

Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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A STROKE OF GOOD FORTUNE: MY CAREER WITH ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

by Steven J. Shephard, Ph.D. RPA

It is amazing to me that I have worked for Alexandria Archaeology for thirty-one years.

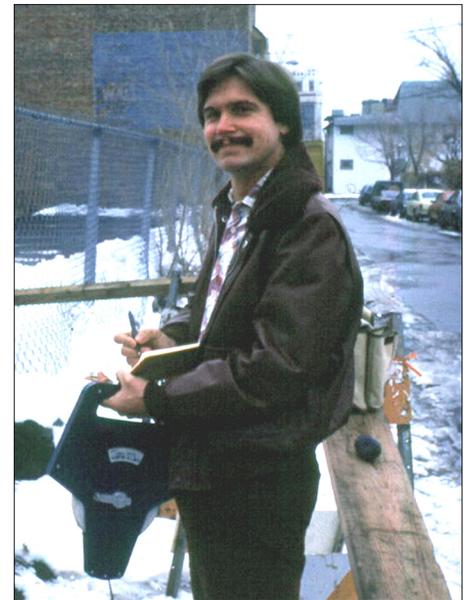
It does seem like a long time since I arrived as a 28-year-old after completing my coursework for a Ph.D. degree from Southern Illinois University. I knew that taking the archaeologist position with the City would hinder the completion of my dissertation, but the job was an opportunity I could not turn down. It was a decision I have never regretted. My work has certainly changed and been varied through the years. I always directed field work, but have also been volunteer coordinator, grants administrator, personnel manager, teacher, artist, writer, lecturer, surveyor, documentary researcher, reference source person, and for the last 21 years person responsible for preservation review and management.

What did I like the most about this job? The variety of different tasks and duties involved in working for Alexandria Archaeology has been something I enjoyed very much. It has been interesting and rewarding to conduct documentary and archaeological research; teach field schools, Summer Camp and the Institute; and work with CRM archaeologists, as well as volunteers from the community, interns, and other students. One of the best aspects of the job has been being a part of an organization that played a big role in creating what can be called community archaeology.

See *Good Fortune*, page 3

JOAN AMICO: AN EIGHTH & FUTURE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

For the eighth consecutive year, Joan Amico was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. For more on Joan and other Volunteer Appreciation Night honorees, see related story on pages 12-13.



Steve recording a site in 1984.



Joan was the ONLY volunteer surprised by her award.

**IN FY10, VOLUNTEERS DONATED
7,350 HOURS!!**

...Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: FOAA in Focus...

A NEW FACE ON FOAA BOARD

Elizabeth "Liz" Kelley currently works at FEMA as a disaster-housing specialist. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master's in Community Planning, with an emphasis on historic preservation. Her favorite subjects were archaeology and history, both of which she studied at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She has worked as an archaeology technician for environmental-science companies and attended field school in County Mayo, Ireland. Liz is proud to live in Alexandria and is very excited to join the great group of people at FOAA!



Left: Liz Kelly (center) at the

October 26 FOAA meeting where she was elected to the board. Upper right: The new retro kids' T-shirts arrived just in time for the holidays! Below: Anna Lynch, Joan Amico, and Fran Bromberg at the FOAA-sponsored opening reception for the Archaeology Institute.



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A “Thanks” from Happy New Retiree Barbara Magid

On the four-week anniversary of my retirement (*written September 28, 2008*), I’d like to express my thanks to staff, volunteers, colleagues, Friends, and friends for the fabulous farewell, and of course for all the collaboration, help, support, and friendship during the previous 30 years.



Barbara bids adieu to her favorite ceramics

I truly had a great time at my retirement party, and I hope that all of you did as well. I realize that an easy potluck party is actually a lot of work when the guest list tops 75 or 80, but it really was so much fun, and with so much delicious and creative food. Thank you to the Archaeology and OHA/Admin staff and volunteers who put this all together. We were lucky enough to have a garden party on the lovely Lloyd House patio on one of the few truly beautiful days of the summer. I loved seeing so many old friends and knowing that former staff and volunteers got to catch up with each other as well as with me. I thank Mark Jinks, Lance Mallamo, Jean Federico, Pamela Cressey, Jen Barker, Margarete Holubar and Mary Jane Nugent for their kind words and presentations. And thanks to all of you who contributed to the very generous gift. I’ll enjoy searching for the perfect artwork (and jewelry) at the Torpedo Factory, and look forward to having a lasting reminder at home, after 30 years of looking at art at the Factory every day. Whenever I look at the chosen piece, I’ll think of Alexandria Archaeology and all of you.

I’d like to say a special thank you to the lab volunteers. As many of you know, the Friday lab sessions ended – for now – with my retirement. We had a wonderful group of volunteers throughout my tenure, and tremendous consistency. Our final group of volunteers worked in the lab anywhere from 2 to 33 years. This meant that they knew a tremendous amount about the artifacts and about how we processed and catalogued them. Montie, Sara, Sandy, Cynthia, and Sue retired along with me, while some of the lab volunteers continue to work in their other capacities. Joan continues as our receptionist and copy editor, Anna teaches classes, conducts research and greets visitors on Saturdays, Mary Jane continues with research and has joined the Commission and FOAA, and Marya teaches and serves as Wednesday receptionist. When a new lab manager comes on board, there will be new opportunities to work with artifacts. In the meantime, it was really sad to crossmend our last pots and to send the boxes back to storage.

I’ll be back to visit – you can’t keep me away!

Good Fortune, continued from page 1

For the most part, the direction the program went and what areas were emphasized were determined by the staff, with input from the Alexandria Archaeological Commission. Certain projects were driven by City priorities, but in general, the staff created an urban-archaeology program the way they thought it should be. I also loved working in Alexandria, a city with so much history, and with city officials and citizens who valued that history. Even now, as I walk to and from my parking place on the street (I can usually find an all-day spot), I look at the buildings, architectural details, cobbled alleys, and scenic Potomac River and find happiness in just strolling through this place. I also remember excavating in this lot or that basement, or overseeing archaeologists from archaeological firms in working here and there. Having our Museum and offices located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center is also an aspect of the job I like very much. I love the water and being on the river is wonderful to me, as is being surrounded by art and artists working in their studios in a historic building. So it is the historic City, working in the Torpedo Factory, having varied duties, and being part of the development of Alexandria Archaeology that I have liked best.

