

Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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Shields's Folly: A Bathhouse in Old Town

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PUBLIC BATHS.

THE subscriber respectfully informs the public that his Bath House (on the Alley adjoining the Theatre, and opposite the City Hotel) is now open and will be kept in the most complete order till the 1st of October; where WARM and COLD BATHS may be had at any time in the day & until 9 o'clock, at night.

Two separate BATHS are kept EXCLUSIVELY FOR LADIES, who will please to come in the Alley adjoining Mr. R. Fairfax's brick house on Royal street.

As many of the respectable Ladies & Gentlemen of Alexandria have heretofore been subscribers, and found the greatest benefit to their health from frequent bathing during the warm weather; the subscriber does not doubt but they will recommend to every individual of their acquaintance the good effects & comfort of the WARM BATH.

N. B. A Room will be appropriated for the purpose of Shuting and dressing those who may require it.

T. Shields.

May 12, 1814



Paul Nasca excavating at the Bathhouse

by Garrett Fesler

Did people bathe 200 years ago? The answer is: sort of. The majority of people rinsed hands and faces in washbasins filled with cold water (what we today would call a sponge bath), but rarely took full-body baths. Without running water and other conveniences, bathing was a protracted and laborious process involving heating large quantities of water, and gradually filling a tub; this was the type of activity available only to the wealthiest sort. For common folk, the only realistic opportunity to submerge

their bodies in water was in freshwater creeks, rivers, ponds, and lakes, but the prospect of lounging in a tub of warm water was something that most people never experienced.

In Alexandria, however, between 1811 and 1825, for a mere 50 cents a person could take a warm bath in the comfort of a private bathhouse, or subscribe for a season of regular baths for \$10. Located on North Royal Street from 1811 to 1825, a public bathhouse was operated first by Frederick Shuck (1811-1813), then by Thomas Shields (1813-1819), and later by Margaret Garner (1819-1825). Recently, Alexandria Archaeology excavated a deep pit feature located at the site of this early bathhouse. The findings have begun to reveal to us the mysterious workings of this unique phenomenon. The link below will take you to the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA's) website and the latest report on Alexandria's Historic Bathhouse.

WWW.FOAA.INFO/RESOURCES

Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus...



FROM THE FOAA PRESIDENT

by Becca Siegal

Keep up with FOAA, by joining Alexandria Archaeology eNews. It's a

new and exciting way to keep you in the loop about everything having to do with archaeology in Alexandria! To join go to www.alexandriava.gov/eNews and select "Alexandria Archaeology."

FOAA has had a busy spring. In February, lots of FOAA members came out to the GW Parade in support of Pam Cressey, who was this year's Grand Marshal of the parade. See Pam's parade appreciation on page 17.



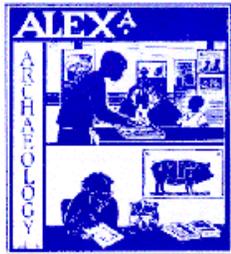
In March, FOAA had its annual meeting and election of BoD members and new officers. The bios of all the BoD members follow on the next page.

This year FOAA participated in Alexandria's day of giving – Spring2ACTion – on April 9. In just 24 hours, FOAA raised over \$1,847.51 dollars for summer camp scholarships and artifact conservation. See page 14 for the complete Spring2ACTion recap.

On June 23, FOAA held a Blues Benefit at King Street Blues restaurant in Old Town. FOAA raised \$100 during the day. Lots of FOAA members and non-members came to eat lunch or dinner and support FOAA. We hope that everyone had a great time at King Street Blues, and we plan to do more fundraisers like this in the future.

A big shout out to new FOAA VP Whitney Stohr for organizing these creative and fun FOAA fundraising events.

BE SURE TO VISIT THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK



Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY is a not-for-profit organization supporting archaeology in the City of Alexandria. Annual membership dues may be sent to:

FOAA
105 North Union Street, #327
Alexandria, VA 22314

Individual - \$20 Family/Groups - \$25 Sponsor - \$50 Benefactor - \$100 Corporate - \$500

2014-2015 FOAA Board of Directors

Becca Siegal, president; Whitney Stohr, vice president; Katie Wagenblass, treasurer; Laura Heaton, secretary; Mary Jane Nugent, AAC representative; Marya Fitzgerald, Margarete Holubar, Liz Kelley, Mary Ray, Jay Roberts, Kathy Scheibelhoffer, Alissa Schrider and Paula Whitacre; members of the Board; Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, listserv; Ruth Reeder, liaison from the Museum

FOAA Board of Directors

The Friends of Alexandria Archaeology held their annual meeting and elections in March. Bios of all the current officers and Board of Directors are below:

President Becca Siegal:

My interests in archaeology and anthropology have led to several years of volunteer work with different archaeology labs and at several field sites in Virginia and Maryland, and my decision to major in anthropological sciences in college. I am really interested in the preservation of archaeological sites and resources. I am currently an intern/volunteer at Alexandria Archaeology. I started as a lab volunteer in July 2012; then in January 2013 I started working five days a week and became an intern. In fiscal year 2013, I contributed 1294.5 volunteer hours to Alexandria Archaeology, and was named Volunteer of the Year. With Alexandria Archaeology, I have excavated at Shuter's Hill, and Jefferson Houston School, where we found a 19th century slaughterhouse. I have helped the archaeology staff monitor several construction projects in Alexandria. Helping with field excavations at Jefferson Houston during the spring led to my research on slaughterhouses in the region. I presented a professional paper at the Archaeological Society of Virginia's annual meeting in October 2013, about the slaughterhouse site and presented a new paper about the site and butchery practices in the 19th century across the region, at the Mid Atlantic Archaeological Conference in mid-March 2014. I am hoping to have my MAAC paper published in the Journal of Mid Atlantic Archaeology. I help with the Alexandria Archaeology summer camp at Fort Ward, and with the GWU-Alexandria Archaeology field school. I am currently a member of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and am now FOAA president and membership chair. Other tasks I perform for Alexandria Archaeology include taking pictures, putting the newsletter together, managing the volunteer hour database, teaching lessons to school groups, organizing the map collection, and updating the archaeology library database.

Vice president Whitney Stohr:

Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Whitney moved to Alexandria in 2011, after graduating from Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, Washington. She received a graduate degree in international law from George Washington University and is currently working toward a second graduate degree through the University of Florida. She is a visiting attorney at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., and was recently a U.S. EPA Fellow with the Secretariat of the Global Methane Initiative. She is a member of the Washington Chapter of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy and the Junior League of Northern Virginia. In her spare time, she serves on the steering committee for the Fair Trade Alexandria initiative and leads a fundraising campaign on behalf of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association. She volunteers with various organizations, including for the past six years writing STEM and art education grant proposals for a low-income public school in Washington state. She began volunteering with Alexandria Archaeology in fall 2012.

