



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Braddock Cannon

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Image: 1917 photo of the Braddock Cannon Monument located at the intersection of Braddock and Russell roads. Photo, Library of Congress.

In 1755, British Major General Edward Braddock assembled his troops in Alexandria in preparation to defend the western frontier against the French and their Native American allies. Joining him was his aide-de-camp, George Washington, who was familiar with the region having fought there the year before. When Braddock and his expedition departed, they left behind a number of cannons in Alexandria. Braddock was later killed during the Battle of the Monongahela.

More than 150 years later, the Colonial Dames of America worked to convert some of the cannons into monuments that marked the route Braddock had taken. On May 26, 1915, they dedicated the monument situated where Braddock and Russell roads intersect today. They unveiled the monument, hidden behind a Virginia flag and a British flag, and presented it to Mayor Thomas A. Fisher. The mayor acknowledged the work of the women saying, “the woman behind the man behind the gun made success possible, or, on the other hand, soothed the pangs of defeat.”

The cannon, seen in this photograph taken around 1917, was mounted atop of a base of cobblestones collected from Alexandria’s streets and cemented together. Marble tablets on two sides record the significance of the cannon and the route that Braddock’s army took on its way out of Alexandria. Another Braddock cannon was converted into a drinking fountain and is located in the 100 block of North Royal Street.



“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.