

## SAMUEL W. TUCKER

**Fuente secundaria: "Fuera del armario: Sentada de Samuel Tucker en la biblioteca en 1939 "**

*Por el personal de la Oficina de Alexandria Histórica*

Este año, el Mes de la Historia Negra tiene un significado especial para los alejandrinos, ya que celebramos dos momentos fundamentales de la historia negra local. El 21 de agosto se cumple el 80.º aniversario de la sentada en la biblioteca, precursora de los acontecimientos y tácticas del Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles de los años 50 y 60...

El 21 de agosto de 1939, cinco jóvenes entraron por separado en la nueva biblioteca Kate Waller Barrett Branch de la calle Queen y pidieron un carné de biblioteca. Sus nombres eran Otto Tucker, William "Buddy" Evans, Edward Gaddis, Morris Murray y Clarence "Buck" Strange. Bobby Strange, de 14 años, hacía guardia para el líder del grupo, el abogado Samuel W. Tucker.

A cada uno de los cinco hombres se les dijo que no se les expediría un carné de biblioteca por ser negros. Cada uno se dirigió tranquilamente a una estantería, sacó un libro y leyó en silencio. Cuando el personal de la biblioteca les pidió que se marcharan, preguntaron lo que se les había indicado: "¿Qué pasaría si no nos vamos?".

Tucker esperó a llamar a la prensa local hasta que Bobby le informó de que la policía estaba de camino para detener a los jóvenes. Avisó a The Washington Post, The Times Herald, The Washington Tribune y The African-American. Los cinco hombres fueron detenidos y acusados de alteración del orden público, probablemente porque no se les podía acusar de otra cosa.

En el tribunal, Tucker hizo dos observaciones. En primer lugar, que los jóvenes habían sido todo menos desordenados. En segundo lugar, que era ilegal que la Biblioteca de Alexandria negara a los residentes el carné de biblioteca, independientemente de su raza. En lugar de ponerse a favor o en contra de Tucker, el juez evitó emitir una sentencia, lo que impidió a Tucker declararse vencedor, pero también salvó a los jóvenes de las multas o la prisión.

En lugar de permitir que los afroamericanos utilizaran la nueva biblioteca, la Junta de la Biblioteca, compuesta exclusivamente por blancos, se apresuró a construir la Biblioteca Robert Robinson. Samuel Tucker se negó a poner un pie en la biblioteca que sus argumentos legales construyeron, insistiendo en que tener una biblioteca para leer no era lo mismo que ser tratado con igualdad. La carta en la que Tucker expone sus razones para negarse a utilizar la Biblioteca Robert Robinson forma parte de la colección de Colecciones Especiales, al igual que los informes anuales de la Biblioteca Robinson.

A diferencia de Tucker, muchos afroamericanos acudían a la Biblioteca Robinson para utilizar la única biblioteca a la que tenían acceso. Algunos de los mecenas de la biblioteca seguramente la utilizaron como punto de partida para insistir en mayores derechos en las décadas siguientes, a pesar de la humildad del edificio construido a toda prisa.

Gladys Davis, que se jubiló del sistema de bibliotecas con más de 50 años de servicio, fue una de las primeras bibliotecarias de la Biblioteca Robinson. En 2007, el ayuntamiento le rindió homenaje por sus 60 años de servicio al sistema de bibliotecas de Alexandria.

Hoy, la Biblioteca Robinson es una galería del Museo de Historia Negra de Alexandria. Al igual que los jóvenes cuyas valientes acciones crearon la demanda de una biblioteca segregada para la ciudad, la Biblioteca Robinson fue testigo de grandes cambios en la historia negra de Alexandria durante las siguientes décadas. Sigue siendo un recordatorio del pasado segregado de Alexandria y de los valientes hombres y mujeres que trabajaron para acabar con él.

*Fuente: Office of Historic Alexandria. (14 de febrero de 2019). Out of the attic: Samuel Tucker's 1939 library sit-in. The Alexandria Times. <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/attic/2019/Attic20190214SitIn.pdf>. Reproducido con permiso.*

**Fuente primaria: Carta de Samuel W. Tucker a la bibliotecaria Katharine Scoggin**

916 Queen Street

Alexandria, Virginia

13 de febrero de 1940

Srta. Katharine H. Scoggin

Biblioteca de Alexandria

Alexandria, Virginia

Querida Srta. Scoggin:

Junto con la copia de la carta del gestor municipal dirigida a usted con fecha 26 de enero de 1940, recibo su carta del 9 de febrero con referencia a mi solicitud de derechos de uso de la biblioteca, presentada el 30 de enero de 1940.

