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1861-1865



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Changing Hands, Fairfax Court House

by Edward C. Trexler, Jr.



September 10, 2012, marks 150 years since Virginia's Confederate forces last controlled Fairfax Court House, symbolically controlling Fairfax County.

Control of Fairfax Court House changed five times during the War when:

1. The Union army first seized control on July 17, 1861 on the way to the Battle of First Manassas.
2. Confederate forces regained control on July 22, 1861 as Union forces fled back to Alexandria.
3. Union troops marched back into the Court House area on March 10, 1862, learning that Confederates had abandoned it in October, 1861.
4. Confederate cavalry under General Fitzhugh Lee recaptured the Court House again on September 2, 1862, declaring a truce that allowed Union dead and injured to pass through the town to Alexandria.
5. Confederate cavalry were withdrawn on September 10, 1862 leaving Fairfax Court House permanently under control of the Union.

Details of these exchanges are given in excerpts from the book *Civil War Fairfax Court House*, Edward Trexler, and its many sources including accounts from the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, from the *4th Virginia Cavalry*, Kenneth Stiles and from the *9th Virginia Cavalry*, Robert Krick.

In addition to these incidents of changes in control, there are numerous instances during the years 1863 and 1864, when Rangers from the 43rd Battalion under Colonel John S. Mosby were able to freely pass into, through, and around the town

capturing Union soldiers and equipment while not attempting to control the town.

1. Capture by the Union army, July 17, 1861:

The stage was set for this first change of control in late June and early July, 1861 as Union General McDowell had then assembled some five Divisions numbering around 50,000 troops in Alexandria. From there he planned to launch his offensive pushing south along the Virginia Piedmont and capturing the City of Richmond.

Confederate General Beauregard had assembled some 20,000 Confederate and Virginia Militia troops along the Bull Run to oppose McDowell. While the majority of his troops were placed behind the Bull Run, forward units were placed at Fairfax Station, along Braddock Road and into Fairfax Court House. Beauregard had requested that President Davis send 20,000 additional troops from Johnston's command in Winchester to guard his left flank. By late June, Beauregard had decided to anchor his Advanced Forces along the rolling hills of Fairfax Court House and to secure them through the construction of fortifications. Captain W. H. Stevens, of the Engineers, C. S. Army, was sent to Fairfax Court House to ready it for defense. Assisting in configuring the defenses were General Johnson Hagood of South Carolina; Professor Venable, of South Carolina College; and Mr. Nyllis, of the 8th Regiment South Carolina. The approximate location of

Fairfax, Virginia, August 2012-

Greetings from the President--

After an eventful summer we are looking forward to our fall events. I hope that many of you were able to see our entry in the July 4 Parade. Our Magical History Tour highlighted many of the important historic sites in the City of Fairfax. The dedication of the commemorative brick sidewalk at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center was a great event and well attended. We are continuing to sell commemorative bricks so please think about buying one.

Upcoming this fall we have the annual Taste of the Vine fundraiser. This event, held at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Blenheim has become our most important fundraising activity. This year the Taste of the Vine will be held on October 5 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM and will feature wines from Fox Meadow Winery. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Dolce Vita Restaurant, we will have an amazing silent auction with many some great items and celebrity sommeliers will be pouring your wine. The donation for the Taste of the Vine is \$50.00 per person. You can make reservations by contacting Hildie Carney at 703-591-5305. All proceeds will be used to support the restoration of the Blenheim property.

Also stop by and see our booth at the Fairfax Fall Festival on October 13 where we will be selling White House Christmas ornaments and Fairfax memorabilia.

My email is dpumphrey1@verizon.net.

David L. Pumphrey

Welcome New Members!

The President & Board of Directors of HFCI extends a hearty welcome to all new HFCI members.

Terry Ammons
Nancy Anwyll

Brandon & Ken Bradshaw

Richard & Jayne Hart
Jennifer Meredith

Barry & Ann Wickersham

At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

Saturday, September 29 – 2 p.m.

“The Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly”

Join local authors Church Mauro and David Welker as they discuss the September 1, 1862

“Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly” — the largest Civil War battle fought in Fairfax County. This program is part of the annual Fall for the Book Festival.

The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-591-0560

Sunday, October 14 – 2 p.m.

“First Lady Dolly Madison and the War of 1812”

Local historian and author Carole Herrick will recount Dolly Madison’s flight through Northern Virginia following the British burning of the White House in August 1814.

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. 703-385-8414

Saturday, October 27 – 12 – 4 p.m.

“Civil War Medicine”

Learn about Civil War medicine from living history presenters and guest speakers at this Civil War Sesquicentennial Living History event. Historic Blenheim, (then the Willcoxon Farm) was part of a field hospital system for the 11th Army Corps in the fall and winter of 1862-63.

Historic Blenheim and The Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-591-0560

Sunday, November 11 – 2 p.m.

“Mosby Woods: 50 Years of Suburban Living”

Mosby Woods resident Bob Reinsel will present his research on the history of the Mosby Woods subdivision built during the Civil War Centennial in the 1960s and named after Confederate Col. John S. Mosby.

SAVE THE DATE

October 5, 2012
6:30 to 9:00 PM



**A Taste of the Vine
at Historic Blenheim**

Wine tasting, Hors D'Oeuvres, Silent Auction and more....

Contact—hilcarn31@aol.com



Presented by Historic Fairfax City Inc. with net proceeds to benefit the restoration of Historic Blenheim.

breastworks, trenches and artillery positions can be seen in *Civil War Fairfax Court House*. Except for the Manassas Gap Railroad cuts and fills, none of these fortifications presently exist. A 1950's topographic map, however, shows features north of Cedar Avenue that might well have been former trenches and breastworks.

While awaiting support from General Johnston, Beauregard had placed Confederate troops in the Fairfax Court House/Germantown (Kamp Washington) area, most from South Carolina, under control of General Bonham of South Carolina. Other Confederate units under General Ewell were located at Fairfax Station and along Braddock Road up to its intersection with Little River Turnpike. The bulk of Confederate troops, however, remained along the Warrenton/Centreville Turnpike (Rt. 29) and behind the Bull Run creek.

President Davis balked at sending Johnston's men to guard Beauregard's left flank so Beauregard then decided to engage the enemy at Fairfax Court House and then gradually pull back along a predetermined path that might lead the Union to cross the Bull Run at Mitchell's Ford where Confederate forces occupied the higher ground.

McDowell's plans included first converging a three-prong attack on Fairfax Court House and then moving forward to seize Manassas Junction. With this secured, Union forces could move to the valley to get behind Johnston at Winchester and then move south along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and threaten Richmond from the west. McDowell issued the following orders from his Arlington Headquarters on July 16, 1861:

*“General Orders, No. 17.
Hdqrs. Dept N.E. Virginia,*

McDowell's Invasion Begins, July 17, 1861:

II. On the morning of the 17th the troops will resume their march after daylight in time to reach Fairfax Court House (the Third Division, Sangsters) by 8 o'clock a.m.

1. Brigadier-General Tyler, First Division, will direct his march so as to intercept the enemy's communication between Fairfax Court-House and Centreville, moving to the right or left of Germantown, as he may find most practicable. On reaching Centreville turnpike he will direct the march of his leading brigade either upon Centreville or Fairfax Court-House, as the indication of the enemy may require. Should he deem it best, a brigade may be sent on Fairfax Court-House direct from Flint Hill.

2. The Second Division (Hunter's) will (after the road has been cleared of the Fifth Division) move on the direct road to Fairfax Court-House by the Little River turnpike.

3. The Fifth Division (Miles') will turn off from the Little River turnpike and gain the old Braddock road, which it will follow to its intersection with the road from Fairfax Court House to Fairfax Station, where it will turn to the right and move on the Court-House.

4. The Third Division (Heintzelman's) will move by the best and shortest roads to the south of the railroad till he reaches the railroad at Sangster's. He will, according to the indications he may find, turn his Second and Third Brigades to the right, to go to Fairfax Station or to the front to guard the road coming up from Wolf Run Shoals and the one leading to Yates' Ford.

The enemy is represented to be in force at Centreville, Germantown, Fairfax Court-House, and Fairfax Station and at intermediate places, and as far as possible, the roads leading to Fairfax Court-House, and is believed on several of these and to have thrown up breastworks and planted cannon. It is therefore probable the movements above ordered may lead to an engagement, and everything must be done with a view to this result.”

McDowell's forward movement began on July 16, as ordered, and on the morning of July 17th his forces engaged



Beauregard's Advanced Forces at Fairfax Court House and south along the Braddock Road, Fairfax Station and Sangsters. Lacking any support arriving from General Johnston, Beauregard's Advanced Brigades executed the planned slow and deliberate retreat to Centreville, moving to prepared positions at the Bull Run fords. Excerpts from the reports of General Bonham to Beauregard and Col. Kershaw to General Bonham give a sense of what was happening:

From the Report of General Bonham:

"...About 9 o'clock the enemy made his appearance in large force at the Flint Hill slope, and deploying his columns, moved down toward the Court-House, his lines extending a great distance across the open fields, stretching out from Flint Hill to the Court-House. I awaited his approach till a part of his force had arrived within a half mile of my works, to be satisfied that his force was such "superior force" as I had heard it would be and as came within the intent of the order.

