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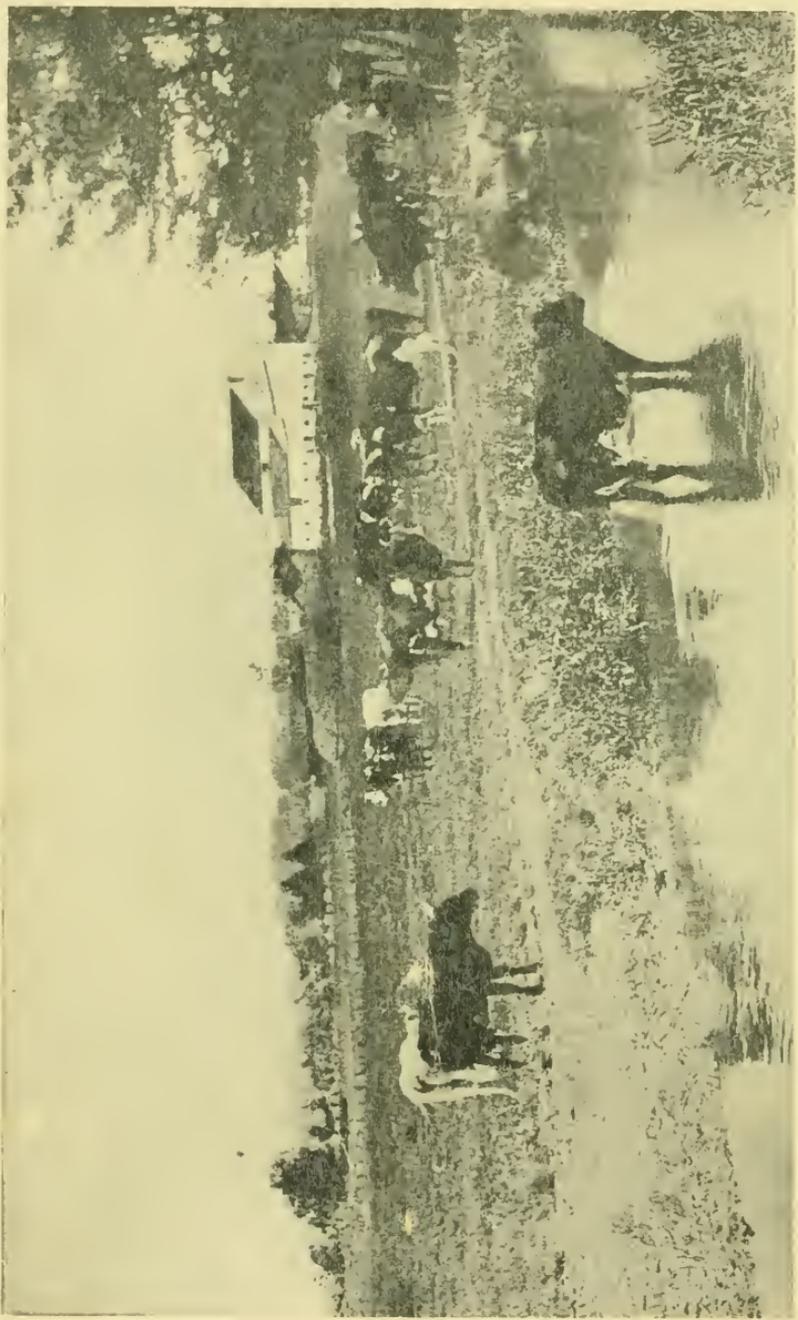






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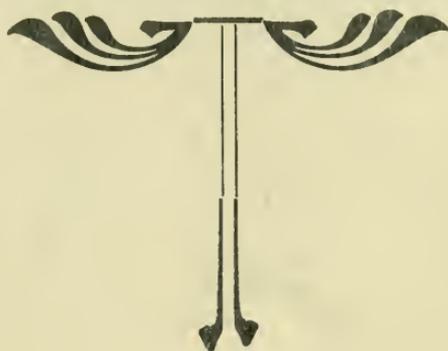
Cameron Run Farm.

Pro Deo et pro Patria

Industrial and Historical Sketch of  
**Fairfax County Virginia**

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"Ever charming, ever new,  
Tiring never to the view"

Prepared and published under authority of  
**THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

by the following committee:

M. D. HALL.

S. R. DONOHOE.

FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, Jr.

J. S. PEARSON.

M. E. CHURCH.

1907

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OCT 22 1907  
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# FAIRFAX COUNTY

## Introductory

### AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL FEATURES

CLIMATIC AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGES—SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS TO CAPITAL, RARE OPPORTUNITIES TO HOME SEEKERS.

It is designed to present here the agricultural and industrial features of Fairfax County, together with its climatic and topographical advantages, so as to show that the county offers special inducements for the investment of capital, and rare opportunities to the home-seeker, whether for agricultural, industrial, or residential purposes.

Captain John Smith said of Virginia: "Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation." George Washington declared, in some of his correspondence, that "no portion of our country offered more natural advantages than that part lying in the Potomac River bed." J. Sterling Morton, when Secretary of Agriculture, after a visit to Fairfax County, expressed his amazement at the bargains in land the county offered, and the excellent crops he saw on every hand. He said: "Within three hours' drive of Washington there were bargains and opportunities unexcelled anywhere in the West." Verily, Fairfax County, old in its history, and hoary in its traditions, is throbbing with a new life of activity and enterprise. Only yesterday were her advantages and possibilities appreciated; yet, to-day she is attracting settlers from all parts of the Union, and even from foreign countries. Certainly no other section extends a more cordial welcome and more attractive inducements to the investor and home-seeker.

### Location.

Fairfax County is situated in the northeastern portion of Virginia. It lies, as elsewhere stated, on the west bank of the Potomac River, seventy-eight miles north of Richmond. The eastern part of the county is in the

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

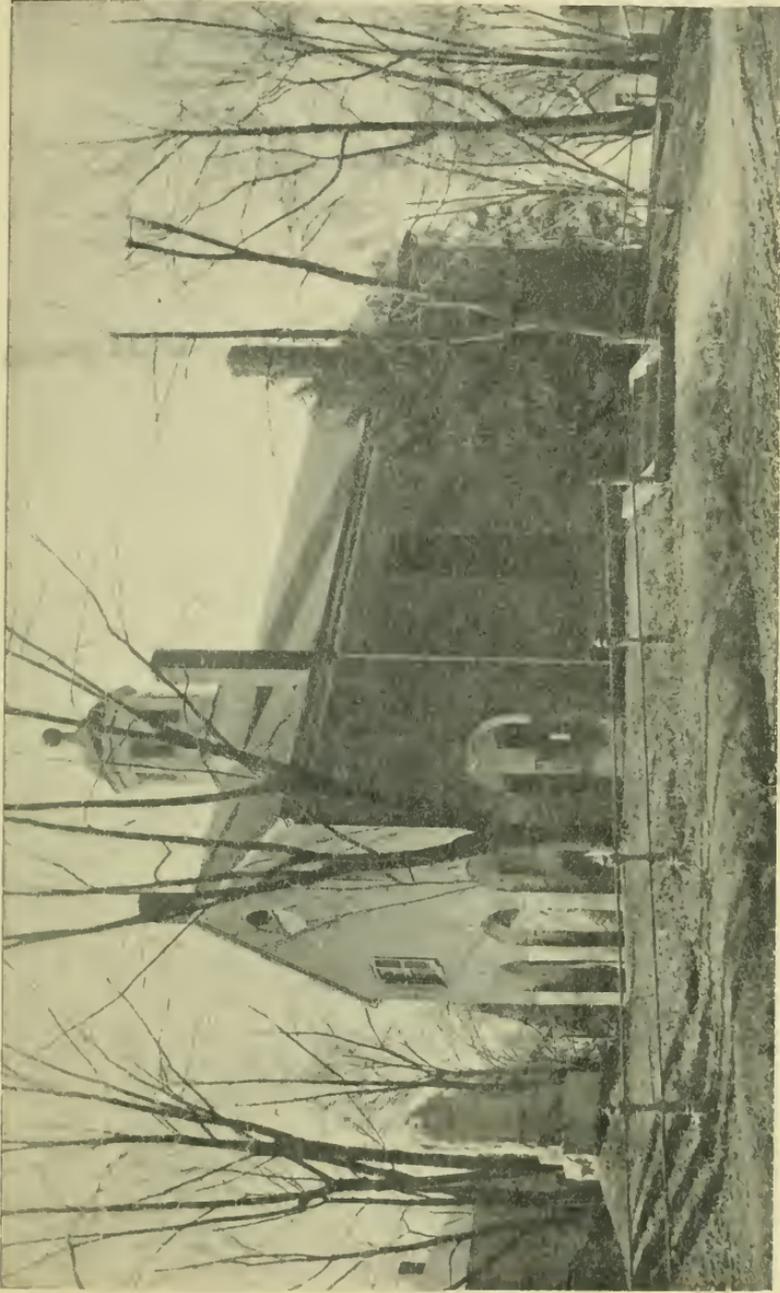
immediate vicinity of the cities of Washington and Alexandria; while all sections of it are within a few hours' drive of these cities. In addition to the accessibility to these cities by roadways, three steam and three electric railways connect the county with Washington. The greatest trunk lines north and south traverse Fairfax County. Through trains on the Pennsylvania, Southern, Chesapeake and Ohio, Norfolk and Western, Seaboard Air Line, and the Atlantic Coast Line, are hourly passing through this county, affording convenient and direct connection with all parts of the country. Every section of the county is within easy reach of some one of these roads; and with their double track facilities, and consequent excellent local accommodations, great activity in suburban home-building is observed on every hand. Especially is this true along the lines of the electric railways, where numerous villages are springing into existence.

The proximity and accessibility to Washington, the most magnificent city in the world, together with the splendid natural advantages of Fairfax, must inevitably make the county rich, populous and great.

## Towns.

There are six incorporated towns in the county—all reached by one or more railroads, and all in a thriving and prosperous condition.

FAIRFAX, the county seat, advantageously situated on a high and commanding point between the main line and Bluemont branch of the Southern Railway, is a town of much interest and promise. Around it, as elsewhere noted, cluster many interesting historical associations. In the Clerk's Office is recorded, and can be seen, the last will and testament of the first President of the United States; and in the time-worn and dust-stained volumes contained therein can be found many interesting records of Washington's time. On the beautiful court green is the old Court House, built in 1800, and near it is the old well, over which hangs the "Old Oaken Bucket" with the tradition that "He who drinks therefrom will return to drink again." A short distance from these stands a gray granite monument, commemorating the fact that in the nearby open was killed the first soldier of the Civil War. A short distance to the west from these, on one of the principal thoroughfares of the town, is the Gunnell House (now the Rectory), where, in the mid-hour of night, the intrepid Mosby captured the dashing young General Stoughton. While on the hills and in the valleys hereabouts can be found many evidences of the great conflict in the early "sixties," yet the hand of modern improvement has left no trace of these in the town. Coming out of the Civil War as a mere hamlet, with devastation on every hand, and the fortunes of its people much impaired, Fairfax has grown into a thriving town of several hundred inhabitants, with well-paved streets, a national bank, a hotel, excellent general stores, a well equipped and up-to-date drug store, a prosperous



**Fairfax Court-House. Built in 1800.**

Monument in foreground indicates where first man was killed in battle in the Civil War

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

newspaper (the *Fairfax Herald*, more than a quarter of a century old), a carriage and wagon factory, private and public schools, four churches, and a Masonic and other lodges. Here terminates the Washington, Arlington and Falls Church Electric Railway, the completion of which, in the latter part of 1904, has not only infused new life into the town, but has assured its rapid and substantial growth.

Fourteen miles from Washington, and the same distance from Alexandria, with a refined, progressive and cultivated people, in the midst of an agricultural section equal in fertility to that of any portion of Piedmont Virginia, the town of Fairfax promises, in the near future, to become one of the most progressive and prosperous inland towns in the State.

FALLS CHURCH, one of the most beautiful suburban communities in Virginia, is situated on the boundary line between Alexandria and Fairfax Counties, six miles from Washington, and contains a population of 1,100. It was incorporated in 1875, and on account of the large area included within its corporate limits, it is frequently styled "The town of magnificent distances." The Bluemont branch of the Southern Railroad, and the Washington, Arlington and Falls Church Electric Railway pass through the town, furnishing excellent transportation facilities between Falls Church and the cities of Washington and Alexandria. The Southern Railway operates five trains daily each way during the year, with one or more extras during the



The Virginian Training School, Falls Church

## F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

summer period. The electric cars run every half hour during the day, and as late as 12 o'clock at night. Commutation rates of travel on both roads are low, making it more economical to reside here than in Washington. The Great Falls and Old Dominion Electric Railway, constructed last year, is only two miles distant, and it is confidently expected that it will be extended to Falls Church in the near future. The residents of the town are mostly business men of Washington city and Government employees, who, being people of culture, have not spared expense in beautifying, and making comfortable and attractive, their homes.

The beautifully shaded and well-paved streets, the tastefully and conveniently constructed cottages, together with the ample gardens and large and beautiful grounds surrounding them, make Falls Church one of the most attractive towns in Northern Virginia. The moral and religious tone of the town is of the highest order. The licensed sale of liquor within one mile of the corporate limits of the town is prohibited by the charter, and thus is secured almost absolute freedom from the vices and annoyances that surround communities where intoxicating liquors are sold. There are ten churches, one excellent graded school, one private kindergarten school, one training school and sanitarium, a banking and trust corporation, a fire department, a public library, a public hall with comfortable lodge rooms, where the Masons, Odd-Fellows and Good Templars hold their meetings; two steam railway stations, two electric car stations, three postoffices, local and long distance telephone exchange, three telegraph offices, a printing office, three medical doctors, one dentist, three attorneys-at-law, twelve contractors and builders, drug store, feed store, bakery, two notion stores, seven grocery stores, paint and hardware store, three meat and provision stores, two wood and coal yards, feed mill, broom factory, two lunch rooms, two blacksmith and wheelwright shops, two funeral directors, livery stable, plumber and gas fitter,

Burke Station  
Southern  
Railway





**Broad Street, Looking Westward, Falls Church.**

lumber yard, shoe shop, three barber shops, and six real estate agents. On account of the excellent moral environment, the high altitude and general healthfulness of Falls Church, it is considered one of the most desirable suburbs of Washington city. The land is gently rolling, well drained, very productive, and especially adapted to poultry-raising and fruit culture, and on account of present low prices (compared with the prices of similarly situated property with respect to Washington city on the Maryland side of the Potomac River), it is being rapidly taken up by prosperous and progressive people.

HERNDON, situated on the Bluemont branch of the Southern Railway on the highest point between Washington and Bluemont, is a thriving town of 1,100 inhabitants, with four churches, one graded school, a young ladies' seminary, a public library, a newspaper (the *Observer*), a bank, a large merchant mill, fifteen stores of various kinds, a canning factory operated entirely by white help, drug store and livery stable, with blacksmith, carriage and carpenter shops. Surrounded by an agricultural section noted for its fertility, Herndon has become the center of a large grain trade. No point on either the main line or Bluemont branch of the Southern Railway ships more milk than Herndon. The town was incorporated in 1879, and was named for Capt. W. L. Herndon, a Virginian, who commanded the steamer *Central*

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*America*, when lost between Panama and New York in 1857. Six trains each way from Washington afford excellent freight and passenger facilities. It is confidently expected that the Old Dominion Electric Railway will soon build a line from the Great Falls on the Potomac to Herndon. The people of the town are intelligent and progressive. Within the last five years they have subscribed thousands of dollars toward making permanently good the principal roads leading into the town. With its high and healthy location, its excellent water, good society, good schools, splendid agricultural surroundings and public-spirited population, Herndon, in a few years, must necessarily become a large and prosperous town.

VIENNA, also on the Bluemont branch of the Southern Railway, five miles north of Fairfax, was first called "Ayr Hill," a name given it by a Scotchman for his native place. Later, some time in the "fifties," there came a man, by name Hendricks, who agreed to locate here if the name of the place were changed to that of his native place in New York—Vienna. Then, as now, the welcome hand was gladly held out to the new-comer, and, flattered by his intention, the village, maiden-like, was willing to change her name if it pleased the stranger; thus she became Vienna—"Vee-anna" to the dwellers, "Vi-anner" to those who would be familiar, and yet know not.

Before Vienna had time to increase greatly the sad days of the great Civil War had come, and her people wakened for years to the bugle calls of first one army and then the other as they, in turn, encamped upon the nearby



Historic "Stone Bridge" across Bull Run

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Bird's Eye  
View of  
Herndon



hills. One of the earliest skirmishes of the war took place on the edge of the town, five being killed and sixteen wounded of the Federal forces, while the Confederates loss is unknown. A fruitless crop of buttons, buckles, can-  
teens and bayonets was sown to be gathered in the peaceful years to come by the children, who often find bullets side by side with the flint arrows of the earlier Indian warriors. Survivors of the Civil War "come on pilgrimage," seeking the places where they fought and camped, and weep oftentimes at the wrong spot, and delight in "location assured." Each year finds these pilgrims fewer in number and more bent in form, and soon, yea too soon, there will be left none to come.

The memory of those sad days has grown dim in Vienna. To-day the principal warfare of the town is centered in the clubs and secret societies, for which it is famed. Here can be found the Woman's Club, the Business Men's Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Masons, the Junior Order of the United Americans, the Odd-Fellows, the United Woodmen, the Good Templars, and the Village Improvement Society.

The town has three white churches (the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal) and two colored churches (the Baptist and Methodist), and each of these has its own church building.

Vienna is justly proud of her public schools, and can point with pride to the record made by her graduates, who have done her credit in high schools

## F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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and Colleges. Advanced pupils take advantage of the educational opportunities afforded in nearby Washington, and many go there daily.

The Commuter is an important factor in the town of Vienna. Over fifty of the five hundred inhabitants of the town are employed in Washington, and go back and forth on some one of the steam or electric cars, leaving the town every hour. Vienna is surrounded by a fine farming and fruit-growing section, and with her unsurpassed railroad facilities, excellent water and healthy climate, will doubtless rival, if not surpass, many of the thrifty towns on the Bluemont branch of the Southern Railway.

CLIFTON, an incorporated town on the main line of the Southern Railway, twenty-seven miles southwest of Washington, is situated in a fertile valley on Pope's Head Creek, a branch of historic Bull Run. It is four miles from Manassas, five miles from Centreville, and nine miles from the first Bull Run battlefield. This beautiful little town is surrounded by pine-clad hills, affording many very desirable building sites. Numerous springs gush forth from these hills, affording an ample supply of pure soft water. The town contains a population of 200, with four churches, one graded school, a Masonic Lodge, two general merchandise stores, one butcher shop, one undertaker, one grist, saw, and planing mill, one livery stable, one hotel, and several boarding houses. One of the churches, the Presbyterian, is a beautiful Gothic structure, constructed of stone quarried from the nearby hills. The Baptist, Episcopal, and colored Baptist congregations, all occupy structures well suited to their needs.



Elden Street,  
Herndon, Va.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

Residence of  
Lieut.-Gov.  
Jos. E. Willard  
Fairfax, Va.



Clifton has an excellent graded school, conducted in a commodious and attractive building. The higher department of this school aims to prepare pupils for the Washington city schools, which can be reached, at a small cost, by the main line of the Southern Railway. The town has an acetylene gas plant, affording excellent illumination for the streets, stores, and many dwellings. The business enterprises are all in a prosperous condition, and are in the hands of energetic, intelligent and broad-minded young men, who love their town, and who have borne conspicuous parts in its progress and development. With an attractive and healthy location, excellent railroad, telegraph and telephone facilities, and surrounded by a fine agricultural section, where dairying, stock and poultry-raising, and general farming can be followed with pleasure and profit, Clifton is destined to become one of the important towns on the main line of the Southern Railway.

WEIHLE, while in population the smallest town in the county, yet as a manufacturing and trading point is a town of no mean importance. The Weihle Manufacturing Company's plant is here. This enterprise, with a store and summer boarding houses, constitute the business interests of the town.

