

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXX ISSUE III NEWSLETTER November 2020

The Board of Alexandria Historical Society is working to put together a great spring lineup of speakers for spring 2021, all of whom will be speaking via Zoom. Stay tuned for future emails and newsletters about our Spring 2021 lecture series.

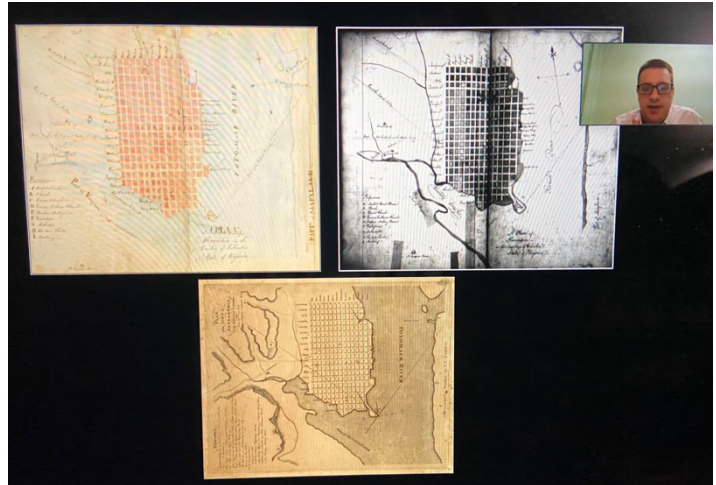
Highlights from 2020

The Alexandria Historical Society has had quite an interesting year! We postponed our spring 2020 lectures due to the pandemic, gave out AHS Student History Awards remotely, published another issue of the *Alexandria Chronicle*, welcomed a new board member, and hosted two engaging speakers on Zoom for the first time this fall. Here's a look back at an unusual year!

This fall, AHS organized two wonderful speakers, Drs. Ben Skolnik from Alexandria Archaeology and Ryan Reft from the Library of Congress, who were willing to present their research on Zoom to the public. In his September talk, "Cartography of a Port City," Dr. Skolnik, an archaeologist for the City of Alexandria specializing in landscape archaeology, digital mapping, and GIS, explored Alexandria's history from the colonial period to the twenty-first century through fifteen seldom-seen maps. His talk was well received, and audience members asked for another talk about other Alexandria maps. In October, Dr. Reft, a historian of the modern U.S. in the Manuscript Division, provided important insight into Alexandria's mid-twentieth century housing offerings for military personnel and defense workers in his talk, "Military Housing in Alexandria." His talk was extraordinarily timely, as the City of Alexandria is currently facing a housing crisis for residents of all income levels, which has been compounded by the pandemic.



Photo Descriptions: Dr. Skolnik's discusses Algonquin cosmology and spatial perceptions prior to English settlement (left) and the earliest maps of Alexandria from the eighteenth century (below). Courtesy of Catherine Weinraub.



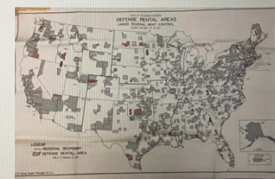
Joel T. Broyhill

- Elected 1952 10th district
- Anti-communist, free enterprise
- Squeaks by with win in 1952 despite veterans housing controversy
 - Teague Report
- Segregationist
 - Signs Southern Manifesto
 - "When forced to take sides between segregation and integration, I'll take segregation"

Photo Descriptions: Dr. Reft explains the impact of the Lanham Act (right) and the role of Alexandria's delegate, Joel T. Broyhill on Alexandria's housing options (above). Courtesy of Catherine Weinraub.