Secretary and Past president Laura Heaton:

Laura has a long-standing interest in archaeology, germinated in her youngest years. She remembers when her mother brought home a Time-Life book on Dr. Louis Leakey's work in East Africa. She was eight years old. After taking a long look at that book, she was hooked on the idea of "old" things that needed to be dug up and examined. During her undergraduate years, she contemplated academic work in anthropology/archaeology, but conversations with various faculty and staff in that area convinced her that it was not a wise choice of profession at that time, given her desire to work in the field. After almost two decades of work in the accounting/social science fields, Laura eventually moved to Alexandria, Virginia, in late 1997, taking a job at the Census Bureau doing demographic and mathematical modeling of populations highly affected by HIV and AIDS. She discovered Alexandria Archaeology in 1998. She has been a volunteer since then, doing archival research on descendants of those buried in the Freedmen's Cemetery and excavation at Shuter's Hill. She remains an avid excavation volunteer and looks forward to every dig season. And, so many years after picking up that Time-Life book, she gladly reports that she finally made it to the site of Leakey's work in Tanzania in January 2012!

Treasurer Katie Wagenblaus:

A resident of Alexandria, Katie has over seven years of D.C. non-profit development and administration experience. In her spare time she enjoys volunteering for FOAA, taking art classes at the Torpedo Art Factory, and exploring Alexandria with her husband. She has two cats. Along with her mother, she is the coauthor of the book *Russian Enamel Designs*.

Past president Elizabeth Kelley:

Liz is originally from Massachusetts but has called Alexandria her home for the past eleven years. She has a master's in community planning with an emphasis on historic preservation. She studied archaeology and history at the University of Edinburgh and enjoyed being an archaeological technician before joining the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where she currently works to house survivors after disasters. Liz enjoys working with the great people at Friends of Alexandria Archaeology.

Past vice-president Margarete Holubar:

We've all heard the familiar question, "What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?"...



Happily volunteering would be the answer of this retiree from Long Island, who after spending a lifetime in nursing, found her dream volunteer work at Alexandria Archaeology! As a young woman I had hoped to major in art history, but an unexpected scholarship in nursing changed the course of my life, ending my fledgling art career before it began! You could almost say that I've now come full circle, having returned to my

initial choice of studies, history. Few of us are given a second chance, and although this is not to be considered a career change, since my life has had few regrets, it's now an experience that I continue to enthusiastically welcome. I am grateful for the opportunity to be on the FOAA board.

AAC Rep Mary Jane Nugent:

Mary Jane received her BA in history from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, MO, 1958. She completed 30 hours toward a master's in urban affairs at Virginia Tech Dulles Graduate School, 1977-80. She had moved to the DC area in 1958 when her husband came to work as an attorney in the Department of Justice. Her volunteer activities included serving on her church's parish council and serving on the board of her children's school PTA (President 1973-74). She was appointed by the city council to the Alexandria School Board (ASB vice chair 1983-85) in 1980, for 6 years. She served on Virginia School Boards Association Board of Directors as chair of Membership & Public Relations Committee, and as ASB representative on the Metropolitan Area Boards of Education. She became active in the League of Women Voters, becoming president of the Alexandria LWV, 1974-76. In 1976, she began working as the manager of government affairs for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. She was the administrative assistant to Beverly Beidler, city council member. In 1981, she became the legislative aide (for 15 years) to state delegate Bernard S. Cohen, who represented Alexandria in Richmond. In 1996, she became an assistant registrar in the Alexandria Voter Registration Office and retired from there in 2013. She served on the Senior Services Board of Alexandria from 2003-06. In 1986, she began to volunteer in the archaeology lab and museum, was a founding member and first secretary of the FOAA board. She was a volunteer at the Smithsonian "Behind the Scenes" program in the American Indian Program from 1994-98. In 2010, she was appointed by the city council to the Alexandria Archaeological Commission as the representative of the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. In 2011, she was appointed to the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board to represent Alexandria Archaeology. She serves on the governance committee of that board. She has studied the history of African American soldiers at L'Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria during the Civil War. Her careful and consistent work has resulted in a complete chronology of 118 USCT soldiers' deaths, their burial at Freedmen's Cemetery and reburial at Alexandria National Cemetery in 1864 and 1865. Her research on these men has been incorporated into the text of bronze tablets commemorating the soon-to-open Contrabands' and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial in the 1000 block of S. Washington Street. Moreover, she has spent many hours typing these men's historical documentation into templates for use on the new city web pages for the memorial. She has participated in the project to transcribe the Civil War diaries of Julia Wilbur, also for use on the Alexandria Archaeology web page. She received the Alexandria Commission for Women's 2012 Salute to Women Award, "Marion Van Lanningham Legislation and Public Policy Award."

Past President Marya Fitzgerald:

Born Marya Dusheck, Oakland, CA, November 3, 1938. Mother died of complications of the flu in 1942. So, brought up by committee: father, both grandmothers, aunt, godmother, and stepmother. Graduated summa cum laude in Greek from U.C. Berkeley, 1960, with the ill-fated notion of becoming an archeologist. Married to Pinchos Andreen for 25 years, with three children: Noah (1960), Carl (1964), and Wendy (1965). One grandson, Cory Andreen, now 30 and living in Berlin! Secondary school English teacher for Fairfax Public Schools 1969 to 1998; certified by Virginia to teach Greek, German, English, and Gifted and Talented Education. Married Donald Fitzgerald, former naval aviator and human extraordinaire, August 14, 1994; widowed 2001.

Joined Alexandria Archaeology as a volunteer in November 2003; FOAA prez from 2006-2012.

Favorite activities are reading, thinking, writing (especially haiku); volunteering at the AAM, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Smithsonian; being ruled by cats and more cats; listening to music; singing; cooking; and gardening. Current pet peeve: drivers who take up two parking places.

Past Treasurer Kathy Scheibelhoffer:

I grew up on a farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After high school I moved to Dover, Delaware. While working, I went to Delaware State College. Then, in 1969, I moved to Northern Virginia and worked for the General Accounting Office. After a few years I quit and got an MBA from George Washington University. I went back to work for the feds, this time in the human resources area. I retired in March 1998. I became more interested in history, especially archaeology. I think Alexandria Archaeology was my first volunteer work (except helping at events where I live). At the Museum I was in the first group of docents to work in the lab.

Over the years I've done a variety of things including digging and lab work, and been a long-term member of the FOAA Board (although I am no longer treasurer). I like to attend lectures and classes. I also like to visit different places in the US and other countries.

Mary Ray:

I am originally from Wisconsin, have lived in many places (including five other countries), and have set down roots in Alexandria since 1993. I retired in 2012 after serving as the



senior development officer for institutional giving at a number of nonprofits headquartered or based in Washington (The Centre for Development and Population Activities, the International Center for Research on Women, Management Sciences for Health, the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, and American Farmland Trust). Now retired, I find that I have both time and interest to devote to organizations and issues that have long interested me. Over the years, I have served on a number of boards, including that of the Associa-

tion of Fundraising Professionals (6 years) and Help the Afghan Children (5 years and board chair). For the past year I've enjoyed volunteering with Alexandria Archaeology, participating in digs, artifact cleaning, helping with oral transcriptions, and above all, transcription of the wonderful Julia Wilbur diary. I've also enjoyed very much meeting FOAA's board, the Museum staff, and volunteers.