## Villages.

In addition to the six incorporated towns, Fairfax County has a large number of villages of more or less importance. With respect to location,

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y .

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these villages are either inland or on some railroad. Among the former are Annandale, Langley, Lewinsville, Forestville, Dranesville, Floris, Chantilly, Centreville, and Accotink. Among the latter are West End, Burke's Station, Fairfax Station, on the main line of the Southern Railway, and Dunn-Loring and Wedderburn on the Bluemont branch of the same road.

ANNANDALE, on the Little River turnpike, midway between the town of Fairfax and the city of Alexandria, is a promising village, having a church, school, store and blacksmith shop. The people hereabout are engaged in dairying, trucking, and general farming.

LANGLEY, three miles from the "Chain Bridge" over the Potomac River, is a village of much promise, with a church, school, and blacksmith shop. This village is surrounded by one of the most fertile sections in the State. Here is Salona, elsewhere referred to, built in 1801, with brick imported from England, which sheltered Dolly Madison in her flight from the National Capital in 1814. Dairying, trucking and general farming, constitute the employment of the people. The Great Falls and Old Dominion Electric Railway runs near, and real estate values are rapidly advancing.

LEWINSVILLE, a few miles west from Langley, is situated in a fine farming and fruit-growing section. It has a church, school, store, and blacksmith shop. The employment of the people is similar to that of Langley.



Fairfax  
County  
Clerk's  
Office.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

Cedar Lane,  
Vienna.



FORESTVILLE is a thrifty village, near the Great Falls of the Potomac, one of the great water-powers of the country, situated in a fine grazing and fruit-growing section. It has a church, store, and school, and has made rapid growth within the last few years. This village is not far from the terminus of the Great Falls and Old Dominion Electric Railway.

DRANESVILLE, hoary with age, is situated on the Middle Pike, one of the ways over which a part of Braddock's army marched in April, 1755. The country hereabout is high and rolling, and is well adapted to fruit-growing and general farming. Here were enacted some of the stirring scenes of the Civil War. Many of the buildings are of great age, and are objects of interest to the thoughtful visitor. The village has a church, school, store, and blacksmith shop.

FLORIS is one of the new villages of the county. It is situated three miles from Herndon, near Old Frying Pan Church, on the main thoroughfare between Herndon and Chantilly. It has a graded school, church, store, and blacksmith shop, and is in the midst of a fine farming and stock-raising section.

CHANTILLY, on the Little River turnpike, seven miles from the town of Herndon, is one of the old villages of the county. Near this village was fought, while a terrific thunder-storm raged, a noted battle of the Civil War. It has a church, a two-room school building, store, postoffice, and blacksmith shop. The farms about the village are large, well watered, and splendidly adapted to grass. Near here is the celebrated Chantilly farm, on which is now being bred some of the finest stock in the country. Within a radius of five miles of the village can be found a section better suited to stock-raising than anywhere else in the State.

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CENTREVILLE, seven miles from the town of Fairfax, is another old village. In olden times it was known as New Gate. It has two churches, a school, postoffice, store, and blacksmith shop. The land in the vicinity, while high and rolling, is fertile and well adapted to the raising of grass and grain. This village, being situated on the main thoroughfare between Washington and Manassas, many traces of the Civil War yet remain. Several times in the early "sixties" both armies pitched their tents on the hills surrounding the village. The earthworks then constructed still remain.

ACCOTINK, two miles from Accotink Station on the R. F. and P. Railroad, is a village of great age. As elsewhere seen, it is situated on the old King's Highway, and was a busy place in Colonial times. It has a church, graded school, postoffice, two stores, and two blacksmith shops. The flouring mill here, which flourished in General Washington's time, is still in operation, turning out each year a large quantity of excellent flour. The vegetables and small fruits produced here are not only of fine quality and flavor, but so well developed as to stand shipping, even to the distant Pittsburg market. The old plantations here are fast being divided up into smaller ones, and practically where "One blade of grass grew before, two blades grow now."

OAKTON, midway between Fairfax and Vienna, on the Washington, Arlington and Falls Church Electric Railway, is a thriving village, containing two churches, a graded school, two stores, and a blacksmith shop. It is situated in a fine farming and fruit-growing section, and has in its midst, the largest plant and flower mail order business in the country. Here is grown annually about two hundred thousand plants, the large part of which are roses and dahlias. Among these are one hundred and fifty varieties of roses, and two hundred varieties of dahlias. The fields of dahlias, in season, are a show in



Maple  
Avenue.  
Vienna.

## F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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themselves, and in the months of September and October, are visited by many people. This village was formerly known as Flint Hill, and was the scene of some military activity during the Civil War.

WEST END, a suburb of Alexandria, in point of population, is one of the most important villages in Fairfax County. It was named for the West family, who held, under regal grant, the land on which the village was first projected. It is a community of four or five hundred inhabitants, having a church, a graded school, the union depot of all the railroads touching Alexandria, a glass factory, distillery, several stores, the Alexandria Water Company's plant, and the old Cameron Run Mills. The old Cameron Run Mills, now owned by the Roberts family, is an enterprise of great age. When Alexandria was only a frontier hamlet, these mills were in full operation. In this village reside many employees of the different railroads passing through, and other persons having business in Washington and Alexandria. Many of the residences are beautiful, modern structures, supplied with hot and cold water. Since the establishment of the union depot here, West End has taken on new life, and with its splendid natural advantages, no village in Virginia offers greater opportunities for manufacturing enterprises.

BURKE'S STATION, fourteen miles from Alexandria, on the main line of the Southern Railway, is an enterprising and promising village, with three stores, a school, private hall, saw and grist mill, and postoffice, from which is distributed the mail for one of the principal rural routes of the county. Near here is the plant of the Fairfax Heading and Stave Company, which ships weekly large quantities of barrel stock to distant points. The village was named for the Burke family, the old heads of which bore in the past prominent parts in the industrial and official life of the county. Lumbering and general farming and dairying constitute the chief industries of the neighborhood.

FAIRFAX STATION, three miles from Fairfax, and eighteen miles from Alexandria, on the main line of the Southern Railway, is a progressive and enterprising village, having two stores, two churches, a school and blacksmith shop. In addition to a large retail trade, one of the stores makes a specialty of jobbing, and enjoys a trade not surpassed by any country store south of Baltimore. General farming, dairying, and lumbering are the principal occupations of the people. The Fairfax Nurseries are near here, and annually ship large quantities of nursery stock both South and West.

BAILEY'S CROSS ROADS, between Alexandria and Falls Church, on the Leesburg pike, is a village of some note. Between the village and Falls Church is the Munson Hill Nurseries, one of the oldest enterprises of the kind in the State. Here took place during the Civil War one of the greatest military reviews of the nineteenth century. Trucking, dairying and general farming are the chief occupations of the people. The village has a school, church, store and two blacksmith shops. The land being high and rolling,



Company I, Third Virginia Regiment. Leaving Fairfax for the Spanish-American War.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y .

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House on  
Chantilly  
Stock Farm.



and for the location (six miles from Washington) very cheap, this village promises to become in the near future an important city suburb.

## Topography.

The dividing line of what is known as Middle Virginia and the Piedmont Section, runs almost through the center, northeast and southwest, of Fairfax County. The eastern portion of the county lies at the head of tidewater; but going westward, an altitude of about one hundred and fifty feet is quickly reached. This elevation gradually increases as you proceed west, reaching in many places an elevation of eight hundred feet.

The topography of Fairfax presents a pleasing appearance. Everywhere there is a diversified surface and varying elevation, abounding in beautiful landscape features. From many places may be seen the Maryland shore, and the mountain ranges in Maryland and Virginia, forty and sixty miles distant.

No section is more abundantly supplied with pure, soft water. There is not a square mile of surface in the county upon which cannot be found a running stream or bold spring. This water in many instances is impregnated with iron or magnesia, which imparts to it valuable medicinal properties. It has been said that the water supply of this section is as pure as that of the Black Forest of Germany.

The county is well drained by the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers, and their numerous tributaries. It is free from swamps and stagnant waters.

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Its sanitary conditions are unexcelled. Indeed, it is the splendid topography of Fairfax that is attracting hundreds of people, seeking small farms and pleasant and healthy suburban homes.

## Geology and Soil Conditions.

Soapstone, gray granite, and red sandstone are found in considerable quantities, and are being more or less quarried. There are also veins of asbestos, iron, copper and gold. As is well known, there are two well defined veins of gold traversing Virginia. They cross the State in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction. The eastern vein, which, so far, is the best defined and most promising one, starts at the Great Falls of the Potomac, in Fairfax County, and pursues almost a straight line, in a southeasterly direction, passing just south of the town of Vienna, through the village of Oakton, and thence on through Fairfax into Prince William County. Practically no attempt to mine the ores of the county has been made since the Civil War; but there is little doubt if well directed efforts, backed by sufficient capital, and directed by matured mining experience, were made, gold in paying quantities would be found; for there are few veins in the gold regions of the West, so well-defined and continuous, as this traversing the entire breadth of Fairfax.

The character of the soil of Fairfax County varies according to the nature



A Prize  
Winner on  
Chantilly  
Stock Farm.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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of the rock from which it is formed. There is considerable sand near the Potomac River; then a wide belt of good clay, merging into a red sandstone country with a chocolate soil. Soil and surface conditions in the county are such as to render the entire county arable. The county is well and variously timbered. Pine, oak, chestnut, poplar, hickory, cedar, and locust are found, and the cutting and marketing of lumber is an extensive business.

## Climatic Conditions.

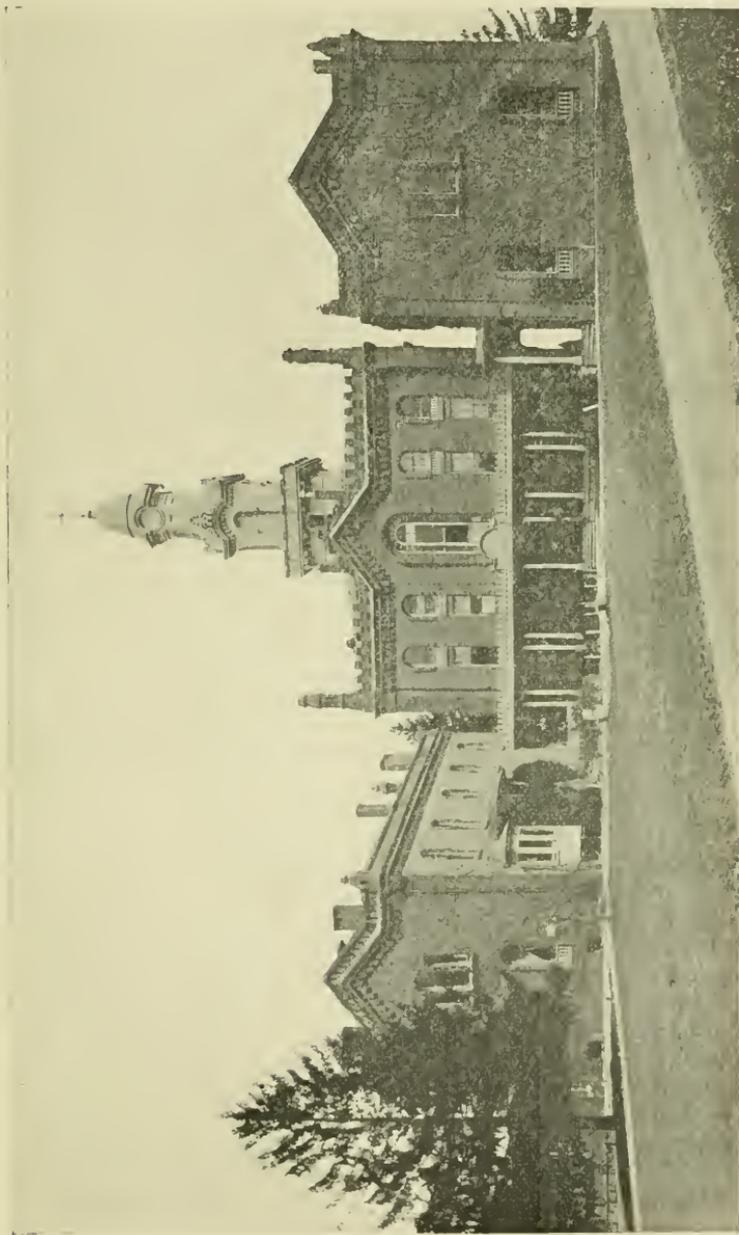
Situated midway between the extremes of heat and cold, Fairfax is a happy medium, alike to those scorched by Southern suns or chilled by Western winds. Here, there is no occasion to dread the long, cold winters and deep snows of the North; to fear the destructive cyclones of other sections, and the awful blizzards of the Northwest. The temperature rarely goes above ninety-five degrees Fahrenheit, and seldom falls lower than five degrees above zero. The average temperature of the county is about fifty-six degrees. So mild is the climate here, that it is frequently possible to plow every month in the year. Snow rarely covers the ground for any great length of time. The number of bright, sunny days, even in the winter, is unusually large; in fact, the county is exceptionally free from extreme weather conditions, either of heat or cold, wind-storms or hurricanes. Such a thing as a dwelling house being blown over is unknown. The prevailing wind is westerly.

In the amount and seasonableness of precipitation, the county is again favored. It seldom suffers from a severe drouth or serious flood. The rainfall is about forty-three inches per annum, and remarkably well distributed through the year. There are two sources of rain supply, one from the Atlantic Ocean by the east winds, and from the Gulf of Mexico by the south winds.

## Industrial and Economic Conditions.

Within the last few years the county has made marvelous industrial progress. Miles of electric railway have been built, and many more miles are still being constructed and projected. The great trunk line railways, running through the county, have recently doubled-tracked their ways, thereby doubling their capacity for handling the through and local traffic. Three banks have been recently organized, and are all now doing a large and flourishing business. New mills and factories, with large capital and capacity, are in full operation. Such is the country's recent record of progress, yet each day her industrial tidal wave reaches a higher mark.

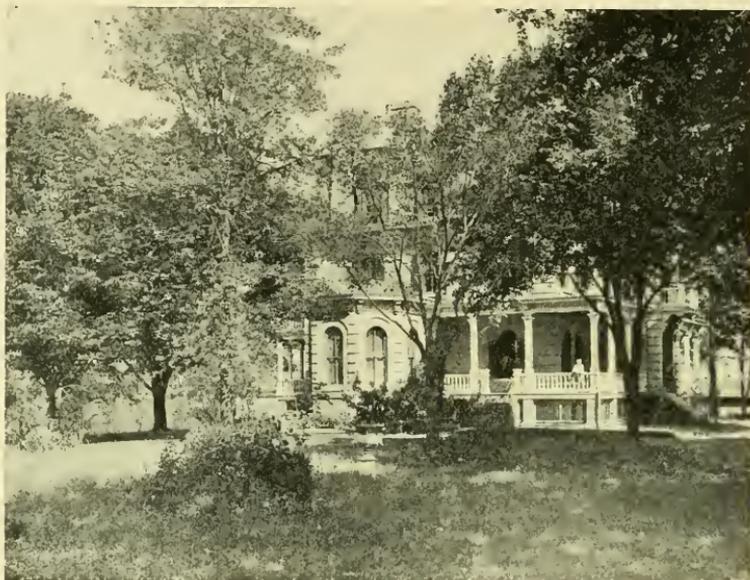
Hundreds of telephones have come into use, connecting every section of the county, and many homes, with the cities of Washington and Alexandria. New houses are everywhere appearing, and small, cheap homes are constantly being replaced by larger, more commodious, and more attractive dwellings. Fifty postoffices, and eighteen rural and star routes, conveniently



Episcopal Theological Seminary. (Page 25.)

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

Residence  
of the late  
Gen. Dunn



and promptly distribute the mails to all parts of the county. So general is the rural delivery mail service here, that hardly a home is without its rural mail box. There are ninety-six public schools, a number of elementary private schools, one high school, and one theological seminary. The public schools are all of a high order of efficiency, and many of them have been supplied with modern appliances. More than a dozen public schools have been provided with pianos or organs by popular subscription, thus indicating a high degree of interest on the part of the public in the schools. The funds available for public school purposes amount to over forty thousand dollars annually. This amount is steadily increasing each year, and in the near future a full school session of nine months will be maintained in every school district of the county. In addition to the county's excellent public and private schools, the splendid high school, college and university facilities of Washington are conveniently available. Here the Fairfax youths, of both sexes, with only the small expense of railroad fare, can live at home and receive the necessary training for business or a profession.

Any sketch of the educational advantages of Fairfax County without some extended notice of the Theological Seminary and the Episcopal High School would be far from complete. These institutions, from their establishment, have proven important factors in the educational life of the county.

**The Theological Seminary.**

(Illustration page 23.)

The Theological Seminary, situated on a commanding position, 250 feet above the Potomac River, three miles west from Alexandria and seven miles from Washington, is one of the most celebrated institutions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. It was established in its present situation in 1827, and with its liberal patronage since, and generous donations from time to time, has become one of the best equipped institutions of the kind to be found.

The Seminary is under the control of a self-perpetuating board of trustees, at present consisting of eighteen members. Prominent among the members of the present board are: Bishops Gibson, Randolph, Peterkin, Gravatt, and Tucker, of Virginia and West Virginia; Rev. R. H. McKim, of Washington City; Col. Arthur Herbert, of Fairfax County; Rev. P. P. Phillips and Julian T. Burke, Esq., of Alexandria. The present faculty consists of Rev. Angus Crawford, Dean, and Rev. Samuel A. Wallis, Secretary to the Faculty, with Revs. Richard W. Micou, Robert K. Massie, Berryman Green, and Prof. Willoughby Reade. These are masters in their several lines, and have established for the Seminary a reputation second to none in the country.

The Virginia Seminary, as this institution is frequently called, stands second on the list of those of the Episcopal Church in the number of students enrolled annually, the first being the General Seminary situated in New York



Prof. L. M.  
Blackford's  
Residence.



city. The average number of students in attendance for the last few years, has been about forty-six. The whole number of matriculated students from the foundation of the Seminary in 1827 to the present time is 1,965, of whom 554 are now living. Thirty-nine Bishops of the Episcopal Church are enrolled among the alumni of the Seminary, of whom the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk, "The warrior Bishop of Louisiana," one of the Confederate generals; Gregory T. Bedell, of Ohio; William J. Boone, the Missionary Bishop of China; Richard H. Wilmer, of Alabama; Phillips Brooks, of Massachusetts, and Henry C. Potter, the present Bishop of New York, are among the most prominent. The Seminary has exerted a great influence upon the development of the Episcopal Church in this country. Many of its graduates have devoted themselves with untiring zeal to the work of home missions throughout the land, while others have filled a number of the largest parishes with conspicuous ability, both as pastors and preachers.

#### Episcopal High School.

One of the oldest preparatory schools for boys, under distinctly religious auspices, is the Episcopal High School, of Fairfax County. Seated upon a commanding plateau, three miles from Alexandria and seven miles from Washington, its elevation affords a magnificent view of these cities, the Potomac River, and the surrounding country for many miles. This school was established by Bishop Meade in 1839, its first session opening October 15th of that year, with the Rev. Wm. N. Pendleton, a graduate of West Point, and afterwards Brigadier-General and Chief of Artillery in Lee's army. General Pendleton was succeeded in the principalship of the school by Revs. Edward A. Dalrymple, of Maryland, and John P. McGuire, of Virginia. Dr. McGuire was principal of the school at the outbreak of the Civil War, relinquishing his post on the day (March 24, 1861) the Federal troops entered Alexandria. For five years, from March 24, 1861, the school had no existence. Lying within the Federal lines, the continuance of its proper career was impossible. Its buildings were taken possession of and used for hospital purposes until the close of the war, thus inflicting great damage, not only to the buildings, but to the grounds as well. Fortunately for the school, however, the Rev. Wm. F. Gardner, of Alexandria, an alumnus of the school and the University of Virginia, and a wounded ex-Confederate officer, after the war, advanced the necessary money for the rehabilitation of the school, and became its principal for four years. Upon Dr. Gardner's resignation it was determined by the board of trustees to appoint a layman as his successor, and in July, 1870, Launcelot M. Blackford, A. M., himself a distinguished Confederate soldier, was designated, and the school forthwith entered upon a career of great prosperity and usefulness.