Having satisfied myself that he was concentrating around me a force many times my number- in three columns, from Alexandria upon my right, upon my left at Germantown, from the same place, and having sent word to General Ewell that I was about to begin my movement- I ordered my regiments to take up the line of march according to my pre-arranged plan, and directed Kershaw's regiment, (which with Kemper's battery and Wickham's and Floyd's troops of cavalry, constituted my rear guard) to file, as they retired, through the trenches as the preceding regiments filed out. The column thus fell back in perfect order to Centreville, the enemy not venturing to attack my rear guard. At dark our pickets were within a few hundred paces of each other."

From the Report of Colonel Kershaw:

"... I placed in position at the entrance of that into Fairfax Court-House three companies of infantry, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, and threw Captain Casson's company on the hill on the left of the road at the hospital, placing a section of Kemper's battery in position at the Court-House.

Receiving your orders to fall back, anxious for the safety of my picket, who had not yet returned,

the enemy being far in the rear of the position where the picket had been posted, I went forward with captain Hoke's company and captain Rhett's to the hill near Wilcoxson's where I awaited their arrival. Shortly after they appeared, and my movement commenced. Withdrawing all the companies and Kemper's battery from the Falls Church road, I occupied with them, alternating with the detachment of Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, each successive intrenchment from that point to the Germantown road as they were severally vacated by the regiments in charge of them, having the mean time been re-enforced by the arrival of captain Wickham's squadron of cavalry, composed of his own and Captain Flood's company.

Arrived at the fork of the road, I moved one battalion towards Germantown to replace Colonel Cash, and took position on the Centreville road on the hill commanding the village of Fairfax with two pieces of artillery and the other battalion, directing the other two pieces to take position in the rear at the intersection of the cross-road from Germantown, to which the first battalion had been directed to proceed. So soon as Colonel Cash had advanced sufficiently on his march, I moved the whole command in good order to Centreville without interference, where we took position, much fatigued from the excessive heat of the day, at Artillery Hill."

Union forces thus had gained control of Fairfax C.H. sometime after 9:00 a.m. on the morning of July 17, 1861. Fairfax C.H. was then in the hands of Union forces under General McDowell.

2. Confederate recapture of Fairfax Court House on July 22, 1861:

Things did not go well for McDowell along the Bull Run where his offensive had totally collapsed. Excerpts from Union communications tell the story:

"Fairfax Court-House, July 21, 1861.

The men having thrown away their haversacks in the battle and left them behind, they are without food; have eaten nothing since breakfast. We are without artillery ammunition. The larger part of the men are a confused mob,

entirely demoralized. It was the opinion of all the commanders that no stand could be made this side of the Potomac. We will, however, make the attempt at Fairfax Court-House. From a prisoner we learn that 20,000 from Johnston joined last night, and they march on us to-night.” (OR 1, V2, P. 316)

Reports from Army Headquarters, Washington, reflect the severity of the Union situation:

“General McDowell wishes all the troops that can be sent from Washington to come here without delay. He has ordered the reserve now here under Colonel Miles to advance to the bridge over Bull Run, on the Warrenton road, having driven the enemy before him. Colonel Miles is now about three or four miles from here, directing operations near Blackburn’s Ford, and his absence I communicate.”

“All available troops ought to be thrown forward in one body.

General McDowell is doing all he can to cover the retreat. Colonel Miles is forming for that purpose. He was in reserve at Centerville.

The routed troops will not reform.”

Confederate return to Fairfax Court House; Col. Stuart Commanding:

The Confederate victory of July 21st was followed by a day-long hard rain as Union troops passed through Fairfax Court House during the night strewing the roads with clothing, food, arms and camp equipage. On that morning, General Longstreet ordered cavalry to retake Fairfax C.H.; the *Stars and Bars* once again flew over Fairfax CH.

Report of Capt. Edgar Whitehead, Radford’s Rangers, of pursuit July 22:

“SIR: On the morning of the 22d instant I was ordered by General Longstreet to accompany Colonel Terry, of Texas, and pursue the enemy, and find out their exact position. On reaching Centerville we found the main body had fled, and we pursued the stragglers, taking twenty-five or thirty prisoners on the route to Fairfax Court-House, where Colonel Terry shot down the United States flag and placed the stars and bars on the top of the court-house. The large flag sent back by him was intended, we learned,

to be put up at Manassas. Another was taken from the court-house, And the third one, to which you probably refer, was taken from some soldier by Private R. L. K. Davies, of my company, who had it in a haversack- no doubt to be raised on the first captured battery taken. It had no staff, but was carried carefully wrapped in the haversack.

Very respectfully,

EDGAR WHITEHEAD, Captain Company E, Radford’s Rangers.”

3. Union recapture of Fairfax Court House, March 10, 1862:

Having attained a great victory along the Bull Run, Confederate attention was immediately focused on strengthening their force and capturing Washington; thus ending the War. Generals Beauregard and Johnston shortly thereafter moved their headquarters to Fairfax Court House along with a now 30,000 man Advanced Force. 10,000 men were left in reserve along the Bull Run. At the request of Beauregard and Johnston President Davis arrived at Fairfax Court House on September 30 to review their plans and to respond to their request for additional troops and support. President Davis’ Fairfax Court House Conference was held at General Beauregard’s headquarters on October 1, 1861. The period from July 22, 1861 to the end of President Davis’ visit on October 4, 1861 was the *high-water of history* for the Fairfax Court House area.

The result of the Davis Conference, however, was not to invade Washington but to pull back to Centerville. There they could remain close to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad that could keep the force supplied with food and equipment. The invasion of Washington was off.

While the pull back took place in late October, the Union was not aware of this until February, 1862. Confederate Cavalry regularly made a presence at the Court House even though most of its citizens left with the troop withdrawal. d.

The Union discovery of the Confederate pullback is reported by Major Moss of the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry:

“...In the mean time I ordered Lieutenant Hart with 20 men to make a charge through Fairfax Court-House, having first reconnoitered to the right and left of the village and satisfied myself that there were few, if any troops there. I then advanced with the whole force into the village; remained there about half an hour, and took the



road to the left, leading through Falls Church, thinking I might still get in the rear of their pickets; but they had fled, leaving their fires burning, leaving me to suppose they had left in hot haste for parts unknown.

The village of Fairfax appears to have been (with one or two exceptions) entirely deserted, and has a very dilapidated look. I did not think it expedient to have the houses searched, as the enemy could in a very short time get a strong force down the pike from the neighborhood of Centreville. The enemy have dug 3 or 4 extensive rifle pits to the right of the road leading from Flint Hill to the Court House and immediately in front of the same. ..." (OR 1, V 5, P 507)

4. Union Re-occupies Fairfax Court House, March 10, 1862:

By March 9, General Kearney, of Franklin's Division, was reported to be holding Burke Station and Fairfax Station. Major Hatfield, 1ST NJ Infantry, advanced to Farr's Cross Roads (123 and Braddock) and found Confederate cavalry moving back and forth between that point and the Court-House. At 4 o'clock that day the 4th NJ Infantry, under Colonel Simpson, joined the 1ST NJ and together they marched into and captured Fairfax Court House at about 5 p.m., the Confederate pickets having escaped in the direction of Centreville. A dispatch was immediately written to General Franklin and, under orders, a detachment was left in place to hold the Court House, the main body returning to the Cross Roads for the night. The next day, March 10, Union troops began pouring in to ceremoniously re-occupy Fairfax Court House, their bands playing.

General McClellan arrived shortly thereafter where on March 13, 1862 he held his "War Council of Generals," and announced plans for invasion of the Virginia Peninsula:

"Headquarters, Army Of The Potomac, Fairfax Court-House, March 13, 1862.

A council of the generals commanding army corps at the Headquarters Army of the Potomac were of the opinion-

I. That, the enemy having retreated from Manassas to Gordonsville, behind the Rappahannock and Rapidan, it is the opinion of the generals commanding army corps that the operations to be carried on will best be undertaken from Old Point Comfort, between the

York and James River, upon Richmond, provided-

1. That the enemy's vessel Merrimac can be neutralized.

2. That the means of transportation sufficient for an immediate transfer of the force to its new base can be ready at Washington and Alexandria to move down the Potomac; and

3. That a naval auxiliary force can be had to silence the enemy's batteries in York River.

4. That the force to be left to cover Washington shall be such as to give an entire feeling of security for its safety from menace.

Unanimous.

II. If the forgoing cannot be, the army should then be moved against the enemy behind the Rappahannock at the earliest possible moment, and the means for reconstructing bridges, repairing railroads and stocking them with material sufficient for supplying the army should be collected for both the Orange and Alexandria and the Aquia and Richmond railroads.

Unanimous."

President Lincoln endorsed the plan later that day while ordering McClellan to:

1. Leave such force at Manassas Junction as shall make it entirely certain that the enemy shall repossess himself of that position and line of communication.