War housing

- Lanham Act, 1940
- Adds 650,000 units
 - Washington D.C. 15,000
- Comparison
 - Norfolk, VA: 6,000
 - San Diego, CA: 15,000
- Houses war workers, active duty, and veterans
- Meant to be disposition after war
 - usually went one of three ways
- Cold War and housing crunch prevents post WWII disposal
 - To the right, map of Defense Rental Areas, 1947



Despite the pandemic, the AHS board thought that it was absolutely critical to recognize local high school students, many of whom were graduating, for their history scholarship this past spring. We had four winners: Marisol Vazquez (T.C. Williams High School); Regan Simmons (Episcopal High School); Patrick Scolese (Bishop Ireton); and Jack Pessaud (St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School). Teachers praised each student for their astute observations about the past and analytical skills. For instance, Vazquez was recognized for her extraordinary dedication in Honors Level 12 Government, in which she took a leadership role and won several accolades on the regional and state levels with her peers. Simmons was also noted as a leader in her history classes and especially her research on the origins of the African American beauty industry. Meanwhile, Scolese from Bishop Ireton High School has taken several AP courses in history and political science, and was recognized as an "AP Scholar," meaning that he had scored a '3' or better on at least three AP exams. Finally, Pessaud's impersonation of J. P. Morgan during a progressivism debate won high marks from his teachers for his sharp, pithy comments, and thoughtful rebuttals based on his in-depth research.



**AHS Student History
Award Recipients:**
Marisol Vazquez, T.C.
Williams HS (center left);
Regan Simmons, Episcopal
HS (far left); Patrick
Scolese, Bishop Ireton HS
(below); and Jack Pessaud,
St. Stephens and St. Agnes
HS (center below)



Selected History Happenings

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

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](#).

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](#).

Lecture: 1066: How the Norman Conquest Changed England Forever

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom, \$6 per link, purchase at alexandriava.gov/shop

Jennifer Paxton, Professor of History from Catholic University, explores what changed when William, Duke of Normandy, defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The lecture is sponsored by the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee, a committee of the Office of Historic Alexandria. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password the day prior to the event. Ticket sales will close at 4 p.m. on the day of the event.

Lecture: Fire of 1855

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom, free but registration required, <http://alexlibraryva.org/event/4666585>

Catherine Weinraub, who works at both the Friendship Firehouse Museum and Ivy Hill Cemetery, will discuss the fire that occurred on November 17, 1855, which claimed

seven firefighters. She will share the story of the fire, the lives lost, the citizens who hunted down the arsonist, and the community's effort to memorialize these men.

Lecture: Marietta Minnigerode Andrews: Womanhood and the Arts

Thursday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom, free but registration required, <https://tudorplace.org/event/free-landmark-lecture-marietta-minnigerode-andrews-womanhood-and-the-arts/>

Krystyn R. Moon, Professor of History and American Studies at the University of Maryland, Washington, explores Marietta Minnigerode Andrews' writings and artwork, and how it characterizes a southern, white woman trying to make sense of the rapid changes in American society at the turn of the century. This talk is part of Tudor Place's Landmark Lecture Series.

Lecture: The Alexandria Story of the Syphax Family

Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom, \$6 per link, purchase at alexandriava.gov/shop

Steve Hammond, local researcher and family genealogist, will share his Syphax family's legacy, and how it connects with Alexandria. The lecture is sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password the day prior to the event. Ticket sales will close at 4 p.m. on the day of the event.

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.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Representative

Passionate about both history and archaeology? Looking for opportunities to volunteer in your local community? We are looking for a member of AHS who is willing to represent the organization on the Alexandria Archaeological Commission starting in spring 2021. If you are interested, email us at alexandriahistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

2020–2021 Officers and Directors

Officers

President – Vacant

Vice President – Audrey P. Davis

Treasurer – Severiano Ortiz

Secretary – Vacant

Directors

Debra P. Ackerman

Francine Bromberg

Tal Day
Stephen F. Kimbel
Spencer Mill
Krystyn R. Moon

Michael Reynolds
Nate Sleeter
Christopher Warren
Catherine Weinraub

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

President: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Krystyn R. Moon, Krystyn.moon@gmail.com

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