Jay Roberts:

It is an honor to be selected for this position on the FOAA Board. I have not previously served in any such positions, but I share with others a passion for Alexandria's history. I'm retired from the U.S. Air Force. After self-publishing "River to Rails: A Guidebook to Historical Mark-

ers in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia" last summer, I am now working on a second edition. I write about Alexandria in my blog, "Jaybird's Jottings." I received a BS in psychology from Excelsior College. My career in the Air Force included assignments in England and Tunisia. I have traveled to over a dozen countries.

Alissa J. K. Schrider:

I grew up in Worthington, MN, and graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, in 2005 with a BA in English, history, and international studies and from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 2008. After graduation I joined the United States Air Force JAG Corps. I moved to Alexandria



in August 2013, and currently work as legal counsel for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Arlington, VA. Previously, I was stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Vandenberg AFB, California. I also deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, for six months. Although I work full time, I enjoy volunteering when I am off duty. During my time in the Air Force, I volunteered at the Santa Maria

Humane Society, SEE International, and the University of Idaho "Know your Government" mock trial program. I also organized a fundraising concert for "Camp SAM" (a summer camp for child cancer survivors) and a mock trial in our base courtroom for 4th grade students. In Afghanistan I volunteered at an Afghan school, teaching English to Afghan children. I have been volunteering at Alexandria Archaeology since December 2013.

Paula Tarnapol Whitacre:

Paula has lived in Alexandria since 1984, and is a freelance writer and editor. She started her volunteer work with Alexandria Archaeology in the oral history program and has also conducted archival research with a focus on the Civil War



period. She is coordinating a project to transcribe the diaries of Julia Wilbur, an abolitionist who spent most of the Civil War in Alexandria. She also developed and manages the FOAA website. She joined the FOAA board in 2013.

FOAA Print Cartridge & E-Waste Collection

by Whitney Stohr

As a new fundraising opportunity, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) is collecting used inkjet and toner cartridges and other miscellaneous e-waste in conjunction with TerraCycle®, Inc.

TerraCycle is an international, eco-conscious company that collects hard-to-recycle waste and repurposes the materials into new products. Materials are collected through TerraCycle's waste brigade programs, for which the company provides compensation to thousands of community and non-profit organizations around the country. More information about TerraCycle is available on the company's website at www.terracycle.com.

To help raise funds for FOAA, please deposit your used ink cartridges and e-waste in the designated bin at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. A list of accepted materials is included below.

Accepted Materials: Inkjet cartridges, Toner cartridges, Cell phones, iPods and MP3 players, Digital cameras and camcorders, Graphic calculators, GPS units.

The Interns' Turn

Liam Murphy

I am currently a graduate student studying anthropology and museum studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. My interest in archaeology began at a young age. My parents took me to as many museums and historic sites as they could find time to. There were only two careers that really interested me growing up: rock star and archaeologist. Rock and roll has not worked out so far (although there is still hope), so I am working to become an archaeologist.



I received my bachelor's degree from SUNY University at Albany in 2010. Following my graduation, I worked as an archaeological field technician and a museum educator for a few years before returning to school last fall in Milwaukee. My research interests are in material culture studies, museum collections, and museum education. I am very excited to be working with the Alexandria Archaeology Museum this summer. I believe that museums and historic sites represent one of the most effective ways to instill a love of learning in children. This summer I will be helping develop a new education program centered on the laundry building at the Shuter's Hill Site, and helping with the summer camp. This internship will provide me with excellent experience and hopefully leave the museum with something as well!



Hannah Fitzmaurice

I am a student at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia. At the end of senior year, students are allowed to use the last month of high school as a way to get involved in the community, and given my love of history, I decided there was no better place

to volunteer than at Alexandria Archaeology. I started volunteering here in 2012, as a way to get service hours for school and immediately knew that archaeology was something I am interested in pursuing as a career. As of

right now, I am completing my Senior Experience here but plan to continue volunteering long after I graduate. In fact, I have decided to take a year off before I head up to Tufts University in the fall of 2015, and with this time, I hope to further experience all of what archaeology has to offer.

Lia Masur

I am from Boston, Massachusetts, and am a rising senior at New York University, majoring in anthropology. I have had an interest in museums and anthropology since high school. I began to pursue these interests during my college years through an internship in the Collections and Exhibitions Department at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. I also participated in a Moche funerary site field school

in Northern Peru. I greatly enjoyed both of these experiences, and my internship at Alexandria Archaeology is the perfect way to combine these two disciplines to learn how museum work and archaeology come together. During my time here this summer, I will be working at the summer camp program, helping local students learn archaeological excavation skills. I also plan to help excavate at Shuter's Hill as much as possible. In the museum, I will be assisting with the museum's current projects on the Freedman's Cemetery and the Julia Wilburn diaries.



Thank you Philippa Harrap and Bon Voyage! Philippa, pictured above with Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and councilwoman Del Pepper, joined Alexandria Archaeology in early 2012 and contributed 222 volunteer hours to laboratory processing, field work, and education. We wish her well as she returns to England, her native homeland.

Remembering Joan

by Ruth Reeder, staff, and volunteers



Alexandria Archaeology lost a dear friend with the passing of Joan Amico. For many years, the first person museum visitors would meet was Joan. From her command center next to the Clovis Point exhibit, she would greet everyone who crossed the museum's threshold. She was the most decorated volunteer in the history of Alexandria

Archaeology's Volunteer Program, earning the annual Volunteer of the Year Award nine times! Beginning in April 2002, when she started volunteering, through October 2013, Joan logged in 7,654 volunteer hours. She wore many hats, serving as FOAA vice president, proofreader of the Volunteer Newsletter, and keeper of the FOAA membership and volunteer hours databases. She delighted in introducing visitors to her favorite artifact, the 13,000-year-old Clovis point, and enjoyed marching with Alexandria Archaeology in the George Washington Birthday Parade. Though she tried her hand in excavating at Shuter's Hill and at lab work in the museum, her real love was engaging the museum visitor. She loved a good conversation and thrived on talking with a diverse audience. She was a delight, a dear friend, and will be missed.

Friends Remember Joan

The world just lost yet another longtime loud voice for peace and civil rights. Joan and I were at different entrances of the then-Arlington Hospital on the same day for a demonstration in 1963: "No Way to Ward A!" She was at main entrance W; I was "sitting in" (being carried OUT of) the emergency room. Her protest was that white patients could refuse black roommates, who would then be put on gurneys in the hall. Our protest was that the ER required cash in advance to treat blacks but would take everyone else on credit. We discovered this "degree of separation" in a lunch conversation at the museum. She was one of a kind. Goodbye, good Joan.

