

Alexandria Archaeology VOLUNTEER NEWS

Published by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology

Vol. XXVII No. 1

Spring 2010



National Trails Day see last page

Who Am I?

What venerable volunteer penned this poem in celebration of her recent birthday? See page 5.

*Double, double, toil and trouble,
Sifting artifacts from the rubble.*

Marking infinitesimal shards

Found in Alexandria's yards.

Trying hard to get a "Wow!"

For our Clovis point on show.

All I gladly undertake

For friendly smiles and a birthday cake.



2010 Alexandria Archaeology Institute: A Learning Opportunity for Adults

Session I: June 10 – 13

Session II: October 21 – 24

From 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Join City Archaeologists for a unique opportunity excavating the Shuter's Hill Site! Gain hands-on experience in site-excavation methods and record keeping. Learn how to use a transit; process and catalog artifacts in the laboratory; and interpret the information.

The excavation site focuses on a late-18th-century laundry and a mid-19th-century house. It is located behind the George Washington Masonic Memorial and acces-

sible by Metro. Illustrated lectures, presented at the Memorial, explain the history of the site and the development of the City of Alexandria. The field hours (approx. 15 hrs.) and laboratory (approx. 5 hrs.) may be counted toward the Virginia Archeological Technician Certification Program requirements; for details, see <http://asv-archeology.org/Org/OrgCertification.html>.

Registration fee includes morning coffee each day, an opening reception on the steps of the Memorial on Thursday evening, three box lunches, and a closing reception in the Museum on Sunday. \$475/session.

To register and for more information visit <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/ar-programs-institute2010.html>

Proposed Budget Affects Alexandria Archaeology

If the proposed City of Alexandria budget for the fiscal year starting July 2010 is approved, the Alexandria Archaeology Museum will close on Sundays, resulting in 20% fewer visitors, and other archaeological services would be decreased with a non-personnel reduction of 20%. To comment, go to http://alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=27144#Public_Input

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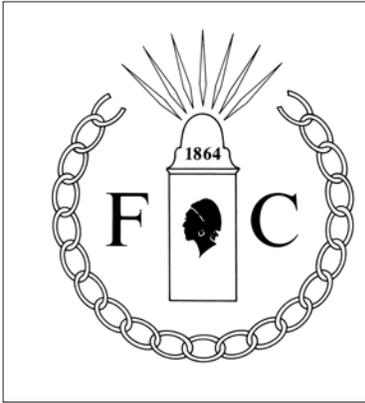
- Morrison House Presents
- Oral History Training
- Field Orientation
- Family Dig Days
- Trail Ride

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus

FOAA Accepts \$5000 Donation for Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial

On March 9, Margarete Holubar accepted a \$5000 donation to the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) from Dominion Power. The check was presented by Deborah Johnson at the City Council meeting with Mayor Euille providing thanks to Dominion for their second donation to the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial.

Margarete said that it was an honor to "represent those who cannot speak for themselves and have been forgotten for nearly 150 years." She said that "for years the freedmen have had no identities and now their names will be remembered as they are memorialized on bronze tablets." Margarete has a special view of the freedmen. As an Alexandria Archaeology volunteer, she transcribed more than 1600 names of soldiers and civilians admitted to

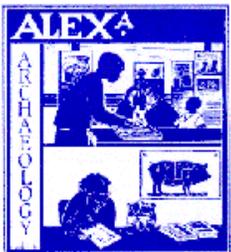


L'Ouverture Hospital, the Union facility built in Alexandria to treat blacks. Her medical knowledge gave Margarete the background to produce a glossary of archaic medical terms so we can understand the ailments of the freedmen and black troops. She is currently integrating research on the soldiers from several sources so that the information can be put on our website. In addition, Rose McCarthy, as a volunteer several years ago, created a database of the people at the hospital based upon Margarete's transcriptions. Lillie Finklea, a member of

the Archaeological Commission, and Louise Massoud — both founding members of the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery — were also present for the donation. Three years ago, Ms. Johnson had awarded \$1000 from Dominion to FOAA for the rededication ceremony of the cemetery, which marked the City of Alexandria's commitment to preservation and memorialization as the new owner of the property.



**Support Archaeology in Alexandria
Join FOAA today**



Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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Alexandria, VA 22314
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Photos: Ruth Reeder

Volunteer News is published by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) with support from Alexandria Archaeology and the City of Alexandria.

FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization supporting archaeology in the City of Alexandria. Annual membership dues, from July 1 to June 30, may be sent to: FOAA, P. O. Box 320721, Alexandria, VA 22320.

Individual: \$20 Family/Goups: \$25 Sponsor: \$50 Benefactor: \$100 Corporate: \$500

2009 - 2010 FOAA Board of Directors

Marya Fitzgerald and Margarete Holubar, co-presidents; Joan Amico, vice-president; Kathy Scheibelhoffer, treasurer; Catherine Sumner, secretary; Mary Jane Nugent, AAC representative; Dave Cavanaugh, past AAC representative; Laura Heaton, past president; Hoosey Hughes, newsletter

FOAA Annual Meeting Set for April 10

The annual FOAA meeting and election of the 2010-2011 Board of Directors is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, at 10 a.m. in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327 in Old Town Alexandria. The meeting is free, open to the public, and a must for anyone interested in supporting archaeology in Alexandria. Light refreshments will be served.

To learn more about joining the FOAA Board, call 703.746.4399.

