

Ann Buckland, “Gentlewoman” (104 S. St. Asaph Street)



Fig. 1: 104 S. St. Asaph St in 1967 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

In 1801, Ann Buckland bought the lot on 104 S. St. Asaph Street from her sister, Catherine Coryton, and built a two-story brick house on the property four years later (see Figs.1 and 2).

Ann and Catherine were the sisters of [Adam Lynn Jr.](#), a prominent merchant and silversmith. Their father, Adam Lynn Sr., had owned the entire NW quadrant of the 500 block which was divided between his wife and children upon his death in 1785 (Terrie 1979).

Ann inherited two lots from her father: one located at 106 S. St. Asaph Street, and the other at 526-528 King Street. The former was sold to Andrew Jamison in 1799 and later bought by her brother Adam in 1805. She held on to the King Street property until she died in 1834, renting it out to a number of tenants over the years.

In 1805, the same year that Ann built and moved into her house at 104 S. St. Asaph St., she sold the property to her brother Adam, an avid real estate dealer. She, her family, and one slave occupied the house as renters until 1819 when Ann repurchased the property. She moved out for a few years but returned to the house in 1824, where she stayed until her death in 1834 (Alexandria Archaeology Files).

The 1816 City Census referred to Ann as a “gentlewoman.” She had married a cabinet maker named William Buckland, but was widowed relatively early. Starting in 1824, her daughter Mary and son-in-law Thomas Whittle moved in with her, along with their children and two slaves. When Ann died, they inherited the property (AAF).



Fig.2: 104 S. St. Asaph Street in 1967, south side (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

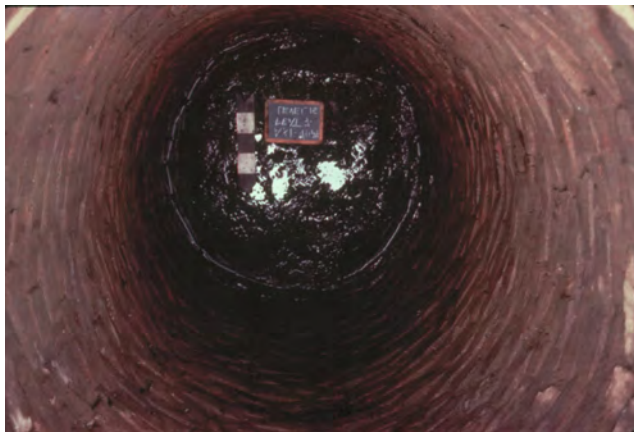


Fig. 3: Feature 7 Level 15 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

A little more than 150 years later, archaeologists discovered the remains of a privy in what had once been Ann Buckland’s backyard (Fig. 3). The brick-lined shaft was probably first built as a well and then converted into a privy soon after. It was almost 27 ft. deep and had an average diameter of 3.8 ft. It was filled with human fecal material and other waste. The artifacts found in the privy indicate that it was used as such beginning in the 1820’s and until the 1850’s.

Among the artifacts that may have been associated with Ann Buckland's occupation of the house were some fine examples of transfer printed ceramics depicting American scenes.

After the War of 1812 and because of anti-British sentiment among Americans, English imports in general were slumping. In response to this situation, English manufacturers began using American patriotic scenes, landmarks, and famous personages to lure their American clients back to their old buying habits (Magid, AAF). Unless otherwise indicated, all the following artifact identifications were made by Barbara H. Magid, Alexandria Archaeology.



Fig. 4: Pearlware plate from Feature 7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

One popular design was that of the Nahant Hotel in Boston, as seen in Fig. 4. The hotel was an elegant resort, very popular among the Boston elite. Built in 1820, it unfortunately burnt down in 1861, never to be replaced.

The engraving on this particular pearlware plate figured in Snow's History of Boston, published in 1825. The plate's manufacture is attributed to Ralph Stevenson or Stevenson and Williams in Staffordshire, ca.1825-1832 (Godden 1964; Magid, AAF).

The pearlware plate in Fig. 5 features St. Paul's Church, the oldest in New York. It was built in the 1760's and served as a place of worship for George Washington in 1789 following his inauguration.

This plate is also attributed to Ralph Stevenson or Stevenson and Williams, and was manufactured some time between 1825 and 1832. The lithograph from which the design was transferred dates to ca. 1819 (Godden 1964; Magid, AAF).



Fig. 5: Small pearlware plate from Feature 7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)



Fig. 6: Whiteware platter, AX 1 Ft. 7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

Depicted on the small whiteware platter in Fig.6 is the Philadelphia Upper Ferry Bridge and Fair Mount Water Works to the left. The bridge was built in 1813 across the Schuylkill River. This covered bridge, spanning 98 feet, was a Philadelphian landmark and was nicknamed “The Colossus of Philadelphia.”

