# ALEXANDRIA a place through time

## OUR HISTORY

**On the Potomac River...**

within oversight of Washington, D.C., Alexandria is rich in history. A history of curiosity, resilience, and diversity shaped this vibrant city for centuries.

## Land & Water

**13,000** YEARS AGO

**Alexandria's First People**

A Native American hunter-gatherer discovered a Paleo-period point (dated to 13,000 years ago) in Alexandria. This was a tributary to the Potomac River at the southern edge of present-day Alexandria.

**1,000** YEARS AGO

**Native American Camp**

Native Americans resided in small seasonal campsites that stretch across the City of Alexandria, including at the mouth of Hunting Creek, a tributary of the Potomac mentioned. These Native Americans were ancestors of the Nacotchtank, a tribe of Algonquian people, probably centered with bands or camps.

**4,000** YEARS AGO

**Quartz and Quartzite Cobbles**

Quartz and quartzite cobbles from a small 4,000 year old Native American campsite buried beneath the modern intersection of Princess St. and Washington Street. These are useful tools for cutting, scraping, or forming dried wood and green wood shaving.

## Colonial America

**1608**

**British Exploration of the Chesapeake**

Captain John Smith's small boat sails past what is now Alexandria on the Potomac in his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay. Smith's map of the area, published in 1612, shows the Nacotchtank Passage. Along this way, the English encountered the Nacotchtank people, who lived along the region's waterways and made the location of their towns on Smith's well-known map of Virginia.

**LATE 1600'S**

**First Land Grant**

In 1654, Margaret Brent, first female lawyer in British North America and advocate for the governor of Maryland, patented land in what is now the greater area of Virginia that includes the Atlantic side of Alexandria. Brent's land patent, one of the earliest documents that mention the Potomac River, South River, Hunting Creek, and the Indian Town of Nacotchtank.

**1748**

**A New Town on the Potomac**

George Washington, then a teenaged surveyor, mapped a plan of the site of what was called Belhaven.

**1749**

**Alexandria Established**

Virginia's colonial government grants permission to establish a town on the Potomac River, which is known as Alexandria. The town has its 60 acres of stories on July 31 and 32, 1749.

**1755**

**French and Indian War**

British General Edward Braddock, across with several thousand Redcoats to stop the encroaching French and their Native American allies, stops in Alexandria on the way to Fort Duquesne. Braddock's defeat ends British hopes for a quick victory.

## The Revolution

**1774**

**"Fairfax Resolves"**

Colonel George Mason, a Scottish Presbyterian, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and a Fairfax County, Virginia, resident, drafts the Fairfax Resolves, which influence the Declaration of Independence.

**Friendship Fire Company**

Alexandria establishes its first volunteer fire company. The city's first fire station is built in 1855 (pictured) by the Friendship Fire Company. Fairfax County Historical Museum.

**1781**

**Washington-Rochambeau Route**

Americans and French armies march southward to Yorktown, Virginia, to defeat the British. Troops from Alexandria, under command of Brigadier Jeffery Amherst, marching to the Yorktown to end the Revolutionary War.

**1785**

**A Town Takes Shape**

John Wise, businessman and entrepreneur, commissions a survey of the town. Wise's survey, "A Plan of the Town of Alexandria" shows the Alexandria Academy, Christ Church, and the Market House.

The Alexandria Academy, the oldest free public school, opens.

Philip Richard Fendall, a lawyer, and his wife Lucinda Lee Fendall, of Washington Street, in Alexandria, Virginia, by Joseph Wood, circa 1800. The Lee Fendall House and Garden Museum.

Lee's Fendall House, Museum.

## New Nation, New City

**1791**

**Federal City**

The District of Columbia is established as a federal capital city. A set of Alexandria's Jesse Frisbie and Benjamin Stoddert, along with Georgetown's Benjamin Stoddert, Thomas Beall, and Daniel Carroll, sign the agreement to form the District of Columbia, or simply, Alexandria, D.C.

**1792**

**Commerce on the Rise**

A local Frisbie opens an apothecary, one of several successful commercial ventures by Quakers in Alexandria. It is operated by his descendants, in the Frisbie family, for 100 years. Frisbie's Apothecary, Lyceum, Alexandria, Virginia.

The new City Tavern opens on Royal Street and becomes a popular meeting place of the City's leaders. Gadsby's Tavern operated by Thomas Gadsby, Museum.

**1799**

**International Seaport**

The "Virginia" launched, Alexandria, Virginia, December 1, 1799. Alexandria's port was the fourth largest port in the United States. Circa 1800, the City's port was the fourth largest port in the United States. Alexandria's port was a major hub for the slave trade, and was a major port for the export of tobacco, grain, and flour. Alexandria's port was the fourth largest port in the United States, circa 1800.

**1814**

**The War of 1812**

Alexandria surrenders to the British very early on in the Potomac River in August 1814. Many Alexandrians flee the City, and the British burn the City's warehouses, including those of Robert Cazenove, a Swiss-born Quaker who had arrived in Alexandria in 1796 and who had prepared for the impending invasion.

**1824**

**Hero of the American Revolution**

The Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution, visits Alexandria, his City-named namesake, and is greeted by a crowd of 20,000 people. Lafayette's visit, the largest ever in Alexandria, was a major event in the City's history. Lafayette's visit, the largest ever in the City's history, was a major event in the City's history.

**1828**

**The Domestic Slave Trade**

Slave traders move into a house at the upper end of Duke Street, circa 1828. Slave traders were the only people who could legally buy and sell slaves in the Alexandria, Virginia, Slave Museum. They and others bought and sold slaves in Alexandria, one of the busiest slave ports, exhibiting over of thousands of people from Alexandria and the surrounding region. Alexandria's slave trade was made in the City's Beyond.

**1834**

**The Alexandria Lyceum**

The Alexandria Lyceum, a society for the study of education and scientific inquiry, including Alexandria's first public library, is founded. Lyceum, Alexandria, Virginia. The Lyceum's library, Lyceum, Alexandria, Virginia. The Lyceum's library, Lyceum, Alexandria, Virginia. The Lyceum's library, including books, fossil, ceramics, and medicinal, Lyceum.

**1847**

**Retrocession**

Alexandria's formal political connection to the federal portion of the District of Columbia, and to the City of Washington, ends. The City of Alexandria, Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia,