

# ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT NEWSLETTER



## March 2024 Edition

### Joseph McCoy Remembrance Events

**The Joseph McCoy Remembrance will be held Tuesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. at Penny Hill Cemetery on the 700 block of S. Payne Street.** We are planning a meaningful ceremony at the site of Mr. McCoy's burial, including a wreath laying and remarks. Parking available on S. Payne Street and at Nannie J. Lee Center.

In addition, Alexandria's faith community will hold an event in Remembrance of Joseph McCoy on **Sunday, April 21 at 3 p.m. at the Lettie Pate Evans Room at the Virginia Theological Seminary.** Details will be available on the ACRP website in April, with the posting of the In Memoriam Page.

### Feature Article

#### We Cannot Be Silent Any Longer

You wouldn't know it by reading many of the histories written about Alexandria, but during and after the Civil War there were a good many residents who were loyal to the United States. Alexandria had unionist representation in the U.S. Congress and in the "recognized" state legislature, while secessionist locals were represented at the rebel state house in Richmond. These two Virginia's, with diverging views on how to bring the South back into the fold, slavery, citizenship and voting rights for both Black and confederate men, existed uneasily in one city on the edge of the Potomac. As the ink from Lee and Grant's signatures dried on parchments in a McLean Parlor, factions began vying for survival. (1,2)

The loyal union men in Alexandria consistently raised the alarm that the U.S. would lose what they fought for if the government didn't hold rebels accountable and address the needs of the formerly enslaved. They were led to varying degrees by three powerful men, Attorney S. Ferguson Beach, U.S. District Judge John C. Underwood and Alexandria Provost Gen. Harry H. Wells, who believed African Americans deserved full civil rights. In a letter to Beach penned in June 1865, Wells argued for military rule until Secessionists demonstrated their loyalty. (3,4,5)

"Very soon after the fall of Richmond," wrote Wells, "I became aware that many of the leading Secessionists, despairing of resisting by force of arms, the power of the Government or the mighty logic of events which was soon to make Virginia truly free, had determined to attempt by policy what force could not do." (3)

They called on the National Government to intervene after a white mob of ex-confederates violently beat a number of Black people and murdered John Anderson in the streets of Alexandria on Christmas Day, 1865. And they stood in a hail storm on election day to count the votes of Black men when conservatives tried to avoid the 14th Amendment.

The *Alexandria Gazette*, the default record for this city, portrayed the loyal union men as extremists and “disunionists” who were chasing votes because they were losing power gained during hostilities. But history laid bare a larger truth: the loyalists were absolutely right to be afraid.

Within weeks of the surrender, those who had engaged in rebellion were being reinstated in business and government, according to The *Washington Chronicle*. The paper protested the rehiring of former managers to Virginia’s railways and the appointment of rebel judges to the bench in Richmond. They said they feared “not enough anti-slavery feeling has yet developed,” and those who were active in the rebellion should “take a back seat.”(6)

A few weeks later, President Johnson pardoned any confederate willing to take an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution with exceptions for those who served in the Confederate Congress, in “pretend” state legislatures, as officers and senior enlisted members of the rebel military, and anyone who fraudulently took the oath in the past. (7)

When Pierpont’s unpopular government met in Richmond in June, it became obvious the anemic legislature couldn’t adequately represent the whole state. Wanting to draw experienced lawmakers back he recommended ending a constitutional ban keeping insurrectionists from holding office and allowing them to vote.

The General Assembly approved laws permitting white men over 21 to vote, except those excluded in Johnson’s pardon, and called for elections to be held in October. The ballot included a question that would allow lawmakers to amend the Alexandria Constitution and open up voting and office holding to former secessionists. (8)

The President’s leniency and Governor’s reversal motivated “loyal” unionist men all over Virginia. Already organized under the banner of the [Virginia Union Association \(VUA\)](#), a large delegation met with President Johnson in June to convey their concerns over allowing rebels to vote and hold office. Beach, who represented Alexandria in Congress and headed the VUA, shared a damning letter from Brigadier Gen. Wells.

