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Book launch kicks off Black History Month

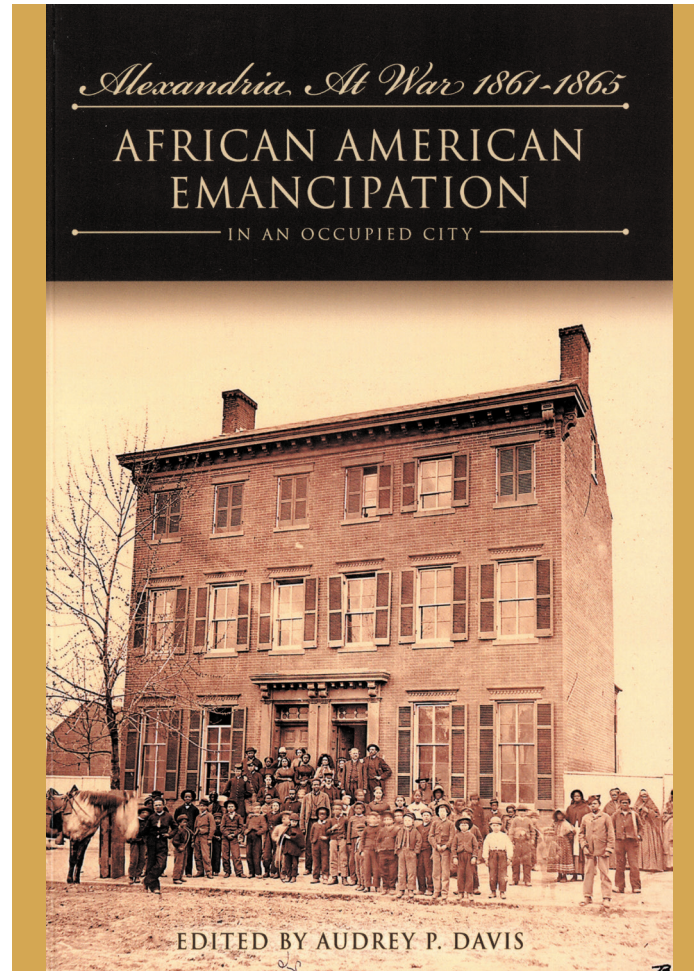
The Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria have collaborated on the publication of a new book, "Alexandria at War 1861-1865: African American Emancipation in an Occupied City."

The book relates the experiences of African American people who lived in and around Alexandria during the Civil War. Some were enslaved, formerly enslaved or born with free status, while others were self-emancipated, seeking refuge behind Union lines in an occupied city.

Hope persisted among horrendous conditions and those who survived used their labor for the cause of freedom.

The official book launch will occur on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. At this free event, authors Audrey Davis and Deborah Colblenz will share their literary journeys and insights and answer some questions from the audience. Light refreshments and a book signing will follow the presentation.

The celebration of Black History Month in Alexandria includes a number of other events. Next up is "Storytelling for Little Historians" at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. on February 10 at 10:30 a.m. This free



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA
 The cover of the newly released book 'Alexandria at War 1861-1865: African American Emancipation in an Occupied City.'

monthly program for children ages 5 to 8 presents books written by and about African American people and communities of color.

On February 10 at 11 a.m., a ribbon-cutting ceremony will celebrate the installation of new interpretive signs along

Alexandria's historic waterfront. The free event will begin at the new Fishtown sign on the riverside of Founder's Park, 351 N. Union Street, followed by a reception in the Overlook Room, room 325 in the Torpedo Factory, at 105 N. Union St.

The Washington Revels

Jubilee Voices will present a multimedia program, "Wade in the Water," on February 18, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at The Lyceum. This free program explores the Gullah-Geechee culture and life on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

A genealogy lecture, "Finding the Family of Alexandria's Lynching Victim Joseph McCoy" will take place at the Alexandria Black History Museum on February 25 at 2 p.m. Attendees at this free program will learn how to investigate a family tree that doesn't have many leads.

On February 28 from 7 to 9 p.m., Richard Bell, Ph.D., will present a free virtual lecture, "Kidnapped into Slavery." Bell is a professor of history at the University of Maryland and the author of "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home."

Finally, on February 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, the "Meaningful Conversations about Racism – and What to Do About It" program continues. The topic of this free event is "Welcoming the Stranger: An Interfaith Perspective on Immigration and Refugees."

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.