



Lee-Fendall House
MUSEUM AND GARDEN

2019 Annual Report

VIRGINIA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
614 Oronoco Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Message from the Director

The Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden is a historic home and garden located in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. The museum explores how life in Alexandria has changed over the past two hundred years by sharing the story of the people who lived and worked on the property from 1785 to 1969. This story includes the early days of the republic, when the Fendall and Lee families fueled the region's growth after the American Revolution. It uncovers the experiences of enslaved and free African Americans who worked in the house during the antebellum period. It explores the house's service as a Union hospital during the Civil War. It reveals the challenges individuals and society faced during Reconstruction. It reflects the changes Prohibition brought to liquor dealers like the Downham family. And it embraces the struggle for workers' rights fought by the house's last owner, labor leader John L. Lewis.

The past year has been one of growth and change at the Lee-Fendall House. Our exciting programming and new exhibits attracted much public interest and brought in larger numbers of visitors of all ages. We oversaw the completion of several preservation projects and energetically worked to secure stronger financial support for the museum through our fundraising events and campaigns. The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of the museum are grateful for the continued support from the individual donors and organizations who make all of this work possible.

Amanda Roper, Interim Director

Board of Directors

The following individuals served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation in 2019:

Dr. Patricia Sanders, President | Mr. Edward Horn, Vice President | Ms. Laura Lieberman, Treasurer | Ms. Kelly Jeffers, Secretary | Mr. Carter Refo | Dr. Dianne Murphy | Mr. Tal Day | Ms. Margaret Reagan | Ms. Megan Ritter | Ms. Jill Gribbin | Ms. Meghan White | Mr. Benjamin Smith | Mr. Roger Monthey

Our Mission

The Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden interprets American history through the experiences of those who lived and worked on the property from 1785 to 1969. As an educational center, the museum preserves its historic resources to promote community engagement about the relevance of the past to our present.

The Year in Numbers



5,600+ Visitors



55,000+ Dollars in Donations



30+ Programs & Events



1,800+ Volunteer Hours



4,500+ Social Media Followers

Financial Statement

Through generous private and organizational donations, successful fundraising, increased revenue from programs and the gift shop, and strong growth in the endowment, the museum ended the year in a stronger financial situation on which to build in 2020.

REVENUE

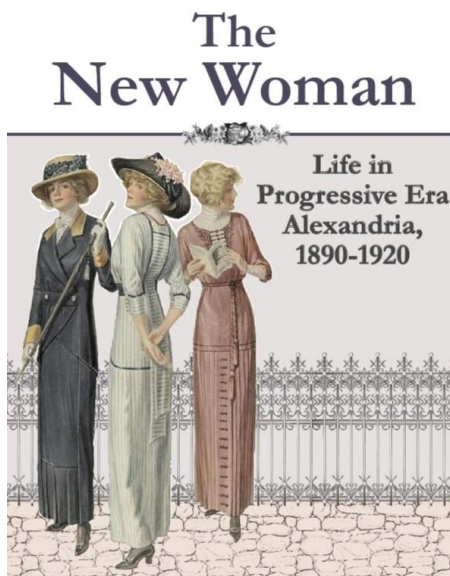
• Museum Programs & Events	\$ 41,250
• Earned Income	\$ 16,875
• Donations and Grants	\$ 55,500
Total:	\$ 113,620

EXPENDITURES

• Museum Programs & Events	\$ 6,075
• Earned Income	\$ 3,850
• Fundraising and Grants	\$ 1,655
• Administration & Operations	\$ 141,919
Total:	\$ 153,499

Bill Fendall Endowment Fund: \$1,928,833.93

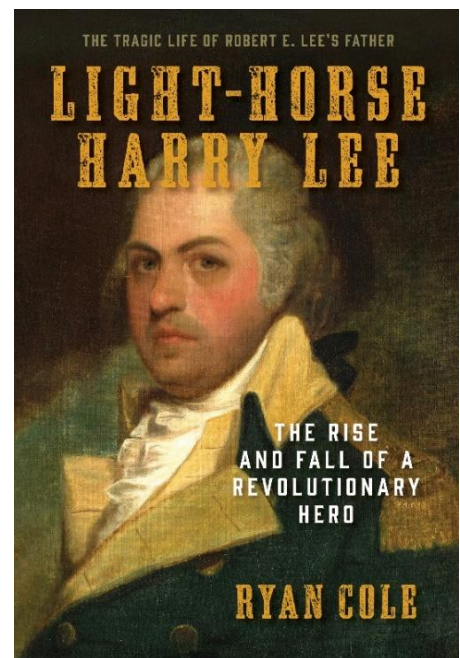
Education & Outreach



In March, the temporary exhibit *The New Woman: Life in Progressive Era Alexandria, 1890-1920*, opened to the public. This exhibit explored the lives of three young women associated with the Lee-Fendall House during this period, Myra Lee Civalier, Maude Downham, and Mai Greenwell Downham. It used objects and archival documents to discuss changes for women in areas of education, work, politics, fashion, athletics, and society. The exhibit will be up through November 2020.

For Historic Preservation Month in May, we collaborated with Carlyle House Historic Park to offer a new walking tour, *Pillars to Pavers: Preservation in Alexandria*. Two private homes were also included on this tour that explored local historic preservation efforts.

We kicked off a series of regular book talks in August with author Ryan Cole who discussed his new biography *Light-Horse Harry Lee: The Rise and Fall of a Revolutionary Hero*. This talk proved very popular and sold out in advance. We hosted another book talk in November and have several authors lined up for 2020.