The same people who wouldn’t take the oath to avoid losing property or being separated from their families during the war, are now taking a “paper oath” to qualify to run for office, he said, adding, they intend to rewrite Virginia’s constitution as well as seek retribution - promising to come after African Americans and white citizens who stayed loyal to the Union.

“This is all wrong,” he wrote, “and you are in danger of losing everything for which the war has been prosecuted; you may theorize and speculate to the contrary, but the facts remain, and the only wise course is to admit” it and remedy it by establishing a “military provisional government” to “preserve the peace, command respect, secure order,” and establish the rule of law. (9)

*Story Continued below the following ACRP announcements.*

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## In The News

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Co-Chair Audrey Davis was interviewed for a story about Virginia’s Black History Museums and the important role of the people who run them. [Read it here.](#) Read about the ribbon cutting on the Northern end of the [African American Waterfront Heritage Trail](#) along the Potomac River.

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## Upcoming Events

**Meaningful Conversations: Islamophobia and Anti-Arab Bias**  
Thursday, March 28

7-9 p.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street

Free Event, No registration required.

These meaningful conversations explore and celebrate the diversity of cultures and peoples in our area, confront the attitudes and behaviors that still divide us, and seek remedies grounded in the recognition (as stated in the City's ALL Alexandria Resolution) that we are one interconnected, interdependent human family.

This month's featured guests:

**Susan Douglass** is the Education Outreach Director at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

**Abed Ayoub** serves as the National Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), the country's largest Arab American civil rights organization.

Sponsored by the Alexandria Bahá'í Community, the Alexandria Black History Museum, and the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project.

### Story Time for Little Historians

Saturday, April 13

10-10:45 a.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street

Free Event, No registration required.

Story time is for children 5-8 years old and features stories related to Black History.

### The Brutal Truth of 1315 Duke Street Revealed: The 1837 Case of Dorcas Allen

#### Lecture by historian Dr. Alison Mann

Thursday, April 18

7-8 p.m.

Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street

\$15 per person. Purchase tickets in advance [here](#).

Don't miss Dr. Mann's lecture about a Free Black woman living in Washington D.C. with her family when she was enslaved by James Birch, imprisoned in Alexandria and then tried for the murder of her two youngest children. With John Quincy Adams assistance she regained her freedom. Dr. Mann is the historian at the National Museum of American Diplomacy at the Department of State and a subject matter expert in 19th Century History, Public History and Education, as well as in the field of Diplomatic History. Proceeds from this event support the Freedom House Museum.

### Book Signing! Hip Hop @ 50

Saturday, April 27

11-12 pm

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street

Free Event, No registration required.

Join Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Steering Committee Member Michael Johnson and others as they celebrate the launch of Hip Hop @ 50. Howard University held a two-day conference with scholars, artists and media icons of Hip Hop in October 2023. The book features many of the symposium's essays that examine Hip Hop's impact from 1973 to today, including a chapter by ACRP's Johnson. Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis edited the book that other Alexandria residents are featured including, Cathay Driver, A. Edna Santiago and Stephanie Johnson. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

### Committee Reports

**The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project held a Steering Committee** meeting on March 5 where members were updated about ongoing work and fundraising for ACHS pilgrimages were discussed. Access meeting notes [here](#).

