



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

Cocktail Chronicles: New Event on September 25th

What cocktail, originating in New Orleans in 1885, would use ingredients like these?



From its earliest days, Alexandria has been involved in the production and trade of spirits – and this town has always loved a cocktail. Join us on **Saturday, September 25th** to learn more about cocktails through time and sample some classic recipes for yourself!

Guests will enjoy mixology demonstrations for three historic cocktails – and will be able to sample each one – along with trivia and exhibits related to the local liquor history.

This event will be presented in a fully outdoor setting with limited tickets available for each session. Timed entrances will take place at **5:00 PM** and **6:30 PM**. There will be ample space to socially distance when enjoying cocktails and snacks, but attendees are asked

to wear masks when in close contact with staff or volunteers. To purchase tickets, head to the website or leefendallhouse.eventbrite.com

614 ORONOCO

September is here with cooler days and sunny weather! Staff and volunteers are enjoying working in the garden. The gate will be open weekends for you to enjoy it with us. See the Wall Update (p. 2) to see what's going on. We are already getting ready for the new event, Cocktail Chronicles, and resuming walking tours.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, helping us care for the treasure that is the Lee-Fendall House and Garden.

Martha Withers
Executive Director



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WALL UPDATE

The work on our 200-year-old garden wall has begun! Through Community support, we have raised 20% of our goal. Enough to deconstruct the wall, making it safe while saving and cleaning the bricks and stone for reuse. While we are not quite to ground level, the work on the stone foundation has begun and we are likely to finish it shortly. The workers have been amazing. Many thanks to Ed Horn who has been coordinating and supervising this process. Here are some pictures from the last week.



IT'S MOVING!! SIPS & SECRETS: A SPEAKEASY NIGHT

We are sad to say we will be postponing our annual gala event, *Sips & Secrets: A Speakeasy Night*, to the Spring. So, keep your feather tiaras and boater hats ready for some flapper fun on the new date, Saturday, **May 21st, 2022**. Don't miss out on the event referred to by one local paper as *Alexandria's social event of the season!* Funds raised are dedicated to continuing the repair/reconstruction of the 200-year-old Garden Wall that unexpectedly collapsed in June.



Meanwhile, the Lee-Fendall House Museum will host a NEW event with timed ticketing and smaller groups, on the evening of September 25th. *Cocktail Chronicles* will adopt techniques used successfully in our other large events, which have been approved by the Department of Health. For more on the Cocktail Chronicles see the article in this newsletter. To purchase tickets head to the website or leefendallhouse.eventbrite.com.

If you already purchased your tickets for *Sips & Secrets* (thank you), there are several options for you, including transferring your tickets to the new, May 21st, date or converting them to tickets for *Cocktail Chronicles* (perhaps with a small donation or refund).

The Lee-Fendall House team wishes to thank our members, friends, and the Alexandria community for the tremendous support you have shown. We also want to recognize our community partners and sponsors support this event, including **Brooke Rentals, The Zebra Press, Alexandria Living, Tony Gudell and the Foggy Bottom Whomp-Stompers, Rocklands Barbecue, and the Junior League of Washington.**

BACK TO SCHOOL IN 1896

September traditionally ushers in the back-to-school season. Young Maude Downham's experience of attending school in the 1890s has been carefully preserved in the archives of the Lee-Fendall House. Maude attended a boarding school for girls called Miss Baird's Institute in Norwalk, Connecticut. The school's curriculum emphasized "music, art, and the languages." Many of Maude's original schoolbooks with personalized inscriptions are in the museum's collection and include books on history, literature, music, and languages



Maude's schoolbooks

including French and German. We also have many images and documents that provide a glimpse into Maude's school life including her daily schedule. Students were encouraged to perform exercises every afternoon in the school's gymnasium. This reflected the latest thinking regarding a young woman's education which viewed training the body as an important part of training the mind. But school life was not all rigid rules and schedules; our archives also contain photos of seaside excursions and paper fans signed by classmates used to decorate the walls of Maude's bedroom.



Maude Downham in 1896

Daily Time-Table.

6:30.	Rising Bell.		
7:00.	Breakfast Bell		
7:30.	Study Period.		
8:30.	Walk.		
9:00.	Prayers and Opening of School		
12:30.	Dinner Bell.		
1:30.	School Bell.		
2:30.	Roll Call.		
3:00.	Gymnastics.		
3:30.	Walk.		
4:30.	Study Hour.		
6:00.	Supper Bell.		
6:30.	Prayers and Roll Call.		
7:30.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
"	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
8:30.	Retiring Bell.		
9:00.	Silence Bell.		

PEOPLE OF NOTE AROUND THE LEE-FENDALL HOUSE MUSEUM



COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT INTERN -- FALL 2021

We are pleased to welcome **Nancy Murray** as the Fall 2021 Collections Management Intern for the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. Her internship focuses on objects and accessions research while conducting a full inventory of the museum collections. As a recent graduate of the M.A. program in Applied Public History at George Mason University, she is applying her education and training while gaining first-hand museum experience. Nancy is particularly interested in the installation and de-installation of exhibits. She comes to the Lee-Fendall House after spending five years as a Research Assistant with the Historical Society of Washington, DC, where she assisted with handling historical documents and cataloguing photographs for exhibit preparation and management.

Her internship stipend is generously underwritten by the Society of the Lees of Virginia.

FALL 2021 PROGRAMS

Details and tickets for upcoming Lee-Fendall House events may be found at our Eventbrite Tickets page! **Advance registration is required**, except where noted.