From its proximity to the Theological Seminary, misapprehension frequently exists as to the character of the school, many supposing it simply



Episcopal High School.



**Confederate Monument at Fairfax.**

preparatory to that institution. Such, however, is not the case. While the same board of trustees controls both properties, yet there is no connection whatever between them. The Episcopal High School is now the oldest school for boys under the control of the Episcopal Church in the United States, and numbers among its graduates prominent men in every walk of life. At least seventy, including five Bishops, have entered the sacred ministry, and many more the other learned professions.

**General Remarks.**

There are sixty-one church buildings for white congregations in the county, representing all shades of religious belief. These church buildings are very generally attractive, commodious, and well attended.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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There are two county newspapers, well edited, and widely read. One of these papers, the *Fairfax Herald*, has been continuously published for more than a quarter of a century.

Indeed the county's proximity and accessibility to Washington, her exceptional educational advantages, her numerous telephone lines and rural mail routes, have all promoted a high state of culture amongst her people.

The financial condition of the county is excellent. There is no bonded indebtedness, and a safe balance is maintained in the treasury. The tax rate is one dollar and ten cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation, which is usually about one-third of the real value. While this tax rate is apparently reasonable, it is in reality very low.

Land values have enormously increased within the last few years; probably a fair average of this increase for the county would be fifty per centum in six or eight years. With a low rate of taxation, and such rapid increase in real estate values recently, large amounts of money is frequently seeking investment in Fairfax land. The population of Fairfax County, according to the census of 1900, was 18,580. The population now (1907) is reliably estimated to be in excess of 20,000.

## Productions.

While Fairfax County offers attractive inducements to the suburban settler, and many of her farms are being subdivided for such purposes, yet she takes high rank as an agricultural section. Her agricultural status is most thrifty and promising. This is evidenced by the variety and volume of her farm products, and the spirit of her farmers.

Many of the farmers are members of Farmers' Clubs, Poultry and Fruit Associations. Probably one of the oldest Farmers' Associations in the Union is the Woodlawn Farmers' Club, of Fairfax County. For forty-one years this club has continued, without a single break, to hold its monthly meetings, and the benefits to the farming interests of the county, resulting from the good work of this Association, are seen and felt in other sections as well as in the Woodlawn Settlement.

Under favorable conditions, seventy-five bushels of corn, thirty bushels of wheat, and two tons of hay are not uncommon yields. While perhaps the average yield per acre is not equal to that of the fertile fields of the West, yet the average value per acre of that yield equals, and in many instances exceeds, that of the Middle and Far West. Certainly, nowhere are markets closer or prices higher than here. A fair average price for several years would be eighty cents per bushel for wheat, sixty cents per bushel for corn, seventy cents per bushel for Irish potatoes, twenty dollars per ton for hay, thirty cents per pound for butter, and thirty cents per dozen for eggs. These prices can frequently be obtained on the farm, and if it be necessary to move the produce, your wagon will afford the means of transportation, and you

## F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

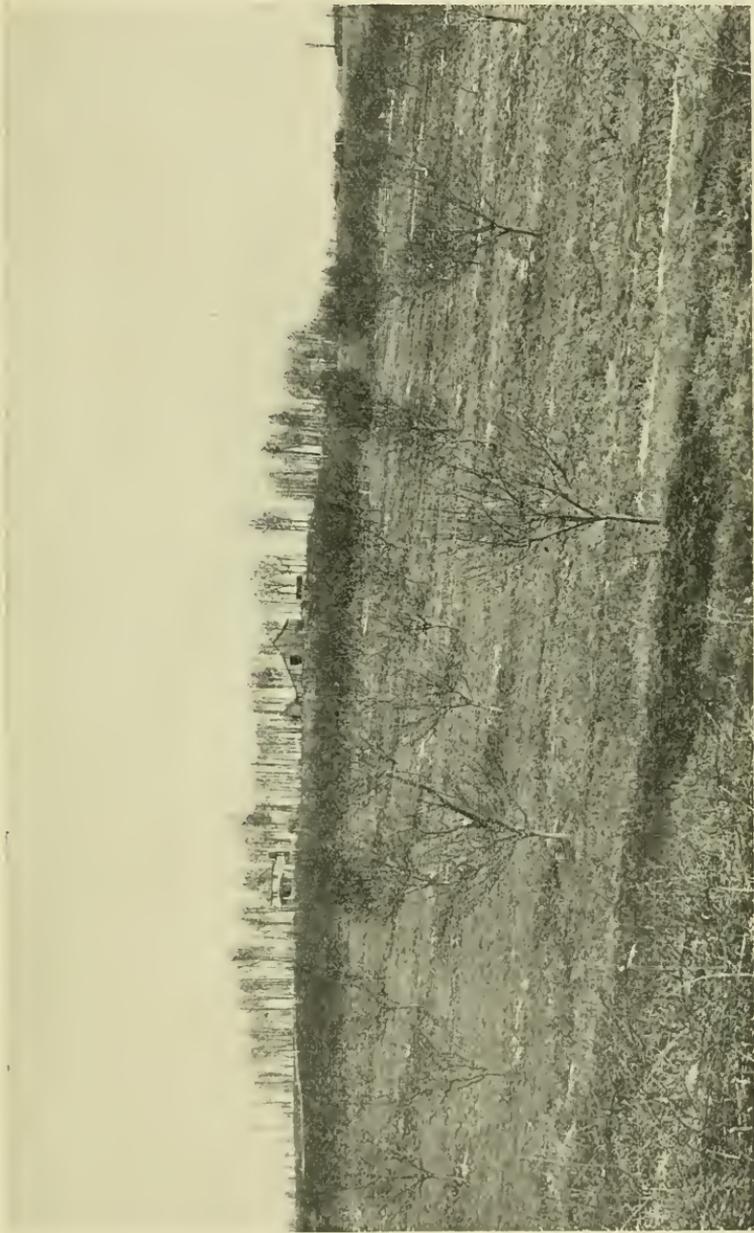
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can then be both producer and seller, considerations of leading importance. Upon the soil, climate and market depends the success of the tillers of the soil, and these three factors are decidedly in favor of Fairfax; so much so that it is possible to successfully engage in any one of the various lines of farming. In the eastern part of the county trucking is very generally and profitably pursued. Many of these truckers can draw handsome checks with little embarrassment. Large yields of all the leading vegetables are obtained, and remunerative prices secured in markets only a few miles distant.

Dairying is an important industry in the county. The great bulk of the milk supply of the cities of Washington and Alexandria comes from Fairfax. Every morning thousands of gallons of Fairfax milk, by train, trolley and wagon, enter these cities. Every year hundreds of dairy cows are brought into the county to supply the demand, and many more hundreds are profitably raised. A good dairy cow will bring from forty to sixty dollars. The feeding of so many dairy cows is rapidly bringing many farms here up to a state of great fertility. The raising of live stock is now receiving considerable attention. There are several large stock farms in the county, and many herds of well-bred cattle, sheep and hogs; yet the county is just awakening to the great possibilities awaiting this enterprise. With the fine blue grass pastures that can be maintained in many sections of Fairfax, stock-raising, in the near future, must become one of the leading industries of the county.

Practically every farm has a perennial and pure stream of water. Nowhere can the forage crops be better grown. The legume family, such stock-producers and soil-improvers, are at home here; while right at our doors are markets and meat-packing houses that will take one head, or a carload of stock, at the highest market price.

Poultry-raising is attracting attention, and is fast assuming large proportions. The rolling surface, well-drained and sandy soil, together with the mild and equable climate of the county, adapt it splendidly to poultry-raising. Nothing sells more readily, or commands, in proportion, better prices in the Washington market, than the products of the poultry yard. With poultry fifteen and twenty cents per pound, and eggs twenty-five to forty cents per dozen, it is possible for the poultryman to carry to market (by trolley) in a basket more value than an acre of corn in Kansas represents. There are persons here making more profit from a few acres raising poultry than many of the large prairie farmers of Illinois are making feeding steers. Here, under pleasant skies, are people making more money selling eggs from a back yard than the storm-swept and snow-bound Dakota farmer is making selling wheat from his vast fields. Some pleasant features about poultry-raising, in addition to its profits, are its continuous income, small area, and capital required, and comparative independence from the labor problem, now so seriously affecting general farming operations.



Residence and Orchard of Franklin Williams, Jr.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y .

Residence  
of Prof.  
M. D. Hall,  
County  
Supt. of  
Schools.



## Fruit.

Nowhere is a greater variety and profusion of wild fruits found than in Fairfax. Here may be seen volunteer trees of the apple, peach, pear, plum, persimmon, cherry, haw and mulberry. There may also be found in abundance the strawberry, huckleberry, blackberry, raspberry, and several varieties of grapes, as well as the chestnut, hazelnut, chinkapin, walnut and hickory-nut. This variety and profusion of wild fruits, certainly indicates the adaptability of our soil and climate to the cultivated fruits. Virginia is a great fruit State. She ranks near the head, in the sisterhood of States, in the value of her fruit products. Fairfax County formerly lead all the counties of the State in this industry. To-day Fairfax has over twenty-seven thousand pear trees (nearly three times as many as any other county in the State); ninety-three thousand peach trees (fourth county in the State in the number of peach trees), and one hundred and eighteen thousand apple trees. There are more than two hundred and fifty thousand fruit trees in the county, and thousands of additional trees of every variety are being planted each fall and spring. Grape culture is also assuming considerable proportions, and some of the vineyards of Fairfax, in quantity and quality of output, compare favorably with old grape-growing sections.

The county has recently appropriated one thousand dollars towards the

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suppression of insect pests and fungus diseases of the orchard. These maladies prevail in all fruit regions of the country, and Fairfax is one of the few counties of the State to take a determined stand, with money to sustain it, against the encroachments of these pests upon her orchards. Certainly no county south of the Potomac, in this respect, has acted so wisely and vigorously. This movement argues well for the future fruit industry of the county. Fruit-growing here is favored by splendid natural advantages. Many sections of the county are well elevated and rolling, affording excellent soil and atmospheric drainage. Much of the surface soil is a loamy and gravelly clay, conditions highly favorable to fruit culture. Here all hardy fruits can be grown, and well developed, colored and flavored as any found on our market. Washington City affords an excellent market for all the fruit that Fairfax County can grow. In many places in our State the fruit-grower suffers much from a lack of facilities to move his crop, and often misplaced confidence in middle men. Here he is master of these conditions. Whatever may be grown here, the grower is sure of a convenient market and a fair price.

## Final.

Hundreds of farmers from the North, South, East, and West have settled, and are settling, in Fairfax County. As a rule these settlers are contented and prosperous, and have no desire to return to the sections from which they



Herndon  
Packing  
House

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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came. If there be anywhere any home-seeker who desires to locate convenient to the best market and most beautiful city in the world; who is seeking a genial climate and good sanitary conditions, where educational, social and religious opportunities are unsurpassed, and who wishes to pursue any special line of farming, fruit-growing, or stock-raising, he can find in Fairfax County, lands, locations, and conditions ideally suited to his purpose.





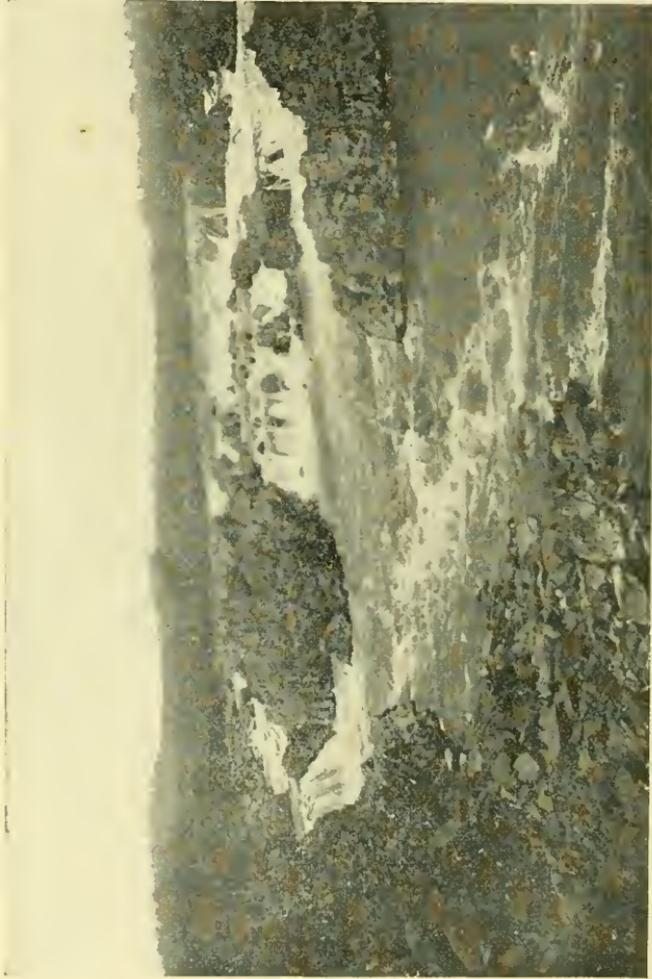
## Historical

Fairfax County was founded in 1742, and named in honor of Lord Fairfax. It is situated in the northeastern portion of Virginia, seventy-eight miles from Richmond, and lies on the western bank of the Potomac River, in close proximity to the cities of Washington, D. C., and Alexandria, Va. It has an area of 433 square miles, and contains a population of 20,000.

No section of our country is richer in historical data. On every hill-top, in every valley, beside every stream and roadway, in every direction the eye may range, some trace or landmark can be found to remind one of our country's history and the important part borne therein by Fairfax people.

Being by nature favorably located, this was one of the first sections of the State to attract the attention of the adventurous spirits of Colonial times. Soon after the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, Captain John Smith engaged in a number of exploring expeditions, during one of which he ascended the Potomac River as far as the Great Falls, and landed in what is now a part of Fairfax County. Previous to this no human eye save that of the roving red man had ever rested on the hills and vales hereabout. Smith and his comrades had seen the rivers of Europe, but these were tiny streams compared with the broad and majestic Potomac. They were delighted with all they saw; and after many exciting experiences with the Indians, who were represented as a brave and warlike people, Captain Smith and his companions returned to Jamestown, little dreaming that they had discovered a section of country near which, in less than two and a half centuries, would stand the capital of "Time's greatest empire."

In the year 1634, twenty-seven years after the landing of the English colonists at Jamestown, the various settlements which had been made by them over the new territory, were by act of the General Assembly of the province, organized into eight distinct shires or counties, with the following names and locations: The Isle of Wight, west of the James River; Henrico, Warwick, Elizabeth City, James City, and Charles City, between the James and Rappahannock Rivers, and Northampton, on the eastern shore of the



Great Falls\* of the Potomac.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

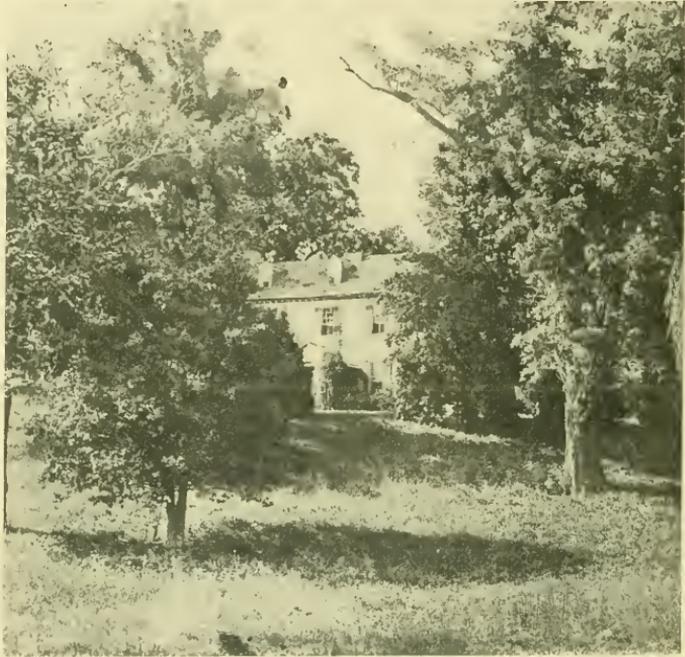


Old Dranesville Bridge.

Chesapeake Bay. In 1648 the isolated settlements which had been made at Chicoen, on the shores of the lower Potomac, were organized into another county, with the name of Northumberland. The boundaries of this county were defined as embracing all that territory lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and extending from the Chesapeake Bay to the headwaters of said rivers, high up in the Alleghany Mountains. This was known as the "Northern Neck," and by inheritance became the sole possession of Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, through a royal grant of Charles II to his grandfather, Thomas, Lord Culpeper. With the rapid accession of immigrants from the mother country, the tide of colonization advanced steadily up the rivers and their tributaries, and in 1653 was organized the county of Westmoreland. From Westmoreland, in 1673, was formed the county of Stafford. From Stafford, in 1730, was organized the county of Prince William, and from Prince William, in 1742, was formed the county of Fairfax. This county, when first founded, was one of the frontier counties of the State. It then extended from the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers to the Blue Ridge Mountains, and included within its boundaries the present counties of Loudoun and Alexandria. From the signing of the treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762, the settlers in Fairfax enjoyed comparative safety from Indian depredations. Settlements spread, and the settlers experienced a period of great prosperity. Captain John Smith's predictions were more than verified. The country proved to be a highly favored and inviting one, and in due course of time progressive and intelligent settlers began to locate here. The broad Potomac and its tributaries were well stocked with fish and

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

Capt. Franklin  
Sherman's  
Residence,  
Built by  
Lord Fairfax.



water-fowl, and wild game of every description abounded on land. Not only was the soil then, as now, rich and productive, but it was soon found to contain mineral deposits; and one of the first iron furnaces in America was established at Colchester, in this county, where, during the Revolutionary War, John Ballentine manufactured cannon and other munitions of war for the American army.

The Hon. William Fairfax, a cousin to the Lord Proprietor, who had established a home (Belvoir) on a large tract of land just below Mount Vernon, and George Brent and William Fitzhugh, the first land agents on the North American continent, were empowered to sell and issue patents for all unsettled lands in the "Northern Neck." Many of these patents, written on parchment and signed by his Lordship, well preserved, are still in the possession of the descendants of the original patentees; and in some instances parts of the lands originally granted, are still held by the descendants of the original grantees.