2. Leave Washington entirely secure.

3. Move the remainder of the force down the Potomac, choosing a new base at Fort Monroe or anywhere between here and there, or at all events move such remainder of the army at once in pursuit of the enemy by some route.

McClellan was defeated in his attempt to reach Richmond along the Peninsula and subsequently Confederate forces pulled back to the Piedmont where they defeated the Pope/McDowell armies at Cedar Mountain, at the Battle of Second Manassas and at the nearby follow-up Battle of Ox Hill. The Battle of Ox Hill involved engagements in and around the Kamp Washington area.

5. Confederate Cavalry under General Fitzhugh Lee recaptures Fairfax Court House, September 2, 1862:

Confederate Cavalry under General Fitzhugh Lee, the 1st, 4th, 5th and 9th Virginia Cavalry Regiments, were sent around the Union lines to cut off their retreats to Alexandria

by way of Fairfax Court House and Vienna.

On August 31st and on September 1st Stuart's Cavalry artillery fired several cannon rounds into the Kamp Washington (Germantown) area damaging several wagons. Stuart's attempt to capture Fairfax Court House from there was repulsed by Union cavalry that was located in the Kamp Washington area. Later that day Lee's cavalry attempted to cut off the Union escape route to Vienna by cutting the road (now Rt. 123) at Flint Hill from Fairfax Court House to Vienna. They were again repulsed at Flint Hill and returned to the Jermantown area (near Jermantown Road) where they camped for the night.

Under a flag of truce on the morning of September 2nd, General Lee returned the body of his old friend Phillip Kearny to Union lines at Germantown.

Also on that morning, cavalry under General Fitzhugh Lee charged into Fairfax Court House from Flint Hill behind the fleeing Union forces. The activities of that morning are described in Stuart's Report:

"...On the next day, the enemy having retired, Fairfax Court House was occupied by Lee's brigade, and I sent Hampton's brigade, which had just reported to me, having been detained on the Charles City border until the enemy had entirely evacuated that region, to attack the enemy at Flint Hill. Getting several pieces of Stuart's Horse artillery in position, Brigadier-General Hampton opened on the enemy at that point and our sharpshooters advancing about the same time, after a brief engagement the enemy hastily retired. They were immediately pursued, and Captain Pelham, having chosen a new position, again opened upon them with telling effect, scattering them in every direction. They were pursued by Hampton's brigade, which took a few prisoners, but owing to the darkness and the fact the enemy had opened fire upon us with infantry and artillery from the woods, he considered it prudent to retire, which was done with the loss of only 1 man. This proved to be the rear guard of Sumner's column retreating toward Vienna, and I afterward learned that they were thrown into considerable confusion by this attack of Hampton. With a small portion of the cavalry and Horse Artillery I moved into Fairfax Court-House, and taking possession, obtained some

valuable information, which was sent to the commanding general."

That morning General Fitzhugh Lee sent the 1st, 4th and 9th Cavalry Regiments along with two cannon to move into and capture Fairfax C.H. Some 9th Virginia Cavalry members reported in letters to their family that the town was burning and near totally destroyed. Cannon were set up on a hill to the east of town on Little River Turnpike from where several rounds were fired to the east to hasten the withdrawal of Union forces to Alexandria. Parts of Fitzhugh Lee's Cavalry brigade remained in the area through September 10th. On September 3rd, Fitzhugh Lee would make several forays from east of Fairfax C.H. toward Alexandria, supported by the firing of cannon. This provided some rear-guard action to support the movement of Lee's army into Maryland.

A local truce had been called between the Confederate cavalry and local Union soldiers to allow transport of Union wounded through Centreville and Fairfax Court House to hospitals in Alexandria. The Union broke this truce on September 10th when 15 to 20 armed cavalry charged into Fairfax Court House and carried off one or more of its citizens.

Confederate Cavalry abandoned the Centreville-Fairfax Court House area shortly thereafter and joined Lee's main force en-route to Maryland. Fairfax Court House remained unoccupied for a while thereafter as the Union moved west on the north of the Potomac to intercept Lee's invasion but Fairfax Court House was back in the hands of Union forces where it remained until President Rutherford B. Hayes removed Union armies from Southern towns in 1877.

The Jermantown Foray

August 28, 1862

by William Page Johnson, II

In 1862, the village of *Jermantown* was an unincorporated place named for the family of Hezekiah and Mary Ann (Robey) Jerman. The Jerman farm occupied 96 acres and stood on northwest corner of the intersection of the Little River Turnpike (Rt. 236/Main St.) and the Flint Hill Road (Jermantown Road), where the Giant Food Store now stands.¹ It is believed that the Jerman family were southern



sympathizers. The family is known to have held slaves.² Hezekiah Jerman died in 1858 before the vote for secession took place in 1861. However, his son, Middleton Garner Jerman, did vote for secession.³ *M.G.* also later enlisted in the 18th Virginia Cavalry.

During the Civil War Jermantown was described as a collection of a eight to ten houses, a principle store, over which flew, alternately, a flag of secession and the stars and stripes, a telegraph office, and a blacksmith's shop.⁴ The village also had:

*"...a good well which delighted the troops, but as a place it is exceedingly contemptible...a mean group of building which the North would not dignify into a village."*⁵

At the time Jermantown included all of the land within the triangle created by Flint Hill Road on the west, the Little River Turnpike on the north, to its intersection with the Warrenton Pike (U.S. 29) on the south, the area now known as Kamp Washington.

Unfortunately, most of the homes at Jermantown were burned by Union troops of Colonel Keyes brigade on their way to the Battle of 1st Manassas in July 1861.⁶ Many of the homes that remained were subsequently destroyed or defaced by the later occupying armies.

In August 1862, the Union army returned to northern Virginia from the disastrous Peninsula Campaign. They had a new commander, Major General John Pope, who led a new army, the Union Army of Virginia. In the late summer of 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee was intent on cutting off Pope and destroying his army. This effort would culminate in the Battles of 2nd Manassas, August 28th – 30th and Ox Hill, just west of Jermantown, on September 1st.

On August 18, 1862, ten days before the Battle of 2nd Manassas, Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis, commanding the Reserve Army Corps at Washington, was ordered into the field to support General Pope's Army of Virginia and to make room for the thousands of Union troops arriving daily in Washington, D.C.⁷ Among the troops ordered into the field was the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. The 1st Massachusetts had been organized in 1861 as the 14th Massachusetts Infantry, but designated as heavy artillery in January 1862. Accompanying them was the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery. Ordinarily, both of these regiments manned heavy, stationary siege guns and mortars in the defensive forts ringing Washington, DC. However, in August 1862, they were called into the field as infantry.

"Virginia will have to take years to put things to right"

On August 23rd, the 1st Massachusetts under command of Col. William B. Greene and the 2nd New York, commanded by Col. Gustav Waagner, left their respective camps and marched into Virginia along with other similar units. After spending several nights at Cloud's Mill in present-day Alexandria, Virginia, the two regiments marched through Fairfax Court House and halted on the Warrenton Pike at Jermantown on August 27th.⁸ A soldier in the 1st Massachusetts described what he witnessed on the march to Fairfax Court House:

"Everything looked as if destruction and desolation had taken possession of everything. Virginia will have to take years to put things to right. But worst of all to pass were the dead horses in the roads.

...The courthouse itself was...about the size of our town hall in Sanbornton, and had been used as a store-house for some troops that had gone before us. The doors were off and many panes of glass broken. The village church may have been used for a hospital or stable, judging from the looks. The wheelwright shop was empty and fireless.

...John and I lay on our backs and looked at the Big Dipper and North Star and talked of home, but finally went to sleep. We woke as hungry as dogs. ...my servant, Bill, had stolen two small chickens in Fairfax and boiled them with salt and water – very good eating for John and myself.

