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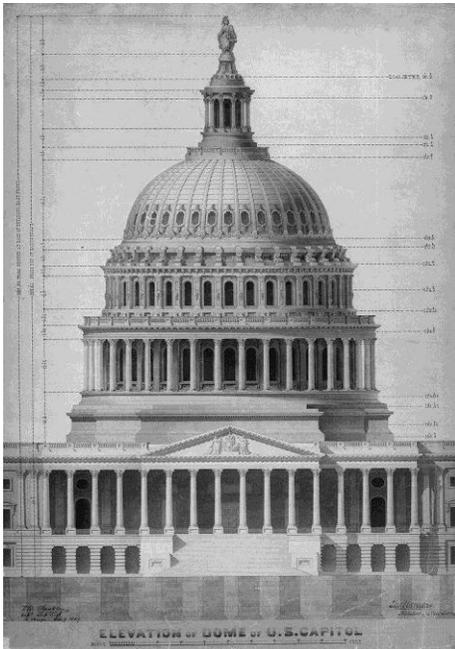
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2013
PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia
TIME: 7:30 PM
SPEAKERS: Guy Gugliotta, Awarding Winner Author and Reporter

April 18th Lecture – “The US Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War”

On Thursday, April 18th at 7:30 PM at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, award winning author and reporter Guy Gugliotta will give a lecture on “The US Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War.”



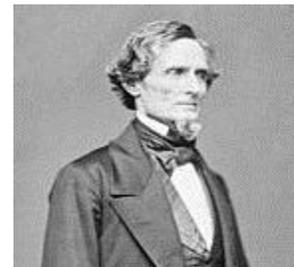
Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol

In the 1850s, Washington DC was still young. The Union was rapidly growing with the addition of new states and the US Capitol building was clearly inadequate to house the new members and conduct the business of government. In spite of what would prove to be fatal flaws contained in the Compromise of 1850, Congress authorized a massive redesign and expansion of the US Capitol to symbolize a united nation with a glorious future.

In “*Freedom’s Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War*,” Guy Gugliotta brings a very different story to life:

the transformation of the Capitol during the 1850s from the relatively unprepossessing original to the grand structure we know today, a reconstruction and expansion that climaxed with the positioning of the statue “Freedom” at the top of the

dome in 1863. Among the many tidbits Mr. Gugliotta shares is that the transformation of the Capitol was largely the political work of the junior senator from Mississippi and later Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, who proposed the project and who, by the time “Freedom” was hoisted into place, was President of the Confederacy.



Courtesy of the National Archives

Guy Gugliotta covered Congress during a sixteen-year career as a national reporter for *The Washington Post*. He has written for *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Wired*, *Discover* and *Smithsonian*. He is coauthor of *Kings of Cocaine*. Mr. Gugliotta will have hardback copies of his book for sale and signing after the lecture.

May Lecture – “Sorrow Across the Land: The Aftermath of Fredericksburg”

On May 22nd John Hennessey, a 25-year veteran of the National Park Service and currently the Chief Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg will lecture.

Please join us for the

2013 Annual Alexandria History Awards

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

7:30 PM

The Lyceum

201 South Washington Street

The 2013 Alexandria History Awards will be presented by Dr. Pamela J. Cressey

C. Richard Bierce

will receive the

2013 T. Michael Miller History Award

Special Merit Awards will be given to Ann Graham and Al Cox

Alexandria Historical Society High School History Awards

will be presented to:

Alexander Eichner – T.C. Williams High School

Martin V. Sharp, Jr. – Episcopal High School

Ronald J. Wiltsie – Bishop Ireton High School

Catherine Coulter – St. Stephen’s/St. Agnes Upper School

Short Lectures by Dr. Pamela J. Cressey, Former City Archaeologist

Mr. Phillipe L.B. Halbert, 2006 High School History Award Recipient

A reception, with refreshments, will follow the program.

Winner of the 2013 T. Michael Miller History Award



Mr. C. Richard Bierce, AIA, has spent the bulk of his career as an independent historical architect and preservation consultant, working on many sites in Alexandria, Annapolis and around the DC Metro area. He is a firm believer that architects are obliged to give back to their communities and their profession. As such, he has been involved with architectural professional societies, served on municipal review boards, and assisted various historical societies in Virginia and Maryland.

Richard Bierce came to Alexandria in 1973 to oversee two projects for the 1976 Bicentennial: the restoration of the Carlyle House Historic Park and the adaptive use rehabilitation at Gadsby's Tavern for the museum, restaurant and Legion Hall. He has continued preservation efforts over the years as the City Historic Resources Director, working for the National Trust and as a Preservation Consultant for various historic sites in Alexandria including the Lloyd House, St. Paul's Church, the Alexandria Academy, the Bank of Alexandria and private residences. Mr. Bierce also volunteers his time and assistance to historic sites and boards throughout Northern Virginia.

Richard Bierce was born in Iowa and raised in Tucson, Arizona. He attended the University of Arizona, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, and Columbia University, where he earned a Master's of Science in Architecture/Preservation. He teaches students at Goucher College, George Washington University, The University of Arizona and Virginia Tech.

Mr. Bierce is not able to attend the April awards ceremony and will receive his award at the Alexandria Historical Society's annual meeting on May 22nd.