Hoosey Hughes, former FOAA BoD member, newsletter editor

I loved how Joan dove right in to any new project with confidence and determination. She did a great job maintaining

the FOAA membership database. She was an inspiration to me. **Jeanne Springmann**, FOAA database designer

She was an important part of Archaeology and will be missed. **Indy McCall**, AAC member

She worked with us for so many years and helped us in so many ways. Many people do not know that she worked in the field when she first began volunteering. Her editing skills made our documents more readable and grammatically correct. She loved to engage visitors in the museum, and was so constant as our receptionist/docent that we never had to worry about staffing the museum. **Fran Bromberg**, Acting Director, Alexandria Archaeology

Joan has been a major part of my life for more than a decade. What a unique person! A woman ahead of her time who extended her time on earth by walking miles daily, reading constantly, solving thousands of crossword puzzles, writing and editing, and speaking to probably more than 100,000 visitors at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

She was a believer in social justice and the value of history and archaeology. When Joan walked into the Museum for the first time, the experience of visitors changed and our lives were greatly affected. I cannot imagine our museum without Joan! My love and

thanks to her and my sympathetic thoughts to her family. **Pam Cressey**, Former Director, Alexandria Archaeology

Joan was a treasure to Alexandria Archaeology. She touched so many lives in her work as a volunteer docent. She taught us all how to be better writers and shared so much of herself with us. I have missed her since she was no longer able to come in. Everyone loved Joan. She always had her mystery books, her crossword puzzle, perfect lipstick, and no vegetables. We still have to scrunch down to see ourselves in the mirror that was put up for her height. **Jennifer Barker**, Alexandria Archaeology

Joan was such a wonderful, kind person. I am happy to have known her. And I was happy to read of her activism



against segregation in earlier years. She made a positive contribution to her community in many ways. She will be missed at Alexandria Archaeology. **Laura Heaton**, FOAA Board Member



I worked with Joan at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, where she was a devoted volunteer and a dear friend to everyone. My sincere condolences to all those who hold her in their hearts, as I do. **Elizabeth Field**, Alexandria Archaeology

I'm so happy I got to know her when I did. **Alex Karpa**, George Washington University/Alexandria Archaeology summer intern

"May God support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done". Joan has found peace at last and I will miss her...What beautiful memories she has left. **Margarete Holubar**, FOAA Board Member

At the museum three days a week, Joan was a big part of the Alexandria Archaeology's visitors' experience. She always encouraged people to sign the guest book. Joan had a sticker for every child who visited, made sure that there were always coloring pages for the little ones and that we did not run out of the word search and scavenger hunt pages for the older kids. She made sure that visitors saw our oldest artifact, a 13,000-year-old Clovis point, that no boy missed the musket, no mother missed the baby bottle with the glass nipple, and that everyone was introduced to Zark – even though when she said it, it came out "Zahck." Thanks in great part to Joan, we kept our evaluations at above 99% good to excellent in ratings, with most of those

ratings falling into the excellent category. In the guest book, there are many comments about helpful, welcoming, friendly, informative, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, excellent, and interesting staff – many of those comments referred to Joan. Once in a while, someone would talk to Joan long enough to get her name, and here is what they had to say:

Visitor from Queens, NY, on July 26, 2013: "Joan was most helpful, learned from her knowledge."

Visitors from Columbus, OH, on April 25, 2013: "Joan gave us wonderful details!"

Visitors from Virginia and Washington, DC, on September 13, 2011: "Joan is great!"



Jennifer Barker, Alexandria Archaeology

Donations in Memory of Joan

Long-time, dedicated Alexandria Archaeology volunteer, Joan Amico is missed by all. We are honored by her family's request that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Alexandria Archaeology. We have begun to receive generous donations from her friends. If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to the City of Alexandria. Please note, "In memory of Joan Amico." Send checks to Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology, 105 N. Union Street, #327, Alexandria, VA 22314. If you prefer, we can also take cash or credit card.

If you want to donate in person, stop by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. While you are here, see where Joan received visitors and made sure that no one left without seeing some of her favorite artifacts, "Have you seen our 13,000-year-old artifact?" "What do you think this is? . . . No, it's not a dinosaur . . . this is Zakh [Zark]" "And you thought cigarettes were bad for you! . . ." "Do you know what a privy is?"

We wish to thank the following generous donors:

- The Blankens of Ashburn, Virginia
- Dorothy Nieweg, longtime friend from Joan's days at the League of Women Voters
- Elizabeth Field, colleague and friend from Alexandria Archaeology

Eulogy for Miss Elizabeth Henry Douglas,

Oakland Baptist Church, February 22, 2014

In the words of Miss Elizabeth Henry Douglas:
“We picked those chinquapins in October. You would know that they were getting ready to get ripe because you’d see the pod open up and inside set that little nut, the smallest nut ever seen, but delicious. And I don’t know why, that it was incredible, that they would cut every one of those things down and still call it Chinquapin [Park, that is]. Never will understand that as long as I live. Because that was the beauty of what it was named for.”

It is for memories such as these that I am so thankful and honored to have known Miss Elizabeth. I met her shortly after I began working as an archaeologist for the City of Alexandria in 1991. We were excavating at the location of the Civil War barracks in Fort Ward Park, and we learned about The Fort neighborhood that developed when African American families purchased property at Fort Ward just after the war. One of our volunteers, Patricia Knock, sought to find and interview members of the community who might be able to provide insight into what it was like to grow up in the Seminary and Fort neighborhoods during the first half of the 20th century. And that is how I was introduced to Miss Elizabeth. Her words not only taught me about chinquapins, but also show her love of life and nature, recognition of beauty, a strong and feisty character, and her sense of humor as she relates the tale of no chinquapins in Chinquapin Park. From her oral history interview, we also learn about Macedonia, Mr. McGuinness’s sugar mill, Mr. Donaldson’s store, and about Molly Nelson, who “delivered babies all through the country.”

The remarkable details of Miss Elizabeth’s memories paint a vivid picture of life in the Seminary area. She also shared these memories with the public on Earth Day, when she told her stories at the Alexandria Archaeology booth. And when we needed more information about the Jackson Cemetery at Fort Ward, we called on Miss Elizabeth to help fill in some gaps. All of us who knew her in the City’s history department will miss her and mourn with you. I know that her legacy here on earth will live on in the memories that she left that elucidate life in the past for future generations of Alexandrians.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and to the wonderful community that loved and supported her.

Fran Bromberg
Acting City Archaeologist

Java Jolt Recap

By Whitney Stohr

On Saturday, May 24, FOAA invited Char McCargo Bah, Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson, Audrey Davis, James Henson and Christa Watters to discuss African American history in Alexandria and to share stories from their book, *African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century* (published in 2013).

