The
ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXX **NUMBER 3** **NEWSLETTER** **MARCH 2011**

MARCH MEETING

DATE: **Wednesday, March 23, 2011**

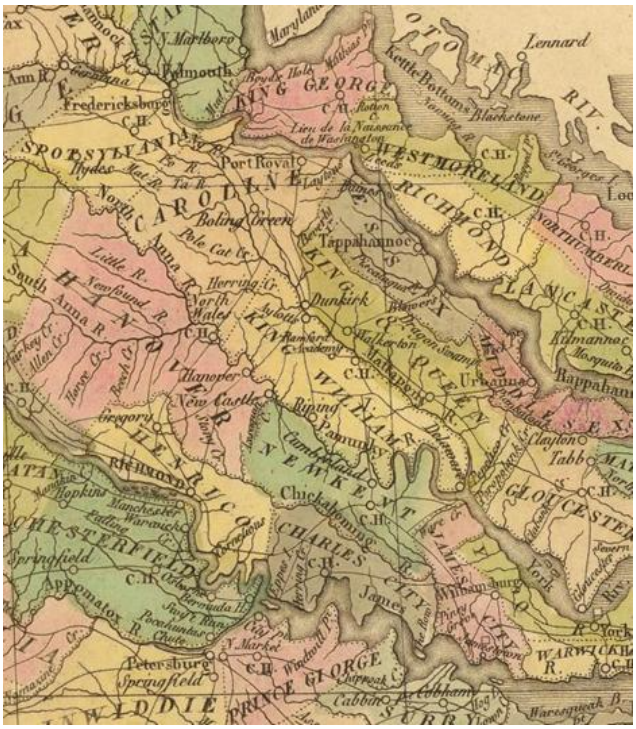
PLACE: **The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia**

TIME: **7:30 p.m.**

SPEAKER: **Author, Historian and Curator James C. Kelly, Ph.D.**

"English Faces: Virginia Places" Lecture

James C. Kelly, Ph.D., will present "English Faces: Virginia Places," a light, anecdotal talk about the royals for whom Virginia counties are named.



Carte geographique, statistique et historique de la Virginie, 1826. Collection of David Rumsey.

Did you know that Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg is named for the last of Queen Anne's 17 children, all of whom died before her, although she was only 47? Did you know that Caroline County is named for a queen who took pleasure in death because she never would have to see her eldest son again? Fredericksburg and Frederick County are named for him. Did you know that Prince William County is named for a prince remembered by the Scots as the "Butcher of Culloden"? Discover the English roots of the names of many of Virginia's towns and counties in this illustrated talk by Dr. James C. Kelly.

James C. Kelly, a native of Philadelphia, received his Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt University. At the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, Kelly was Chief of Research (1977-80), then Director of Collections and Chief Curator (1980-89). From 1990 to 2010

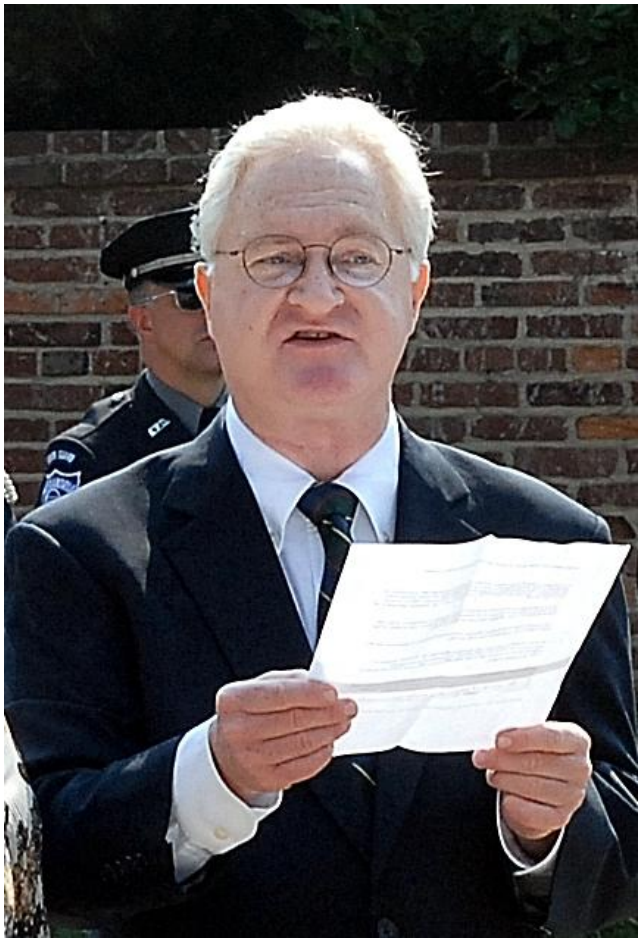
(continued on page 3)

Remembering Doug Thurman

Alexandria's historic resources and preservation community lost a dear friend when Douglas L. Thurman, Past President of the Alexandria Historical Society, died earlier this year.

