

# Alexandria Archaeology

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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## Twenty Five Years And Counting: The City's Archaeological Protection Code

By Fran Bromberg

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In 2014 the City of Alexandria celebrated the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Archaeological Protection Code, which has served as a preservation model for local jurisdictions across the nation. Through the investigation and preservation of numerous sites that would have been lost to development, the code has enabled the recovery of information about the full range of human activity in Alexandria, from Native American occupation through the early 20th century. The excavated sites highlight the wharves and ship-building activities on the waterfront; the commercial and industrial establishments, including



*Excavation of a 12-foot wide cistern that supplied water for making sugar at the Moore/McLean Sugar House in the early 19th century*

potteries, bakeries, and breweries; life in rural Alexandria; the Civil War; cemetery analysis and preservation; and African Americans and the horrors of enslavement.

By the late 1980s, development in Alexandria was proceeding at a rapid pace, and large open spaces, such as the two abandoned rail yards, were slated for change. Concern for threatened sites across the City led the Archaeological Commission to recognize the need for a local protection ordinance to identify and preserve buried resources threatened by this myriad of development projects. The Commission sought input from the business community, especially

developers and their lawyers, thereby bringing new players into partnership with archaeology. As a direct result of the Commission's vision and commitment, City Council adopted the Alexandria Archaeological Protection Code on November 18, 1989. Not only was Alexandria's code one of the first local ordinances in the country; it also remains one of the few local jurisdictions to consider archaeological preservation across an entire city, not merely in a historic district.

The Archaeological Protection Code set out a process whereby the private sector would pay to preserve resources and information through excavation and analysis before ground disturbance on large-scale construction projects. The code also helped to pave the way for protection and interpretation of some sites in situ. Incorporated into the City's Zoning Ordinance, the code requires coordination with other City departments—the planners, engineers, landscape designers, and other regulatory officials who oversee the site plan process. Implementation involves review of all City development projects by staff archaeologists. The staff determines the level of work to be

*see Code, page 3*

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

## FOAA AWARDEE

The John Glaser Award was given out for the 25th time at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Party. John Glaser was one of the founding members of FOAA and is still active with Alexandria Archaeology. This year's recipient was Robert Colton.

Robert has been a volunteer since February 2012. So far, he has contributed 1,131 hours. He has done a tremendous amount of research on the Fort Ward African American community and Alexandria merchant claims dating to the British occupation during the War of 1812.

Robert was also the person who found the original Alexandria claim documents at the National Archives/College



FOAA President Becca Siegal, Glaser Awardee Robert Colton, and FOAA VP Whitney Stohr

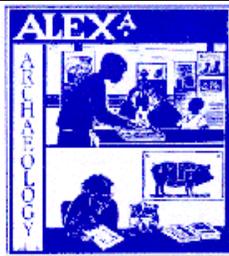
Park. One of the original documents he photographed is incorporated into the War of 1812 sign on the column outside the Torpedo Factory between the timeline and the Waterfront Café.

He spent a lot of time researching the deeds at Fort Ward Park that was incorporated into Krystyn Moon's research. Krystyn says: "Robert Colton has been instrumental in collecting, organizing, and analyzing all of the land deeds related to Fort Ward, an enormous undertaking by itself. His reports and editorial comments on land ownership have been most useful."

He helped Pam Cressey on a variety of assignments, mainly involving deed research – his specialty.

Congratulations, Robert!

## BE SURE TO VISIT THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK



### Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer News

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### 2014-2015 FOAA Board of Directors

Becca Siegal, president; Whitney Stohr, vice president; Katie Wagenblass, treasurer; Laura Heaton, secretary; Mary Jane Nugent, AAC representative; Marya Fitzgerald, Margarete Holubar, Liz Kelley, Mary Ray, Jay Roberts, Kathy Scheibelhoffer, Alissa Schrider and Paula Whitacre, members of the board; Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, eNews; Ruth Reeder, liaison from the Museum

Code, from page 1

done by private developers who are required to hire archaeological consultants to conduct investigations of potentially significant site locations and produce both technical and public reports on their findings.



*A furnace for the manufacture of bottles at the Virginia Glass Company remains intact under a grassy area of the Carlyle development area south of Duke Street.*

The archaeological review process necessitated the compilation of as much data as possible regarding the locations of potential sites in order to make appropriate determinations of the work levels. Using maps obtained and surveys completed through previous research efforts, City archaeologists wrote a preservation chapter for the City's Master Plan that included over 4,000 potential site locations, as well as historic districts and standing structures. This mapped information, now in digital form with Geographic Information System software, facilitates the review process by allowing the staff to assess which projects require archaeological investigations prior to construction.

The code changed some aspects of the Alexandria Archaeology program. Research became more development-oriented and focused on threatened sites, with consultants conducting the bulk of the fieldwork. In addition to completing reviews of development projects, the staff adopted the responsibility of managing the archaeological preservation process to ensure quality, writing scopes of work, overseeing during the processes of excavation and analysis, and reviewing technical and public reports. The City's archaeologists also direct the excavations on City development projects, coordinate with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on federal projects, and conduct investigations of significant sites with volunteers on projects that are too small to fall subject to official code requirements.

In addition, through the partnership that has developed with planners and developers as a result of the code, the implementation process has led to the integration of history and archaeology into development projects—to bring the past out of the museum and into the streets and to incorporate it into the very fabric of the community. Interpretive markers on the Alexandria Heritage Trail relate the stories of the past. History has also found its way into public art that adorns development projects. Elements of the historical past have been saved and interpreted for the public in the city's open spaces. And most importantly, the code has played a significant role in the creation of authentic historical spaces, such as the African American Heritage Park and Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, that promote an understanding of the past and enrich the lives of residents and visitors.

As 2015 begins, after more than 11,000 reviews conducted by the City's archaeological staff over the last 25 years, we can look back and evaluate what the code has accomplished, highlighting all the information that would have been lost without the vision of the Archaeological Commission and the foresight and action of City Council. Organized according to theme, a brief description of information recovered from some of the significant sites investigated is presented in the following link:

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/archaeology/default.aspx?id=82150>

Links to full reports that are on our website can be found at <http://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/archaeology/default.aspx?id=33552>



*Overview of the 19th century Jamieson steam bakery foundations and cistern discovered in 1997 during excavation of the Lee Street Site in Old Town.*

A special thanks goes out to all of the landowners, developers, planners, and archaeological consultants who have helped to save the information from these sites and contributed to making the past come alive in Alexandria.