To learn more about FOAA, visit <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/ar-support-foaa.html>

Proposed Slate of Board of Directors

Joan Amico
Dave Cavanaugh
Marya Fitzgerald
Laura Heaton
Margarete Holubar
Hoosey Hughes
Mary Jane Nugent
Kathy Scheibelhoffer
Cat Sumner

Board Members up for re-election (3-year term)

Dave Cavanaugh
Laura Heaton
Margarete Holubar
Hoosey Hughes

New AAC Representative to FOAA Board of Directors, appointed on 3/9/10 by City Council to the Alexandria Archaeology Commission (AAC): Mary Jane Nugent

Proposed Officers

Marya Fitzgerald & Margarete Holubar - co-presidents
Joan Amico - VP
Kathy Scheibelhoffer - Treasurer
Cat Sumner - Secretary
Mary Jane Nugent - AAC Representative

Hoosey Hughes - Newsletter
Laura Heaton - Past president
Dave Cavanaugh - Past AAC Rep

Marian Van Landingham Honored as a "Woman in History"

A rockabilly singer and a book collector are among eight people being honored by the Library of Virginia's 2010 Women in History program.



A ceremony recognizing their achievements will be held March 25 at the library in Richmond. This year's honorees are book collector Jean Miller Skipwith, historian Kate Mason Rowland, craftsman Mollie Wade Holmes Adams, folk painter Queena Stovall, architect Ethel Madison Bailey Furman, arts patron Edythe C. Harrison, Torpedo Factory Art Center founder and former lawmaker Marian Van Landingham, and rockabilly singer Janis Martin.

Colorful Donation from a BIG Museum Fan!!

Five-year-old Morgan Watenpaugh dropped by the Museum with her dad in mid-January to donate a box of color markers. Our coloring activity, based on John White's 16th-century watercolor of Indians fishing, is her favorite activity, and Alexandria Archaeology is Morgan's favorite place to visit. Thank you, Morgan!



Remembering Janice Artemel

By Pam Cressey

Janice, an archaeologist, preservationist, and Alexandrian, died December 25, 2009, at age 67. I met Janice early when I arrived in Alexandria about 1977. I was immediately moved by her passion for archaeology and her meticulous historical research. She was an excellent archaeologist and historical researcher/writer who contributed so much to our understanding and preservation of the past. Janice also was a great community supporter and served on the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology Board of Directors for two years in the 1980s.

Janice was a co-author of the book *Fairfax County: A History*, produced by Fairfax County in 1978. Her contribution was the second chapter — the period from 1800 and 1840. I still turn to this 100-page chapter to check a date or remember the context of an event. This was a fascinating time, a time of great change, and yet also a time that few people attempt to characterize because it is difficult to distill. As you know, Fairfax County history includes Alexandria, and Janice's chapter provides a rich source of information about the infrastructure of the region and its changing population.

Janice also made significant contributions to Alexandria's history. Leading a team of cultural-resource archaeologists, she conducted the first archaeology at a slave-jail site. The team excavated within the structure at 1315 Duke Street and in the eastern yard before the building was renovated. They also did quick rescue archaeology in the western yard before a new building was constructed. Their findings, as well as an extensive history of Franklin & Armfield and its successors in interstate slave trade, were chronicled in an excellent report, *The Alexandria Slave Pen: The Archaeology of Urban Captivity*, by Engineering-Science, Inc. (1987). Janice was the primary author of the report, landmark research of its time. See www.alexandriarchaeology.org for a copy of this report. This research has recently been expanded with the work conducted on the Bruin Slave Jail. Her work was utilized by the Northern Virginia Urban League in the development of the Freedom House Museum at 1315 Duke Street, which chronicles the lives of African Americans held captive in the slave pen.



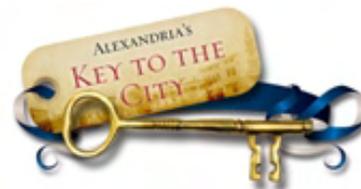
Another important study Janice produced was one of the first waterfront archaeology reports, co-authoring a study of the Old Ford Plant site, now the area called Ford's Landing on the 600 block of South Union. The 1988 report included historical information that eventually became a larger study of the site's buried history, including wharves, a marine railway, and submerged vessels.

Janice worked for Engineering Sciences (later named Parson's Engineering) from 1977 to 1996. She directed the cultural-resources division and worked around the world, with special emphasis on Washington, D.C. She worked with many preservation and service organizations, including The Lyceum and Soroptimist International of Washington.

Janice and I would sometimes talk about our similar paths — Californians who attended Midwestern colleges for graduate training and moved to Alexandria as archaeologists in the 1970s. You could always see the California spirit in Janice — she had a great light within and she shared it in a generous and compassionate manner.

We send our feelings of loss and thanks for a great life to her daughters, family, friends, and colleagues. A memorial fund at Alexandria's Lyceum has been established in Janice's name. Donations may be sent to:

The Janice Artemel Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 72
Alexandria, VA 22313



Alexandria Archaeology Makes the List!

The Alexandria Archaeology Museum is participating in the *Key to the City Pass* promotion. Pass holders receive a 10% discount from participating Torpedo Factory artists and the Archaeology Museum shop; a list of names is available at the Torpedo Factory information desk.

Visitors who book a hotel stay using www.visitalexandriava.com will receive a Key to the City booklet that includes a TFAC coupon. The hotels will distribute the booklets to these visitors when they check in.

For additional information, visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Fairfax County Congratulates Alexandria Archaeology on "The Code"

Much was said about Alexandria's Code during the last legislative session while the merits were debated about giving the enabling legislation to other jurisdictions to preserve archaeology and the pioneering aspects of the Alexandria Code.

