



*A*LEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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**Upcoming Lectures**

at The Lyceum

201 S Washington St,  
Alexandria VA 22314

***REMINDER: HOW TO USE MEMBER CODE TO REGISTER***

Go to [alexandriahistorical.org](http://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](mailto:alexandriahistoricalsociety@gmail.com) with any questions!

**Editor’s Note: This is our last issue until September. Enjoy the summer!**

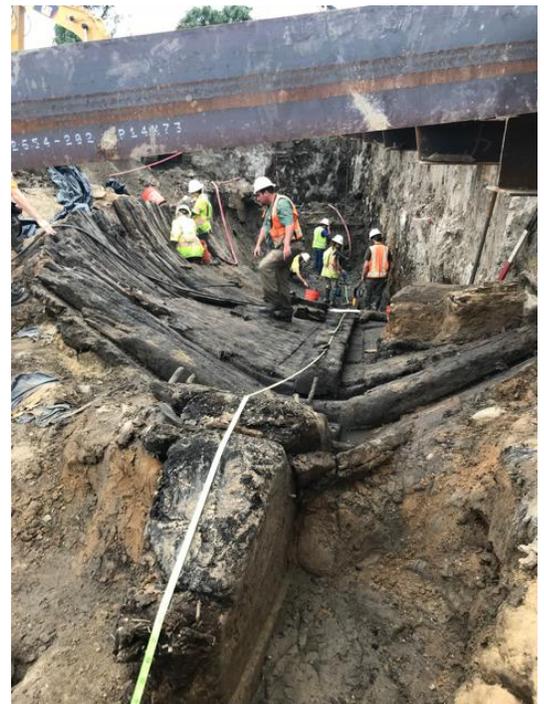
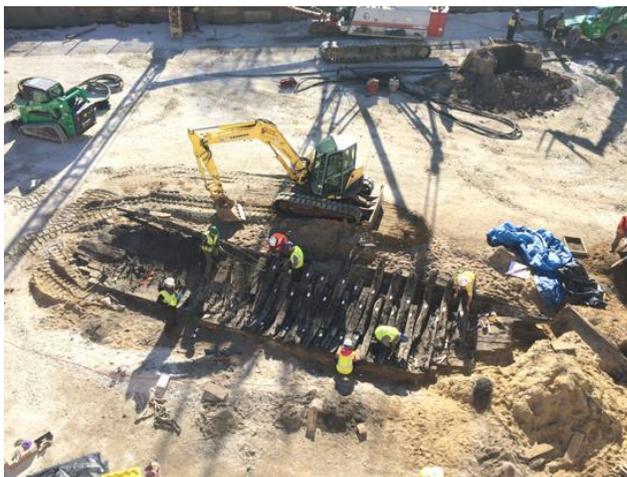
***The Early History of Seaport Alexandria: New Insights from Archaeology***

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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).

**Recent Events at AHS**

## Alexandria Historical Society Awards Ceremony

Gretchen M. Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), spoke at our awards ceremony on April 24, 2019, giving an intellectual biography about her career and current role at the Office of Historical Alexandria.



Paula Whitacre

This year, Paula Whitacre and Jay Roberts were jointly honored with the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award, which recognizes a person or persons who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural, and artistic heritage of Alexandria. Whiteacre was honored for her work documenting the life of Julia Wilbur, an abolitionist who aided Freedmen and women in the Alexandria area during the Civil War. This project culminated with the transcription of Wilbur's Civil War diaries and the publication of *A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose* in 2017.

Jay Roberts was recognized for his two books, *Lost Alexandria: An Illustrated History of Sixteen Destroyed Homes In and Around Alexandria* (2017) and *River to Rails: A Guidebook to Historical Markers in Old Town Alexandria* (2013), plus his social media presence on Facebook and his own blog, Jaybird's Jottings (<https://Jay.typepad.com>).



Jay Roberts receiving the award from Julia Randle, Co-Chair of the AHS History Awards Committee

In addition, four high school students were recognized for their scholarly work and sustained enthusiasm for American history. Kathryn Cheney of Bishop Ireton High School, Tallie Steiner of Episcopal High School, Sylvie Weiman of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, and Aidan White of T.C. Williams High School won the Alexandria High School History Awards. Congratulations to all of the honorees!



