

# Le Tour d'Alexandria 2022

*POINTS OF INTEREST: "Resilience"*

## **Resilient Neighborhoods:**

- **Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site:** Union Troops during the Civil War were stationed here to protect Washington D.C.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard>
- Post Civil War it was the site of an African American Community:
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-sites/the-fort-a-post-civil-war-african-american-community>
- Several additional African American Communities extended through the Fairlington Village Historic District along of King St, Quaker Ave, and Braddock Rd.
  - <https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/archaeology/trailsignsafricanamericansandthecivilwar.pdf>
  - <https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/archaeology/trailsignfromcivilwartocivilrights.pdf>
- The neighborhood along the Wythe St, West St, and Queen St boundaries was a significant neighborhood of the Colored Rosemont Community.
  - Read about how one Alexandrian couple contributed to the support of the African American Middle Class in this recent story from the Old Town Crier: [Virginia Fitzhugh Wheat Thomas and Colored Rosemont](#)
  - <https://oldtowncrier.com/2022/03/01/virginia-fitzhugh-wheat-thomas-and-colored-rosemont/>

## **Alexandria Heritage Trail:**

- The Tour d'Alexandria route covers some of the 23-mile Alexandria Heritage Trail, an archaeological and historical urban trail meant to explore the origins and continuing evolution of the Nation.
  - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-alexandria/alexandria-heritage-trail>

*Other points of interest we will visit:*

- The Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library was the site of the first organized sit in, a peaceful protest at the whites-only library in Alexandria. Read more about this act of civil disobedience [HERE](https://alexlibraryva.org/1939-sit-in) <https://alexlibraryva.org/1939-sit-in>
  - Kate Waller Barrett was an influential figure in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A leading social reformer, Barrett was vice President of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia and helped to bring the right to vote for women in the United States. The Barrett Branch is named after Kate Waller Barrett. Read more about her here:
    - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/barrett-kate-waller-1857-1925/>
- **Le Tour d’Alexandria** route includes the confirmed locations of two murders of young African American men after the slow boil of resistance to racial equity in the South established by the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. After Reconstruction at the end of the Civil War was abruptly stopped in 1877, the following happened: The statue, Appomattox, commissioned by the United Confederate Veterans, and placed at the intersection of S. Washington St. and Prince St. in 1889. Plessey vs Ferguson, establishing separate but equal in 1896. Two young African American men were accused by young white women of assault. The first Joseph McCoy was arrested, and subsequently forced out of jail by a mob of white citizens on April 23, 1897. He was murdered by the mob at the corner of Cameron St. and Lee St. Read more about the accounts of that day [HERE](#).
- Just over two years later Benjamin Thomas was arrested and murdered under similar circumstances on August 8, 1899. Read more about this account [HERE](#).
- The events were a prelude to the rewriting of the Virginia Constitution in 1902 that instilled Jim Crow laws in the books remained well into the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. (See more [HERE](#))
- The final leg of Le Tour d’Alexandria is directed through the African American Community Hayti, just South of Old Town and encompassing “The Bottoms” where enslaved blacks were allowed to hire out and purchase their freedom. Read more about this community [HERE](#) (Black Resilience in Alexandria)