

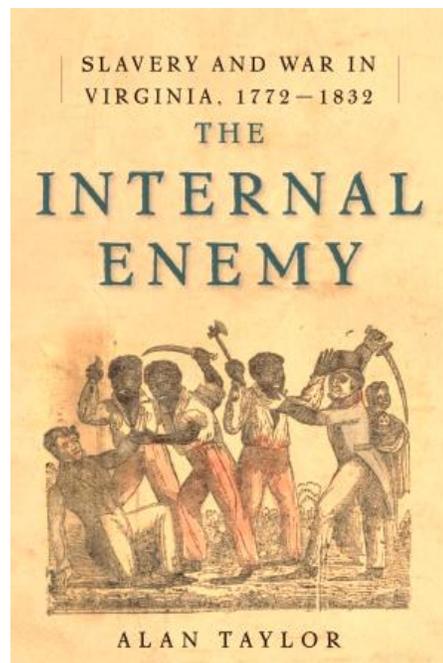
DATE: Tuesday, May 6, 2014
PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria
TIME: 7:30 PM
SPEAKER: Professor Alan Taylor, Pulitzer and Bancroft prize winner and Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Chair, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia

WAR OF 1812 LECTURE

“The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772 - 1832”

On Tuesday May 6, 2014, the Alexandria Historical Society and The Lyceum will jointly sponsor a lecture by University of Virginia professor, author and historian Alan Taylor. He recently won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832* (he won another Pulitzer Prize in 1996) and is also a Bancroft prize winner and one of the most respected authorities on early American history. His remarks will focus on his new book, which was published in September 2013 and quickly became a finalist for the 2013 Book of the Year award.

Building on years of research Professor Taylor, a compelling speaker and fluid writer, recounts how Virginia—from before the American Revolution through the Civil War—was



confronted by the institution of slavery. Taking seriously Thomas Jefferson’s appeal to human equality and universal freedom, slaves resented their bondage more than ever in the aftermath of the American Revolution. They then became “the internal enemy.” Recognizing this hypocrisy Jefferson declared “... we have the wolf by the ears and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go.”

The arrival of the British military in the Tidewater region during the War of 1812 exacerbated the situation demanding Virginians to simultaneously confront both enemies—the King’s forces and the potential of a massive slave rebellion. Thousands of slaves fled to the British, and about 400 of these escapees enlisted in a special battalion known as “The Colonial Marines” and fought alongside British forces against the Americans. Conversely, many Afro-Americans who had already gained their freedom fought valiantly alongside American forces against the external enemy to preserve their hard-gained liberty.

Professor Taylor will have his book available for sale and signing after the lecture.



The event is free to Alexandria Historical Society members and \$5 for all others. Reservations may be made by members at <http://alexandriahistoricalsociety.org> under “events.” Reserved seating for AHS members will be held until 5 minutes before the lecture begins. For persons desiring to purchase tickets beforehand, go to <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx>

30th Annual Alexandria History Awards Ceremony

Wednesday—April 23rd—The Lyceum – 201 S. Washington St.—7:30 PM

Please join us on Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:30 PM at The Lyceum on 201 South Washington Street for the Alexandria Historical Society's 30th Annual History Awards Ceremony. The awards are presented to individuals who have made major contributions to the appreciation of local history. This year we are privileged to have two outstanding speakers to present the awards:



Dr. Douglas Bradburn, a noted history scholar and the new founding director of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Bradburn holds a B.A. in History and a B.S. in Economics from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago. As the new director, Dr. Bradburn will lead efforts to make a new library the premier center for scholarly research of George Washington and his role in shaping a modern representative democracy.

Father Tom Ferguson, 1984 student award winner from Bishop Ireton High School will present the Alexandria High School History Awards. Father Ferguson is the Episcopal Vicar for Faith Formation in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and Pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He will speak briefly on the way in which his early interest in history has influenced his life's work.



Steve Vogel will receive the Alexandria Historical Society's T. Michael Miller Award. He is a long-time Alexandrian, a former reporter for *The Alexandria Port Packet*, the *Alexandria Journal* and *The Washington Post*. His recent book is a superbly narrated and rapidly-paced account of the military activities in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. *Through the Perilous Flight: Six Weeks That Saved the Nation* recreates the events of the War of 1812 that led to the burning of the Capitol, President's Mansion (the present-day White House) and the subsequent attack on Baltimore and bombardment of Fort McHenry. Having witnessed the destruction in Washington and facing a threatening British naval squadron off its shore, Alexandria had little choice but to acquiesce to British demands to seize merchandise and supplies stored in its warehouses, averting an attack on the city.