Michael Johnson, Fairfax County Archaeologist:

The Code is not about bureaucratic "box checking." Through the leadership and technical management skill of the Alexandria staff you have been able to achieve an optimum balance between normal economic growth and archeological resource conservation. Granted, the results have not always been perfect from either the developer or staff perspectives, but nothing is perfect in achieving such a balance. That is the nature of the honest, time sensitive, results oriented, negotiating process your Code mandates. Imagine how much of Alexandria's heritage would have survived were it not for an effectively supported Code. The Alexandria Archeology's spirit has spread far beyond the limited boundaries of Code-specific applications and on-going development of the city. It goes to the successful core of what Alexandria has become. May the City Government continue to recognize this important fact and the one below. When I walk the streets of Old Town, I know why they are safe and bustling in the evening hours, seven days a week. Police can keep the City safe but character makes people want to go there. The crowds are there because of the historic character the City has resolutely maintained. Congratulations from an admiring neighbor.

Charlie LeeDecker, one of the archaeological contracting company archaeologists:

After 20 years, it is clear that the Archaeological Protection section of the Zoning Ordinance (Section 11-411) has proven itself to be an effective tool to insure that important aspects of the city's heritage are preserved for the public. Archaeology is often the last thing that people think about, even in a city like Alexandria where there is an extensive historic district that draws thousands of visitors each year to enjoy the appeal of Old Town. While there are hundreds of buildings that express the character of the historic district, an important part of the city's history is buried below the parking lots and modern buildings. Without the many archaeological studies that have resulted from Section 11-41, we would have lost countless opportunities to understand the city's rich heritage. One of the strengths of the ordinance is that it

focuses attention on aspects of the city's heritage that have real research value, importance to the public understanding of history, and which are rare or unique, not only in Alexandria but within the entire nation.

Dr. Elizabeth Crowell, Cultural Resources Manager, Fairfax County:

Congratulations to the staff of Alexandria Archaeology on the 20th anniversary of the Alexandria Archaeology Ordinance. The enactment of the ordinance in the City of Alexandria has allowed for the identification, documentation and interpretation of significant archaeological resources that would otherwise be permanently lost to the ravages of development. Your forward thinking should be applauded. Alexandria serves as an example to jurisdictions across the country of how technically excellent archaeology can and should be done.

The code has been an immensely valuable tool for the city and your work serves as an example of a successful partnership between the private and public sectors. You have successfully garnered the cooperation of the development community and raised the awareness of the citizenry, in coordination with your staff. Alexandria is fortunate to have a staff of dedicated, gifted professional archaeologists and loyal volunteers who are responsible for the success of the program and the ordinance. As a sister jurisdiction, we appreciate all that you have accomplished and applaud you on a job well done.



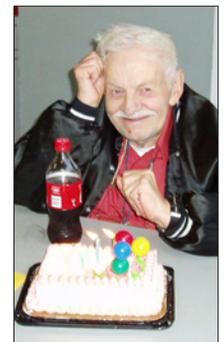
Many Happy Returns

Yes! Seven-time FOAA Volunteer of the Year Joan Amico is the one who celebrated her birthday with a poem (Front Cover).

83-year old John Alderton really took the cake when he came to the Museum March 13 to share his happy day with us.



In celebration of her 88th birthday, Montie Kust, with help from Fran Bromberg, serves her cake to the Friday Lab Ladies and staff.





Between December and February thirty-two volunteers donated more than 1,000 hours!

Working on various tasks, from preparing decades of field records for archiving to presenting Adventure Lessons, from cataloguing artifacts excavated in 2009 (Shuter's Hill) and the 1970s (400 block of King Street) to verifying the Gladwin Records for the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery memorial, from greeting visitors and mastering a new, "improved" phone system to researching and interpreting the development of the African American neighborhood at Fort Ward after the Civil War, from revamping this newsletter to transcribing abolitionist Julia Wilbur's diary, the following volunteers have rightfully earned our deep respect and great admiration:

T.C. Williams students: Phuongnhi Tran, Lauren McCracken

Oral History: Gillian Chen, Bobbie Cook, Lucy Abbott, Laura Little, Alice Reid, Paula Whitacre

Museum: Joan Amico, Marya Fitzgerald, Margarete Holubar, Anna Lynch, Suzanne Schaubel

Lab Ladies: Joan Amico, Cynthia Ford, Sandra Humphrey, Montie Kust, Anna Lynch, Mary Jane Nugent, Sarah Revis, Sue Gagner

Education: Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Hoosey Hughes, Marya Fitzgerald, Anna Lynch, and Suzanne Schaubel

Research: Margarete Holubar, Mary Jane Nugent, Jill Grinsted, Anna Lynch, Elizabeth Drebus, Dave Cavanaugh, and Tom Fulton

Illustration: Neil Pelletier

Administrative: Lois Ember

Publications: Elaine Tamanini

Slides: Cat Sumner and Suzanne Schaubel

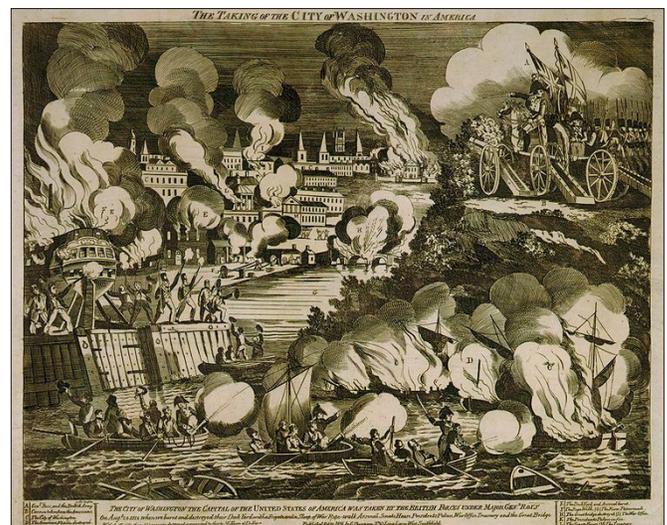
Newsletter: Anna Frame, Hoosey Hughes, Joan Amico, and Marya Fitzgerald

Carlyle House Part of New Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail



Carlyle House Historic Park is pleased to announce a partnership with the National Park Service's Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and Alexandria as the City's official geocache site for the new Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail (www.nps.gov/stsp/index.htm).

