



## The Founding of Alexandria

In this [#TallShipTuesday](#), our crew took you to some of the events held in Old Town Alexandria this month. The Scottish Parade that is held each year is in honor of the founding of Alexandria. The town was founded by [Scottish merchants in 1749](#), and was named after one of these men, John Alexander.



An early map of Alexandria, created by George Washington

The town was founded to be a [port city](#) where the colonies could send Virginia's primary cash crop, tobacco, across the sea to make a profit. By 1779 it was a major port for more products like flour and hemp, and by the end of the 1700s, it was one of the busiest ports in the country. Many tall ships like *Providence* have docked in the town over the years.

It is thought that there are over 3000 historic buildings and homes in Alexandria. [Many of the homes](#) built during the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century right after its founding are still standing. One of the longest continually running taverns in the US is [Gadsby's Tavern](#), built around 1785 and has entertained the likes of George Washington, James Madison, and John Adams. The [Carlyle House](#), home of one of Alexandria's founders, now houses one of the many museums in Old Town. The [Ramsey House](#) is now Alexandria's visitor center, and is the oldest home in the town, built in 1724 in Dumfries, VA, and brought down the river to its current location.

[#TallShipTuesdays](#)

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