

Resources for Continued Exploration

Natural and Cultural History of the Potomac River

Program 1: Natural History **Addendum**

- **Places to visit:**
 - **Western Reaches:** Blackwater Falls State Park; Cathedral State Park; Swallow Falls State Park
 - **Above DC:** Great Falls National Park; C&O Canal National Park; Riverbend Park
 - **At DC:** Theodore Roosevelt Island
 - **Tidewater/Estuary:** Calvert Marine Museum; Flag Ponds Nature Park
- **Glacial Refugia** (Places preserving Boreal/Canadian Species) in Western Reaches: Cranesville Swamp; Canaan Valley; Finzel Swamp; Dolly Sods Wilderness
- **Best Flower Hunting Book:** [Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area](#)
- **Best Nature Guide for the Estuary:** [Life In the Chesapeake Bay](#), 2nd Edition, A.J. and R. L. Lippson, Johns Hopkins Press, 1997 The **best guide** to life in the Bay.
- **Introduction to an Ecosystem:** A very readable and informative document that encapsulates the core ecological science for the Bay in one short document.
- **Discovering the Chesapeake** by Curtin, Brush & Fisher, Johns Hopkins Press, 2001. Does a wonderful job of looking at the forces that created and shaped the Bay Region and that continue to shape it today.
- **Geology of Virginia** (Virginia Places website) <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/geology/index.html> A wonderful place to begin your online geology journey.
- **The Geological Evolution of the MidAtlantic** <http://csmgeo.csm.jmu.edu/geollab/vageol/vahist/index.html>
- **Geology, Hydrology and History of the Washington, D.D. Area** ed. By Moore and Jackson, American Geological Institute, Alexandria, VA 1989 **A WONDERFUL book!!** If you are a DC geek, this is a must have.

Program 2: Cultural History to 1814

1. Books:

A. Recommended First Nations Books

- [First Peoples by Keith Egloff and Deborah Woodward \(2nd ed.\)](#), University of Virginia Press, 2006
- [John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages](#) by Helen Rountree, Wayne Clark and Kent Mountford, University of Virginia Press, 2002 Combines ecology, environmental history, and current science with the Journals of Captain John Smith and his bay voyages of 1607-1609. Truly a marvel of cross-disciplinary interpretation.
- **Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs** by Stephen R. Potter, University Press of Virginia, 1994 - Details the locations of Native American settlements along the Potomac at the time of Colonial settlement and illuminates tribal social, economic, political and diplomatic relationships based on archeological findings.
- **Nature and History in the Potomac Country: From Hunter Gatherers to the Age of Jefferson** by James D. Rice, Johns Hopkins Press, 2009 A fascinating and well-researched look at how climate, the land and people interacted over time and how Native culture had a lasting influence on colonial culture. Highly recommended.
- **Indians & English: Facing Off In Early America** by Karen Kupperman, Cornell University Press, 2000

- [*Indians of Southern Maryland*](#), by Rebecca Seib and Helen C. Rountree, Maryland Historical Society, 2014
- [*Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland*](#) by Helen Rountree and Thomas E. Davidson, University of Virginia Press, 2007

B. Colonial History Books

- **The Tobacco Coast: A Maritime History of the Chesapeake Bay In the Colonial Era** by Arthur Middleton, Johns Hopkins Press (Multiple Printings)
- **Adapting to a New World: English Society in the 17th Century Chesapeake** by James Horn, University of North Carolina Press, 1994
- **Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America** by David Fischer, Oxford University Press, 1989 Chapter 2, 'The South of England to Virginia' is excellent.
- **Maryland: A Middle Temperament 1634-1980** by Robert Brugger, Johns Hopkins Press, 1988
- [*From British Peasants to Colonial American Farmers*](#) by Allan Kulikoff, University of North Carolina Press, 2000
- [*Colonial Living by Edwin Tunis*](#), Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999 Fascinating facts, great illustrations.
- [*Colonial Craftsmen: The Beginnings of American Industry by Edwin Tunis*](#), Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999 Another treasure!

C. War of 1812 Books

- **The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814** by Anthony Pitch, Naval Institute Press, 1998
- **Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake** by Ralph Eshelman and Burton Kummerow, Maryland Historical Society Press, 2012 A brilliant book – readable and with lovely illustrations. This book accompanies the exhibit at the Maryland Historical Society Museum in Baltimore which I hope is left in place for many more years. The exhibit is a must see if you are a local history buff.
- **The Naval War of 1812: A Documentary History, Volume III**, ed. By Michael J. Crawford, Naval Historical Center, 2002
- **Sailor of Fortune: The Life and Adventures of Commodore Barney, USN** by Hulbert Footner, Naval Institute Press, Revised edition, 1998).
- **Flotilla: The Patuxent Naval Campaign in the War of 1812** by Donald G. Shomette, Johns Hopkins Press, 2009 A wonderful detailed and well-written book about Joshua Barney and his Flotilla by local historian and Barney authority, Don Shomette.
- **Joshua Barney: Hero of the Revolution and 1812** by Louis Norton, Naval Institute Press, 2000
- [**To Annoy or Destroy The Enemy: The Battle of the White House after the Burning of Washington**](#) by Patrick O'Neill, Privately Published - Written by local historian and archaeologist, Patrick O'Neill, this is a wonderful bit of 1812 history that is often overlooked but is presented with accuracy and flair in this book.