Me niego y siempre me negaré a aceptar un carné para ser utilizado en la biblioteca que se construirá y funcionará en las calles Alfred y Wythe en lugar del carné para la biblioteca existente en la calle Queen, para la que he hecho la solicitud. La continua demora -más allá del fin de este mes- en la emisión de un carné para la biblioteca de la calle Queen se considerará como una negativa a hacerlo, por lo que sentiré que tengo motivos para solicitar la ayuda de los tribunales para hacer valer mi derecho.

Se está enviando una carta sobre este tema al gestor municipal, de la que adjunto una copia.

Muy atentamente,

SAMUEL WILBERT TUCKER

*Fuente: Tucker, S.W. (13 de febrero de 1940) [Letter to Alexandria Library]. Alexandria Library Special Collections Document of the Month. <https://alxndria.ent.sirsi.net/custom/web/lhsc/sitin/tuckerletter/doc.html>*

## Fuente primaria: "La guerra de las bibliotecas de Virginia, de nuevo en los tribunales"

### *The Afro-American*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - El martes, el departamento de policía de esta ciudad se vio obligado a admitir que el hecho de ser de color era la verdadera base de los cargos de alteración del orden público presentados contra cinco jóvenes que entraron en la biblioteca pública local.

Se los acusó porque se negaron a abandonar la biblioteca, sostenida con fondos públicos, cuando se los solicitó la señorita Katharine Scoggin, blanca, bibliotecaria.

Los cinco acusados que comparecieron en el tribunal fueron: Otto L. Tucker, de 22 años, 916 Queen Street; Clarence Strange, de 21 años, 807 Duke Street; Morris L. Murray, de 22 años, 813 Princess Street; Edward Gaddis, de 21 años, 335 N. Patrick Street, y William Edwards, de 19 años, 610 S. Fairfax Street.

### *Un juicio para todos*

El Sr. Murray fue sometido a juicio y, en ese momento, S. W. Tucker, abogado que representaba a todos los acusados, dijo al tribunal que aceptaría que cualquier decisión que se tomara en el caso de Murray se aplicara a los demás acusados.

La policía declaró que fue llamada para pedir a los hombres que abandonaran la biblioteca porque su presencia allí causaba vergüenza a los mecenas blancos de la biblioteca, después de que la bibliotecaria no pudiera conseguir que los hombres se marcharan.

Después de que tardaran demasiado en decidirse a abandonar la biblioteca, la policía les exigió que se marcharan y los hombres obedecieron inmediatamente.

Fueron detenidos cuando salían por la puerta.

### *Sin disturbios*

Los agentes admitieron que los jóvenes guardaron silencio, se negaron a hablar de la situación y acompañaron a los agentes a la jefatura de policía, donde fueron acusados.

El abogado de los acusados puso de manifiesto, en el interrogatorio, que si los acusados hubieran sido blancos, no habrían sido detenidos en circunstancias similares.

El juez admitió que no podía conceder que la acusación de alteración del orden público estuviera probada, pero los casos se aplazaron hasta el 29 de agosto, para que los abogados del estado tuvieran la oportunidad de presentar cualquier ley que los acusados pudieran haber violado.

## *Larga lucha*

La acción de los jóvenes al entrar en la biblioteca, aunque no fue admitida por el abogado, se consideró parte de la lucha que los ciudadanos de Alexandria están llevando a cabo para acabar con la política de blanco puro mantenida en la institución, que se financia con los fondos de los contribuyentes.

*Fuente: The Afro-American. (2 de septiembre de 1939). Va. library war in court again.*

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=3E9AAAAAIBAJ&sjid=RqMGAAAAAIBAJ&pg=4450,821689&dq=alexandria+library&hl=en>



**THE TIDES**

High tide ..... 7:28 a. m. 7:50 p. m.

Low tide ..... 2:03 a. m. 2:23 p. m.

# The Alexandria Gazette

ESTABLISHED 1784—THE OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY

VOL. CLVI—No. 10

ALL THE LOCAL NEWS OF TODAY

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY

## HITLER'S REPLY TO BRIT

### OPINIONS ARE ASKED IN USE OF LIBRARY

Cases of Five Colored Men Again Go Over Following Hearing of Two Today

**CROWD AT HEARING**

Authorities to Be Submitted By Friday to Judge James Reece Duncan

After hearing testimony in cases of two of the five colored men arrested at the Alexandria Library on a charge of alleged disorderly conduct while engaged in reading books Judge James Reece Duncan, who presided in police court today asked attorneys on both sides to submit authorities relative to committing a breach of the peace.

Armsjead L. Boothe, city attorney, who appeared for the library said he would submit his tomorrow and Attorney S. W. Tucker, representing four of the men, said he would have his in by Friday. After the court gets time to study the cases a decision will be handed down.

The five colored men were taken in custody August 21 after they got books and sat down and started to read the arresting officers being Policemen Kelley and Wilkinson. A large crowd attended the session of police court including many colored persons.