Geocaching, pronounced geo-caching, is a high-tech treasure-hunting game played throughout the world with the use of GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers (called geocaches) outdoors, and then share your experiences online. Once you have found a geocache, you must sign the logbook in the container and return the geocache to its original location. Afterward, share your geocaching stories and photos online at www.geocaching.com.



"The Taking of the City of Washington in America," a wood engraving published by G. Thompson, 1814

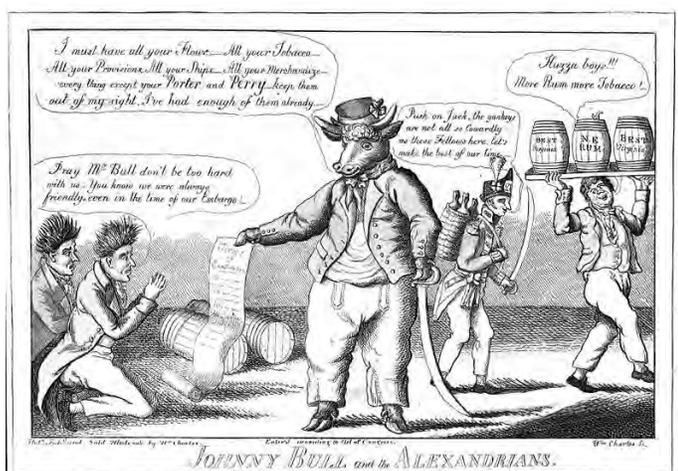
The Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail commemorates the dramatic chain of events, people, and places that led to the birth of our National Anthem. The story of the Anthem was shaped by events in the Chesapeake region during the War of 1812. From early 1813 until early 1815, the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding shores were the center of fierce struggles between Great Britain and the United States. From the burning of the White House to the surrender and occupation of Alexandria and the Battle for Baltimore and "the rockets' red glare" at Fort McHenry, it's all here for the geocaching community to enjoy in the Chesapeake region.

Carlyle House is connected to the War of 1812, not only

as the result of Alexandria's occupation by His Majesty's Royal Navy in August 1814 but also through Colonel John Carlyle's 36-year-old grandson, namesake, and heir: John Carlyle Herbert. It was the result of his Uncle George William Carlyle's death at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in 1781 that Herbert inherited his grandfather's Alexandria estate. Herbert took part in the ill-fated Battle of Bladensburg (August 24, 1814), serving as captain of the Bladensburg Troop of Horse.

In addition to Herbert's service during the war, his parents, William and Sarah (John Carlyle's daughter), lived at Carlyle House during the conflict and were witness to the town's capitulation and occupation by the British. William Herbert served on the committee that surrendered Alexandria to Captain Gordon of the Royal Navy.

The elder Herbert had been appointed by Alexandria's mayor, Charles Simms, to serve on the town's Committee of Vigilance in July 1814. The purpose of the committee was to procure information of the approaches of the enemy, as well as to obtain assistance and advice from the Federal government regarding which measures might be proper to pursue for the protection and defense of Alexandria. William's brother Thomas Herbert served concurrently as president of Alexandria's Common Council and the town's Committee of Vigilance.



Johnny Bull and the Alexandrians political cartoon engraved by William Charles, 1814.

In addition to the Carlyle House, the Star-Spangled Banner GeoTrail will feature 30 to 35 sites throughout Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. The incentive for finding 20 geocache sites on the Geotrail will be a newly minted "trackable" geocoin commemorating the story of our national anthem. For more information contact Carlyle House Historic Park at 703.549.2997. For information on a June 5 Star-Spangled Banner Trail bike ride see National Trails Day entry on last page.

Remembering AHA "Founding Mother" Effie Dunstan

Effie Dunstan died Sept. 20, 2009, at age 101. Effie Crittenden Dunstan, who was born in Montgomery, Alabama, educated at Florida State College in Tallahassee, admitted to the Alabama bar in 1934 and to the United States Supreme Court in 1944, and served as Assistant Attorney General of Alabama, moved with her husband, Arthur, to Alexandria in 1949 and developed her continuing passion for Alexandria history.

For many years she was active (and not simply a nominal member) in many historic, preservation, and other civic and community projects and organizations in Alexandria and Northern Virginia.



In 1958 as a member of the Junior League of Alexandria, she organized the Gunston Hall Docents Association. During her presidency of the Alexandria Association, she helped found, in 1974, the Alexandria Historical Society and became its registered legal agent, a responsibility she continued to exercise. Some would consider her the "founding mother" of the Alexandria Historical Society.

Effie Dunstan authored "Colonial Alexandria, 1749-1776: The Governmental Power Structure," which appeared in *Alexandria, A Composite History, Vol. I*, and also contributed to *The City of Washington: An Illustrated History*, published by the Junior League of Washington. She authored many constitutions and by-laws, including those for the Carlyle House and the Alexandria Historical Society. In 1984 Effie Dunstan was a founder and member of the first board of trustees for the Preservation Alliance. She was an active member (and often a director or officer) of the Library Company, the Friends of Lloyd House, the Friends of Carlyle House, the Carlyle House Garden Guild, the Historic Alexandria Foundation, the vestry of Emanuel Church-on-the-Hill, the Lyceum Company, and various other city commissions and committees. In 1985, she was the recipient of the prestigious Burke Award, which honors those who have contributed outstanding philanthropic and humanitarian services to the Alexandria community.

