The Gadsby’s Tavern Punchbowl

This bowl was excavated in the 1970s from the Gadsby's Tavern courtyard (44AX2). One of several different sizes, the bowl would have been used to serve punch when John Gadsby ran the tavern. Because of punch bowls like this one, we know that some taverns used the same tableware that residents were using at home - inexpensive, but popular pieces imported from Britain. You can find images of other artifacts excavated in the Gadsby’s Tavern Courtyard here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/archaeology/default.aspx?id=38824.

Historic Alexandria receives City operational funding to support its mission; however, these resources do not cover the full scope of the department’s strategic goals and projects. Donations, special revenue, and grant funding help supplement staff, conservation work, and educational programs. Please consider a donation today! https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Donations.aspx

30-Day Challenge -- Alexandria Social Justice Edition!

Build your social justice muscles this summer! As our nation and city come to terms with their legacies of racial injustice, take the 30-Day Challenge to learn, listen, explore, and act to make positive change. Learn about our city’s important African American history to build your base of knowledge. Listen and explore to understand the struggles, triumphs, and legacies of African
Americans across the nation and throughout the centuries. Act to bring equity in America and in Alexandria.

This challenge is issued through the Alexandria Social Justice Community Remembrance Project (AECRP) and is based on the 21-Day Anti-Racism Challenge Bexley Anti-Racism Project. The AECRP is a City of Alexandria interdepartmental initiative managed through the Office of Historic Alexandria that is working to address social justice in our community. Active committees are made up of City staff, residents, faith leaders, and community organizations. Special thanks to the Alexandria Library for their assistance with this challenge.

View the 30-Day Challenge Calendar.

For more content, click here.

Museums Now Open

Select Office of Historic Alexandria Museums are open with new safety protocols in place, including masks required indoors and hand sanitizing stations.

Just Opened-Alexandria Archaeology Museum

The Museum is now open Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays 1-4 p.m.

The main exhibit, Archaeologists at Work: The Lee Street Site, highlights one city block to provide a fascinating glimpse of Alexandria's history and the way in which archaeologists study the past. Small "table top" exhibits feature other Alexandria sites and finds.

The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum

Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays 1-4 p.m. Timed Tickets are required, and can be purchased here.

Guests can enjoy the recently opened exhibit Witnessing Worship: A Photographic Study of Faith in Alexandria. In 1985, photographer Nina Tisara documented fifty worship groups throughout the City of Alexandria. She sought to document “the breadth, variety, and vitality of worship in the city.” She came to call her project Converging Paths because the experience led her to conclude that, despite the many different paths worship takes, “we are all kin.”

This online exhibition provides a sampling of the photographs.

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum
Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays 1-4 p.m., Timed Tickets are required, and can be purchase here.

Come tour the Museum at your own pace and immerse yourself in the spaces and stories of the tavern. Take a selfie with the “Learned Pig.” Reenact a ball as you dance to music in the ballroom. While touring, you’ll learn how all social classes and people—free and enslaved, men and women, African American and white—were part of not just the tavern but the creation of Alexandria and the young nation.

In compliance with safer at home under Phase 3 of Virginia Forward, the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) sites’ in-person, indoor public programs are cancelled. Please refer to the Calendar for the status of Commission and other departmental associated meetings.

Due to the changing nature of the situation, we are providing updates on our website. For additional information about the City of Alexandria’s actions, visit https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus.

MUSEUM SHOP FEATURE

Poison Label Tote Bag

Carry your stuff in a strikingly bright red fold-away tote bag featuring archival poison labels from the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum’s collection, such as chloroform, arsenic, and laudanum. Great for groceries or a few books. The bag is available online only for just $9.99 plus shipping. https://alexandriava.gov/shop

Support Historic Alexandria Museums through our online store.

THIS WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA’S HISTORY

On August 24, 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, the price of a haircut in Alexandria increased from 35 to 50 cents! Although local men grumbled at the whopping increase, at the time haircuts were considered essential to good grooming and almost as important as a daily starched collar and cuffs! Although some men vowed to let their wives cut their hair, others looking for work or lucky enough to be employed could not take such a chance with their appearance and ultimately paid the higher price.
UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

All Committee and Commission meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom during the month of September. Further updates will be posted on this site as more information becomes available.