Now, what have I liked least? I don’t like doing paperwork. Working for a municipal government involves some of that... it is unavoidable. Sometimes it has not been too bad and sometimes the bureaucratic nature of it has been frustrating. On the larger scale of job responsibilities, I enjoy doing documentary and archaeological research, and the time for me to do that was greatly curtailed once the Archaeological Preservation Code was passed in November of 1989. I supported the creation of this code, and I think the Alexandria Archaeology staff, City attorneys, and Commission members who worked many years to get the Code written and the City Council members who passed it should be highly lauded. This was a piece of legislation that not only benefited Alexandria but was of national importance. But, as Ben Brenman, the Chair of the Commission at the time, warned us, this would mean a significant shift from doing research and preservation to the administration and management of this new legislation. The Code insured the preservation of the knowledge from the cultural resources of the City that would otherwise have been lost. This fact is why we all worked hard on this legislation, and after the Code was passed, I became the Director of Preservation Review.

Thereafter, the majority of my time was spent in administration rather than more “hands-on” work. The scale of excavation on many sites was larger than our staff could ever have undertaken, and the excavation of some sites by the contract archaeologists was exciting to see. A significant body of knowledge has been gained about Alexandria’s past that has been well worth the expenditure of time and money.

It was interesting to help craft the preservation review process and the details of its implementation and to work with the

See Good Fortune, page 4

Good Fortune, continued from page 3

Planning Department and the Transportation and Environmental Services Department to accomplish this. However, the time and effort spent on certain projects was considerable. The number of reviews for each project and paperwork involved in site-plan review has increased through the years, especially after 2007, and this has greatly added to the workload.

My overall feeling is that I have been very lucky as an archaeologist to have a career with Alexandria Archaeology. I have also been lucky in the people I have worked with: staff, archaeological colleagues, students, interns, and volunteers. The volunteers are truly the work force of the program, and little could have been accomplished without them. Pam Cressey has been the architect of this unique organization, giving her all to create and maintain an archaeological program that benefits the City in many ways. Saving knowledge of the past from irretrievable loss is one of these benefits. Her direction of this program has also benefited the field of archaeology nationally and beyond. I am so glad I came to see her that day in 1979.

After five hours of uninterrupted talking, we knew we were of the same mind and could work well together. I am so grateful she hired me for the Assistant Director position, and I am impressed and grateful that the City has supported this division for all these years.

Fran Bromberg has been my tried and true colleague in preservation review since 1991. She and I have directed excavation of or overseen investigations of more than 20 sites in Alexandria and have worked at the Shuter's Hill Site now for 14 years. I can honestly say we have never been actually mad at each other, but we have had plenty of lively, interesting, and productive discussions. It is very unusual for two archaeologists to work so well together in the field, and we have almost always enjoyed this work outside together, if you don't count melting from the heat, freezing from the cold, and being literally stuck in the mud (both our boots and the van). We have been able to balance the work with often unspoken divisions of labor and complement each other in strengths and weaknesses. It has been a blessing for me to work with Fran all these years. Barbara Magid has been a great asset to the program, including running the lab, conserving and managing the collections, and serving as Webmaster. Ruth Reeder as Museum Educator has gone far beyond just educating. Volunteers, interns, and countless schoolchildren have benefited

from her patience and kindheartedness. Jennifer Barker is a fine administrative secretary and keeps all of us "in line" in her role as Czarina of Staff Meetings. There are many other staff members who have contributed to the program over the years, and I learned from all of them.

I am proud and grateful to have been an archaeologist with the city for these 30 years. Though I am retiring, I may still keep my hand in a little through my ultimate contribution to the field:

my son Christopher. He is now in the Ph.D. program at William and Mary, and I just might be available in the future to help him with research, and possibly even do some field work...we will see.

My heartfelt hope is that Alexandria will continue to support Alexandria Archaeology. It is important for the archaeological preservation efforts to continue and this requires full time staff to handle the demands of continuing development. Some may think that most sites have been dug by now and enough artifacts collected.

This is in no way the reality.

There are many important sites known and unknown still to be excavated. Without archaeological investigations the knowledge held within these sites could be irretrievably lost. There are Native American sites, 18th-century sites relating to early settlement, manufacturing sites, homes of both noted residents and common people, Civil War camps and many other sites waiting to be discovered and understood.

For me Alexandria is a unique gem of a historic city and it was my good fortune to spend my career here as an archaeologist with the City's archaeology division, Alexandria Archaeology.



Alexandria Archaeology Museum Staff, 2004

You Go, Girl !!

Our very own Cat (pictured with APD Officer Carl Wortham) took part in the 14.5 mile Forgotten Cemeteries guided bike ride on October 30. It was VERY good to see her, but hard to keep up with her.





IN PRAISE OF THE “LAB LADIES”

This year’s John Glaser Award goes to an extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers known affectionately as the Lab Ladies. The most recent group of volunteers all made a long-term commitment to working in the lab. The longest-working volunteer, Sara Revis, first volunteered in 1977, during excavation of the 500 block of King Street. Although she took brief breaks over the years, she always returned to the lure of crossmending.

Mary Jane Nugent began work in the early 1980s and was a founding member of the FOAA Board. She now serves on the Alexandria Archaeological Commission.

Montie Kust and Anna Lynch first volunteered in 1986 as part of the Gadsby’s Tavern Ceramic Project, joining the regular Friday group when the project at Gadsby’s came to a close. Montie was a four-time winner of the Volunteer of the Year award, for working an extraordinary number of hours in the lab.

Sue Gagner came as a Saturday volunteer in the 1980s, joining the Friday group upon her retirement. Joan Amico, our receptionist and eight-time Volunteer of the Year, has been working in the lab since 2003; Cynthia Ford and Sandra Humphrey are longtime Lab Ladies, also. Marya Fitzgerald participated for two years.

The lab volunteers were, of course, not limited to women, but in reality the Friday lab group was for many years made up largely of retired women, sometimes joined by a student or two, or by retired men.



Joan Amico, on behalf of the Lab Ladies, accepted the John Glaser Award from Marguerete Holubar.

The lab volunteers participated in all aspects of lab work, from washing, marking and crossmending to identification and cataloguing. Over the years, they catalogued hundreds of thousands of artifacts, keeping up with work from the current digs and delving into artifacts from the early Urban Renewal projects on the 300 and 400 blocks of King Street. Their work has made it possible to analyze the archaeological sites and facilitated finding items in the collection for research and exhibit purposes.

In addition to their valuable skills and hard work, the volunteers shared their background and interests, becoming a cohesive group of colleagues. They all shared an interest in travel, telling tales that inspired others to visit exotic places. And they all shared a love for archaeology. Friday lunches were a highlight of the week for Alexandria Archaeology staff as well as volunteers.

With Barbara Magid’s retirement the Friday sessions came to a close – at least for now. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank the Lab Ladies for their huge contribution to Alexandria Archaeology.

SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALEXANDRIA: JOIN FOAA OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

WANT MORE ALEXANDRIA? JOIN THE “HISTORY CHICKS”

In 2009 a group of Alexandria docents, tour guides, and Visitor Center workers started getting together to share information on various aspects of Alexandria history. Their goal is to better serve the public and to expand their own personal knowledge. Members of the group take turns researching and presenting 45-minute informal reports on topics relating to either Alexandria history or the 18th century, such as the Fairfax family, the history of St. Paul’s Church, or the origins of Alexandria street names. In a moment of inspiration, they called their group the History Chicks. Starting in September 2010, the Chicks were invited to use the Archaeology Museum as their monthly meeting place.

The group extends its gratitude to the Alexandria Archaeology staff and FOAA for sharing their space and invites any interested party to join them (Chicks or Dudes).

The group generally meets the 4th Sunday of every month from 4:30-5:30 pm. For more information, please contact Kristy Huettner at healingelements@yahoo.com or Elizabeth Field at defield1999@gmail.com.



ORAL HISTORY UPDATE:

HER GRANDFATHER'S STORE, PARK ROAD AND THE USO

by Jen Hembree, Oral History Coordinator

An Eighth- Generation Alexandrian Home to Visit

by Jen Hembree

After discovering the Alexandria Legacies website, Carol Knight L'abbe returned to Alexandria early this fall to visit family members, as well as to share her memories of the City she loves. Ms. L'abbe is a member of the Knight family, whose presence in Alexandria goes back seven or eight generations. In the early 1980s, Alexandria Legacies in fact interviewed two of her aunts, Helen and Marion Knight. During her contribution to the Knight family history, Ms. L'abbe recalls her grandfather's store, her childhood neighborhood on Park Road near the Masonic Temple, the Town Market, and dances at the USO during the 1940s.

GRANDFATHER'S STORE

Carol Knight L'abbe: ...He came back to Alexandria and opened a little newspaper stand on the [south side] 600 block of King Street in the early 1890s...But he moved from there and went across the street and bought the land and was going to build a bigger store. And he went to the bank and the bank had told him, "Bob Knight, you're crazy. I wouldn't loan anybody money for building in the 600 block of King Street." Of course, all the commerce and all the business was in the lower [blocks] towards the river. But he did get the loan and he did build the building. And it's where Burke and Herbert Bank is now... 1906, I think he built that building.

And so, he had eight children. And there were four boys and four girls in that family. And the four boys stayed in the business. They worked at the store all the way until it closed in 1965, I think. Now during those years my father ran the toy department, which we loved [laughs] and people would say, "Oh, I bet you got lots of toys." Believe it or not, only at Christmas, we got any



Carol Knight L'abbe, 2010

(Photo Credit: Jen Hembree)

toy we wanted. But we didn't get toys during the year, just Christmas [laughs].

CHILDHOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Carol Knight L'abbe: I grew up by the Masonic Temple...314 Park Road and when I was a child, it was known as 54 Washington Terrace. But later on they changed it to Park Road. I guess I was in my teens before they changed it...

When my mother and father built that house, it was Fairfax County, it hadn't been annexed by Alexandria...I remember my mother telling me, the Masonic Temple wasn't there. They built [it] in 1912. It was a golf course, where the Masonic Temple is. And she used to take my older brother up and sit under the trees and she could look all the way over the Potomac from up there, because [inaudible]

view. They were one of the first houses up there...

In fact, my grandfather's brother, Julian Knight, was a builder. And he built that house. And also built most of Rosemont behind Maury School -- he built all those houses behind Maury School... There was another house on the street, a family by the name of Penns [?] built, and then the Fannons built the big house on the corner, next to the Masonic Temple...The whole hill was nothing but Knights and Fannons -- everybody related [laughs]. It was so funny. Everybody lived up there. And at that time, you knew everyone. I knew every house from my house up to Janney's Lane, down to Russell Road...and you could walk anywhere. Just as safe as in your mother's arms.

THE TOWN MARKET

Carol Knight L'abbe: Mr. Robinson had a fish market in the middle of Town Square. He'd be there seven days, six days a week. Once a week, my mother would go down to Mr. Robinson's fish market and she'd get a quart of clams to make clam chowder... a pint of oysters ... and a big old rockfish... He'd clean the rockfish...he'd wrap it up in newspapers...."

THE U.S.O.

Ms. L'abbe shared this photo, taken in 1944 at the USO auditorium (1605 Cameron Street) where she would attend dances with other young Alexandrians and servicemen. This photo was taken from the stage looking towards Cameron Street. There was also a USO club for African American citizens at Pendleton & Patrick streets.



“As you can see, on Wednesdays we had to wear formal gowns.”

(Photo Credit: Carol Knight L'abbe)

Another Child Recalls the Same ‘Hood’

Bernard J. (B.J.) Sheridan grew up in post-Depression era Alexandria in his family's home at 207 South Washington. In his self-recorded reflection, B.J. spoke about childhood adventures near the Masonic Temple with other children, such as the Knights, and his teenage fishing excursions to Hunting Creek and Lake Barcroft.

207 S. WASHINGTON

B. J. Sheridan: I'll start off with the house on 207 South Washington Street. It had fourteen rooms, and if I remember correctly, each of these rooms had a large wood-burning fireplace because that was basically the heat in the olden days. Fortunately, when I arrived there they had the old-fashioned radiators...The house itself was really an adventure; three stories and a basement. I remember I had a small room on Washington Street. So I could always look out the windows and see everything that was taking place because Washington Street and King Street were the places that everything went on.

About the house itself. I believe it was built by my grandfather in the late eighteen hundreds. His family had seven -- two girls and five boys. I still remember, at the time I was there, you still had the gas mantles. They were no longer in operating order, but they were still in place. My mother told me that she believes this was one of the first, or perhaps I should say, one of the larger houses in Alexandria to have electricity completely through the house. Those interior walls were about four bricks thick. The people that put the wiring in there all went and found other work after they did the Howard family house. The house had a big front and back yard. I don't remember the outhouse itself, but I do remember in the back yard, you had the back wall. [It] was common to St. Mary's Academy, which I believe was a Catholic girls' boarding school at that time.

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND FISHING

My uncle Frank lived up on George Washington Park behind the Masonic Temple, and I knew a bunch of kids up there. And we used to play. Every night I'd ride my bike up from South Washington Street, and we'd play baseball. We played baseball on the lot that the Masonic Temple owned. We made our own diamond and dugout and everything. We just played every night, and when we finished playing baseball, when it got dark, we used to go over on the street corner across from Donald Knight's father and family, and we'd drink soda, read comic books, play games, and just had fun. We made our own fun then, and we've all remained friends for a lifetime even though we've gone in many different directions. ... Up there, I played with the Knights and the Fannon family...We all just grew up together, played together, and had a good time.