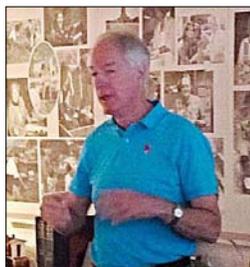
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## JAVA JOLT RECAPS

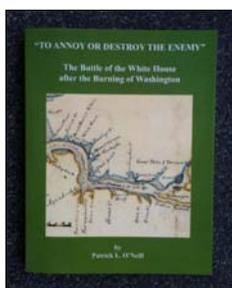
By Whitney Stohr

### War of 1812

Leading up to this summer's events commemorating the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812, FOAA welcomed local historians and researchers, Ted Pulliam (pictured at right), Elizabeth Field, Anna Lynch, and Ruth Reeder, to speak at the FOAA-sponsored "Java Jolt" lecture, titled "Alexandria and the War of 1812" on Saturday, August 16, 2014, at 10AM.



Over coffee and breakfast pastries, the speakers engaged the large crowd with a lively discussion about the War of 1812. As first speaker, and an accomplished local author and historian, Ted Pulliam provided a detailed account of the history of the war and the impacts felt by those living in the city of Alexandria and surrounding areas. Researchers Elizabeth Field and Anna Lynch described their recent work uncovering information about local men who fought in the war and on significant events that took place in the city at that time. Ruth Reeder closed the lecture with a discussion of events leading up to the city's bicentennial commemoration and encouraged guests to attend other War of 1812 events. A brief question and answer period followed.



FOAA would also like to thank Pat O'Neill for his donation of the day's proceeds from the sale of his recent book, "To Annoy or Destroy the Enemy: The Battle of the White House after the Burning of Washington", 2014. The book is on sale at Alexandria Archaeology for \$29.63 (includes tax).

### Frederick Douglass

Five months prior to his death in February 1895, an aging Frederick Douglass (b.1818) journeyed to Alexandria for the celebration of the 31st anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation held on September 24, 1894.

Nearly 120 years later to the day, on September 20, 2014, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) was thrilled to welcome fellow Board of Directors member, Jay

Roberts, for a presentation about his research on a little known connection between Alexandria and Douglass "the Lion of Anacostia." Frederick Douglass was an author, orator, statesman, and champion of civil rights and social reform. Before a large audience, Jay relayed the story of Frederick Douglass's 1895 visit to Alexandria. He also discussed the annual Emancipation Proclamation Day celebrations of local African-American communities that continued well into the 20th Century. A question-and-answer time followed.



As a local history buff, Jay is an active blogger and often writes on various topics of interest and relevance to archaeology. You can visit his blog site at: [http://jay.typepad.com/william\\_jay/](http://jay.typepad.com/william_jay/).

Jay will be presenting another Java Jolt in March at Alexandria Archaeology (see calendar of events on back page for details)

### John Sprinkle

In October, FOAA joined organizations statewide in celebrating Virginia Archaeology Month. In line with this year's theme, "Virginia's Threatened Sites," FOAA invited local author John Sprinkle to discuss his new book, *Crafting Preservation Criteria: The National Register of Historic Places and American Historic Preservation*, at a Java Jolt lecture on Saturday, October 18, 2014, that also celebrated International Archaeology Day.



With reference to his recently published book, John presented the history and development of the National Register of Historic Places and the authorizing of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. He focused the discussion specifically on the development of criteria used by the government to identify historic properties worthy of listing on the National Register, with special emphasis on the evolution of one important criterion: the concept of archaeological significance.

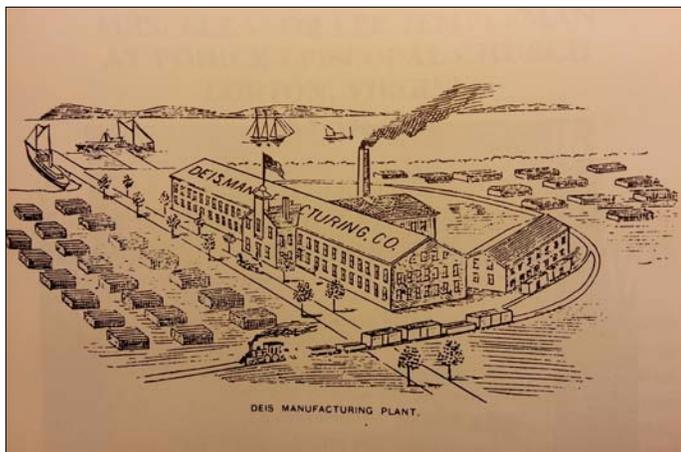
FOAA would like to thank John Sprinkle for donating a copy of his new book to the resource library at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and his son James for his volunteer work at the museum and for assisting with the presentation. Copies of John's book can be purchased on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/Crafting-Preservation-Criteria-National-Register/dp/0415642566#>.

FOAA is also excited to announce that John has committed to writing a second book on incorporating historic preservation into urban development and open space planning. More information will be included in upcoming newsletters.



### UPCOMING JOLT ALMOST A BOOM: A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW ALEXAN- DRIA

Did you know the New Alexandria neighborhood just south of Alexandria once held the beginnings of a manufacturing town? In the summer of 1893, The Alexandria Gazette proclaimed it "The Coming Manufacturing Metropolis of the South."



Come to the March 21st Java Jolt and learn more about the lost history of this quiet suburban neighborhood. Jay Roberts, author of *"River to Rails, A Guidebook to Historical Markers in Old Town Alexandria,"* will discuss this short-lived town, as well as the electric railway line that ran through it.

FOAA sponsored event, light refreshments served. Free, but reservations required. 703-746-4399.



### JULIA WILBUR DIARY PROJECT

By Paula Whitacre

The FOAA-sponsored Julia Wilbur Diary Project is moving forward. Julia Wilbur was an abolitionist from Rochester, New York, who kept two day-to-day diaries of her time in Alexandria during the Civil War. They provide an invaluable look at the city during these years.

In 2012-2013, volunteer Paula Whitacre transcribed and annotated one set of these diaries, now posted on the FOAA website. Microfilm of this diary is at the Alexandria Library. Paula also learned that Wilbur kept another diary, which was in original form only at Haverford College outside Philadelphia.

In 2013, Haverford scanned the relevant pages of the diary, FOAA and Haverford sharing the cost of the scanning. Since then, volunteers have transcribed and proofread these pages—more than 1,400 pages in all. <http://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/civilwar/default.aspx?id=49680>

The volunteers who have worked on this project to date include the following: Lori Arbuckle, Donna Brown, Gale Carter, Melissa Carter, Tom D'Amore, Christopher Goodwin, Jill Grinsted, Tom Gross, Janet Hughes, Anna Lynch, Wendy Miervaldis, Patty Morison, Mary Jane Nugent, Kim Ormiston, Trudy Pearson, Isabel Pease, Janet Penn, Mary Ray, Diane Riker, Kelly Rooney, Elizabeth Schneider, Rachel Smith, Jeanne Springman, Paula Whitacre, Karen White, and Christina Wingate. In addition, Gale Carter, a teacher in East Chicago, Illinois, involved her students in the project as a hands-on learning project. (If any names were inadvertently left out, please let us know so we can add you in the future.)

