neighborhoods, bustling wharves, and massive land making efforts that characterized the Alexandria seaport at the turn of the eighteenth century.



Images from waterfront excavations in Alexandria, a 50-foot ship (above) and 85-foot ship (left).

Selected History Happenings

Pillars to Pavers: Preservation in Alexandria
May 11, May 15, and May 28 at 10:00am and 2:00pm.
Lee-Fendall House

Since the 1960s, the City of Alexandria has seen older buildings and spaces being restored, preserved, and reused in different ways. In honor of National Preservation Month, explore spaces not normally open to the public at Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, and two guest sites. This walking tour will explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy.

Tours begin at the Lee-Fendall House at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM every Saturday in May. This tour includes walking over many city blocks, stairs and access to confined spaces. Walking shoes required, bottled water suggested. Held rain or shine.

\$35 per person

Archaeology After Dark: Fort Delaware and the VCP
May 9, 2019 at 6:30pm
Lloyd House

Alexandria After Dark brings together professional archaeologists and historians for informal lectures on topics relating to the rich archaeological heritage of Alexandria and the surrounding area. Cash bar and light refreshments provided.

Lab Manager Kevin Bradley introduces the Alexandria Veterans Curation Program (VCP) and its unique mission to serve military veterans and rehabilitate at-risk United States Army Corps of Engineers archaeological collections. He will highlight the program's preservation efforts of the Fort Delaware Civil War prison camp collection. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available!

\$12 per person; \$10 FOAA/OHA members

After Work Concert: Julia Patinella, Flamenco
May 10, 2019 at 6:00pm
Lloyd House

Join us in Old Town Alexandria each second Friday of the month for a concert sponsored by The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) and The Office of Historic Alexandria.

Locations will rotate between the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House (517 Prince Street), Lloyd House (220 North Washington Street), and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum (201 South Washington Street). This month's concert features Julia Patinella, Flamenco.

Great music with a suggested donation for the musicians. No ticket required – show up and enjoy the music! Beer and wine for sale; light refreshments available as well.

Specialty Tour at Gadsby's Tavern Museum: Peeling Back the Layers

May 11, 18, and 25 at 10:00am

Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Explore the 18th century buildings, including spaces rarely opened to the public, and understand how the buildings have changed over time. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your camera!

Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available!

\$15 per person; \$12 GTMS members

Becoming American Documentary: Family and Community

May 11 at 10:00am

The Lyceum

Carefully curated, Becoming American is a selection of documentaries designed to engage and enlighten audiences, representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present. Each of the 6 sessions is moderated by a scholar who will also facilitate discussion after the viewing. Light refreshments will be available. This program is designed for adults, though high school students are welcome to attend with an adult. This series is a project of City Lore in collaboration with the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

Family and Community ~ Explores how family ties and community institutions have played an essential role in successful migration and adaptation to American life. [Film: My American Girls.]

Free. Pre-registration required.

Alexandria Firefighters During the Civil War Tour

May 11 at 1:00pm

Friendship Firehouse Museum

When Virginia joined the Confederacy, Union troops occupied Alexandria and most municipal functions were assumed by the U.S. Army. This walking tour explores firefighting during the

occupation. How were volunteer fire companies treated by Federal authorities? Participants visit sites of four of the five fire houses and learn what happened if there was a fire.

\$6 for adults, \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, as space is limited.

Mother's Day Open House
May 12 from 1:00-4:00pm
Friendship Firehouse Museum

See the suction pumper and other historic equipment that fought fires in 19th – century Alexandria. Youngsters will receive a fire hat to take home.

Mothers and their families are admitted free.

Gadsby's Mother's Day Museum Open House
May 12 at 1:00pm
Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is pleased to offer free tours for all visiting ladies on Mother's Day! Notable visitors (other than your beloved Mother) include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

Free for mothers. Cost is \$5 for all other adults and \$3 for children (ages 5 -12).

Facetime with History
May 12 at 1:00pm
Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of John Quincy Adams, sharing about her life as a mother and living overseas.

On the 2nd Sunday of every month, guests will be greeted by a person from the past while journeying through the museum. While the person varies, through conversation and stories, guests will deepen their understanding of the past and how it connects to today. Sponsored by the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society.

