



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Out of the Attic

### Timberman's Drug Store

*Alexandria Times, April 5, 2012*

Image: Timberman's Drug Store, 106 N. Washington Street. Photo, Library of Congress.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Alexandria was home to at least a dozen pharmacies, two of them associated with the name Timberman.

Charles Parke Custis Timberman and older brother John Elmer Winfield Timberman were born near Pohick Church in 1878 and 1876 respectively, and their early years were spent at "Rosehill Farm" just outside Alexandria. However, during their late childhood, the family moved to 209 S. Fairfax Street which was considered the family homestead for many decades.

Charles Timberman operated a pharmacy with Richard Gibson, known as Gibson & Timberman at 824 King Street until 1904, when their partnership was dissolved. He then moved to Philadelphia to accept a position with a drug firm in that City. He died in 1917 and was buried in Alexandria.

John Timberman took the state examination to become a pharmacist in 1895, and soon after took a position at a drug store located at King and North Washington Streets, owned and operated by Ernest L. Allen. After Dr. Allen's death in 1906, he took over the proprietorship, and the pharmacy, pictured here in the 1920's, was known as Timberman's Drug Store. Although John Timberman retired in 1943, the pharmacy retained his business name under the leadership of Francis X. Nugent, who began work at Timberman's in 1917 and remained there until 1973. About 1950 Timberman's relocated next door to 106 North Washington Street, when the estate of Ernest Allen's son, William, decided to sell the property. At the new site, Nugent added an angled neon sign to highlight the otherwise non-descript façade, and that sign was incorporated into the collections of the Office of Historic Alexandria when the drug store finally closed in 2004.

Although the handsome 19<sup>th</sup> century structure was demolished in 1954 to make way for a more modest two story structure, the "ghost" of its roofline can still be seen on the east side of the building at 703 King 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.*



## **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.*