Oral History Update, Spring 2009

Vola Lawson, Distinguished Public Servant

By Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

Last year Alexandria Legacies volunteer Alice Reid interviewed Vola Lawson, who was Alexandria's city manager for 15 years until the year 2000. Lawson began her love affair with the city as a young bride, living in Parkfairfax in the mid-1960s. She and her husband, David, hadn't planned to stay long. They had their eye on suburban Maryland for their home, but tenant issues at Parkfairfax motivated them into community activism that eventually translated into a city job for Vola and a long and distinguished career of public service. Beginning as a city community-outreach director, she moved on to become assistant city manager for housing. In 1985 she was appointed city manager. Now retired, she lives once again in the Parkfairfax neighborhood, where she remains active and involved in the community.



photo courtesy Vola Lawson

FAMILY INFLUENCES

Interviewer: Can you tell me a little bit about that upbringing and how it shaped you for your adult life?

Vola Lawson: The most influential people on my life were my grandparents, and much of my beliefs about justice and equality came from them. I was born in 1934 right in the heart of the Depression, and when my father came out of college in 1931, there were no jobs. He worked bagging groceries, and once he had two jobs, one pumping gas. And so after I was born, we lived with my grandparents there in Atlanta. They lived at 882 Park Street in what is now known as the "Old Fourth Ward," which is kind of the mother of the American civil-rights movement.

My grandfather was elected for, I guess, almost 30 years to the Atlanta Board of Education. He was the representative of that whole fourth ward.

I was the first of what would be five children, born fairly close together. So my mother was kind of busy with these babies. But my grandparents were old, and they had all the time in the world for me. When I was about four years

old, my father got a job in West Point, Ga., and the whole family prepared to move. But I asked if I could stay with my grandparents, and I did. So I had them all to myself, and my grandfather taught me to read. He was a great believer in phonics. He took me into the Board of Education and had me read and explained how important he thought phonics were, and the Atlanta Public Schools adopted the phonics program.

He also was in charge of a search committee that hired the first woman superintendent — Ira Jerrold — for a major American school system. And he was a strong supporter of that. Although I grew up in the Deep South, my grandparents were very much enlightened and progressive people. And so I attribute much of who I am and what I became to my grandparents. They taught me, "You ought to be able to do anything. It doesn't matter if you're a little girl."

Interviewer: Were you introduced, as a young person, to some of the black leaders in that fourth ward?

Vola Lawson: My grandfather had terrific relationships with them. The black higher-education institutions were in this fourth ward, as was Martin Luther King's church, and it was not Martin Luther King, Jr., but his father that my grandfather knew. They called him Daddy King. When some of the educators from Morehouse or other black higher-education institutions would come by and be sitting out on the front porch with my grandfather having iced tea, my grandmother would let me take a little plate of cookies out to them.

Segregation was the law of the land. My family always opposed the Talmadges, but they were the rulers of the land in Georgia back then, and by law there was no integration at all. Black and white children could not go to school together.

But I also remember vividly one time — I may have been seven or eight — going with my grandfather to a new black elementary school. They were delivering cartons

of books there. And my grandfather had them opened, and he was looking. Well, the books that black elementary schoolchildren got were the cast-off books from white elementary schools. And he would look at them, and some had pages torn out, and he'd just throw them over into the corner. "That won't do!" he said.

But it was a lesson, a life lesson for me. Here it was this new school opening, and the books they were getting were books that the white elementary schoolchildren no longer needed.

FIRST CITY JOB

Interviewer: So how did you come to get the job with the city doing community outreach? What prompted that?

Vola Lawson: Actually, different people called and said — people who'd lived in Parkfairfax — and said, "There's a job being advertised for assistant director for community outreach, and it sounds like something that you would be interested in." And so I applied for the job, and I was hired in June of 1971.

Interviewer: So you became a working mother.

Vola Lawson: I became a working mother. My younger son, Peter, was in kindergarten, getting ready to go to first grade, and David was four and a half years older.

Interviewer: In 1971, did you encounter any skepticism from the people who interviewed you about your position as a working mother?

Vola Lawson: The person who interviewed me was the only black professional with the city of Alexandria. He was the director of the economic opportunities commission, and I think probably more than maybe most people at that time, he was able to see that women and minorities could do jobs quite well. Bill Parker was the one who hired me. He was from New York and a really nice guy.

Interviewer: So what did your job entail? What did you have to do?

Vola Lawson: I think we had five community organizers. And we worked with people in low-income neighborhoods, helping them learn how to organize and to seek solutions to their problems, to be aware of the programs the city had — in case there were programs that the city needed — to become advocates, organizers and advocates for low-income people.

Interviewer: And where was the first neighborhood that

had been identified as needing community organization?

Vola Lawson: It was the old 16th -census tract, which was the historic black neighborhood downtown, now Parker-Gray.

Interviewer: Any others?

Vola Lawson: Yes: the Dip, which was the urban-renewal area, the northern part of Del Ray, Lynhaven, Arlandria and Mount Jefferson. Lynhaven and Arlandria had terrible problems with flooding, and there was redlining going on in Del Ray that had been brought to our attention.

CHANGES AT CITY HALL

Interviewer: You met challenges in the financial sector, in the police department, in a changing city. What about in City Hall itself?