### Upcoming Committee Meetings

**The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Steering Committee** will meet Apr. 2 at 5 p.m. at Alexandria's Black History Museum (902 Wythe Street)

**The Planning Committee for the Joseph McCoy Remembrance** will meet Apr. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Lloyd House (220 N. Washington Street)

## **We Cannot Be Silent Any Longer (Cont.)**

Over the summer, the VUA lobbied the President to give the vote to African Americans and any man 21 years or older "faithful to his government, obeying all the laws of the state," and place Virginia under military authority to guarantee civil rights until a new constitution could be written by loyal white and Black men and "excluding "all who voluntarily aided in the rebellion...whether as members or electors.". (10)

African Americans were also campaigning for their rights. In August, 1865, leaders among Virginia and Washington's Black communities held a national Colored Convention at the Lyceum focused on citizenship and voting rights. The *Alexandria Gazette* disparaged the meeting, cynically claiming it was organized by "mischievous white people," a reference to unionists. The same article repeated a false news story that accused the delegates of engaging in "bitter tirades against the President and Governor Pierpont." After which, Snowden blamed delegates for hurting their own cause and making white people even more prejudiced against them. (11)

### **More Setbacks for Unionists**

Just over 500 white men voted in the October election which had been the trend during the war. The ban on confederates voting and holding office was clearly disliked as it was struck down in Alexandria and statewide, giving lawmakers the power needed to overturn it.

House seats went to T.B. Roberts and James English who the *Alexandria Gazette* described as both natives and "considered conservatives opposed to radical republicanism."

Union Col. Daniel F. Dulany, a moderate republican and former Aide to Pierpont, won the right to represent Alexandria and Fairfax in the Senate.

The General Assembly met in Richmond on Dec. 4, 1865. Old guard Whigs held 96 of the 100 House seats and most of the Senate. Upon convening, the House elected as their Speaker a former Confederate Congressman. Pierpont had more seasoned lawmakers, but they were also a more salty bunch with sympathy for ex-confederates. (12)

### **Violence Erupts**

On Christmas Eve, a group of confederate soldiers in Pulaski, Tenn. started a social club - they called it the Klu Klux Klan. The next day, a mob of native Alexandrians who were ex-confederate soldiers went on a drunken spree through the streets of [Old Town viciously beating and terrorizing Alexandria's Black community before cruelly murdering John Anderson](#). Unionist Mayor Ware called on the military to bring order. They arrested more than 50 white Alexandrians, most of whom were released the next morning when someone intervened on their behalf.

On Dec. 28, 1865, Gen. Augur ordered Alexandria Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Wyre to re-arrest everyone involved and "not to release any persons arrested on the demands of the civil authorities, but to refer all such cases to Department Headquarters." Augur then called for an investigation that ended with 20 Alexandrians charged for violent crimes.

### **1866**

A tribunal or trial for those Alexandrians charged in the violent attacks was held in January and February.

In the midst of the trial, on Mon. Feb. 5, 1866, at least 50 unionists met in the Corn Exchange Building at the corner of King and Union Streets. John Curtis Underwood was presiding as they discussed the concerns they would list in a petition they intended to circulate. They were clearly worried about the recent violence, stating, "The moment the military power is withdrawn from among us, and the loyal men of Virginia are left to the protection of the so called "State Government," our "only safety will be in immediate flight."

The recently elected legislature was filled with "the same traitors who had set a price upon the heads of many of us because we were Union men; who were implicated in the murder of our neighbors for the same reason, and had destroyed by starvation and other cruelty thousands of National soldiers possessed themselves of the political control of affairs within that portion of the lately conquered territory known as Virginia, and their legislature now assumes to make laws binding upon the people."

They flagged legislation under consideration in Richmond that was sympathetic to the secessionists, such as:

taxpayer funded pensions for prominent rebel widows; five year residency requirements meant to disenfranchise unionists; suggestions that Robert E. Lee be appointed Governor; and laws that degrade, humiliate and deprive Black Virginians of freedom, that subject “them to white power,” such as “oppressive vagrant laws” and laws that give Justices of the Peace arbitrary power to exclude Black people’s testimony from court without appeal.