## Early Settlers.

The early settlers in what is now Fairfax County were the Fairfaxes, Washingtons, Masons, Brents, Broadwaters, Fitzhughs, McCartys, Hooes,

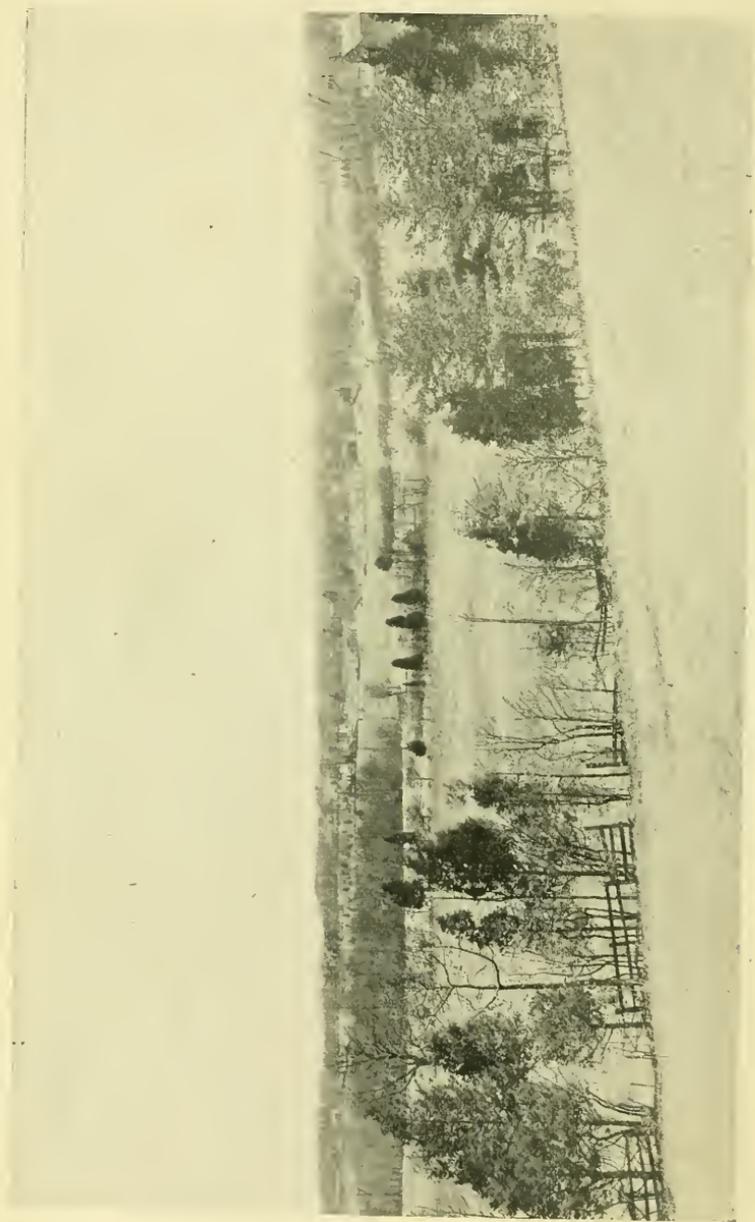
# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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Alexanders, Wests, Dudleys, Grahams, Coffers, Triplets, Turleys, Paynes, Ellzeys, Carlyles, and others; and nearly all these names are to-day represented in the county by the descendants of these original settlers. These were the men who, two and a half centuries ago, marked the bounds of the homesteads, laid the hearth-stones, established the neighborhoods, and assisted in erecting the altars of a great Commonwealth. They felled the forests, whose leaves the autumn winds had been scattering for centuries, and prepared the virgin soil for corn and tobacco. The timber being of little value, the trees were "girdled," and when dead, were felled, cut into logs, rolled together in great heaps and burned. The "burnings" not only made red the skies of the autumn evenings, but afforded for the resident and neighboring negroes occasions for great jollification. With Old Jamaica and other kindred grogs, night was made hideous with African jollity.

## Tobacco.

From the first, tobacco was the staple product of the soil. It was deemed by the early planter the *sine qua non* of his existence. Its production, supply, demand and price, were the all-absorbing topics on every occasion. It was interwoven with every thread of early Fairfax life. Acts of the Legislature of the province were passed regulating its culture, and one prerogative of the vestry of the Established Church was to appoint "Processioners" to make and return an enumeration of all the tobacco plants in the parish. The salaries of the ministers and civil officers were paid in the "weed." Notes representing tobacco in the warehouses were the currency of the county. The salary of a minister was 16,000 pounds of tobacco per annum, which varied in value from \$200 to \$400. The salaries of the members of the House of Burgesses, and all court charges and fines, were paid in tobacco. The sheriff was paid for whipping a person, twenty pounds; for putting an offender in the stocks, ten pounds; for pillorying a person, twenty pounds; for ducking a scolding woman, twenty pounds, and for hanging a felon, two hundred and fifty pounds. The clerk of the court received for recording a deed, one hundred and fifty pounds; for probating a will, fifty pounds, and for issuing a marriage license, twenty pounds. The members of the House of Burgesses each received one hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco per day for his services, and the travelling expenses of each member for Fairfax County to and from Williamsburg were 1,440 pounds. A fine of fifty pounds of tobacco was levied against him who absented himself from divine service for the space of two months. Thus tobacco, for many years, was the main hope and wealth of the people. So important was this commodity that the General Assembly ordered the erection of commodious warehouses at Occoquan "Ferry," and on the Potomac River at the mouth of Great Hunting Creek. Here all the tobacco coming in by the various "Rolling" roads had to be stored for inspection. These two points were made ports of entry, and soon became busy marts of traffic, sending out for many years, by ships of foreign ports, cargoes



Distant View of the Town of Fairfax

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.



Public School,  
Fairfax.

of tobacco and other valuable products. From this small beginning in 1748 sprang the city of Alexandria, then within the bounds of Fairfax. The land dedicated for it was vested in the Right Honorable Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the Hon. William Fairfax, George William Fairfax, Richard Osborne, Lawrence Washington, Wm. Ramsey, John Carlyle, John Pagan, Gerrard Alexander, Hugh West, and Philip Alexander. The Occoquan "Ferry" warehouse was in the town of Colchester, which was incorporated in 1753. The charters of both towns contained very much the same provisions, and were secured by the influence of Major Lawrence Washington (a brother of General Washington), who then represented Fairfax County in the House of Burgesses.

## The Ducking Stool.

In the foregoing sketch it is stated that twenty pounds of tobacco was the sheriff's fee for ducking a scolding woman. The ducking stool, as an instrument of punishment, like the common law, came down to us from our English ancestors. We read of this mode of punishment in the English chronicles of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Scolding women in that time were deemed offenders against the public peace. Blackstone, in his "Commentaries on the Laws of England," treats of the common scold in his chapter on "Public Wrongs." In his classification of nuisances, he says: "Lastly, a common scold, *communis rixatrix*, is a public nuisance to her neighborhood. She may be indicted, and if convicted, placed in a certain engine

# F A I R F A N C O U N T Y.

Public  
School,  
Accotink.



of correction, called the trebuckett castigatory, or cucking stool, which in the Saxon language is said to signify the scold stool, though now it is frequently corrupted into ducking stool, because the residue of the judgment is that when she is placed thereon she shall be plunged in water for her punishment." Mission, in his "Travels in England," in the seventeenth century, writes: "The way of punishing scolding women is pleasant enough. They fasten an arm-chair to the ends of two beams, twelve or fifteen feet long, and parallel to each other, so that these two pieces of wood, with their two ends, embrace the chair, which hangs between them upon a sort of axle, by which means it plays freely, and always remains in the natural horizontal position in which the chair should be, that a person may sit conveniently in it, whether you raise it or let it down. They set up a post on the bank of a pond or river, and over this post they lay, almost in equilibrium, the two pieces of wood, at one end of which the chair hangs over the water." The poets of this time made their thrusts at the ducking stool. Butler, in his "Hudibras," says:

"March proudly to the river side,  
And o'er the waves in triumph ride."

In 1780 West wrote a complete poem on the stool, the whole philosophy of which lies in the following couplet:

"No brawling wives, no furious wenches,  
No fire so hot but water quenches."



Interior of  
Public School  
Building,  
Accotink

### Quaint Laws.

Some of the laws enacted in the early days of the Colony were strangely out of harmony with present conditions. In 1662 it was declared that "Every person who refuses to have his child baptized by a lawful minister shall be emersed 2,000 pounds of tobacco, half to the parish, half to the informer."

Again: "Church Wardens shall present, at the County Court, twice every year, in April and December, such misdemeanors of swearing, drunkenness, fornication, etc., as by their own knowledge or common fame have been committed during their being Church Wardens."

Hog stealing in the olden times was punished with great severity. The law on this subject provided that "To steal or unlawfully to kill any hog that is not his, on sufficient proof, the offender shall pay to the owner 1,000 pounds of tobacco, and as much to the informer; and in case of inability, shall serve two years, one to the owner and one to the informer." In 1679 this law was enlarged as follows: "The first offence of hog stealing shall be punished according to the former law; upon a second conviction, the offender shall stand two hours in the pillory, and lose his ears; and for the third offence, he shall be tried by the laws of England, as in case of felony."

The law in relation to the ducking stool, whipping post, stocks and pillory was as follows: "The court in every county shall cause to be set up near the courthouse, a pillory, a pair of stocks, a whipping post, and a ducking stool, in such place as they shall think convenient; which not being set up



Public School,  
Falls Church.



within six months after the date of this act, the said court shall be fined 5,000 pounds of tobacco." Again it was provided that "All ministers officiating in any public cure, and six of their family, shall be exempt from public taxes."

In 1662 it was enacted that "Every master of a ship or vessel that shall bring in any Quaker to reside here, after July next, shall be fined 5,000 pounds of tobacco, to be levied by distress and sale of his goods, and enjoined to carry him, her, or them, out of the country again."

In 1755, the year of the Braddock war, this Act was passed by the General Assembly: "That the sum of ten pounds shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Colony to any person or persons for every Indian enemy above the age of twelve years by him or them taken prisoner, killed or destroyed within the limits of the Colony at any time within the space of two years after the end of this Assembly."

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y .



Public School,  
Oakton.

## Courts and Quaint Court Records.

The monthly County Court system of Fairfax County obtained for two hundred and seventy-five years—from 1628 until it was abolished by the late Constitutional Convention in 1903.

While a colony, and after it became a county, the first sessions of the court were probably held in the town of Colchester. The first minutes of the court were lost, or have not been preserved. The first entry on the minute-book of the court was made at a session held in the town of Colchester in the year 1742. This was an order of the court removing the county records from Colchester to the new courthouse, which had been built on the old Braddock road, less than two miles north of the present town of Vienna. On account of the active hostilities of the Indians, the county seat, within a few years, was removed to Alexandria, then a part of Fairfax County, where the County Court was held until the third Monday in April, 1800, when its first session was held in the present courthouse. Among the gentlemen who served the county as justices were: William and George Fairfax, *George Washington*, Lewis Elzy, Chas. Broadwater, John West, Daniel McCarty, John Turley, and others. The clerks of the Court from the founding of the county to the removal of the courthouse from Alexandria to its present site, in their order of service, were: Catesby Cooke, John Graham, Peter Wagoner, and George Deneale. All county officials were then required to take this oath: "We do declare that there is no transubstantiation

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

Public  
School,  
Vienna.



in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper or in the Elements of Bread and Wine at or after consecration thereof by any means whatsoever. I declare that I will act conformably to the doctrines and discipline of the Church of England."

There is much in the records of the court of Fairfax County to interest the antiquarian. The quaint orders of court, and the lengthy and peculiar wills of the old-time people, reflect in no small degree, the customs and practices of our people two centuries ago.

The last will and testament of General Washington was admitted to record in the County Court of Fairfax County, January 20, 1800. This document contains over one thousand words, and is recorded in Liber H, No. 1, folio 1. The original paper is in the handwriting of Washington, and, as elsewhere stated, is sacredly preserved in a glass-covered case stored in a fire-proof vault, where hundreds of people annually come to view it.

Not only the last wills of Washington, Mason, and other distinguished Fairfax citizens, who were conspicuous in the civil, military and political life of the county and State a century ago, but the quaint orders and other records of the old-time court, as seen in old minute books, attract the attention and arouse the interest of every one in any way imbued with the antiquarian spirit. These orders, or minutes, while bearing no connected relation to each other, are interesting from the fact that they often refer to people more or less noted in the history of the county, and afford some idea of the men and events of those early days. Many of these orders the writer

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.



Residence  
of Mr. J. S.  
Pearson.

would be pleased to give, but the limitation of time and space under which he writes will not permit, therefore let a few extracts, taken at random from these old minute books, suffice.

Under date of May 21, 1760, the followings report of the grand jury was recorded:

"We present George William Fairfax, George Washington, John Carlyle, Daniel French, Robert Bogges, Catesby Cocke, Townsend Dade, Subill West, Gerrard Alexander, Jemima Minor, William Ramsey, Benjamine Grayson, George Mason, John Plummer, Daniel McCarty, and Abraham Barnes for not entering their wheel carriages agreeably to law as appears to us by the list delivered to the Clerk of the County."

These were the most prominent people of the county. If any one reading these lines should conclude from the foregoing transcript that the "Immortal George" and his prominent neighbors were "tax-dodgers," if he is now, or should be in the future, guilty of the same sin, let him console himself with the thought that "History is only repeating itself."

In the olden time the Court fixed the rates to be charged for public entertainment (including drinks of every kind and stableage for horses) by the inn-keepers. These rates, as fixed by the Court, had to be posted at least six feet high on the door of every inn in the county. The following is taken from the schedule of rates ordered by the Court, March 20, 1755:

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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"For a hot diet with small beer or cider.....	1s.	0d.
For a cold diet.....	0s.	6d.
For a quart of Madeira.....	2s.	6d.
For a gill of rum made into punch with loaf sugar....	0s.	6d.
For ditto with brown sugar.....	0s.	0d.
For a gallon of corn or oats.....	0s.	4d.
Stableage and fodder for a horse 24 hours or one night,	0s.	6d.
For a night's lodging with clean sheets, 6d., otherwise nothing."		

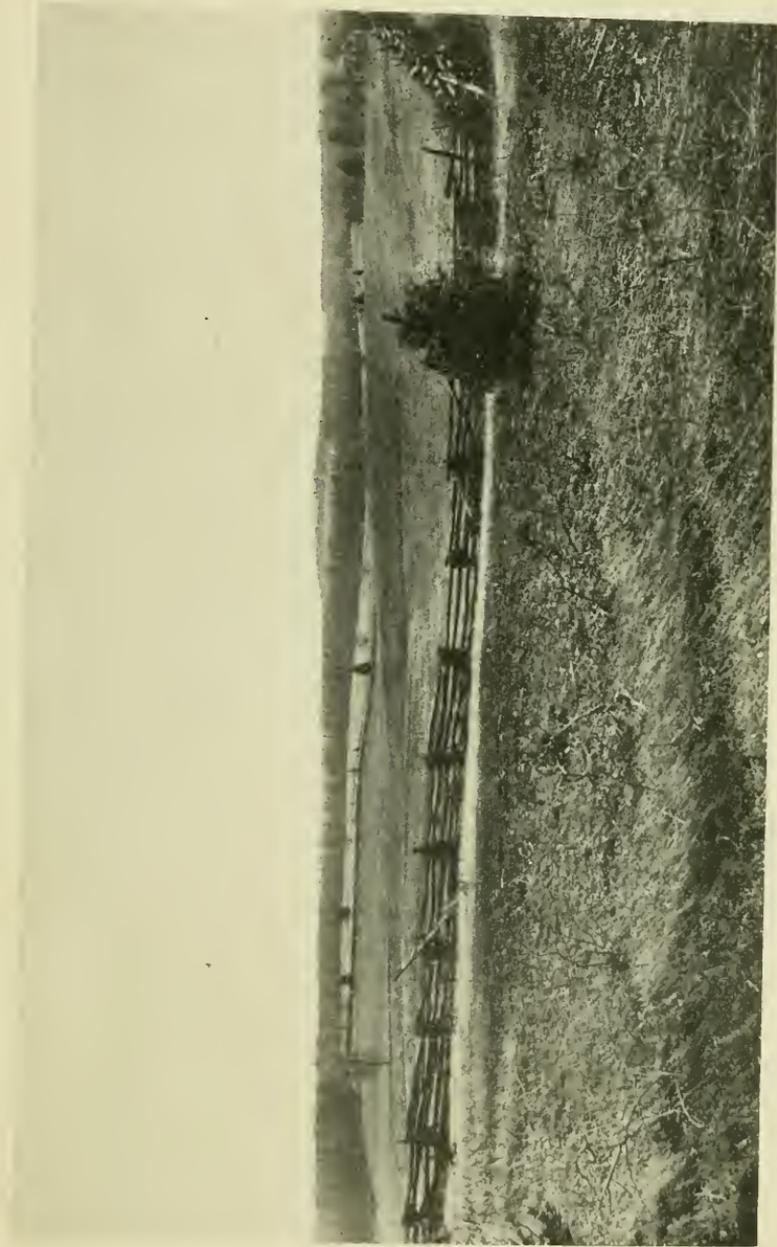
During the years 1755-6. many gentlemen produced in court their military commissions, and took the oath required by law. Many indictments were found against prominent citizens for not keeping certain roads in order, and for not attending church regularly.

Jeremiah Moore, after making various bequests in his will, adds: "All the remainder of my estate I give unto my beloved wife, Lydia Moore, ——— But she shall not be required to take out letters of administration, give any security or have any appraisement, whatever the law may say to the contrary notwithstanding, for I have more confidence in her justice, integrity and uprightness than in all the Courts that ever set, either in this Commonwealth or elsewhere."

One lady willed numerous locks of her hair to be made into mourning rings to be worn by her relatives, and also adds: "I will and bequeath my

Old Colvin  
Run Mill,  
Built 1794.





Battlefield of "Chantilly."

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

"Vauxcluse"  
Residence of  
Prof. E. F.  
Andrews



stand to—, but the top at present does not on its bottom," evidently meaning that "the top at the present does not stand on the bottom."

Wm. H. Foote, at one time a prominent man here, and believed to be the ancestor of Senator Foote, of Mississippi, when old, married a young and beautiful girl, and these clauses are found in his will: "I will and bequeath the balance of my estate to my wife for and during her widowhood and her natural life, with the horses, &c. If, however, she cease to be my widow or marry again, she must account for all these things and take her dower at law. It is not my purpose to give any Cur a sop." In this same will the kindly feeling existing between master and servant is plainly shown by the following extracts: "My slaves I recommend to the kindness and care of my wife and Executor. . . . I give to the grown ones twenty dollars per annum being males, and ten to females. . . . I can not emancipate them in this State, and I know not where to send them, they must therefore look to my dear wife as their protector, . . . she and my Executor will do them justice and friendship. Bob Foy is one of nature's nobility. In 46 years of

# F A I R F A X   ·   C O U N T Y.

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trust I have never found him in falsehood or prevarication; for truth, faith and honesty he could have no superior. He must receive \$25 per annum from my wife and end his days where he now is. . . . All my servants are good, trusty and true, and I bid them a long farewell with a sorrowful heart." Many more interesting transcripts from these old records could be taken, but space will not permit.

## Washington's Wealth.

General Washington, at the time he prepared his last will and testament, July 9, 1799, was not only the most extensive farmer, but one of the richest men in the United States. To his will he attached a schedule, setting out in detail, with full explanatory notes, the location, kind and value of all the property owned by him, except the slaves, and the real estate held by him on his Fairfax plantation. Without any attempt to present an exact copy, except as to quantity and price, this schedule is as follows:

3,666 acres in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, valued at.....	\$38,556
2,236 acres in Berkley County, valued at.....	44,720
571 acres in Frederick County, valued at.....	11,420
240 acres in Hampshire County, valued at.....	3,600
400 acres in Gloucester County, valued at.....	3,600
373 acres in Nansemond County, valued at.....	2,984
9,744 acres on the Ohio River, valued at.....	97,440
23,341 acres on the Great Kanabwa, valued at.....	200,000
1,119 acres in Charles and Montgomery Counties, Md.....	9,828
234 acres in the Great Meadows, Pennsylvania, valued at.....	1,404
1,000 acres in New York, valued at.....	6,000
3,051 acres in the Northwest Territory, valued at.....	15,251
5,000 acres in Kentucky, valued at.....	10,000

Making a total of 50,975 acres of land, valued at.....	\$444,893
10 lots in the cities of Alexandria and Washington.....	23,132
2 lots in Winchester.....	400
1 lot at Warm Springs.....	800

Aggregate value of real estate outside of Fairfax.....	\$469,135
Stocks and bonds, valued at.....	25,212
Personal property, excepting slaves, on Fairfax farms.....	15,653
Great Dismal Swamp interest, valued at.....	20,000

Grand total..... \$530,000

In addition to the above, the General owned 5,500 acres of land in Fairfax County. This land was divided into four farms, as follows: Clifton Neck or River Farm, of 2,000 acres; Mansion House Farm, of 1,200 acres; Union

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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Farm, of 1,000 acres, and Dogue Run Farm, of 1,300 acres. To cultivate these, he kept constantly employed some 250 to 300 negroes. In 1787 we find this memorandum of his farm operation: 580 acres in grass, 400 acres in oats, 700 acres in wheat, 700 acres in corn, with several hundred acres in barley, buckwheat, potatoes, peas, beans, and turnips. Washington's live stock consisted at this time of 140 horses, 120 cows, 226 work oxen, heifers and steers, 500 sheep, and almost numberless hogs running at large in the woodlands and marshes. In this year he slaughtered 150 hogs for the use of his family and negroes.