In October, for Virginia Archaeology Month, Paula made a presentation "Through the Eyes (and Pen) of Julia Wilbur," as part of the Morrison House/Archaeological Commission Morrison House

Salon Series. Pictured above: Paula Whitacre, Mary Jane Nugent, and Tatyana Schriempt.



# The Interns' Turn

## LIAM MURPHY INTERNSHIP RECAP

During the summer of 2014 I engaged in an education internship at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. I undertook my internship under the supervision of Ruth Reeder, the education director. The internship was easily divided into three major activities: a field school, the development of an education program, and participation in an archaeology summer camp for 12-to-15-year-olds.

### Field School

Between May 19 and May 31, I participated in George Washington University's summer field school run in association with the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. The two-week intensive course is designed to give students a basic overview of archaeological field techniques, as well as a brief introduction to lab methods and interpretive techniques.

This field school is especially focused on the concept of "community archaeology," specifically on discussing why archaeology is important in the broader civic context and how to share archaeological knowledge and interpretation with the general public. The field school took place at the excavation site on Shuter's Hill.



Excavations on the site have centered around an 18th century foundation of a laundry building mentioned in the 1797 fire insurance taken out on the property. The foundations of a second mansion cut through the laundry house foundation, complicating interpretations of the site. Excavation focused on a ditch feature associated with the laundry building.

One of my goals for the field school was to refresh my excavation skills. Another goal was to increase my ability to identify historic ceramic types.

My fellow students in field school provided a rich and varied set of experiences and were one of the best resources that I encountered.



Dr. Pamela Cressey, a lecturer at GWU and the first Alexandria City Archaeologist (now retired), conducted the discussion portions of the field school program. Dr. Garrett Fesler, one of the city archaeologists on staff, led the excavation and taught excavation techniques as well as the history of the site. Paul Nasca, the collections manager, led the lab technique portions of the field school.

### Education Program

As part of the internship, I developed an education program for the Museum. The program is a short one, based on the archaeology of the laundry house found at Shuter's Hill. The program has several activities, which loosely follow the archaeology of the laundry house from identification of the foundation, to historical research, to artifact distribution analysis. The Museum had no education programs based on Shuter's Hill, so the program was intended to fill an important void in the education programming.

Shortly after I arrived it was decided that the education project should be available online for teachers to use. Most educational programs that the Museum offers require the students to come to the Museum. This Museum setting presents many advantages, including a controlled setting, experienced educators, and actual artifacts for the students to handle. A Museum visit poses a big problem: many local teachers cannot afford to bring their classes to the Museum. Creating an online educational program would expand the reach of the Museum and allow for a larger section of the community to engage with the archaeology of Alexandria.

The activities for the program developed largely through conversations with the staff and fellow interns at the Museum. One of my fellow interns had been working on a spatial analysis of the excavation. As he mapped the amount of window glass in each unit associated with the laundry building, a very clear picture developed of where the window would have been. This image was made clear



by taking a site map and color-coding each of the units by the density of artifacts. It was so much fun to do that it seemed like fifth graders would prob-

ably enjoy it as well.

The program ended up consisting of four activities. The first activity places the students in the shoes of the archaeologists who initially uncovered the foundation, and asks them to identify what we would expect to find from the various buildings on the site. The second activity provides a number of historic documents pertaining to a laundry in the 18th century and directs the students to think about the work and the slaves who would have engaged in it. The third activity follows the historic Hepburn family, a prominent free black family in Alexandria, and finds that the matriarch of the family probably worked as a washerwoman in our laundry before gaining her freedom. The fourth activity is the spatial analysis mapping.

Helping create this activity gave me great experience in the creative process. The collaborative nature of the project was rewarding.

### Summer Camp

By far the liveliest part of my internship was participating in the summer camp. The weeklong camp provides 12-to-15-year-olds an opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation. The kids are allowed to dig, make maps, screen, collect artifacts, and present their findings to their parents at the end of the week. Letting the kids actually participate in the archaeological process, from excavation, to cleaning, to interpretation, to presentation gives them an authentic archaeological experience.

The camp was a great success. From the first day to the last, the kids worked hard through intense heat and never lost their enthusiasm. See page 11 for additional information on the excavation site.

Overall, the internship provided me with a great wealth of experience in a diverse range of topics. Many internships



pigeonhole interns into one repetitive task, using them more as free labor than educating them. The Alexandria

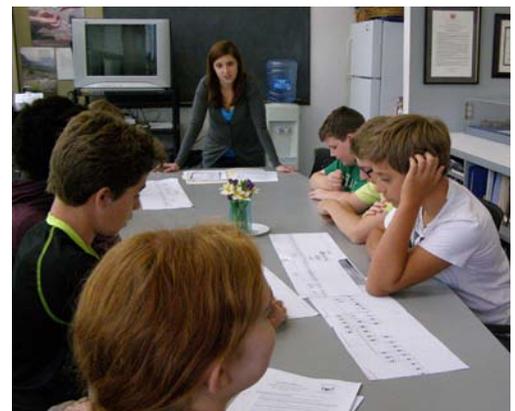
Archaeology Museum treated me with respect and allowed me the freedom to work freely on my own project. I would like to thank Ruth Reeder for her kindness and patience in dealing with me, Garrett Fesler for his openness and help on the education



program, and the rest of the staff for a great summer.

*Photos from top: 2014 Summer Campers and staff at the excavation site at Fort Ward Park. In the laboratory processing their discoveries.*

*With Catherine Cartwright reviewing the African American family genealogy associated with the site.*



## FIELDWORK UPDATE

By Garrett Fesler

Thanks to the support from the City Fleet Services Division, in 2014 Alexandria Archaeology acquired a new van to carry our field equipment. Formerly used by the Police Department to transport prisoners, the van had to be retrofitted for us, a process that included removing the light bar and siren from the vehicle. In retrospect, given the number of projects that have kept us hopping in the latter months of 2014, we might have been best served by keeping the lights and siren on the van. Let's review the fieldwork that Alexandria Archaeology tackled this year.



### Shields's Folly

As reported in the previous newsletter, in the late winter and early spring of this year we excavated a shaft feature in the basement of a historic building

in the 200 block of North Royal Street. The shaft feature was approximately 5 ft. in diameter and extended to a depth of 9 ft. below the basement floor. We interpret the feature as a failed attempt to dig a well or cistern around the year 1815, when Thomas Shields operated a bathhouse on the property at that time.

