



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Out of the Attic

### 201 North Fairfax Street

*Alexandria Times, April 23, 2009*

*Image: Wise's Tavern. Photo, Office of Historic Alexandria.*

One of the oldest buildings in Alexandria, the three-story house at 201 North Fairfax Street is known by several names, including the Dalton-Herbert House, Wise's Tavern and the Anne Lee Home, all of which reflect its origins and uses over the years.

It was under construction in 1777 when its owner John Dalton died. This photograph, looking northeast from the corner of Cameron and North Fairfax streets, also shows Dalton's residence to the left of 201 North Fairfax. Dalton's son-in-law Thomas Herbert finished it and advertised it for use as a tavern. Several tavern keepers operated it, but it was there under John Wise that George Washington celebrated the new Constitution with a toast in June 1788 and the following spring said farewell to his neighbors as he traveled to New York to assume the presidency.



For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the brick structure served as private homes, and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it became the Anne Lee Memorial Home for the Aged. Purchased in 1915 and named in honor of Robert E. Lee's mother, the property needed extensive repairs but there was significant support from the community. Organizations like the Boy Scouts and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, as well as individuals, raised money to make repairs and furnish rooms, with the local UDC chapter funding a front portico that still remains. The Anne Lee Home opened in 1916 and provided housing for seniors until 1974 when it closed.

A company headed by Frank E. Manning next purchased the building. It was renovated and turned into an office building, which it still serves as today.

*"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.*



**Office of Historic Alexandria  
City of Alexandria, Virginia**

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*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.*