Mottrom Dulany Ball, of Fairfax County, Fairfax Court House, and Alexandria, Virginia, was a musician, poet, teacher, lawyer, soldier, and a founding father of the State of Alaska. Mottrom Dulany Ball, who was known variously as Mott, M. Dulany, or M.D., was born at Oak Mount, the home of his grandfather, Daniel French Dulany, in Fairfax County, Virginia on June 23, 1835. Mott was the son of Spencer Mottrom Ball and Mary L. Dulany. Both parents were from prominent Virginia families. President George Washington is included among their many distinguished relatives.

Mott’s early years were spent at his grandfather, Mottrom Ball’s, plantation, Woodberry, near Lewinsville, Fairfax County, Virginia. The elder Mottrom Ball was a physician who was educated at the University of Glasgow, in Scotland. The Ball family estate, Woodberry, consisted of 1,200 acres of land, rectangular in shape, extending north from the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church all the way to the to the Potomac River. The extensive plantation included a grist mill, Ball’s Mill, which stood on Scott’s Run. The location is today known as Swink’s Mill. Modern day Ball’s Hill Road traces the path of a farm road which ran through the center of Woodberry ending at the family home, Elmwood, on Ball’s Hill, also known as Prospect Hill, just south of Georgetown Pike.

Politically, Mott’s father, Spencer Mottrom Ball, was an Anti-Jacksonian. As the name implies, this party was opposed to the authoritarian policies of President Andrew Jackson and his Democratic party. Several anti-Jacksonian factions came together to form the Whig party in 1834. Whigs supported the supremacy of Congress over the presidency...
Welcome New Members!

If you have not paid your annual Historic Fairfax City, Inc. dues they are now due. Please remit based on the schedule below. Annual dues payments should be made out and sent to: Historic Fairfax City, Inc., 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030. Your annual dues help HFCI to continue to meet its basic goal of preserving the unique history of the City of Fairfax. Tax deductible donations over and above dues payments are encouraged.

Jerry Stein
Michael and JoAnne DeMarco
Bennie Leonard

DUES ALERT

Ball endnotes continued...

DUES ALERT

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In the Next Issue...

The role of Colonel Mottom Dunlavy Ball in the founding of Alaska will conclude in the next issue of the Fair Facs Gazette.
Deprivations by Highwaysmen.—Accounts continue to reach us from various parts of the adjoining counties of Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William of depredations committed upon travelers and citizens by bands of desperadoes, who are for the most part ex-members of Musky’s command. Having subsisted themselves for three years by depredations committed upon Union people, they find it, very lucrative to break away from their old habits. Until they are scourged out of the country by a determined and concerted action on the part of the citizens themselves, they cannot hope for safety from their lawless violence.

The Washington Star says that the sale of barracks, block houses and other buildings, to have taken place at Fairfax Station, Va., yesterday, has been postponed, application having been made for them by the Freedmen’s Bureau. It is proposed to establish a colony of freedmen at that place. It further says that “the buildings at Camp Distribution are being fitted up by the Freedmen’s Bureau for tenement houses for colored people. Accommodations will be provided for several hundred families. A railroad runs into the heart of the camp, and terminates at a commodious station-house, a reservoir affording an ample supply of water to every building. A neat little church and library are already provided, and everything complete for the establishment of a flourishing colony.”

The city has published a free self-guided walking tour brochure that provides a brief history of the city and noteworthy buildings in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District. This brochure is available from the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, or call 703-385-8414.

Select historic buildings are open during city special events, including the Chocolate Lovers Festival, Civil War Weekend, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival and Festival of Lights and Carols. To arrange group tours of city-owned historic buildings email or call 703-385-8414.

The Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. It includes a variety of building and monument types and styles, including:

Fairfax Courthouse (1800)  Ratcliffe-Allison House (1812)  Joshua Gunnell House (c.1830)  William Gunnell House (c.1835)  Ford House (c.1835)  Fairfax Elementary School (1873)  Old Fairfax Jail (1885)  Old Town Hall (1900)  Marr Monument (1904)  

*Fairfax Elementary School was converted into the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center in 1992.
and favored a program of modernization and economic protectionism.

In 1831, Spencer Ball, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. The following year he sought re-election and lost to William S. Daniel by just seven votes. In 1833, he was again a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, defeating the incumbent, William S. Daniel, by only eight votes. That same year he married Mary L. Dunaly, of Oak Mount. Spencer was re-elected to the House of Delegates annually until he was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1838.

In 1839, when Mott was four years old, his father, Spencer Mott, was appointed Clerk of the Court for Fairfax County to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Thomas Moss. Spencer moved his family to Fairfax Court House to attend to his new duties. Spencer Mott purchased a home and ten acres of land adjoining the adjoining Fairfax Court House from Thomas R. Love, which they called "Lintonwood." The home would later become famous during the Civil War as the location where Confederate Col. John S. Mosby captured Union General Edwin Stoughton. This house still stands and is today known as the Gunnell House or Truro Rectory.

Mott entered Episcopal High School, a boarding school in Alexandria, in the fall of 1846. He quickly excelled in his studies. During commencement exercises at the school the following spring, he received a Certificate of Scholarship, Third Bank. Also present at the commencement was the celebrated poet Edgar Allen Poe. Poe, a celebrity following the publication of his poem The Raven the year before in January 1845, was persuaded by the crowd to recite his famous work. Mott was present, and it was during this time that he began to develop a love of poetry, literature, and music. He learned to play music on the family's rosewood piano.2

While at Episcopal High School, Mott was a member of the Pothonian Literary Society. He continued to excel academically. In 1851, he received the Biblical Studies Medal. He graduated in July 1852 and was elected valedictorian. That fall, he entered William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. While at William and Mary, Mott became a founding member of Theta Delta Chi fraternity in 1853. He graduated in 1854, again as valedictorian, with an Artium Baccalaureus, or Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. His valedictory speech titled The Old Dominion, was lauded in local newspapers.

After serving two terms as Clerk of the Court for Fairfax County, Spencer Ball sold Lintonwood to Dr. William Presley Gunnell in 1853.3 That same year, Woodberry was divided amongst the heirs of Dr. Mottrom Ball, who had died in 1849. Eldest son, Spencer Ball, received 300 aces, of his father's estate. This parcel was located in the center of the Ball estate. Its location is approximately at the intersection of present day Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive.4,5

After college, Mott received an appointment to teach at the University of Maryland. This appointment likely came from his former high school principal, Rev. Edwin Augustine Dahlrymple, affectionately known to his students as Old Dal. Dahlrymple was then dean of the school of letters and a professor of ancient languages and mathematics."6

1854, when the regiment advanced, he went to the rear, while the regiment was engaged; 3) Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman – In that, when Captain Harness was reprimanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ball, for his absence during the engagement near Haymarket, gave false and unsatisfactory excuses. This took place on the march from Buckland to Riceville, 10/20/63. Several officers of the 11th Virginia Cavalry were named as witness' to Harness’ conduct. In view of the charges facing him, Harness resigned immediately.

On December 17, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Ball led the 11th Virginia Cavalry in an attack on the Union cavalry guarding the Orange and Alexandria Railroad at Sangster’s Station, Fairfax County, Virginia. The 11th Virginia Cavalry captured the flag of the 164th New York Infantry.2 Several months later, on April 18, 1864, Lieutenant Colonel Ball and his regiment presented the flag to the cadets at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.2

On October 9, 1864, Mott was wounded a second time. He received a severe gun wound to the right foot, at the Battle of Tom’s Brook, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He did not return to duty until February 6, 1865. On February 21, 1865, he became the acting colonel of the regiment effective with the resignation of Col. Oliver R. Furnston.4

On April 9, 1865, at Appomattox, Mott Ball participated in one of the last engagements of the war. That morning he was one of the approximately twenty five hundred Confederate cavalrymen who cut their way through Federal lines and escaped towards Lynchburg. The 11th Virginia Cavalry was disbanded near Lynchburg, Virginia on April 10, 1865.5

The next installment will focus on Mottrom Dulany Ball’s life in Alaska subsequent to the Civil War.