The unionists petition ended with a request for protection, “the experiment of State Government in Virginia has proven an utter failure,” “our only hope lies in a Territorial Government” administered from Washington. “We therefore, pray your honorable bodies to set aside the Government of which Francis H. Pierpont is head and to establish in its place a Territorial organization.” The petition was circulated with the intention of sharing it with Congress where the [Joint Committee on Reconstruction was holding critical hearings.](#)

When Edgar Snowden, Jr. showed up to cover the meeting, they contemplated asking him to leave, but “The reporter was allowed to remain undisturbed,” he wrote, “to note the strange proceedings of a few men, attempting to break up and overturn the civil government of the old “mother of States,” he added, accusing the “ferrets” of “humiliating” Virginia, “because they are not and cannot be longer in the ascendency.”

(13)

### **Home Rule: Spoiler Alert Secessionists Win**

Just as old guard whigs, who had both unionists and confederates among them, took back the statehouse in October 1865, the following March, a similar lot were elected to city offices under a new charter issued by the new legislature. W.D. Massey, a member of the outgoing City Council said the Citizen Ticket, which won in a landslide, bore the names of men in power in Alexandria when Union Troops arrived in May of 1861. Men who, he said, refused the oath and refused to do anything in support of the United States. He indicated there were shenanigans afoot and accused them of keeping anyone who didn’t vote for secession off the ballot.(14)

### **Terrorist Heroes**

A large crowd gathered at 5 p.m. outside the former slave prison on Duke Street to see off the five white Alexandrians found [guilty of violently beating Black residents and murdering John Anderson on Christmas Day.](#) The *Alexandria Gazette* called it a “sad ending of, *at most a Christmas frolic.*” Snowden, likely Harold, abhorred at “the appearance of five residents of this city – born and raised here, and known to all of our old citizens, as honest and upright young men, manacled together with iron handcuffs, and carried through the streets in charge of a military guard...” He ended the article saying he was positive the President wasn’t fully informed of the affair when he approved the findings of the military commission.

### **Our Duty To Not Remain Silent**

In May, 1866 Virginians who had remained loyal to the United States met in Alexandria to launch the Union Republican Party. Their platform included expanding civil and political rights to Black men, and providing free schools. They believed these steps were needed to preserve government institutions, perpetuate democracy and halt the march to power by those who caused the Civil War.

Local unionists Lewis McKenzie of Alexandria and John (Job) Hawxhurst of Fairfax were among the participants, who helped craft a document for Congress explaining that it was their “duty not to remain silent” about the continued appeasement of those who had taken up arms against the United States.

They reminded everyone the war was fought over “the right of secession.” They implored Congress to recognize the issue hadn’t gone away. “While the late rebels affect to accept the situation, they not only hold the same opinion ...but openly advocate their views ...as the basis of party action in the future...for the purpose of accomplishing with votes what they have failed to accomplish with bayonets.”

They urged “impartial qualified suffrage,” adding, “If any considerable portion of the community is denied a voice in the election, that portion of the people will be denied such perfect protection as ought to exist in the rights of persons and property.”

They called the newly elected state government invalid since so many new members held military or civil offices under the “so called Confederate and state governments in rebellion against the U.S.” including the Speaker. They said hardly any Assembly members had taken the required oath. And for all of these reasons, they believed the state government was “elected, assembled and organized contrary to the law and the constitution of the United States,” all acts passed by them should be considered null and void.

Although these unionists had finally advocated for citizenship and voting rights for African Americans, it was too late for them to gain significant influence in the Black community. Many more were attracted to

Alexandria's Underwood's and Richmond's Hunnicutt's approach. The duo would become the leaders of Virginia's Radical Republicans. (15)

### **The 14th Amendment**

Within weeks Congress passed the 14th Amendment and addressed the majority of Loyalist's concerns by elevating African Americans to citizenship with a say in their government while disenfranchising Southern sympathizers.

Edgar Snowden, Sr. pounced stamping ink onto paper, "Under this clause it will be concluded the negro [sic] is a citizen and will have the right to vote. Secondly, it largely reduces the number of representatives that southern states are entitled to send to Congress."