My good friends Donald Knight, Fred Boswell, and a bunch of us loved to go fishing. We would go down to Hunting Creek, and as we got older, we'd go further along. The big adventure of the day was going off to Lake Barcroft, which at that time was the city reservoir. Now, Lake Barcroft had big bluegills and big bass, but of course it was restricted so you couldn't fish there. At our ages of fifteen and sixteen, the great adventure was sneaking into Lake Barcroft to go fishing. We'd fish, and we'd always have a lookout watching for the watchman, Mr. Kirby. So when we'd see him making his rounds, we would disappear into the woods. In our simple society that was quite an adventure. Then we received a wonderful, wonderful break. Mr. Richards moved into the general area. He had a son about our age, Donald Richards. He was the water commissioner so we got to know Don and he would take us up fishing at Barcroft, and as far as we were concerned in the summer and fall we were in paradise....



POINTS OF INTEREST

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY INSTITUTE II: IN THE TRENCHES

Four women participated in the second session of the Alexandria Archaeology Institute from October 17 through October 24. FOAA hosted an opening reception in the Museum Wednesday evening, which included Steve's powerpoint overview of the history and archaeology of Shuter's Hill. The women spent the first three days of the session excavating the Shuter's Hill site with Steve and Fran, and the fourth and last day in the laboratory processing their artifacts with Terilee. After the final analysis of their discoveries with the staff, the group convened downstairs to the Target Gallery for a closing reception. As with Session I, FOAA presented "I Dig..." T-shirts to the Session II participants.

The excavation work completed during this Institute made great strides in understanding an important set of features at the Shuter's Hill site. The feature the students excavated was a trench about 12 feet long, 8 to 12 inches wide, and about a foot deep. It is about 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet from a nearly identical trench. Both are located just south of the outside work area of the laundry house. The students excavated portions of this feature so that nearly the whole length was dug out. The artifacts were fairly typical household trash and date from the late eighteenth century to before 1820, so the filling of it may date to a time period when the plantation laundry was no longer in this location. Site directors Fran and Steve had previously thought that



Institute participants Theresa Weems, Becca Walters, Charde Reid, and Lisa McPhaul with their shirts and "their" trench



these were perhaps some kind of planting beds, maybe edging a pathway, since the identical feature to the south contained late-18th-century flowerpots. This Institute provided an opportunity to focus attention on this area, and it was discovered that these two long trenches are not parallel but converge toward and into a large bowl-shaped pit about 1 1/2 to 2 feet deep and perhaps 8 or more feet in diameter. The opposite end of the long trenches are cut off by the trenches for the wall footings of the house built in the 1850s.

They speculated that perhaps the trenches were drains directing water into the bowl-shaped pit, but the elevations of the bottom of the trenches seem to indicate they do not slope toward the pit, but rather slightly in the opposite direction, which would have drained down a slope above a small stream. They still believe that this set of features may suggest moving water, possibly relating to laundry activities, but are uncertain for what exact purposes. Further excavation of the bowl-shaped pit is planned for the future and perhaps will yield more information to aid in the interpretation of this area.

All the participants rated Session II as "excellent." If you would like to participate, the next session will be offered from June 9 through June 12, 2011.

Archaeological Update of Fort Ward Historical Park

The City of Alexandria has contracted an archaeological consulting firm to conduct a preliminary investigation at Fort Ward for three to four weeks. The work aims to pinpoint unmarked gravesites in areas identified through historical research, oral history, and ground penetrating radar (GPR) and to identify sites associated with American Indians, early historic uses, the Civil War, and the African American community, "The Fort."

Archaeologists from the Ottery Group expect to use several techniques, and all soil from the archaeological test units excavated by hand will be screened to collect artifacts. If found, graves will

not be excavated. Grave shafts will be recorded and mapped without damage or desecration. Archaeologists will contact a representative of the Oakland Baptist Church and the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants' Society, so that proper rites can be employed.

Ultimately, this archaeological investigation seeks to tell the stories of the people who lived at The Fort and to preserve and protect the graves, artifacts, and structures associated with them. The project will also investigate the presence of American Indians and all who may have occupied the land before and during the Civil War.

For additional information about the work and the overall archaeological study of Fort Ward, please contact Alexandria Archaeology.



The Magic Shoemaker (Without His Elves)

by Marya Fitzgerald

On November 10 Val Povinelli, journeyman shoemaker from Colonial Williamsburg, visited the Archaeology Museum to research part of our collection

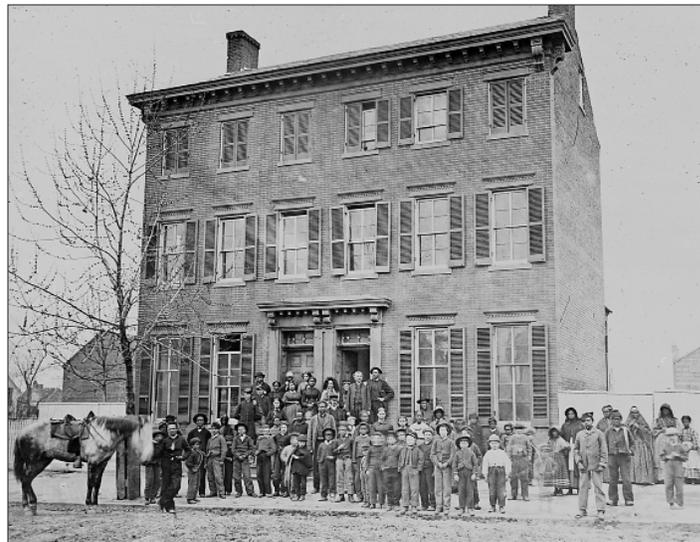


of old shoes. In the Shoemaker's Shop in the Colonial village (where he lives), Val makes authentic copies of old shoes for the men (costumed interpreters) who work in the public educational areas of CW, and he was exceptionally pleased to investigate our shoes.

Like his colleagues at CW, Val has several Research Days a year in which to look at museum collections or do other research to enhance his expertise. While here, he happily inspected and made detailed drawings of several examples of our excavated footwear. He says that sometimes he uses these days to read up on Colonial shoe construction or its predecessor, British shoemaking, as well as visiting sites in Virginia or (rarely) collections outside the U.S. For instance, Val has made copies of shoes from the *Betsy* in Yorktown. The *Betsy* was a British supply ship that was sunk in the York River in 1781 [<http://historyisfun.org/Yorktown-Victory-Center-galleries.htm>].