Included in admission fee.

Lecture: What happened in that house on Duke Street?

The Lyceum

May 16 at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm

In the 1820s and 1830s, the company known as Franklin and Armfield used the Alexandria townhouse at 1315 Duke Street as the Chesapeake headquarters for the largest domestic slave trading operation in the United States. In this lecture, Professor Joshua Rothman details how that business worked, and he discusses the professional and private lives of the three partners who ran the company.

\$10 admission.

History by the Glass: Gadsby Vault

May 17 from 7:00-9:00pm

Congressional Cemetery

Enjoy an evening of history and cocktails at Historic Congressional Cemetery (1801 E St, SE; Washington, DC). On the 175th anniversary of John Gadsby's interment at his final resting place, tour the newly restored Gadsby vault, learn more about this historic cemetery, and sip inspired cocktails created by local mixologist, Branden Beasley.

\$25 ticket includes one drink ticket and light hors d'oeuvres. Street Parking at Congressional is available.

Fort Tours in Honor of Armed Forces Days

May 18 at 10:00-11:30am and 2:00-3:30pm

Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site

Two 90-minute soldier-led tours of the fort will focus on the history of Fort Ward and army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington.

Free; program is weather dependent.

Becoming American: Immigration and Popular Culture

May 18 from 10:00am-12:00pm

The Lyceum

Carefully curated, Becoming American is a selection of documentaries designed to engage and enlighten audiences, representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present. Each of the 6 sessions is moderated by a scholar who will also facilitate discussion after the viewing. Light refreshments will be available. This program is designed for adults, though high school students are welcome to attend with an adult. This series is a project of City Lore in collaboration with the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and

the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Becoming American has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Immigration and Popular Culture ~ Looks at the ways the media and popular culture have historically taught newcomers how to “be American,” and how the rich contributions of different immigrant groups have transformed American culture and art. [Film: The Search for General Tso.]

Free. Pre-registration required.

Lecture and Book Signing: *Why Old Places Matter*

May 23 from 7:00-9:00pm

The Lyceum

Tom Mayes, Vice President and Senior Counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, discusses his new book *Why Old Places Matter*. Although people often feel very deeply about the old places of their lives, they often don't have the words to express why. Tom's book creates this narrative through evocative words and beautiful imagery.

Books will be available for purchase on-site. Reception and book signing to follow the lecture. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

\$10 admission

Phrenologist Nelson Sizer: Courtship and Marriage

May 29 from 7:30-9:00pm

The Lyceum

Experience a program like the ones Alexandrians enjoyed in the 1840s and 1850s! David Keltz, renowned for his portrayal of Edgar Allan Poe, returns to the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum to portray phrenologist Nelson Sizer.

Phrenology, the 19th-century pseudoscience in which practitioners measured and felt the ridges and bumps on people's heads to determine their personality and prospects, was quite popular though also controversial in the 19th century. On May 29, 1841, Mr. Sizer and his partner P. L. Buell lectured at Lyceum Hall in Alexandria on "Courtship and Marriage" as part of a series of lectures and demonstrations presented in April and May of that year. The lectures included information about how to understand and apply the principals of phrenology along with readings of the heads of people in the audience. David Keltz as Mr. Sizer will present the principals of phrenology applicable to courtship and marriage based on 19th-century writings and will provide readings to willing participants.

\$15. 21 and over

75th Commemoration of D-Day
June 1 at 11:00am
1 King Street

Commemoration events, wine garden, period music and dancing, WWII reenactors, history booths and more.

Free.

Civil War Camp Day
June 8 at 10:00am
Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site

Civil War reenactors interpret soldier and civilian life in camps, present infantry and artillery drills and firing demonstrations, equipment displays, U.S. Army Field Hospital, life in the reconstructed Officers' Hut, and fort tours.

Suggested donation: \$2/person; \$5/families. Program is weather dependent.

Society Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Alexandria Historical Society. Your generous support through membership, donations, and endowment allows AHS to engage our members and the community at-large in our history. Go to the website to renew: alexandriahistorical.org.

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ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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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