

City of Alexandria, Virginia

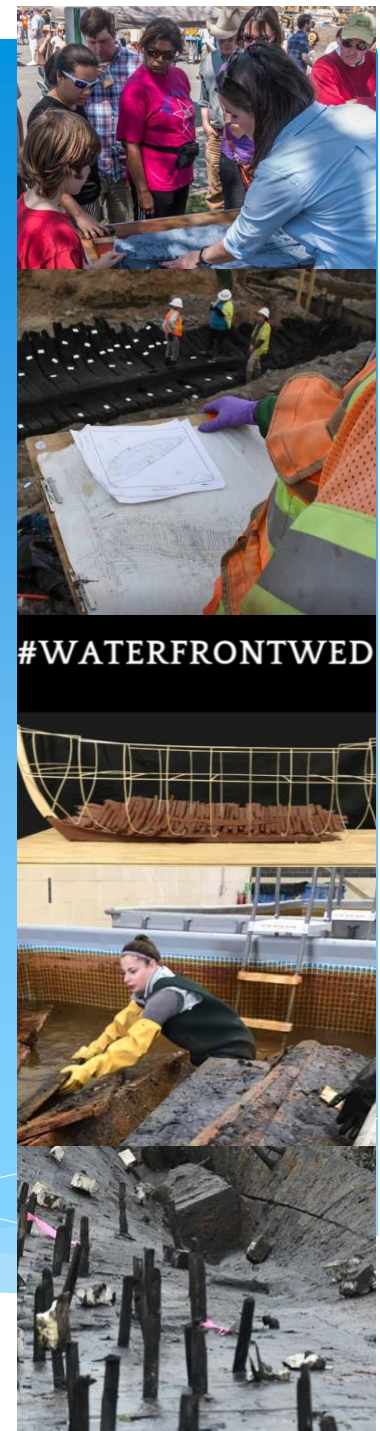
Office of Historic Alexandria

Gretchen Bulova
Director

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City Archaeologist



March 2023



Office of Historic Alexandria

Established 1983



We seek to infuse Alexandria's rich and complex history into the fabric of the community.



OHA's Mission and Vision



Mission

The Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) preserves and shares Alexandria's past to enrich the present and inspire the future.

Vision

To infuse Alexandria's rich and complex history into the fabric of the community.

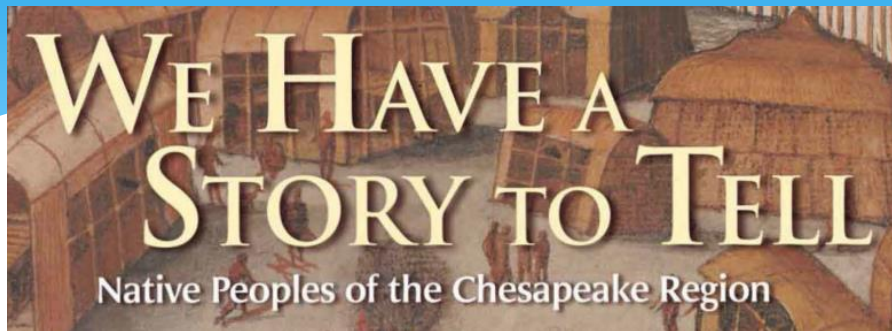
Jackson Cemetery

In 1884, James F. Jackson purchased the largest parcel in "The Fort," a post-Civil War African American community. He paid \$300 for his 11.5 acres with the "western slope of a bank of Fort Ward." James and wife Catherine (Katie/Kittie), natives of Fauquier County, lived here over 40 years, making their living by farming, doing laundry, and working as a driver at the Episcopal High School. The Jacksons established a burial ground on the fort's slope (*glacis*). In 1926, speculators began purchasing most of the original Jackson land, which was incorporated later into the Eagle Crest development. The City of Alexandria acquired this land for the park in 1956.



Alexandria Through the Ages

Indigenous People



<https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/chesapeake.pdf>



<https://www.virginiahumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/VA-Indian-Trail-Guide.pdf>