Val, who has a degree in history, applied for his position in the Williamsburg shop because he was eager to talk to and explain his work to the public. Also, he likes to investigate and learn. He hopes to come back to the Museum in late winter 2011 and continue his investigation of our old shoes!

A VOLUNTEER NEWS EXCLUSIVE



Brady Collection photograph, National Archives and Records Administration

LIVING ON WASHINGTON STREET

by Tim Dennee

An important Civil War photograph from Alexandria has been discovered in the Mathew Brady Collection at the National Archives. Among the many photographs collected by the War Department during and after the Civil War is an image of a large group of people standing in front of a brick, three-story, Italianate-style double house. Even at first glance, the crowd is more compelling than the stylish, relatively new homes. Composed of adults and children, blacks and whites, ladies and gentlemen, soldiers and civilians, the smartly and the scruffily dressed, the group's striking heterogeneity is cause for wonder at the purpose and occasion of this portrait.

The image is unfamiliar to most historians of Alexandria, Virginia. Identified only as a "House" or "House with group in front," for decades it had hidden in plain sight in the National Archives among negatives acquired from Mathew Brady and other sources. Only recently did the Archives post the photo on Flickr, one of our "new media," with an apocryphal yet absolutely accurate description: "House, Corner of Wolfe and Washington Streets, Alexandria, Virginia." From there it made its way to the Alexandria Archaeology Facebook page.

As there were few substantial buildings near the corner of Washington and Wolfe streets during the war, the location of the building could be identified quickly, as it was by Office of Historic Alexandria Public Information Specialist Amy Bertsch. Even more fortunate is the fact that it still stands. Presently occupied by Sumpter Priddy's antique shop, the Bachrach portrait studio, and a medical testing firm, the double house at 321-323 South Washington Street is remarkably intact, with only a couple of small additions. It retains its original cornice and window hoods, and even several of the original windows, but it is a little less imposing as a result of the introduction of

storefronts and exterior paint in the mid-twentieth century.

The building was erected for china and glass merchant Robert H. Miller on a lot he purchased from Maria Louisa Jackson in August 1853. Miller's motivation, at least in part, was to make a wedding present of a new home to son Elisha, married two months earlier. But tax assessments suggest that the two houses were not commenced until sometime between mid-1857 and early 1858. It was not until June 1859 that the southern "of the two brick tenements recently erected," then number 77 Washington Street, was conveyed to Elisha by Robert and Anna Miller "in consideration of one dollar, and of the affection which they bear for their son." The houses have a conventional side-hall plan, with front parlor, then dining room, then kitchen on the ground floor.

War Arrives

With armed conflict imminent, Elisha Janney Miller and wife Betty Scott Ashby Miller did not enjoy a long, peaceful tenure. Although members of the pacifist Society of Friends, the Miller family was fiercely loyal to Virginia. Within months of the initial occupation of Alexandria by federal troops, at least a third of their white neighbors decamped for points south and west. The Millers joined this group, whose members' real estate was soon subject to seizure by the United States as abandoned. One would think that, at 62 years of age, a member of the Common Council, a commissioner of the Alexandria Water Company, president of the Old Dominion Bank, and with principal responsibility for the King Street store of R.H. Miller, Son, & Company, Robert Miller would have no thought of leaving Alexandria. But he did disappear for a time, only to return to a new responsibility: the protection of his family's interests, including his extensive property holdings and even his own person, from punitive measures of the federal and reconstituted state governments. As an officer of a chartered utility corporation, Miller was required by a new state law to take an oath of allegiance. This he refused to do. Having already "abandoned" his property, he now had two strikes against him and consequently would lose, for the course of the war, his own half of the Washington Street building. Late in the conflict, he would be among the prominent citizens proposed to ride as hostages in Union supply trains as an anti-guerrilla measure.

For most of the first year of war, the front remained within a day's ride of Alexandria. In addition to garrison and provost troops, the city and its environs were overrun with soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. On December 17, 1861, the Eighth Illinois Cavalry arrived from Meridian Hill in the District of Columbia. They bivouacked at Camp California, a hillside three miles west of Alexandria, not far from the Fairfax Theological Seminary and the new fortifications built to defend Washington. The weather remained warm and fair as the horse soldiers prepared their winter quarters.

Many of the troops were soon stricken with disease, and they became desperate for a proper hospital. On January 24, 1862, the unit was ordered to move to new quarters in town and occupied perhaps a dozen vacant "secesh" houses and a remnant of the old Irwin brewery. They stabled their horses in several places, including the Wilkes Street railroad tunnel and the city's foundries. But several officers and their families were sheltered

in that "fine brick building" "lately occupied by... E.J. Miller, and the new house adjoining the latter, on Washington St..."—along with a medical dispensary staffed by regimental surgeon Abner Hard.

The men passed much more pleasant days in town but were not idle. They drilled, tended their horses, and patrolled as far south as Accotink. But the regiment was nearly ejected from their comfortable quarters by the military governor, Brigadier General William R. Montgomery, for offenses to a hostile populace, including the arrest during services of Rev. K.J. Stewart of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church for refusing to pray for the U.S. president. On the other hand, the troops won the favor of Unionist mayor Lewis McKenzie, to whom they presented a gold-headed cane. The Eighth Illinois remained at Alexandria until ordered to Bull Run in March, where it would be one of the units engaged in the Second Battle of Manassas. The regiment would later distinguish itself at Gettysburg in a delaying action against a much larger force.

For the complete article see: <http://www.freedmenscemetery.org/resources/documents/contrabandhospital.pdf>



"Slaves at Volusia," courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Leigh

LIFE ON VOLUSIA FARM

by Amy Bertsch

For an interpretation of Freedmen's Cemetery, historian Tim Dennee located a Civil War-era photograph of two African American women and several children, taken at a place called Volusia. With a rural landscape in the background, the subjects were posed with an iron, a basket, and a bucket – the tools of the physically demanding work of laundry that enslaved women were tasked with.

Dennee identified Volusia as a farm off Duke Street near Holmes Run, located about three miles beyond the city limits of Alexandria. Investigation into this photo provides a glimpse into the lives of the enslaved people who lived at Volusia in the years leading up to the Civil War and afterwards.

This photograph, captioned "Slaves at Volusia," and another pose of the same subjects are in a private collection. The second one has

a handwritten caption identifying the subjects as “Felix Richards’ slaves.” Indeed, Felix Richards, his wife Amelia, and the people they owned did live at Volusia during the Civil War.