...I saw many of the women sitting outside their doors, but they never said boo to us. We went through, drums beating, colors flying. Several prisoners were taken and blindfolded; some that Capt. Draper took in the woods."⁹

After dining at Jermantown, the 2nd New York Artillery continued on to Manassas.¹⁰

On August 26th, the day before the 1st Massachusetts arrived at Fairfax Court House, Confederate cavalry suddenly appeared and frightened the loyal Union inhabitants:

"Mr. Hawxhurst, of Fairfax, and Clerk of the Circuit Court, called last night to say that he, and



all of the Union men of Fairfax, were compelled to leave on Wednesday, the Confederates having possession of the place. Yesterday he started to return to learn the fate of his family, but was met on the way by citizens of Vienna, who were escaping from the place, seven hundred cavalry having made a descent upon that place. Mr. H. having concealed himself in a cornfield finally escaped to this city."¹¹

Both the 2nd New York and 1st Massachusetts had been preceded by the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 105th Pennsylvania Infantry, and 11th New York Artillery, who marched directly to Manassas Junction. These units were assigned to guard the immense quartermaster, commissary and ordinance stores located there. The 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry and 11th New York Artillery were accustomed to this type of duty, having served on guard duty in Washington, D.C. for a nearly a year. As a result, the 11th New York Artillery had only recently received their guns – four 3-inch ordinance rifles and two bronze 12-pounder napoleon cannons. Each of these weapons was pulled by a six-horse team. Both the 12th Pennsylvania and 11th New York had also just received their horses. However, they had yet to complete their training with the animals. In fact, all of these troops were green, equipped with equally green horses. Both horses and men were untested in battle and had received very little drill together.¹²

The first step in General Lee's plan was to cut off Pope's army. In the late afternoon of August 26th, Confederate cavalry attacked Bristoe Station four miles west of Manassas on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Portions of the 105th Pennsylvania and 87th New York Infantry, the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and Battery C, 1st New York Artillery were quickly overwhelmed. Later that evening, in a rare night attack, 500 Confederate infantrymen of Trimble's Brigade, Stonewall Jackson's Corps, supported by 2,500 Confederate cavalry attacked Manassas Junction in search of much needed supplies.¹³ The 105th Pennsylvania Infantry, supported by 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry, the guns of the 11th New York Artillery and Battery C, 1st New York Artillery, attempted to block this advance but were overwhelmed. During the confused fighting in near total darkness, the green horses of the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry and artillery units, unaccustomed the noise of battle became unmanageable and bolted in all directions. Company H, of the 105th Pennsylvania regiment was captured, as were nearly all of the men of the 1st and 11th New York Artillery. The two cannon of the 1st

New York were captured as were and four of the six guns of the 11th New York.^{14,15} The survivors retreated to the Stone Bridge at Bull Run, pursued by Confederate cavalry.

At Bristoe and Manassas the telegraph and supply lifelines of the Union army were effectively severed. What the Confederates couldn't immediately consume or carry away was burned.

Fairfax Postmaster, Walter B. Hoag, likely witnessed this conflagration while leaving Fairfax Court House for the safety of Washington, D.C.:

*"We hear that the postmaster at Fairfax Court House arrived here at an early hour yesterday morning [August 28], having packed up his goods and mails and left on Wednesday evening, in apprehension of a Confederate raid upon that point. He saw a bright light in that direction after he left and thinks some building had been fired there."*¹⁶

At the Stone Bridge the beleaguered Union force was met and reinforced by Colonel Gustav Waagner's 2nd New York Heavy Artillery. A large baggage and supply wagon train of General Nathaniel Banks was also present in the vicinity of the bridge. Due to the size of the Confederate force in the area the baggage train was immediately set in motion on the Warrenton Pike to a point beyond Centreville, guarded by approximately 150 men of the 2nd New York Heavy Infantry. In the early morning hours of August 27th Colonel Waagner organized the survivors and with his regiment attempted another advance in the direction of Manassas. After advancing to *Liberia*, the smaller Union force was again thrown back to the Stone Bridge with the Confederate cavalry in hot pursuit.¹⁷ In this manner, many men of the 2nd New York were also captured in the darkness. The Union troops remained at the Stone Bridge until the next morning. They made a brief defensive stand until a retreat to Centreville was ordered. Again, the defenders were pursued and harassed by Confederate cavalry.

Up to this point, aside from the initial panic of the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry and artillery at Bristoe, the Union retreat to Centreville had been fairly orderly. At Centreville, Banks baggage train was again set in motion for the safety of Fairfax Court House accompanied by the small Union force. The Confederate cavalry followed close behind. As the slow moving column neared Fairfax Court House the Confederates shelled the baggage train then charged. Panic ensued and the orderly Union retreat became a headlong

At the Museums (continued)

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. 703-385-8414

Saturday, November 17 – 2 p.m.

“Crazy Bet: Elizabeth Van Lew”

Filmmaker Bert Morgan will present his research on Elizabeth Van Lew, who nursed Union prisoners at Richmond’s Libby Prison and was part of network of Union spies in the Confederate capital.

The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-591-0560

At the Ratcliffe-Allison House...

Location: 10386 Main Street, Fairfax

Open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturdays through October. Free. Group tours (\$25.00) may be booked in advance Monday – Friday. 703-385-8415.

Through December 2012

“Dressed to Work, Mourn, and Impress: Costumes Celebrating the Bicentennial of Ratcliffe-Allison House, 1812 – 2012”

“Dressed to Work, Mourn, and Impress” includes men’s, women’s and children’s period costumes and accessories from 1812-1927 representing difference residents and owners of the house from an early nineteenth-century shoemaker to a twentieth-century garden writer. The earliest textiles are a workingman’s deerskin pantaloons and an olive silk hand-sewn day dress.

On Permanent Display

“Dr. Kate Waller Barrett: Mother to Many”

“Mother to Many” examines the life of Dr. Kate Waller Barrett (1857 -1925), a prominent social reformer and president of the National Florence Crittenden Mission Homes for unwed mothers. She purchased Ratcliffe-Allison House in 1923 and saved it from being demolished.

Special Historic Fairfax City, Inc. Walking Tours



A portion of the exhibit at the Ratcliffe-Allison House representing Fairfax Merchant Gordon Allison and his wife Nancy c. 1824. Photo credit: Susan Gray, Curator/Visitor Services Manager, City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources.



A portion of the exhibit at the Ratcliffe-Allison House representing a Shoemaker and his wife c. 1824. Photo credit: Susan Gray, Curator/Visitor Services Manager, City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources.

Tours of Old Town Fairfax Historic District start at 11 a.m. Saturdays, August 18 and September 22nd from Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main Street, Fairfax.
Fee: \$5 per person. For reservations: 703-385-8414.

Other Local Happenings...

Saturday, September 29th, 2 p.m.
The Battle of Chantilly/Ox Hill — George Mason University Fall for the Book Program

This program commemorates the 150th anniversary of this battle. For information on the Fairfax County commemoration on September 1, visit the <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/oxhill/>

New Exhibitions:

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax

Free. Open daily: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Day) Group tours (\$25.00) may be arranged in advance. 703-385-8414

Through January 29 2013

“Collecting Fairfax: The First 20 Years, 1992 – 2012”

“Collecting Fairfax” highlights the variety of objects added to the City of Fairfax’s Historic Collections since the Museum and Visitor Center opened in 1992. Docent-led tours (\$25.00) may be booked in advance. 703-385-8415.



Historic Fairfax City, Inc. dedicates Manassas Gap Railroad marker near the Fairfax Post Office on Judicial Drive, Saturday July 28, 2012. From left to right: Eddie Vulin, PNC Bank (Co-sponsor of the Arl-Fx. Railway marker). Representing the HFCI Board of Directors are Lee Hubbard, Ed Trexler, (Chair, Marker Cmte.), David Pumphrey, (President), and Page Johnson. This was one of two markers dedicated that day. The other was for the former location of the Arlington-Fairfax Electric Railway on Main Street. Photo credit: Dr. Chris Martin, Director, Office of Historic Resources, City of Fairfax.

stampede down the Warrenton Pike in the direction of Fairfax Court House.^{18, 19}

At Jermantown, the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, who were deployed across the Warrenton Pike, could only jump out of the way as the first of the frightened cavalymen, horses, caissons and wagons thundered past. The stunned Massachusetts artillerists were greeted with shouts ‘*they’re coming*’, ‘*run*’, and ‘*save yourselves*’, from the wild-eyed Union soldiers.²⁰

Fortunately, the 1st Massachusetts had their own collection of vehicles, supply wagons, ambulances, etc., which had been strategically parked in the rear near the intersection of the Warrenton Pike and Little River Turnpike. As the lead elements of the Union stampede approached, a quick thinking officer, Lt. James L. Hall, heard the commotion and simply rolled these regimental vehicles forward and blocked the road.²¹ The panic was thus halted.

General Banks baggage and supply train was then assembled at the same intersection under the protection of a heavy guard. Colonel William B. Greene then ordered the two remaining guns and caissons of the 11th New York Artillery into a position on the Warrenton and Little River Turnpikes, facing westward in the direction of Centreville and Chantilly. The pursuing Confederate cavalry soon appeared but did not advance.

Early the next morning, sharp firing erupted at Jermantown. However, this proved to be a false alarm. A member of the 1st Massachusetts, Pvt., George H. Northend, was accidentally shot by a straggler of the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery coming in from Centreville. The wounded man was taken to a house in the rear about a half a mile from Fairfax Court House. It was decided a hospital should be established here to treat any additional wounded that may result from any further fighting. Accompanying the injured man was Dr. David Dana, Regimental Surgeon of the 1st Massachusetts, Dr. Edward B. Mason, Assistant Surgeon, a Hospital Steward, an ambulance, and driver, a hospital wagon, and driver, and a regimental wagon, and its driver.²²

The hospital wagon contained not only medical supplies, but 100 bottles of liquor. Dr. Mason was also mounted on a prized horse that had been confiscated at Arlington, the estate of Robert E. Lee.²³

As the small caravan bearing the wounded man neared Fairfax Court House, the Confederate Cavalry brigade of Fitzhugh Lee suddenly appeared in the road, surrounded and captured them. This was accomplished in full view, of

the surprised Union men on the hill above them.²⁴ Several officers and men of the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry were also captured.²⁵ Fitzhugh Lee, was a native of Fairfax County and knew the country well.