As late as 1854 there were only three white families living on the 5,500 acres formerly owned by Washington; now there are some forty families, who cultivate and own farms which were originally a part of the Washington property, ranging in size from 25 to 300 acres, with values from fifty to five hundred dollars per acre.



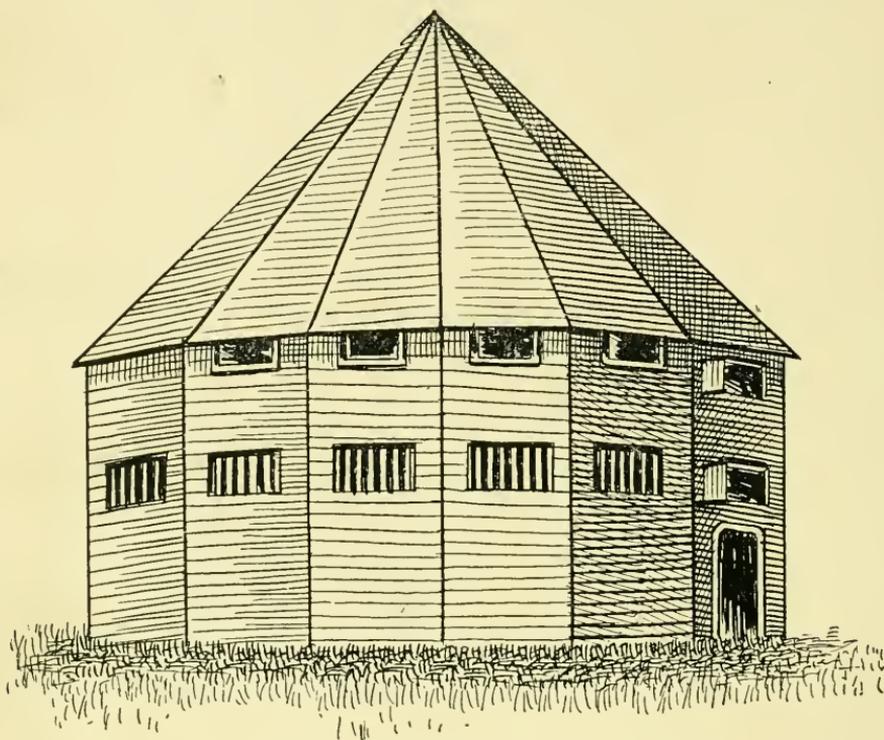


## Distinguished Fairfax Citizens

### George Washington.

Among the early settlers of Fairfax County were men who, by their energy, good sense, and strength of character, not only left a lasting impress for good on the communities in which they established their primitive homes, but men who bore a conspicuous and important part in the making of the State and Nation.

George Washington, the true patriot, the brave soldier, the wise statesman and model citizen, settled in Fairfax County in his early manhood. Mount Vernon, his home, situated in this county, on the beautiful Potomac, was inherited from his brother, Lawrence Washington, who died July 22, 1752. He was engaged for several years in the French and Indian wars; but while the harassing cares of his Indian campaigns had taken his attention from his beautiful estate, yet these cares had not wholly monopolized his thoughts. If the veil of romantic tradition, hanging over this time, could be lifted, a pleasing story of love and courtship would be revealed. The charming widow Custis had won the heart of him who was destined to become the world's greatest hero. On the 17th day of January, 1759, at St. Peter's Church, near the bride's home in New Kent County, Virginia, amid a joyous throng of relatives and friends, Martha Custis, formerly Martha Dandrigde, the charming belle of the vice-regal court of Williamsburg, became the bride of George Washington. At this home (the "White House") the honeymoon was spent, and it was not until the budding of the trees on the Fairfax plantation, announced the approach of spring, that they took up their residence in the Mount Vernon home, of which Washington, in a letter to a friend, stated: "No estate in America is more pleasantly situated." This home was no strange place to him. When his brother Lawrence came up from the lower Potomac to Mount Vernon, George came with him, and here he remained until Lord Fairfax needed his services in establishing, with compass and chain, the metes and bounds of his extensive possessions in the Shenandoah Valley. With angling rod and gun he had roamed, time and again, over the vast domain of his brother, until there was hardly a spot that had not known his presence. Soon after the return of Washington with his bride to Mount Vernon, he wrote to a friend: "I am now, I believe, fixed in this seat, with an agreeable partner for life, and I hope to find more happiness in retirement than I ever experienced in the wide, bustling world."



**Washington's Sixteen-Sided Barn.**

With this sentiment dominant in his mind, Washington set to work, making many improvements and additions to the former residence of his brother. He built commodious barns and outhouses; added by purchase many acres to his already large estate, and engaged in agriculture in the most careful, systematic and extensive manner. As a farmer Washington was not satisfied to follow the methods prevailing among his neighbors and friends; but at an early period in his farming operations, he put into use new and better methods of farm practice. He early adopted a valuable and methodical system of crop rotation. He planted orchards of the best fruit then known; employed the newest and best farm implements, the best seed, and most improved stock then obtainable.

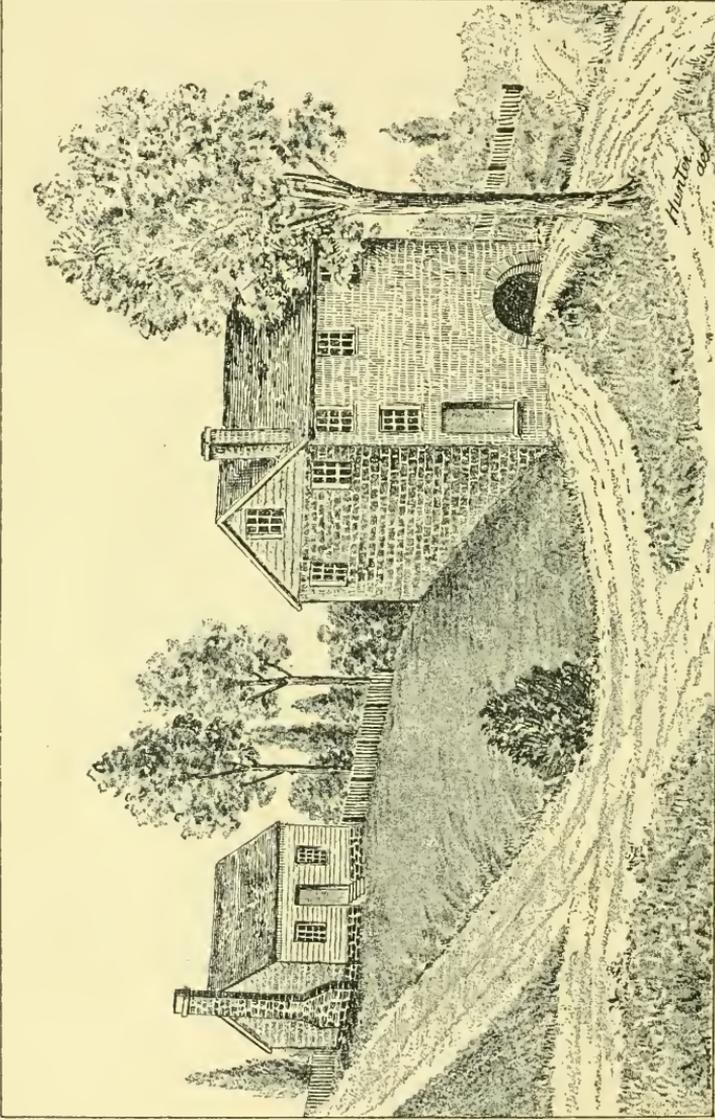
Washington had an inventive, as well as a systematic, turn of mind, and hence was always devising some new and better method for performing the varied work on his large estate. The old and unwieldy implements, such as ploughs, harrows, hoes and axes, then in use, were greatly improved by him.

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His sixteen-sided barn of brick and wood, sixty feet in diameter, and two stories high, was the wonder of Washington's day. The treading-out floor, ten feet wide, was in the second story, running all around center mows, and approached by an inclined plane. This floor was constructed with open slats, so that the grain, without the straw, might fall through the floor below. Later he had constructed a device, worked by horse-power, by which the heads of wheat sheaves, held on a table against rapidly revolving arms, were beaten out. This was probably the first step in the evolution, from the hoof and flail, towards the steam-power thresher of the present day. Washington, instead of trusting his farming operations to overseers, gave his personal attention to every detail of this work. He carried into the management of his rural affairs the same systematic method, untiring energy and wise circumspection that distinguished him in his military life. He made a complete survey of all his lands, divided them into farms of convenient and suitable size, and supervised and regulated the cultivation of them all. The products of his estate became so noted for faithfulness in quality and quantity, that any shipments, bearing the name of "George Washington, Mount Vernon," were exempted from the customary inspection in the ports to which they were sent. With such system and exact method was all his work planned and executed, that ample time for relaxation from his arduous duties was found. Washington ardently loved the chase. Mounted on his favorite horse, with horn and hound, along with his guests and neighbors, when in season, he would spend one or two days in each week in the fox chase. Duck shooting, in which he was celebrated for his skill, was also a favorite sport. In his canoes, in the early morning, he would repair to his duck blind, and would there spend hours in the delightful sport. These days of sport often ended with a hunting dinner in the mansion. There, around the festal board, with friends and neighbors, Washington is said to have enjoyed himself with unwonted hilarity. In this round of rural work, rural amusements, and social intercourse, Washington spent many happy and tranquil years. His already wide reputation brought many visitors to Mount Vernon. These were always received with cordial hospitality. While his domestic concerns at this time were many and varied, yet he never permitted them to interfere with his public duties. Whether as Judge of the County Court, Representative of the county in the House of Burgesses, or Member of the Continental Congress, he performed all his duties with scrupulous exactness.

While a member of the second Continental Congress, the storm of the Revolution, long pending, burst over the Colonies, and Washington was unanimously chosen by that body Commander-in-Chief of the Continental army. This he accepted, and on the 21st day of June, 1775, set out for Boston to enter upon the discharge of this arduous duty. John Adams wrote at this time: "There is something charming to me in the conduct of Washington. A gentleman of one of the first fortunes on the continent, leaving



Washington's Old Mill

## F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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his delicious retirement, his family and friends, sacrificing his ease, and hazarding all in the cause of his country. His views are noble and disinterested." The honors with which Washington was received everywhere, while en route to Boston, only served to show him how much was expected of him, and when he looked around upon the raw and undisciplined "levies" he was to command, "A mixed multitude of people without order or government," scattered about in rough encampments, besieging a city garrisoned by an army of veteran troops, with ships of war lying in its harbor, he felt the awful responsibility of his situation, and the complicated and stupendous task before him, and wrote: "The cause of my country has called me to active and dangerous duty, but I trust that Divine Providence will enable me to discharge it with fidelity and success." With what unswerving and untiring fidelity, and with what complete and splendid ultimate success—despite disaster, mutiny, faithlessness, and treachery in those most trusted; privations without parallel, difficulties such as a leader never before encountered, bitter rivalries and the opposition of Congress—Washington, never faltering, discharged his trust during the long, weary years that followed, needs no repetition here. These are the best-known pages in the whole world's history.

On an April day in 1789, a wearied messenger arrived in haste at the gates of Mount Vernon. He had come from the city of New York, partly in stage coaches and partly on horseback. This messenger was the venerable Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Under a commission from the first Congress under the new Federal Constitution, he had come to announce to General Washington, in his Fairfax home, that he had been unanimously chosen President of the United States. The presence of the distinguished chief was urgently desired at the seat of government. He immediately set about making arrangements preparatory to his departure. In this connection history records this beautiful incident:

After a hasty tour of inspection over his large estate to view the conditions on his various plantations, note their prospects for crops, and give all needed directions to his foremen, Washington's thoughts turned to his aged mother in her home in Fredericksburg, fifty miles away. In the hour of success he did not forget the mother who had ever been to him the kind and affectionate counsellor and abiding friend. Although it had been but a short time since he had looked upon her furrowed face and received her maternal blessing, he felt, under the circumstances, that he must now again behold her. She was old and infirm, and this might be the last opportunity he would have of seeing her among the living. So, when the lengthening shadows of the evening were fast disappearing, Washington mounted his flectest horse, and accompanied by his faithful servant, started on his mission. Passing the borders of his own pleasant domain and entering upon the "Old King's Highway," the road over which fifty-odd years before, as a boy of four or five

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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Barn on the  
Gen. Dunn  
Farm.

years, in company with father, mother, sister and brother, he had traveled from his lowly Westmoreland home to the home the father was then projecting at Mount Vernon; and over which, thirty years before, as a young man of twenty-eight, he had ridden in his coach-and-four with his lovely bride. Through the chill and lonely hours of the night did our Washington, with the one great and controlling purpose in view, ride on and on to his destination. Sometimes through plantation clearing or straggling hamlet, and sometimes through stretches of woodland. On and on he pursues his solitary way. He leaves behind him the highlands of romantic Occoquan, and the roaring of its cascades dies away in the distance. He, by ford and ferry, crosses the waters of the Neabsco, Quantico, Choppowamsic, Aquia, and Potomac Creeks, and enter the sandy lowlands of Stafford. As he sped fast through the watches of the night, with no token or sound of life to relieve the stillness, save here and there the glimmering light in the lonely farm house or negro cabin, or the baying of watch-dog, or croaking of frog in the wayside fen, how profound and varied must have been the thoughts that surged through the mind of the great man! For thirty years he had been prominently connected with the history of the Colonies, had been for a number of years a member of the Virginia Assembly, had been a member of the Continental Congress, was, according to English authority, the first man of the colonies to step forth as the public patron of sedition and revolt and



**The Gen. Lawton House, Falls Church.**

subscribe fifty pounds towards the commencement of hostilities, had been Commander-in-Chief of the victorious American armies in the Revolution, and was now to be the first President of the United States.

Before the early dawn, Washington had finished his journey, and damp with the airs of night, was standing at the gate of the maternal home on the borders of the Rappahannock. The notable and touching interview between the honored chief and his aged mother, as given by Washington's adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, comes down to us as a striking example of filial love and obedience:

"The President had come all unheralded and unannounced. After the first moment of greeting, he said: 'Mother, the people of our Republic have been pleased with the most flattering unanimity to elect me their chief magistrate, but before I can assume the functions of the office, I have come hastily to bid you an affectionate farewell, and to ask your maternal blessing. So soon as the weight of public business, which must necessarily attend the beginnings of a new government, can be disposed of, I shall hasten back to Virginia'—and here the aged mother interrupted him—'And then you will not see me. My great age and the disease which is fast hastening my dissolution warn me that I shall not remain long in this world; and I trust in God that I may be better prepared for another. But go, George, and fulfill the destiny which heaven

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

appears to have intended for you. Go, my son, and may God's and a mother's blessing be with you to the end!" The President was deeply moved. His head rested fondly on the shoulder of his parent, whose aged arm, feebly but affectionately, encircled his neck. Then the brow on which fame had wreathed the fairest laurels ever accorded to man, relaxed from its lofty bearing. That look which could have overawed a Roman Senate, was bent in filial tenderness upon the time-worn features of the faltering matron. He wept!—a thousand recollections crowded upon his mind as memory, retracing scenes long past, carried him back to the lowly homestead of his youth in Westmoreland, where he beheld that mother whose care, education and discipline had enabled him to reach to the topmost height of laudable ambition. Yet how were his glories forgotten in a moment, his exploits and victories, while he gazed upon her from whom he was so soon to part to meet no more."

George Washington, whether as a private citizen, mingling with his neighbors and friends in a social or business way, is one of the very few men worthy of a place in history, who have successfully and triumphantly withstood the test and scrutiny of the world's adverse criticism. He stands out

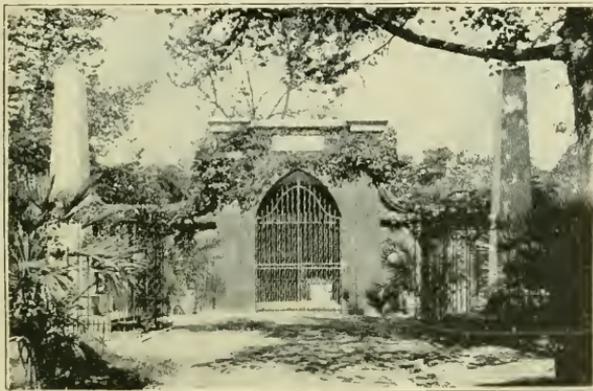


**The Old Falls Church.**  
From photograph made in 1862.

# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

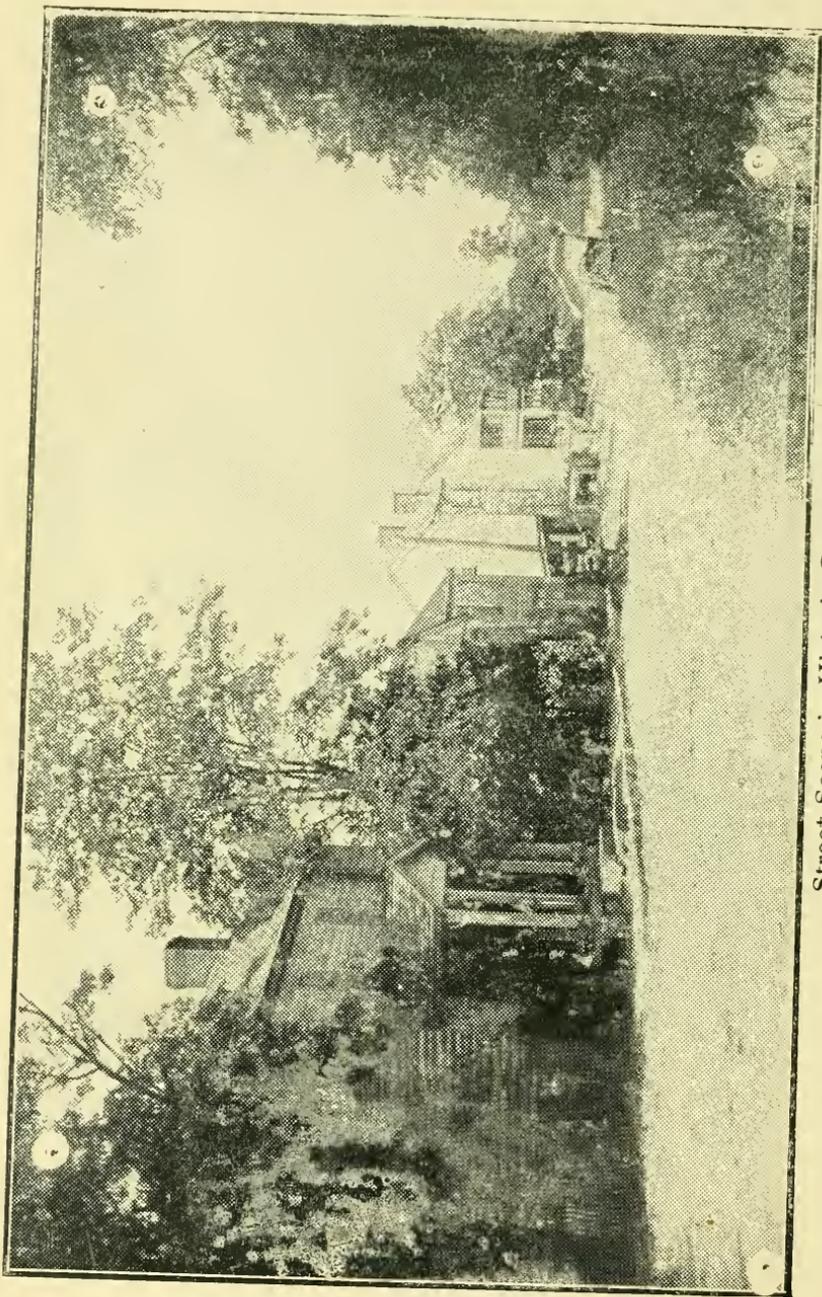
on the shifting scenes of the world's annals as a grandly imposing and unique personage, meriting and commanding as well, the veneration of every thoughtful observer, no matter of what country or nationality. Not only the citizens of the country which Washington loved and defended, but good citizens everywhere, love to contemplate him as a personage divinely ordained and appointed to open up the way for civil and religious liberty everywhere among the oppressed of every land.