Focusing on the period 1920 to 1965, the book compiles the life narratives of sixty-three influential African Americans who both impacted and inspired their local community and the wider City of Alexandria in such fields as law, medicine, religion, business, sports, science, the military, community service, and the arts. By standing up and speaking out during difficult times, each of the men and women included in the book became a “Beacon of Light” for the African American community and for future generations of Alexandrians.

During the Java Jolt, the authors presented selected narratives of individuals included in the book and expounded upon their contributions to the community and their place in local history. The authors captivated the audience with their lively stories of perseverance and courage in the face of adversity. Questions from the audience and a book signing concluded the discussion.

The book, **African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century** (2013), is available for purchase for \$19.99. <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/>



Shuter's Hill Laundry Yard

by Charles Simpson

In the past 15 years, the staff of Alexandria Archaeology and its volunteers and interns have been at work uncovering the homes that once stood on Shuter's Hill, behind the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The Shuter's Hill site has had multiple residents over the years. In the late 18th century, it was the home of a plantation owner. By 1850's the plantation house had burned down, and a new home was built on the property.

Over the years staff and volunteers have been busy uncovering the early plantation and the 1850s house. Of particular focus is the location of the original laundry. Staff and volunteers have uncovered numerous artifacts and features relating to both eras. Seeing how a site changes and evolves over time is of great interest to archaeologists.



features uncovered, after years of excavation at Shuter's, it was time for the staff to analyze the data collected.

For my internship, it was my responsibility to piece together the notes and other data regarding the laundry. I had to look into every field note and artifact catalog associated with the area where the laundry once stood. The purpose was to find out the role the laundry played in plantation life, as well as to better understand the laundering process during that time. Very little is known about old laundries in general. It is funny to think how we do laundry on a regular basis and think nothing of it, and have little research that tells us how people in the 18th century did their laundry. There is very little published material on laundry artifacts such as the ceramics or products used, or even detailed layouts of the buildings.

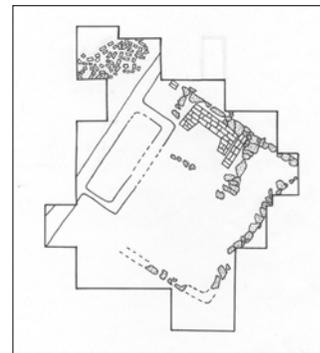
Looking over field notes, artifact catalogs, and maps to determine everything from feature inclusion, location of artifacts, and even the age of each level in a unit, I gathered

all the artifact data and put it into a system that could tell me the date and percentage of certain artifacts in each level and features per unit. Once that information was gathered, I worked with Garrett Fesler to help find a way to organize the data. We looked at the lowest levels and features to see how they related to one another.



We also counted artifacts such as buttons, straight pins, and buckles to see how many were present in each unit. This information is used to help understand how the placement of artifacts can reveal the laundering process. Information on placement of artifacts can tell us where the work was done and perhaps reveal the structure of the building.

After all the data was gathered, Garrett and I began to analyze the findings. Through my research, we hypothesized the location of a front entrance, window placement, a trash pit, a work area, ceramic and bottle storage location, and the ceramics and hardware used during the laundry process. The frequent appearance of plain creamware was significant. Creamware during the early 19th century had become very common but was associated with wealth and class. Over time new ceramics became fashionable among the affluent, and the old creamware pieces needed new owners. What was once valued middle class property became household items for slaves. Discoveries like this show us how people, society, and even the definition of wealth changes in a short period of time. I look forward to presenting these findings, to give everybody--archaeologists, laypeople, and historians alike--a better understanding of the 18th and 19th century plantation. Although a humble building like the laundry can be overlooked, compared to a kitchen or a main house, it is important to understand the property as a whole. Understanding something as simple as what dishes workers used or the direction the laundry faced can give us information on a culture that has been overlooked for a long time.



All's WELL in the Lab!

by Paul Nasca

Over the past few months, laboratory work at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum has focused on the artifacts newly excavated from the Old Town well site. Alexandria Archaeology's team of dedicated laboratory volunteers has been busy washing, bagging and identifying the 1000s of artifacts. The volunteers have enjoyed working with all of the early 19th-century artifacts and the public has been thrilled with experiencing the laboratory process firsthand. The number of nearly complete glass wine bottles, large fragments of ceramics, quantity of bones (mostly from the remains of meals, but from a lot of rats and cats, too!) and interesting metal objects has provided a great opportunity for volunteers to hone their identification skills, as well as engage the public in conversations about archaeology and preservation.

Thanks to the whole team of volunteers: Amanda Balough, Alianna Boszhardt, Jenny Caniglia, Stephanie Castellano, Bridgette Degnan, Peter Fitzmaurice, Sue Gagner, Renee Gondek, Alicia Guillama, Philippa Harrap, Olivia Head, Laura Hellwig, Heidi Krofft, Sarah MacEntee, Samantha Mitchell, Becca Peixotto, Mary Ray, Daniel Rosen, Shanna Roth, Julia Simon, Cindy Slaton, Whitney Stohr, Michael Stratmoen, and Sheila Wexler. Thanks also to Alexandria Archaeology interns Stephanie Grimes, Hannah Fitzmaurice, and Rebecca Siegal.

Work on the artifacts from the Old Town well site continues. If you would like to join the team of laboratory volunteers or would like to receive notices of future laboratory training sessions, please contact Paul Nasca at paul.nasca@alexandriava.gov. All are encouraged to stop in at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum to see the artifacts and the on-going work. Call ahead for a schedule: 703-746-4399.



Hannah Fitzmaurice and Cindy Slaton reassembling wine bottles recovered from the Old Town well site.

War of 1812 Exhibit

by Paul Nasca

There's a new exhibit at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum entitled On Monday Last...

The exhibit is part of the celebration to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the events that transpired here in Alexandria. The theme of the exhibit is constructed around the newspaper accounts of a dinner held on December 11, 1815, at Gadsby's Tavern in honor of Major General Andrew Jackson, the hero of the Battle of New Orleans. Prominent citizens and military leaders of Alexandria gathered to celebrate not only Jackson's honor (despite his absence) but



“tranquility at home and peace abroad,” since the war with Great Britain was over.



Paul Nasca and Beth Holford each hold a recently restored pitcher.

On display are several examples of commemorative wares from Alexandria Archaeology's collection that could have been in use at

the time of the 1815 dinner. Nearly all of the examples were recovered from excavations at or near Gadsby's Tavern. The one exception is a handsome refined stoneware pitcher with white cameo relief decoration that celebrates the Treaty of Ghent. The pitcher is on loan to the Alexandria Archaeology Museum from the McGuirk family of New York. Fragments from a slightly larger pitcher of identical color and decoration were recovered during salvage archaeology at the time of urban renewal on the Gadsby's Tavern block. The smaller pitcher has provided the necessary information for the fragments of the archaeologically recovered pitcher to be professionally restored.