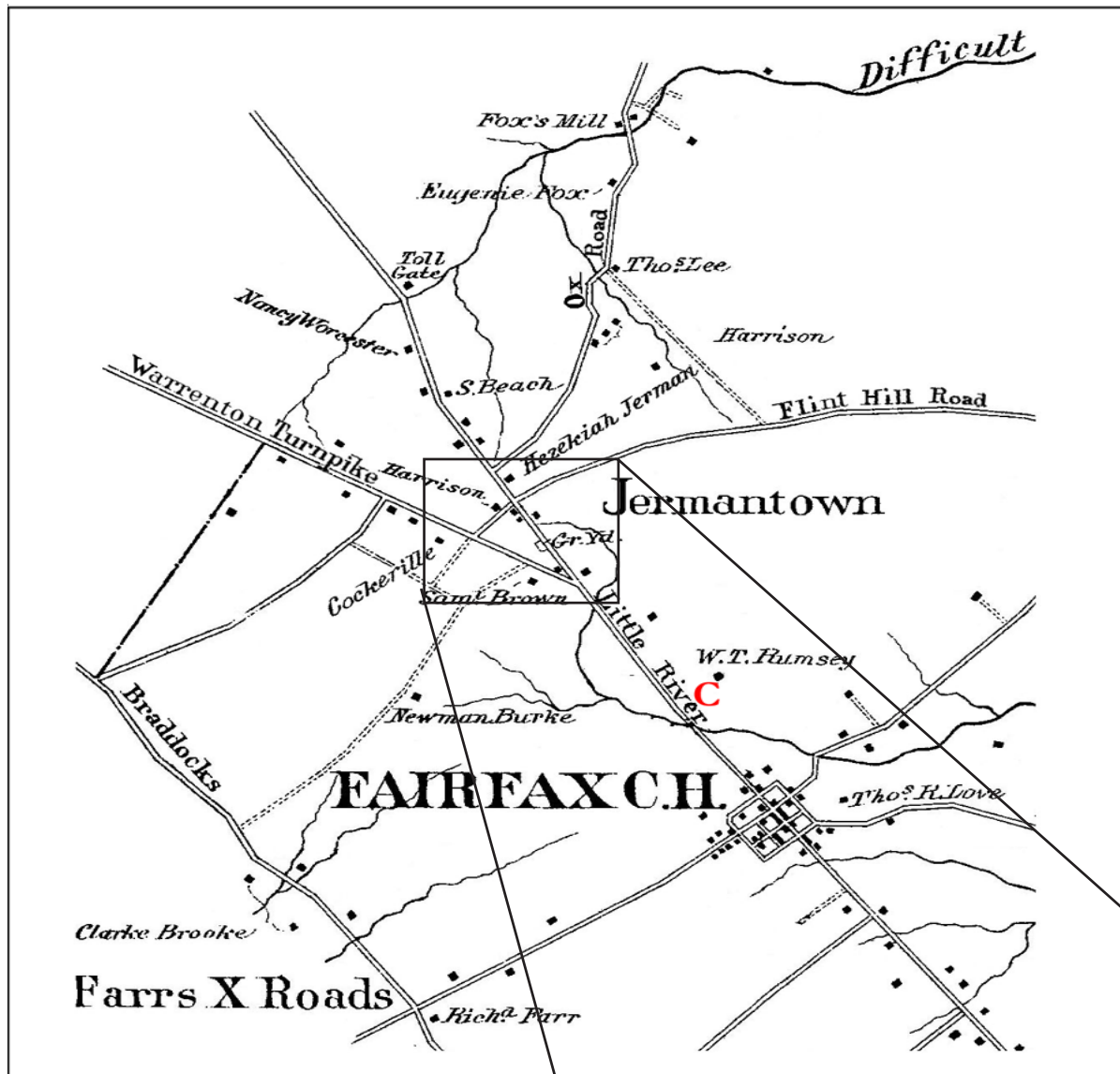
As Surgeons were not considered combatants at the time, Drs. Dana and Mason were shortly released. When the pair walked back into camp Dr. Dana presented Col. Greene a letter from Fitzhugh Lee. The two men were both graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Lee complimented Greene on his command, defensive selection and the coolness of his men. He further added that he regretted not having captured the entire wagon train. He cautioned Green to stay vigilant because he knew that Greene only possessed two cannon, because he (Lee) had captured the others.^{26, 27}

Later that day, from their position on the heights at Jermantown, the 1st Massachusetts could see the smoke and hear the cannonading as the 2nd Battle of Manassas got underway. They remained in their defensive positions at Jermantown until August 30th when they were ordered back to Washington, DC.²⁸

The next day, August 31st, Union General John Pope, who had been soundly defeated at 2nd Manassas, was attempting to reorganize his forces at Centreville. He ordered a repositioning of his army down the Warrenton Pike, intending to make Fairfax Court House his new headquarters.²⁹ Lee was determined to cutoff Pope’s retreating army. He ordered Stonewall Jackson to Jermantown to accomplish this.

The morning of September 1st Pope was unaware that Stonewall Jackson’s exhausted men had already marched to Ox Hill, nearly succeeding in cutting off his line of retreat at Jermantown. However, Pope had been alerted to the presence of the enemy as the Confederate cavalry of Fitzhugh Lee had, inexplicably, shelled the retreating Union column that morning. This event was chronicled by a newspaper reporter from the *New York Tribune*:

“Last night [Aug. 31st] we stopped at the house of a good Union man, a little the other side of Fairfax Court-House. We were rather astonished about 8 or 9 o’clock by the discharge of several rifled cannon, which could not have been more than 100 or 200 yards off. It turned out to be Fitzhugh Lee’s cavalry, in some considerable force, supported by artillery. But what object of so unexpected and unreasonable a call could be



- A** - Position of the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery w/ the 2 guns of the 11th New York Artillery August 27-30, 1862.
- B** - Position of Gen. Banks supply train and the regimental train of the 1st Massachusetts.
- C** - Approximate location of the capture of Union soldiers including Surgeons Dana & Mason.

This map was adapted from *G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C.. 1878*, by William Page Johnson, II, 2012. Places and names have been changed to approximate 1862 conditions.

we were left to conjecture, as, after half a dozen shells sent whizzing about our ears, and evidently intended for the encampment near us, they retired, and did not disturb us during the night. The event had nearly caused a stampede among the wagon-drivers and others, which was prevented by the troops, who were at once placed under arms and prepared to receive the enemy."³⁰

As the article alludes, Pope reacted quickly. As his army continued to withdraw, he ordered General Joseph Hooker "to go in person to Fairfax Court House, and push forward with all the troops he could find to Germantown."³¹ The final result of this movement was the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) which was fought late that afternoon at the height of a tremendous thunderstorm.

The Battle of Ox Hill was another Union defeat. However, Pope did succeed in seeing his army beyond Fairfax Court House and to the safety of Union fortifications in Alexandria. The battle was also notable as it resulted in the deaths of two Union generals, Philip Kearney and Isaac Stevens.

General Steven's body was recovered by his men. General Kearney's body, however, was recovered by Confederate troops. The next day, September 2nd, General Lee arranged to have Kearney's body sent between the lines under a flag of truce. The body, with a note from General Lee, was shipped by ambulance through Fairfax Court House to Alexandria.³²

*HQ ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
September 2, 1862.*

Major General JOHN POPE, U. S. Army:

SIR: The body of General Philip Kearny was brought from the field last night and he was reported dead. I send it forward under a flag of truce, thinking the possession of his remains may be a consolation to his family.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

*R. E. LEE, General.*³³

The little village of Jermantown played a supporting role in the Battle of Ox Hill, which was just two miles away across the Difficult Run valley. During the battle, the strategic defensive positions along the Warrenton and Little River Turnpikes at Jermantown were once again occupied by Union troops of Randolph's battery, 1st Rhode Island Artillery.

Endnotes:

¹ Fairfax County DB Y3, p. 410, May 22, 1857, Fx Co. Cir. Ct.

² US Census of 1850, Slave Schedule, Fairfax Co., VA, p. 701, NARA, Washington, DC

³ Conley, Brian A., Fractured Land, Fairfax County's Role in the Vote for Secession, May 23, 1861, p. 64, © 2001, Fx. Co. Pub. Lib., Fairfax, VA.


⁴ *Long Island Farmer and Advertiser*, July 23, 1861, p. 2, c. 1

⁵ *Ibid* 4.

⁶ *Ibid* 4.

⁷ *Oswego Commercial Times*, August 23, 1862, p. 2, c. 1.

⁸ Roe, Alfred Seely, & Nutt, Charles, *The History of the First Regiment of Heavy Artillery, Massachusetts Volunteers*, p. 138, © 1917, Commonwealth Press, Worcester, MA.