D. Books on Georgetown, Washington, and Alexandria of special note

- **Georgetown Historic Waterfront** by DC Commission of Fine Arts, 1993
- **Bridges And The City of Washington**, by the DC Commission of Fines Arts, 1983
- **The City of Washington: An Illustrated History** by the Junior League of Washington, (Multiple printings) If you were going to get just one book on DC history, let me recommend this one. **MARVELOUS!**

- **The Washington Navy Yard: An Illustrated History** by Edward Marolda. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999
- **Washington Album: A Pictorial History of the Nation's Capital** by Bob and Jane Levy for the Washington Post, 2000 A wonderful, engaging book for those of us who love old pictures as historical gateways.
- **Washington, D.C.: Then and Now 69 sites Photographed in Past and Present** by Charles Suddarth Kelly, Dover Publications, 1984
- **Washington In Maps: 1606-2000** by Iris Miller, Rizzoli International, 2002
- **A Seaport Saga: Portrait of Old Alexandria, Virginia** by William Smith and T. Michael Miller, Donning Company Publishers, 1989
- **Maritime Alexandria: The Rise and Fall of an American Entrepot** by Donald G. Shomette, Heritage Books, 2003

D. Books on Early American Industry and The Washington Aqueduct

- **The Industrial Revolutionaries** by Gavin Weightman, Grove Press, 2007
- **The First American Industrial Revolution: The Dawn of Innovation** by Charles Morris, Public Affairs, 2012
- **Waterpower: Harpers Ferry, WV 1762-1991** by David T. Gilbert, Harpers Ferry Historical Association, 1999
- **Second Only To Grant: Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs** by David W. Miller, White Mane Publishing, 2000 A very good biography of the man who built the Washington Aqueduct and completed the current Capitol Dome.
- **Capital IA: Industrial Archaeology of Washington, D.C.** by Sara Amy Leach, Society for Industrial Archaeology, 2001

E. Books on the Civil War in the Washington Area

- **The Anaconda's Tail: The Civil War on the Potomac Frontier, 1861-1865** by Donald G. Shomette, Millstone Publishing 2019 – A beautifully researched book on the back-and-forth operations along the Potomac during the Civil War. Highly recommended.
- **Mr. Lincoln's City: An Illustrated Guide to the Civil War Sites of Washington** by Richard M. Lee, EPM Publications, 1991
- **The Battle of Ball's Bluff** by Joseph D. Patch, Potomac Press – a detailed look at one of the most tragic battles fought along the Potomac.

2. Internet Resources:

- [Bay, Plain and Piedmont](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_19653.pdf) – is a downloadable PDF File from the EPA's Bay Website (www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_19653.pdf) that does a remarkable job of summarizing the history of the Bay Region from deep geological time to the present day. Highly Recommended.
- [The Potomac Riverkeepers Network](https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/) (<https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/>) A regional nonprofit dedicated to tracking the health of the Potomac and its tributaries.
- [The Potomac Conservancy](http://potomac.org/): (potomac.org/) Tireless advocates for restoring the Potomac to full health. They issue their annual report on the Potomac, 'State of the Nation's River' and sponsor many educational events throughout the year. Check their website for events, bulletins, and papers on important issues.
- [The Anacostia Watershed Society](https://www.anacostiaaws.org/) (<https://www.anacostiaaws.org/>) A nonprofit group dedicated to the restoration of the Anacostia River and the neighborhoods that lie in the watershed through action, education

- Link for Alexandria Canal history: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/.../HistoryOfTheAlexandriaCanalBrochure.pdf>
- Alexandria and the War of 1812: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/1812>
- The Alexandria Canal Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandria_Canal_%28Virginia%29
- VA Places Link for Alexandria's Transportation Network: <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/transportation/alextrans.html>
- Alexandria History: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/info/default.aspx?id=78100>
- National Parks in the Capital Area (<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1465/visit-the-parks.htm>) A great place to find parks that are available for visitation and what each has to offer.
- The Potomac River Guide: (<https://www.riverexplorer.com/index.html>) A wonderful series of interactive maps that will help you plan a trip to the many reaches of the Potomac River. Highly recommended.
- B&O Railroad Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltimore_and_Ohio_Railroad
- C&O Canal Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chesapeake_and_Ohio_Canal
- NPS C&O Canal Homepage: <https://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm>
- Patowmack Canal Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patowmack_Canal
- Washington City Canal Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_City_Canal
- History of Washington D. C. Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Washington,_D.C.
- Northern Neck Proprietary Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Neck_Proprietary
- French and Indian War Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_and_Indian_War
- French and Indian War Virginia Places: <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/military/frenchandindian.html>
- Battle of Jumonville Glen Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jumonville_Glen
- You Tube Lecture on the French and Indian War in the Shenandoah Valley: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZunojAyGU4>
- Park Service Papers on Georgetown River Channels: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/history-archeology-of-dc-flood-abatement-part-1.htm>
- English Civil Wars Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Civil_War
- History of Maryland Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Maryland
- Maryland Historical Timeline: <https://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/maryland.html>
- Virginia History Timeline: <https://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/virginia.html>
- History of the Washington Aqueduct: <https://architectofthecapital.org/posts/2016/10/30/the-washington-aqueduct>
- Washington Aqueduct Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/places/washington-aqueduct.htm>
- Stories of the Washington Aqueduct: <https://ggwash.org/view/68579/the-fascinating-story-of-dcs-aqueducts-and-reservoirs>
- Hains Point Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hains_Point
- Maryland in the Civil War Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland_in_the_American_Civil_War
- Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin: <https://www.potomacriver.org/> Great source for river facts, figures, and issue papers.

CIVIL WAR ONLINE RESOURCES : For additional information of the Potomac in the Civil War, use your search engine of choice to look for information of the Battles of Balls Bluff, Antietam/Sharpsburg, and Gettysburg.