(Endnotes)

Mottrom Dulany Ball, was a 1st cousin, three times removed, to George Washington.
1 Fairfax County Deed Book S3, Pg. 123-128, February 15, 1853, Woodberry Estate Plat (1850) & Division, Fairfax Circuit Court Clerk’s Office.
2 Fairfax Co. DB F3, Pg. 387-392, December 2, 1868, Estate Division Ball v. Ball.
3 Fairfax Co. DB F5, Pg. 74, December 12, 1915.
4 George Washington.
5 Georgetown pike bisected Woodberry northeast to southwest. All of the land comprising George Ball in Woodberry north of the Potomac River, approximately 336 acres, is now the Scotts Episcopal Nature Preserve, owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority.
to Lt. Co. Ball, of the Va. Cav., who for several weeks during the siege acted as volunteer aide. His conduct on the 5th, in my immediate presence and under a severe fire of the enemy, was very gallant and worthy of the high reputation which he won at Manassas.”

General Rosser, in whose Brigade Mott Ball served, said of him: “Col. Ball was one of the most gifted and gallant officers who served under me during the war, and his memory is dear to me. My heart sinks to contemplate the life, vigor and hope upon which the unwitting frosts have laid their spell of everlasting stillness in the bosom of my friend.”

Unable to serve as a combatant and unable to return to his home in Fairfax, Mott subsequently moved his family to Richmond. As a refugee he applied for employment with the Confederate government:

“Richmond, June 26, 1862

Dear Sir,
I desire to apply to you for your influence & advice to assist me in procuring some employment in some of the Departments of the Government.

I am unable to gratify my desire to engage in the active service of my Country in which I could, otherwise, at once find a profitable position, am cut off entirely from my former means of support (both in Fairfax and Norfolk). I have a large family dependent in a great measure upon me. I can furnish satisfactory testimonials of business qualifications.

I am respectfully & truly Yours,
M. Dulany Ball.”

Although he was not a prisoner, Ball and his men were finally granted paroles on September 22, 1862. By that date, more than a year after their capture, the men of his former command were scattered. Some never returned to Confederate service, while others had likely re-entered the Confederate service, while others had likely re-entered the

On June 2, 1856, Mott returned to his alma mater to attend the annual convention of his fraternity, Theta Delta Chi, held in the old Masonic lodge at Williamsburg. He spoke before the gathering. In a long and eloquent recitation, modestly titled, “A Poem” he touched on the growing divisions in the country over the issue of slavery:

“A Poem

This theme is sad; on it I had not dwelt,
But that my heart it great import felt.
Oh I would glory if aught I had sung
Could soothe or shame to silence the rude tongue!

Fain would I link in one unsevered tie,
The North with South, till both together die,
Which in Heaven’s mercy I will hope may last,
Till time itself shall be a thing of the past.

Alike the children of such noble sires,
While we keep warm their valor’s glowing fires,
Oh may we show that in our hearts we have
The worth and honor which they died to save,
And may we, fondly, ne’er permit to fall
That UNION whose o’erthow would crush us all.

In our safety and our honor lie,
With it, our pride, hope, power, and honor die!
Feeling this truth, we hail each scene like this,
A welcome harbinger of constant bliss.

Powerful among our Union’s strengthening bands,
Is that dear brothers, woven by your hands;
For what to its continuance more tends,
Than these blest unions of far distant friends,
Which to one firm and faithful feeling bind
Northern with Southern heart, and hand, and mind?
However little then words be felt,
However few the hearts our joys can melt,
However little of us others see,
However small our strength in numbers be,
Our course is still a proper, prosperous course,
Our force is yet a mighty, vigorous force.”

He returned to Fairfax Court House where he became the local schoolmaster. Shortly afterward he began to study law with his uncle, William Heath Dulany. He was admitted to the Fairfax County Bar about 1860 and formed a partnership with his uncle.

WM. H. DULANY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Fairfax C. H., Va.

PRACTICE together in Fairfax and the adjoining counties.

During my absence in Richmond, Mr. Ball will attend to any business for me.

By command of the Secretary of War:

Jno. Withers
Assistant Adjutant General.”

The reorganized company was designated 2nd Co. F 5th Virginia Cavalry. On February 5, 1863, still under the command of Captain Ball, it was incorporated into the newly designated 11th Virginia Cavalry as Company I.

Several days later, on February 15, 1863, Mott was promoted to major of the regiment.

Ball served with distinction throughout the remainder of the war. He was wounded at the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. He was promoted again to lieutenant colonel of the 11th Virginia Cavalry on July 23, 1863.

Following his promotion to lieutenant colonel, Major General J.E.B. Stuart recommended a Captain William Harness to succeed Mott as the new major of the regiment. However, Mott strongly objected to Harness’ promotion. On October 20, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Ball, then in command of the regiment, brought serious charges against Harness. Ball charged Harness with: 1) Repeated neglect of duty. In that Captain Harness and several of his men, allowed themselves to be cut off from the regiment during an engagement with the enemy, near Jack’s Shop, in Madison Co., 9/22/63. Captain Harness did not try to find the regiment and report in a reasonable time, remaining absent until 9/28/63. Later, Harness failed to keep his place in the column, while charging the enemy near Haymarket, Prince William Co., on 10/19/63; 2) Cowardice – In that, Captain Harness left the regiment without orders, near Upperville, Fauquier Co., on 6/21/63, and sought a place of employment in some of the Departments of the Government.

I am unable to gratify my desire to engage in the active service of my Country in which I could, otherwise, at once find a profitable position, am cut off entirely from my former means of support (both in Fairfax and Norfolk). I have a large family dependent in a great measure upon me. I can furnish satisfactory testimonials of business qualifications.

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Although he was not a prisoner, Ball and his men were finally granted paroles on September 22, 1862. By that date, more than a year after their capture, the men of his former command were scattered. Some never returned to Confederate service, while others had likely re-entered the service under assumed names. Officially, the following special orders were issued:

“Special Orders No. 222 Adjutant and Inspector General’s Office, Richmond, Va., September 23, 1862.

Capt. M. Dulany Ball’s company Virginia cavalry will be reorganized, and the captain is hereby authorized to call for all members of said company not transferred to other companies. When the reorganization is complete, he will report to Maj. Gen. G.W. Smith, commanding &c., Richmond.

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Could soothe or shame to silence the rude tongue!

Fain would I link in one unsevered tie,
The North with South, till both together die,
Which in Heaven's mercy I will hope may last,
Till time itself shall be a thing of the past.

Alike the children of such noble sires,
While we keep warm their valor's glowing fires,
Oh may we show that in our hearts we have
The worth and honor which they died to save,
And may we, fondly, ne'er permit to fall
That UNION whose o'erthow would crush us all.

In our safety and our honor lie,
With it, our pride, hope, power, and honor die!
Feeling this truth, we hail each scene like this,
A welcome harbinger of constant bliss.

Powerful among our Union's strengthening bands,
Is that dear brothers, woven by your hands;
For what to its continuance more tends,
Than these blest unions of far distant friends,
Which to one firm and faithful feeling bind
Northern with Southern heart, and hand, and mind?
However little then words be felt,
However few the hearts our joys can melt,
However little of us others see,
However small our strength in numbers be,
Our course is still a proper, prosperous course,
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Ball's the Ball estate. In November 1860, Mott Ball organized "My thanks are due General Magruder who mentioned Lieutenant Colonel Ballin his report of the Siege of Yorktown: "Many of the citizens here too have suffered very severely from the depredations of the Garibaldians. He was a musician, as all things showed. His house is white and stands in a grove of oaks near Fairfax Court House. He, himself, has fled leaving his wife & children who have themselves, after many indignities, gone away. E. Nason."23

As Private Clarke observed, nothing was sacred. To illustrate this point, Private John H. Douglass, of the 71st New York Infantry, entered the home of Captain Ball and stole the Ball family Bible, presumably as a relic, or souvenir, of the event. He immediately had this sacred item shipped to his home in Brooklyn, New York. However, his thoughtless act apparently later weighed heavily on his conscious as he was compelled to return the precious item. In 1883, twenty-two years after the event, he contacted Motrom Ball to arrange to return the Bible. Mott was magnanimous in his response:

"This information was a source of very great pleasure to me, as the Bible was one cherished by my mother and is very dear to all of her children...But I desire to say this much – that every word I uttered in New York of my feelings toward former military foes was true and that I can say fully and distinctly, gone away. E. Nason."