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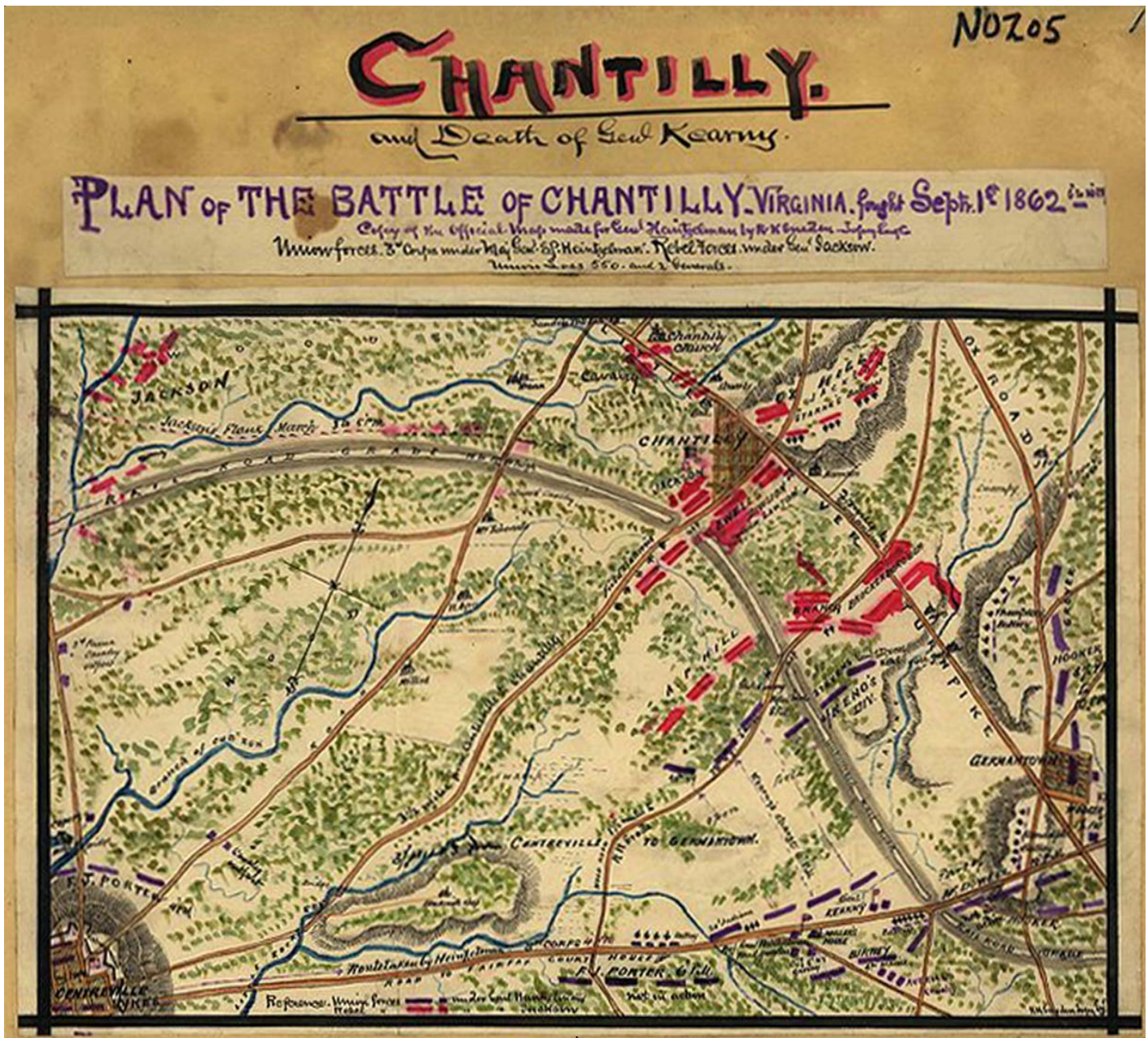
James Titus Close, 1829-1869 Virginia State Senator for Fairfax County 1861-1863

by William Page Johnson, II

James Titus Close, was born Chenango Co., NY the son of Slaughter & Diana (Titus) Close. James T. Close moved to Fairfax County, Virginia approximately 1850. That year he purchased 60 acres of land with his brother – in – law, Thomas Emigh, on Difficult Run near Brown's Mill (Walter's Mill) Fairfax County.¹ He married Ann Eliza Sherman, age 21, at *Salona*, (near McLean) Fairfax Co., VA on April 1, 1851. Ann was the daughter of Elisha Sherman (1794–1867)². The Sherman's were originally from Fairfield, CT, but had moved to Virginia in 1845 when Elisha purchased *Salona* plantation.³ Although James Close owned land on Difficult Run, it appears that he actually resided at *Salona*.⁴

James and Ann had ten children only six of whom survived childhood. Ann Eliza, James T., Jr., Edsall Byron, Austin Sherman (renamed James T., Jr. after his father's death), Mary Ella, Elvira Rosebelle, Fannie Elderkin, Kate Idel, James T., Jr., and James Francis.

In the early 1850's, James and Ann moved to Alexandria, VA. Their home was on the corner of King and Fayette Streets. Like his father before him, James Close was in the insurance business.⁵ In 1857, James Close was Actuary, General Agent, and a board member of the Southern Protection Insurance Company of Alexandria, VA. Henry W. Thomas, of Fairfax, served as its president.⁶ On May 22, 1857, tragedy struck the Close family when two of James Close's sons, James T. Close, Jr., aged 3 yrs., 8 mos. and Edsall B. Close, aged 2 mos., died on the same day within two hours of each other.⁷ Presumably, the cause was a childhood disease.



Plan of the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)
 Water Color by Robert Knox Selden, c. 1862.
 Credit: Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA

⁹ Ibid 8, pp. 44 & 46.

¹⁰ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Ser. I, v. 12, pt. 2, p. 403, © 1885, US Government Printing Office, Wash., DC.

¹¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 29, 1862, p. 2.

¹² Historical Sketch by Capt. George W. Davey taken from Final Report on the Battlefield of Gettysburg (New York at Gettysburg) by the New York Monuments Commission for the Battlefields of Gettysburg and Chattanooga. Albany, NY: J.B. Lyon Company, 1902.

¹³ Lee, Fitzhugh, *General Lee*, p. 186, © 1894, D. Appleton Co., N.Y.

¹⁴ *New York Tribune*, August 30, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

¹⁵ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Ser. I, v. 12, pt. 2, p. 403, © 1885, US Government Printing Office, Wash., DC.

¹⁶ *National Republican*, August 29, 1862, p. 2, c. 4

¹⁷ Ibid 15.

¹⁸ *New York Tribune*, August 30, 1862, p. 1, c. 3.

¹⁹ Ibid 15.

²⁰ Ibid 8, p. 140.

²¹ Ibid 8, p. 73.

²² Ibid 8, p. 74.

²³ Ibid 8, p. 74.

²⁴ Ibid 8, p. 74.

²⁵ Ibid 18.

²⁶ Ibid 8, p. 74 & 75.

²⁷ Ibid 18.

²⁸ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Ser. I, v. 12, pt 3, p. 726, © 1885, US Government Printing Office, Wash., DC.

²⁹ Ibid 10, p. 85.

³⁰ *New York Daily Tribune*, September 3, 1862, p. 1, c. 5.

³¹ Gordon, George Henry, *History of the Campaign of the Army of Virginia Under John Pope*, © 1880, Houghton, Osgood & Co., Boston, MA

³² Blackford, William Willis, Lt. Col., *War Years With Jeb Stuart*, p. 137, © 1945, Charles Scribner & Sons, N.Y., N.Y.

³³ Ibid 27, p. 807.

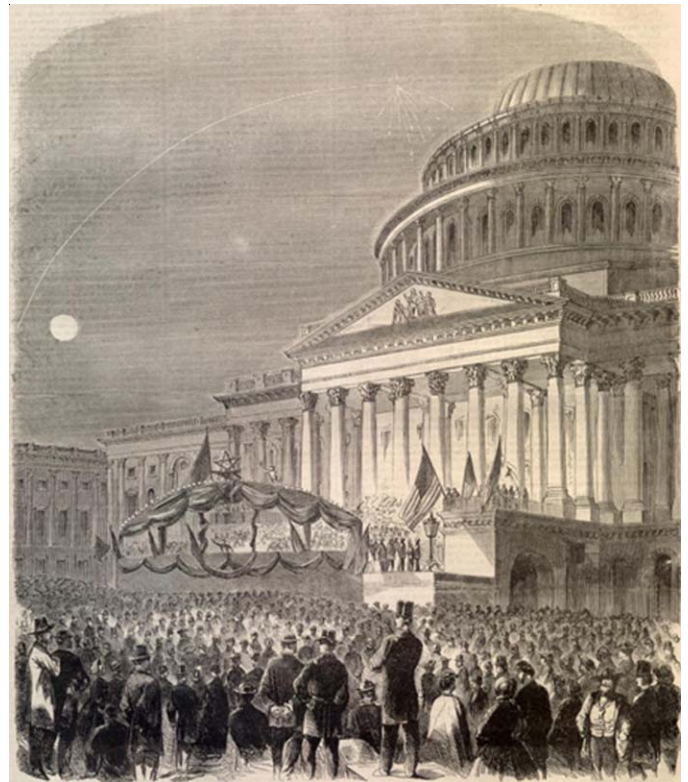
In the spring of 1861, James T. Close was elected a Delegate to represent Alexandria in the First & Second Wheeling Conventions. That spring he was also elected a Virginia State Senator of the Restored Government of Virginia at Wheeling. He likely sent his family to New York to stay with his mother when hostilities began. In October of that year his daughter Fannie Elderkin Close died of consumption at North Norwich, Chenango Co., NY.⁸

