

# The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

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**DATE:** Wednesday, October 26, 2016

**PLACE:** The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

**SPEAKER:** Charles T. Joyce, collector and writer on Civil War images, and labor union attorney

## LECTURE

### *What a Photograph Tells Us: Black Soldiers Fight for Equality on the Battlefield and in the Hospital*



A makeshift “Contraband Hospital” was established in early 1863 for the thousands of escaped slaves who had flocked to Alexandria following its occupation by Union troops in 1861. In January 1863 the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for African Americans to enlist in the Union army. With an influx of 180,000 African American men into Alexandria, the need for proper medical care for the entire African American population became critical, particularly since the Contraband Hospital was deemed a “loathsome place.” In February 1864 the Union army opened a new hospital complex in Alexandria—L’Ouverture Hospital—to treat black troops. The hospital was named after 18<sup>th</sup>-century Haitian revolutionary, Francois-Dominique Toussaint L’Ouverture, and also treated contrabands who poured into Alexandria seeking jobs, shelter and Union protection.

The historical photograph of the United States Colored Troops (USCT), taken by Francis Snow at L’Ouverture Hospital sometime between December 1864 and April 1865, is remarkable not only because such photographs are rare, but because each soldier is identified on the back. The names provide an unusual and unique opportunity to determine what happened to each man following the Civil War. Please join us for a lecture by Charles T. Joyce, who will describe how he traced the history of each man in the photograph and what he learned about each of their fates.

Charles T. Joyce is a life-long student of the Civil War, and he has been collecting and writing about Civil War images since 1999. He began collecting images about 25 years ago. Mr. Joyce is currently focusing on photographs of soldiers killed, wounded or captured at the Battle of Gettysburg, and on original stereoviews taken of the battlefield. He was a guest researcher for the Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. He is also a labor union attorney in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Doors open at 7:00 PM—seating is limited, so please arrive early. The program is free to members of the Alexandria Historical Society and \$5 for non-members. An on-site membership table will provide an opportunity to join the Society. Parking is limited at The Lyceum, but there are garages nearby as well as street parking.

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### Special AHS Member-Only Event at Ivy Hill Cemetery!

Join Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria, for a special lecture that will be held in the rarely seen 19<sup>th</sup>-century vault at historic Ivy Hill Cemetery! The lecture takes place on **November 1, 2016, 7:00 PM**, and is entitled ***Rest on Embalmed and Sainted Dead: The Development of Embalming Practice during the Civil War***. The lecture traces how new embalming practices allowed Civil War soldiers' bodies to be returned home to their families and is co-sponsored by the Alexandria Historical Society and Ivy Hill Cemetery. Seating is strictly limited to 30 and advance reservations are required (\$10 per person). November 2, 2016 has been set up for an additional lecture if the first lecture is filled. Ivy Hill Cemetery is located at 2823 King St., Alexandria, VA.

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### Other Events in Alexandria

**October 20, 2016: *Troubled Refuge: Struggling for Freedom in the Civil War***. Join the Alexandria Black History Museum (902 Wythe St., Alexandria, VA) for a free lecture and book signing by noted historian Chandra Manning on conditions in the contraband camps. By the end of the Civil War nearly half a million slaves had taken refuge behind Union lines. The camps were crowded and dangerous places, yet some 12-15% of the Confederacy's slave population took almost unimaginable risks to reach them. The lecture discusses what the camps were really like and how former slaves and Union soldiers warily united there. The lecture is at 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM).

**November 12, 2016: *Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting History—A Walking Tour***. The tour begins at Friendship Firehouse (107 South Alfred St., Alexandria, VA) at 11:00 AM and ends at 1:00 PM. Participants will learn about volunteer firefighting in early Alexandria and 3 devastating fires as well as view 3 of Alexandria's 5 fire companies. After the tour, which ends at Columbia Firehouse Restaurant, grab lunch and continue to discuss firehouse history! The cost is \$10 per person (lunch is not included) and the tour is suitable for ages 10 and older.

**March 22, 2017: *World War I History***. Please join AHS at The Lyceum at 7:30 PM (201 South Washington St., Alexandria, VA) for a lecture by James Bartlinski on Lloyd D. Schaeffer, a decorated World War I aviator and former owner of the Carlyle House (who saved it from the wrecking ball).

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
NEWSLETTER

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The AHS Newsletter is published by the Alexandria Historical Society, Inc., and mailed free to members. To join the Society, submit your check made payable to "Alexandria Historical Society," together with your name, address, and telephone numbers, to the Alexandria Historical Society, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Annual dues are: \$10.00, Student; \$20.00, Single; \$30.00, Couple; \$50.00, Sustaining; and \$100.00, Patron. The membership year is July to June. Dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The purpose of the Society shall be to promote an active interest in American history and particularly in the history of Alexandria and of Virginia.  
The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes.

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