Special Merit Award Winners

This year the Alexandria Historical Society recognizes two exceptional individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the knowledge of Alexandria's history and preservation of the City's historic neighborhoods. Ann Graham is being recognized for her book, *"Bounden Duty of the Progeny, A History: Robert E. Lee Camp, #726 Sons of Confederate Veterans."* Al Cox, FAIA, LEED AP, is being honored for his work as a City Architect in Code Administration and the Planning department for his tireless commitment to maintaining the historic integrity of Alexandria's neighborhoods.

High School Award History Winners

Alexandria High School History Award recipients are Alexander Eichner of T.C. Williams High School, Martin V. Sharp, Jr., of Episcopal High School, Ronald J. Wiltsie of Bishop Ireton High School and Catherine Coulter of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School. The awards are presented to high school students who have shown exceptional achievement in the study of American History.

About the Speakers



Dr. Pamela J. Cressey, Ph.D., is the former City Archaeologist for Alexandria, Virginia and pioneer in the field of Urban Archaeology. She retired in December 2012 after 36 years with the City. Dr. Cressey directed a variety of studies and preservation activities including the excavation, analysis and publication of materials from the plantation at Shuter's Hill near the George Washington Masonic Memorial as well as work on the Alexandria Heritage Trail, the Alexandria Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial project and related initiatives.

During Dr. Cressey's distinguished tenure, Alexandria Archaeology became the first recipient of the prestigious "Daniel G. Robert Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology," an honor in recognition of Alexandria's fifty years of dedication to excellence in city-sponsored public archaeology. She also authored two books on Alexandria: *"Ride and Bike the Alexandria Heritage Trail"* and *"Alexandria, Virginia, Digging for the Past."* In 2009, Dr. Cressey was nominated a Living Legend of Alexandria for her contributions—which are too numerous to list here—to the City's heritage and historic preservation efforts and is a past recipient of both the Alexandria Historical Society History Award and the Alexandria Commission for Women Award. Dr. Cressey has also been a Professorial Lecturer at The George Washington University for many years.



Mr. Philippe L.B. Halbert is the 2006 recipient of the Alexandria Historical Society High School History Award for Bishop Ireton High School. Since graduation in 2007, he has continued to demonstrate a passion and commitment to history by earning a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, from The College of William and Mary in both French and Francophone Studies and History, with a Certificate in Early American History and Material Culture. Mr. Halbert is continuing his studies at the University of Delaware, where he will receive a Master of Arts in American Material Culture.

The number of history-related positions, internships and other activities in which Mr. Halbert has engaged over the last several years is nothing less than astounding. He is currently a Lois F. McNeil Fellow at the Winterthur Museum, a two-year graduate fellowship in American Material Culture. Mr. Halbert is also a curatorial intern at the Stenton Historic House Museum in the Greater Philadelphia area and continues his work as a museum aid and event supervisor for six of the City of Alexandria's museums. In the past, he has been a museum supervisor with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, a curatorial consultant at James Madison's Montpelier, an evening program interpreter for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a substitute site supervisor at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

President's Message

Dear Society member:

This is our second newsletter of 2013 and what follows are several matters of importance to our organization.

Loss of a key member of the Alexandria Historical Society Board (AHS)

It is with great sadness that I inform you Peggy Gross, Vice President of AHS, passed away suddenly on March 26, 2013. For only nine years Peggy, a senior manager with the US Department of State, called Alexandria her home away from home. In that relatively short period she involved herself in a wide variety of civic activities including not only with AHS but also as President of The Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society. In her role as AHS Vice President, Peggy led the effort to revise the AHS Constitution and by-laws as well as developing the 2011-2013 lecture series. Balancing a very demanding career while contributing greatly to a variety of civic activities was Peggy's style – an example of what being a citizen resident of her adopted City is all about. She also was mother of five children and 20 grandchildren. Peggy's funeral was in Wausau, Wisconsin, with burial in Minneapolis, Minnesota where some of her family reside. A memorial service honoring Peggy will be held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum soon.

AHS Board of Directors election and need for assistance

Prior to our June lecture, we will convene our Annual Membership Meeting and, at that time hold elections for members of the AHS Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Linda Greenburg, Chair of the nominating committee. We also are in need of persons (who may or may not choose to be on the Board) who would be:

1. The AHS Webmaster,
2. Chair, AHS Public Relations and Marketing
3. Chair, AHS Fundraising

Call me if you are interested and have questions about what is involved in these functions.

Initiatives and Future Plans

The AHS Board is in the midst of planning for the Societies future. We are meeting with other historical societies in the DC region to ascertain how we can better work with and learn from each other. Lectures, tours, special events, and financial assistance to worthy projects relating to Alexandria's history are all possibilities. Give me a call if you have ideas. As always Linda Greenberg, editor of *The Alexandria Chronicle* seeks research based original articles on historical events that occurred in, near, or that impacted Alexandria. Contact Linda regarding the *Chronicle* or if you have recommendations of persons to serve on the AHS Board. She may be reached at 703-461-6992 or lindaroseveargreenberg@comcast.net.

Regards

Bill Dickinson
President, Alexandria Historical Society
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**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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.alexandriahistorical.org



**201 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**