



This Week in Historic Alexandria

WHAT'S NEW IN HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

The Office of Historic Alexandria is pleased to announce that after an extensive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the consultant firm Design Minds of Fairfax, Virginia has been selected to prepare an Interpretive Plan for Fort Ward Park, focusing on the unusual history of one of the City's most significant parklands. While proposals were fielded from across the United States, the local firm was selected for its commitment to authenticity and stakeholder engagement, and innovative approach to the development of other interpretive plans at the Albuquerque and Wyoming State Museums, and the McLeod Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina. The interpretive plan flows from the adoption by City Council of the Fort Ward Management Plan two years ago which established long-term goals and objectives for the park, which features recreational areas, a former Union Fort dating from the Civil War, and a Post-Civil War African-American community called "The Fort". The interpretive plan will be executed over the next eighteen months, in conjunction with the Fort Ward Interpretive Plan Committee, comprised of community stakeholders that has already been established.



EVENTS

Friday, July 21 – In Concert: Sam Gleaves and Tyler Hughes

The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street

Presented by The Folklore Society of Greater Washington. Appalachian author Lee Smith calls Sam Gleaves "the best young songwriter around" and Peggy Seeger said of his 2015 debut album, "I keep very few albums that I am given. This one's a keeper." A protégé of Sheila Kay Adams, he has performed with Peggy Seeger, John McCutcheon, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, and the Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble, and on Saro Lynch-Thomason's Blair Pathways compilation of the music of the West Virginia mining wars. There are probably some instruments he doesn't play, but they're not banjo, guitar, fiddle, dulcimer or autoharp. Tyler Hughes has performed solo at Mountain Stage and Carter Fold and with the Empty Bottle String Band. Traditional musician Rich Kirby says "Tyler plays the music of his native Southwest Virginia with the kind of knowledge, respect, and affection that speaks of a deep understanding of who and where the music came from. With folks like Tyler on the scene, I know our music is in good hands." \$15 suggested donation. Doors at 7 p.m., concert begins at 7:30 p.m., For more information, please visit fsgw.org.

Friday, July 21 – Walking Tour: Robert E. Lee in Alexandria
Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street

A guided walking tour of Robert E. Lee sites in Alexandria's Historic Old Town. The tour will and will highlight Alexandria, his hometown from the age of five and residence of his "earliest and oldest friends." The tour will last approximately 90 minutes. Tickets are available in advance for \$10 through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), or for \$15 at the door. 10 a.m. Tour space is limited, so the purchase of tickets in advance is highly recommended. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and bring bottled water. *FREE for Lee-Fendall House Members!* For more information, please visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703.548.1789.



Sunday, July 23 – Gadsby's Tavern Museum's Family Tours
Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street

Treat your family to special "Family Tours" led by Junior Docents grades 4-7. Tours included a hands-on activity and the opportunity for children to connect with history through peer tour guides. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children ages 5 to 12, and 4 and under are free. No advance registration required. 2 to 5 p.m. Family tours begin June 25 and end Labor Day weekend. For more information, call 703.746.4242.

Sunday, July 23 – In Concert: Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association
The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association Annual Chamber Music Series featuring The Patagonia Winds, Melissa Lindon, flute; Emily Tsai, oboe; Emily Robinson, clarinet; Jay Chadwick, horn; Tia Wortham, bassoon. Program: Bach - Fantasia & Fugue, Beethoven – Octet, Intermission, Wagner - Tristan and Isolde - Prelude and Liebestod, Stravinsky - "Italian Suite" from Pulcinella, Joplin - Maple Leaf Rag. Donations graciously accepted – suggested donation \$10. 3 to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 703.799.8229 or visit wmpamusic.org.

Monday, July 24 – Read, See, DO

Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street

Every Monday in July, Carlyle House and Alexandria Library are teaming up to have a reading program paired with an activity. The books chosen all have a historic theme and can be tied in with Carlyle House. The program will take place on the Magnolia Terrace behind the house, which will be tented. Ages 3-6. Each date has a limit of 20 children, so be sure to reserve your place [online](https://www.carlylehouse.org). Free! 2 to 3 p.m. For further information please visit www.carlylehouse.org or call 703.549.2997.

Now on Exhibit through June 25 – Pattern and Repetition: Reni Gower and Stephen Books

The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street

Both these artists use repetitive shapes and patterns, combining both precision and randomness to create meditative and mesmerizing pieces. Open Thursday through Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703.548.0035.

