



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





Be kind, rewind



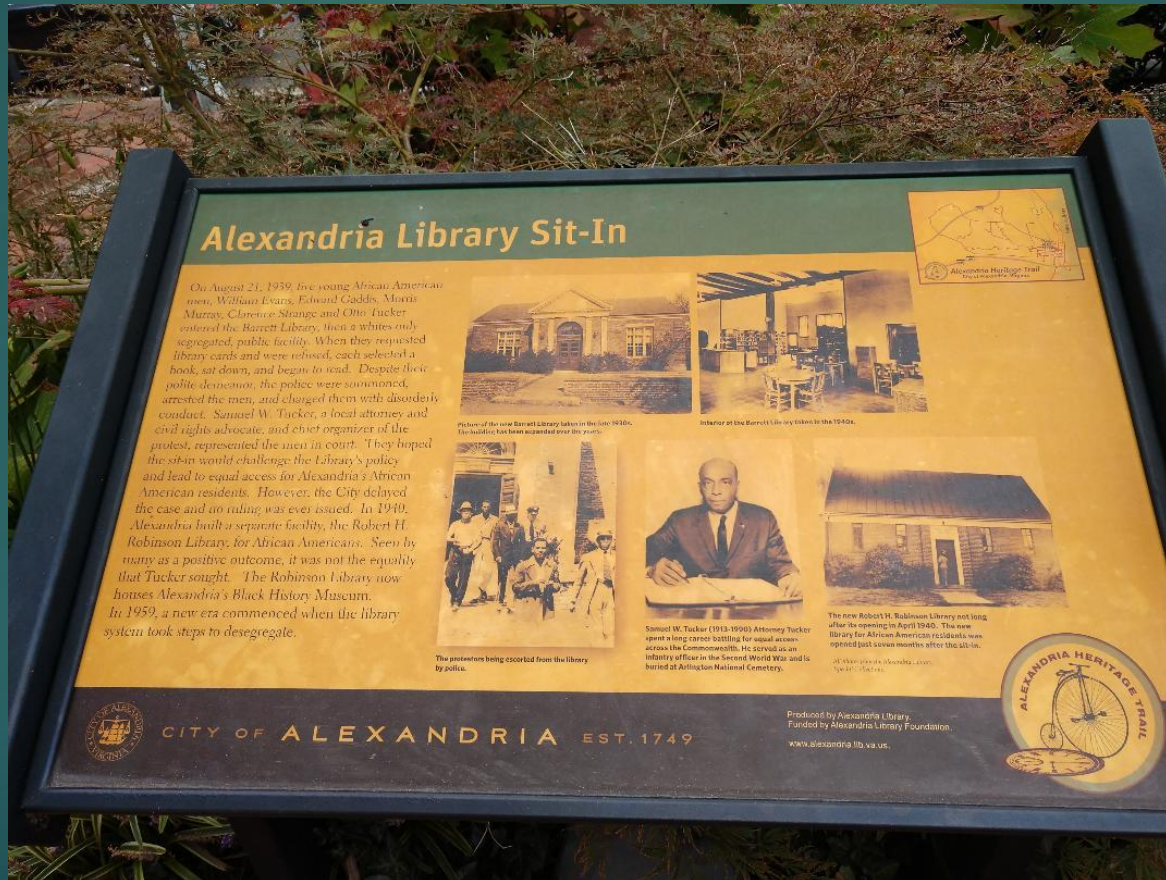
Asking people to wear a mask



The Subscription Library



Commemoration of the Library Sit-In



“Separate but equal library”



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

1940

In the summer of 1939, Attorney Samuel W. Tucker organized six youths — William Evans, Ono Tucker, Edward Gaddis, Morris 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 have been the earliest in America. The arrest of five of these young men and their court case, pleaded by Mr. Tucker, resulted in a separate facility for African Americans being built here at 638 North Alfred Street, the present location of the Alexandria Black History Resource Center.

The library is named after the Reverend Robert Robinson, a 19th century minister at the Roberts Chapel M.E. Church, in the 600 block of S. Washington Street. With Mrs. Evelyn Roper Beam as its first librarian, the Robert Robinson Library opened its doors to the African American community on April 24, 1940.

In 1983, opened as the Alexandria Black History Research Center



References

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