One of Motrom Ball’s politics are apparent in this letter written to Congressman Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts in February 1861. Adams was the son and grandson of U.S. Presidents John Quincy Adams and John Adams. Source: Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Soc., Boston, MA

Henry Jenkins, Captain; William H. Sewell, 1st Lt.; James W. Nelson, 2nd Lt.; M. Dulany Ball was elected 3rd Lt.20 Ultimately, this company either never completed its formation or never mustered for service during the Civil War.

On Tuesday the 27th November, a number of young men of the neighborhood met at Lowensville, Fairfax county, and organized a new Cavalry Company, to be attached to the 60th Regiment, Virginia Militia. M. Dulany Ball was elected Captain. Jas. H. Crocker 1st and C. Walter Kirby 2d Lieutenants.

In the fall of 1860, Mott was living near Fairfax Court House and practicing law with his uncle, William Heath Dulany. In October, he returned to Williamsburg briefly to marry Sallie Lewis Wright of Norfolk, Virginia. The couple was married in the Wren Chapel at the College of William & Mary on October 16, 1860.23 They returned to Fairfax to the Ball estate. In November 1860, Mott Ball organized Ball's Fairfax Cavalry at Lewinsville, Virginia. Using his own funds he equipped them with pistols, uniforms, and saddle blankets.22 When President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion on April 15, 1861, Mott and his company left Fairfax Court House, and marched to Alexandria, Virginia on April 25, 1861.

"Captain Wm. H. Dulany's Company of Fairfax Riflemen, under command of Lieut. Wm. A. Barnes, the Border Guard (Cavalry) Capt. M. Dulany Ball, and a detachment of Capt. James W. Jackson's Artillery Company, all left this place yesterday (Thursday) for Alexandria where they will go into quarters for the present. Our gallant friend Col. James Thrift entered the ranks of the Riflemen as a private, and accompanied them to the seat of war. A large crowd were[sic] present to see the companies depart. Partings between relatives and friends were hurriedly taken, eyes were suffused with tears, and altogether the scene was one of a deeply affecting character. The gallant soldiers, however, were stout of heart and firm in step. On Wednesday night the Riflemen and Artillery marched to the Episcopal Church [Truro] in this place where they were addressed by the Rev. R.T. Brown in a most eloquent, affecting, and patriotic manner. Since writing the above the Riflemen have returned to this place."

In May 1861, Captain Motrom Dulany Ball and his company were engaged in picket duty along the Potomac River. Around midnight on May 24, 1861, Union cavalry crossed the Potomac at the Chain Bridge. Two members of Ball's Fairfax Cavalry, Sergeant John Thomas Ball, who was a cousin of Mott Ball, and Private George F. Kirby, a Ball neighbor, were posted at the Chain Bridge as picket guards. Both men were captured, becoming the first of thousands of Confederate prisoners of war to come. Capt. Ball was commander of the secession cavalry taken at Alexandria at the time Ellsworth was killed. He was let off on parole and his house was plundered by the Garibaldians. He was a musician, as all things showed. His house is white and stands in a grove of oaks near Fairfax Court House. He, himself, has fled leaving his wife & children who have themselves, after many indignities, gone away. E. Nason."

"I myself have lost my all [in my] devotion to the cause. My property is destroyed; my funds he equipped them with pistols, uniforms, and saddle blankets. went with an axe, when someone bought it from them for two dollars, and thus saved it. Many other houses were served in a similar manner."24

Getting Back in the Fight

Although on parole, Motrom Ball continued to serve in the Confederate army. Because he had given an oath not to take up arms against the United States, he served as a guide and scout during the 1st Battle of Manassas. In a letter to the Secretary of War, he alluded to his actions since his capture and subsequent release as well as the depredations he had personally suffered. He vowed never to be captured again:

"I myself have lost my all [in my] devotion to the cause. My property is destroyed; my funds he equipped them with pistols, uniforms, and saddle blankets. went with an axe, when someone bought it from them for two dollars, and thus saved it. Many other houses were served in a similar manner."24

These actions are corroborated by Confederate General Magruder who mentioned Lieutenant Colonel Ball in his report of the Siege of Yorktown: "My thanks are due Yankees when they were through. The house in which we have our headquarters belongs to Capt. Ball who, you recollect, was taken prisoner when Alexandria was evacuated. This house the Yanks seemed to have a peculiar spite at. They broke down the doors and windows, broke open and robbed the trunks and wardrobes, smashed the looking glasses, and I do not think they left a whole piece of furniture in the house." Miss Ball (a sister of the Capt.) had a very nice piano, which they were ready to cut up with an axe, when someone bought it from them for two dollars, and thus saved it. Many other houses were served in a similar manner."24
others were in pursuit of something to eat, and others, still, would appropriate to themselves anything they could lift, or that 'was not nailed down,' whether it would be of any use to them or not. I actually saw one man with more plunder than could be loaded into an ordinary express wagon."

Captain Mottrom Ball’s home appears to have been a special target of the marauding Federal troops. The Richmond Daily Dispatch reported:

“I forgot to mention that the residence of Capt. M. D. Ball, at the Court-House, was made subject to their especial venom and vandalism. After destroying most of his goods, the residue were put up at auction and sold for mere nominal prices — the piano for two dollars, and beds for fifty cents.”

No one was immune from these shameful actions at Fairfax Court House. A respected Congregational minister from Massachusetts even took part. Reverend Elias Nason, of the United States Christian Commission was among those who trespassed in the Ball home. On July 20th, he pilfered a piece of sheet music. On the back of which he wrote:

“This music I took from the ruins of Capt. Ball’s house at Fairfax Court House, July 20, 1861 – Elias Nason.”

At approximately 1:30 a.m., Captain Ball reported this information to Col. George H. Terrett, who was in command of the Provisional Army of the Confederate States at Alexandria. Col. Terrett immediately placed the men under his command, approximately 500 in number, under arms. At 4:30 a.m., Commodore Stephen C. Rowan, commander of the U.S.S. Pawnee, lying at anchor in the Potomac River opposite Alexandria, acting without authorization, ordered Lt. Peirought B. Lowry ashore under a flag of truce. Lowry, a career naval officer and veteran of the Mexican War, was escorted to Col. Terrett. The two men met in the street, surrounded by armed and excited Confederate soldiers. Lowry explained that Federal troops were about to land and would take possession of Alexandria by force, if necessary. He then demanded that Terrett surrender the town. Terrett refused, but recognized that he was heavily outnumbered and in an untenable position. He agreed to evacuate his forces from the town by 8 a.m. On his way back to the Pawnee, Lowry encountered Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth, of New York, who commanded the 11th New York Infantry. Ellsworth men, nicknamed the Fire Zouaves as the majority of them were Firemen from New York City, were just disembarking from their transports. Lowry informed Ellsworth, “I have been on shore with a flag of truce. The commanding officer is already evacuating. He promises to make no resistance. The town is full of women and children.” Ellsworth replied, “All right, Sir. I will harm no one.” A short time later, Ellsworth was killed by James W. Jackson, a former resident of Fairfax Court House and the current proprietor of the Marshall House hotel in Alexandria. Jackson was, in turn, also killed by one of Ellsworth’s men.

Terrett ordered Captain Ball and Captain Edward Burr Powell, of the Fairfax Cavalry (aka the Washington Home Guard) to act as a rearguard and cover the retreat of the Confederates.

Captain Ball, then went to inform his men who were quartered on King Street adjacent to the old slave pen. According to an eyewitness, at approximately 7 a.m., “Captain Ball and thirty-five of his men, who had been suddenly awakened, and were in the act of mounting their horses” were confronted by Col. Orlando B. Willcox commander of the 1st Michigan Regiment. Willcox, a career army officer and veteran of the Mexican War, was supported by two cannon of the 3rd United States Artillery. Willcox coolly demanded that Ball, “Surrender or I’ll blow you to Hell!” Captain Ball initially refused, protesting that Willcox’s demand was in violation of a flag of truce. Willcox indicated he knew of no such agreement, but stated, “whatever was honorable, would be done.” Ball then surrendered his sword to Willcox. Unfortunately for Mottrom Ball and his men, the flag of war had just manifested itself.