The current Earl of Carnarvon who owns Highclere Castle, where *Downton Abbey* was filmed, is a direct descendent of Philip Fendall who built the Lee-Fendall House. Working off this connection we developed a special tour that compared life in the Lee-Fendall House with the lives of characters in *Downton Abbey*. These popular tours were offered throughout September, culminating in a Downton Abbey themed party on September 28.



In October, we welcomed over 100 students and parent teachers for our most successful Homeschool Day to date! Working with the Home Educators Association of Virginia, we schedule a special day in the spring and fall to welcome homeschooling families for a visit filled with educational tours and hands-on activities surrounding a different historical theme. This fall, we explored the theme of gardens as a historical source of food, medicine, and recreation for American families. Students learned about the historical uses of various plants and herbs and were able to experience a typical herb garden of the nineteenth century thanks to our newly restored herb garden. We also collaborated with a local Alexandria business, The Early Times Emporium, to provide resources for parent teachers who were looking to learn more. It was a fun and educational day for all who participated!

Projects & Preservation

In June, we received a \$10,000 special project grant from the Historic Alexandria Foundation to install museum grade UV protective window inserts in the exhibit rooms of the Lee-Fendall House. The work was carried out by The Sustainability Guys. These inserts will protect our collection from exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight which causes damage to objects which are on display throughout the museum such as furniture, textiles, and photographs.





This summer, our garden was certified as a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Feeders, shelter, and a bird bath were installed, and plants were added to our pollinator garden. The cost of these improvements and certification were covered by a private donor. The garden is now an improved space for birds, pollinators, and animals to find food and shelter as part of our ongoing efforts to preserve our historic garden and urban green space.

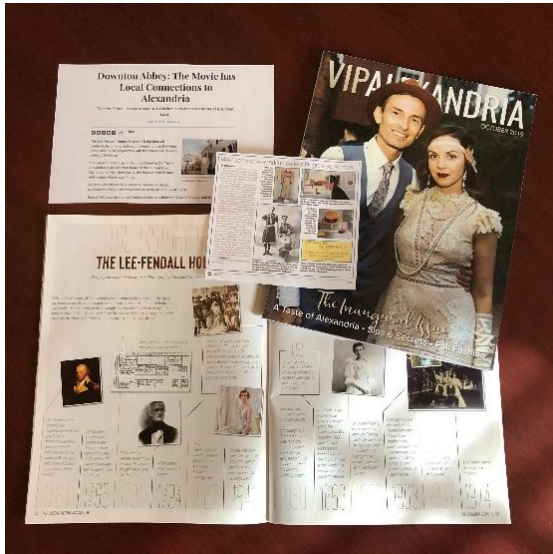
Fundraising & Development

Our annual fundraiser event, Sips & Secrets, had another successful year, bringing in record numbers of attendees and money to support the museum and its educational programming. Many local businesses helped sponsor the event which took place on September 14, 2019. Almost 140 people attended the fundraiser for a night of history, dancing, jazz music, special cocktails, and a silent auction.



Our two annual online fundraising campaigns – Spring2ACTion in April and Giving Tuesday in November – brought in more money than previous years. Funds raised went towards supporting the museum and its educational programming.

Media Highlights



The Lee-Fendall House Museum received a lot of press coverage in 2019 with features in many local publications including *The Zebra*, *Alexandria Living Magazine*, *VIP Alexandria Magazine*, and *Northern Virginia Magazine*.

Articles covered the history of the house, exhibit openings, and special events. A photograph taken at our Sips & Secrets fundraiser appeared on the cover of the inaugural issue of *VIP Alexandria Magazine* in October.

Donors

Individuals

Anonymous

Nancy & David Barbour

Chris Bohner

Carolyn Bolton

Wayne Braeuer

Gretchen Bulova

Angela Calanni

James Cavanagh

John Christiansen

Leonard Christiansen

Cathy Cook

John Craighill

Tal & Barbara Day

William Davis

Serina Deatrick

Lee Dunn

Megan Easterday

Kristen Eastlick

William Elwood

Joyce Emery

Shawn Eyer

Bridget Farrell

Jeffrey Ferrill

Anne Fortney & Richard Riddell

Mary Custis Glover

Lucy Goddin

Loretta Gray

Jill Gribbin

Evelyn Griswold

Individual Donors (cont'd)

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James Kent	Mr. & Mrs. John Prevar	Robert Stalder
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Gian & Laura Macone	Richard Riddell & Anne Fortney	Karen White
Mr. & Mrs. A.B. Marchant	Joanne Ritter	Meghan White
Kirsten Massey	Megan Ritter	Charles E. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mattheis	Jason Rockett	Linda Winger
Kerry Mitchell		

Business & Organizational Donors

Altria Client Services LLC	Lorraine Barclay Nordlinger, MBA, REALTOR, TTR Sotheby's International Realty
ALX Community	
The Antique Guild	Martin's Tavern
Archival Art Services	Mazi DC
Belle Vodka	The Newseum
Blackwall Hitch	Office of Historic Alexandria
Bluemont Vineyards	Old Forester Bourbon
Blüprint Chocolatiers	Pedego Alexandria
Carlyle House Historic Park	Petal's Edge Floral Design
City Winery DC	Redmon, Peyton, & Braswell
DC Permanent Tourist	Reston Limousine
Dumbarton House	Rita Restores
Early Time Emporium	Rocklands Barbecue & Grilling Company
Firehook Bakery	Serenity Day Spa
George Washington's Mount Vernon	The Spice and Tea Exchange
The Getaway Driver	Tall Ship Providence
Old Town Shop	Tudor Place
John Alexander Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution	Washington Capitals
Lavender Moon Cupcakery	Washington Nationals
Little Theatre of Alexandria	Yasir Sam Photography
	The Zebra

Grants

Historic Alexandria Foundation

The Junior League of Washington, D.C.

The Society of the Lees of Virginia