

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Fall Lectures

are available through

Zoom

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TO REGISTER**

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Military Housing in Alexandria

October 28, 2020 at 7:30pm



Dr. Ryan Reft

Ryan Reft, a historian at the Library of Congress, will present his talk, “Military Housing in Alexandria” in October. Built as part of the Lanham Act of World War II, Chinquapin Village, Ramsey Homes, and Cameron Valley in Alexandria provided quarters for war workers, veterans, and service personnel and their families. Each housing complex persisted after the war due to the needs of an expanding Cold War military, growing military industrial complex and a national

housing shortage. Due in great part to their construction and the families that resided in them, wartime housing transformed Alexandria from a small southern city into a growing and developing suburb. In particular, Chinquapin Village's history serves as a window into the racial

and class hierarchies of the day as well as Alexandria's struggle to position itself in a burgeoning and competitive Northern Virginia suburban landscape.

Ryan Reft is a historian of the modern U.S. in the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress. He cofounded the blog Tropics of Meta in 2009 with Alex Sayf Cummings, is a writer for KCET in Los Angeles, and is co-editor of The Metropole, the official blog of the Urban History Association. His work has appeared in numerous journals, including *California History*, *The Journal of Urban History*, and *Souls*, among others, as well as edited volumes such as *Barack Obama and African American Empowerment: The Rise of Black America's New Leadership* and *Asian American Sporting Cultures*. He is co-editor of and contributor to *East of East: The Making of Greater El Monte* (Rutgers Press, 2020).

Selected History Happenings

See the [Historic Alexandria Calendar](#) at the City of Alexandria's website for more information about the following events:

The Legacy of George Floyd: Documenting Alexandria's Response

The Office of Historic Alexandria through the Alexandria Black History Museums wants to document your stories from this incredible moment in American history. Please consider donating your protest placards, buttons, stickers, artwork, and t-shirts. We hope you will also work with OHA to tell your stories through the city's Oral History Program. For more information, [click here](#).

Chronicling the Pandemic: Alexandria's Story

At a time when most museum doors are closed to the public, this deeply important public history project seeks to connect with our community and document now and for the future how Alexandrians are responding to, experiencing, and coping with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Historic Alexandria invites the community to contribute to this national story at the local level by sharing photographs, journals, personal stories, home-made items, and other artifacts that capture this unprecedented moment in our history. To share your artifacts and stories, [click here](#).

Loving vs. Virginia Panels

The Office of Historic Alexandria is delighted to announce the installation of two new panels commemorating the *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing interracial marriage throughout the United States, and the Law Firm of Cohen, Cohen, and Hirschkop, which represented the Lovings. The panels are located at the corner of King and Royal Streets; the law firm was located at 110 North Royal Street at the time of this momentous decision.

African American Heritage Trail

Alexandria's African American history is told through an online StoryMap and can be experienced in-home on your computer or on your smartphone as you walk the trail along the Potomac River. The walking trail lasts about 45 minutes at a leisurely pace. The webpage presents more in-depth information about the stops highlighted in the StoryMap. Check out the new map [here](#).

Lecture: The Riches of This Land

Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m. Zoom, \$6 per link, purchase at alexandriava.gov/shop

Join local author and New York Times reporter Jim Tankersley as he discusses his new book, "The Riches of This Land". On a reporting journey from the rocket suburbs of Los Angeles to the tobacco fields of North Carolina, Jim traces the origins and destiny of an American middle class that is under siege. For nearly two centuries, the best jobs in the United States were walled off to everyone but white men. After World War II, women, immigrants, and black men began to tear those walls down, helping to build the greatest middle class in human history. But the steady disappearance of good jobs, followed by two once-in-a-lifetime economic crises, eroded that middle class and locked millions of people out of the American Dream. Jim's vivid people-driven storytelling, supported by balanced cutting-edge research, reveals a path to revival and the essential heroes of what was, and can again be, a great American economy. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password by noon the day prior to the lecture. Please check junk mail before requesting assistance from MuseumShops@alexandriava.gov. Ticket sales will close at 4 p.m. October 22.

Death (and Mystery) at the City Tavern

Sunday, October 25, 7 p.m. Zoom, \$8 per link, purchase at alexandriava.gov/shop

If you found something old and mysterious in your attic, how would you begin to unravel its tale? Join staff via Zoom as we study the puzzle of Civil War era graffiti on the attic walls of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. The night begins with the telling of the tragic stories of two Civil War soldiers who died in the building. Against this backdrop, participants will go (virtually) behind-the-scenes to follow the evidence in search of the story behind the perplexing prose artfully inscribed upon the attic walls. Bring your curiosity and, if possible, a second device to aid in your search. Where will the evidence take us? It's a mystery we'll solve together. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password by noon on October 25. Ticket sales will close at 4 p.m.

Society Membership Renewal

At this difficult time, it is more important than ever to invest in our communities. Please renew your membership in the Alexandria Historical Society. Your generous support through membership, donations, and endowments also allows AHS to engage our members and the community at-large in our history. Go to the website to renew: alexandriahistorical.org.

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**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