Interestingly, the eyewitness referred to was 16 year old George A. Armes, a native of Fairfax County and a former member of Ball’s Fairfax Cavalry before Virginia seceded. Armes, who was just a few days shy of his 17th birthday, was then employed as a messenger in the U.S. Department of State, but having knowledge of the roads in northern Virginia, was on leave as a scout for the U.S. cavalry.

After his capture, Mottrom Ball continued to insist that an agreement had existed between the opposing forces giving him until 8 a.m. to evacuate. Ball’s pleas however, went unheeded. He and his men were placed on the side-wheel steamer U.S.S. Baltimore and taken across the Potomac River to the Navy-Yard in Washington, D.C. From here they were transferred and confined onboard side-wheel steamer U.S.S. Powhatan.

The invasion of Alexandria, accompanied by news of the deaths of Ellsworth and Jackson, and the capture of Ball and his men caused an immediate sensation in the newspapers of the day.

“THE SECESSION CAVALRY CAPTURED

By Capt. Owens squad, assisted by a section of the West Point battery, numbers thirty-six men and horses. The following is a list of the men who were brought to the Navy Yard prisoners, on board the steamer Baltimore yesterday afternoon: Captain M.D. Ball, Lieutenant [Tasco M.] Grigsby, Private Ball, Monroe, Harrison, Smith, Utterback, Spriggs, Burke, Gean [Okeen], Nelson, Burke, Ball, Heath, [George F.] Kirby, Nelson, Kenslar, Warfield, Bell, Thompson, Clomp, Walcott, [Joshua] Stalup, Moore,
Smith, Ball, Butler, Ford, Alexander Grigsby, Cooksey, Reed, Falkland, Bell, Radcliff, and Williams. “They were placed in charge of Commander Dahlgreen, at the Washington Navy Yard, who would hold them until the Government shall make some provision for their retention or release... A picket guard of the Anderson Rifles on Thursday night arrested two members of the Fairfax Cavalry, named respectively Ball and Kirby. A man named Smith, belong to the same corps was also arrested by Lieut. Lipscomb, of the Rifles, a little later.”

Several southern newspapers were quick to blame Mott Ball for his capture.

“Fifty mounted men of the Virginia service belonging to Captain Ball’s company were taken prisoner at Alexandria yesterday morning. They had timely warning of the approach of the enemy, and it is supposed Ball surrendered intentionally.”

Ball was deeply affected by this. However, he was likely still confident that the circumstances surrounding his capture would be quickly resolved. He would be vindicated, and he and his men would be released. On board the Powhatan, Ball and his men were treated cordially and were permitted to move freely about the ship. Visitors were even authorized. George Armes, who had witnessed their capture, visited his old comrades onboard.

As a prisoner, Ball continued to press for the release of he and his men, arguing that their capture was a violation of a flag of truce. Three times he requested a hearing with the U.S. Army. The U.S. Army felt that Capt. Rowan, and the Confederacy for the exchange of prisoners. In addition, arrangements for prisoners of war. Nor were there any agreements between the United States and the fledgling Confederacy for the exchange of prisoners. In addition, Ball and his men were treated cordially and were permitted to move freely about the ship. Visitors were even authorized. George Armes, who had witnessed their capture, visited his old comrades onboard.

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Ultimately, Ball and his men were given only two options: sign an oath of allegiance to the United States, and be released, or remain prisoners of the Federal government. In the meantime, the Federal Army was probing deeper into Virginia. Mottrom Ball’s wife, Sallie, was then 7 months pregnant. Not only was Mott responsible for her welfare, but also that of his younger siblings back in Fairfax Court House, as well. Consequently, he was under enormous pressure to get back to them.

On June 1st Federal cavalry raided Fairfax Court House. When this news reached Mott Ball, it was likely his breaking point. On June 6th Captain Ball wrote two letters. The first was addressed to Captain John A. Dahlgren, Commandant of the Navy-Yard and was accompanied by Mottrom Ball’s signed oath of allegiance.

“U.S.S. Powhatan, June 6, 1861,
Dear Sir:
We have determined, as you will see by the inclosed [sic] paper (a copy of the oath of allegiance), to give up our profession and retire to private life. Some of us, myself among the number, would like to be taken to Alexandria. I truly hope you will find it convenient to attend to us this morning early, as my anxiety about my family increases daily. I can hear nothing from them and the Federal troops are now around them and perhaps causes them much, though unnecessary; fear.
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The second letter expressed their thanks to David C. Woods, the acting Captain of the Powhatan, and praised the treatment they had received as prisoners on board:

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Captain
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On June 25, 1861, the Richmond Whig reported the following:

“It will be gratifying to every true Virginian to know the facts as they are represented to be to us. Captain M.D. Ball, of the Fairfax Cavalry, has returned to Washington and recanted his oath, voluntarily consigning himself to prison again. He took the oath as it was the only condition of release allowed him, and it was absolutely necessary for him to visit his home. His family, consisting of his wife and orphan brothers and sisters, is large and helpless, having with them no male relative capable of attending to their wants.”

There is no official record of Mott Ball returning to prison, nor is there any evidence of an official rescission of his oath of allegiance that has been found. However, in spite of his signed oath, Mott clearly considered himself to be on parole after his capture. In support of this, he was later formally exchanged.

The Ball Home is Looted
When the Union Army entered Fairfax Court House on July 17, 1861, the eve of the First Battle of Manassas, they found the place nearly deserted. Most of the residents had left in advance of the enemy. Mott and his wife, Sallie, who was then eight months pregnant with their first child, fled to Stony Lonesome, the home of Confederate General Richard Stodderd Ewell, in Prince William County, Virginia. While here, his daughter, Mary Louisa Stuart Ball, was born on August 9th.

The 71st New York Infantry was among the first to arrive at Fairfax Court House. On the evening of July 17th they camped just beyond the village. In a letter home, Private Henry F. Ritter, of Co. F, shared his experience of arriving in Fairfax Court House:

“The next morning about 5 o’clock we got up and had coffee and hard biscuits then proceeded on our march. Just before we reached Fairfax we met one of the men that had been a prisoner at the Navy Yard, who told us the secessionists had left Fairfax Court House that morning—when they heard that we was coming. This man took several of our canteens and filled them with milk. We arrived at Fairfax at midday, had dinner and then started to look around & see what we could find. Every chicken & pig we came across the boys called seech [sic], and of course it would not do to let them live. In one camp of the southerners we found they had left nearly everything—their breakfast already set to eat, and quite a number of stores, which we appropriated to our own use. We were there one night.”

Private Ritter’s account did not tell the whole story, however. Most of the deserted homes at Fairfax Court House were broken into and looted. Private Charles H. Clarke of the 1st Rhode Island Infantry recalled more vivid details:

“The men, not being restrained of their liberty, roamed wherever they saw fit, and everybody, officers as well as men, appeared anxious to gobble up everything within their reach, (the term ‘stealing’ in connection with it appeared to have become obsolete, there, articles looted being viewed in the light of spoils of war) While some hunted for relics,
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We were immediately deprived of our arms and horses and placed under guard. I spoke several times to Col. Wilcox about our release, but no information did I get. Lieutenant Grigsby and myself were allowed to go beyond the guard lines on parole, and about two o’clock we were removed to the Baltimore, brought to the Navy-Yard at Washington, and have been kept here since. I have made three applications to Gen. Mansfield for a hearing, but he has not noticed them.

Since our captivity we have been very kindly treated by the officers who have had us in charge. I mention, particularly, Commandant Dahlgren and Lieut. Parker, of the Navy-Yard; Lieut. West and Master Woods, of the Navy; and the officers of the 71st Regiment.

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Captain of the Fairfax Cavalry.

He even wrote a lengthy open letter addressed “To My Fellow Soldiers,” in an attempt to explain his actions.

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[From the Richmond Enquirer.]

I desire, in justice to myself, that my State should know the following circumstances:

On Friday morning, May 24th, about 2 o’clock, while asleep in my quarters at Alexandria, I was roused by my guards from the Long Bridge, and informed that a large body of cavalry and foot had just crossed the bridge from Washington, and marched up the road towards Drummond’s gate, (leading to Arlington) and that a body of troops was following them from the bridge.

