KATE WALLER BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY 717 Queen Street Alexandria, Virginia

Library Visit #2 - Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, Alexandria, Virginia Old Dominion University LIBS 608: Foundations of Library & Information Science Dr. Dawn Betts-Green October 10, 2021 Lisa Stansbury

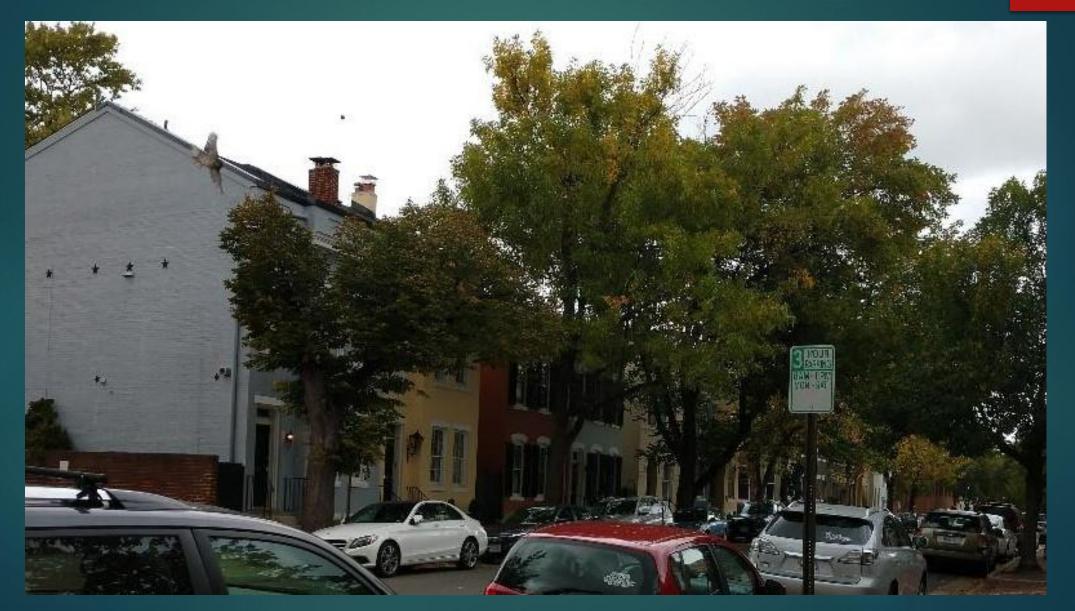


#### Kate Waller Barrett's

Barrett was born in 1857 and died in 1925. "Barrett supported woman suffrage and served as honorary vice president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. She served as president of the American Legion Auxiliary and the National Council of Women and was active in the National Congress of Mothers, the National Prison Association, and the League of Women Voters. Barrett also sat on the board of the College of William and Mary." (Encyclopedia Virginia/Virginia Humanities, 2021).



#### Lots to see and do, no place to park









## Emergency Exit





### The Library's only parking lot





### Entrance without stairs





#### Approximately 160 graves on site





#### The only named marker

























#### Main entrance



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#### Be kind, rewind



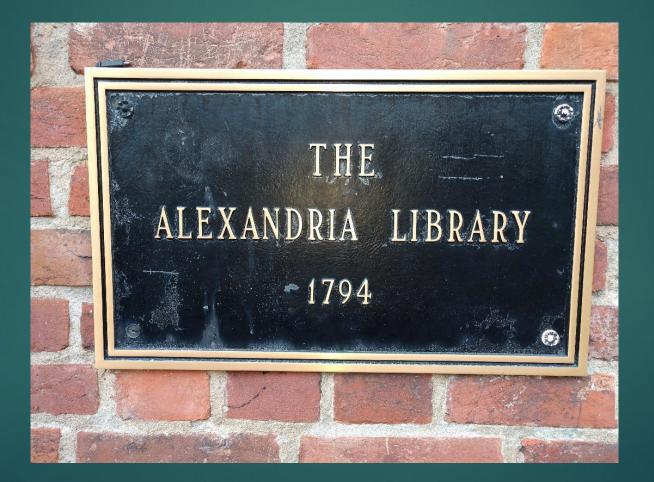


#### Asking people to wear a mask



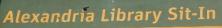


#### The Subscription Library





### Commemoration of the Library Sit-In



On August 21, 1939, the young African American weight of the searce, Edward Gaddes, Monis Murray, Cherence Strange and Ohn Inteker entered the Barret Library, then a white-souly segregated public facility. When they rejusted library cards and were enlowed, each selected a book, sat down, and begin to send. Despite their polite demension, the police were summoned, arrested the meen, and charged them with disorderin conduct. Sumoid V. Tucker, o local atturney and eivid rights absocate, and chief organizers of the protect, represented the meen in court. They hoped the stein would challenge the chirary's policy and lead to equad access for Alexandhir's African American residents, However, the City dehyed the case and aro ruling was ever issued. In 1940, Alexandhis hult a separate facility, the Robert H. Robinson Library, for African Americans. Seen by many as a positive outcome, it was not the equality that Tucker sonight. The Robinson I hibrary now houses Alexandria's Black History Museum. In 1959, a new era commenced when the Ibbrary system took stepe to desergegate.





Samuel W. Tucker (1913-1900) Attorney Tucker apent niong rareer battling for aqual access across the Commonwealth. He served as an infantry of fileur in the Served world War and is buried at Artington National Cometery.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA EST. 1749



#### "Separate but equal library"



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Attorney Samuel W. Tucker's written reply when sent an application for a library card for the new library (Alexandria Library, 2004).

"I REFUSE AND WILL ALWAYS REFUSE TO ACCEPT A CARD TO BE USED AT THE LIBRARY TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT ALFRED AND WYTHE STREETS IN LIEU OF A CARD TO BE USED AT THE EXISTING LIBRARY ON QUEEN STREET FOR WHICH I HAVE MADE APPLICATION."

Samuel Wilbert Tucker

February 13, 1940



# ROBERT ROBINSON LIBRARY

In the summer of 1939, Attorney Samuel W. Tucker organized six youths — William Evans, Onto /Tucker, Edward Gaudis Mortis Murray, Clarence Strange and Robert Strange — for a "sit-in" at/the segregated Alexandria Public Library, protesting the denial of access to the African American community. The "sit-in" is believed to the been the cartiest in America. The arrest of five of these young men and their court case, pleaded by Mr. These restinct in the separate facility for African Americans being fully for a filea American Strang Alfred Street, the present location of the Alexandria Black History Resource Center.

The library is named after the Reperent Robert Robert Robinson, a 19th century minister at the Roberts Chanal MSE Church, in the 600 block of S. Washington Street Will Mrs Evelyn Roper Beam as its first librarian, the Robert Robinson Library spened its doors to the Alercan American community on April 24, 1940. In 1983, opened as the Alexandria Black History Research Center





#### References

Alexandria Library (2004). *Alexandria Library Special Collections document of the month*. https://alxndria.ent.sirsi.net/ custom/web/lhsc/sitin/tuckerletter/letter.html

Encyclopedia Virginia, Virginia Humanities (2021). *Kate Barrett Waller.* https://encyclopediavirginia /entries/barrett-kate-waller-1857-1925/

FindAGrave (2021). *Quaker Burial Ground*. https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2182900/quaker-burial-ground

National Archives Records Administration (2021). *Founders' Library*. https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/06-04-020406-0002