Focusing on the Third Clause, he wrote "a very large proportion of the best and most intelligent citizens of the Southern States is politically proscribed and incapacitated from holding any office, civil or military, under the United States or any State." Snowden warned that if ratified, "the vast mass of the white people of the South will be thenceforth political Helots - a fanatical faction will rule over them without their consent." (16)

President Johnson intended, and did, impress his veto.

In November, at the midterm elections, the people filled the halls of Congress with Republicans giving them what they needed to restore the South - a veto proof majority.

### **1867**

As soon as Virginia's General Assembly convened in Richmond in January 1867, lawmakers resoundingly struck down the 14th Amendment with a unanimous vote in the Senate and a lopsided 74-1 in the House. Their actions became nothing more than gestures in March.

### **Enough Led To Enough**

On March 2, two thirds of the Congress overrode the President's veto of the 14th Amendment, then they passed the first Reconstruction Act. Virginia was placed under military authority and the only way out from under it would be to write a new constitution that incorporated the 14th Amendment and was approved by a majority of both white and Black voters. Power Sharing was the only path to regain entrance into the United States. (17)

The *Gazette* derided the Reconstruction Act, calling it the "Military Force Bill." The whole thing threw Alexandria politics into disarray, the approval of the 14th amendment came just 72 hours before polls were to open for municipal elections. (18)

Mayor Hugh Latham and Judge Moore dashed across the Potomac to ask the U.S. Attorney General and the President if they had to let Black men vote.

Unionist John Hawxhurst went to Gov. Pierpont and asked the same thing a bit differently, was the city required to allow Black men to vote? Pierpont assured him the law was in force "all male citizens over the age of 21 are entitled to vote at elections except those disqualified. The colored people are undoubtedly entitled to vote, under the bill, at your municipal election."

Two companies of the 12th U.S. Infantry and a Battalion of Cavalry arrived in Alexandria to monitor the election. The mayor ignored the governor saying he had no definitive answer from the President or Attorney General on the question of the Black vote.

Black Alexandrians were waiting in long lines amidst heavy rain when polls opened at 9 a.m. The Commissioners turned them away while letting white residents vote. Union volunteers stood in the rain and bouts of hail in every neighborhood and recorded each Black man's ballot. By 3pm 1,000 Black men had voted, according to the *Alexandria Gazette* which was urging white men to go out and support the conservative ticket.

The troops left at 6 a.m. the next morning. Commissioners stated that the 14th Amendment had not been promulgated, therefore Virginia's law was supreme (even though this conflicted with Virginia Gov. Pierpont's declaration). They counted only the ballots cast by white men.

Conservative Hugh Latham, considered a secessionist, was re-elected Mayor, and a number of Alexandrians who had voted for secession or served the Confederacy became Aldermen and Councilmen. Of note, A.D. Warfield, an ex-confederate soldier who was a member of the mob of terrorists convicted for murdering John

Anderson, was elected to serve on the Common Council. (19)

The *Gazette* reported that at least 1,221 Black men had voted and erroneously implied that many were from out of town and out of state. Unionists and sympathetic whites said they recorded 1403 ballots cast by Black Alexandrians. Judge Underwood and the Unionists asked Congress to recognize the votes and install the true winners in office. (20)

On March 7, the *Gazette* printed the Unionist's entire letter to Congress along with the names of the prominent Alexandrians who signed it, including - Judge J.C. Underwood, George Tucker, John Harry Worst, Joseiah Millard, T.A. Stoutenburgh, John Birrell, James T. Burnett, Thomas Davy, William Bushby, W.N. Berkley, Walter L. Penn, Larkin Patton, Theodore Teed, John Moore and Thomas I. Edelin.

The letter explained that city officials had openly defied the law by disenfranchising Black citizens. "The men controlling the government of Alexandria utterly refused to receive and count their votes, or even to record the names of such as endeavored to exercise this right," they wrote.

