



The
ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXIX ISSUE I NEWSLETTER September 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 alexandriahistoricalociety@gmail.com with any questions!

They Came for Freedom

September 25, 2019, 7:30 PM

Member Code: ahsfree19

Char McCargo Bah is the CEO/Owner of FindingThingsforU (<https://findingthingsforu.com>), LLC, and has been a genealogist, freelance writer, and independent historian working in northern Virginia since 1981. Her talk, “They Came for Freedom,” is based on her genealogical research for the City of Alexandria on the Alexandria Freedmen and Contraband Cemetery. This work has culminated in her second book, *The Alexandria’s Freedmen’s Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom*. Ms. Bah uses eyewitness reports and documented sources of the Contrabands and Freedmen who were buried at the Freedmen Cemetery to speak in their voice to their descendants about Freedom.



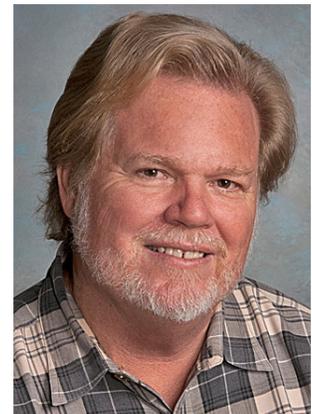
Char McCargo Bah

***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, Douglas Sanford will discuss his work on the Virginia Slave Housing Project, a long-term effort to document, interpret, and preserve slave-related buildings across the State. For instance, while cabins and quarters represented white attempts to control enslaved African Americans’ lives, these occupants altered the structures’ interiors and yards to their own ends, finding ways to foster families and sustain their own society. Drawing upon surviving buildings, period documents, and archaeological evidence, Sanford will discuss common types of slave housing, slave household composition, and



Douglas Sanford

the ongoing interpretive effort to increase public awareness of American slavery. A portion of the talk will directly concern slavery and slave housing in Alexandria. This is particularly important given the relative neglect of urban, as compared to plantation, slavery.

Help Preserve Women's History!

The Library of Virginia is beginning a public transcription project of the Equal Suffrage League Records that are housed in Richmond. You can help out! Follow this link to transcribe from your own personal computer and make the archive more accessible for historians and the public:

<http://www.virginiamemory.com/transcribe/collections/show/84>

This project is part of the Library of Virginia's Transcribe, a "collaborative online workspace where the public can participate in enhancing access to many of our amazing collections documenting over 400 years of Virginia history, people, and culture." See more at: <http://www.virginiamemory.com/transcribe/about>.

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

September 7, 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.

Africa FEST
September 7, 2019 from 12:00-5:00pm
Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave.

Celebrate African heritage through dance, music, food, crafts and culture at this free community event. Participate in hands-on activities, sample traditional food, meet ambassadors and experience cultural demonstrations. Traditional African attire is encouraged.

Africa FEST is held in collaboration with the African Union Mission to the United States of America, the Pan-African Diaspora Women Association, and Youth Association and Smithsonian National Museum of African Art.

Several African embassies will be represented. Ambassadors and dignitaries will participate in ceremonies and embassy staff will host cultural displays and activities.

Hands-on activities will take place throughout the afternoon. Smithsonian National African Museum of Art will lead sessions about African games; Teresa Brunson will lead two painting workshops, 1:30-4:30 p.m.; and Ni Dembaya will teach a drumming and dancing workshop at 1:30 p.m. Vendors will also be selling traditional food.

Free

Alexandria After-Work Concert Series
September 13, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm
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.

Alexandria After-Work Concert Series
September 13, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm
Lloyd House, 220 N. 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 Irish music by Emerald Rae.

Free.

**Fifth Anniversary of the Freedmen Cemetery & Memorial
September 13-15, 2019**

Various Events and Locations

Descendants are encouraged to register for the “Descendant Weekend Package.” Registration is \$100, with tickets available at The Alexandria Shop. View the [Descendant Events](#) schedule for program details, location of events, and shuttle bus information. The events below are open to the public. More information available at Alexandriava.gov/Historic.

Public Events:

Friday, September 13

Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson Street

Lecture: “Alexandria's Freedmen's Cemetery, A Legacy of Freedom.” By historian Char McCargo Bah, followed by reception and book signing, 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Free.