Maryland based objects-conservator, Beth Holford of Holford Objects Conservation, LLC, accurately reconstructed the stoneware pitcher by mending the existing fragments and infilling the areas where there was loss. Guided by the McGuirk family pitcher, Beth carefully simulated the relief

continued on next page

decoration with white paint and fashioned and attached a new plaster handle to the archaeological specimen. The resulting work brings new life and a new perspective to the object. In addition to the stoneware pitcher, Beth conserved two other objects for Alexandria Archaeology - a pearlware

plate with a hand-painted eagle motif and a creamware pitcher portraying the likenesses of Captain Jacob Jones and General Zebulon Pike. Each restoration is remarkable. To see these objects and read more about the 1815 dinner celebration, stop in at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and view the exhibit.



Hard Times Token

by Hannah Fitzmaurice

In late May I began my high school Senior Experience volunteering at Alexandria Archaeology. On my first day I started out doing field work at Shuter's Hill, where I excavated what is known

as a Hard Times token. After doing some research, I found out that starting around 1837, the United States began to experience widespread economic hardship due to the banking crisis created by Andrew Jackson and his rejection of the Second Bank of the United States. As a result of various disagreements, the "small change" needed for everyday commerce was hard to come by, so tokens were issued by private sellers as a way to combat the problem. Local merchants began selling these tokens in order to make a profit as well as provide the necessary coinage that the government was not offering.

Hard Times tokens come in two major categories: political and advertising. These tokens served the purpose of making political commentaries or, in the case of the token I found, advertising a business. The token found in the ditch feature at Shuter's Hill was specifically created by Robinson's Jones & Co., a button manufacturing company based in Massachusetts, to advertise the medal they received in 1833 from the American Institute in New York for the quality of their metallic buttons. In 1836, the company was reorganized as R&W Robinson Co. and the tokens were reissued with the updated name. The token I found was one of the reissued pieces following the reorganization of the company.

On the obverse of the coin is an image depicting a seated liberty figure surrounded by an eagle perched on a shield, a spinning wheel, a ship in the background, and a bushel of

wheat as well as an overflowing cornucopia. Additionally, there is a caduceus, which is now seen as a medical symbol but was then also used to represent commerce. As a whole, these images come together to represent American agriculture, industry, and commerce at the time. On the reverse of the coin it states, "Copy of a gold medal awarded to R&W Robinson for the best military, naval, sporting, & plain flat buttons," and at the bottom the date "1836" is inscribed.

While this type of coin is relatively common given its prevalence during the era, it is nonetheless still valuable for the study of coins and for the ongoing study of what went on at Shuter's Hill. The token was found in a trench that was dug at the site of what is thought to be the laundry. The date on this coin provides a reference for all the other artifacts in the deposit because it alerts the archaeologists that this particular deposit must date sometime after 1836. The coin also helps to give some insight into those who frequented the laundry. An interesting feature of the coin is that it looks as if there was an attempt to pierce it; however it was never completely punched through. This may signify that someone was trying to create a sort of medallion to wear, and given that it was located in the laundry, it is possible that this person may have been enslaved. The image on the obverse of the coin is very patriotic and symbolic of abundance and freedom. For slaves who were oppressed, it may have served as a much-needed form of hope. Perhaps this token, with its depiction of prosperity and freedom, provided inspiration to persevere and remain optimistic for a better future.

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Tasting History!

By Paul Nasca

Is it possible to taste the past? Yes it is, if our new friends at Lost Rhino Brewing Company and Bluejacket Brewery get their way. You see, a few months ago, Alexandria Archaeology held a “Spring2ACTion” fundraiser to help conserve a beer barrel that has been tucked away in our artifact storage facility for nearly two decades. News of the conservation project was picked up by a local beer blog, DCBEER.com, and the word quickly spread throughout the beer enthusiast community. Shortly thereafter, Alexandria Archaeology was contacted by representatives from both Lost Rhino and Bluejacket asking if they could swab and sample the inside of the barrel for strains of preserved yeast and bacteria. Of course we said, “Yes!”

The barrel is a small oak cask of approximately 5-gallon capacity from the Washington Brewery Company. It dates to 1890-1917, and was recovered in the fall of 1994 during excavations of the lagering cellars at the former site of the Shuter’s Hill brewery – approximately where Duke and Dulany Streets now intersect. The preservation of the barrel is remarkable enough, but the potential for the barrel to preserve yeast and bacteria from the beer that it once contained is truly extraordinary. Microbiologists from Lost Rhino and Bluejacket are currently cultivating the samples that they have taken from the barrel. It will take six weeks or more to know if they are successful at recovering the historic microorganisms. If they are, we will be enjoying a real taste of the past when a new batch of beer is brewed with the samples!



Paul Nasca and microbiologist, Jasper Akerboom, of the Lost Rhino Brewing Co. with the Washington Brewery Company beer barrel.

Examining Piercy Earthenware

By Paul Nasca

Denice Dressel, a Heritage Resource Specialist with the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority, recently visited the Alexandria Archaeology Museum to investigate examples of earthenware

vessels produced by Alexandria’s earliest historic potter, Henry Piercy.

Piercy produced his Philadelphia-style wares in Alexandria from 1792-1809. He is

most noted for his slip-decorated pans, dishes and bowls; but he also produced a wide variety of plain undecorated utilitarian vessels like jars, pitchers, syrup jugs, tankards, chamber pots, and more. The Alexandria Archaeology Museum houses an extensive collection of his wares excavated from four different sites in Old Town.



Denice Dressel examines examples of Piercy earthenware.

Denice had two research goals in mind with her visit. The first was to examine the diversity of vessel forms produced by Piercy and available for sale to Alexandrians and those in neighboring communities. Her second goal was to compare fragments of earthenware recently unearthed in excavations at the Colchester town site, Fairfax County, to see if any of these could be attributed to Henry Piercy. Although it proved difficult to conclusively identify the small fragments as being made by Piercy, Denice’s research helped narrow down several fragments as being from the base of a large storage jar analogous to Piercy’s work. This evidence helps to further the understanding of Colchester during the town’s waning years, and the distribution of Henry Piercy’s wares outside of Alexandria.



Spring2ACTion Recap

by Whitney Stohr

On April 9, the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology participated in the 2014 Spring2ACTion crowd-funding initiative. The annual 24-hour online giving event to raise funds for Alexandria's nonprofit organizations. This year more than 7,500 individual donors generated a record-breaking \$1,031,282 for 121 organizations. Dozens of local restaurants and boutiques also participated by donating a percentage of their sales to a designated cause or the customer's choice of nonprofits.