This engraving was published in 1830 and applied to the platter ca.1831-1835 by J&J Jackson in Staffordshire (Godden 1964; Magid, AAF).

This creamware pitcher with buff-colored ground features a portrait of Jacob Jones on one side and of Zebulon Pike on the other (Figs. 7 and 8).

Jones was an American commander who successfully captured and battled British ships during the War of 1812. Jones went on to fight in Algiers in 1815 as the captain of the *Macedonia*, a warship of which he was made Captain in 1813 (Magid 2006).

General Zebulon Pike was a famous explorer, appointed by the military to explore the headwaters of the Mississippi



Fig. 7: Creamware pitcher featuring a portrait of Jacob Jones, AX 1 Ft.7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION).



Fig. 8: Reverse side featuring a portrait of General Pike, AX 1 Ft.7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

and the southwestern borders of the Louisiana Purchase. Pike’s Peak in Colorado was one of his most famous discoveries. He was also a General during the War of 1812, but was killed at the Battle of York in 1813 (Magid 2006).

The engravings on the pitcher were based on Rembrandt Peale’s portraits *Jones of the Macedonia and General Pike*, published in 1813. The pitcher itself was manufactured by Enoch Wood in Staffordshire around 1815 (Magid 2006).

This black transfer printed mug (Figs. 9 and 10) depicts Lafayette on one side and the surrender of Cornwallis on the other.

Lafayette was a French Marquis who fought under George Washington and helped defeat General Cornwallis and his troops at the definitive battle of Yorktown.

Lafayette was considered a hero of the American Revolution, and when he came back for a tour of America forty years later in 1824, Americans all around the country celebrated his arrival with parades, ceremonies, and receptions (Magid 2006).



Fig. 9: Whiteware mug with portrait of Marquis de la Fayette, AX 1 Ft.7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)



Fig. 10: Reverse side of the same whiteware mug, with a depiction of the surrender of Cornwallis, AX 1 Ft.7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

In 1825, [Robert H. Miller](#), a prominent Alexandria merchant, advertised ceramics of all kinds featuring drawings of Lafayette and the surrender of Cornwallis. Many examples of these have been found in Alexandria, marked “Manufactured for Rob’t H. Miller, Alexandria DC” (Magid 2006).

The pearlware mug found in Ann Buckland’s backyard was unmarked, but clearly fits Miller’s description. One side depicts Lafayette being crowned with a wreath of laurels by two angels and is marked “*Lafayette Crowned at Yorktown.*” The reverse side features a drawing of Cornwallis’ surrender and the engraving “*Cornwallis Resigning His Sword at York Town, Oct. 19, 1781.*” The mug was manufactured in England ca. 1825 (Magid 2006).

Lafayette came to Alexandria five times, and in October of 1824, he stayed an entire month. During this long visit, he resided in a house at 301 S. St. Asaph St., just two blocks down from Ann Buckland’s home (Fig. 11). The house was offered by the widow of Thomas Lawrason, and came to be known as the “Lafayette House,” which still exists today.

Before, during, and even one year after his arrival, Lafayette souvenirs flooded the American market (Magid 2006).



Fig. 11: 301 S. St. Asaph Street “The Lafayette House” (O’Brien/Hulfish Collection, Alexandria Library)



Among the more utilitarian wares found in the privy was this red earthenware milk pan (Fig. 12).

“The shallow pan shape was preferred because the milk could be quickly cooled by placing the pan in cool water. The indentation in the lip of the pan was used in skimming the cream from the milk, as well as in pouring the milk from the pan. A knife was placed diagonally across the indentation and the cream was skimmed as the milk was poured out.” (Magid, AAF).

Fig. 12: Earthenware milk pan, AX1, Ft.7 (ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION)

It is doubtful that Ann or her daughter Mary would have performed this task. Rather, one might imagine the adult female slave listed in the 1824 City Census handling this pan almost daily, one chore among what must have been many.

(Written by Amanda Iacobelli, 2006)

References

Unless otherwise indicated, all artifact identifications were made by Barbara H. Magid, Alexandria Archaeology. Historical information was extracted from the Alexandria Archaeology Files (AAF), mostly compiled by Ruth Sinberg Baker, Vivienne Mitchell, and Nancy Sennewald.

Magid, Barbara H. “Commemorative Wares in George Washington’s Hometown.” In Ceramics in America. Forthcoming, 2006.

Terrie, Phillip. “Alexandria’s Main Street Residents: A Social History of the 500 Block of King Street.” Alexandria Archaeology Manuscript, 1979.