

Spotlight on History

News from The Lyceum, Friendship Firehouse Museum & Historic Alexandria
Summer 2016

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History is now featured in The Lyceum's Coldsmith Gallery. This exhibition highlights The Lyceum's history, as well as its role today as a place for exploring Alexandria's past.

The historical objects and images on view represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator," think about why the various artifacts are in museum's collection, and about how these tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history.

Built by the Alexandria Lyceum and Library Company as a venue for educational pursuits, The Lyceum building opened in 1839. The Lyceum Company offered the public lectures, debates and concerts. This organization was founded by a group of educated civic leaders including Quaker schoolmaster Benjamin Hollowell, who is profiled in the exhibition. Among his many avocations, Hollowell collected specimens from nature, historical artifacts, and other items of interest that he exhibited in The Lyceum. Surviving specimens and his catalog of the collection are on view, as well as a journal of his lectures written in his own hand.

Museum visitors can also explore artifacts relating to commemorating or celebrating something important in someone's life, or that serve as a memento representing an organization, business, or event. For example, five



World War II service medals from a local soldier are on view, as well as a china pitcher promoting William Henry Harrison's campaign for the presidency, and a colorful hand-worked quilt commemorating the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History includes a variety of items providing a glimpse into different types of work in Alexandria since the community was founded in the 18th century. Objects range from circa 1796 wares marked by Alexandria silversmith Adam Lynn, a circa 1880 dresser manufactured by James F. Muir and Brothers, to a collage of original photographs, from the 1970s, that document the Alexandria, Barcroft & Washington Rapid Transit Company.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History will be on view through 2016.



***You can help save two important pieces of
Alexandria's history!***

The 1851 Rodgers Suction Engine and the 1858 Prettyman Hose Carriage were built for the Friendship Fire Company. After decades of hard use, they both have extensive wear, damage and deteriorating paint. City of Alexandria museum staff and the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association plan to restore both vehicles and preserve them for generations to come. A full restoration — including paint research, making repairs to wood and iron, finding or making replacements for missing pieces — will cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 per vehicle. Donate online at <http://bit.ly/donate2friendship>. Or donate cash, or by check, at the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Thank you!

Office of Historic Alexandria
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington Street

The Lyceum
Alexandria's History Museum
202 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.746.4994

www.alexandriahistory.org

Open Monday—Saturday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.,
Sunday 1—5 p.m.

Friendship Firehouse Museum
107 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.746.3891

www.friendshipfirehouse.net

Open Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