As a new participant, FOAA led two fundraising efforts: one to raise funds for the conservation of a beer barrel discovered at the site of the Shuter's Hill Brewery on Duke Street, and another to fund scholarships for kids to attend Alexandria Archaeology's annual summer camp. In just 24 hours, through the crowd-funding platform, FOAA received \$1,745 in donations. FOAA expects to receive additional funds from sales generated at participating restaurants and businesses, in addition to a fund-matching grant donated by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

FOAA would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions: Lori Arbuckle, Jennifer Barker, Linda Berg, Katy Cannady, Thomas Cizauskas, Pam Cressey, Sean Crumley, Timothy Dennee, Garrett Fesler, Elizabeth Field, Marya Fitzgerald, Katherine Fogden, Peggy Harlow, Kevin Kelley, Laura Little, Donna Martin, Karisa Miller, Mary Jane Nugent, Kathi Overton, Garrett Peck, Councilwoman Del Pepper, John Pomeranz, Ted Pulliam, Mary Ray, Ruth Reeder, Jay Roberts, Kelsey Rooney, Ralph Rosenbaum, Alissa Shrider, Barbara Seaman, Ann Siegal, Julia Simon, Jeanne Springmann, Joyce Stevens, Jeffrey Stohr, Ruth Troccoli, Paula Whitacre, and Esther White.

Alexandria Archaeology on Twitter!

We have joined the Twitterverse! If you are on Twitter, you can follow us at @AlexArchaeology

If you are not familiar with it, Twitter is a micro-blogging site, with a maximum limit of 140 characters (that means letters, symbols and spaces). You don't need a Twitter account to see what we are posting. You can also go to the webpage <http://twitter.com/AlexArchaeology>

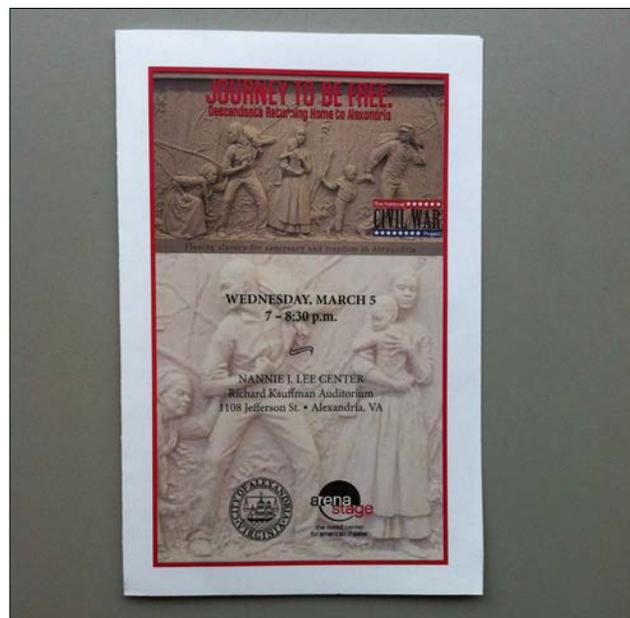
Journey to be Free: Descendants Returning Home to Alexandria

As part of the National Civil War Project, a radical multi-city, multi-year collaboration between four universities and five performing arts organizations, Arena Stage in partnership with the Office of Historic Alexandria hosted a performance and facilitated a community conversation commemorating the Alexandria Contrabands' and Freedmen's Cemetery. Historian C. R. Gibbs and the All Souls Choir performed a piece that explores the history of Alexandria, the cemetery and the evocative music of the period.

Thanks to the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and Friends of Alexandria Archaeology members, Becca Siegal, Whitney Stohr, Robert Colton, Jay Roberts, Mary Jane Nugent, Janice Magnuson, and Anna Lynch for serving as greeters, ushers, and stage hands, and to Peggy Harlow and Alissa Schrider for the PowerPoint shows.

"Thank you all for the work you have done to promote the Contrabands' & Freedmen's Cemetery Project. Last night was impressive. I think of all the people I have known over the years that have worked on this. You stand on their shoulders, you are all a tribute to their work, thank you. ~ Mary Jane"

"I was so overwhelmed with the luminaries for the families attending last night. A really lovely program--people seemed to really appreciate it. Having so many descendants attend was very special. ~ Pam Cressey"



Char Bah Puts the Spotlight on Alexandria's African American History

By Christa Watters



Char McCargo Bah has a passion for Alexandria's African American history and genealogy. Through her research, speaking, and writing on this topic, she has made a lasting contribution to our city.

Bah has researched and reported on the background of Alexandria's African American Community

for more than thirty years. She had a pivotal role in the publication of *African Americans of Alexandria Virginia – Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century* (History Press, 2013), which she co-authored with four other volunteers. Believing that the research and writing done in conjunction with a project for the Charles Houston Recreation Center to honor Alexandria African Americans could become a book, she found a publisher. She shepherded the group through writing the book proposal and marketing plan, which was accepted. Bah served as primary genealogical researcher for the book, which features the narratives of 63 African Americans who made a difference in the City during the years 1920 to 1965. It is the first substantial book of African American history of its kind published about Alexandria. It was Bah's idea that all author royalties and all profits from the sale of the book within the City's museum shops should go to the Office of Historic Alexandria to fund future African American History projects through the Alexandria Black History Museum.

Bah offered workshops and lectures at the Alexandria Black History Museum beginning in 1995, working as a volunteer until recently, when the museum began paying her to help with public inquiries about genealogy. From 1999 to 2005 she facilitated the Alexandria chapter of the Go On Girl Book Club at the museum. The club is a national organization focused on reading works by African American authors.

Also through the museum, she worked on *Hayti*, a newsletter about Alexandria's historically black neighborhoods. Out of that grew her blog, *The Other Alexandria*, about the projects she researches on Alexandria history: Parker Gray,

the Contrabands' and Freedmen's Cemetery, African American churches, and other topics. She also lectures across the country on her Alexandria research, and has often been interviewed on radio and television concerning her work in genealogy. Bah recently joined the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, which provides support to the Alexandria Black History Museum. She serves as membership chair.

Bah began volunteering with the Friends of the Freedmen's Cemetery in 1997. Based on her work in genealogy, she was hired in 2008 by Dr. Pamela Cressey, then Alexandria's City Archaeologist, to help find descendants of the people buried in the Freedmen's Cemetery. Cressey recalls that the day after hiring Bah and presenting her with a list of 1700 family names, Bah called back and said she had identified 50 to 100 family names that she recognized as possibly being descendants. Within two weeks Bah's genealogical research verified four more families. Since then, she has found the families of 130 of the deceased. Last year the City renewed Bah's contract to lead the continuing genealogical quest for descendants of people buried there.

Cressey said that thanks to Bah's research, the bronze tablets at the Alexandria Contraband's and Freedmen's Cemetery will have Descendant Family markers placed on the names of those buried there for whom descendants have been identified.

"Sometimes in life you have to stand for something that is meaningful and that can impact someone in a positive way. I would like to be remembered for helping people who did not know their history find it, giving them their past, and making their future brighter," Bah said, reflecting on why she spends so much time on genealogical research and gives so much time to volunteer efforts.