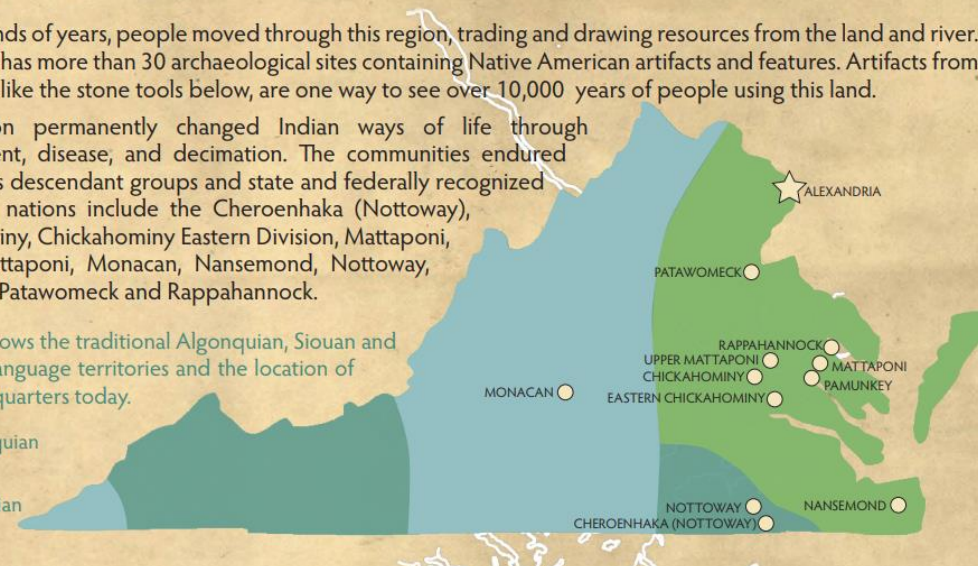
Technology Tells a Story

For thousands of years, people moved through this region, trading and drawing resources from the land and river. Alexandria has more than 30 archaeological sites containing Native American artifacts and features. Artifacts from these sites, like the stone tools below, are one way to see over 10,000 years of people using this land.

Colonization permanently changed Indian ways of life through displacement, disease, and decimation. The communities endured and today's descendant groups and state and federally recognized tribes and nations include the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway), Chickahominy, Chickahominy Eastern Division, Mattaponi, Upper Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Nottoway, Pamunkey, Patowomeck and Rappahannock.

This map shows the traditional Algonquian, Siouan and Iroquoian language territories and the location of tribal headquarters today.

- Algonquian
- Siouan
- Iroquoian



By the Numbers

2,534,937

Objects in the permanent collection - from archaeological fragments to a neon sign

233

Volunteers who researched and shared Alexandria's diverse stories



FY22 Acquisition
Edmonson Sisters
Maquette



OHA is one of only 3% of museums in the nation accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

54,299

Views of OHA YouTube videos

13,000 years

Oldest object in the collection: a Clovis Point

310

Oral Histories in the collection



1,185

18th century Ship Timbers Pondered

59,141

Guests served in the museums, out in the community, and online

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How do we infuse Alexandria's history
into the fabric of the community?

- Museums and Historic Sites
- Long-term Community Projects
- Educational and Public Programs
- Museum without Walls



Alexandria Archaeology
Museum



Alexandria Black History
Museum



Alexandria History
Museum at The Lyceum



Fort Ward Museum &
Historic Site



Freedom House Museum



Friendship Firehouse
Museum



Gadsby's Tavern
Museum



Stabler-Leadbeater
Apothecary Museum

OHA's Museum System:

- **8 Museums**
- **7 Historic Sites**





African American
Heritage Park



Watson Reading Room

OHA's Museum System Features:

- 8 Museums
- **7 Historic Sites**



Contrabands and
Freedmen Cemetery



Union Station



Lloyd House



Collections Storage
Facility

Office of Historic Alexandria

517 Prince Street, construction began 1772



- One of the earliest homes in the City and possible the least altered 18th-century home in Northern Virginia.
- Purchased through Conservation Trust funding.
- Has a life tenant.
- Future: master plan and preservation.



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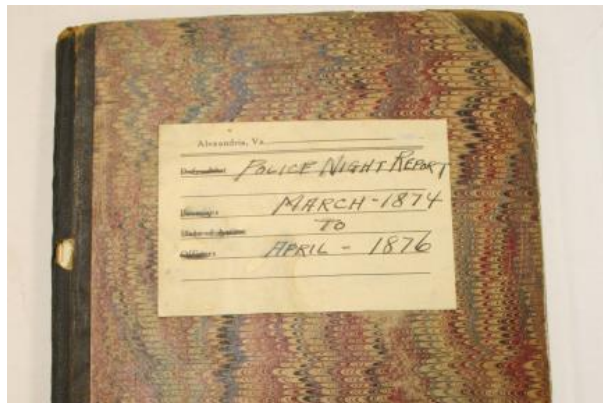
1315 Duke Street, c.1812



- Site of the largest domestic slave trading firm in the country in the 1820s-1830s.
- Purchased by the City as a museum in 2020.
- Reopened with a temporary exhibit in 2022.
- Future: master plan, restoration, and preservation.

