

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

DATE: Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

SPEAKER: John Hennessy, Chief Historian, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

May 22nd Lecture

Sorrow Across the Land—The Aftermath of Battles Around Fredericksburg

Alexandria played a unique role during the Civil War, remaining under military occupation by the Union for the entire conflict. The city became the key supply, hospital and transportation center for the Union Army.

Please join us for an engaging lecture to explore how the battles around Fredericksburg reverberated beyond the fields themselves: the ordeal of the wounded, the trails and trains of suffering to Alexandria hospitals, the immense efforts to preserve human lives by those on the ground and how the human impact of these events echoed to homes and communities across America.



Attack on Fredericksburg
Library of Congress print (source unknown)



Our lecturer, John Hennessy, is a 25-year veteran of the National Park Service and a 5-year veteran of the New York State Historic Preservation Office. He has been involved all the while in the development of interpretive media and programs for the public. He is currently **Chief Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park** in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he has worked since 1995. Hennessy is the author of three books, most notably *Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas* (Simon and Schuster, 1993). Among his other publications are more than 100 reviews, essays and articles on everything from the preservation of New York historic urban areas to the exodus of slaves from central Virginia in 1862 and the legacy of the Civil War in modern society.

C. Richard Bierce to Receive the 2013 T. Michael Miller History Award on May 22, 2013, 7:30 P.M.



At our annual meeting on May 22nd at The Lyceum, C. Richard Bierce, AIA, will receive the 2013 T. Michael Miller History Award. Mr. Bierce was unable to attend the April awards ceremony, so please join us in celebrating his years of preservation efforts on behalf of Alexandria, Annapolis and the DC Metro area.

June 26th Lecture

Our June lecturer is Charles V. (Chuck) Mauro, local historian from Fairfax who writes about the Alexandria area with a frequent focus on the Civil War. He is the author of *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*, which also serves as the title of his upcoming lecture.

The 29th Annual History Awards Ceremony

Thanks to the leadership of Board members Debbie Ackerman, Audrey Davis and Lisa Adamo April's History Awards Ceremony drew a record number of people who attended the event to celebrate with winners Alexander Eichner, Martin V. Sharp, Jr., Ronald J. Wiltsie, Catherine Coulter, Al Cox and Ann Graham. The speakers were Dr. Pamela Cressey, former City Archaeologist and our 1999 History Award recipient, and Phillippe Halbert, recipient of the 2006 High School History Award. Photos by Tal Day.



President's Message – May 2013 Newsletter

As was indicated in last month's newsletter, Peggy Gross, Vice President of our Society passed away suddenly on March 26, 2013. In addition to that position Peggy was also President of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society. Appropriately there will be a memorial service at the Museum for her with friends and family on Thursday, May 23 at 2 PM. All are invited to attend to share stories and celebrate Peggy's life.

To assist the Board in planning future events, in next month's newsletter we will request all our members to participate in an online survey to ascertain how we as a Society are doing, your thoughts about future programs, and ideas on how you can contribute to our organization's future. In that same newsletter the nominating committee will list their slate of new officers for the 2013-14 year. Nominations may be made from the floor at our June 26 annual meeting followed by a lecture. In September 2013 we plan to shift to a totally new website which will provide Society members with the opportunity to pay membership dues online, purchase tickets for special events and enjoy a variety of other offerings. If you have ideas for future programs (lectures, tours, special events), please contact Paul Friedman, the Board member now responsible for programs. Paul may be reached at pfriedman@votekids.org.

Printing and postal mailing costs continue to increase while membership in our society and thus our revenue remain fairly constant. About half of our members have already shared their email addresses with us (we will not release our list to others without your okay). If you have not done so already, please provide me with your e-mail by sending it to bill.c.dickinson@gmail.com. This way we can communicate with you electronically. Be assured the Society will continue to provide members who choose not to use email with information about lectures etc. through the postal mail.

Regards

Bill Dickinson

To further reduce mailing costs, we would appreciate your mailing in the renewal application and payment without waiting for a renewal notice in the mail. Our plans are to allow you to make payment via credit card via our website beginning probably in the fall of 2013.

Please make your check payable to Alexandria Historical Society and mail it with the form below to:

Alexandria Historical Society

The Lyceum.

201 South Washington Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Regular dues (July 2013 to June 30, 2014)..... \$10 Student; \$20 Single; \$30 Couple; \$50 Sustaining; and \$100, Patron

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

**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



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