In addition, they stated:

1. employers threatened to fire any employees who voted Republican.
2. Threats were made to "spill blood" if the Black men tried to vote. (They pointed out that the men were unarmed and it was only the presence of troops that prevented a mob.)

By their count a total of 1,509 votes were cast for Unionist Candidates while 1,101 votes were cast for the "disloyal tickets" many by "returned rebel soldiers."

"The existing provisional government insists upon ignoring the Union vote and declaring the candidate of the opposite party elected Mayor, although he received only 582 votes and is moreover disqualified by the law above referred to [14th Amendment] from holding office."

Unionists, both white and Black, are hated in Alexandria, they said, and have been hunted down and as evidenced, murdered. There is no recourse because "disloyal citizens" hold all the offices, are the judges and clerks of elections who receive and count the votes and decide who is elected. "The history of the last thirty years has proved that these men will commit any and every outrage and crime which seems necessary..." to stay in power.

Snowden hit back in an editorial disagreeing point by point. He could not believe these charges were leveled before the U.S. Congress by Alexandrians against their neighbors. (21)

Within days, the new City Council Convened and soon filled all the appointed positions, Edgar Snowden Jr., who served time for colluding with the rebels, was appointed to a new school board called "Guardians of Free Schools."

In a joint resolution, the U.S. Senate declared the municipal election in Alexandria to be vacated, "Persons exercising the authority of said offices are forbidden to hold or exercise the authority of the same; and any person who shall attempt to hold any of said offices, or to exercise the authority of the same, shall, on conviction, be imprisoned not less than one year, and pay a fine of not less than one thousand dollars."

The resolution was ignored.

On March 13, Virginia became Military District 1 and Pierpont took second seat to Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield.

On Dec. 3, 1867 Virginia's Constitutional Convention opened and both Black and white delegates elected Judge Underwood to chair the audacious proceedings.

On April 4, 1868 Gen. Wells was appointed Governor of Virginia. The same year, President Johnson appointed Beach as U.S. Attorney for the District of Virginia. In this position, Beach argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of former Confederates who lost their property during the Civil War. His legal work caused the federal government to pay Robert E. Lee's family for their estate at Arlington.

Endnotes

1. Alexandria, like the country was polarized at the end of the war, among those who had remained loyal to the U.S. who were known as Unionists (not to be confused with the Constitutional Unionists of 1861)

were those who believed the only way forward was to share power with the Black community, others believed it would be enough to give them nonvoting resident status and let them live under white authority the way women did. While most of the conservative whites wanted to return to some version of the past where white men were in control.