Dispatching my Orderly Sergeant and two men, with orders to proceed in the direction of the Long Bridge until they discovered troops advancing, or failing to do so, to remain at the forks of the road, half a mile from the bridge, till notified to leave; and also dispatching a Sergeant and one man up the Leesburg Turnpike, with orders to advance two mile and reconnoiter. I proceeded myself to Col. Terrett’s quarters and waking him, informed him of what had occurred.

He arose and dressed, giving me orders to proceed at once to Captain Powell’s quarters, and in conjunction with him, throw out scouts sufficient to keep him (Col. Terrett) informed of any further movement in the direction of Alexandria. I went to Capt. Powell, he volunteered to keep up the guard till 8 o’clock at which time it was agreed I should relieve him. He immediately started with a squad of his men in the direction of the bridge, and soon after my guard returned and reported troops near the Aqueduct and advancing towards Alexandria. I had my men roused and the horses saddled and prepared for marching. I went into my room and waited quietly for further information.

A short time after day-break, Q.M. Ford, of my company, came to me, and informed me that a Sergeant of Captain Powell’s company had just gone by, who had ordered us to come from Colonel Terrett to get ready to leave the town by eight o’clock. Not seeing the Sergeant myself, nor understanding what to do, I started on foot to Col. Terrett’s quarters. On my way I met the infantry companies, marching out of town. Advancing further I met Col. Terrett, and he informed me, in answer to my question what to do, that a flag of truce had been sent from the Pawnee, with orders...
Monuments Dedicated to Those Killed at Manassas

In the spring of 1865, near the end of the Civil War, the First Separate Cavalry Brigade, 22nd Army Corps, was stationed at Fairfax Court House. The men of Gamble’s Brigade would often escort dignitaries from Washington on tours of the battlefields of Manassas. At that time relics of the battle, including human bones, were still strewn about the fields. The men of the brigade thought this was a disgrace and that the dead should be properly buried and an appropriate monument be erected to their sacrifice.

As a result, Brigadier General William Gamble, commanding the brigade, issued the following order:

**HEADQUARTERS FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE**
Fairfax Court House, Va., May 28, 1865.
Special Orders, N. 98
Second Lieut. James M. McCallum, Sixteenth Massachusetts Light Battery, is

hereewith detached from his command and will take command of and superintend the working party to erect the monument on the Bull Run battle field and will report to his command upon the completion of the work.

Chas. J. Wickersham
Assistant Adjutant General.

On June 10, 1865, just two months after the end of the war, Union soldiers of Gamble’s Brigade completed two red sandstone and granite monuments in memory of those who were killed on the battlefields of 1st and 2nd Manassas.

Under Lt. McCallum’s direction, it took the soldiers just four days to complete the two monuments. The stones were quarried and dressed using simple axes and picks. Cement and lime were provided by the U.S. government. A tin box full of relics from the battlefield was placed inside the monument.

The first monument stands on Henry Hill immediately behind the reconstructed home of Judith Henry, a civilian who was killed during the battle of 1st Manassas, July 21, 1861. The second monument stands at Groveton, near the railroad cut, the scene of some of the heaviest fighting during the battle of 2nd Manassas.

In an elaborate ceremony, both monuments were dedicated on June 11, 1865 before an immense crowd of approximately 5,000. The crowd was comprised of mostly Union army officers, dignitaries, civilians, and members of the press, attended from Washington, D.C. and Alexandria.

At Fairfax Court House they were formed into a parade procession with the mounted band of the 8th Illinois Cavalry at the head. The 3rd U.S. Infantry band, from General Meade’s H.Q. were seated in the army wagons. An Evening Star reporter described the Fairfax Court House:

“...A few decrepit houses and leaning chimneys are all that remain of the once pleasant village of Fairfax Court House. The old-fashioned Court House itself is half ruined, its roof going to decay and its walls pierced for riflemen... The hotels are but hovels, the groves of shade trees and the gravel walks are forgotten, and broken brick and mortar, half hidden by the weeds, alone mark the site of the churches. A dozen perhaps, of its former male population remain. Their homes ruined, their families beggared, and themselves thoroughly humbled...”

Many of these inhabitants came out of their homes to watch, in mute surprise, the large procession pass by.

Arriving on the battlefield of 1st Manassas, General Gamble’s brigade consisting of infantry, artillery, and cavalry was already drawn up around the monument.

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Continued on page 12

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the bridge from Washington, and marched up the road towards Drummond's gate, in an attempt to explain his actions.39

In response to his letter, General Lee sent the following reply:

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Private Ritter’s account did not tell the whole story, however. Most of the deserted homes at Fairfax Court House were broken into and looted. Private Charles H. Clarke of the 1st Rhode Island Infantry recalled more vivid details:

“The men, not being restrained of their liberty, roamed wherever they saw fit, and everybody, officers as well as men, appeared anxious to gobble up everything within their reach, (the term ‘stealing’ in connection with it appeared to have become obsolete, there, articles looted being viewed in the light of spoils of war) While some hunted for relics,
At approximately 1:30 a.m., Captain Ball reported this information to Col. George H. Terrett, who was in command of the Provisional Army of the Confederate States at Alexandria. Col. Terrett immediately placed the men under his command, approximately 500 in number, under arms. At 4:30 a.m., Commodore Stephen C. Rowan, commander of the U.S.S. Pawnee, lying at anchor in the Potomac River opposite Alexandria, acting without authorization, ordered Lt. Reigart B. Lowry ashore under a flag of truce. Lowry, a career naval officer and veteran of the Mexican War, was escort to Col. Terrett. The two men met in the street, surrounded by armed and excited Confederate soldiers. Lowry explained that Federal troops were about to land and would take possession of Alexandria by force, if necessary. He then demanded that Terrett surrender the town. Terrett refused, but recognized that he was heavily outnumbered and in an untenable position. He agreed to evacuate his forces from the town by 8 a.m. On his way back to the Pawnee, Lowry encountered Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth, of New York, who commanded the 11th New York Infantry. Ellsworth men, nicknamed the Fire Zouaves as the majority of them were Firemen from New York City, were just disembarking from their transports. Lowry informed Ellsworth, “I have been on shore with a flag of truce. The commanding officer is already evacuating. He promises to make no resistance. The town is full of women and children.” Ellsworth replied, “All right, Sir. I will harm no one.” A short time later, Ellsworth was killed by James W. Jackson, a former resident of Fairfax Court House and the current proprietor of the Marshall House Hotel in Alexandria. Jackson was, in turn, also killed by one of Ellsworth’s men.

Terrett ordered Captain Ball and Captain Edward Burr Powell, of the Fairfax Cavalry (aka the Washington Home Guard) to act as a rearguard and cover the retreat of the Confederates.

Captain Ball, then went to inform his men who were quartered on King Street adjacent to the old slave pen. According to an eyewitness, at approximately 7 a.m., “Captain Ball and thirty-five of his men, who had been suddenly awakened, and were in the act of mounting their horses” were confronted by Col. Orlando B. Willcox commander of the 1st Michigan Regiment. Willcox, a career army officer and veteran of the Mexican War, was supported by two cannon of the 3rd United States Artillery. Willcox coolly demanded that Ball, “Surrender or I’ll blow you to Hell!” Captain Ball initially refused, protesting that Willcox’s demand was in violation of a flag of truce. Willcox indicated he knew of no such agreement, but stated, “whatever was honorable, would be done.” 

Ball then surrendered his sword to Willcox. Unfortunately for Mottrom Ball and his men, the flag of war had just manifested itself.

Interestingly, the eyewitness referred to was 16 year old George A. Armes, a native of Fairfax County and a former member of Ball’s Fairfax Cavalry before Virginia seceded. Armes, who was just a few days shy of his 17th birthday, was then employed as a messenger in the U.S. Department of State, but having knowledge of the roads in northern Virginia, was on leave as a scout for the U.S. cavalry.

After his capture, Mottrom Ball continued to insist that an agreement had existed between the opposing forces giving him until 8 a.m. to evacuate. Ball’s plea however, went unheeded. He and his men were placed on the side-wheel steamer U.S.S. Baltimore and taken across the Potomac River to the Navy-Yard in Washington, D.C. From here they were transferred and confined onboard side-wheel steamer U.S.S. Powhatan.

The invasion of Alexandria, accompanied by news of the deaths of Ellsworth and Jackson, and the capture of Ball and his men caused an immediate sensation in the newspapers of the day.