At the first hearing August 22 the case of Morris Murray, twenty-two of 813 Princess street was taken up. The first case called today was that of William Evans, nineteen, of 610 South St. Asaph street. He today had Attorney T. Brooke Howard as his attorney. He told court he was the third or fourth man to go into the library. He also told the court that he had been requested by another man to make the trip to the library.

Mrs. Albert A. Smoot, president of the Alexandria Library, told of the rules regulating the library and also of the library committee making plans for the establishment of a library

### K. OF C. ADDITION NEAR COMPLETION



With all exterior work virtually completed, and finishing touches soon to be applied to the interior, Fitzgerald Council, No. 459, Knights of Columbus, is planning a formal dedication of the new addition to its home, pictured above. The structure was built at a cost of approximately \$10,000 and includes a number of new and improved features.

### CITY WILL ADOPT PROGRAM

Vocal

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During 1933-1940, the first 14 public school free classes had high usually class the program by Superin Williams.

This work to the no will be und national Ed State Board in question each week, weeks during ing a tot class period hours in ex the aftern 5:30, under Beres, who head of th ment of th will be on l the classes indaxed.

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### PROGRAM SET BY HOLY NAME COMMITTEES

**Tentative Lineup for State Convention Announced By Society**

The nineteenth annual State Convention of the Holy Name Society will convene here on September 24. A tentative schedule has been worked out by the local branch, which expects over five hundred delegates to represent the seventy-five branches throughout the state.

The one-day session will be held in the George Washington High School auditorium. Both breakfast and luncheon will be served in the school cafeteria.

The convention will be opened by a welcome address from a city official. The program for the day will be opened by Father John Graham, National Director of the Holy Name who will conduct mass at 8 o'clock

### FOURTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL MISSING

Lottie Javins, fourteen years old, daughter of Mrs. Annie Javins, of 10 Powhatan street after going to bed last night got up after midnight dressed and left home according to a report made to the police by her mother. Her absence was discovered shortly after 2 o'clock this morning. She is described as five feet, 100 pounds, dark complexion; dark hair; dark brown eyes; wore red dress with plaid waist and white and brown oxforde. The mother reports she might have gone to see her father off the Franconia Road.

### DEDICATION OF NEW K. OF C. HOME PLANNED

**Addition to Building Near Completion; Hall is Enlarged**

Plans for the dedication of the new \$10,000 addition to the Knights of Columbus Club are rapidly materializing. With the finishing touches scheduled to be completed in the next two weeks, the dedication will be in form of an open house in the latter part of September.

The Club rooms when finished will be modern in all respects and will have all the conveniences of a new home. The exterior is of colonial-style brick with windows of curved glass. The interior is finished off in Early American.

The new building is arranged to provide facilities for all activities sponsored by the club.

The enlargement has provided the

### LEGION SESSION ENDS TOMORROW

**Election of Officers, Address By Gen. Marshall to Climax Conclave**

Closing business sessions, the appointment of standing committees for the year, and the annual election of officers will bring the annual Ameri-

The Alexandria Gazette. (29 de agosto de 1939). Cortesía de Historia local & Colecciones especiales de la Biblioteca de Alexandria



**THE TIDES**  
 High tide ..... 9:04 a. m. 9:24 p. m.  
 Low tide ..... 3:48 a. m. 3:57 p. m.

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 The Alexandria Gazette  
 1000 N. O. Street  
 Alexandria, Va.

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VOL. CLVII—No. 10

ALL THE LOCAL NEWS OF TODAY

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY, JAN. 11, 1940

## NAZIS ROUTED IN BR

### COLORED RESIDENT DENIED WRIT TO FORCE LIBRARY PRIVILEGES

**Mandamus Denied George Wilson By Court On Technicality**  
**APPLICATION INCORRECT**  
**Correct Application Would Force Writ, Judge Woolls Indicates**

A decision which seemingly paved the way for colored use of the Alexandria Library facilities was handed down by Judge William F. Woolls in the Corporation Court yesterday, in the case of George Wilson, colored, who several months ago filed a petition for a writ of mandamus, compelling the librarian to issue him a card entitling him to library privileges.

Although Wilson's petition was denied, Judge Woolls decision indicated that the writ would have issued had the applicant complied with library regulations in applying for his card, and that library officials might be forced to issue reading cards to colored citizens who follow the correct procedure in applying in the future.

The technicality denying Wilson's petition was based on the fact that in applying for a library card, he was accompanied by his attorney, who made the request. Library regulations, it was pointed out, require that all applications must be made in person by the person seeking use of facilities, and that they must fill out the application.

Judge Woolls' ruling pointed out that from the evidence the Alexandria Library Association has no regulations limiting the library's use and facilities to the white race, and that there exists no agreement to this effect in the joint agreement to which the City of Alexandria and the library association are parties.