We recovered approximately 5,000 artifacts from the feature, all of which have been washed and identified and in process of being numbered. After numbering is complete, we will enter them into a database, as well as begin the process of mending the ceramic vessels.

During the excavation we collected soil samples from each layer in the feature for later flotation. The flotation process involves agitating the soil in a tank of water so that smaller artifacts can be sieved and separated from the granules of soil. These are the types of artifacts such as small animal bones, glass beads, brass pins, and so forth that ordinarily slip through the mesh of our sifting screens. Our volunteer extraordinaire Andy Flora recently completed the flotation of the soil samples (in his home flotation system, no less!) and reports that he collected "a rat jaw in every bag." That is to say, during the excavation we observed many small animal bone fragments, including what seemed like a large number of mice and rat bones, as well as nearly a half dozen cat skulls. Andy collected a size-

able sample of fish bones during the flotation process as well. Overall, the animal bones recovered from the shaft feature form a curious collection of both food remains and vermin. We hope to have a zooarchaeologist analyze the animal bone collection in more detail in the near future.

### Shuter's Hill

Another hard-working group of volunteers braved the hot, humid summer months each Saturday



to continue our excavation at Shuter's Hill. This year we focused our efforts again in the southern half of the site, knocking out more than fourteen 3 ft. by 4 ft. test units, part of a continuous 300 square foot area. This is the sector immediately to the south of the stone foundation of a plantation laundry in use in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Within this open area we identified nearly a dozen subsurface features. Due to inclement weather in October, we were unable to excavate our bounty of features, but look forward to digging into them next field season in 2015.

In addition to opening up the area south of the laundry, we also excavated a test unit into a large ditch feature in this same area. Some 7 ft. wide and filled with a dark brown loam, the ditch yielded a robust sample of artifacts that appear to date to the mid-nineteenth century. Curiously, at the bottom of the ditch there appear to be a row or line of cobbles. We have not reached any conclusions on the function or exact date of the ditch feature, but the cobbles suggest its use for drainage.

During the course of the summer at Shuter's Hill we hosted a two-week field school for seven students affiliated with George Washington University in May, as well as a half dozen Family Dig Days, a Brownie troop, and 25 members of the GWU Archaeology Club spent the day digging with us in October (note to volunteers: the Archaeology Club feted the staff with Subway sandwiches at lunch...hint, hint...).

## 2014 Summer Camp Excavation at the Clara Adams House Site

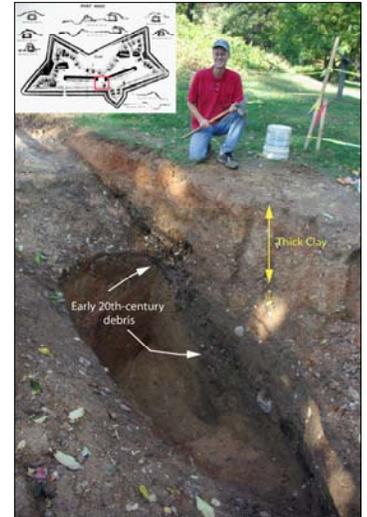
For a week in mid-July fourteen students, aged 12 to 15, learned about archaeology and helped excavate test units at the site of the Clara Adams House at Fort Ward Park overlooking Braddock Road. After the Civil War, several African American families purchased land in and around Fort Ward and established a community that came to be known as "The Fort." Born in 1865, Clara Adams was one of the most influential members of this community. Adams played a central role in supporting local education, donating a portion of her land to establish a school for African American children in the early decades of the twentieth century. Our objective was to find and expose the full extent of the foundations of the Adams house.



Assisted by staff and volunteer supervisors Liam Murphy, Lia Masur, Becca Siegal, Suzanne Schaubel, Angel Johnston, and Kristen Bridges, the campers excavated eight test units and succeeded in defining the entirety of the Adams House as a 15 ft. by 18.5 ft. home with an attached 12 ft. by 18.5 ft. porch facing Braddock Road. The builders used brick and stone for the main foundation and cinder-block for the porch. In addition to establishing the exact location of the house, the campers recovered approximately 1,500 artifacts, many representing the leavings of the Adams household in the first half of the twentieth century. (Some of the assemblage dated to later park use.) Due to the hard work of these 14 young people, we now know the precise size and location of the Adams house, something that was in question before we began.

## The Fort Ward Well

As summer turned to fall, we monitored the construction of a new ADA-compliant walking path at Fort Ward Park. Maps made during the Civil War depict the location of a well in the center of the fort. The path was routed to pass through the supposed location of the well. However, recent testing in advance of the path failed to uncover evidence of it. Now we know why.



As can be seen in the accompanying photograph, this portion of Fort Ward is overlaid with a 2 ft. thick layer of clay. Once a backhoe removed the clay, we were able to see the outline of the well shaft. Using shovels and a pickaxe, we excavated to a depth of 6 ft. below grade and were able to define one half of the well shaft which was approximately 5 ft. in diameter. Presumably the well had been lined with brick, but after the war ended someone took the trouble to remove the brick (we don't know to what depth they dismantled the brick lining) for use elsewhere. After the war construction materials were in high demand and the brick likely fetched a nice price.

Also of note, in the twentieth century the abandoned well shaft seems to have been used by residents of the Fort as a convenient trash pit. A thick layer of dark clay loam laced with artifacts dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century spilled into the depression caused by the well shaft. We know from recent historical research that in 1890 Cassius and Rachel McKnight purchased a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre lot for \$25 situated in the middle of the Civil War fort and subsequently built a home there. The McKnights appear on the 1900 and the 1910 censuses as living at Fort Ward. Cassius is listed as a laborer and gardener, while Rachel worked as a laundress. By the 1920 census the McKnights were living elsewhere and had vacated their house and began renting it to tenants. By the late 1940s the house was no longer standing. We believe that the McKnights used the large depression as a repository for trash, filling it with copious amounts of bottle glass, broken pieces of ceramics and crockery, discarded household items, and the like.

## WELL, WELL, WELL...IT'S THE LAB!

By Paul Nasca



Dan and Stephanie wash artifacts from the Old Town well

called-in to investigate not one, but three unexpected well features! The first was discovered in February during renovation of a commercial building in Old Town. This feature proved to be a failed attempt at digging a well for a new public bathhouse and was quickly filled in with tavern-related trash from the 1820s. The second well was found during the installation of a new walkway at the Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site. This well, on the interior of the fort, supplied water to the soldiers stationed there and was filled in years after their departure. The third well was a pesky “sinkhole” that plagued a local home owner’s brick patio. A contractor was called in to remedy the situation and found the root of the ailment to be a thick concentration of 20th-century household bottles. What all three of these wells have in common is that each has created deluge of artifacts to process in the lab.