On December 14, 1799, there came to Mount Vernon, a bleak, forbidding winter day. Washington was engaged in superintending some improvements on his estate which required his presence until late in the evening. On returning to the mansion he complained of a cold and sore throat, having been wet through during the day by mists and chilling rain. He passed the night with feverish excitement, and his ailment increased in intensity during the next day and until midnight, when, surrounded by the sorrowing household and the medical attendant, he passed gently and serenely from the scenes of earth to the realities of the great unknown. His faculties were strong and unimpaired to the last, and he was conscious from the beginning of his malady, that his end was near, and he waited for the issue with great composure and self-possession. "I am going," he observed to those about him, "But I have no fears." His mission had been well accomplished. His great life-work, whose influence will reach to the remotest periods of time, had been nobly finished.

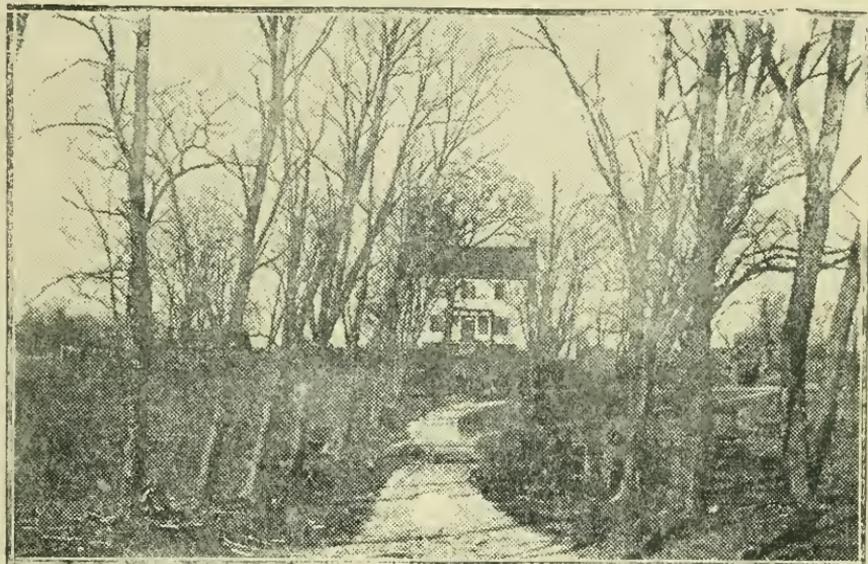


Washington's Tomb,  
Mount Vernon.

"How sleep the brave who  
sink to rest  
With all their country's  
honors blest."



Street Scene in Historic Centerville.



Gen. Pope's Headquarters at Centerville.

#### George Mason.

George Mason, fifth in line from George Mason who fled from the English realm to the province of Virginia after the battle of Worcester, which sealed the fate of Charles I, was born in Fairfax County in 1725, seven years before Washington. He was one of the best and purest men of his time, and possessed the confidence and esteem of those younger civilians—Jefferson, Madison and Monroe—whose opinions he did much to mould and shape along lines which led to American Independence. He was a neighbor of Washington and the Fairfaxes, and was on most intimate terms with them. While Washington and Mason were in full accord as to the necessity for resisting the encroachments of the mother country upon the rights of the Colonies, yet they disagreed on many other questions of a political nature. Washington was a Federalist of the Hamiltonian school, while Mason warmly espoused the tenets of Jefferson and Henry, and took a leading part in advocacy of a truly Democratic form of government.

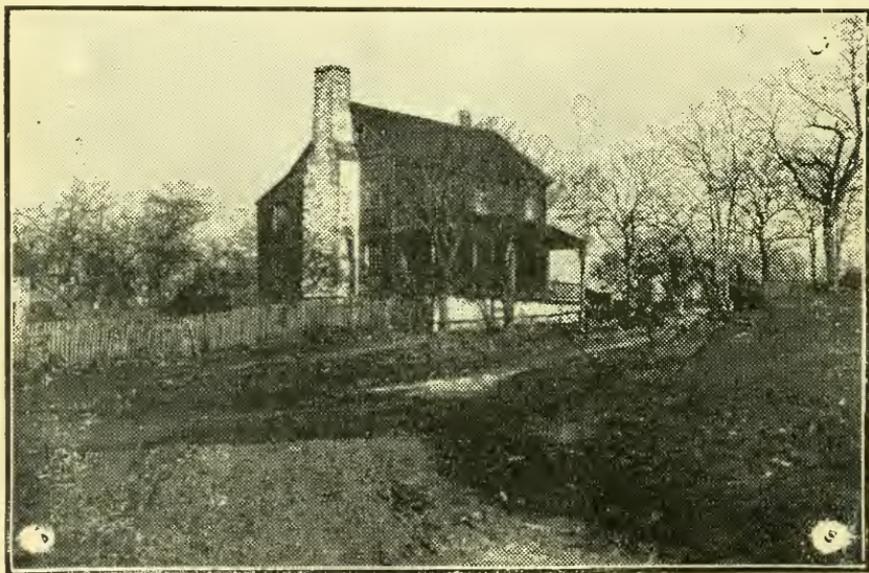
In 1769 George Mason drafted the "Articles of Association" against importing British goods, which the Burgesses signed in a body on the dissolution of the House by Lord Botetout; and in 1774 he drew up the celebrated Fairfax County Resolutions, setting out the attitude to be assumed by Virginia.

In 1776 Mason was elected to represent his county in the convention of

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that year, and prepared and had passed the celebrated "Virginia Bill of Rights." Thomas Jefferson, then in Philadelphia, had prepared "A Preamble and Sketch," to be offered in the Convention, but Mason's paper had been reported, and the final vote was about to be taken when Jefferson arrived. Mason's Bill was adopted, and Jefferson's Preamble was attached to the Virginia Constitution.

George Mason was afterwards a member of the General Assembly from Fairfax County, and warmly supported Jefferson in all his great reform legislative measures. His support of the laws cutting off "Entails," abolishing "Primogeniture" and the "Church Establishments," when by birth and education he belonged to the dominant class and the Church of England, showed clearly the disinterested public spirit of the man. Mason also advocated, in 1778, the bill forbidding the further importation of African slaves. In the Virginia Convention he said, on the subject of slavery: "Slavery discourages arts and manufactures. The poor despise labor when it is performed by slaves. They prevent the migration of whites who really enrich and strengthen a country. They produce the most pernicious effect upon manners. Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of heaven on a country. As nations can not be rewarded nor punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities. I regret that some of our Eastern brethren have, from a love of gain, em-



Old Tavern and War-Time Hospital at Centerville.

barked in this nefarious traffic. I hold it essential in every point of view that the general government should have the power to prevent the increase of slavery."

Mason, like Washington, was neither a bigot, zealot, nor sectarian in religion. His creed appeared in his life, rather than in his professions. Some idea of his views on religious toleration may be gotten from the last article of his celebrated Bill of Rights: "Religion, or the duty we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction—not by force nor violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the exercise of religion according to the dictates of conscience, and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and charity towards each other."

George Mason, with all his force of intellect; with his correct judgment of the purposes and actions of men, and with his eminent fitness for any position of public trust and confidence, was remarkably modest and unassuming. He was domestic in his attachments and inclinations, and cared more for the enjoyments of his home life than the envied circumstances, often vexatious and forbidding, which surround the politician and the legislator. By his own fireside, in the midst of his family circle, in his own manorial halls, was the place of all others most dear to him. He was elected to the United States Senate from Virginia, but declined to serve on account of pressing home duties. But, withal, he was no recluse. He went often out from his fireside and circle, and mingled freely with his friends and neighbors at church, at elections, at barbecues, and other social occasions, and he loved to have them come and share, under the roof of "Gunston Hall," his large and cordial hospitality. His library, for the time in which he lived, was a varied and extensive one, and in it he found perpetual delight. He was not a learned man, according to the common acceptation of the term, but his knowledge of the world, in so far as he had prosecuted his investigations as a student, was very correct and practical. He was not an orator, and never indulged in lofty flights of language to carry conviction, but he was endowed with a large store of common sense, which he put forcibly into all the phrases of his public addresses and documents. He had a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of his country and county, and co-operated most earnestly in everything which would be likely to promote their progress and welfare. (He was one of the founders of the towns of Alexandria and Colchester, the first stones of which he saw laid in the primitive wilderness.)

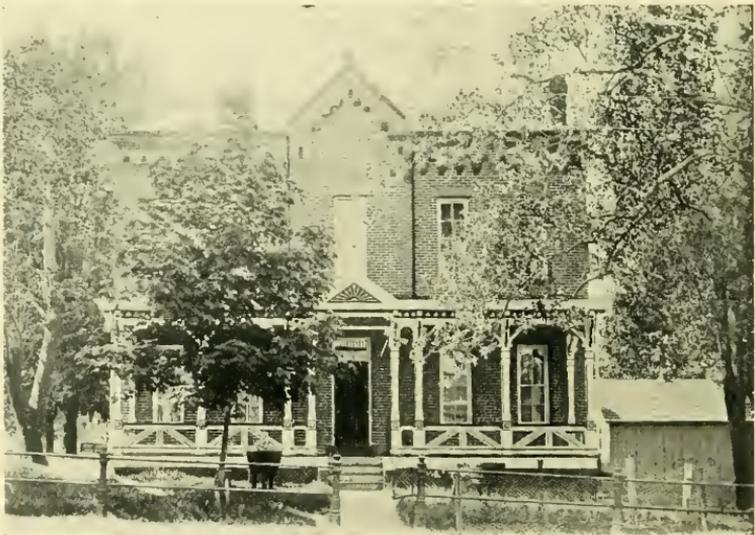
The letters of George Mason to his children were replete with good advice and parental solicitude. One sentence will serve as a sample of them all. To his son John, a merchant in Bordeaux, France, to whom he consigned large cargoes of his plantation products, he wrote: "Diligence, frugality and integrity will infallibly insure your business, and your fortune; and if you content yourself with moderate things at first, you will rise, perhaps by slow

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degrees, but upon a solid foundation." In his last will and testament Mason charged his sons: "I recommend to you, from my own experience in life, to prefer the happiness of independence and a private station, to the struggles and vexations of public business; but if either your own inclinations, or the necessities of the times, should engage you in public affairs, I charge you, on a father's blessing, never to let the motives of private interest, nor ambition, induce you to betray, nor terrors of poverty or disgrace, nor fear of danger or of death, deter you from asserting the liberty of your country; and always endeavor to transmit to your posterity those sacred rights to which you were born."

George Mason is said to have been rather above medium height, with a full form and courtly figure. He is represented in the group surrounding the Washington statue in the Capitol Square in Richmond, and his portrait hangs in the courthouse of Fairfax County. He left five sons and four daughters. His fourth son, John Mason, was the father of James Murray Mason, who was United States Senator from Virginia from 1847 to 1861. During the Civil War he was made Confederate Commissioner to England, and his arrest, with Mr. Slidell, on the British steamer *Trent*, by the Federal authorities, came very near bringing about a war between this country and Great Britain. The eldest daughter of Senator Mason married General Samuel Cooper, who was Adjutant-General of the Confederate States Army; and another daughter married Sidney Smith Lee, a brother of General Robert E. Lee. This daughter was the mother of General Fitzhugh Lee.

Fairfax  
County  
Jail.



George Mason died in 1792, seven years before Washington, and was buried in the family burying ground on the Gunston plantation. A simple shaft marks his last resting place, and bears this inscription: "George Mason, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and the first Constitution of Virginia—1725-1792."

### General Daniel Morgan.

It is not generally known that the "hero of five wars," the "wagon boy of the Ocoquan," General Daniel Morgan, spent a good part of his youth in Fairfax County. When Dinwiddie, Braddock, and Commodore Keppel, with their gaudy retinues, passed through the town of Colchester, this hero, not yet twenty years of age, was filling the humble roll of teamster in the employ of John Ballantine, hauling iron ore to his furnace for a shilling a day. His adventurous spirit caught the military enthusiasm of the times. He left ore and furnace and turned his horses' heads up the "King's Highway," in the direction of Alexandria, where all was activity and busy preparation for the disastrous expedition over the mountains. Henceforth, for many years, his hitherto prosaic life was to be one of strange adventures, more like the marvels of romance than the actual realities of history. In the inevitable course of his destiny, he was to be a most conspicuous actor and directing spirit in the momentous events and circumstances which called into being and shaped the grand conditions of our American republic.

But space will not permit further notice here in detail of the varying fortunes of the gallant Morgan. The story of his meteor-like course through the stirring events of the Colonial days fills many of the brightest pages of our national history. His career from the day he threw off his last load of iron ore at the Colchester iron furnace on the banks of the Ocoquan, in Fairfax County, to the time when, forty years after a Major-General, with a military renown world-wide, he sat, a worthy and dignified representative from the State of Virginia in the Congress of the Republic, he had been so eminently instrumental in establishing, is one which, to his posterity, has more of the glamor of marvelous romance than the (certainty of historic fact.) The waters of the Ocoquan still hurry on in their journey to the sea as they did when Braddock and Dinwiddie and Keppel crossed that April morning more than a hundred and fifty years ago. As then, the birds still carol their spring-time and summer lays; as then, the skies still bend lovingly, and boughs and fields are green with nature's life, but Colchester, with its busy streets, its warehouses, its landing, and coming and going ships, has disappeared, save only here and there a lonely house, standing ghost-like in the solitude. These, with the remnants of the "old furnace and forge" of Ballantine, and the grass-grown heaps of ore and slag, and the almost obliterated wagon roads of the olden time, are all eloquent and impressive reminders of our gallant Morgan.

**General William Henry Fitzhugh Lee.**

General W. H. F. Lee, known in war times as "Rooney" Lee, was born at Arlington, May 31, 1837. While completing his education at Harvard, on the special request of General Winfield Scott, he was appointed a lieutenant in the regular army, and inaugurated his military career by taking a detachment of troops by sea and land to San Antonio, Texas. In 1858, under the command of the brilliant Albert Sidney Johnston, he served in the Utah Expedition against the Mormons. Soon after this he resigned his commission in the army, returned to his native State, was married, and settled down as a farmer on his large estate on the Pamunkey River. This was the "White House," the beautiful home in which, years before, Washington had wooed and won the charming widow Custis, and which had been left General Lee by his maternal grandfather, G. W. Parke Custis.

When the conflict of 1861 broke upon our fair land, and Virginia called upon her sons to defend her soil, sharing the faith of his distinguished father, General Lee quickly raised a company of cavalry, and joined the Army of Northern Virginia, in which he served in every grade from captain to major-general.

As colonel, he led his regiment in the famous raid around McClellan's army, and was an active participant in all those brilliant achievements which made notable the proficiency of the Confederate cavalry. Being severely wounded in the great cavalry fight at Brandy Station in 1863, and while recovering from his wounds at the home of General Wickham, in Hanover County, General Lee was taken prisoner, and for a part of the time while thus held, was under sentence of death, as hostage for a Federal officer held under like sentence in Libby Prison.

Being exchanged in 1864, he returned to his home; and while he found his young wife and children dead, his beautiful home burned to the ground, and his whole estate laid waste by the ruthless hand of war, yet his first act was to visit Libby Prison to shake the hand and congratulate the Federal officer for whom he had been held as hostage. Immediately joining his command, General Lee led his division in every engagement from the Rapidan to Appomattox where, with his father, the greatest soldier of modern times, he surrendered to the inevitable.

A few years after the Civil War he removed to Fairfax County. He served in the State Senate and was thrice elected to the Congress of the United States. General Lee, almost in the prime of life, died October 15, 1891, and was buried at his beautiful home, "Ravensworth," where the stately oaks—

"Still a ceaseless vigil holy  
Keep above his dust."

**General W. W. Mackall.**

General W. W. Mackall, the distinguished soldier and citizen, was a resident of Fairfax County for a number of years. He was a graduate of West Point, and with a commission as Captain, served with distinction in the regular army from 1837 to the outbreak of the Civil War, when he resigned his commission and cast his fortunes with the Confederate cause. In quick succession, by brave and meritorious conduct, he rose through all the grades to that of Brigadier-General. General Mackall was held in high esteem by all the leading military men of the Southern Confederacy. Few men made greater sacrifices or served the Lost Cause more valiantly and faithfully than General Mackall. Returning to his beautiful home near Langley to reside after the Civil War, he soon won for himself the love and esteem of a large circle of friends and admirers. He died August 12, 1891, and was buried at Lewinsville.

**General Fitzhugh Lee.**

It seems appropriate to pause here to make some reference to General Fitzhugh Lee, one of the later distinguished men of Fairfax. He was born at "Claermont," in Fairfax County, November 9, 1835. He was the son, as stated in a previous sketch, of Commodore Sidney Smith Lee, and grandson of "Light Horse" Harry Lee, of Revolutionary fame. He entered the West Point Military Academy at the age of sixteen, and graduated in July, 1856. His career from that time until his death was a distinguished and active one. His first military service was as Second Lieutenant in the famous old Second Cavalry, which furnished so many officers who became distinguished in the Civil War. He had many thrilling experiences on the plains in our country's wars with the Indians. Resigning his commission in the United States Army at the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined his fortunes with those of his State and the South, serving until after the first battle of Manassas on General Ewell's staff; then as Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Virginia Cavalry; and then in turn as Colonel, Brigadier-General, and Major-General. After General Wade Hampton was sent to join General Joseph E. Johnston's army in the South, Fitz Lee commanded all the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia until the surrender at Appomattox. His career was a particularly brilliant one, and he became one of the recognized heroes of the Civil War.

In 1881, while living in Fairfax County, General Lee was elected Governor of Virginia, and after a brilliant administration of four years (the Constitutional limit), he again retired to private life. Some years later he was appointed by President Cleveland Collector of Customs at Lynchburg, Va., and in the spring of 1896 was made Consul General at Havana, Cuba. He so discharged the duties of that trying position in those perilous times as to win the admiration and approval of the whole country, irrespective of party.

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When President McKinley succeeded Mr. Cleveland, he refused to accept General Lee's resignation, and, after the outbreak of the war with Spain, appointed him Major-General of Volunteers, and gave him command of the Seventh Army Corps. He was honorably discharged April 12, 1899, and breveted Brigadier-General of the regular army, and in February, 1900, he was appointed in the permanent establishment, commanding the Department of the Missouri. On March 2, 1901, he was placed on the retired list. He died April 28, 1905, and was buried in beautiful "Hollywood," at Richmond, Va.





## Old Homesteads

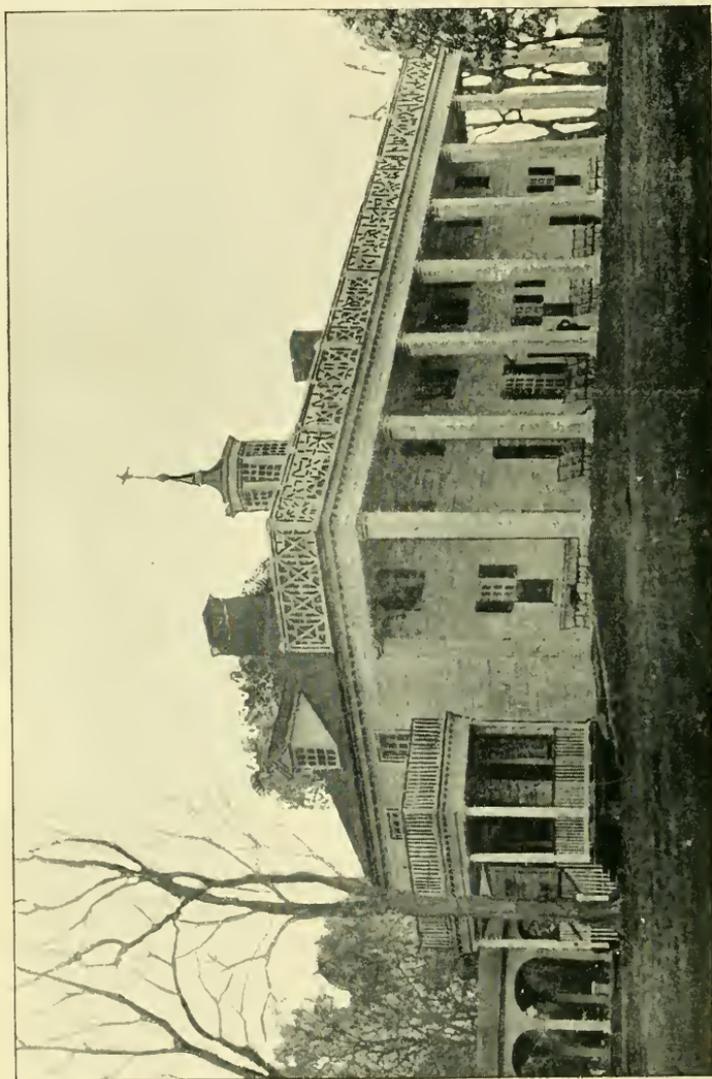
"Are they not hallowed to us,  
By mother's songs of long gone years,  
And baby's joys and childish fears,  
And youthful hopes and joyful tears?"