Wilson's case was one of two which have come before Alexandria courts in which colored residents have sought to use facilities of the library. Several months ago six colored youths staged a "sit down strike" in the building when they were refused cards, and were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct. The case, however, has never been disposed of, having been continued from time to time.

### FIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL REENTER RACE

**Two Definitely Will Not Seek Reelection; Deadline Feb. 2nd**

Five members of the present Alexandria city council have definitely thrown their hats into the ring for re-election in the coming Democratic primary, to be held here on April 2, a survey conducted by The Gazette has revealed. None, however, have formally filed with the City Democratic Committee.

Two councilmen have definitely announced that they will not be candidates for reelection, one stated he had no comment to make at this time, and one was ill at his home and could not be reached for comment.

Those who have definitely committed themselves, and who will seek reelection are Paul Delaney, of the Fifth Ward; George K. Bender, of the Fourth Ward; Charles L. Burgess, of the Sixth Ward; Charles M. Stump, of the Third Ward, and William T. Wilkins, councilman-at-large.

Stump has announced, however, that he will not seek reelection as councilman from his ward, but will enter the race as councilman-at-large.

Definitely out of the race for the next term are Mayor Richard L. Ruffner and A. Slater Lamond, councilman-at-large, both of whom have announced they will not seek reelection.

Queried by a Gazette reporter, Councilman Henry O'Bannon Cooper, of the Fifth Ward, said he was not yet ready to make any announcement.

### SWEDEN READY TO AID FINNS, KING ASSERTS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Jan. 11 (U.P.)—King Gustav V, addressing the opening session of the riksdag (parliament) today, pledged Finland all the aid Sweden could give her.

Warning that the country faced sacrifices, the 81 year old monarch said that social reform appropriations must be secondary to provisions for the national defense.

"We will bring Finland all the help possible, and which our situation permits," he said.

"Swedes have shown their will to make sacrifices and they are now strong and united. Their will to help Finland has found unmistakable expression.

"I must ask you to make great sacrifices. The security of the country now stands in the foreground and social reforms must be restricted in favor of defense."

### BUDWESKY WILL APPOINT DENTAL CHIEF TOMORROW

**Field Narrowed Down to Two Applicants for School Post**

Appointment of a clinician to serve the city's new school dental clinic will be announced tomorrow morning by City Manager Carl Budwesky following a conference with Acting Health Officer Dr. Harry B. Franchere, it was learned today from the city manager's office.

Budwesky said today that the field had been narrowed down to two applicants, and that the city is con-

### PRESENT BIDS FOR FAIRFAX LAND SURVEY

**Several Proposals Received By County Board of Supervisors**

**SUGGESTIONS OFFERED**

**Prices Range from \$30,000 to \$60,000; Other Items Are Discussed**

FAIRFAX, Jan. 11 (Special)—A number of proposals from various engineering firms relative to a proposed land and plat survey of Fairfax County, to be used principally in connection with reassessment of real estate, were presented yesterday to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in special session here.

The firms making the proposals offered various suggestions as to what type of work should be made in connection with the proposed survey, and prices ranged from \$30,000 to \$60,000, and the time required for the work was estimated at from 15 months to four years.

James A. McWhorter suggested that the work could probably be done at less expense if it was launched entirely as a county project, with local persons being employed over a period of years. It was also suggested that a permanent office be established, so that additions to the plat books could be added to as needed.

**Suggest Partial Survey**

A representative from the Franklin Engineering Company of Philadelphia advised the board that if such a project was undertaken, only one taxable district should be completed at a time, and not to undertake to map the entire county in one operation.

Other representatives of firms submitting proposals included John R. Hall and Edward S. Holland, of Alexandria, and Maj. F. P. Norcross of Washington.

**County Surveyor Views**

County Surveyor Joseph Berry, of Vienna, also appeared before the board and talked on the subject, and he requested that he be allowed to meet with the board members at

### VICTIM MINE SITE

**88 Miners Trapped**

**Conditions a Little Better**

**W. J. Entomble**

BARTLEY, W. Va. (Special)—The first indication that the 88 miners trapped in a mine here may still be alive came from a third rescue operation of fallen tons of fallen hundred feet of "Conditions a little better," was it from the rescue feet below the ed as speedily precarious conditions would per-

J. O. Hammond, vice president of the coal company information received was that the shaft at 2:30 p. m. straight out the

That means, the miners imp the mine had Most of them passageway to

entry at the time

Already two by an early six it proceeded as wrecked tunnels Hammond said would be treat the force of it directed at the where the 88

He estimated, was within 500 men at 7 a. m. 90 minutes to them if condition-

able. Exhausted from most difficult a tions, the first

The Alexandria Gazette. (11 de enero de 1940). Cortesía de Historia local & Colecciones especiales de la Biblioteca de Alexandria