



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

The Alexandria Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial

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Photo/Denise Dunbar

On the grounds of the Alexandria Union Station, and in the shadow of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, the Alexandria Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial stands to remind us of the lives lost from Alexandria in foreign wars, especially World War I.

Though urban legend has it that the material used was discarded from the construction of the Masonic Memorial, no available records can confirm that story. What is known is that the memorial was dedicated in 1940 by the Russell Mitchell Post No. 609 Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was dedicated by Mrs. Florence Angelo Cannaday of Richmond, Virginia.

In front of the memorial is a plaque with the names of Alexandria citizens who lost their lives in World War I, the conflict that Veterans Day originally commemorated. In 2018, as part of the Centennial Commemorations of the conclusion of that conflict, the City of Alexandria dedicated an updated plaque. The updated plaque reads:



“In honor of all from the City of Alexandria who served and died during World War I

Robert Adams
George Anderton
Stanley Bernard
Herbert Bernhard
William Bradley
Bernard Brock
William Brown
Christopher Cloxom
Thomas Cook
Chaplin Evans
Richard Fawcett
Leon Hardin
Samuel Haynes
John Leadbeater
Lee Magner
John Mitchell
Edward Northrop
William Phillips



Office of Historic Alexandria City of Alexandria, Virginia

Shirley Pullin
Henry Reif
Alpheus Robey
Worth Shoults
John Sullivan
William Thomas
Joseph Timbers
Paul Ward
Eugene Wilburn

Plaque placed November 11, 2018, to mark the centennial of Armistice Day.”

The new plaque and its twin at the American Legion Post 24 in Old Town reflect recent research that added the names of two African Americans from Alexandria who lost their lives in World War I: Christopher Cloxom and William Thomas.

Many years ago, a World War I Renault tank stood on a concrete pad adjacent to the memorial. According to Amtrak officials, the tank was moved to a VFW museum in Huntington, West Virginia in the early 1980s and restored to running condition.

Alexandria continues to remember the role her citizens played in World War I, 103 years after the conflict's end and especially on Nov. 11.

“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.

These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by staff of the Office of Historic Alexandria and invited guests.