In May 1862, James Close and Lewis McKenzie were both vying for a commission as Brigadier General of the 6th Brigade, 176th Virginia Militia. The Virginia General Assembly at Wheeling elected McKenzie on a vote of 26 to 16.⁹ On June 7, 1861, at the Marshall House, in Alexandria, James Close and his next door neighbor, Henry S. Martin, an Alexandria Brewer, were elected by a small group of approximately thirty-five Union loyalists to represent Alexandria in the First Wheeling Convention.¹⁰

In July 1862, James Close was listed as President of the Alexandria "Union Club", a forerunner of the Republican Party.¹¹ The same month he is identified as one of the directors of the Washington and Alexandria Turnpike Company.¹²

On August 6, 1862, Senator James Close shared the stage with President Lincoln at a *War Meeting*, or rally, on the east steps of the United States Capitol. He was one of several distinguished speakers, including President Lincoln. The large crowd that had assembled were predominantly loyalist residents of the District of Columbia. Senator Close, who was the last to take the podium, spoke on the history of secession in Alexandria and the Restored Government of Virginia. He maintained that *Confiscation Act* (the property of Confederate citizens) and *Direct Tax* (the U.S. Income Tax was created in 1862) were necessary and would help bring the rebellion to a swifter close. He also urged the "*re-peopling*" of Virginia by immigration from the North and urged citizens to enlist in the Union Army. He stated that he had been recently authorized to raise an infantry regiment in eastern Virginia. He closed by inviting citizens to attend the war meeting at the Lyceum Hall in Alexandria the following Tuesday evening.^{13, 14}

The same month, three Alexandria secessionist citizens, W.A. Taylor, Dr. James B. Johnston, Benoni Wheat, were arrested and sent to Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC as "hostages" in retaliation for James' brother, Lewis Giles Close, who had been imprisoned in Richmond since June 1, 1861.^{15, 16}



War Meeting on the east steps of the U.S. Capitol where Virginia State Senator James T. Close was a featured speaker, August 6, 1862. Credit: *Harper's Weekly*, August 23, 1862. Artist credit: Alfred Rudolph Waugh (1821-1896).

In August 1862, James T. Close received permission to organize a regiment for the defenses of Washington. He was commissioned a Colonel and opened recruiting offices in Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC. Recruiting efforts for this regiment were also made in Portsmouth and Norfolk, VA.¹⁷ The 16th (West) Virginia Infantry Regiment was recruited for service in the defensive forts around Washington, D.C. Although mainly composed of men from eastern Virginia and Washington, DC, the 16th Virginia also included men from North and South Carolina, and Alabama.¹⁸

In March 1863, at Fort McDowell, VA, Col. Close was presented with a "*valuable sword, sash, and belt, by the Surgeon of his regiment, Dr. Kilmer, in behalf of the officers under his command.*"¹⁹ The officers of this regiment were apparently very generous for they also presented Mrs. Close with "*a riding horse, saddle, and equipments complete.*"²⁰ Col. Close served until he resigned on May 28, 1863 to accept the position of United States Marshall for the Eastern District of Virginia at an annual salary of \$1,200.^{21, 22} For its entire existence the 16th Virginia served on guard around Washington, D.C. and fought in no engagements. The regiment was mustered out of

existence at Fort DeKalb, VA²³ on June 3, 1863 by order of the War Department.^{24, 25}

In January 1864, President Abraham Lincoln replaced James T. Close as a United States Marshall with John C. Underwood effective December 31, 1863.²⁶ James Close appears to have then gone into the business of manufacturing munitions for the Union army. A news story appeared in the *Evening Star* of March 23, 1865:

*“This afternoon about two o’clock, the terrible gale tore the roof off from the shot foundry of Col. J.T. Close, on Seventh street, near the wharf, and hurling it into the street with great force, crushed the horses and colored driver of a hack passing at the time.”*²⁷

After President Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865, James T. Close was one of thirty local residents appointed at a citizens meeting in Alexandria to attend the President’s funeral.²⁸

In July 1865, James Close formed a partnership with Frank E. Corbett, and _____ Monroe. The business was styled “CLOSE, CORBETT & MONROE, ATTORNEYS, CLAIM, PATENT, REAL ESTATE AND GENERAL INSURANCE AGENTS,” and was located at 227 Pennsylvania Avenue “Opposite Willard’s Hotel, Washington, DC.”²⁹

The press of business likely caused James T. Close to fail to answer a summons for jury duty with the Alexandria Circuit Court around this time. He was summoned for failure to appear and subsequently fined.^{30, 31}

In 1866, he was one of the incorporators of the Metropolitan Fire and Marine Insurance Company of the District of Columbia.³² He was also now a property owner in Washington, DC. The times were hard as evidenced by James’ name appearing on a list of real estate to be sold in the District of Columbia for non-payment of taxes.³³ On May 17, 1866, James attended the Unconditional Union Convention as a delegate representing Alexandria. The convention was held in the U.S. Courtroom at the Customs House in Alexandria, VA.³⁴ This convention marked the official founding of the Republican Party of Virginia.

At about the same time, in a likely effort to capitalize on the many Union veterans seeking pensions from the United States government, James established himself as a claims agent in Washington, D.C.

“COL. JAMES T. CLOSE, U.S. CLAIM AND REAL ESTATE AGENCY, Office No. 2,

*Washington Building, corner of Pa. avenue and 7th street. Pensions and Bounties promptly collected.”*³⁵

Sometime after the war, James purchased land in Alexandria County (now Arlington) on Columbia Pike near the present intersection of N. Wayne Street. The area became known as *Closeville* and included several homes (constructed by James Close), a church, and the Columbia School House.³⁶

In August 1866, James Close hosted a fair to raise money to rebuild a church in the area that had been destroyed by Union troops.

*“FAIR AT CLOSEVILLE – The fair across the river at Closeville, near Fort Whipple [now Ft. Myer], a place of about forty houses built principally by Col. Close since the war, closed last evening with a brilliant entertainment and a dance, having met with perfect success both socially and financially. This fair was started for the purpose of rebuilding a church destroyed by the troops during the war. Among the many pleasant features of the evening was the presentation of a magnificent silver cake basket to Miss Close, in a neat and appropriate speech by Surgeon M. Stovell, U.S.A., in behalf of Mr. Porter. Also a large photographic album to Mrs. Bertha Corbett.”*³⁷

Due to the association of Bertha Corbett, a known congregante, it is likely that this church was Hunter’s Chapel.

In December 1866, James was arrested as he was crossing the Long Bridge between Washington, DC and Alexandria and charged with assaulting J.W. Randall (Reynolds?). At a hearing before two justices in Alexandria, James was discharged after he argued that Randall had come to his house and called him a thief.³⁸

Like many of his Republican friends in Fairfax County at the time, James was a member of the Good Templars. In 1867, he was a founding member of Excelsior Lodge No. 4, in Alexandria.³⁹ He was also a *Radical Republican* and was engaged in helping the African Americans of Alexandria exercise their new civil rights.⁴⁰

After the war, James continued his vocation in the insurance business. In 1867, James was General Agent for the National Capital Insurance Company on 9th Street, Washington, D.C.⁴¹

In July 1867, James and Ann lost their third child to disease. James T. Close, Jr., age 6 mos., died of Cholera on

July 25th. The following year, a fourth child, James Francis Close, died in infancy. James F. Close is identified in the burial register of Christ Episcopal Church as having been interred in Ivy Hill Cemetery.

James raised fruit on his farm at Closeville in Alexandria County. In January 1869, he was elected Corresponding Secretary of the Potomac Fruit Growers Association which was formed the previous year.^{42,43} Several meetings of this association were held in James' home at Closeville.⁴⁴

On July 6, 1869, James T. Close was once again elected to office as a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly representing Alexandria.⁴⁵ His election was announced in the *Alexandria Gazette*:

*"GEO. SEATON (colored) and J.T. Close (white) are elected to the House of Delegates from this city and county. Close is a bitter ultra Radical. He is politically in cahoots with those who disposed to be proscriptive and vindictive."*⁴⁶

On July 27th, James Close attended a meeting of Arlington Turnpike Company at the Columbia School House near his home. He was elected to the board of directors for the coming year.⁴⁷ Shortly after this meeting James became ill and was confined to his bed in Alexandria.⁴⁸ His illness proved to be very serious.

James Titus Close died August 31, 1869, of Stomach Cancer.⁴⁹ The meeting of the Potomac Fruit Growers Association of September 1, 1869 was adjourned to attend James' funeral:

*"The death of Jas. T. Close, a member of the association, having been announced, the meeting adjourned, in order that those present might attend the funeral of the deceased, previous to doing which, however, the association repaired to the residence of Judge Underwood, and partook of a sumptuous collation."*⁵⁰

The Independent Order of Good Templar's also canceled their meeting out of respect to Senator Close:

*"POSTPONED – The anniversary exercises of Excelsior Lodge No 4, I.O.G.T., which were to have taken place in the Columbia School House, at Arlington, tomorrow evening, have been postponed one week, in consequence of the death of J.T. Close, a member of the lodge."*⁵¹

James T. Close is likely buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, VA as he is listed as the owner of six gravesites (Section A, Lot 10) at that cemetery. James probably purchased these plots when the first of his children died in 1857. Unfortunately, the records of burials from this time period have been destroyed and there are no grave markers. However, it is believed that James Titus Close is buried here with his four sons James T., Jr., Edsall B., James T., Jr. and James F. Close.

Four days after James Close's death several men gave notice that they intended to run for House of Delegates occasioned by the death of James Close. Job Hawxhurst of Fairfax Court House was elected the next Delegate.

James' widow, Ann Close, remained in Alexandria until about 1880 when she moved west. In 1886, she received a Widows Pension on behalf of James' service as Col. of the 16th Virginia Volunteers, U.S. Army.⁵² She was then a resident of Upper Sandusky, Wyandot Co, OH.⁵³ Ann Eliza Close resided on Johnson St., Upper Sandusky, OH in 1900 with her daughter, "Alvira O'Dell," and granddaughter, "S. Elisa O'Dell".⁵⁴ Ann E. Close died in 1904 and was interred in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Section B, Lot 31, Grave 186a, Norwich, Chenango Co., NY.

Endnotes:

- ¹ Fairfax County DB, O3, p., 390, May 27, 1850, Fairfax Co. Cir. Ct. Clk.
- ² *Columbian Register*, June 1, 1867, p. 3, c. 6.
- ³ Fairfax County DB J3, p. 262, May 17, 1845, Fairfax Co. Cir.Ct. Clk.
- ⁴ Fairfax County DB S3, p. 249, May 26, 1853, Fairfax Co. Cir. Ct. Clk.
- ⁵ U.S. Census of 1850, Fulton Co., NY, p. 40, NARA, Wash., DC.
- ⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, March 23, 1857, p. 3, c. 4 & 5.
- ⁷ *Alexandria Gazette*, May 25, 1857, p. 3, c. 3.
- ⁸ *New York Herald*, October 14, 1861, p. 5, c. 5.
- ⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, May 14, 1862, p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹⁰ *Boston Daily Advertiser*, June 8, 1861, p. 1, c. 6.
- ¹¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, July 11, 1862, p. 1, c. 1.
- ¹² *Alexandria Gazette*, May 31, 1862, p. 3, c. 1.
- ¹³ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 7, 1862, p. 3, c. 4.
- ¹⁴ *Evening Star*, August 12, 1862, p. 2, c. 1.
- ¹⁵ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 6, 1862, p. 3, c. 1.
- ¹⁶ *Evening Star*, August 5, 1862, p. 2, c. 2.
- ¹⁷ *Daily Constitutionalist*, October 9, 1862, p. 3, c. 4.
- ¹⁸ *Evening Star*, June 4, 1863, p. 2, c. 5.
- ¹⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, March 14, 1863, p. 1, c. 1.
- ²⁰ *Alexandria Gazette*, June 2, 1863, p. 1, c. 3.
- ²¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, June 3, 1863, p. 4, c. 1.
- ²² Clerks in the Treasury Department. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a list of the names of persons employed in his Department, 39th Congress, 2nd Session, February 21, 1867, Serial Set Vol. No. 1293, p. 29, H. Exec Doc. 100.
- ²³ Fort DeKalb, renamed Fort Strong in November 1863, was located near the northeast intersection of Lee Hwy. and N. Adams St., Arl., VA.
- ²⁴ Dyer, Frederick H., *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, © 1908, Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, IA.
- ²⁵ *Evening Star*, June 4, 1863, p. 2, c. 5.
- ²⁶ Journal of the proceedings of the Senate of the United States in executive session. (Thirty-eighth Congress, first session, commencing December 7, 1863). Senate Executive Proceedings January 11, 1864, Vol. 13, p. 369.



- ²⁷ *Evening Star*, March 23, 1865, p. 2, c. 5.
²⁸ *Alexandria Gazette*, April 17, 1865, p. 2, c. 2.
²⁹ *Evening Star*, June 22, 1865, p. 1, c. 3.
³⁰ *Alexandria Gazette*, November 15, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.
³¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, November 16, 1865, p. 3, c. 3.
³² *Evening Star*, February 14, 1866, p. 2, c. 4.
³³ *Evening Star*, March 20, 1866, p. 2.
³⁴ *Alexandria Gazette*, May 17, 1866, p. 3, c. 2.
³⁵ *Evening Star*, August 31, 1866, p. 2, c. 3.
³⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, March 12, 1869, p. 2, c. 3.
³⁷ *Evening Star*, August 30, 1866, p. 2, c. 5.
³⁸ *Alexandria Gazette*, December 11, 1866, p. 3, c. 2.
³⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, September 4, 1867, p. 3, c. 1.
⁴⁰ *Alexandria Gazette*, February 19, 1862, p. 3, c. 2.
⁴¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, October 3, 1867, p. 3, c. 7.
⁴² *Alexandria Gazette*, January 29, 1869, p. 2, c. 4.
⁴³ *Alexandria Gazette*, September 18, 1868, p. 3, c. 3.
⁴⁴ *Alexandria Gazette*, November 10, 1868, p. 2, c. 4.
⁴⁵ *Alexandria Gazette*, July 7, 1869, p. 2, c. 2.
⁴⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, July 7, 1869, p. 3, c. 3.
⁴⁷ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 2, 1869, p. 3, c.
⁴⁸ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 7, 1868, p. 3, c. 2.
⁴⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 8, 1869, p. 3, c. 1.
⁵⁰ *Alexandria Gazette*, September 1, 1869, p. 3, c. 2.
⁵¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, September 1, 1869, p. 3, c. 2.
⁵² Gen. Index to Pen. Files, 1861-1934, T288, Wid. Pen., Ann E.S. Close, Ohio, Feb. 12, 1886, App. #335,178, Cert. #233.028, NARA, Wash., DC.
⁵³ *Cleveland Leader*, May 5, 1887, p. 4, c. 5.
⁵⁴ U.S. Census of 1900, Wyandot Co., OH, p. 198, NARA, Wash., DC

the insurrection, or even those who refused to take an Oath of Allegiance to the United States, was subject to seizure by the Federal government.

In August 1862, John Hawxhurst of Fairfax Court House was appointed by President Lincoln a Federal Tax Commissioner for Fairfax County. Tax Commissioner's were charged with enforcing the new *Direct Tax* (i.e. Federal Income Tax). Congress had adopted this new tax earlier that year to help fund the war effort.

Ultimately, *Arlington* was sold in January 1864 for non-payment of the Direct Tax. The tax due was \$92.07!¹

¹ *National Intelligencer*, November 25, 1863, p. 3, c. 2.

EMBALMING.—Last night I visited the embalming establishment of Messrs. Brown and Alexander. Stretched upon a board, awaiting the coming of the ambulances, was the body of Gen. Kearney. The pale but marked features, changed only in their appearance by their unnatural color, proved how speedily the fatal ball had sped its way.

The process of embalment was by making an incision, four inches long, in the femoral artery, inside of the left thigh, and injecting there a certain liquid, which, in three hours permeated every vein in the body, and will render it of a yellowish tinge, but marble like in hardness.

Near his body, at the embalmer's, was that of Captain Beattie, of Bristol, Pennsylvania, calm and very life-like, as also two others, one of whom was a young private, who had been embalmed six months ago in a high state of decomposition, but whose body, though bearing the black and blue marks of putrefaction, was, nevertheless, now perfectly hard and sound.—The number altogether, from various States embalmed at this establishment, has amounted to three thousand since the war commenced.—*Letter from Washington.*

Alexandria Gazette, September 6, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

THE SALE OF REBEL REAL-ESTATE FOR TAXES—Under the act of Congress authorizing the Government to sell real-estate in the insurrectionary States, on non-payment of the direct taxes, proceedings are soon to be instituted in Virginia. Under the direction of J. C. Underwood, fifth auditor of the Treasury, the tax commissioners appointed for the State of Virginia by the President, John Hawxhurst, John Lewis and Lewis Ruffner, are to sell at public vendue certain rebel estates in the counties of Fairfax and Fauquier, the proceeds to be put into the Treasury. Persons now absent from their estates can return, and, proving their loyalty to the Government and pay interest and a percentage for expenses, redeem their property. The estates of the eminent rebels John A. Washington and Gen. Lee will be among the first thus disposed of.—

Evening Star, August 27, 1862, p. 1, c. 1

General Robert E. Lee's home *Arlington*, was seized under the U.S. Confiscation Act of 1861. Under the terms of this act, the property of persons who had taken up arms against the United States, or those found to be supporting

"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

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