Volusia was a 155-acre farm on the north side of what was then the Little River Turnpike, where the Foxchase apartments and shopping center are today along Duke Street. Volusia descended through the Terrett family to Amelia Richards. Amelia was one of six children born to Ann Douglas Terrett and her husband Allan Macrae. Nancy Macrae, as Ann was known, was a descendant of William H. Terrett, who owned hundreds of acres along Holmes Run, including Volusia, where Nancy and Allan Macrae lived. Nancy had married Allan in 1818. He died in 1845. Nancy died in 1858. Her will and probate records provide helpful details about her slaves’ identities and her plans for them. The names, ages, and values of her slaves appear in the estate appraisal:

Julia Hughes, 54, \$150
Lucinda, 34, \$400
Davy, 29, \$1150
Kitty, 29, \$900
Wilson, 21, \$1050
Levin, 21, \$500
Jesse, 9, \$600
Henry, 5, \$200
William, 3, \$150

In her will, Nancy gave her son George his choice of Wilson or Levin Hughes and permission regarding Henry to “dispose of as he wishes,” but not to sell. The remaining slaves could have their choice of homes among Nancy’s children or elsewhere, but could not be sold outside of Fairfax or Alexandria. She also stated that she did “not wish my sons-in-law to have any control over my servants,” as they were to be solely for the use of her daughters.

Nancy stated in her will that profits from the hiring out of her slaves would be shared with her grandchildren. Specific information on who was hired out is incomplete; however, we know Lucinda gave birth to her son William while working for a J. Terrill in 1856.

In distributing her property, Nancy left some personal possessions to the people she owned, directing that Julia receive a shawl, Kitty a purple calico bonnet, and Lucinda a gingham dress, apron and straw bonnet.

A deed of trust from 1843 identifies Julia Hughes as the mother of Lucinda, Davy, Kitty, Wilson and Levin, as well as a daughter named Henrietta who was not included in the estate appraisal 15 years later. There is also later evidence of a daughter named Louisa, who may have been sold away as a girl.

Julia’s husband and father of her children was Jesse Hughes. Though little documentation exists, a man by that name was freed from slavery in 1840 by Robert Jamieson. Julia and her children probably lived in quarters in the northwestern area of Volusia. A map depicting what Volusia looked like just before the war shows the location of the “Servant House.”

By the time of the Civil War, Amelia and Felix Richards were living at Volusia, as were several of their slaves. Since Union troops immediately occupied Alexandria and established camps around the town, beginning in May 1861 Volusia was occupied by troops and remained almost continuously used throughout the war. The Richards family was loyal to the Union and remained there while their property was used as a camp.

Details about what happened to the enslaved people at Volusia come from neighbors, U.S. Army officers, and various records. Early in the war, slaves may have performed some of their usual work, including the laundry, as indicated by the photographs, which were probably taken in early 1862. One officer, Colonel Edward E. Cross of the Fifth New Hampshire, even appealed to Amelia Richards in writing to “please allow your servants to wash a few clothes for me.”

At least two young Volusia men supported the Union Army by joining the war effort. Jesse became a servant to Lieutenant Robert Dunham with the Third New Jersey Volunteers. According to Colonel Mark Collet, Jesse was with them when the Army of the Potomac encamped at Harrison’s Landing and was about 15 years old when he died there in July 1862.

Wilson Hughes, who had married Annie Johnson in February 1863, joined the U.S. Colored Infantry in 1864. While serving with Company A, he became ill in September 1864 and was treated at L’Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria. He was discharged from military service the following summer.

Neighbors documenting the Richards’ losses due to the Union Army recalled in 1863 that there were “Eleven Negroes taken away, namely Frances, Lucinda, Harriet, Charles, Marshall, Julia, Mary, William, Jesse and Fanny.” They estimated the value of these people to be \$4000. Julia came into Alexandria early in the first year of the war and was described as “destitute” in Freedmen’s Bureau records.

After the war ended, Wilson Hughes remained in Alexandria. He suffered from poor health, which his family believed was related to the illness he had suffered during his military service. Wilson died in Alexandria in 1883.

Levin, Wilson’s twin brother, married Catherine Williams in 1868 in Alexandria. They were living in Alexandria in 1870 with Julia but later moved to Washington, D.C. In the 1880s and early 1890s, Levin worked as a driver, a laborer, and a porter, and lived mostly in Shaw and the U Street corridor of northwest Washington.

In 1874, Julia Hughes was reunited with a daughter who was living in Akron, Ohio. That daughter, Louisa, had either been sold or had run away during slavery, according to family history. The news reports at the time said Julia had not seen Louisa since she was a little girl. “Can any one begin to picture the joy of both at the meeting?” wondered a writer in the *Akron Daily Beacon*.

Julia lived with Louisa in Akron and later with Levin in Washington. She returned to Akron in the late 1890s to live with her daughter. Julia died there in March 1902, a few years shy of 100. An obituary said she was born in Alexandria and had worked as a household servant during slavery, describing her as the “typical southern mammy.” Louisa died the following month.

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION 2010

Alexandria Archaeology honored its volunteers, all 101 of them, at the 33rd Volunteer Appreciation Party held in the Museum on Saturday, November 13. From July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, our volunteers donated a total of 7,350 hours. Joan Amico's 719 hours earned her the coveted Volunteer of the Year Award for the eighth consecutive year, and the John S. Glaser Award was presented to all the Lab Ladies, past and present (see Barbara's related article). FOAA presidents Margarete and Marya presented nonarchaeological sherds to the current Lab Ladies--Montie Kust, Anna Lynch, Joan Amico, and Mary Jane Nugent. Recognized but not present were Sara Revis, Cynthia Ford, and Jeanne Springman.

FOAA president Marya Fitzgerald presented Pam with the **FOAA annual gift of \$2,000.**

Pam thanked her staff and recognized them for their years of dedicated service: Steve's 31 years, Barbara's 30 years before her retirement in late August, Fran's 20 years, Ruth's 16 years, Terilee's 15 years, Jen Barker's 10 years, and Jen Hembree's 6 years. Also acknowledged were Barbara Ballentine, Elizabeth Field, and Rose McCarthy for their excellent support. Special thanks were given to the Sunday receptionists and the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) and FOAA members for volunteering to keep the Museum open on Sundays. Due to budget cuts, the funding for this position ceased after June 30, 2010, with the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Particular thanks went to Joan Amico, Anna Lynch, and Marya Fitzgerald, who were busy keeping the Museum open during the week and on Saturdays, answering phones and visitors' questions during a **landmark year, with more than 34,000 visitors!**

Pam Cressey noted that this was a **year of transition**, since after three decades, two of the City archaeologists, Steve and Barbara, are retiring with 61 years of institutional memory. Much of their work will be handed off to the next generation—the third generation of Alexandria archaeologists—in the oldest community program in America. All Code reports are now scanned and will be on website when the new site debuts at the end of the year.

