

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

DATE: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia

TIME: 7:30 PM

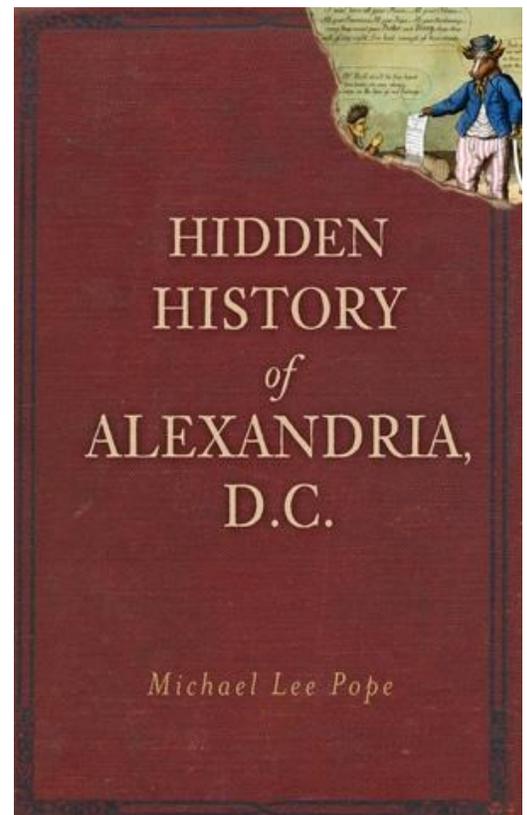
SPEAKER: Author Michael Lee Pope

“Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.”

Journalist and author Michael Lee Pope will explore the “Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.,” at the next Alexandria Historical Society Lecture on June 27. Drawing from his recent book, *Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.* (The History Press, 2011), Mr. Pope will discuss the often overlooked period in Alexandria’s history when it was part of the District of Columbia. He will also be signing copies of his book (right) which will be available for purchase following the lecture.

According to Mr. Pope, Alexandria’s history of Alexandria, D.C., began in 1791 with a gentleman’s conspiracy. Political smokescreens and backroom deals involving George Washington set the new capital on both sides of the Potomac. Yet what first seemed an economic boon for the port city descended into an economic quagmire with a judicial vacuum.

The streets were rocked by the lawlessness of a dueling mania, devastating fires and a draconian court system that sent petty thieves to the gallows. Mr. Pope charts this all-but-forgotten history from the incorporation into the District of Columbia and the controversial surrender of Alexandria in the War of 1812 to gangs of retrocessionists that roamed the waterfront city in 1846 and the rising tensions between North and South that finally returned Alexandria to the Commonwealth of Virginia.



(more inside)

June Lecture (continued from front)

This spring, the Alexandria Historical Society presented Mr. Pope (right) with a Special Award at its annual Alexandria History Awards.

In addition to *Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.*, Mr. Pope is the author of *Ghosts of Alexandria* (The History Press, 2010) which also contains fascinating local history.

In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Mr. Pope has written a series of articles on Alexandria's Civil War history. As an award-winning journalist, he has reported for WAMU 88.5 FM, the *Alexandria Gazette Packet*, the *New York Daily News* and the *Tallahassee Democrat*. Mr. Pope was born in Moultrie, Georgia, and grew up in Durham, North Carolina, and Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Pope has a Master's Degree in American Studies from Florida State University. He is also a former adjunct professor at Tallahassee Community College. Mr. Pope resides in Old Town Alexandria with his wife, Hope Nelson.

The lecture is free and open to all. No reservations are required but seating is on a first come, first seated basis.



The cover art for *Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.*, features part of the 1814 print "Johnny Bull and the Alexandrians" by William Charles. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Proposed Changes to Constitution and Bylaws

This spring the AHS Board of Directors mailed proposed changes to the Society's Constitution and Bylaws to the membership. The proposed changes, made after months of review and consideration, reflect current practices and include the following:

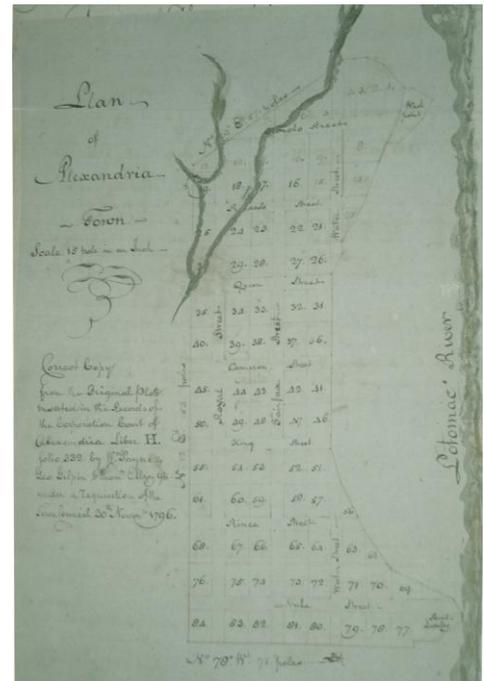
- Elaborates on the purpose of the Society
- Rearranges the articles to better reflect the process
- Clarifies the election process and duties of officers
- Clarifies the number of required meetings by the Board of Directors
- Provides for electronic voting when necessary
- Clarifies the investment of funds in the Endowment Fund

These proposed changes were presented at the May 23 meeting and will be presented again and voted upon at the June 27 meeting.

AHS Supports Library Acquisition

The Alexandria Library recently acquired a 1796 map (right) and a ledger that belonged to Charles Alexander and were used in a case heard by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Alexandria Library Company led the effort to acquire these historic manuscripts and the Alexandria Historical Society is proud to have provided financial support. The Alexandria Forum, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, and the Historic Alexandria Foundation also contributed to this successful effort.

The Alexandria Library, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, held an event on June 19 at the Beatley Central Library to celebrate the manuscript acquisition. The map and ledger will be maintained in the Alexandria Library Special Collections which holds other important manuscripts connected to Alexandria's past.



Save the Date!

The fall season of AHS lectures begins on September 26 with author and historian Carole L. Herrick discussing the local impact of the War of 1812, including the British raid of Alexandria and attack on Fort Washington. A past president of the McLean Historical Society, she is a member of the Fairfax County History Commission, a co-chair of McLean and Great Falls Celebrate Virginia, and a participant of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Planning Committee and the Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

**ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

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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



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