



WHAT'S NEW IN HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Next week, on Friday, June 30, The Lyceum. Alexandria's History Museum will open its newest exhibit ***Alexandrians Fight The Great War***, chronicling the heroic participants from Alexandria involved in the first global conflict. This carefully researched exhibit will share the experiences of local people during this important and very trying time in American history, including Richard Fawcett, the first Alexandrian to die in the war, who lived at 517 Prince Street, the historic home recently acquired by



the City of Alexandria for open space and preservation purposes. The homes, hospitals, factories and shipyards of wartime Alexandria will come back to life through the use of rare images, archival and modern-day video clips, quotes from participants, original objects including weapons, period music, and scale models. The exhibit will open June 30, 2017 through November 11, 2019. For museum hours and admission, visit www.AlexandriaHistory.org.

EVENTS

Monday, June 19 – Gary Stephans' Art of Ballroom Dance *The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street*

Fun classes to learn to dance or improve your dancing skills: fox trot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, merengue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. All level of dancers are welcome, with or without a partner. Discover little techniques that most people never learn about and become a relaxed and proficient social dancer in these small, personalized dance lessons! Class fee is \$15 per session, Basic or Advanced Techniques, attend both sessions for best results. To register for either or both sessions, [click here](#). Basic Techniques class is 7 to 7:45 p.m. Advanced Techniques is 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Free practice session from 8:30 to 9 p.m. For more information, please visit garystephans@me.com or call 703.505.5998.



Monday, June 19 – Public Records Advisory Commission *Archives and Records Center, 801 S. Payne Street*

Regular monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4753.

Tuesday, June 20 – Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan's Road

Regular monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4554.

Wednesday, June 21 – Alexandria Archaeological Commission

Virginia Theological Seminary, Café 182, 3737 Seminary Road

Regular monthly meeting. 7 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4399.

Saturday, June 24 – “Beyond the Battlefield” Walking Tour

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

Sponsored by the **Lee-Fendall House and Gardens**, this tour of Civil War sites in historic Old Town will engage participants with locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. Stops on the tour will include locations featured in the recent PBS drama, “Mercy Street.” The tour will last approximately 2.5 hours and the tour route is approximately 1.75 miles. Tickets are \$15 in advance through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), or \$20.00 the day of the program. FREE for Lee-Fendall House Members! Tour space is limited, so the purchase of tickets in advance is highly recommended. 10 a.m. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and bring bottled water. For more information, please visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703.548.1789.



Sunday, June 25 – 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, June 25 – Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association

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

Annual Chamber Music Series with Sasha Beresovsky, piano. Music of Weber & three pieces by Beethoven. Donations accepted, with a suggested donation of \$10. 3 to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 703.799.8229 or visit wmpamusic.org.

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Sunday, June 25 – Espionage Tea

Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street

Discover your inner spy at a special Espionage Tea. Are you as clever and talented as Frank Stringfellow, a real historical character featured on PBS? Civil War drama, *Mercy Street*, and real-life sweetheart of Emma Green who lived at Carlyle House? Tickets can be purchased online by clicking [here](#). Advance reservations are required. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please visit www.carlylehouse.org or call 703.549.2997.

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

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 to 12. 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 to 12. 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.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Eighty years ago this week, on June 22, 1937, the Alexandria City Council appropriated \$2,500 to construct a ball park on the former Alms House property at Monroe Street and Route 1. Some forty years later the ballfield would be named in honor of developer Eugene Simpson who was a great supporter of Alexandria youth athletic programs.



ON SALE NOW

On Tuesday evening, July 25, the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society will sponsor a night at the Little Theatre for the production of Legally Blonde! Based on the much-loved movie, this musical will take you on heroine Elle's journey of self-discovery. Some say it is so much fun that it should be illegal! A GTMS Reception begins in the lobby at 7 p.m., with the performance starting one hour later. Please visit [Gadsby's Tavern](#) for tickets and more information.