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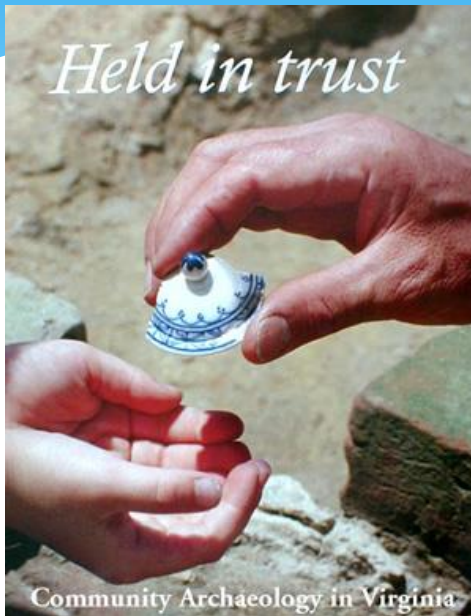
Archives, Archaeology, Oral History



The Archives and Records Center manages the records created by the City of Alexandria's government agencies, preserves the archival or historical documents of these agencies, and ensures that these documents are available for public research. The Archives and Records Center must comply with the *Virginia Public Records Act*.

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Alexandria Archaeology, est. 1977



- Unique and community-driven urban archaeology program
- Museum (est. 1984) in the Torpedo Factory – also serves as classroom and public lab
- Supported by the AAC and FOAA

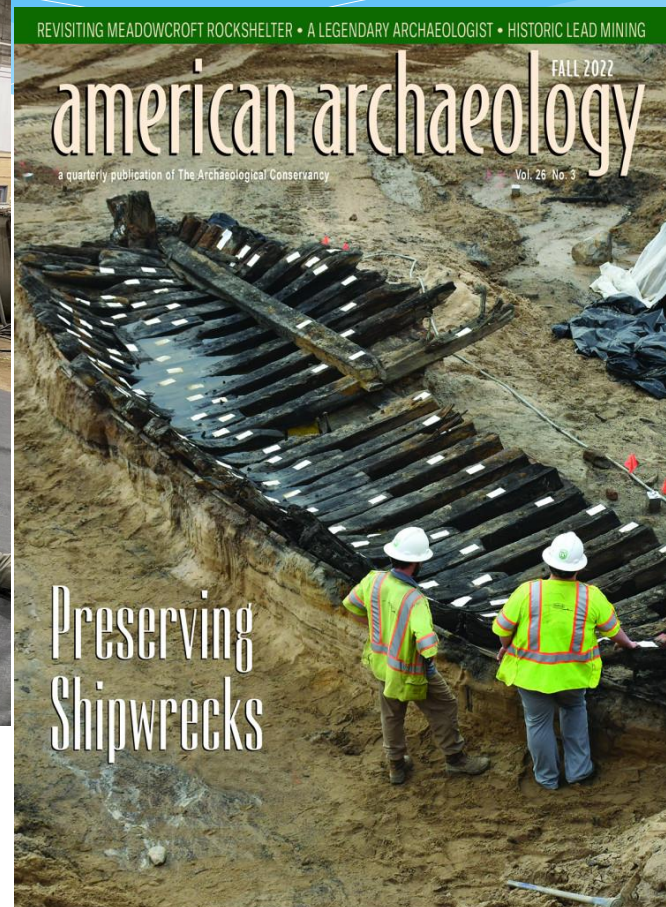
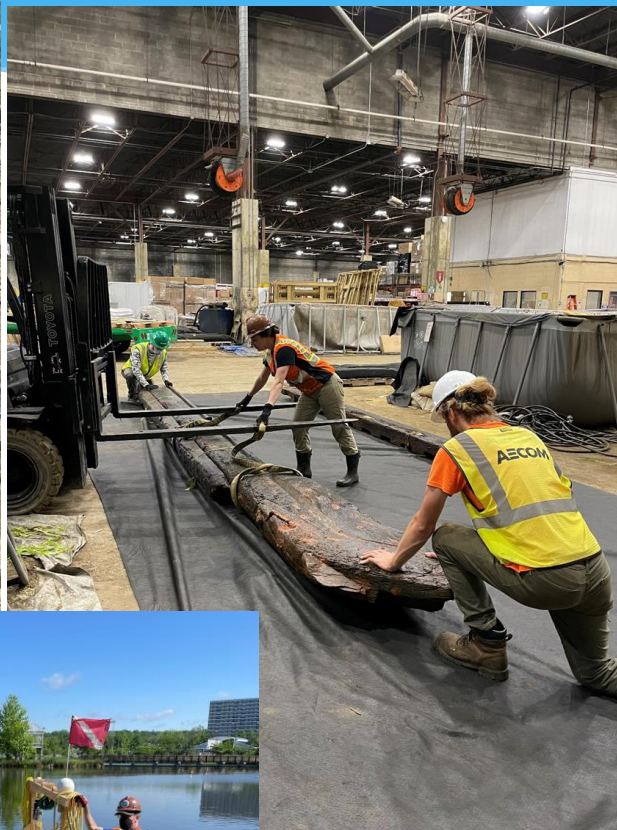


