

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

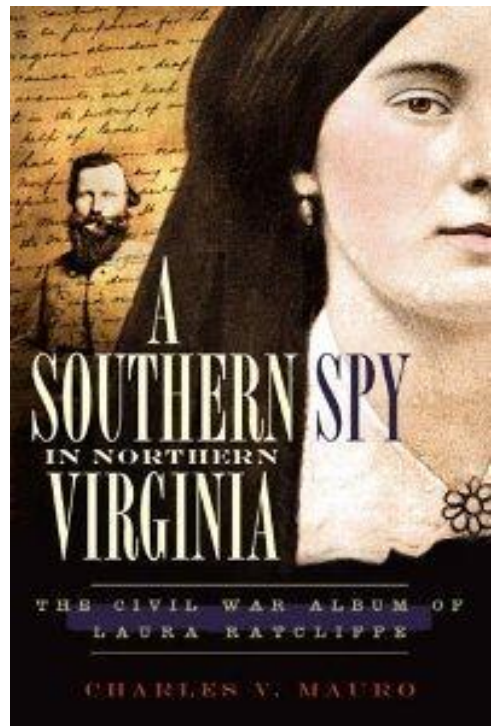
DATE: Wednesday, June 26, 2013
PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
SPEAKER: Charles V. (Chuck) Mauro – Author, Photographer and Producer

LECTURE

“A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe”

Intelligence gathering for the Confederates was largely focused on Alexandria and the surrounding area. In “*A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia*,” author Charles V. (Chuck) Mauro recounts the story of an album that General J.E.B. Stuart gave to Laura Ratcliffe, a spy who lived in Frying Pan, Virginia (now Floris) during the Civil War. The album contained four poems written by Stuart to win her favor and persuade her to gather and transmit intelligence in western Fairfax County for the Confederate cause.

Ratcliffe used the album as a guestbook in which 40 guests—26 soldiers and 14 civilians—signed their names. The list includes J.E.B. Stuart, who signed “Your Friend,” as well as Major John Singleton Mosby, Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee and 7 civilians from this area. Mauro solves the mystery behind this album, identifying who the soldiers were and when they could have signed its pages, revealing the covert lives and relationships of civilians and soldiers during the Civil War.



Charles V. (Chuck) Mauro

Please join us for a lively evening with Mr. Mauro, who is also the photographer for his book. He is the author and photographer of “*The Civil War in Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers*,” “*Herndon: A Town and Its History*” and “*Herndon: A History in Images*.” He received the Nan Netherton Heritage Award for his historical research, writing and photography of “*The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)*,” “*A Monumental Storm*,” and is the writer and co-producer of the award-winning independent film of the same title, based on his book. Mr. Mauro is also co-producer of the documentary “*Mosby’s*”

June Lecture (continued from front page)

Combat Operations in Fairfax County, Virginia.” He is a member of the Friends of Fort Ward, National Center for Civil War Photography, Stuart-Mosby Society, Historic Centreville Society, Ltd., Bull Run and Capitol Hill Civil War Round Tables, Historical Society of Fairfax County, Historic Fairfax City Inc. and Louisiana Historical Association Memorial Hall Foundation as well as member and past president of both the Historical Society of Herndon and the Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club.

Nominations for Alexandria Historical Society Board

At the June 26th meeting, Alexandria Historical Society members will vote on the following slate of candidates for AHS officers and open Board of Director seats for the 2013-2014 terms. AHS members may also make nominations from the floor.

Officers:

President	Bill Dickinson
Vice President	Debbie Ackerman
Secretary	Ted Pulliam
Treasurer	Lisa Adamo

Board of Directors:

Jackie Cohan	Term to end 2016
Sarah Coster	Term to end 2016
Tal Day	Term to end 2016
Paul Friedman	Term to end 2016
Julia Randle	Term to end 2016

Open through August 3, 2013: “Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists” Exhibition

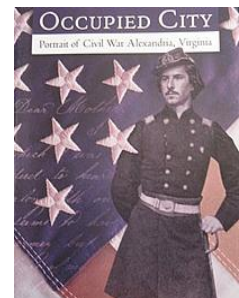
Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe Street

“Living Legends of Alexandria” is an ongoing, not-for-profit photo-documentary project that was created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisera to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. Celebrate the lives of Ferdinand Day, Lillie Finklea, Carlton Funn, Sr., Eula Miller, Melvin Miller, Bert Ransom, Nelson Greene, Sr., Lynwood Campbell, Lillian Patterson, Gwen Menefee-Smith, Dorothy Turner, Willie Bailey, Sr. and Rosa Byrd. Admission is free. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM. For more information, please visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703.746.4356.

Open through September 2013: “Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria” Exhibition

The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington Street

Open daily, this exhibit portrays life in Alexandria following Virginia’s decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how the hometown of Robert E. Lee was transformed almost overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Open Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, 1 PM to 5 PM. Suggested admission is \$2. For more information, please visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703.746.4994.



President's Message – June 2013 Newsletter

Several weeks ago, I enjoyed an all-day boat and bus tour of War of 1812 sites in Prince George's County. Sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and organized by Darnall's Chance House Museum, the tour was led by Dr. Ralph E. Eshelman, author of 3 books on the War of 1812 in the Maryland area and also co-author of the well received ***In Full Glory Reflected***, an official publication of the Maryland Historical Society. To better understand events that led to the burning of the US Capitol and White House and surrender of Alexandria in 1814, I highly recommend both the tour and book. The book is available at The Lyceum bookstore.

Due to popular demand, the tour—again led by Dr. Eshelman—will be repeated on Saturday, September 28, 2013 (8 AM to 5 PM). There is a modest fee and lunch is provided. Registration and details are found at www.pg parks.com/places/eleganthistoric/darnalls_intro.html or by calling 301-952-8010.

In September 2013 we will be moving the AHS website to a new Internet provider although our Internet address will remain www.alexandriahistorical.org. The new site promises to be much more dynamic, member user friendly, and contain much more information about both Alexandria's history and forthcoming events our members may find of interest. You soon will be able to pay your membership dues on line. Thanks to Lisa Adamo and Sarah Coster for their continuing good work to bring about this important transformation.

We always appreciate learning your thoughts about the Society and what we offer. We encourage you—as a current member—to take our very brief anonymous on line survey found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/YWGX6LS. If your membership is as a couple, please have both parties complete the survey. We will share the results in a forthcoming newsletter. If you do not have Internet access, call me at 703-370-3089 and I will send you a hard copy of the survey.

Our speaker series for fall 2013 – spring 2014 is now being planned and it promises to include some notable persons speaking about many aspects of the War of 1812 as well as covering other eras in Alexandria's long and rich history. Our lectures, history awards programs, and publication of *The Alexandria Chronicle* would not be possible without the dues from our members and the folks who donate at the sustaining and patron levels. Although the Society has an all-volunteer unpaid Board, costs for speakers, website design and management, history awards, and the printing and mailing of Society materials continue to increase. Consequently we are continually challenged to balance revenues vs. expenses and urge you to encourage others interested in Alexandria's history to join the Society. With an ever growing membership, we can further advance a better understanding and appreciation of Alexandria's history. If you are not on our email list, please send me your electronic address. Be assured we will continue to send our newsletter by mail to those who choose not to use email.

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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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



**201 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**