Tallie Steiner and Caroline English, teacher at Episcopal High School



Catherine Cheney receiving the award from Debra Ackerman, Chair of the AHS High School History Awards Committee



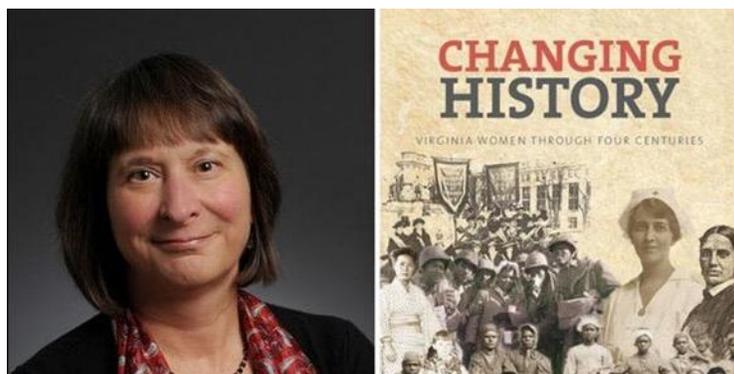
Sylvie Weiman and Kate Hardwick, teacher at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School

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

Cindy Kierner, professor of history at George Mason University, spoke to an enthusiastic audience on May 22, 2019. Using Virginia and the American Revolutionary and Early Republican periods as case studies, she highlighted the ways that women's history can add perspective to predominantly male histories and even change the shape and tone of the historical narrative itself. Indeed, Kierner pointed out that it is the city rather than the frontier that offered meaningful opportunities to American women in Virginia and around the country, skewing the "Go West, Young Man" story of the American dream.

Kierner also shared the stories of particular Virginia women who lived, worked, and spoke out for reform. These included the only recognized Virginia female veteran of the Revolutionary War, Anna Maria Lane. She also mentioned the critical role of women in the colonial press, such as Clemintina Rind of the *Virginia Gazette* in Williamsburg, and Mary Randolph, who published the country's first regional cookbook.

Kierner is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer and past president of the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH).



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

## Selected History Happenings

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### **Father's Day Open Houses**

**June 16, 2019**

#### **Multiple Locations**

The Friendship Firehouse Museum, 1:00-4:00pm. Free for fathers and their families.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 1:00-5:00pm. Free for fathers, \$5 for other adults and \$3 for children.

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, tours every 15 minutes from 1:15-4:45pm. Free for fathers, \$5 for other adults and \$3 for children.

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### **Tours with Young Historians**

**Sundays from June 23, 2019 to September 1 from 2:00-5:00pm**

#### **Gadsby's Tavern Museum**

Meet the Junior Docents of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, grades 4 and up, who will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. A perfect opportunity for children looking to connect with history through their peer guides and for adults looking for some inspiration!

Included in regular admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12 years old.

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### **Dive into Archaeology**

**June 29, July 27, and August 10, 2019 from 10:30-11:30am**

#### **116 S. Quaker Lane**

Calling all aspiring archaeologists! Go behind the scenes to see what happens to historic ships when they are found underground. Find out how Alexandria grew as a port in the 18th century, try your hand at creating a map of the ship, and then test your skills to see if you have what it takes to make a mini boat that can carry cargo.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by a participating adult. Space is limited. Tickets available at [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop).

\$15/person; \$12/FOAA members

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### **Clio's Kids: A History Mini-Camp**

**July 16, 17, and 18 from 9:00am-12:00pm**

#### **The Lyceum**

Come join in on the fun! Clio's Kids introduces children to American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing and crafts, "old-fashioned" games, and visits to

nearby historic places. Our theme for 2019 is “To and Fro and Away We Go!” We’ll be learning about transportation in and around Alexandria in the past and today, focusing on different aspects of transportation and travel each day of camp. Campers should come prepared for outside activities each day, including sturdy walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.

Advance registration is required. Please download your camp application at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum>.

This camp is for children 5-7. \$115.

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**Friendship Firehouse Festival**  
**August 2, 2019 from 9:00am-2:00pm**  
**Friendship Firehouse Museum**

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association (FVFEA) holds its annual Firehouse Festival each year on the first Saturday in August. The popular family event features antique fire apparatuses, craft booths, and displays by community organizations. In addition to the day's outdoor events, festival participants will enjoy visiting the Friendship Firehouse Museum, originally built as a firehouse in 1855. The FVFEA is now a philanthropic organization focusing on fire-fighting history and fire safety. It remains active in community events, including the annual Festival, and supports historic preservation of the building and its collection. Food and beverages are available. Children will receive free fire helmets and are treated to a supervised visit inside the city's fire trucks.

Free.

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**Alexandria After-Work Concert Series: Massive Donut**  
**August 9, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm**  
**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. This month's concert features family-friendly blues by Massive Donut.

Free with suggested donation. Beer, wine, and light refreshment available for purchase.

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**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](http://alexandriahistorical.org).

## 2018 – 2019 Officers and Directors

### **Officers**

President – Krystyn Moon

Vice President – Audrey P. Davis

Treasurer – Caroline English

Secretary – Catherine Weinraub

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