Thanks to Alexandria Archaeology’s dedicated team of laboratory volunteers, they have staved off the rising tide of artifacts with toothbrush, washbasin, pencil, paper, and fine-point indelible marker! To date, all of the Old Town

Have you ever noticed that things, events or situations occur in twos and threes? This happens to me a lot. It also seems to be a frequent occurrence here at Alexandria Archaeology, especially as it relates to wells. Over the course of the year, Alexandria’s archaeologists have been



Bottles from the ‘sinkhole’ well.

well artifacts have been washed, identified, and are in the process of being numbered. The team has recently completed washing the artifacts from the Fort Ward well. This assemblage is a variety of late 19th- and early 20th- century household ceramics, glass, and metal objects attributed to the Cassius McKnight family. The team will work to finish processing this material early in the New Year. Culling the two large garbage cans full of approximately 200 bottles recovered from the “sinkhole” well has already begun. This assortment of medicinal, alcohol, and food related bottles will become the core of a new study collection of late blown-in-mold and early machine-made bottles here at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. The laboratory team is eager to work on this project and is ready for any more that may arise. Who knows, the fourth well may be just a phone call away!



Machine Made and hand blown bottles

Thanks to all of the laboratory volunteers who have assisted with the well artifacts, including Evelyn Ayala, Amanda Balough, Diannah Bowman, Deb Brown, Jenny Caniglia, Stephanie Castellano, Hannah Fitzmaurice, Sue Gagner, Renee Gondek, Laura Hellwig, Angel Johnston, Kiria Kanios, Karen King, Anna Lynch, Jonathan Marker, Sarah McEntee, Rebecca Meeusen, Eleanor Mudd, Becca Peixotto, Mary Ray, Daniel Rosen, Shanna Roth, Julia Simon, Cindy Slaton, Whitney Stohr, and Sheila Wexler. Thanks also to stalwart Alexandria Archaeology intern, Rebecca Siegal.

Lab work on these projects and more will continue throughout the winter and spring. If you would like to join the team of laboratory volunteers or would like to receive notices of future laboratory opportunities, please contact archaeologist Paul Nasca at [paul.nasca@alexandriava.gov](mailto:paul.nasca@alexandriava.gov). All are encouraged to stop in at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum to see the artifacts and on-going work. Laboratory volunteer days are either Friday or Saturday each week. Call ahead for a schedule – 703-746-4399



## ORNAMENT DECORATING WORKSHOP RECAP

More than 650 people participated in the



Sue Gagner, Stephanie Bz, top, and James Sprinkle, right, assist with decorating ornaments.

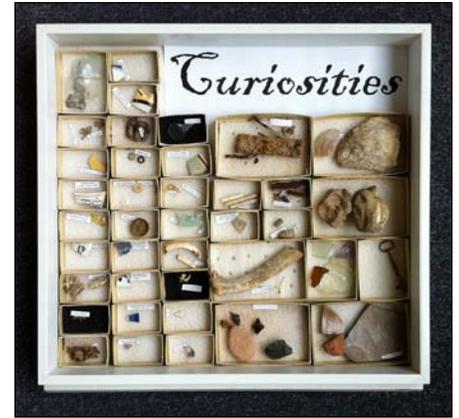
annual Ornament Decorating Workshop on December 6. Even with the wet and cold weather, attendance was impressive. Thanks to volunteers James Sprinkle, Anna Lynch, Sue Gagner, and Stephanie BZ for spending the entire day on their feet meeting & greeting. "Excellent" reviews were received from the guest book comments.



*Dough Day!* - Volunteers spent November 22 making hundreds of ornaments. Pictured above, Margarete Holubar, Deb Stewart, Caterina, Jeanne Springmann, and Marya Fitzgerald. Pictured above center, Alissa & Richard Schrider, Linda Lovell, Anna Lynch, Suzanne Schaubel, and, Cindy Slaton (not pictured).

## CURIOSITIES

FOAA sponsored the exhibit, *Curiosities*, in collaboration with TFAC artists Tanya Davis and Dejan Jovanic (Studio 15), Alison Sigethy (Studio 307), and Lisa Schumaier (Studio 16). The show of new works and installations ran through October in celebration of Virginia Archaeology Month and included an opening reception on October 5. The Museum's Broken Plate activity was expanded and shards were shared among the participating studios. Visitors would select a shard, then come upstairs to the Museum to discover where their shard fit at the crossmending table.



Alexandria Archaeology has collaborated in the past with Lisa Schumaier during Art Safari and Arts Activated events; this was our first chance to work with Dejan and Alison. It was a fun and creative process and included an Archaeology bonus, the festive red boot prints designed and produced by Alison to lead visitors up the stairs to the third floor.

## ART SAFARI

October is always a busy month for Alexandria Archaeology. The Museum goes into hyper-drive celebrating archaeology in Alexandria during Virginia Archaeology Month. The Museum's October calendar of events was booked with lectures, Dig Days, exhibits, Adventure Lessons, and orientations. Once again, this year's crowd-pleaser was the October 11 Potters' Art hands-on family event. The program, presented in conjunction with the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Art Safari, is always popular and attracted 720 visitors this year.



Special Events volunteer, James Sprinkle helping a visitor with the Potter's Art activity at Art Safari on October 11th.

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## ARCHAEOLOGY eNews

[www.alexandriava.gov/eNews](http://www.alexandriava.gov/eNews)

Stay informed with Alexandria eNews!

If you were on the FOAA list serve you should have been automatically transferred over to eNews. If you are NOT receiving alerts from Alexandria Archaeology and would like to be added, please go to the link above and make sure you select Alexandria Archaeology from the "overview" link.

The City of Alexandria's free eNews service lets you sign up to receive information on nearly 100 topics, including vital emergency alerts.

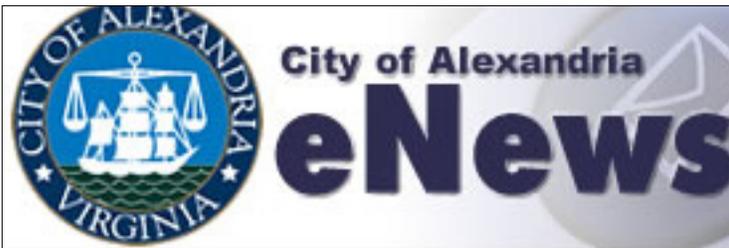
The messages, ranging from news releases and department newsletters to public meeting dockets and payment deadline reminders, can be sent as email messages, text messages, or voice messages.