Vola Lawson: It was a challenge to continue to educate and motivate the city work force and to make it represent the city of Alexandria. And I think that was another important accomplishment. I believe that the government ought to mirror the people that it serves. This is a very diverse community. Fred Day told me that he can remember coming into City Hall and not seeing a black face on the first floor or almost anywhere else at all. Now we have a very integrated work force. We're looking for highly competent people: women, men, minorities, non-minorities. I never believed it's a question of, "Oh, I either want somebody who's competent," or "I want a woman or a minority." I think you can set high standards and still find women and minorities.

Interviewer: So the work force became more diverse as a reflection of the city. How else did it change?

Vola Lawson: When I became city manager, you had people who finished high school and came to work for the city. And I guess in those days there was nothing wrong with that. But I felt that we deserved a professional work force.

Interviewer: So how do you make that happen?

Vola Lawson: Well, I guess several ways. But first, I put together various panels of people — perhaps somebody from general services, somebody from Fairfax general services, someone from outside, an excellent development person — who were highly competent and with varied backgrounds to help me pick a very highly professional work force. I always detested, "Oh that's good enough for government work." I wanted these people to be the best that we could find.



“Thus Happy with My Bowl & Friend”

Punch Bowls and Tankards from Alexandria Tavern Sites Featured in “Antiques in Alexandria” Show

Alexandria Archaeology was once again represented at “Antiques in Alexandria” with an article in the show catalogue, “Thus Happy with My Bowl & Friend: Punch Bowls and Tankards from Alexandria Tavern Sites,” and an exhibit of artifacts featured in the article. This article, on drinking-related artifacts excavated from the sites of Arell’s and McKnight’s Taverns, was in keeping with the catalogue theme, “Drinking in America.”

“Thus Happy with My Bowl & Friend, May I in Pleasure every evening Spend” is the lovely sentiment of a creamware punch bowl from the Arell’s Tavern site on Market Square. This artifact is on exhibit in the Alexandria History Center and Waterfront Shop, in the Torpedo Factory arcade. This is the third year that Barbara Magid has been involved in the show on behalf of Alexandria Archaeology. A copy of the catalogue with Barbara’s article can be read in the Museum.

National Trust Grant for Fort Ward

Fort Ward recently received a grant from The National Trust for Historic Preservation for the interpretation of African American resources at Fort Ward Park. Supported in part by the Ford Foundation, this project is among four in the nation to receive funding for collaborative projects between historic sites and universities to improve the interpretation of African American historic places. The City of Alexandria and Howard University will interpret the African American community at Fort Ward using archaeology. The project will provide outdoor exhibits and a workshop for graduate students.

Living Legends of Alexandria

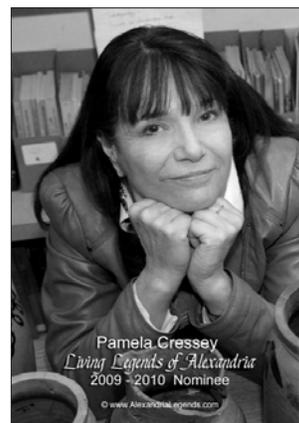
Question: Who do you know whose vision and energy has improved life in Alexandria, who has contributed to tangible improvement to the quality of the city’s life that otherwise would be missing, who has demonstrated exemplary service to the city improving the quality of life?



Michael Miller

Answer: Alexandria’s Living Legends, twelve individuals, selected each year exemplifying the City’s finest. The non-profit photo-documentary program identifies, honors, and chronicles today’s history makers. This year’s winners include: Chet Avery, Rosalind Bovey, Rodger Digilio, Nelson Greene, Sr., the team of Alice Merrill and Linda Odell, T. Michael Miller, John Porter, Joan and John Renner, David Speck, Pat Troy, Lois Walker and Betty Wright. To learn more about the Legends visit, <http://www.tisaraphoto.com/legends/InTheNews/InTheNews.htm>

Nobody has written more about the history of Alexandria than former City Research Historian T. Michael Miller. He has served on the Board of the Alexandria Historical Society for 12 years as member, vice president and president. His crowning achievement was his discovery of Freedmen’s Cemetery in 1987, where the forgotten remains of 1800 freed black slaves and their children were buried.



Pamela Cressey
Living Legends of Alexandria
2009 - 2010 Nominee
www.AlexandriaLegends.com

Nominated this year, was our very own Dr. Pamela Cressey, who has dedicated her career to understanding, protecting, and interpreting the City’s past in human and archaeological terms. She joins volunteer Anna Lynch, a 2007 Legend nominee.

These stellar individuals make the City and its communities the vibrant and caring places we enjoy. For information about the project, please visit www.tisaraphoto.com/legends or contact Project Director Nina Tisara at alexandrialegends@earthlink.net or 703-625-2330.



Studying Alexandria's Shoes

Valentine Povinelli works at the Shoemaker's Shop at Colonial Williamsburg.

As part of their ongoing research, the Williamsburg shoemakers visit collections and make detailed measured drawings of shoes, showing stitching patterns and other details that can be used in re-creating shoes and boots authentic to the historical period. Val visited Alexandria on March 3 to begin examining shoes in the Alexandria Archaeology collection, working with 19th-century shoes from the Alexandria Courthouse site, 44AX1 Feature D. Val will return to Alexandria to continue to study shoes in our collection. Some of the more interesting collections come from the Green Furniture Factory site (before 1827), the Civil War privies on the Lee Street Site and Old Town Village, and the site of Peyton Ballenger's shoe store, ca. 1850-1880, on the Courthouse site, Feature KK.

The shoemaker's shop in Williamsburg, open to the public, represents the firm of George Wilson. In 1773, Wilson advertised "Boots and Shoes for Gentlemen" in the *Virginia Gazette*. Boot making was the most sophisticated and prestigious branch of the trade. Most customers would have selected from a stock of "sale shoes" in popular-styled, already-sized shoes – just like today. Custom-made shoes required a day's wait. Boots for riding were the specialty of the firm.