2. During the war there were two Virginia governments. The confederates were based in Richmond and a "Restored Government" led by Gov. Pierpont, an anti-secession Whig turned Republican, the government operated out of Wheeling and then Alexandria after 1863 (City Hall and 415 Prince St.). The Restored Government's 1864 Alexandria Constitution outlawed slavery and rebel participation in government. The next year, in Feb. Virginia ratified the 13th Amendment. As soon as hostilities ended in April, the U.S. Army began enforcing emancipation, the Confederate Government gave way to Pierpont's Administration. Supporters hoped this meant they could be quickly returned to the U.S., but that isn't what happened in the end.
3. Fri, June 23, 1865, p.3; Gen. Henry Horatio Wells was not a native Alexandrian, he moved to Virginia during the Civil War, was Alexandria's Provost and then became a permanent resident. Just before leaving the military, Wells was involved in the hunt for President Lincoln's assassin. During an interrogation of Samuel Mudd, he uncovered information that led to the discovering of John Wilkes Booth in Caroline County. He also was involved with Judge Underwood when charges of treason were brought Jefferson Davis. (See Virginia Encyclopedia Henry Horatio Wells.)
4. S. Ferguson Beach moved to Alexandria prior to the 1850s, he was an attorney and before the War he enslaved at least one woman and her child. He did not vote to secede and helped others who shared his views to organize after U.S. troops arrived in May 1861. They took over city council that fall and was elected to represent Alexandria in the U.S. Congress during the war. With many other loyalist/unionist men, he became a republican after the war. He became Alexandria's City Attorney in 1866.
5. John C. Underwood moved to Virginia from New York after college and lived in Alexandria off and on over many decades including before the War. He moved permanently to Virginia around 1850 and became one of the first republicans in the state. During the war, President Lincoln appointed him to serve as the U.S. District Judge in Alexandria. He was ferociously abolitionist, more radical and more political than Wells or Beach. He sought retribution against former enslavers using U.S. property confiscation laws against them. A fiery and widely controversial man, he was disliked by secessionists and more moderate white republicans. That dislike may have colored the dominant historical record in his regard. When he called out Virginia's laws for violating the human rights of African Americans because they were prohibited from testifying against white people in court, he was roundly chastised. He said he regretted that the U.S. Constitution and federal law prevented him from ordering a Black man to testify in a September 1864 case before his court. At another time, while testifying before the Congressional Joint Committee on Reconstruction, Underwood was asked if a Unionist or Loyal man could get a fair trial in Virginia, he said, "Not unless it is what might be called a packed jury. I do not believe, from what I have seen, that the Union man could expect to obtain justice in the courts of the State at this time; certainly not if his opponent was a rebel. The bitterness of feeling is very great, and I think the jury would be at least nine-tenths rebel." He was then asked if it was possible to find a jury in Virginia that would convict Jefferson Davis of treason, to which he said "only a packed jury especially chosen for the purpose would be able to do that." They asked if he could pack one to achieve that end and he "admitted that he probably could." This statement isn't the same as corruptly and unethically promoting a practice of packing juries, but that is the reputation with which Underwood ended up. Underwood was chosen to chair Virginia's Constitutional Convention that led to the state being readmitted to the Union. He died in 1873. (See John C. Underwood in Virginia Encyclopedia.)
6. *Alexandria Gazette*, May 20, 1865, p.2
7. *Ibid*, June 20, 1865, p.2.
8. *Ibid*, June 16, 1865 p.2, June 20, 1865, letter, p.2; The legislature approved laws allowing anyone to vote, except those excluded by President Johnson, as long as they took the oath to support the restored Government and defend the U.S. Constitution.
9. *Alexandria Gazette*, June 23, 1865, p. 3
10. *Alexandria Gazette*, July 5, 1865, p.1
11. *Ibid*, Aug. 15, 1865; Colored [Convention Report](#); But that was a lie, as it was discovered that language had been surreptitiously attached to a report of the proceedings after the meeting adjourned.
12. Ours, Robert Maurice, "Virginia's funding legislation, 1869-1875 : its background, principal features, related measures, and effects" (1974). *Dissertations, Theses, and Masters Projects*. William & Mary. Paper 1539623670, p.8; They joined together to elect former Confederate Congressman, John B. Baldwin to the Speakership.
13. Ours p.9; *Gazette*, Feb. 6 1866, p.1



14. *Gazette*, Feb. 7,8, 1866
15. *Ibid*, Fri, May 18, p. 3 and *Ours*, pp.8,9
16. *Gazette*, June 20, p.2
17. *Ibid*, Saturday, March 2, 1867, p.2,3
18. *Ibid*, Monday, March 4, 1867, p.3
19. George L. Simpson who would be mayor when Benjamin Thomas was lynched by a white mob was elected to the Common Council.
20. *Gazette*, March 6, 1867, p.3
21. *Ibid*. March 11, p.2

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[Joseph McCoy](#) [Benjamin Thomas](#).

[For more information](#)

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*The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) is a city-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror hate crimes and to work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion.*

**Office of Historic Alexandria  
City of Alexandria, Virginia**



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