Click the "Overview" link in the upper right for a list of subscription choices.

### Historic Alexandria

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- Gadbsy's Tavern Museum "Tavern E-Times"
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## ORAL HISTORY UPDATE

*By Terilee Edwards-Hewitt*

Experienced and new Oral History volunteers have been busy and are getting ready for some new projects at Alexandria Archaeology.

In October a training session was held in preparation for several upcoming projects. Additional oral history trainings will be scheduled this winter and spring.

One of the new projects is being coordinated by the Alexandria office of Long & Foster. They are participating in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. The project seeks to document the personal histories of U.S. military veterans. Several of our volunteers are already working on this important project.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Veterans History Project OR if you wish to be interviewed, please contact Elfie Biankini at [elfie.biankini@longandfoster.com](mailto:elfie.biankini@longandfoster.com). You can also learn about the larger project which is coordinated and archived by the Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

An exciting new project being conducted by the Office of Historic Alexandria (of which Alexandria Archaeology is part) is recording the oral history of immigrants to Alexandria, with a focus on people who have arrived since the 1970s. Throughout its history there have been several waves of immigration to Alexandria and the most recent wave started in the 1970s. According to the 2010 Census data, approximately 24% Alexandria's total population was born outside of the United States. It is important to recognize our diversity and record information about the many different backgrounds of the residents of Alexandria, Virginia.

The oral history program also continues to record the memories of those who have lived in Alexandria for many years. Ongoing projects include descendants of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery as well as members of The Fort neighborhood. Another focus of the oral history program is people involved with Alexandria's historic preservation.

A unique oral history was recently prepared with Alexandria resident Walter Loftin. Mr. Loftin spent much of his career working for the Southern Railway Company. He shared his knowledge about Alexandria's 20th century railroad history and his experiences working as a substitute teacher in Alexandria Public Schools.

If you are interested in becoming an oral history volunteer and want to be informed about the next training, please contact Terilee Edwards-Hewitt at [terilee.edwards-hewitt@alexandriava.gov](mailto:terilee.edwards-hewitt@alexandriava.gov)

## 2014 Ben Brenman Awards

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) is proud to announce the winners of the annual Bernard "Ben" Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award. The awards, named in honor of the late Ben Brenman, a long-time Commission chair, were presented by Mayor Euille on Tuesday, October 14 at the Alexandria City Council meeting.

The 2014 Brenman Awards celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Archaeological Protection Code, requiring preservation of archaeological resources and significant sites in Alexandria. The awards promote the understanding of Alexandria's past while promoting sensitivity to how the integration of historical character and archaeological finds can enhance and benefit the community. This process also allows for the integration of historic meaning into the development of open spaces and parks, including the waterfront.

The 2014 awardees are:

**Engin Artemel:** Outstanding Preservation Vision, for his work on the 1982 City Waterfront Plan as former City Director of Planning and for working with the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and Ben Brenman to increase the use of heritage in planning the waterfront  
**Harry "Bud" Hart:** Outstanding Preservation Vision, in his role as development attorney, for his dedication to preservation in City planning.

**Pamela Cressey:** Outstanding City Archaeologist, for her vision, commitment, and enthusiasm for community archaeology and historic preservation; for 35 years of dedicated service to and leadership of the Office of Historic Alexandria's Archaeology division as former City Archaeologist.

**Ignacio Pessoa:** Outstanding Preservation Vision, for his vision and innovative work in writing the City's Archaeological Protection Code, which passed in 1989, while he was City of Alexandria Attorney.

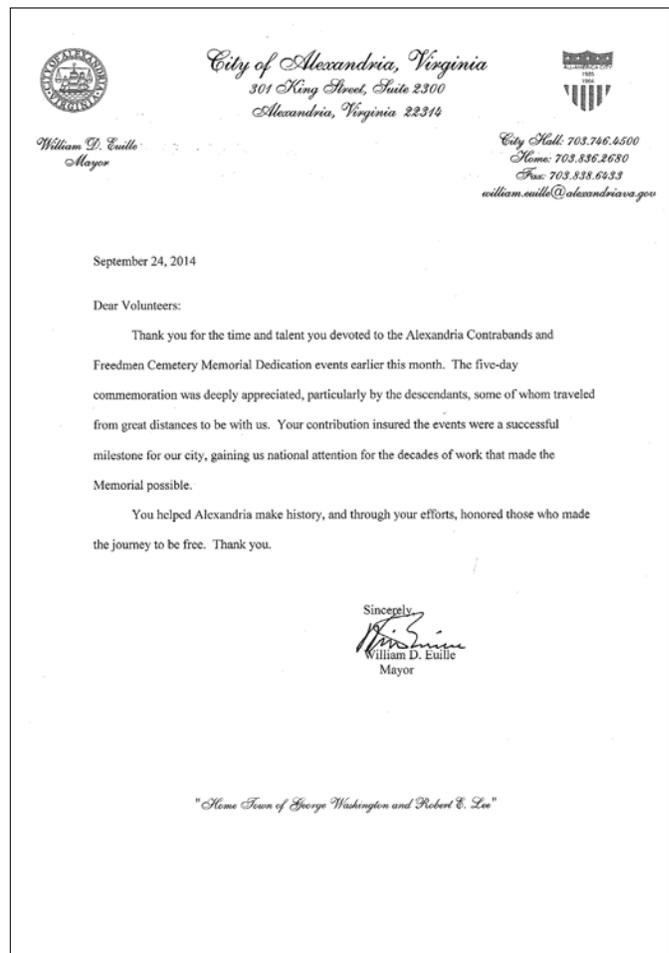


*Councilwoman Del Pepper read the proclamation recognizing the winners of the 2014 Ben Brenman Awards. The Mayor presented the awards to Engin Artemel, Ignacio Pessoa, Bud Hart and, Pamela Cressey. Unfortunately Pam was out of town, but was presented with her award at Alexandria Archaeology's Volunteer Party on November 15th. See page 16.*

## FREEDMEN'S DEDICATION

Last September 6, the dedication of the Alexandria Contraband and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial placed the city in the national limelight. Descendants from all over the country, City staff, and local citizens came together for the five-day commemoration that included walking tours, lectures, a musical performance, an exhibit, a gala banquet, a candlelight vigil, and a dedication ceremony. More than 60 volunteers, some from FOAA, donated over 550 hours to the event. Here we must give a special shout out to genealogist Char Bah, who spent 5,700 hours from 2011 to 2014 researching the Freedmen burials and identifying and locating their descendants. The FOAA Board of Directors sponsored the candlelight vigil, setting out the electronic candles, and escorting participants to and from the memorial.