For more information, see Colonial Williamsburg's website at <http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/trades/tradeshocfm>, or the Shoemaker's Shop's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Williamsburg-VA/The-Shoemakers-Shop/265271515131?ref=share>.

Cornell Grad Students Enjoyed Visit to Alexandria Archaeology

Douglas R. Appler, a Cornell Ph.D. candidate in city and regional planning, was among a group of Cornell historic preservation graduate students visiting the Museum in February. Here is an excerpt from a letter Appler sent to Mayor Euille and members of Alexandria City Council singing our praises.

"...I would like to commend the City of Alexandria for its continued operation of this innovative and

singularly successful program. While many communities pride themselves on their historic preservation efforts, including several other cities with archaeology programs, Alexandria is unique for the degree to which its archaeologists treat the public not simply as an audience, but as co-creator of the city's program. Through their decades of work, Dr. Cressey and her colleagues at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum have fostered an atmosphere of collaboration within the community, such that any Alexandrian with an interest in contributing to or learning about the city's history knows that they may find a home at the archaeology museum. I have chosen to make the study of city archaeology programs the subject of my doctoral dissertation, and from what I have learned through this process thus far, the City of Alexandria may justly consider itself to be setting the standard by which others in this field are measured..."

Rebecca's Dig-Day-Inspired Poem

After attending one of our Dig Days last year, seventh-grader Rebecca Merriman-Goldring was inspired to pen the following poem. It won first prize in the poetry competition at Swanson Middle School and claimed first place at the Arlington County level.

Beauty Is... Archaeology

*Beauty is when your heart's wishes come true,
The "oh my gosh" moment when you are offered the
chance of a lifetime,
Beauty is the glory of following your dreams,
Getting the chance to surpass even your expectations*

*Beauty is not fact,
but opinion and perception,
While one person scoffs,
another is struck speechless*

*I find beauty in other people's trash
The shimmer of beads from a broken necklace
The pearly sheen of oyster shells from dinner
hundreds of years ago
The vibrant emerald hue of a 400 year old copper
penny and the thrill of discovery*

*Beauty is in being the first person to touch
something in centuries,
the treasure troves of information unearthed in
single artifacts,
not in rewriting history,
but in rewriting our conception of history.*



POINTS OF INTEREST



Can You Dig Mount Vernon?

Mount Vernon Archaeology will be excavating on several Saturdays this spring – on April 3 and 17 and May 1, 15 and 29. We are continuing to work on site 44FX2460 – in the wooded area which is the planned location of the new George Washington Library.

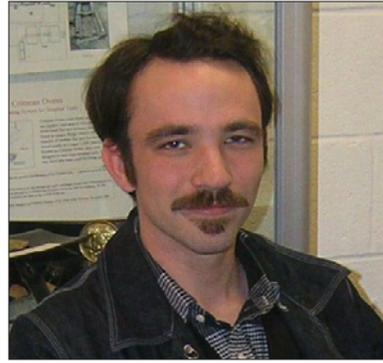
Over the past year, we have conducted systematic testing of the site and have delineated several large artifact concentrations which may represent the former locations of buildings.

Based on the artifacts we have recovered and the limited documentary evidence, we believe the site may have been occupied by one or more households of enslaved laborers or plantation employees. The site may have been first occupied during the later part of George Washington's lifetime, at the end of the 18th century, and appears to have been actively used during the ownership of the plantation by his nephew, Bushrod Washington. The site was abandoned sometime in the mid-to-late 1820s and was never occupied as a residence again.

Having identified promising artifact concentrations, as well as possible features below the plowzone, we will be opening large excavation blocks in the coming weeks to more closely investigate areas of dense artifact concentrations and/or possible features found beneath the plowzone. Hopefully, we will be finding direct evidence of the structures that once stood on the site.

As always, we can use your help! Our hours will be from 8 until 4; volunteers are welcome to work for an entire day or only part of it, if that better suits your schedule. In addition, we are continuing to work full time on the site during the week, so if you're able to make it on a weekday, we would be glad to have your assistance. If you're able to make any of these Saturdays, or would like to work on a weekday, please let me know so I can put you on the schedule.

Curt Breckenridge, Assistant Archaeologist
Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens
(703) 799-6303, cbreckenridge@mountvernon.org



INTERNS HARD AT WORK

Jeff Barnett Researching Civil War

Hello! My name is Jeff Barnett, and I am from Dallas, Texas. Last semester, I finished my undergraduate work in history and French at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. This semester, I am a history student in American University's Graduate Gateway program and will be interning at the Archaeology Museum through April. I've been interested in history since I read *Rifles for Watie* in the third grade, and I realized in college that museum work might be the career for me. At Roanoke, I discovered the challenges and rewards of interpretation in creating exhibits for the history department. Interning at the local history museum in Salem gave me an appreciation for small organizations, so the Archaeology Museum is truly a great fit. Currently, I am working on researching and compiling images and text for Alexandria's loop of a Civil War bike trail, which focuses on the defenses of Washington. If time permits, I will also be creating a more detailed exhibit element about our Crimean ovens. The Civil War was my first love in history, so I am really excited to revisit the period and help out Alexandria Archaeology at the same time.

Rose McCarthy Updates Website

I'm from Philadelphia, where I was a collections manager at the American Philosophical Society Museum. I attended Bryn Mawr College for Classical and Near Eastern archaeology. I was a short-term volunteer at Alexandria Archaeology in summer 2006, creating a database of freed black soldiers and also excavating at the Shuter's Hill site. I returned in January 2010 as a part-time contract employee. My projects at Alexandria Archaeology include revamping the archaeological site reports section of the website. I live in Arlington with my husband, Ryan, and cat, Avocado.