On October 22, 2013, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission awarded Char Bah the 2013 Ben Brenman Archaeology Award for Outstanding Genealogy, for her work on the Alexandria Contrabands' and Freedmen's Cemetery.

Audrey Davis, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, nominated Bah as a Living Legend. "Char Bah made a lasting contribution to our city through her genealogical research and pivotal role in the publication of *African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia – Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century*. She has helped give prominence to Alexandria's African American history," Davis said.

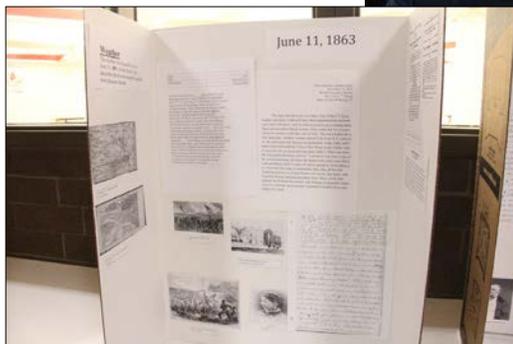
Julia Wilbur Diary Opens Up a New Adventure for East Chicago Teens

by Paula Whitacre

When Gale Carter, a teacher from East Chicago Central High School in Indiana, visited Alexandria Archaeology during a trip to the area, she joined the FOAA listserve.

That's how she learned about the Museum's project to transcribe portions of the diary of Julia Wilbur, an abolitionist who chronicled her time in Alexandria during the Civil War (see the winter issue of this newsletter for more details about the project).

Carter involved students in her History and Geography of the World course in the project. Each student transcribed a page, researched other sources that might shed light on the events recorded in the diary, and created displays to share their learning with others.



A student's project about Alexandria and Julia Wilbur on display at East Chicago Central High School.



Students and teachers from East Chicago High School in Indiana visited the Museum as part of a trip to learn more about Julia Wilbur and the Civil War in Alexandria and

In most schools, the class project would have ended there. However, Carter, media arts teacher Sanford Spann, II, and nine students raised money and visited Washington and Alexandria in June.

FOAA board member Paula Whitacre and the Museum's Oral History Coordinator Terilee Edwards-Hewitt hosted the group at the museum on June 21. They also met with Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and toured Old Town by foot and trolley.

Oral History Update

by Terilee Edwards-Hewitt

The oral history program conducted a training on May 17. Thank you to all our new volunteers who came to learn how to conduct interviews and transcribe recordings.

If you were not able to attend the training, there is no need to fret. Another training will be conducted in September or October.

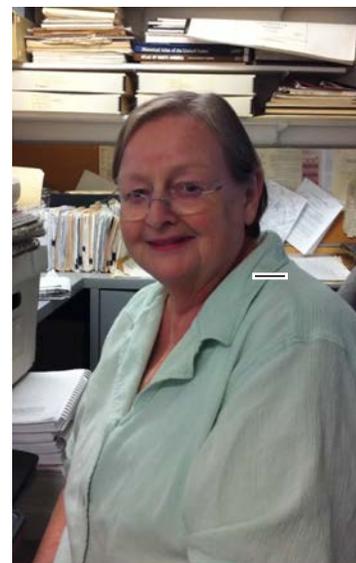
We are always looking for volunteers who would like to transcribe previously recorded interviews. And in the next few months we will be conducting some additional interviews of people from Alexandria.

Recent projects include transcriptions of people from the Parker-Gray neighborhood, as well as interviews of people who worked at Fort Ward Park when the park was first created in the 1960s.

If interested in being notified about the next training or to learn about upcoming oral history opportunities, please

contact Terilee Edwards-Hewitt via email at terilee.edwards-hewitt@alexandriava.gov

Tip of the hat to the following oral history volunteers: Laura Little and Sarah McEntee. Thank you for all your hard work and organizational skills!



Laura Little pictured above and Sarah McEntee at left.

Pam Cressey: on Being Grand Marshal



I never expected when I left California for my trek east to Virginia that I would be Grand Marshal at the George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria. I expected a nice quiet life teaching in a college town. In fact I was absorbed into a complex and active community, in which I was continually learn-

ing and growing. I learned from residents and volunteers, children and visitors, long-time owners of historic homes and newcomers in outlying townhouses and apartments, planners and architects, descendants of Alexandrians, and folks far and wide. It has been my privilege to learn and serve the city.

I am amazed and touched to have been selected for this honor. What a joy to be thanked by visitors and residents for helping to find, preserve, and share history of all Alexandrians from all times across the entire town. And what a joy to take on the task defined by the Archaeological Commission in 1975-- unique in America, if not the world - that was led by my incredible colleagues, the other city archaeologists and educators, and supported by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology and volunteers, all of us drawn together in our love of historic places and artifacts and our commitment to make them meaningful.

The greatest thrill for me at the parade was seeing the Friends' banner entering the parade route behind General Washington, with so many supporters walking behind wearing I Dig headbands and chanting "I Dig Alexandria!" Actually, ALL the people involved in envisioning and advocating for the value of keeping historic places, telling the stories of how this community dealt with changing times, digging/washing/preserving millions of artifacts, and bringing the lives of real people to light are being honored by the Grand Marshal title. It takes a community to make and sustain a community archaeology program.

I did not know that what we have accomplished over the decades was possible. We did it in the mysterious chaos of thousands of independent thoughts and actions joined in a consistent structure of empirical research and public opportunities, in a city which values protecting neglected graves, building memorials to those who were heroic in their accomplishments, and creating art and historic interpretation in new developments and parks.

Now, the fourth generation of archaeology in Alexandria moves forward. After Gen1 saved and restored Fort Ward, Gen2 saved thousands of artifacts along the King St. urban renewal blocks and established the Commission; then Gen3 mapped the city, developed professional practices and research, the museum and curation facility, established the Friends and the Heritage Trail, and studied the broader Fort Ward Park to recognize black heritage. Now what is next for Gen4?

Let's all support the Alexandria Archaeology staff, as well the Commission, Friends, and volunteers in creating Gen4, which takes us into the sixth decade of digging for meaning in Alexandria.

Public Comments on Alexandria Archaeology Volunteers & Staff

To Elizabeth Field, who found a lot of information on the Broadwaters of Alexandria:

“Thank you for the information. It was so nice that everyone was so helpful in wanting to go out of their way to help me. It's just nice to find stuff on past ancestors and see what they did. It was a good feeling to know that I may have been walking on the same grounds and area that my long past ancestors walked.

Thank you so much, Tom Broadwater, Washington State”

From the Guest Book:

Most exciting stop in Alexandria! Love it here!

Atlanta, Georgia

So much cool stuff!! Tokyo, Japan

Very informative. Stockwell, London

Very interesting. Great to experience our country's past.

Pittsburg, PA

Thank you Anna (Lynch)! Austin, TX

So interactive, interesting... staff were very informative!

Suwanee, GA

Learned so much! Thank you. North Berwick, Scotland