“THE SECESSION CAVALRY CAPTURED

By Capt. Owens squad, assisted by a section of the West Point battery, numbers thirty-six men and horses. The following is a list of the men who were brought to the Navy Yard prisoners, on board the steamer Baltimore yesterday afternoon: Captain M.D. Ball, Lieutenant [Tasco M.] Grigsby, Private Ball, Monroe, Harrison, Smith, Utterback, Spriggs, Burke, Gean [Gheen], Nelson, Burke, Ball, Heath, [George F.] Kirby, Nelson, Kensular, Warfield, Bell, Thompson, Clomp, Walcott, [Joshua] Stalcup, Moore.
Ball's Fairfax Cavalry at Lewinsville, Virginia. Using his own funds he equipped them with pistols, uniforms, and saddle blankets.\textsuperscript{22}

When President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion on April 15, 1861, Mottrum Ball and his company left Fairfax Court House, and marched to Alexandria, Virginia on April 25, 1861.

\begin{quote}
"Captain Wm. H. Dulany's Company of Fairfax Riflemen, under command of Lieut. Wm. A. Barnes, the Border Guard (Cavalry) Capt. M. Dulany Ball, and a detachment of Capt. James W. Jackson's Artillery Company, all left this place yesterday (Thursday) for Alexandria where they will go into quarters for the present. Our gallant friend Col. James Thrift entered the ranks of the Riflemen as a private, and accompanied them to the seat of war.

A large crowd was present to see the companies depart. Partings between relatives and friends were hurriedly taken, eyes were suffused with tears, and altogether the scene was one of a deeply affecting character. The gallant soldiers, however, were stout of heart and firm in step.

On Wednesday night the Riflemen and Artillery marched to the Episcopal Church (Truro) in this place where they were addressed by the Rev. R.T. Brown in a most eloquent, affecting, and patriotic manner.

Since writing the above the Riflemen have returned to this place.\textsuperscript{23}
\end{quote}

In May 1861, Capt. Mottrum Dulany Ball and his company were engaged in picket duty along the Potomac River. Around midnight on May 24, 1861, Union cavalry crossed the Potomac at the Chain Bridge. Two members of Ball's Fairfax Cavalry, Sergeant John Thomas Ball, who was a cousin of Mott Ball, and Private George F. Kirby, a Ball neighbor, were posted at the Chain Bridge as picket guards. Both men were captured, becoming the first of thousands of Confederate prisoners of war to come.

\begin{quote}
"This information was a source of very great pleasure to me, as the Bible was one cherished by my mother and is very dear to all of her children...But I desire to say this much – that every word I uttered in New York of my feelings toward former military foes was true and that I can say fully and distinctly, gone away. E. Nason.\textsuperscript{44}
\end{quote}

As Private Clarke observed, nothing was sacred. To illustrate this point, Private John H. Douglass, of the 71st New York Infantry, entered the home of Captain Ball and stole the Ball family Bible, presumably as a relic, or souvenir, of the event. He immediately had this sacred item shipped to his home in Brooklyn, New York. However, his thoughtless act apparently later weighed heavily on his conscience as he was compelled to return the precious item. In 1883, twenty-two years after the event, he contacted Mottrum Ball to arrange to return the Bible. Mott was magnanimous in his response:

\begin{quote}
"If you ever desire to revisit the scenes of it in which you shared I should be most pleased to see you at my house, which is easily accessible from Washington by way of Georgetown and the Chain Bridge.\textsuperscript{46}
\end{quote}

In late July, after the Battle of First Manassas, the Confederate army once again occupied Fairfax Court House. An aide to General Longstreet wrote home to his sister:

\begin{quote}
"Many of the citizens here too have suffered very severely from the depredations of the Yankees when they were through. The house in which we have our headquarters belongs to Capt. Ball who, you recollect, was taken prisoner when Alexandria was evacuated. This house the Yanks seemed to have a peculiar spite at. They broke down the doors and windows, broke open and robbed the trunks and wardrobes, smashed the looking glasses, and I do not think they left a whole piece of furniture in the house.\textsuperscript{46}
\end{quote}

Miss Ball (a sister of the Capt.) had a very nice piano, which they were ready to cut up with an axe, when someone bought it from them for two dollars, and thus saved it. Many other houses were treated in a similar manner.\textsuperscript{46}

\section*{Getting Back in the Fight}

Although on parole, Mottrum Ball continued to serve in the Confederate army. Because he had given an oath not to take up arms against the United States, he served as a guide and scout during the 1st Battle of Manassas. In a letter to the Secretary of War, he alluded to his actions since his capture and subsequent release as well as the deprivations he had personally suffered. He vowed never to be captured again:

\begin{quote}
"I myself have lost my all [in my] devotion to the cause. My property is destroyed; my family were driven out of home by armed ruffians and they were seeking to murder me (having found out my position here) and would have succeeded, but I had acted on my resolution of never being caught again and left with the army. In the retreat from Fairfax Court House I was among the last and am happy to be able to prove that I was of service in it. I was useful in both battles near Manassas, though I did not use any weapon, not having received your letter then and still being hopeful of exchange.\textsuperscript{46}
\end{quote}

These actions are corroborated by Confederate General Magruder who mentioned Lieutenant Colonel Ball in his report of the Siege of Yorktown: "My thanks are due
to Lt. Co. Ball, of the Va. Cav., who for several weeks during the siege acted as volunteer aide. His conduct on the 5th, in my immediate presence and under a severe fire of the enemy, was very gallant and worthy of the high reputation which he won at Manassas.”

General Rosser, in whose Brigade Mott Ball served, said of him: “Col. Ball was one of the most gifted and gallant officers who served under me during the war; and his memory is dear to me. My heart sinks to contemplate the life, vigor and hope upon which the unwitting frosts have laid their spell of everlasting stillness in the bosom of my friend.”

Unable to serve as a combatant and unable to return to his home in Fairfax, Mott subsequently moved his family to Richmond. As a refugee he applied for employment with the Confederate government:

“Richmond, June 26, 1862
Dear Sir,
I desire to apply to you for your influence & advice to assist me in procuring some employment in some of the Departments of the Government. I am unable to gratify my desire to engage in the active service of my Country in which I could, otherwise, at once find a profitable position, am cut off entirely from my former means of support (both in Fairfax and Norfolk). I have a large family dependent in a great measure upon me. I can furnish satisfactory testimonials of business qualifications. I am respectfully & truly Yours, M. Dulaney Ball.”

Although he was not a prisoner, Ball and his men were finally granted paroles on September 22, 1862. By that date, more than a year after their capture, the men of his former command were scattered. Some never returned to Confederate service, while others had likely re-entered the service under assumed names. Officially, the following special orders were issued:

“Special Orders No. 222 Adjutant and Inspector General’s Office, Richmond, Va., September 23, 1862.
Capt. M. Dulaney Ball’s company Virginia cavalry will be reorganized, and the captain is hereby authorized to call for all members of said company not transferred to other companies. When the reorganization is complete, he will report to Maj. Gen. G.W. Smith, commanding &c., Richmond.
By command of the Secretary of War: Jas. Withers Assistant Adjutant General.”

The reorganized company was designated 2nd Co. F, 5th Virginia Cavalry. On February 5, 1863, still under the command of Captain Ball, it was incorporated into the newly designated 11th Virginia Cavalry as Company I.

Several days later, on February 15, 1863, Mott was promoted to major of the regiment.

Ball served with distinction throughout the remainder of the war. He was wounded at the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. He was promoted again to lieutenant colonel of the 11th Virginia Cavalry on July 23, 1863.