This year was also marked with near completions of long-standing projects.

2011 is the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the 50th anniversary of archaeology in Alexandria; the following projects will be key to marking 2011:

Freedmen's Cemetery. This is the 23rd year for the Contrabands & Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial project (it began in 1987!). The project has taken countless hours to provide proper interpretation and to determine the exact number of people buried there and their names. Mary Jane Nugent and intern Cathy Reiber continue research on the 1731 deceased and their descendants. Construction on the Memorial begins in 2011 with a completion date of 2012, 25 years after we began.

Fort Ward Archaeology returned last year to the Fort, following on work in 1961 and 1991. (That makes 2011 the 50th anniversary of archaeology in Alexandria.) The research continues with emphasis on the African American community and descendant family members. The History Work Group and Advisory Committee worked hard the past year to study the park and the people who created its history. Their goal is to find the best ways to preserve and interpret the resources and history. A group of family members and researchers have developed information, found family photos, and worked with a Howard

University student to produce signs on the African American history of the park.

Waterfront Preservation The Archaeological Commission celebrated its **30th year of waterfront preservation** efforts by doing more work! A dedicated core group of AAC members, joined by other members of HARC and the community, attended meetings for seven weeks, did research, and produced a landmark study: the Alexandria Waterfront History Plan—Alexandria Living History. Thanks to all the committee members, and special thanks to chair James McCall, who contributed hundreds of hours in a two-month period to conceptualize, author, and edit the plan.

Jen Hembree thanked her Oral History volunteers: Gilian Chen, Laura Little, Vicki Moeser, and Lucia Wolf



Pam accepts FOAA's annual gift of \$2,000 from Marya.



James McCall



Councilmembers Alicia Hughes, Dell Pepper, and Rob Krupicka

for conducting and transcribing stories of many Alexandrians' accounts of work at the Potomac Yard, living and working in Alexandria.

Councilwomen Del Pepper and Alicia Hughes presented **certificates for 100 or more volunteer hours**, signed by Mayor Bill Euille, City Manager Jim Hartmann, AAC chair Kathleen Pepper, FOAA President Marya Fitzgerald, and City Archaeologist Pam Cressey, to:

Joan Amico – 719 hrs., Anna Lynch – 642 hrs., James McCall – 500 hrs., Mary Jane Nugent – 490 hrs., Elaine Tamanini – 351 hrs., Marya Fitzgerald – 344.5 hrs., Diane Riker – 300 hrs., Kelsey Ryan – 248.5 hrs., Montie Kust – 248 hrs., Cynthia Ford – 216.25 hrs., Laura Buchanan – 212.5 hrs., Gaby Faundez – 210.5 hrs., Elizabeth Drembus – 149 hrs., Jeff Barnett – 149 hrs., Chris Morley – 144.5 hrs., Sandra Humphrey – 136.5 hrs., Sara Revis – 128 hrs., Hoosey Hughes – 121.25 hrs., Laura Little – 118 hrs., Margarete Holubar – 111 hrs., and Maddy McCoy – 100 hrs.

City archaeologists Steven Shephard and Fran Bromberg saluted the 63 volunteers who donated 1,179 hours to **excavating the Shuter's Hill** site from July 1, 2009, with special kudos to Suzanne Schaubel for her 108 field hours! She was joined by Beatrix Arendt, Michele Arnold, Carolyn Attar, Amy Bertsch, Laura Buchanan, Lisa Berkoski, Linda Bywaters, Jennifer Castro, Daniel & Cynthia Cliff, Shanna Conner, Jeff Dagley,



Fran and Steve celebrate the 2010 field volunteers.

Denise DeJacquant, Olivia DeDreuzy, Peg Deibel, Sarah Dickey, Andy Flora, Chris Gagne, Anne Hardy, Peggy Harlow, Katy Harmon, Carolyn Harwood, Laura Heaton, Susan Hitch, Doreen Jagodnik, Amanda Johnson, Joe Jones, Ashley Koen, Jenna Kush, Jennifer Landry, Kelly Larson, David & Tiara Leonard, Kris Lloyd, Nat Lowrey, Vicky Markowitz, Brianna Martin, Rose McCarthy, Susie McCorkle, Lisa McPhaul, Tam Mihailovic, Krystyn Moon, Laura Passic, Chloe Raub, Charde Reid, Laura Rios, Shanna Roth, Carol Rudolph, Jen Runkle, Suzanne Schaubel, Mary Seidel, Jean Stetson, Mary Stewart, Kimberly Stogner, Efrain Tejada, Shanna Thomas, Kyle Tomanio, Theresa Weems, Sheila Wexler, Paula Whitacre, Rebecca Walters, Mandy Williams, and Sara Yunessi.

Pam recognized **Research Volunteers** Margarete Holubar (L'ouverture soldiers), Paula Tarnapal Whitacre (USCT), Jill Grinstead (runaways), Diane Riker (waterfront research), and Ted Pulliam for his forthcoming book on Alexandria and waterfront research.

Ruth Reeder and Terilee Edwards-Hewitt presented big bright red apples to the **education team** of Anna Lynch, Hoosey Hughes, Marya Fitzgerald, and Suzanne Schaubel.



Ruth gives apples to the Archaeology educators

Councilwomen Del Pepper and Alicia Hughes delighted in participating in **the traditional smashing of the plate**.



Councilwomen Alicia Hughes and Del Pepper smash a plate



Volunteer of the Year Joan Amico cuts the cake

...At Last, the Cake

For the eighth consecutive year, Joan Amico was awarded the **Volunteer of the Year Award**. She donated 719 hours for FY10, and her grand total for the past eight years added up to 5569.5 hours!

New Exhibition of Commemorative Wares

Exploring “Patriotic and Public Spirited” Heritage in Alexandria at The Lyceum



The new exhibition “*Patriotic and Public Spirited*” *Commemorative Wares in George Washington’s Hometown* is now open at The Lyceum. This exhibition features commemorative ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community’s keen interest in current and historic events. It will be open through next May in the Coldsmith Gallery.

Inspiration for the exhibition title came from a column in *The Local News*, an Alexandria newspaper published during the Civil War, which asserted, “The people of Alexandria were always patriotic and public spirited.” Indeed, Alexandria has prided itself on being the hometown of George Washington and Robert E. Lee, and historic events such as George Washington’s Birthnight Ball and Lafayette’s 1824 visit to Alexandria were cause for great celebration. A variety of commemorative ceramic wares recovered from archaeological excavations or preserved in collections show the community’s interest in events and historic places of local and national significance. These artifacts provide a tangible link to many generations of “patriotic and public spirited” Alexandrians.