Mary Ruth Coleman is the recipient of the Alexandria Historical Society Special History Award for her extraordinary performance as Director of Carlyle House Historic Park and for finding creative ways to build public support for Alexandria history. She successfully helped to lead a Friends group, was the executive producer of a documentary film, *Paper and Stone* and is a past president of the Alexandria Historical Society.

Alexandria High School History Award Recipients

Bridgette Degnan, Bishop Ireton High School

Rice Tyler, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School

Tezeta Tamrat, T.C. Williams High School

India Gray Nix, Episcopal High School

A reception, with refreshments, will follow the program.

AHS Spring Lecture Schedule

April 30: The Battle of the White House in 1814 – and America’s first response to the burning of Washington.

On Wednesday April 30, 2014, The Lyceum and the Alexandria Historical Society will jointly sponsor a lecture by Historian and Archaeologist Patrick O’Neill on *The Battle of the White House in 1814*. The lecture will begin at 7:30 PM. This particular battle was not fought at the present-day White House, known in 1814 as the President’s House or Mansion when British forces torched it and other public buildings, including the U.S. Capitol. The white house where this battle took place was actually the old William Fairfax customs house on Belvoir Neck just south of Mount Vernon on the Virginia bank of the Potomac River. The battle O’Neill will describe was an intense 5-day attack on 7 British warships descending the Potomac River almost a week after the British burned Washington, and after their capture of Alexandria, looting the warehouses, and capturing 21 sailing craft moored or sunk at City docks.

After the devastation British inflicted on Washington, proper, several hundred American Navy personnel under the command of Commodore John Rodgers and Captains David Porter and Oliver Hazard Perry assisted by Virginia, Maryland, and District militia were directed to “annoy or destroy” the British squadron. Both the British and American forces fought valiantly and many (including several Alexandrians) were killed and wounded. Jay Robert, author of *Rivers and Trails*, writes in his Blog that in his talk, O’Neill illustrates why these five days were important locally and nationally and gives an excellent account of the battle’s unfolding.



A 30-year independent Historian and Archaeologist living in Burke, Virginia, Patrick O’Neill has been conducting research on the War of 1812 for more than a decade. He received a B.S. in Anthropology from Kansas State University and a M.A. in History from West Texas A&M. His book on the battle is pending publication. *Free for members of the Alexandria Historical Society and \$5 for all others.*

May 20: Rosie the Riveter. Mary Ann Jung, lead actress and Director of Renaissance History and Shakespearean Language at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, will perform the role of Rosie the Riveter using authentic and very entertaining World War II costumes, accents and attitudes. *Free for all.*

June 25: African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century. Professional genealogist for the Alexandria Legacies Freedmen’s Cemetery Descendants Project Char McCargo Bah, freelance writer and editor Christa Watters, acting director of the Alexandria Black History Museum Audrey Davis, retired government worker Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson and retired attorney James E. Henson, Sr. will discuss the harrowing narratives of African Americans who shaped Alexandria. *Free for all.*

Other Events

April 30: To Serve the Living: Funeral Directors and the African American Way of Life. The Alexandria Black History Museum will host Professor Suzanne Smith of George Mason University, whose lecture explores the central role of funeral directors in African American life and how African American funeral homes even played a part in the civil rights movement. *To Serve the Living* was a finalist for Best Non-Fiction at the Library of Virginia’s 14th Annual Literary Awards. The lecture will take place at 902 Wythe Street on April 30th at 7:00 PM. Street parking is available. For more information, please call 703.746.4356. *Free for all.*

Through June 2014: Beyond the Battlefield Exhibition. The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden at 614 Oronoco Street has an exhibit that portrays its role on medical care during the Civil War. From 1862 to 1865, the house served as a Union hospital under the direction of Chief Surgeon Edwin Bentley during the occupation of Alexandria. The exhibit features a hospital room with medicines on display and an intricate diorama of miniature soldiers that depict how they were transported from the battlefield. Admission is \$3. Please call the museum for more information and museum hours at 703.548.1789.