Following his promotion to lieutenant colonel, Major General J.E.B. Stuart recommended a Captain William Harness to succeed Mott as the new major of the regiment. However, Mott strongly objected to Harness’ promotion. On October 20, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Ball, then in command of the regiment, brought serious charges against Harness. Ball charged Harness with: 1) Repeated neglect of duty. In that Captain Harness and several of his men, allowed themselves to be cut off from the regiment during an engagement with the enemy, near Jack’s Shop, in Madison Co., 9/22/63. Captain Harness did not try to find the regiment and report in a reasonable time, remaining absent until 9/28/63. Later, Harness failed to keep his place in the column, while charging the enemy near Haymarket, Prince William Co., on 10/19/63; 2) Cowardice – In that, Captain Harness left the regiment without orders, near Upperville, Faquier Co., on 6/21/63, and sought a place of safety. During the charge at Haymarket (mentioned above), he dropped out of the column, again without orders, and

On June 2, 1856, Mott returned to his alma mater to attend the annual convention of his fraternity, Theta Delta Chi, held in the old Masonic lodge at Williamsburg. He spoke before the gathering. In a long and eloquent recitation, modestly titled, A Poem, he touched on the growing divisions in the country over the issue of slavery:

“A Poem
This theme is sad; on it I had not dwelt,
But that my heart it great import felt.
Oh I would glory if aught I had sung
Could soothe or shame to silence the rude tongue!
Fain would I link in one unsevered tie
The North with South, till both together die,
Which in Heaven’s mercy I will hope may last,
Till time itself shall be a thing of the past.
Alike the children of such noble sires,
While we keep warm their valor’s glowing fires,
Oh may we show that in our hearts we have
The worth and honor which they died to save,
And may we, fondly, ne’er permit to fall
That UNION whose o’erthrow would crush us all.
In our safety and our honor lie,
With it, our pride, hope, power, and honor die!
Feeling this truth, we hail each scene like this,
A welcome harbinger of constant bliss.
Powerful among our Union’s strengthening bands,
Is that dear brothers, woven by your hands;
For what to its continuance more tends,
Than these blest unions of far distant friends,
Than these blest unions of far distant friends,
But that my heart its great import felt.

He returned to Fairfax Courthouse where he became the local schoolmaster. Shortly afterward he began to study law with his uncle, William Heath Dunlay. He was admitted to the Fairfax County Bar about 1860 and formed a partnership with his uncle.

WM. H. DULANY.
DULANY & BALL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Engrs & H., Va.
PRACTICE together in Fairfax and the adjoining counties.
During my absence in Richmond, Mr. Ball will attend to any business for me.

A Poem
This theme is sad; on it I had not dwelt,
But that my heart it great import felt.
Oh I would glory if aught I had sung
Could soothe or shame to silence the rude tongue!
Fain would I link in one unsevered tie
The North with South, till both together die,
Which in Heaven’s mercy I will hope may last,
Till time itself shall be a thing of the past.
Alike the children of such noble sires,
While we keep warm their valor’s glowing fires,
Oh may we show that in our hearts we have
The worth and honor which they died to save,
And may we, fondly, ne’er permit to fall
That UNION whose o’erthrow would crush us all.
In our safety and our honor lie,
With it, our pride, hope, power, and honor die!
Feeling this truth, we hail each scene like this,
A welcome harbinger of constant bliss.
Powerful among our Union’s strengthening bands,
Is that dear brothers, woven by your hands;
For what to its continuance more tends,
Than these blest unions of far distant friends,
Than these blest unions of far distant friends,

At about this time Mott’s political ambition began to materialize. In the fall of 1856, at the age of 21, he accompanied Virginia State Senator Henry W. Thomas to Liberty Hall in Alexandria where he gave a political speech. The Alexandria Gazette described his speech as “eloquent, able and effective” which was “applauded throughout...The hall was filled, and great enthusiasm manifested.”

Mottrom Ball was a political conservative. He was a member of the Constitutional Union Party which was formed in 1859 over the looming secession crisis. The Constitutional Union Party, also known as the Bell-Everett Party, was a third political party made up of conservative former Whigs who wanted to avoid secession over the issue of slavery. Their name comes from their extremely small platform for the presidential election of 1860, which was, “to recognize no political principle other than the Constitution of the country, the Union of the states, and the Enforcement of the Laws.” The aim of the Constitutional Union Party was to avoid secession by focusing on existing law in the hope that the issue could be pushed aside.

In October 1859, the fanatical abolitionist, John Brown, led his famous raid on Harper’s Ferry, in nearby Jefferson County, Virginia. The incident so alarmed area residents that slave patrols were ordered in Fairfax County and local militia companies were organized. In December 1859, Mott Ball joined one of these volunteer companies being formed at Langley, Fairfax County. The company officers included
and favored a program of modernization and economic protectionism.

In 1831, Spencer Ball, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. The following year he sought re-election and lost to William S. Daniel by just seven votes.1 In 1833, he was again a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, defeating the incumbent, William S. Daniel, by only eight votes.2 That same year he married Mary L. Dunaly, of Oak Mount. Spencer was re-elected to the House of Delegates annually until he was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1838.

In 1839, when Mott was four years old, his father, Spencer Ball, was appointed Clerk of the Court for Fairfax County to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Thomas Moss. Spencer moved his family to Fairfax Court House to attend to his new duties. Spencer and Mary purchased a house and ten acres of land adjoining adjoining Fairfax Court House from Thomas R. Love, which they called "Linwood." The home would later become famous during the Civil War as the location where Confederate Col. John S. Mosby captured Union General Edwin Stoughton. This home still stands and is today known as the Gunnell House or Truro Rectory.

Mott entered Episcopal High School, a boarding school in Alexandria, in the fall of 1846.1 He quickly excelled in his studies. During commencement exercises at the school the following spring, he received a Certificate of Scholarship, Third Bank. Also present at the commencement was the celebrated poet Edgar Allen Poe. Poe, a celebrity following the publication of his poem The Raven the year before in January 1845, was persuaded by the crowd to recite his famous work.2 Mott was present, and it was during this time that he began to develop a love of poetry, literature, and music. He learned to play music on the family’s rosewood piano.3

While at Episcopal High School, Mott was a member of the Pithonian Literary Society. He continued to excel academically. In 1851, he received the Biblical Studies Medal. He graduated in July 1852 and was elected valedictorian. That fall, he entered William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. While at William and Mary, Mott became a founding member of Theta Delta Chi fraternity in 1853. He graduated in 1854, as valedictorian, with an Artium Baccalauraeus, or Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. His valedictory speech titled The Old Dominion, was lauded in local newspapers.

After serving two terms as Clerk of the Court for Fairfax County, Spencer Ball sold Linwood to Dr. William Presley Gunnell in 1853.4 That same year, Woodberry was divided amongst the heirs of Dr. Mottrom Ball, who had died in 1849. Eldest son, Spencer Ball, received 300 acres, of his father’s estate. This parcel was located in the center of the Ball estate. It is approximately at the intersection of present day Ball Hills Road and Old Dominion Drive.5,6

After college, Mott received an appointment to teach at the University of Maryland. This appointment likely came from his former high school principal, Rev. Edwin Augustine Dahlyrupt, affectionately known to his students as Old Dal. Dahlyrupt was then dean of the school of letters and a professor of ancient languages at the University of Maryland. Mott was engaged as an "assistant professor of ancient languages and mathematics."7

when the regiment advanced, he went to the rear, while the regiment was engaged; 3. Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman – In that, when Captain Harness was reprimanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ball, for his absence during the engagement near Haymarket, gave false and unsatisfactory excuses. This took place on the march from Buckland to Rixeyville, 10/20/63. Several officers of the 11th Virginia Cavalry were named as witness toHarness’ conduct. In view of the charges facing him, Harness resigned immediately.

On December 17, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Ball led the 11th Virginia Cavalry in an attack on the Union cavalry guarding the Orange and Alexandria Railroad at Sangster’s Station, Fairfax County, Virginia. The 11th Virginia Cavalry captured the flag of the 164th New York Infantry. Several months later, on April 18, 1864, Lieutenant Colonel Ball and his regiment presented the flag to the cadets at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

On October 9, 1864, Mott was wounded a second time. He received a severe gunshot wound to the right foot, at the Battle of Tom’s Brook, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He did not return to duty until February 6, 1865. On February 21, 1865, he became the acting colonel of the regiment effective with the resignation of Col. Oliver R. Funsten.8

On April 9, 1865, at Appomattox, Mott Ball participated in one of the last engagements of the war. That morning he was one of the approximately twenty five hundred Confederate cavalrymen who cut their way through Federal lines and escaped towards Lynchburg. The 11th Virginia Cavalry was disbandd near Lynchburg, Virginia on April 10, 1865.9

The next installation will focus on Mottrom Dunlay Ball’s life in Alaska subsequent to the Civil War.