*Alexandria
Archaeological
Commission*

America's First Archaeological Commission

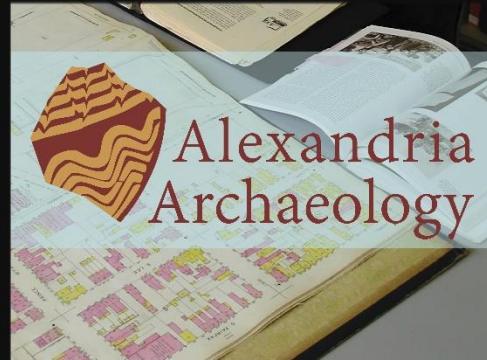
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Alexandria Archaeology, est. 1977



Office of Historic Alexandria Alexandria Archaeology

Established 1977



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Oral History Center, est. 2022



SHARE YOUR STORY

Oral History Center Historic Alexandria



Office of Historic Alexandria Community Projects



We honor Benjamin Thomas and Joseph McCoy,
lynched in Alexandria in 1899 and 1897, respectively.



*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.*

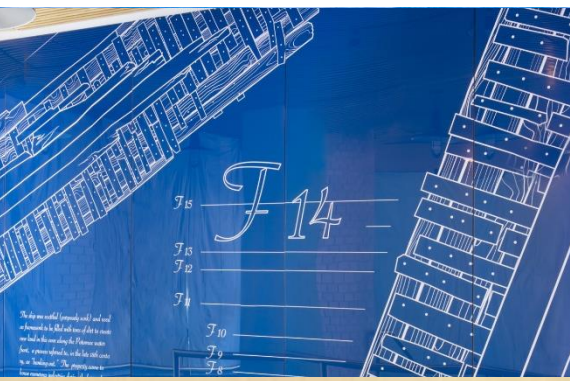
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Community Projects



The Alexandria Black History Museum is a proud recipient of a 2021-2023 grant from the *IMLS Museum Grants for African American History and Culture*. This highly competitive and generous grant will enable the museum to digitize, interpret, and make four important archival collections publicly accessible: community leader Annie B. Rose (left); civic activist Ferdinand Day (right); opera singer Ben Holt; and path-breaking advertiser Moss Kendrick (bottom).





African American Heritage Trail

North Waterfront Route from the Foot of King Street



Historic Alexandria Museum without Walls



Office of Historic Alexandria Education and Public Programming



Birthday Parties
Lessons for K-12**
Lectures and Events

****Free for ACPS Schools!**

Office of Historic Alexandria

Our Partners



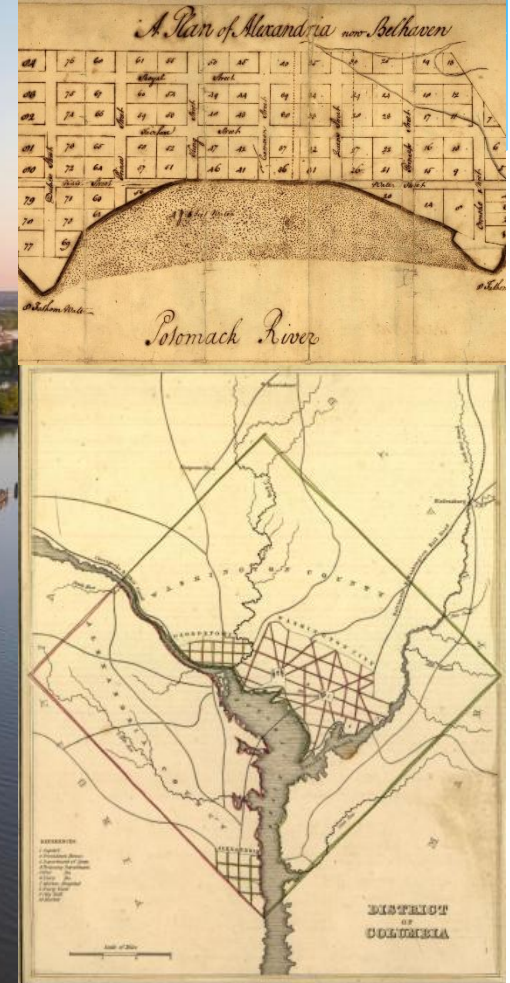
- 233 Volunteers
- 6 Commissions
- 5 Friends Groups
- And so many others who make our work possible

Historic Alexandria

Top Destination for Heritage Tourism



Top 50 places to visit in the country
for our “Cultural Riches”



<https://www.forbes.com/sites/katiechang/2020/09/07/why-alexandria-virginia-is-a-smart-choice-for-a-safe-roadtrip-right-now/?sh=7c47d9e243ea>

Historic Alexandria

Keep in Touch!



“Out of the Attic” weekly in *Alexandria*  *Times*

Established in 1797 as The Alexandria Times and Advertiser

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