Saturday, September 14

Contrabands & Freedmen Cemetery Memorial 1001 S. Washington Street

Wreath Laying Ceremony, 10:30 a.m.
Free.

Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center 1108 Jefferson Street

Luncheon and Program, noon - 2 p.m.

Keynote by [Terry E. Brown](#), National Park Service Superintendent of Fort Monroe National Monument.

“The History of Caroline Branham: The Power of the Pinecone,” by ZSun-nee Miller-Matema, Historical Interpreter.

Ticketed event, \$65.

Contrabands & Freedmen Cemetery Memorial 1001 S. Washington Street

Candlelight Vigil at Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, 8:30 p.m.
Free

**Exhibit Opening: The Journey to be Free
September 14, 2019 from 10:00am-4:00pm
Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.**

An exhibition highlighting the history of Alexandria’s contraband population (escaped slaves) during the Civil War. This 2014 exhibit returns in honor of the 5th anniversary of Alexandria’s Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery and Memorial dedication. The exhibition runs through the end of December 2019.

\$2 suggested admission to museum

Classic Car Show
September 21, 2019 from 10:00am-1:00pm
The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Co-sponsored by Packards Virginia and the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, the show will feature a variety of Packards ranging from the 1930s-1950s as well as other “orphan” vehicles that are invited to register as well. Orphan cars are any marque of vehicle built by an out-of-business manufacturer. Packards Virginia, chartered in 1976, is part of The Packard Club, itself founded in 1952. The Packard Club is dedicated to the advancement of the maintenance, preservation, authentic restoration and use of Packard motor vehicles. Packard was a luxury automobile manufactured in Detroit, Michigan, between 1899 and 1956.

Free

Dive into Archaeology
September 21, 2019 from 10:30am-11:30am
The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

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.

The workshop will be held at the 116 S. Quaker Lane (Old DASH Bus Barn). Children under 10 must be accompanied by a participating adult. Space is limited. Tickets available at Alexandriava.gov/Shop.

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

Equal Justice Initiative Public Meeting
September 21, 2019 from 1:00-3:00pm
Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.

Join us for the first public meeting of Alexandria's Equal Justice Initiative. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama includes over 800 steel monuments, one for each county in the United States where a racial terror lynching took place. Their Community Remembrance Project invites jurisdictions to claim and install a copy of their monument. The City of Alexandria's monument is planned to be claimed and brought to the City.

Afternoon with Archaeologists
September 21, 2019 from 1:30-2:30pm
Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the documentation and preservation of historic ships found on Alexandria's waterfront. Learn about the discovery of the ships from professional archaeologists before taking an active role in the measurement and scale drawing of real timbers from the ships thought to date to the late 18th and early 19th century.

The workshop will be held at the 116 S. Quaker Lane (Old DASH Bus Barn). Children under 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult.

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

Before they were Americans: Revolutionary War Symposium
September 28, 2019 from 8:30am-7:00pm
The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

While Gadsby's Tavern Museum highlights the complexity of early America, true understanding requires exploring what transpired before and during the Revolutionary War. In preparation for the 250th anniversary of 1776, hear some of the latest research from public historians during a one-day symposium offered in partnership with Emerging Revolutionary War. Happy Hour at Gadsby's to follow. Reservations are required. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/shop.

\$60 per person, \$50 OHA members and students

Geek Tour—Magical Apothecary
September 29, 2019 from 11:30am-12:00pm
Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 104-107 S. Fairfax St.

Learn about the muggle botanical science that inspired the potions and herbology of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, and make your own magical sleeping potion! Adults and children ages 8 and older welcome. Advance purchase at alexandriava.gov/shop is recommended due to limited space.

\$15/person

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.

New Members of the Board

We have several new members joining the Board this year. We will have a voice vote to elect our new members at the beginning of Char Bah's talk on Wednesday, September 25 at 7:30PM.

2018 – 2019 Officers and Directors

Officers

President – Krystyn Moon
Vice President – Audrey P. Davis
Treasurer – Caroline English
Secretary – Catherine Weinraub

Directors

Debra P. Ackerman
Francine Bromberg
Erin N. Bush
Katy Cannady
Tal Day
Ginny Hamill
Stephen F. Kimbel
Severiano Ortiz
Elizabeth Peckham
Julia Randle

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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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