

The
ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXIX ISSUE II NEWSLETTER October 2019



Upcoming Lectures

at The Lyceum

201 S Washington St,
Alexandria VA 22314

REMINDER: HOW TO USE MEMBER CODE TO REGISTER

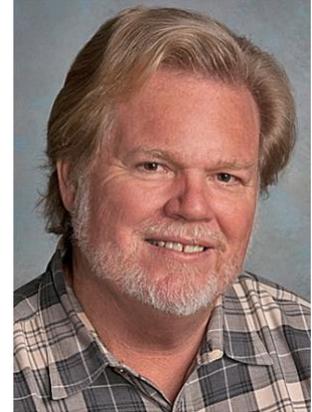
Go to alexandriahistorical.org and click on events. Find the register button. This button will take you to Eventbrite, where you can click on tickets and then “enter promotional code.” Once you have entered the member code, the event will drop to \$0 and you can complete your reservation. Please email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

***Quarters of Confinement, Yet Places of Community and Culture:
Virginia's Architecture of Slavery***

October 23, 2019, 7:30 PM

Member Code: ahshousing2019

In his talk, “Virginia’s Architecture of Slavery,” Prof. Douglas Sanford will discuss research outcomes for the Virginia Slave Housing Project, a long-term effort to document, interpret, and preserve slave-related buildings across the State. While cabins and quarters represented white attempts to control aspects of enslaved African Americans’ lives, these occupants altered the structures’ interiors and yards to their own ends, finding ways to foster families and their own society. Drawing upon surviving buildings, period documents, and archaeological evidence, Sanford will address such issues as common types of slave housing, slave household composition, and ongoing interpretive efforts to increase public awareness of American slavery. A portion of the talk will concern the study of slavery and slave housing in Alexandria, particularly given the relative neglect of urban, as compared to plantation, contexts for these topics.



Prof. Douglas
Sanford

Upcoming Events: Spring 2020

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 25, 2020 | Tom Foster’s “Founding Fathers, Sexuality, and Public Memory” |
| April 22, 2020 | AHS Awards Ceremony |
| May 7, 2020 | Ivy Hill Cemetery Tour <i>AHS Members Only Event</i> |
| May 27, 2020 | Rabbi David Sprinrad’s “Jewish Immigration to Alexandria” |
| June 24, 2020 | History of Masonic Memorial (with access to Fourth Floor!) |

Recently at AHS
September Talk: They Came for Freedom

On September 25, Char McCargo Bah, CEO/Owner of FindingThingsforU (<https://findingthingsforu.com>), LLC, genealogist, freelance writer, and independent historian, spoke at the Lyceum about her work for the City of Alexandria on the Alexandria Freedmen and Contraband Cemetery.

Bah's lecture drew on research from her second book, *The Alexandria's Freedmen's Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom*. Ms. Bah told the moving, surprising, and even humorous stories of African American families who have lived, worked, and prayed in Alexandria since the early 19th century and before.

Ms. Bah also shared some tricks of her trade, explaining how a genealogist and particularly a genealogist in the African American community does the detective work of finding connections in death records and church cemeteries as well as building trust through oral interviews and helping the descendants of Alexandrians understand their past and make connections with family members in the present.



Photos Courtesy of Spencer Mills (2019-2021 AHS Board Member)

Selected History Happenings

See the *Historic Alexandria Calendar* at the *City of Alexandria's* website for more information about the following events: <http://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/?show=oha&df=list>

Story Time for Little Historians

October 5 and November 2, 2019 from 11:00-12:00pm

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.

Bring your little learners to the Alexandria Black History Museum for cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Story time takes place in the Watson Reading Room (located next door to the museum.) Explore the museum exhibits afterwards to learn about local black history. All ages are welcome, but most suitable for children 3–5 years old. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For a group of 10 or more, please contact the museum to reserve a program in advance. \$3.

North Old Town Tour

October 5 and October 12, 2019 from 10:00am-12:00pm

Curious about the history of North Old Town, and the surrounding neighborhood? Enjoy a group walk? In conjunction with North Old Town Citizen's Association (NOTICE), Mike Kenny is providing an informative and fun tour of the neighborhood.

The group meets at the bench on the waterfront at the corner of Union and Pendleton Streets (foot of Oronoco Bay Park, near Robinson Terminal warehouse).

Free. Just show up by 10am! Please register by sending a note to GITRMSG@GMAIL.com.

Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting History

October 5 and November 2, 2019 from 1:00-2:30pm

Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St.

Mark Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, and explore firefighting history! Learn about volunteer firefighting in early Alexandria: the five firehouses, three major fires, and firefighting in during the Civil War. Space is limited. Advance ticket purchase is required.

\$6 for adults, \$4 for youth ages 10-17 (will not interest small children)

American Pharmacists Month Open House: The Apothecary Museum

October 6, 2019 from 1:00-4:45pm

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.