Gaby Faundez Developing Cell- Phone Tour of "The Fort"



I am a senior at Marymount University, graduating this May with my B.A. in history. I began volunteering for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum in the summer of 2009. For about two months I was at the Museum working on research about the African American community that lived at Fort Ward after the end of the Civil War. I decided to return to work as an intern for the Spring Semester to continue my research on the African American community. I am currently working on developing a walking/cell-phone tour of the park that includes many of the locations where the African American families settled. This tour will include places relevant to the story of "the Fort" community, such as the house sites of the first African American owners, the school and church, as well as the numerous burial places that can be found throughout the park. I have enjoyed my time at the Museum, since I have learned much about the history of Alexandria as well as new things on the field of public history.

Snowmageddon

The heavy snowfall on February 5 necessitated closing the Archaeology Museum, and it did not reopen again until eleven days later. What President Obama christened *Snowmageddon* turned out to be the heaviest snowfall in recorded history, dating back to 1884 when such records were first kept. Not only did vehicular traffic vanish from the City streets but so did buses, trains, and planes. As the City and Federal governments closed down, Old Town was transformed



City Hall, February 6, 2010



400 block of King Street, 1922. Courtesy Alexandria Library Special Collections

into a picture of hushed serenity as people took to the streets. It was noted that the grocery store shelves were stripped bare of their goods, particularly of beer, red meat, and bread -- we are still trying to determine what that says of us as a people.

ZARK'S KIDS' CORNER

By Suzanne Schaubel

Bring the completed puzzle to our museum to receive your sticker! Check out other activities and exhibits when you visit!

A	R	C	H	A	E	O	L	O	G	Y
A	R	A	W	L	I	V	I	C	L	V
R	J	K	O	E	T	R	P	E	A	I
T	E	R	R	X	O	R	I	N	S	R
I	E	T	Z	A	N	I	O	P	S	P
F	G	I	F	N	Z	R	G	W	F	V
A	R	S	N	D	F	S	S	E	E	P
C	O	N	T	R	A	B	A	N	D	L
T	E	A	O	I	B	T	O	G	I	E
S	G	R	S	A	U	Z	K	N	G	D
L	K	T	C	R	M	K	N	L	E	E
H	M	C	E	R	A	M	I	C	S	S
N	U	F	M	U	S	E	U	M	Y	S

Archaeology: study of human societies through excavation.

Alexandria: city founded in 1749.

Artifacts: objects made, used, or modified by humans.

Bones: animal and human bones are found on archaeological sites.

Ceramics: various types of pottery.

Civil War: a violent conflict within a country. The American Civil War was fought between the North and South from 1861-1865.

Contraband: escaped African American slaves; many lived in Alexandria.

Dig: excavate or remove layers of dirt systematically.

Feature: evidence of human activities visible as disturbances in the soil, such as a privy, well, or foundation.

Fun: visiting the museum is a lot of fun!

George: George Washington, Alexandria resident and first US President.

Glass: used for bottles, windows, lamps, and glassware.

Museum: place to view items of historical significance.

Privy: a hole in the ground used as a toilet; many interesting items have been found in privies.

Transit: tool used to record measurements of a site.

Trowel: tool archaeologists use to remove layers of dirt at a dig.

Zark: our 100-year-old museum mascot; still looking good!

SPRING 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"Morrison House Presents" Cultural Discussion Series

Salon-style discussion series with artists, authors, and archaeologists. Cocktails available for purchase; reservations may be made for dinner following the event.

First Tuesday of every month
6 to 8 p.m. — free admission
Morrison House
116 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.morrisonhouse.com
703.838.8000

Oral History Spring Training Session

New oral history volunteers are required to attend a training session. The Spring session will be held Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, third floor. The workshop is free, but space is limited. Reservations required by March 31. Contact Jen Hembree at jen_hembree@hotmail.com or call the Archaeology Museum at 703.746.4399.

Unshackling History: Recreating Experiences from American Slavery

Alexandria Historical Society lecture, Wednesday,

May 26 at 7:30 pm - Join historian Anthony Cohen as he recounts tales of his work exploring the American slavery experience, from his 1996 retracing of the Underground Railroad by foot, to being shipped inside of a wooden crate like Virginia fugitive Henry "Box" Brown. The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street 703.746.4994. Free.

Field Orientation for Volunteers A field orientation is scheduled for Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to noon at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The orientation is free and required for all new field volunteers. Reservations required: contact the Museum at archaeology@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4399.

Family Dig Days Help City Archaeologists screen soil for artifacts from a real dig at the Shuter's Hill excavation site on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Saturdays: July 17, August 14, September 25, or October 16 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. \$5/person. Reservations required: contact the Museum at archaeology@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4399.

National Trails Day Ten-Mile Star-Spangled Banner Trail Ride

Saturday, June 5, beginning at 9 a.m.
Free; open to the public.

An exciting new guided bike tour, with costumed interpreters, crossing the Potomac. Start at Oxon Hill Farm and ride across Woodrow Wilson Bridge to the Carlyle House Historic Park or start at Carlyle House and ride to Oxon Hill Farm. An optional two-hour, 20-mile loop ride departs Oxon Hill Farm at noon for Fort Washington. Rides are sponsored by the National Park Service, The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, The City of Alexandria, The Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trails Club, and BikeWalk Alexandria. Bike the Sites will offer discounts on bike rentals for Trail participants; contact www.bikethesites.com for details.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by a participating adult. Helmets and reservations required. For more information contact ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov



Alexandria Archaeology
105 North Union St., #327
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