For information on the history and archaeology of the site and the media coverage of the commemorative events go to: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/FreedmenMemorial>



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## HATS OFF TO FY2014 VOLUNTEERS

### Lab:

*Shan Allen, Amanda Ashton, Amanda Balough, Alianna Boszhardt, Jennifer Caniglia, Stephanie Castellano, David Chandler, Jaime Corrigan, Bridgette Degnan, Alexandra Erichson, Hannah Fitzmaurice, Peter Fitzmaurice, Sue Gagner, Renee Gondak, Stephanie Grimes, Alicia Guillama, Philippa Harrap, Olivia Head, Laura Hellwig, Tommy Kester, Lily Kleppertknoop, Heidi Kroft, Donna Martin, Sarah McEntee, Marie Meroney, Samantha Mitchell, Liam Murphy, Becca Peixotto, Mary Ray, Daniel Rosen, Shanna Roth, Becca Siegal, Julia Simon, Cindy Slaton, Whitney Stohr, Michael Stratmoen, Sheila Wexler*

### Field:

*Maria Abarca, Dwight Alpern, Asia Alsgaard, Joanne Amorosi, Amanda Ashton, Katie Barca, Krystyn Bridges, Mariah Cutler, Bryce Donaldson, Ella Fesler, Hannah Fitzmaurice, Peter Fitzmaurice, Andrew Flora, Renee Gondak, Tom Gross, Alicia Guillama, Margarete Holubar, Tamzin Howerton, Kiria Kanios, Alex Karpa, Tommy Kester, Stephen Kimbel, Ben Kirby, Sue Kovach-Shuman, Courtney Mallon, Donna Martin, Becca Merriman-Goldring, Liam Murphy, Paul Murphy, Kim Ormiston, Isabella Pease, Becca Peixotto, Mary Ray, Kelsey Rooney, Daniel Rosen, Shanna Roth, Suzanne Schaubel, Becca Siegal, Charles Simpson, Cindy Slaton, Margo Staurch, Whitney Stohr, Kerry Taylor, Jamie Troutman, Alexandra White, Karen Wilkins*

### Archival/ Research:

*Lori Arbuckle, Melissa Carter, Catherine Cartwright, Robert Colton, Tom D'Amore, Elizabeth Field, Hannah Fitzmaurice, Jill Grinsted, Tom Gross, Janet Hughes, Alex Karpa, Maureen Luran, Anna Lynch, Donna Martin, Sarah McEntee, Wendy Miervaldis, Patricia Morison, Mary Jane Nugent, Kim Ormiston, Trudy Pearson, Isabella Pease, Janet Penn, Ted Pulliam, Mary Ray, Diane Riker, Kelsey Rooney, Daniel Rosen, Alissa Schrider, Becca Siegal, Charles Simpson, Rachel Smith, Jeanne Springman, Michael Stratmoen, Paula Whitacre, Karen White*

### Education:

*Monica Bonilla, Julie Diewald, Elizabeth Field, Marya Fitzgerald, Andrew Flora, Philippa Harrap, Margarete Holubar, Alex Karpa, Ben Kirby, Anna Lynch, Liam Murphy, Kathleen Pepper, Anatoly Policastro, Suzanne Schaubel, Alissa Schrider, Becca Siegal, Cindy Slaton*

### Museum:

*Joan Amico, Linda Berg, Karen DeLeon, Elizabeth Field, Marya Fitzgerald, Ryan Fowler, Linda Lovell, Anna Lynch, Lia Masur, Sarah McEntee, Alissa Schrider*

### Library:

*Catherine Cartwright, Becca Siegal*

### Oral History:

*Monica Bonilla, Carmen Breiding, Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Dawn Jakutowir, Laura Little, Sarah McEntee, Kathi Overton, Mary Ray, Eugenie Robinson, Daniel Rosen, Maria Sprehn*

### Newsletter:

*Joan Amico, Marya Fitzgerald, Becca Siegal*

### FOAA/AAC:

*Katy Cannady, Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Marya Fitzgerald, Ellen Hamilton, Margarete Holubar, Jacob Hoogland, Donald Kent Jr, Vincent Lapointe, Mark Ludlow, Janice Magnuson,*

*Indie McCall, Kevin McCandlish, Mary Jane Nugent, Kathleen Pepper, Ted Pulliam, Ralph Rosenbaum, Kathy Scheibelhoffer, Becca Siegal, Whitney Stohr, Seth Tinkham, Paula Whitacre*

### Photography:

*Andrew Flora, Becca Siegal, Evan Welch*

### Illustration:

*Andrew Flora, Neil Pelletier, Jeane Stetson*

### Computer Work:

*Karen DeLeon, Alex Karpa, Julianne Powers, Alissa Schrider, Becca Siegal*

### Conservation:

*Ben Kirby*

## MARYA FITZGERALD'S 2014 VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA GRASSROOTS AWARD

*By Ruth Reeder*



On November 6, Marya Fitzgerald was awarded the 2014 Volunteer Alexandria Grass Roots Award. Mayor Euille and Ruth Reeder presented her with the award during Volunteer Alexandria's "An Evening in the

Heart: 20th Anniversary of Honoring our Community Volunteers" held at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office atrium.

Marya was honored for the 3,800+ hours she has dedicated to Alexandria Archaeology since 2003 when Volunteer Alexandria directed her to us. For the past eleven years, she has presented Alexandria Archaeology Adventure Lessons to school children; served as a museum docent, newsletter editor, board member of the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA), and FOAA president from 2006-2012. She is a skilled writer and over the years has been a tremendous help proofreading and writing a wide variety of materials for Alexandria Archaeology.

As a summa cum laude graduate of U.C. Berkeley and a retired Fairfax Public School teacher who taught English and Gifted and Talented Education, she sets very high standards for herself with every task she performs. Alexandria Archaeology has benefited from her loyal dedication, generosity, and high standards of excellence, which enhance our public programs and the museum experience for thousands of visitors.

## 2014 VOLUNTEER PARTY



The Alexandria Archaeological Commission and Friends of Alexandria Archaeology hosted the 37th annual Volunteer Apprecia-

tion and Holiday Party at the Museum on Saturday, November 15, 2014. The entire staff of the Museum thanked the volunteers for all their contributions during FY14 with this very special annual event. This year about 100 people enjoyed this marvelous shindig, with its fabulous food prepared by Jennifer Barker, with help from the rest of the staff.

At the party, FOAA President Becca Siegal and VP Whitney Stohr presented City Archaeologist, Fran Bromberg, with a \$2,000 check for research grants for internships.