Among the highlights of the “*Patriotic and Public Spirited*” exhibition are several commemorating George Washington; for instance, the creamware pitcher produced shortly after his death and recovered from an excavation in the 400 block of King Street. It features his likeness and reads “He in Glory, America in Tears.” Many pieces produced after the War of 1812 capture America’s patriotism and hope for prosperity, such as a pearlware plate with an American eagle and enamel-painted shield, and also a cameo jasper decoration on a pitcher depicting hands clasped in friendship with the expression “Peace & Plenty.”

The “*Patriotic and Public Spirited*” exhibition is a collaborative effort between Alexandria Archaeology and The Lyceum and was adapted from Barbara H. Magid’s article “Commemorative Wares in George Washington’s Hometown,” which appeared in the 2006 *Ceramics in America*, <http://www.upne.com/0-9724353-7-9.html>. An archaeologist and ceramics expert, Magid retired from the City of Alexandria this summer after 30 years of service with Alexandria Archaeology.

The Lyceum is located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2, and free off-street parking is available. For more information, please call 703.746.4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

MORE ABOUT DR. SHEPHARD

by Pam Cressey

Dr. Stephen Shephard started with Alexandria Archaeology in January nearly 31 years ago. Coming from Florida via Illinois and graduate school, he went on to do his dissertation on the ceramics from the Courthouse Site, 500 King Street, asking questions about class and consumption. Steve jumped right in and has directed nearly every field project conducted by Alexandria Archaeology over these 31 years. This has meant significant amounts of time directing the site, training volunteers and making sense of what the dirt and the artifacts said about African American life in Hayti, about the Alexandria Canal Tide Lock, and about the Stabler-Leadbetter Apothecary Shop, the Carlyle Dalton Wharf, and a variety of sites across Old Town (working under a major National Endowment for the Humanities grant). With his colleague of twenty years, Francine Bromberg, Steve revisited Fort Ward in 1991 (30 years after its first exploration), uncovered the remnants of the Moore-McLean sugar refinery, which operated in Alexandria in the early 19th century, excavated burials at the Quaker Burial Ground preparatory to the 1994 addition to the library, dug Kirkpatrick’s Wharf and the Jamieson Bakery on S. Lee St., investigated the Shuter’s Hill Plantation site for more than a decade, and explored the Freedmen’s Cemetery prior to the planning for the new Contrabands and Freedmen’s Memorial.

Since 1989 Steve has been in charge of the Alexandria Archaeology Protection Code--the first in Virginia and the first of its kind affecting an entire city, in the nation. He predicted that his work would change from research to preservation--and it did, with the result that field investigation and historical studies took a back seat to reviewing hundreds of new construction plans annually. Steve’s work with Fran Bromberg has resulted in almost 100 investigations and reports by private consulting firms working for developers, to determine the significance and preserve the history of these sites that would have been unconsciously lost without the Code requirements. So, what has Steve preserved for posterity through his work directing the Code? He has uncovered information and artifacts related to Native American use of the area prior to the arrival of Europeans, Alexandria’s intrastate slave trading era, waterfront sites with underwater ships and wharves, rural sites of tenant farmers and possibly enslaved people in the West End, the original West End now called the Carlyle area, Civil War encampments, glass factories, breweries, pottery manufacturing, and historic waterworks in Old Town.

Over the decades, Steve has become an expert in the development of the waterfront, including how it has been filled in from the original crescent bay, and early wharf construction. This research resulted in an excellent AHS publication. He also published in the Society for Historical Archaeology journal an analysis of the coffins, coffin hardware, and other finds from the Quaker Burying Ground excavations.

Steve was the recipient of the coveted Outstanding Archaeologist

of the Year Award by the Council of Virginia Archaeologists and has served as Vice Chair of the Council in recent years. His three decades in Alexandria have produced a lasting legacy of reports, artifacts, historical research, and an unequalled collection of files by address and topic. All of these accomplishments are the products of "a most compleat" archaeologist. Both the City of Alexandria and the community have benefited greatly from his dedication, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to high standards of archaeological research and preservation.

Wanted--Your Memories of the Alexandria Waterfront

Did something from long ago or even recently change your life at the Alexandria waterfront? Fall in love at first sight? Witness something shocking? Have an experience boating that you will never forget? Observe something of incredible beauty?

Alexandria Legacies, the City of Alexandria's Oral History Program, seeks your memories of the Alexandria Waterfront and the Potomac River. If you would like to share your memories with us, please contact *Alexandria Legacies* volunteer Eleanor Criswell at: waterfrontmemories@dcrcriswell.com, or call Jen Hembree at Alexandria Archaeology, 703.746.4399, ext. 4731.

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 Don has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the twice winner of the John Lyman Book Award for Best Maritime History.

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Zark's Kids' Corner

by Suzanne Schaubel

The holidays are here and it's the best time of the year to have fun with your family and friends. Celebrate the season together by going on a hay ride, picking apples, or visiting your local museum for some fun activities.

Parents, you can find many events being held locally, free or for a small fee and, kids, all of them are fun! You can find many listed in your local paper or online. Here are a few suggestions:



Ornament Decorating Workshop: December 4

Alexandria Archaeology Museum. A free decorating workshop for kids of all ages from 1 to 4 p.m. Decorate an ornament to take home. The ornaments are based on the colors and patterns found on the City's collection of artifacts.

Christmas in Camp at Fort Ward: December 11

Featuring living-history interpreters, a Victorian Christmas tree, period music, refreshments, readings of "The Night Before Christmas," and a patriotic Santa Claus, this holiday event interprets how Christmas was observed during the Civil War and is fun for all. Guided tours of the Fort are also available. Visit oha.alexandriava.gov/fortward/ for information.

Christmas at Mount Vernon: Through January 6

Mount Vernon has done it again this year with 12 Christmas trees, a gingerbread Mount Vernon, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing and story-telling. Don't forget to visit George Washington's Christmas Camel Aladdin! Visit www.mountvernon.org for information.

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend: December 3-4

Old Town Alexandria. Events include a Children's Tea on Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. and the Scottish Walk Parade throughout Old Town Alexandria, beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Followed by the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights starting at 4 p.m. on the Potomac River at the foot of Cameron Street. Visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com for information.



Aladdin the camel and George Washington

Have a safe and fun-filled holiday season, and remember to visit us at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum!