In honor of American Pharmacists Month the Apothecary Museum will be free. Visitors may tour the museum on their own and talk with tour guides stationed throughout the museum.

Free.

Panel-1619: Race, Gender, and the State
October 8, 2019 from 7:00-9:00pm
The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

The year 1619 was a turning point in history in establishing the European presence in North America. Three precedents were set: the first Africans were transported to Virginia, a group of English women came to America, and the Virginia Assembly was established. We are now at the 400th anniversary of this seminal year.

Dr. Jim McClellan will discuss the significance of 1619, the beginnings of European-style representative government, and the enslavement of Native Americans. Dr. Lynette Garrett will talk about women in Colonial Virginia and Dr. Nick Gaffney will address the enslavement of people of African descent.

Free.

Alexandria After-Work Concert Series: English Folk Music
October 11, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm
The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

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 maritime and English folk music by Darriel and Jocelyn Day.

Free.

George Washington's Alexandria Tour
October 12, 2019 from 2:00-3:30pm

Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This guided 90-minute walking tour explores sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including the Fitzgerald warehouse, Captain's Row, Gentry Row, the Apothecary shop, Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall's Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, and Washington's townhouse.

The tour begins at the Alexandria Portside Fall Festival, behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance in front of Vola's Dockside Grill. Call or email suej020924@gmail.com for more information.

Free. No reservations required.

Apothecary Extended Tour
October 13 and October 27, 2019 from 11:30am-1:00pm

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.

While the building is small, there's a lot more to see and learn than the regular 25-minute tour can cover. Purchase tickets for a special extended tour and spend twice as long learning about the historic retail shop and laboratory of the old apothecary. Advance purchase is recommended due to limited space.

\$10

Female Stranger Beer Dinner with Port City

October 14, 2019 from 7:00-11:00pm

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

Join Port City Brewery and Gadsby's Tavern Museum as we honor the anniversary of the Female Stranger's death with her specialty beer – the Long Black Veil! This special craft beer was inspired by the famous tale of the Female Stranger, who died at the tavern on October 14, 1816. Enjoy great local beers and learn the history surrounding her tragic story. The evening will include four courses.

\$85

Fall Harvest Ball Dance Class

October 17, October 24, and November 7, 2019 from 7:30-9:30pm

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

In preparation for the Fall Harvest Ball on Nov. 9, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Those not familiar with this style of dancing should complete at least one full class to become accustomed to the figures and language for the ball. Reservations recommended.

\$12 per class or \$30 for the series of three.

Civil War Shelter Day

October 19, 2019 from 11:00am-3:00pm

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Rd.

Can you tell a dog tent from a Sibley tent? Museum interpreters display and discuss several different types of shelter for Civil War soldiers, and invite visitors into the reconstructed Officers' Hut at Fort Ward.

Free. Program is weather dependent.

Specialty Tour: Death at the City Tavern

October 19, 2019 from 7:00-9:00pm

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

The City Tavern has been the site of many historic events, but also many macabre ones. This special tour explores the people who breathed their last at the hotel and the scenes surrounding them. Bring your friends and raise a glass (drink provided!) to those who have come before. From a famous actress to Civil War soldiers, you won't look at this historic corner of Alexandria the same again.

\$20

Geek Tour: Pharmacy Nerds

October 20, 2019 from 11:00am-12:00pm

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.

In honor of American Pharmacists Month spend more time touring the Apothecary Museum with a museum volunteer who is also a pharmacist. The tour guide will focus on the historic medicinal ingredients that are still used today in modern medicine while also touching upon the Stabler and Leadbeater family and business history. Recommended for adults.

\$15, advance purchase is recommended due to limited space.

Geek Tour: Pharmacy Nerds

October 20 and November 3, 2019 from 11:00am-12:00pm

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.

In honor of American Pharmacists Month spend more time touring the Apothecary Museum with a museum volunteer who is also a pharmacist. The tour guide will focus on the historic medicinal ingredients that are still used today in modern medicine while also touching upon the Stabler and Leadbeater family and business history. Recommended for adults.

\$15, advance purchase is recommended due to limited space.

Lecture and Candy Tasting: Sweet as Sin

October 26, 2019 from 11:00am-1:00pm

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.

Join us for an interactive lecture and candy tasting focusing on the African American role in American candy making. Led by author Susan Benjamin, the founder of True Treats Candy, which is the nation's only historic candy company. Guests will receive a treat bag and candy will be available to purchase.

\$15

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.

2018 – 2019 Officers and Directors

Officers

President – Krystyn Moon
Vice President – Audrey P. Davis
Treasurer – Severiano Ortiz
Secretary – Catherine Weinraub

Directors

Debra P. Ackerman
Francine Bromberg
Katy Cannady
Tal Day
Ginny Hamill
Stephen F. Kimbel
Spencer Mill
Elizabeth Peckham
Michael Reynolds
Nate Sleeter

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Krystyn Moon, alexandriahistoricalociety@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Peckham, epeckham@sssas.org

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