It is to be sincerely regretted that some one had not a century ago collected and recorded all the facts connected with the Colonial homesteads of Fairfax County. There were many persons then living in the respective neighborhoods, who could have given quite accurate and full accounts of the employments, social diversions and enjoyments which filled up the measure of the lives of those who first built and occupied these homes. Everything now is but the "Scattered remnant of a vague tradition."

The prominent homesteads associated with the Colonial history of Fairfax County were nearly all built in the decade between 1730 and 1740. These were Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn, Belvoir, Lexington, Newington, Hollin Hall, Towlston Hall, Mount Eagle, Cedar Grove, Vacluse, Clermont, Abbingdon, and Clifton. For the most part these buildings were constructed of brick and stone, with thick walls and great outside chimneys. The style of architecture in all of them was much the same. The rooms were large and rambling, the ceilings high, and wainscoted walls of oak or walnut finish, were common. The roofs were steep, and the roomy attics which they enclosed, were lighted by dormer windows. A spacious veranda was a prominent feature of each. Belvoir, Hollin Hall, Towlston Hall, Vacluse, Clermont, Lexington, Newington, the old parsonage of Truro parish, and others, are no more. Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall and Woodlawn are the prominent old homesteads left to serve as links in the chain that binds the past to the present. These are well preserved, and are objects of great interest to the intelligent and thoughtful visitor.

### Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon is the most noted homestead on the Western Continent. Thousands of visitors annually come here to view the home and tomb of the first President of the United States. No home in the wide world has a more beautiful situation. The peaceful and quiet landscape surrounding it fills the mind of the visitor with inexpressible delight.



Mt. Vernon.

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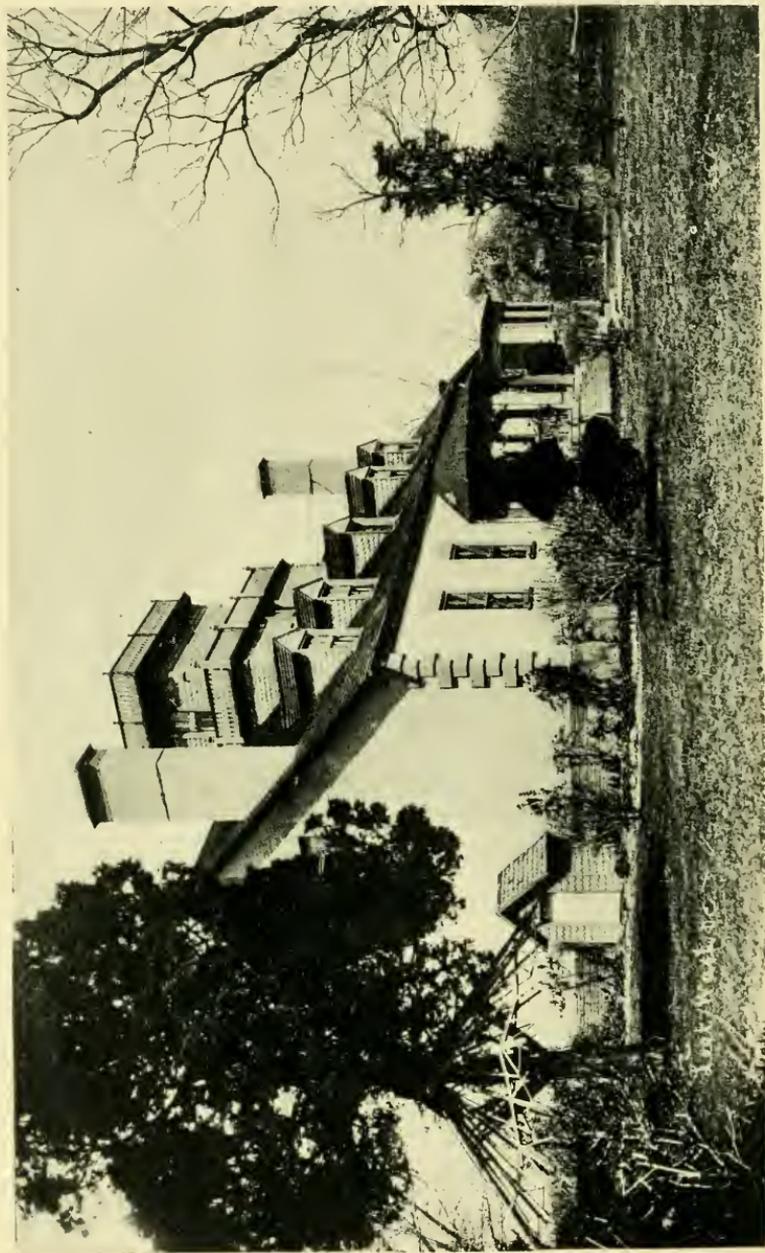
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In 1856 the Legislature of Virginia granted a charter of incorporation to the "Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union," and in the same year this Association purchased from John Augustine Washington, for \$200,000, the Mount Vernon mansion and 200 acres of land adjoining. The object of the purchase being the complete restoration of the "mansion and grounds," this work was immediately begun, and has since been prosecuted with great vigor and success. Every part of the grounds and the whole interior of the Mansion have received such careful and intelligent attention that the patriotic as well as the curious visitor, is filled with delight at what he sees. The numerous rooms of the Mansion, known as the River Room, the West Parlor, the Music Room, the Banquet Hall, Mrs. Washington's Room, Nellie Custis' Room, Washington's Room, and Lafayette's Room, are each tastefully furnished in antique style and fashion. After the death of Washington his articles of furniture became widely scattered, but by purchase and donation, from time to time, they have been restored to their original places in the Mansion. All the furniture of the Library at the present time is the original.

Let every American, especially every young American, visit this sacred spot. It will make an impression for good which will go with him through life. It will teach him the story and lesson of the past, as no printed page can. It will enlarge his patriotism, elevate his notions of public service, and will call out some sense of veneration and loyalty towards the institutions of his country, and the memory of her mighty dead; so that young America may bring back to our land those civic elements that dignified the first eight years of our constitutional life.

### Gunston Hall.

Next to Mount Vernon, "Gunston Hall" is probably the most celebrated Colonial residence in Fairfax County. It was the home of George Mason, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, the Fairfax County Resolutions, and several amendments to the Federal Constitution. Gunston Hall is in a fine state of preservation. Not only its exterior of quaint roofs, gables, dormer windows and tall chimneys, but its interior of spacious apartments with their high ceilings, wainscotings and elaborate stairways, have all been well cared for. The most notable feature of this old mansion is its beautiful and elaborate interior finish. This was all hand-carved by special workmen brought over from England by Mr. Mason. The interior finish of the White Parlor is a wonder. The doors, windows, and recesses on either side of the square open fireplace, are all incased in broad, fluted, square pilasters with frontals after the chase Doric designs. The heavy panelled doors of this room are all finished with classic scrolls. So beautiful is this work that it is often reproduced in costly modern mansions. A Northern architect, visiting Gunston



"Gunston Hall," Home of George Mason.

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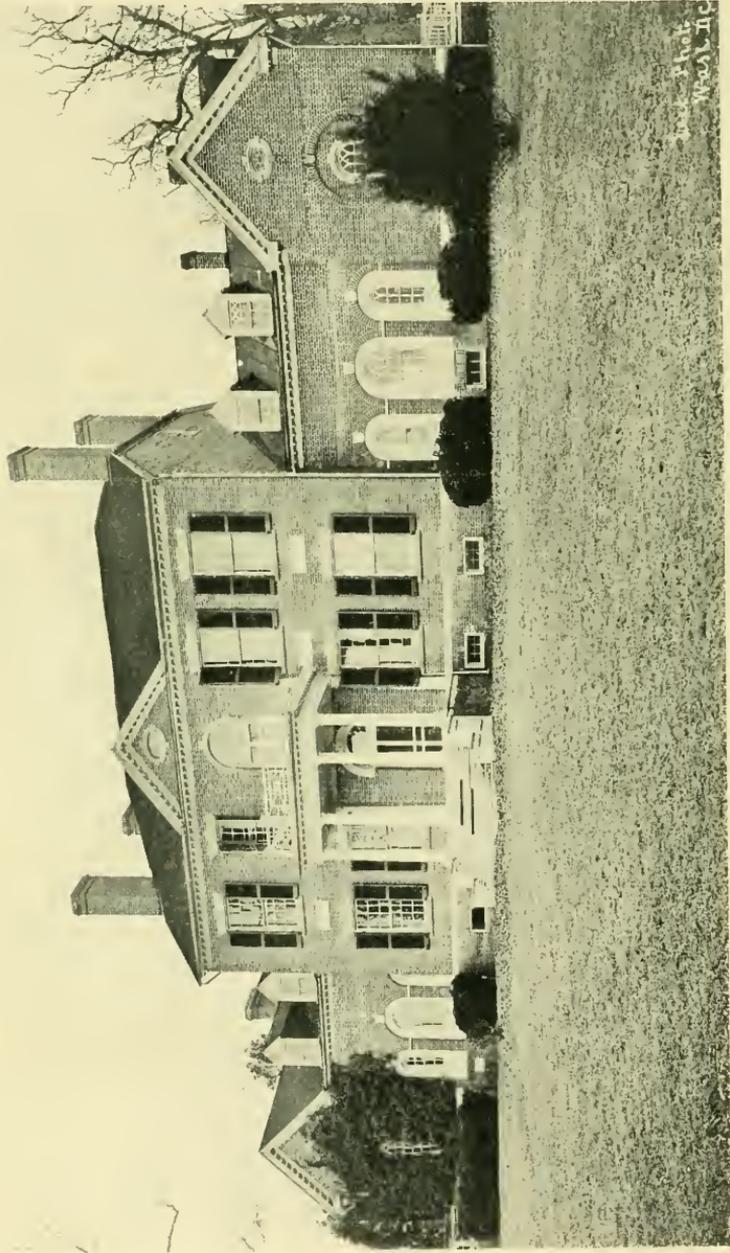
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recently, offered \$3,000 for the wood work of this room. He wished to transfer it to a Colonial mansion he was erecting near Boston.

As one passes through this stately mansion, thought irresistibly travels back to the noted guests of former times. Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Monroe, Rauldolph, Henry, and others, were all guests, at one time or another, of the distinguished owner. They sought and enjoyed, not only the large and cordial hospitality here dispensed, but the valued opinion and wise council of the great thinker, on the momentous questions then perplexing the minds of those entrusted with public affairs. No home in the thirteen original Colonies did more to foster and promote those principles of human freedom that finally triumphed in Colonial independence. Built in 1758, for thirty-four years while its owner lived, it was the source of inspiration and support to the great leaders who prominently figured in the Revolutionary period. May it withstand the ravages of time until the life-work of its builder shall be better understood and appreciated!

### Woodlawn.

Woodlawn, the stately home of the beautiful Nellie Custis, the adopted daughter of General Washington, is three miles west of Mount Vernon. Of all the old homesteads of Fairfax, this is the most pretentious. It was built on a tract of land, two thousand acres in extent, willed by Washington to his adopted daughter, after her marriage to his favorite nephew, Major Lawrence Lewis, of Culpeper County. It was named for Major Lewis' childhood home, and is a substantial brick structure, sixty by forty feet, with wide halls, spacious apartments, and ample wings, united by corridors. Here in the early part of the last century, for nearly forty years, a generous hospitality was dispensed. The beautiful lady of the house was no stranger to the distinguished people of this and other lands. At Mount Vernon and in the Capital of the Nation, she had met and formed the acquaintance of scores of these. General Lafayette, on his second visit, in 1824, to the land he loved and had helped so valiantly to make independent, came here to renew his fondly cherished acquaintance with the stately housewife whom, nearly fifty years before, he had met as a child in the home of his old commander. At all times and with all conditions of life, she was the same courteous, intelligent and agreeable lady, winning and retaining the love and esteem of all who knew her. Major Lawrence Lewis died November 20, 1839, and on a bright summer day in July, 1852, Nelly Custis, his wife, full of years and honors, followed him to the burial vault at Mount Vernon. In the beautiful parlor of the Mount Vernon mansion where, more than fifty years before, crowned with bridal wreathes "The fairest lady of the land," she had been given in marriage by her distinguished foster-father, and had received the congratulations of distinguished guests from every quarter, she lay in state to receive the last tributes of respect from sorrowing friends in the nearby



“Woodlawn,” Home of Nellie Custis.



"Solona," residence of Mrs. W. S. Smoot, which sheltered "Dollie" Madison when the British captured Washington.

cities, and the surrounding neighborhood. Down in the family burial place, close by the waters of the river she loved so well, and on whose pleasant banks she had spent so many happy days in childhood and youth, near the last resting place of her kind and loving guardians, the widely loved mistress of the Woodlawn of years ago, sleeps her last sleep. A marble monument marks her last resting place, and on it we read: "Sacred to the memory of Eleanor Park Custis, granddaughter of Mrs. Washington, and adopted daughter of General Washington. Reared under the roof of the Father of His Country, this lady was not more remarkable for the beauty of her person than for the superiority of her mind. She lived to be admired, and died to be regretted, July 15, 1852, in the seventy-fourth year of her age."

#### Solona.

Six miles from Washington, near the village of Langley, stands the old "Parson Maffit" homestead, built in 1801. It was this old mansion which, in 1814, sheltered Dolly Madison, wife of President Madison, in her flight from Washington. On the approach of the British to the Capital, Mrs. Madison, cutting Stuart's famous portrait of Washington in such haste from the frame as to leave the signature of the artist to the remnant, and taking the original copy of the Declaration of Independence, and other important state papers with her, in company with a servant, fled across the Potomac into Fairfax County. After being refused lodging at a number of places, finally the doors

of Solona were thrown open to her, and she was made a welcome guest. Here later she was joined by the President and a number of his Cabinet, where, late in the evening on August 24, 1814, they witnessed, from a nearby hill, the burning of Washington by the British. This is now the home of the Smoot family.

#### Other Old Homes.

There are many notable private residences in the immediate vicinity of the Seminary, all of them connected with the tragic history of the Civil War. "Malvern," the old home of Bishop Johns, and now the property of Mr. Edward C. Dangerfield, was General Phil Kearny's headquarters during that time. "Menokin," the home of the Cassius Lees, and still in the possession of that family, was the headquarters of General McDowell, whose horses were stabled in its spacious parlors. "Meekcross," the home of Col. Arthur Herbert, was rebuilt after the war, its cellars being a Federal magazine which Col. Herbert found fourteen feet deep and cement-lined, on his return after the war. The noble view of the broad Potomac and the intervening hills, seen through the trees which Mrs. Herbert planted after the war with her own fair hands in place of those cut down by the Federal troops, lend a unique loveliness to the place, and rabbit and robbin are now in possession of the yawning trenches and forts made by a hostile soldiery, and honey-suckle and wild rose riot over the crumbling breastworks. Adjoining Col. Herbert's property is "Vauxcluse," one of the old Fairfax estates, now occupied by the noteworthy artist, Prof. E. F. Andrews, and his family. The old hospitable mansion of the Fairfaxes was torn down by the Federal troops, and not one stone was left upon another. Until four years ago, when Prof. Andrews bought the land and built, the property had been abandoned since the Civil War. It is a wild and picturesque spot, and the famous old spring, around which cluster so many romantic stories, is at the foot of a beautiful rustic stairway, a creation of the artistic mind of the present gifted Mistress of the Manor.

Near Annandale is "Ravenworth," the stately home of Mrs. "Rooney" Lee. This old mansion, surrounded by primitive forest, is one of the most attractive in Fairfax. To this beautiful home which became his by inheritance, after the close of the Civil War, in which he had borne a conspicuous part, came General W. H. F. ("Rooney") Lee, the second son of the great Confederate chieftain. Here "Rooney" Lee, with the love and esteem of all who knew him, lived and died, and in the family burying ground nearby, under the trees he loved so well, sleeps his last sleep. In addition to the stately owner and her distinguished son, spending the evening of his life in a well-earned rest, here resides General Custis Lee, another son of the great General Robert E. Lee. He, too, is loved and honored by all who know him, and may his days be many in the beautiful home in which he now sojourns.

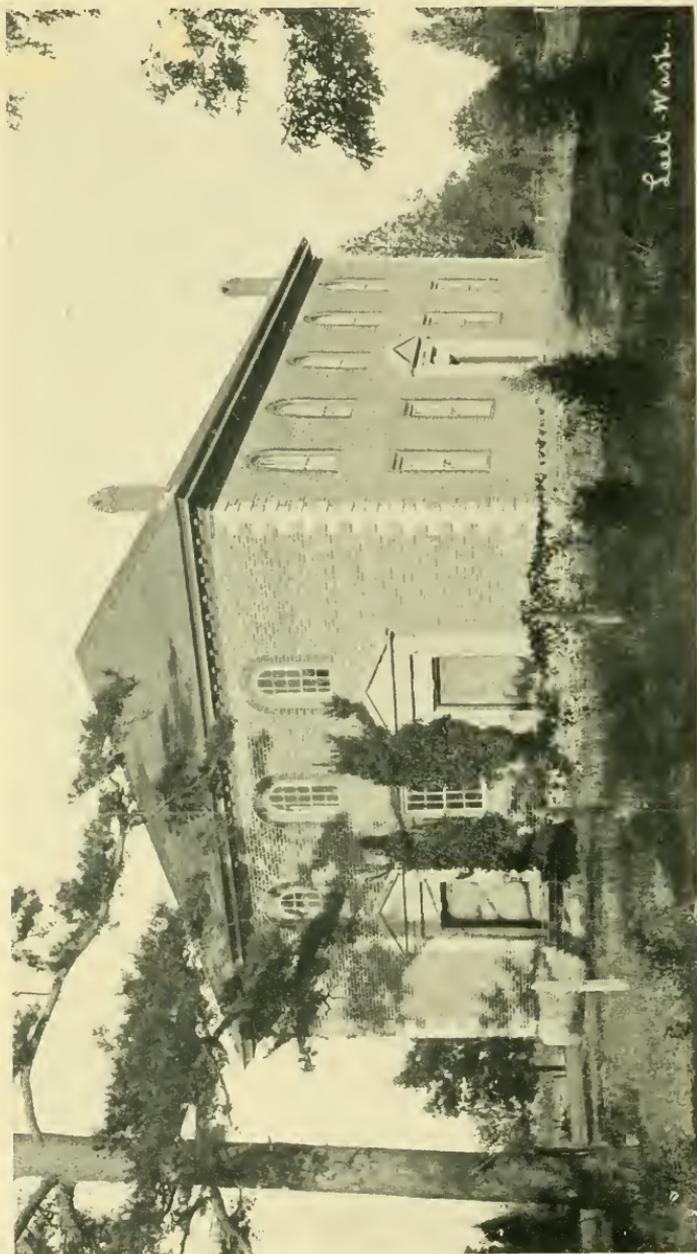
# F A I R F A X C O U N T Y.