Doug, who served on the AHS board from 2005 to 2008 and was president from 2007 to 2008, was a dedicated advocate for public history and historic preservation, active with the Friends of Carlyle House and serving several years on the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission until December 2010. Retired from the National Archives and Records Administration, he was also involved with other important local issues and efforts, including Old Town Civic Association where he served as Recording Secretary and later as Vice President, the board of Living Legends of Alexandria, and the League of Women Voters.

AHS President Audrey Davis recalls Doug's leadership and friendship, saying "I was truly honored to follow in Doug's footsteps as president, but even more honored to call Doug my friend. He was such a kind, generous and humble person. As active as Doug was on boards and commissions, he did even more behind the scenes. Most of us were unaware of the true extent of his public service because he never sought credit for his good work."



Doug Thurman in 2008. Photo by Louise Krafft, courtesy of the *Alexandria Gazette Packet*.

Alexandria History Awards in April

On Wednesday, April 27, the 2011 Alexandria History Award will be presented to a deserving recipient. Presenting the awards once again will be State Senator Patricia S. "Patsy" Ticer.

This annual Alexandria Historical Society program honors those who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of Alexandria's historic, cultural, and artistic heritage with the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award. In addition, outstanding history students from each of Alexandria's four high schools are given an Alexandria High School History Award based on the recommendations of their teachers.

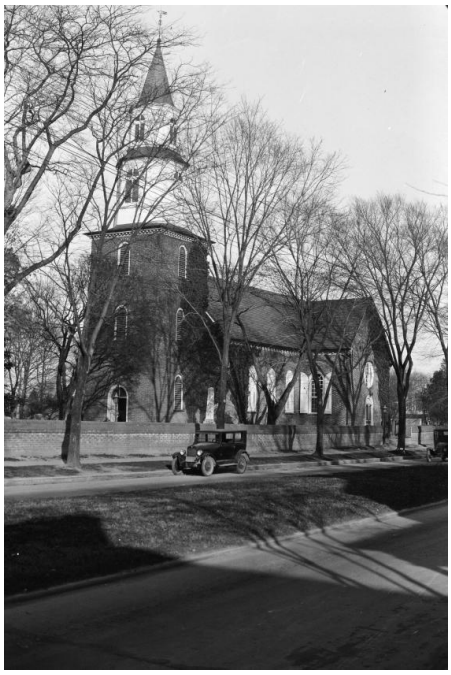
The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. Following remarks by a guest speaker, light refreshments will be served.

(continued from page 1)

he served as Director of Museums at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. In August 2010 he was named Chief of Museum Programs for the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Kelly has been curator or co-curator for 24 exhibitions, six of which received the Award of Merit, the highest accolade of the American Association for State and Local History. These exhibitions concerned such diverse subjects as David Crockett, portrait and landscape painting in Tennessee, landscape painting in Virginia, Virginia and the westward movement, and "The Story of Virginia," the Virginia Historical Society's flagship long-term exhibition. From 2007 to 2010 he was project manager of Virginia's Civil War sesquicentennial exhibition.

Dr. Kelly is a past national chairman of the Curators Committee of the American Association of Museums and a past co-chairman of its Standing Professional Committees' Council. He was president of the Antiquarian Society of Richmond and of the Richmond Branch of the English-Speaking Union of the United States.



Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Dr. Kelly has authored and edited several publications, including most recently, *Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement* (with David Hackett Fischer), *Images from the Storm: Private Robert Knox Sneden* (with Charles F. Bryan, Jr., and Nelson D. Lankford), *The Virginia Landscape: A Cultural History* (with William M. S. Rasmussen), *The Story of Virginia*, and *Jamestown, Québec, Santa Fe: Three North American Beginnings* (with Barbara Clark Smith).

Civil War Event & Lecture in May

On Saturday, May 21, discover how Alexandria was transformed by the Civil War at a large living history event on the weekend of the 150th anniversary of Alexandria's occupation by Union troops. Between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., historical re-enactors and Historic Alexandria museum staff and volunteers will interpret the military and civilian experience in Alexandria with activities and demonstrations at Market Square and the 100 block of North Royal Street.

Then on Wednesday, May 25, military historian Kim Holien will present "Alexandria at War: Star of the South and the North," an Alexandria Historical Society lecture examining what happened to Alexandria when many of her sons left to serve the Confederacy. Holien, a longtime resident of Alexandria, will discuss how Alexandria became a Union hospital and quartermaster center, as well as drawing the attention of spies on both sides. Holien is the author of *Battle at Ball's Bluff* and the forthcoming *Manassas: The First Battle*. This lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum.

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Audrey Davis, 703.746.4706
Newsletter Editor: Amy Bertsch, 703.746.4701

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

The Alexandria Historical Society, Inc.

201 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314