



*A*LEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXX ISSUE I NEWSLETTER September 2020

Fall Lectures

are available through

Zoom

**CLICK THE LINK BELOW
TO REGISTER FOR
SEPTEMBER'S LECTURE**

<https://shop.alexandriava.gov/EventPurchase.aspx>

Cartography of a Port City: The History of Alexandria in 15 Maps

September 24, 2020 at 7:30pm

In his talk, “Cartography of a Port City,” Dr. Benjamin Skolnik, City Archaeologist, presents a new take on the history of the city as told through fifteen seldom-seen maps. Alexandria history is combined with the history of cartography to show the many ways people, including City Archaeologists, make and use maps. From Native American representations of social space to 21st-century Geographic Information Systems (GIS), this talk examines the map as a cultural artifact that can tell archaeologists much more than just the locations of buried treasure.

Dr. Benjamin Skolnik is an archaeologist for the City of Alexandria specializing in landscape archaeology, digital mapping, and GIS. He manages the City’s Archaeology Digital Atlas, a digital map that combines modern spatial data with historic maps and the results of archaeological investigations. He holds a BA in History and Anthropology from the College of William and Mary, and an MA and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Before coming to the city in 2015, he was the Associate Director and Lab Manager of Archaeology in Annapolis. His research includes maritime history, 19th century plantations and landscapes of enslavement, and the domestic slave trade, especially in Alexandria and at 1315 Duke Street.



Dr. Ben Skolnik

Military Housing in Alexandria

October 28, 2020 at 7:30pm

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 Leaders* and *African 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](#).

OPEN: Alexandria Public Libraries

Alexandria's public libraries opened to the public on August 17 with safety protocols in place. Special collections, however, are available by appointment only. For more information about special collections, [click here](#).

OPEN: Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum and Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Both museums opened on August 7 to the public with additional safety measures in place. Time tickets are now available through the [Alexandria History Shop](#).

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.

Looking for New Board Members

Passionate about history? Looking for opportunities to volunteer in your local community? We are looking for a few new board members to join AHS starting in fall 2020. If you are interested, email us at alexandriahistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

2019–2020 Officers and Directors

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**ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Vacant

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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