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The writer of these sketches would be delighted to take up in detail and tell something about all the old homesteads of Fairfax County, whether they have escaped the ravages of time or not, but a lack of space forbids. Old Belvoir, the home of George William Fairfax; Mount Eagle, the home of Bryan Fairfax; Abingdon, where the beautiful Nellie Custis was born; Wellington, the home of Washington's private secretary, and many others, have clustering around them stories of thrilling interest. The noble men and women who, in the years ago, daily crossed their thresholds, were the pioneers in our civilization. They laid broad and deep the foundations of our political and social fabric, and delightful task it is to record the labors and diversions that occupied their time and made up the measure of their lives.

"O'er lapse of time and change of scene,  
And weary waste, which lies between.  
In loving way our hearts we lean,  
And keep their memories ever green."





Pohick Church, Where Gen. Washington Worshipped.



## Old Churches, Etc.

### Pohick Church.

The Parish church of Mount Vernon was the first built in 1732, one mile south of Pohick Run, from which it derives its name. This building was of wood and lasted about forty years, when a new site was selected one mile north of Pohick Run. The present building is of brick, which were burned in the nearby open. It had among its first vestrymen and building committee such men as George Washington, George Mason, George William Fairfax, Alexander Henderson, Daniel McCarty, William Triplett, Martin Cockburn, William Payne, and Thomas Withers Coffey. This church has passed through three wars. The Revolution did it no damage, the war of 1812 brought a

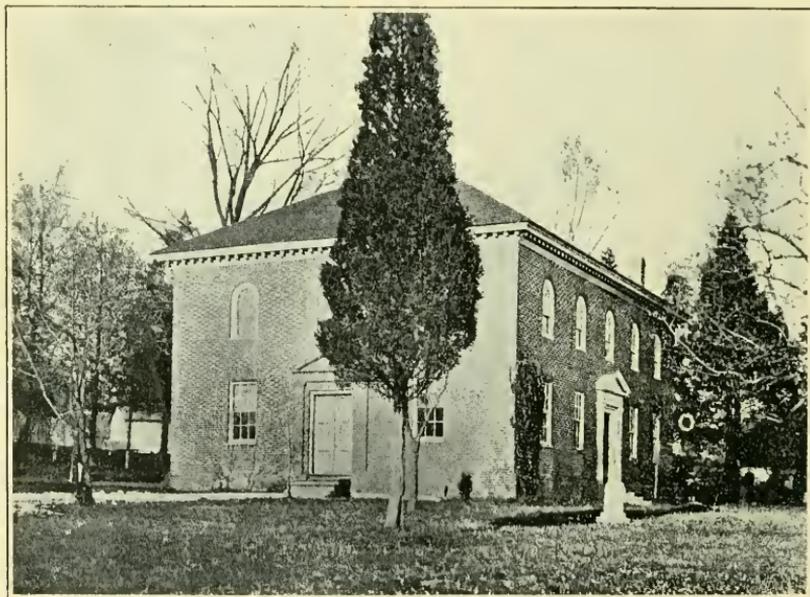


Interior of  
Pohick  
Church.

visit of British troops who took away an ornament in the shape of a gilded door which covered the top of the sounding board over the pulpit. The Civil War did it much damage, as it was used as a stable. In 1872 \$1,250 was raised, and the church was put in condition to be used. Within a few years past the ladies of Mount Vernon and the national societies, especially the Mount Vernon Chapter of the D. A. R., have raised money enough to restore Pohick Church to its former beauty, and in a few years the restoration will be complete, when the church will be an exact copy of the church in which many of the Revolutionary Fathers worshipped. It is a hallowed spot, and a precious link binding the present generation to the past.

#### Falls Church.

Falls Church, so-called after the nearest falls of the Potomac, was built in 1734, enlarged in 1750, and rebuilt, as now, in 1767. With its yard, containing magnificent old trees and ancient graves, consecrated by burial rites and tears and the tread of worshipping feet for over a century and a half, it stands as a venerable and inspiring memorial of the far-back Colonial days. Like Pohick, it has carried on its vestry rolls the names of distinguished Fairfax people: Augustine Washington, George Washington, George Mason, George William Fairfax, and others, we find there recorded. In its yard a



Falls Church.

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portion of Braddock's army encamped, and since, within its portals, have sat the soldiers of five wars. Recently large sums have been expended in the restoration of this church, and it is hoped that ere long it will be fully restored to its former condition.

### Old Highways.

Long before the prow of the frail bark that bore Captain John Smith and his companions to the Great Falls of the Potomac had ever touched the Fairfax shore, an Indian trail two hundred and thirty miles long, extending from the tidewaters of the Chesapeake to the valleys beyond the mountains, was plainly visible. Starting in the vicinity of Williamsburg, and passing through the counties of New Kent, King William, Caroline, Spottsylvania, Stafford, and Prince William, it crossed the Occoquan at Colchester into Fairfax. From Colchester it passed by the way of Accotink, Washington's Old Mill, over the fords of Little and Great Hunting Creeks into Alexandria. From Alexandria by two ways, varying from one to twelve miles apart, it passed on its course to the mountains. One of these ways passed through Fairfax County by Falls Church and Dranesville, and through Loudoun County by



The Old Star Tavern, Falls Church

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Leesburg and Clark's Gap in the Cotocton Mountains, and by Hillsboro to Key's Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was over this branch that General Sir Peter Halket's historic Forty-fourth Regiment of British regulars, a part of General Braddock's army, marched, in April, 1755, on the disastrous expedition against the French and Indians. The other way, following for the most part the present Little River turnpike, passed from Alexandria through Fairfax, one mile southwest of Fairfax Courthouse, and on through Loudoun by Aldie, near the Bull Run Mountains, to Snicker's Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. A considerable extent of this branch is also known as Braddock's road, from the fact that a part of Braddock's wagon train passed over it. It was over this road that Washington and George William Fairfax journeyed to the Shenandoah Valley to survey the lands of Lord Fairfax. In 1753, at the age of twenty-one, as a messenger from Governor Dinwiddie to the French commander, with a Colonel's commission, Washington again traversed it, and passed over it again in 1754 on his way to the battle of the Great Meadows. These ways, and the main highway from Colchester to Alexandria, together with the present Guinea road, Ox road and many others, in the olden time were all known as "Rolling Roads." This designation arose from the practice of transporting the tobacco to the various shipping points in the hogsheads in which it was packed. A wooden pin was driven into each head, to which were adjusted a pair of rude shafts, and thus in the way of a garden roller, it was drawn to its destination. The Guinea road was known as the "Rolling Road to Colchester Warehouses." Even the great thoroughfare from Alexandria to Williamsburg was known as a "Rolling Road." This was the most famous of all the roads of the thirteen original Colonies. When the first settlers set out to enlarge their domain, it was over this they came. They cleared and widened it, made its rough places smooth and its crooked places straight. The streams, then of far greater volume than now, were either bridged or ferried, and as the tide of immigration swelled, the ancient Indian trail became not only "a way," but a "Highway" for the nations. Leading from the "Upper Potomac Regions" to the Vice-Regal Court at Williamsburg, it became early known as the "King's Highway." Nowhere is a road so intimately connected with the stirring and interesting events that served as fitting preludes to the birth of a great nation. Over it, as a small boy of four or five years, in company with father and mother, brother and sister, Washington was brought from the old home in Westmoreland to the new home on the Eps-wasson. Over it, as a man of twenty-eight, twenty-four years later, in his coach-and-four, seated by the side of his newly-made bride, Washington rode from her home on the Pamunkey to his home on the Potomac. Over a part of it rode Governor Spotswood and his "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe" in their search for the "Pass" to the valleys beyond the mountains. Over it

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rode Governor Dinwiddie when en route to Alexandria to meet General Braddock and Commodore Keppel. Over it rode the first President of the United States in his last visit to his aged mother in her home in Fredericksburg. Virginia's contingent of provincials, when en route to join Admiral Vernon fighting the Spaniards at Carthagera, passed over it. This old road saw the passing of the Virginia troops to join Braddock in his expedition to the banks of the Ohio. Washington, in his march to the victorious field of Yorktown, passed over it. Virginia's representatives in her General Assembly passed over it. In short, it was truly the great highway, the great stage road, for many years of old Virginia.

### Washington's Old Mill.

Two miles from Mount Vernon, by the Old King's Highway, on the creek called by the Indians Epsewasson, stood Washington's Old Mill. This mill, together with a small dwelling, was built by Captain Augustine Washington, the father of George Washington, in 1734, and became the property of General Washington on the death of his half-brother, Lawrence, in July, 1752. From tradition we learn that the mill in its day was supplied with the best machinery then obtainable, and so excellent was the flour manufactured, that it was received, without inspection, in the foreign ports to which it was shipped.

While the "Dusty miller taking his tolls," and the "Cumbrous ox-wains with their ebony drivers," are no longer seen; and the "Grating sound of the grinding gear" of the old mill is no longer heard, yet the holy associations lingering around this sacred spot consecrate it, and make it a shrine to which patriotic hearts delight to turn.

### Washington's Tomb.

At the foot of a beautiful slope, a few hundred yards south from the mansion, is the substantial vault in which repose the remains of the Immortal Washington. The vault is constructed of brick, and when the heavy iron doors are open, through the picketed iron gate, can be seen two marble sarcophagi, the one on the right containing the remains of the General, and the one on the left those of Martha, his wife. Over the vault door, in a heavy panel of stone, are the words of Holy Writ: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Over the arch of the tomb is a white marble tablet on which is inscribed: "Within this enclosure rest the remains of General George Washington." Each of these tombs, or coffins, was cut from a solid block of Pennsylvania marble, and are perfectly plain, except on Washington's is cut in relief the American

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Shield over the flag of the United States. These remains were placed in these marble coffins and sealed from sight October 7, 1837, since which they have never been disturbed.

### Clifton Ferry.

An Act of the General Assembly of 1745 provided for the establishment of a public ferry from Clifton Neck on the original Mount Vernon estate, to the Maryland shore. Large and capacious boats, rowed by stalwart negro oarsmen, carried vehicles of every kind, as well as pedestrians, across the Potomac. By this ferry went all the travel between lower Virginia and Georgia to New York. The rates "for a man or horse were one shilling; for every coach, chariot or wagon and driver thereof, six shillings; for every cart or four-wheeled chaise and driver thereof, four shillings, and for every two-wheeled chaise or chariot, two shillings."

Not far from this ferry is the celebrated spring called by the Indians of old the "Great Fountain." Perhaps the first white man who ever drank from this spring was Captain John Smith while on his voyage of exploration to the Great Falls of the Potomac; and when he speaks in his Journal of the "Sweet waters in which this region abounds," who knows but that he had reference to the "Great Fountain." Though three hundred years have rolled their round, these refreshing waters still gush forth from Clifton Ferry Hill as they did in the far-off days of yore.

### The Fairfax County Medical Society.

While the health of the people of Fairfax County is well nigh proverbial, yet the followers of Hippocrates here, as everywhere, find profitable employment; and for their mutual improvement, the medical fraternity has the oldest continuous medical society in Virginia. It was organized in May, 1884, and has since continued to exist and increase in numbers and usefulness. Its Constitution and By-laws are liberal, and as a result, it has members from Alexandria City, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, and the District of Columbia. The Society has been of great advantage to the profession in bringing together the doctors from different sections, thus promoting friendship and broadening the professional spirit among its members. At its meetings papers on important professional subjects are read and discussed, and by this means the members are assisted in keeping abreast with modern progress in medicine and surgery. Thoughtful observers agree that in capacity, the members of the Fairfax County Medical Society measure well up with those of other like bodies anywhere found.

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## Conclusion.

To him who loves to visit places made sacred by some historical association; who delights, with reverential hand, to pluck the bud or flower from the waysides traversed by the feet of generations long since dust; who, in the lull of labor, loves to visit the old homesteads around which still lurks the inspiration for historic reverie or enduring fiction; who wishes to see the old churches in which our forefathers worshipped, and kneel at the altars at which they knelt; who wishes to traverse the roads over which the soldiers of six wars have passed; in short, who wishes to live in a land made famous by the lives and labors of noble men and women, let him come to these sacred precincts.



## Washington, Arlington and Falls Church Ry.

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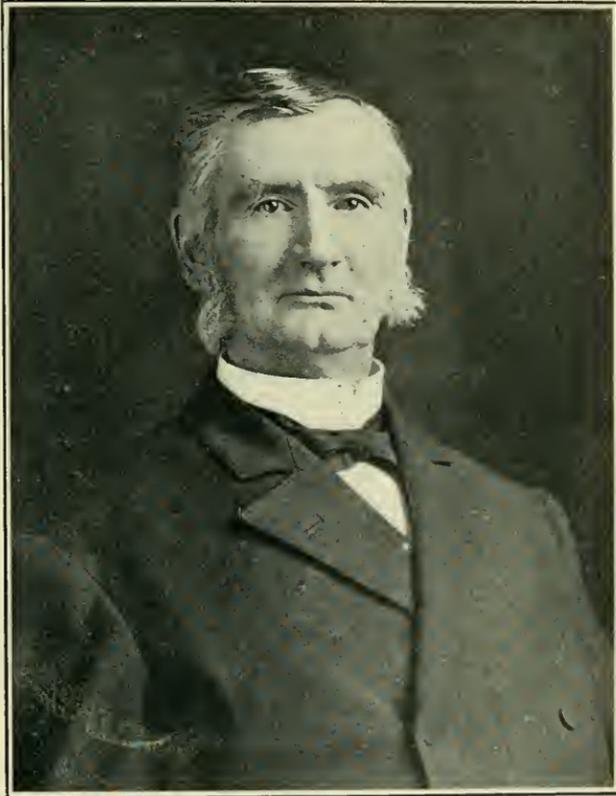
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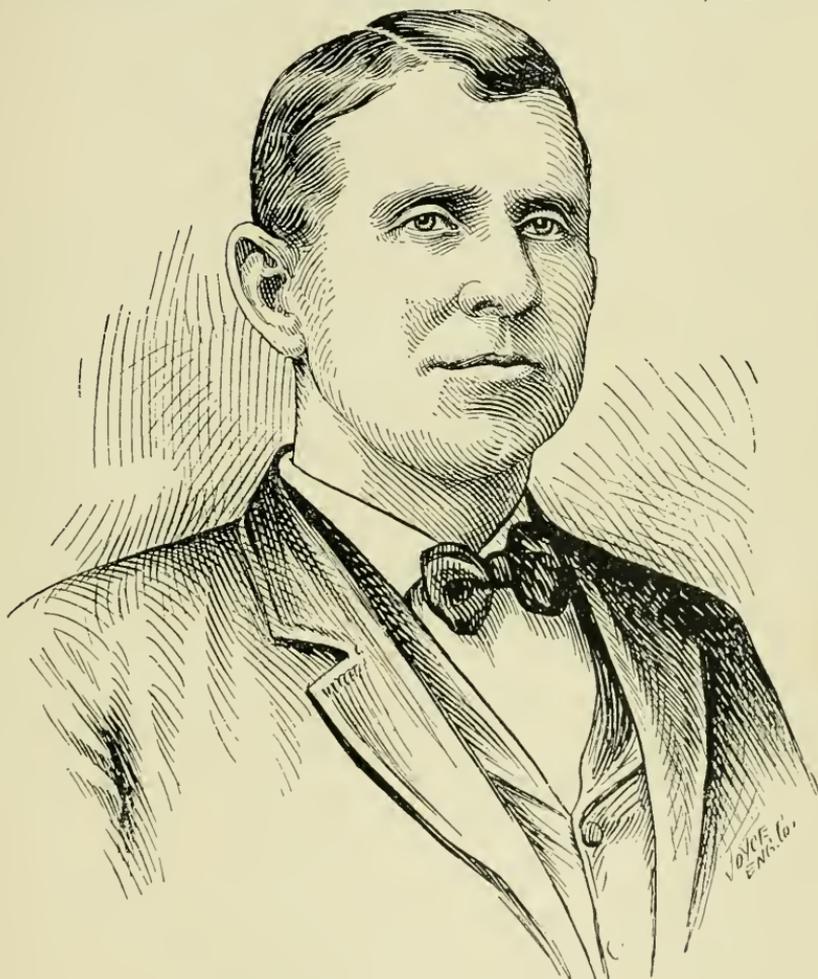
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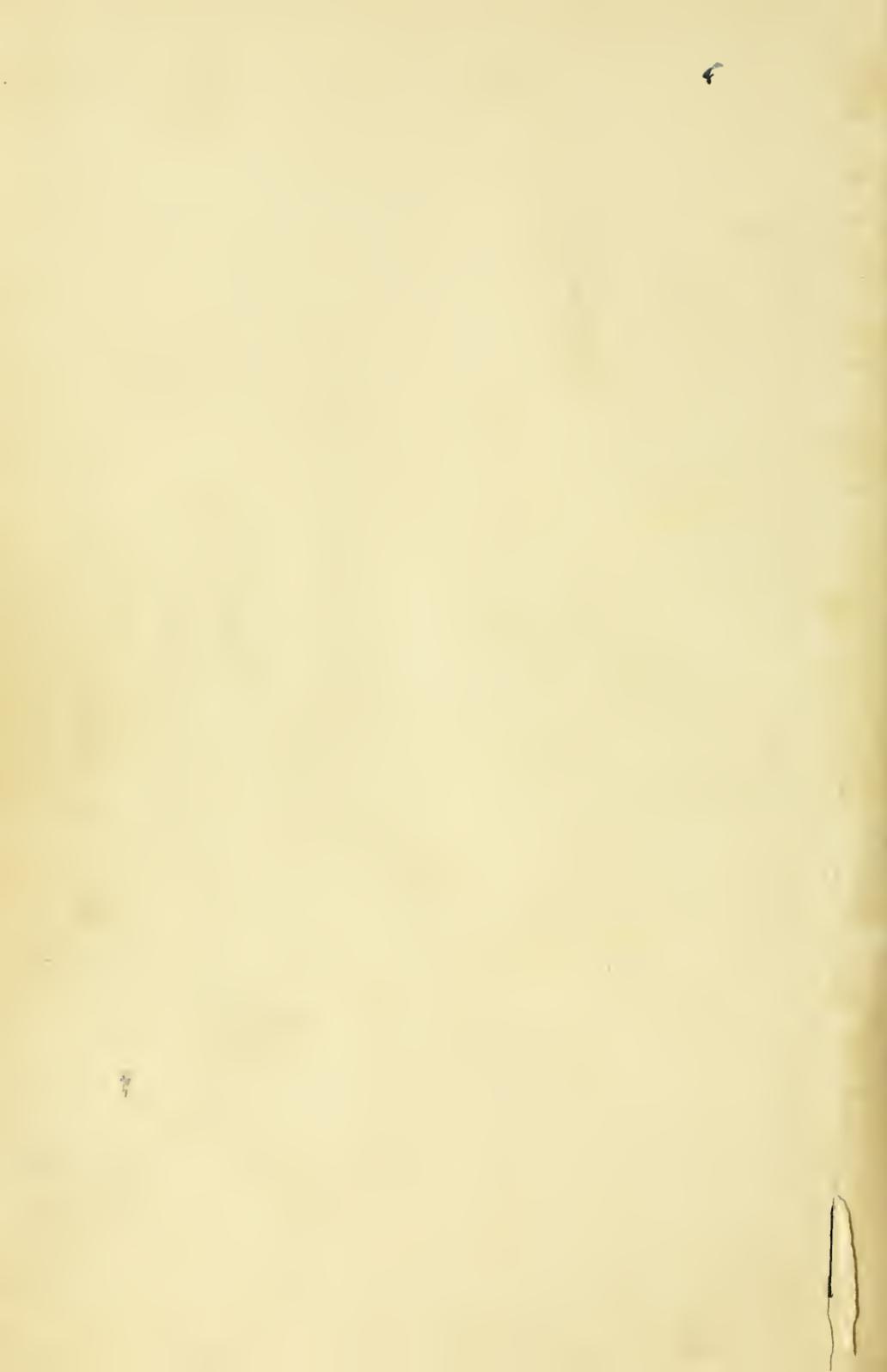
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