Now on Exhibit – *Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union*

Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road

This new exhibition that features objects, photographs and documents from the Fort Ward Museum collection related to the Defenses of Washington. The exhibition covers both the formidable task of building the defense system, which made the Federal capital one of the most protected cities in the world, and some of the men who were assigned to duty in the Washington area. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders, including a profile of Francis E. Brainerd, a soldier in the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery who was stationed at Fort O'Rourke, not far from the present-day site of the Huntington Metro Station. Items related to how the forts protected Washington's vital transportation resources are also featured, such as a ship's lantern, rail section from the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and colored lithograph of Soldier's Rest in Alexandria. Several original drawings of forts by soldiers stationed at those sites are on view, and a construction report dated February 1865 details work projects such as completion of new officers' quarters at Fort Ward. Other unique items featured are a sketch showing where President Lincoln came under fire during the Battle of Fort Stevens, a field desk belonging to an officer in the 107th New York Infantry, and an 1862 map of the Defenses of Washington published by the engineer E.G. Arnold. The exhibition will continue through 2017. Free! Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4848 or visit www.fortward.org.



Now on Exhibit – *Relics to be Removed*

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street

Discover a series of contemporary artistic installations by Baltimore artists Stewart Watson and Lauren Frances Adams tucked in among the historic spaces. ***Centennial of the Everyday*** reflects their research on the history of women, enslaved peoples, and nameless citizens whose stories are often overshadowed by other more famous figures from our region. Using traditional materials but with modern techniques, the artist team illuminate the domestic material culture of the past. This project is part of the Time & Place initiative, which explores the intersection of contemporary art with Alexandria's rich and multifaceted history and is a partnership of the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts with the Office of Historic Alexandria. Open during regular

museum hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday and Monday, 1 to 5 p.m., and part of regular museum admission: \$5 adults, \$3 child ages 5 to12. For more information, call 703.746.4242.

Now on Exhibit – Centennial of the Everyday

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street

Many are familiar with the historic ballroom at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, yet the woodwork is a copy; the original is located at Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met) in New York City. **Relics to be Removed** explores the 1917 removal of the historic ballroom and places this decision into a national context. Learn and connect with the story through photos, text and recreated, touchable pieces. Open during regular museum hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday and Monday, 1 to 5 p.m., and part of regular museum admission: \$5 adults, \$3 child ages 5 to12. For more information, call 703.746.4242.

Now on Exhibit – Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital

Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street

Come see the site that inspired Mercy Street, the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. The six-episode program revolves around the doctors, nurses, and patients of Mansion House Hospital, a former luxury hotel owned by James Green, a prominent Alexandria businessman who resided in Carlyle House.

James Green purchased Carlyle House and the adjacent Bank of Alexandria in 1848. While living in Carlyle House with his family, he converted the Bank Building into the successful Mansion House Hotel. The hotel thrived, and Green expanded it in the 1850s. In November of 1861, the Union Army took over both the hotel and the mansion, turning the hotel into a hospital and the house into doctor and officer housing. The new exhibit recreates the days of Union occupation and tells the true stories of those who lived and worked here during the war. This is where Mercy Street really happened. Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m. For further information please visit www.carlylehouse.org or call 703.549.2997.

Now on Exhibit – Costumes of Mercy Street

The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street

This new exhibition highlights several costumes worn by characters in the PBS series Mercy Street, set in Civil War era Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday 10 am to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information call 703.746.4994, or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Now on Exhibit – Before the Spirits are Swept Away: African American Historic Site Paintings

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street

This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria's African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria

Black History Museum. Sherry, who had a studio at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, passed away in 2014. Her family has made it their mission to find homes for her paintings where they will be appreciated and preserved. This incredible donation permits museum staff to use the paintings to explore slavery, interpretation, and preservation of African American sites in Virginia. These paintings are part of Sanabria's "Sites of Conscience" series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. The Sites of Conscience series takes viewers to places of horror, places of pain and suffering, places we want to forget, but never should.

Robert Sanabria, Sherry's husband, feels this series "... demonstrates the widespread practice of bondage in the American South and the determination of the enslaved to survive and maintain their connection with their creator. It is especially fortuitous to have these works together where they will be valued and available for the appreciation of generations to come...."

Tuesday to Saturday: 10 am to 4 p.m., Sunday and Monday: Closed. Free, but donations are appreciated. For more information, please call 703.746.4356.

Now on Exhibit – *Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812*

Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco Street

A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. For more information, please visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703.548.1789.

ON SALE NOW

On the morning of Saturday, July 29 at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, see the Centennial of the Everyday through an art history lens! Take ***The Art of History***, a 60-min tour of the special summer exhibit as you learn from museum staff about how history and art merge to create a rich tapestry of Alexandria history. Each work in the exhibit is grounded in local history while connecting to contemporary art approaches. Reminiscent of Fred Wilson's ***Mining the Museum***, the Centennial of the Everyday draws on how art can be used to highlight the complex narratives embedded in history. Tours are scheduled between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Tickets are priced at \$15 per person and now are available [online](#), advance reservations are required.