For ongoing safety, Museum staff will be following all recommended health guidelines. The Lee-Fendall House recommends face masks and requires them for some programs. Social Distancing is encouraged and participation numbers are limited.

SPECIAL EVENT – NEW!

Cocktail Chronicles, September 25, 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM

From its earliest days, Alexandria has been involved in the production and trade of spirits – and this town has always loved a cocktail. Join us to learn more about this history and experience the flavors for yourself! Guests will enjoy mixology demonstrations for three historic cocktails – and will be able to sample each one – along with trivia and exhibits related to local liquor history. This event will be presented in a fully outdoor setting with limited numbers. **Timed entrances** will take place at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM. Attendees should show up at the start of the time slot they reserved and plan to stay for one hour. We respectfully request that attendees wear masks when in close contact with staff or volunteers. There will be ample space provided to socially distance when enjoying cocktails and snacks.

History of Tea, November 6, 2:00 PM

Learn about the history of tea, one of the world’s most popular drinks, and taste teas popular in different periods of American history. Space is limited and tickets must be bought in advance.

OPEN HOUSE

Smithsonian Museum Day, September 18, 10:00 AM-5:00PM: Museum Day is an annual celebration hosted by Smithsonian Magazine. The Lee-Fendall House Museum will be joining thousands of other museums and cultural institutions across the country to provide *free* entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. Self-guided tours start at 10:00 AM, last entry at 4:00 PM. Entry will be controlled to minimize crowding and allow for social distancing. Face masks are required inside the museum. Register for your tickets now at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/venues/museum/lee-fendall-house-museum-garden>.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Homeschool Day – Archives, October 1, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM (on the hour)

The Lee-Fendall House Museum welcomes homeschoolers on Friday, October 1! Our theme this fall, in honor of American Archives Month, will focus on archives and how we learn about history through documents.

Tours of the house will be offered every hour starting at 10:00 AM, last tour starts at 2:00 PM. [Advance registration](#) for a specific tour time is required. If you have any questions, please contact Manager of Education, Amanda Roper, at amanda.rop@leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Fall Frolic, October 30 at 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM
Enjoy some seasonal family fun in the garden of the Lee-Fendall House during our Fall Frolic! Put on your Halloween costumes and join us on Saturday, October 24, for activities catered to children ages 3-12. Activities include a “ghost” hunt, crafts, and a costume parade.

A Victorian Christmas,

December 11 at 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM
Experience the wonder of the season by visiting the Lee-Fendall House for a family-friendly Victorian Christmas! Enjoy traditional décor, music, seasonal crafts, a visit with Santa, an antique toy exhibit, and more! Timed tickets on the hour are available through advance registration. We will be following all recommended health requirements, including face masks and social distancing.

FOCUS TOURS

***Blood and Strikes: American Labor in the 20th Century**, September 5, 2:00 PM
From deadly mine explosions to wartime strikes, the history of the 20th century American labor movement is full of violence and controversy. This Labor Day weekend, learn about the struggle for workers’ rights at the home of one of its most powerful spokesmen, John L. Lewis.

***Under the Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Workers at Lee-Fendall**, November 20, 2:00 PM
Learn about the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. Hear the stories of how they built and shaped the house over the course of its history.

***Stories in the Architecture**, November 27, 2:00 PM
Explore the history of the Lee-Fendall House through its architecture, including parts of the house that are not regularly open to the public. See how changes in style and home technology have left their mark on the home, from its building in 1785 through its continued use as a home in the twentieth century.

WALKING TOURS

***Prohibition in Alexandria Walking Tour**, September 11, October 16 @ 10:00 AM:
Discover the forgotten stories of teetotalers and bootleggers on this walking tour of Prohibition-era Alexandria. Learn about the dramatic campaign to ban alcohol in Virginia which threatened a long tradition of local alcohol production and sale. The tour begins at the Lee-Fendall House, home to the Downham family, who were once one of the city’s most prominent liquor dealers.

***Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour of Alexandria**, September 18, October 19, 23 @9:00 AM
This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation.

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Grief & Ghost Tours, October 22-23, 29-30 @ 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 PM
Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the

mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair mementos, mourning clothing, and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark!

Candlelight Tours, December 4, 11, 18 @ 5:30 PM, 6:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM, 7:30 PM
Celebrate the holiday season with evening tours of the Lee-Fendall House, decked out in Victorian splendor. Our antique toy exhibit will also be on view.

WORKSHOP

Holiday Kissing Ball Workshops, December 5 & 12, 2:00 PM: Learn the history behind using greenery to decorate homes for the holidays, then craft your own boxwood kissing ball using fresh cuttings from the Lee-Fendall Garden!

Please note that these workshops will be held **outdoors** so please dress appropriately. Registration must be done in advance and costs \$25 per person and includes all materials needed to make your own boxwood kissing ball.

MUSEUM CLOSINGS

SEPTEMBER 4 – Private Rental – Museum closes at 1:00 PM

OCTOBER 9 – Private Rental – Museum closes at 1:00 PM

OCTOBER 16 – Private Rental – Museum closes at 1:00 PM

NOVEMBER 13 – Private Rental

NOVEMBER 24-26 – Museum closed so that staff and volunteers may enjoy family time

DECEMBER 24-26 – Museum closed so that staff and volunteers may enjoy family time

Free for museum members. Please contact the museum to make your reservations.

CONTACT US @

Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden
Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation
614 Oronoco St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-548-1789

www.leefendallhouse.org
contact@leefendallhouse.org

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