

Alexandria Times

Denise Dunbar
 Publisher & Executive Editor
 ddunbar@alextimes.com

Margaret Stevens
 Sales Director
 mstevens@alextimes.com

Caitlyn Meisner
 Editor
 cmeisner@alextimes.com

Sydney Kodama
 Reporter/Photographer
 skodama@alextimes.com

Andrew McCabe
 Photo Intern
 amccabe@alextimes.com

Ella Mitchell
 Reporting Intern
 emitchell@alextimes.com

ADVERTISING

Margaret Stevens
 mstevens@alextimes.com

Marty DeVine
 mdevine@alextimes.com

Patrice V. Culligan
 pculligan@alextimes.com

Stephanie Santiago
 ssantiago@alextimes.com

Tina Franco
 Office Administrator
 tfranco@alextimes.com

DIRECTOR OF ART & DESIGN

Jessica Kim
 graphics@alextimes.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Davis
Mark Eaton
Mark Edelman
Thompson Eskew
Kim Gilliam
Ryan Hopper
Lexie Jordan
Louise Krafft
Brianne McConnell
Jim McGrath
Erin Shackelford
Hannah Shibliq
Dr. Vivek Sinha
Kathryn Ziemer

ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY MEDIA

Denise Dunbar
 President

The Ariail family
Suzanne Brock

Tax-deductible donations can
 be mailed to:
 Alexandria Times
 908 King Street, Suite 200
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Alexandria
 COMMUNITY MEDIA

The Marine Band at the Lyceum

Nov. 10 marks the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps, and in honor of that anniversary, we share two newspaper accounts of the Marine Band performing at The Lyceum in Alexandria.

While the Marine Corps was founded in 1775, before the Declaration of Independence, the United States Marine Band wasn't established by Congress until 1798. The military band has been known as "The President's Own" since John Adams requested a performance at the Executive Mansion in 1801. That same year, Thomas Jefferson requested a performance by the band at his inauguration.

Despite Alexandria's proximity to Washington, D.C., the first record of the Marine Band performing at Alexandria's Lyceum appeared in the May 22, 1840 edition of the Alexandria Gazette. The article listed the Order of Procession for "The Brethren of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Potomac Lodge" assembly on May 28 of that year. The order included:

"Anthem by the Choir.



PHOTO/HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

An early image of the Lyceum, which also used to be the Alexandria Library.

Prayer

Original Ode by the Choir
 Music by the Marine Band
 The notice proclaimed:

"The Lyceum Hall will be opened at 12 o'clock for the admission of visitors; the North side of the Hall will be set apart exclusively for the ladies."

Almost three years after the Odd Fellows assembly, the same newspaper published a review of "Signor Garcia's Con-

cert at the Lyceum Hall."

The writer declared:

"Such a real musical treat our citizens have not had for a long time. The Marine Band from Washington, played most delightfully."

Since those visits to the Lyceum in Alexandria, the Marine Band has expanded nationwide. Since its famous director, John Philip Sousa, instituted a fall concert tour tra-

dition in 1891, citizens across the country have had access to the band still known as "The President's Own."

Given the band's later fame due to Sousa's success, perhaps it's fair to say that the Alexandria Lyceum hosted them "before they became big."

*Out of the Attic is
 provided by the Office of
 Historic Alexandria.*