The John S. Glaser Award was presented to Robert Colton. Robert was unable to attend the party, but he did come to Alexandria Archaeology the day before for lunch and to receive his award. At the party, Becca told everyone about Robert's volunteer work with archaeology and showed the award to those in attendance. The award is presented each year "for contributions to the appreciation and conservation of Alexandria Archaeology and its place in the continuity of the human experience." This was the 25th year the award has been presented, and this year started a new plaque that will honor volunteers for the next 40 years.

This year there were two Volunteer of the Year recipients: Char Bah and Becca Siegal. Char had 2080 volunteer hours and Becca had 2094.5 hours. Vice Mayor Alison Silberberg and Councilwoman Del Pepper were on hand to present certificates to the volunteers who contributed more than

90 hours in FY 2014. These volunteers included Vince Lapointe (90 hours), Elizabeth Field (91 hours), Karen White (96 hours), Peggy Harlow (108.75 hours), Mary Jane Nugent (114.5 hours), Daniel Rosen (118 hours), Sarah McEntee (129.75 hours), Linda Lovell (130 hours), Andrew Flora (151.25 hours), Ted Pulliam (173.5 hours), Paula Whitacre (218 hours), Joan Amico (230 hours), Alex Karpa (234.75 hours), Marya Fitzgerald (290.25 hours), Charles Simpson (317.5 hours), Robert Colton (347 hours), Catherine Cartwright (431.5 hours), Anna Lynch (988 hours), Char Bah (2080 hours) and Becca Siegal (2094.5 hours). Pictured at right accepting the Volunteer of the Year Award from City Archaeologist Fran Bromberg.

From July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, the Museum benefited from

11,130.25 volunteer hours from 127 volunteers. Since 1979, when hours were first recorded, volunteers have contributed more than 253,000 hours to Alexandria Archaeology!



*Councilwoman Del Pepper, Joan Amico's Children: Lorenza, Jamie & Brad, and Vice Mayor Alison Silberberg*

Though Joan Amico sadly passed away last summer, she had volunteered 230 hours for FY 14.

Her three children attended in honor of their mother, accepting her certificate and cutting the cake, a task their mother loved to do.



Fran Bromberg reviewed the different activities that volunteers and staff have worked on during the past year. This year was also the 25th anniversary of the Archaeological Protection Code, which Fran highlighted. Intern Becca Siegal put together a slideshow of pictures from FY14 and included some slides of archaeological projects required because of the Code.

Fran Bromberg thanked all present for all their dedication and hard work.

Fran Bromberg thanked all present for all their dedication and hard work.

During the volunteer appreciation party on November 15, Alexandria Archaeological Commission Chair Vince LaPointe, City Archaeologist Fran Bromberg, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, and Councilwoman Del Pepper presented a very surprised Pam Cressey with the 2014 Ben Brenman Award for “Outstanding City Archaeologist”



## FOAA LIFETIME MEMBER



FOAA presented Anna Lynch with a Lifetime Membership to thank her for all the hours and research she has donated to Alexandria Archaeology

## JOIN FOAA!!!

Memberships may be purchased by going to the Alexandria Shop:  
<https://shop.alexandriava.gov/BrowsePage.aspx?searchtype=navitem&NavItemID=6000029>:  
 or by mailing payment with the membership form found on the back page of this newsletter.

## JOIN FOAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS!!!

We are looking for members to serve on FOAA’s Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 28, 2015. If interested, contact Becca Siegal, FOAA President. [rebecca.siegal@alexandriava.gov](mailto:rebecca.siegal@alexandriava.gov)



## FOAA’S BOOTH AT THE WAR OF 1812 SIGNATURE EVENT

Whitney Stohr, Mary Ray, Mary Jane Nugent, Ruth Reeder, Becca Siegal, Alissa Schrider, and Daniel Rosen spent a very hot day at Waterfront Park on August 31. The event commemorated Alexandria’s capitulating to Captain Gordon in late August of 1814.



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## MEET OUR NEW DOCENT: SANDY CARPENTER

I am, what some people think is rare, a native Alexandrian, though this is far from unusual in my circle of family and friends. After all, Alexandria is such a charming place, many of us found no reason to leave our home town.



I was raised in the Del Ray section of the city. My children were the fourth generation to attend Mt. Vernon School and, next year, my grandson will be the fourth generation to attend the former George Washington High School. The GW Compass yearbook image of my classmate, Jim Morrison, now gazes out over the Alexandria waterfront from its spot in the Alexandria Time Line.

My career has mainly been in government contracting and program management. I began this path in Alexandria, with TRW, a wonderful employee-oriented company that was over 100 years old when sold to Northrop Grumman in 2002. I took my leave of business management last year. I now spend each day doing what I find interesting, meaningful, helpful or fun. It's great! I've always been interested in the past and am a long-time genealogist with one big brick wall that I'm still trying to break.

I'm so pleased to be associated with Alexandria Archaeology and its great people. All have such a keen interest and dedication. I appreciate being able to support those searching for glimpses into my city's past. After all, some recovered artifact might have been tossed out by a relative.

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## SEEKING EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed to present Alexandria Archaeology Adventure Lessons. The 45-minute hands-on programs are presented in the Archaeology Museum upon demand, usually in the mornings during the week. The Lessons are offered to students of all ages, but are limited to 20 students per program. Each Lesson focuses on archaeological sites within the City and incorporates the actual artifacts excavated from the particular site. For more information contact [ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov).

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## FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY FALL INTO GIVING!

by *Whitney Stohr*

*Vice President, Board of Directors and Fundraising Chair*

During the month of October, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) participated in a three week long virtual donation drive organized by ACTionAlexandria, an initiative of the ACT for Alexandria community foundation.

Along with twenty-seven other local nonprofits, FOAA created an AmazonSmile wish list of items needed by Alexandria Archaeology and the Archaeology Museum. FOAA's wish list was posted on the ACTionAlexandria website ([www.actionalexandria.org](http://www.actionalexandria.org)), which also functions as a virtual civic engagement platform. Through the website, Alexandria residents and FOAA supporters purchased items for donation.

On behalf of the FOAA Board of Directors, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to those who purchased items during the Fall Into Giving drive, and for your continued generosity and support of Alexandria Archaeology. Thank you also to ACTionAlexandria for organizing the event and providing support to FOAA and Alexandria's local nonprofit community, and to the Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation for sponsoring the event.

Although the Fall Into Giving event has passed, items can still be purchased from FOAA's online wish list, available at [http://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2RXOLNRFACMKY/ref=topnav\\_lists\\_1](http://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2RXOLNRFACMKY/ref=topnav_lists_1). In addition, by logging on to AmazonSmile and identifying "Friends of Alexandria Archaeology" as your preferred charitable organization, FOAA will receive a percentage of every Amazon purchase made. Please consider supporting FOAA as you complete your holiday shopping this season!



