

# The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

---

VOLUME XXXII

NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013

---

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 27, 2013

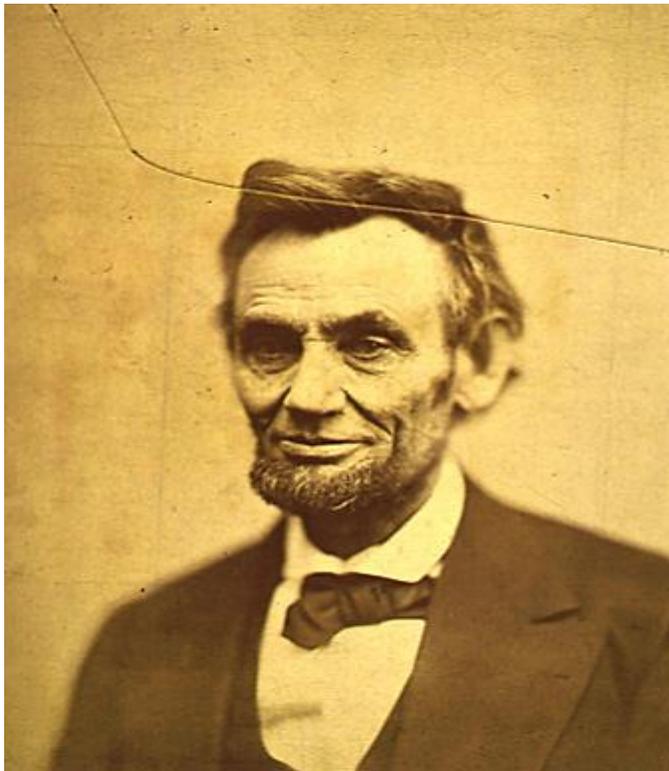
**PLACE:** The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Richard Striner, Ph.D., Professor of History, Washington College,  
Chestertown, Maryland

## “Lincoln, the Confederacy, Slavery and States’ Rights: Examining the Facts, Seeking the Truth”

What were the real intentions of all of the parties to the debate on slavery and states’ rights? Was President Lincoln’s highest priority saving the Union or ending slavery? Did the Confederacy seek not only to preserve or expand slavery but also states’ rights? The passage of nearly 150 years since Abraham Lincoln’s death has not quelled the ongoing debates about his life and work.



Professor Richard Striner offers a fresh and provocative portrait of Lincoln that helps us make sense of his many contradictions. Abraham Lincoln is one of the most compelling figures of our history as well as one of the most enigmatic.

A Professor of History at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, Dr. Striner teaches American history survey courses, upper-level courses in American history from the Civil War to World War II as well as on films as historic documents.

Alexander Gardner took this photo on February 5, 1865, only two months before President Lincoln’s assassination

His most recent books are *Lincoln and Race* (Southern University Press, 2012), *Supernatural Romance in Film: Tales of Love, Death, and the Afterlife* (McFarland, 2011), *Lincoln's Way: How Six Great Presidents Created American Power* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010) and *Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to End Slavery* (Oxford, 2006). He wrote the cover story on economics for the December 2011 issue of *The American Scholar* ("How to Pay For What We Need"). Dr. Striner is a regular contributor to the on-line *New York Times* "Disunion" series, which covers the Civil War, and he has written commentaries for *The Washington Post* and CNN.COM. He has also appeared as an author and public affairs commentator on NPR.



---

### **Alexandria Historical Society is Now on Facebook!**

Keep up with the latest news from AHS, including upcoming lectures, events and historical tidbits, on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com/alexandriahistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/alexandriahistoricalsociety) and click on "Like" to follow the organization.

---

### **April Lecture**

On Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at The Lyceum, the Alexandria Historical Society will sponsor a lecture by award winning reporter and writer, Guy Gugliotta, on his recent book *Freedom's Cap*. It is the story of the 1850's expansion of the U.S. Capitol, the coming of the Civil War and the amazing and ironic role played by Jefferson Davis in pursuing the expansion project. Guy's book was selected by Jonathan Yardley of *The Washington Post* as one of the best 11 books (both fiction and non-fiction) for 2012.

---

### **Save the Date!**

Each year in April, the Alexandria Historical Society presents the T. Michael Miller History Award to an individual or individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural and artistic heritage of Alexandria. This year's ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at The Lyceum. In addition, outstanding history students from each of Alexandria's four high schools are given an Alexandria High School History Award based on the recommendations of their teachers. From time to time, Special Awards are given as well.

We are very excited about this year's speakers! Philippe Halbert was the winner of the High School History Award for Bishop Ireton High School in 2006. Dr. Pamela J. Cressey was the City Archaeologist for Alexandria for over 35 years and was the 1999 recipient of AHS's History Award.

This year's winners will be announced soon on [www.alexandriahistorical.org](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org)!

---

## AHS President's Message:

Dear members:

On February 26, 2013 the Alexandria City Manager presented the proposed City budget for fiscal year 2014. We encourage all Society members to carefully read the section pertaining to further reductions in the resources recommended for the Office of Historic Resources and related activities. This information may be found at <http://alexandriava.gov/Budget>. Please pay particular attention to the narrative starting on page 17-1. Increasing our citizens' understanding of Alexandria's rich history and prudent investments in its preservation and interpretation results in great benefits to the entire community. Data compiled by the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, for example, showed that over the last 5 years visitor spending in Alexandria has increased 22%, dramatically outpacing Virginia and other locations in Northern Virginia. Visitors to the City support over 6,000 jobs as well as increases in City tax revenues. We believe that much of the City's attraction to tourists and as a desirable place in which to live is its rich and vibrant history as well as access to well maintained and professionally interpreted historic sites. We encourage you to contact City Council members regarding your views on the proposed budget.

This past December the AHS website ([www.alexandriahistorical.org](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org)) was "hacked" – in other words destroyed by an unknown source. This resulted in loss of many materials stored on this site including past issues of the *Alexandria Chronicle*. Over the last several months, thanks to the creative work of Board member Lisa Adamo, we have been able to restore the site and include new materials. We will continue this upgrade process recognizing that increasingly websites are becoming the primary source of information for many people and that communications solely through the postal mail system is both slow and costly. We now have E-mail addresses from roughly half of our members and will increasingly use E-mails to keep these members apprised of history-related events in Alexandria and the nearby region as well as reminding them when to renew their membership. **If we do not have your E-mail address, please provide it to me ([bill.c.dickinson@gmail.com](mailto:bill.c.dickinson@gmail.com)).** Be assured we do not share your E-mail address with others, nor do we store it on our website. We will continue to mail this newsletter and the *Chronicle* for now and in the fall of 2013 we will offer members the option of downloading the newsletter and the *Chronicle*. Those who want a hard copy will continue to receive these materials upon request.

We are always seeking interesting articles about Alexandria and its environs for publication in our monograph, the *Alexandria Chronicle*. While we read frequently about colonial society or the Civil War in Alexandria, and we welcome articles on these subjects, we would very much appreciate articles that deal with the times in between these seminal events. If you have a manuscript or ideas for such an article, please contact the *Chronicle* editor, Linda Greenberg, at 703.461.6992 or [lindarosefeargreenberg@comcast.net](mailto:lindarosefeargreenberg@comcast.net)

Regards

Bill Dickinson, President

**ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
NEWSLETTER**

**201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**

**President: Bill Dickinson, 703.370.3089**

**Newsletter Editor: Jackie Cohan, 703.746.4753**

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](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org)**



---

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