(Endnotes)

1. Mottrom Dunlay Ball, was a 1st cousin, three times removed, to George Washington.
2. Fairfax County Deed Book S3, Pg. 123-128, February 18, 1853, Woodberry Estate Plat (1850 & Division), Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office
3. Fairfax Co. DB F5, Pg. 387-392, December 2, 1886, Estate Division Ball v. Ball.
5. Georgetown Pike intersect Woodberry northeast to southwest. All of the land comprising Woodberry north of Georgetown Pike to the Potomac River, approximately 336 acres, is now the Scotts Neck Nature Preserve, owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority.
Deprivations by Highwaysmen.—Accounts continue to reach us from various parts of the adjoining counties of Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William of deprivations committed upon travelers and citizens by bands of desperadoes, who are for the most part ex-members of Musky's command. Having subsisted themselves for three years by deprivations committed upon Loudoun people, they find it, on a very laudable attempt to break away from their old habits, until they are scourged out of the country by a determined and concerted action on the part of the citizenry themselves, they cannot hope for safety from their lawless violence.

Saturday, July 25, 2 p.m.

"The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance"

The assassination of the 16th president is one of the singular events in American history. Historian Anthony S. Pitch uses primary source material to document and reveal previously unknown facts about Lincoln’s death in his book They Have Killed Papa Dead.

Pitch details the murder plots that were unsuccessful as well as the successful one by referencing hundreds of Book purchase and signing to follow.

Saturday, August 22, 2 p.m.

"Escaping Detection: Women in the Civil War"

Local historian Mary Lipsey will deliver a talk on women spies and soldiers who hailed from all walks of life. Many used their femininity and ingenuity to pass on vital information about the enemy. However, the lesser-known story is about women who donned uniforms and posed as men to fight the war.

Saturday, September 27, 2 p.m.

"Mathew Brady's Portraits of a Nation"

Mathew Brady was directly responsible for scores of interesting images from the Civil War years. In his half-century as an icon of American photography, Brady had many crucial roles in the medium's development. Using a number of Brady images Robert Wilson draws from his recent biography, Mathew Brady: Portraits of a Nation, to reintroduce the photographs of the single most important American in photography’s first decades.

Other Information of Interest:

Walking Tour

11 am Guided walking tour (approx. 90 min.) of Old Town Fairfax with stops at the Fairfax County Courthouse, several antebellum homes with a Civil War history, and the City of Fairfax Cemetery (formerly Fairfax Confederate Cemetery).

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Location: Meet at Fairfax Museum and Visitors center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax 703-385-8414. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

Volunteers and docents are sought for the city’s historic buildings. Ratcliffe-Allison House, Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center and Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Additionally, volunteers may be interested in assisting with walking tours and special events. For information email or call 703-385-8415.

Select historic buildings are open during city special events, including the Chocolate Lovers Festival, Civil War Weekend, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival and Festival of Lights and Carols. To arrange group tours of city-owned historic buildings email or call 703-385-8414.

The city has published a free self-guided walking tour brochure that provides a brief history of the city and noteworthy buildings in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District. This brochure is available from the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, or call 703-385-8414.

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The Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. It includes a variety of buildings and monument types and styles, including:

Fairfax Courthouse (1800)
Ratcliffe-Allison House (1812)
Joshua Gunnell House (c.1830)
William Gunnell House (c.1835)
Ford House (c.1835)
Fairfax Elementary School (1873)*
Old Fairfax Jail (1885)
Old Town Hall (1900)
Marr Monument (1904)

*Fairfax Elementary School was converted into the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center in 1992.

The Washington Star says that the sale of barracks, block houses and other buildings, to have taken place at Fairfax Station, Va., yesterday, has been postponed, application having been made for them by the Freedmen's Bureau. It is proposed to establish a colony of freedmen at that place. It further says that "the buildings at Camp Distribution are being fitted up by the Freedmen's Bureau for tenement houses for colored people. Accommodations will be provided for several hundred families. A railroad runs into the heart of the camp, and terminates at a commodious station-house, a reservoir affording an ample supply of water to every building. A neat little church and library are already provided, and everything complete for the establishment of a flourishing colony."

General Gambill’s brigade of the Twenty-second army corps, stationed at Fairfax Court House, has erected a monument of sandstone on each of the Bull Run battle-fields.

The Age, June 10, 1865, p. 2, c. 1.

The National Intelligencer says:—"There is considerable inquiry already for small farms in the vicinity of this city, both in Virginia and Maryland. In Fairfax county offers are made by Northern men for farms at prices higher than they would have brought in 1860. Many Northern officers and soldiers will, it is supposed, become land owners and cultivators in this neighborhood."

Alexandra Garretz, June 3, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.

National Republican, June 21, 1865, p. 4, c. 2.

Alexandra Garretz, July 19, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.

Alexandra Garretz, August 16, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.

Alexandra Garretz, June 3, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.

Alexandra Garretz, June 3, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.

Alexandra Garretz, June 3, 1865, p. 3, c. 1.
Welcome New Members!

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

Jerry Stein
Michael and JoAnne DeMarco
Bennie Leonard

DUES ALERT

If you have not paid your annual Historic Fairfax City, Inc. dues they are now due. Please remit based on the schedule below. Annual dues payments should be made out and sent to: Historic Fairfax City, Inc., 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030. Your annual dues help HFCI to continue to meet its basic goal of preserving the unique history of the City of Fairfax. Tax deductible donations over and above dues payments are encouraged.

Visit us on the web:
HFCI Website! www.historicfairfax.org

In the Next Issue...

The role of Colonel Mottom Dunlay Ball in the founding of Alaska will conclude in the next issue of the Fair Facs Gazette.

Ball endues continued...

- Richmond Wieg, June 25, 1861, p. 1, c. 1.
- Letter of Henry F. Ritter to his Uncle, July 25, 1861, Manassas National Battlefield Park Library, Manassas, VA. Online http://mps-vip.net/ history/letters/ritter.htm
- Clarke, Charles H., The History Company F. 5th Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers, © 1891, B.W Pearce, Printer, Newport, R.I.
- Daily Dispatch, August 9, 1861, p. 2, c. 4.
- The Washington Library & College Archives, Trinity College, Hartford CT. Online http://commons.trincoll.edu/rring/category/uncategorized/
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle, October 14, 1863, p. 3, c. 3.
- Record Group No. 109, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia, M.D. Ball, Secretary of War, August 19, 1861, © 1893, U.S. Govt. Prntg. Ofc., Wash., D.C.
- Daily Dispatch, April 21, 2864, p. 1, c. 1.
- Record Group No. 109, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia, Col. Oliver B. Ennis, N.A.A., Wash., DC.
Mottrom Dulany Ball, of Fairfax County, Fairfax Court House, and Alexandria, Virginia, was a musician, poet, teacher, lawyer, soldier, and a founding father of the State of Alaska.

Mottrom Dulany Ball, who was known variously as Mott, M. Dulany, or M.D., was born at Oak Mount, the home of his grandfather, Daniel French Dulany, in Fairfax County, Virginia on June 23, 1835. Mott was the son of Spencer Mottrom Ball and Mary L. Dulany. Both parents were from prominent Virginia families. President George Washington is included among their many distinguished relatives.1

Mott’s early years were spent at his grandfather, Mottrom Ball’s, plantation, Woodberry, near Lewinsville, Fairfax County, Virginia. The elder Mottrom Ball was a physician who was educated at the University of Glasgow, in Scotland. The Ball family estate, Woodberry, consisted of 1,200 acres of land, rectangular in shape, extending north from the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church all the way to the to the Potomac River.2,3 The extensive plantation included a grist mill, Ball’s Mill, which stood on Scott’s Run. The location is today known as Swink’s Mill.4 Modern day Ball’s Hill Road traces the path of a farm road which ran through the center of Woodberry ending at the family home, Elmwood, on Ball’s Hill, also known as Prospect Hill, just south of Georgetown Pike.5

Politically, Mott’s father, Spencer Mottrom Ball, was an Anti-Jacksonian. As the name implies, this party was opposed to the authoritarian policies of President Andrew Jackson and his Democratic party. Several anti-Jacksonian factions came together to form the Whig party in 1834. Whigs supported the supremacy of Congress over the presidency