



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Marking Time

### October is Archaeology Month

*Alexandria Times, October 4, 2007*

*Image: Lafayette souvenir mugs from the collection of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Photo, Gavin Ashworth, "Ceramics in America"*

In 1824 President James Monroe invited Gen. Lafayette, the last surviving Revolutionary War general, to tour the country as "The Nation's Guest." Lafayette spent a month in Alexandria as part of his triumphal tour of America, and on Oct. 19 Alexandria hosted a grand celebration in his honor.

Numerous souvenirs were sold throughout the country to commemorate Lafayette's visit, including two now in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum's collection. Noted Alexandria educator Benjamin Hallowell penned a poem about the ubiquitous Lafayette souvenirs, which reads in part,

Each lover of liberty surely must get  
Something in honor of La Fayette

There's a La Fayette watch-chain, a La Fayette hat, A La Fayette this, and a La Fayette that.

Alexandria china merchant Robert H. Miller advertised "China cups and saucers, Tea plates & snuff boxes, Imitation China pitchers, Mugs and bowls, Lustre pitchers of all sizes, mugs and cans With a drawing of La Fayette & the surrender of Cornwallis. Executed expressly for him, from a drawing sent out."

In 1977 Alexandria Archaeology discovered a mug fitting this description on the site of the Alexandria Courthouse. The mug had been discarded in a privy or well by the family of Ann Buckland, who lived at 104 S. St. Asaph St. from 1810 to 1834. This mug is not marked, but other ceramics reading "Manufactured for Rob't H. Miller, Alexandria DC" have been found here, including a small coffee can depicting "Lafayette Crowned at Yorktown." These Lafayette souvenirs can be viewed throughout October, Virginia Archaeology Month, at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at 105 N. Union St.



*"Out of the Attic" is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as "Marking Time" and explored Alexandria's history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into "Out of the Attic" and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.*

*These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.*