



Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
"Fare Fac - Say Do"

Executive Officers

Hildie Carney	President
Ann Adams	Vice-Pres.
Vacant	Treasurer
Karen Stevenson	Secretary

Patrick S. Cummins	Director
Norma Darcey	Director
Kevin Frank	Director
Mick Frasier	Director
G. William Jayne	Director
Hon. Wm. Page Johnson, II	Director
Andrea Loewenwarter	Director
David Meyer	Director
Hon. John H. Rust, Jr.	Director
Betsy Rutkowski	Director
Dolores Testerman	Director
Edward C. Trexler, Jr.	Director
Ellen Wigren	Director

The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2004

The Old National Bank of Fairfax Building

by William Page Johnson, II



Only the oldest residents of the community will recall the original home of the National Bank of Fairfax. From 1905 to 1931, the building known as 4029 Chain Bridge Road in the City of Fairfax, was home to the National Bank of Fairfax. The National Bank of Fairfax was organized on August 25, 1902, and was the first bank in the Town of Fairfax.¹ Previous to this, Fairfax residents had to conduct their banking in nearby Alexandria, VA

or Washington, D.C.

At the turn of the 19th century a small economic boom was occurring in Fairfax and the times were rapidly changing. In 1900, the first automobile was spotted on a Fairfax street.² Fairfax was then home to some very influential people. Among these was Joseph Edward Willard, purported to be the wealthiest man in Virginia and heir to the Willard Hotel fortune. Willard had located his country estate, Layton Hall, here on 50 acres near the birthplace of his mother Antonia Ford Willard.³ Willard was deeply involved in Virginia politics and was first elected as a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly in 1893. By 1902, he had been elected Lt.



The National Bank of Fairfax Building c. 1905
Photo courtesy of Lee Hubbard

Governor. In 1900, he authorized construction of Old Town Hall, which he gave as a gift to the people of the town.

At the same time, Fairfax native, Robert Walton Moore, was making his mark, professionally, economically and politically. In 1904, Moore helped establish electric train service to Fairfax C.H.⁴ To secure that investment he became a driving force behind the formation of the National Bank of Fairfax. He realized that for the town to continue to grow it needed a bank of its own. It was probably Moore who selected the first board of directors for the fledgling bank. Influential, or at least well-

to-do members, of the community served on the

first board. Moore himself served as President.⁵ His business partner, Dr. Frederick Manning Brooks,⁶ served as Vice-President. Dr. Merton Elbridge Church,⁷ Stephen Roszel Donohoe,⁸ Milton Dulaney Hall,⁹ Hon. Joseph Edward Willard,¹⁰ Ecce R. Swetnam,¹¹ Thomas Benton Putnam^{12, 13} served as the initial Board of Directors.¹⁴ All of these men were considered leaders in their respective fields. The only anomaly appears to have been Thomas Putnam. "T.B." Putnam was probably selected as a board member because he had recently come into a substantial amount of cash (\$15,000) through the sale of his farm, *Sudley*, on the border of Prince William and Fairfax Cos.



The National Bank of Fairfax Building (2004)
Photo credit: Wm. Page Johnson, II

Building History... - continued from pg. 1

The bank began initial operations in the old Fairfax County Clerk’s Office (1854-1934) in leased space.^{15,16} The old Fairfax County Clerk’s Office was situated on the opposite side of Chain Bridge Road just south of the courthouse.¹⁷ It was located immediately south of the old Court House and fronted on Chain Bridge Road. The bricks



National Bank of Fairfax Building c. 1931
Photo credit: Wm. Page Johnson, II

from the old Clerk's office were used to repair the streets of the Town.¹⁸ Plans were already underway for a more permanent home, however.

Construction began on a permanent home for the bank in August 1904. Oliver B. “O.B.” Campbell (1870-1953) and John R. Taylor (1820-1906) acted as General Contractors. The building was completed in May 1905 – the centennial anniversary of the town.¹⁹ The bank maintained its offices on the first floor and leased space to the law firm of Moore & McCandlish on the 2nd floor.

In 1930, the National Bank of Fairfax hired Albert Reuben Sherwood (1879-1963) to construct a new bank building on the site of the Willcoxon Tavern.²⁰ In that year, the Tavern was torn down and the bricks used by Francis Pickens Miller to construct his home, *Picken’s Hill*, in Oakton, VA.^{21, 22} Construction of the new bank began in November 1930 and was completed in May of 1931.

The National Bank of Fairfax continued to operate until 1981 when they merged with First & Merchants Bank. The merger of First & Merchants Bank and Virginia National Bankshares created Sovran Bank in 1983. Sovran was in turn acquired by Nations Bank, NA in 1991. Bank of America subsequently acquired Nations Bank in 1998 and continues to operate today.^{23, 24}

After the construction of the new building the old bank building was leased entirely to the law firm of Moore and McCandlish. This law firm and its successors occupied the building from 1931 until 1972. During this time portions

of the building were leased to such tenants as Dr. Theodore B. McCord, MD and the Fairfax County Office of Land Acquisition. In the 1960’s, a portion of the building was leased to the law of Boothe, Dudley, Koontz, Blankenship and Stump.²⁵ City of Fairfax resident and attorney Hugo Blankenship was a partner in this firm. In 1972, the law firm now known as Mackall, Mackall and Gibb moved next door. During this time the 1st floor housed the offices of Fairfax Legal Aid Society.²⁶

In 1992, after more than 60 years, the venerable old building once again became the home to a local bank. In that year, Community Bank of Northern Virginia was organized in Sterling, VA. They leased the building from the Mackall brothers and continue to operate their Fairfax City branch from this location today.

Chain of Title

1967-Present	Henry C. & Douglas S. Mackall, III
1964-1967	James & Anne B. Keith, Henry C. & Douglass S. Mackall, III
1960-1964	Charles Pickett, James Keith & Henry C. Mackall
1937-1960	John S. & Mary G. Barbour
1904-1937	National Bank of Fairfax
1899-1904	Robert Walton Moore
1852-1899	John R. & Fannie B. Taylor
1850-1852	James & Sarah Ann Hunter
1849-1850	George W. & Mary A. Hunter, Jr.
1843-1849	Edward Sangster, Nelson Conrad, Edward R. Ford, N. Cockrill, John Dulin, Gilbert Purdy, James Kidwell, Dabney Ball, John B. Hunter, Trustees for the Methodist Church.
1840-1846	John B. Hunter
1836-1840	Edward Sangster & John Powell, Commissioners in Chancery
1825-1836	Nancy W. Daniel, dau. of R. Ratcliffe

(Endnotes)

¹ *Fairfax Herald*, January 11, 1907, p. 3.
² *Fairfax Herald*, July 13, 1900, p. 3.
³ Antonia Ford Willard (1838-1871) Was purported to be a Confederate Spy during the Civil War. She was made an Honorary Aid-de-Camp by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. She was imprisoned during the war on suspicion of being a spy at which time she met her future husband, Major Joseph Clapp Willard, owner of the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC.
⁴ *The Fair Facs Gazette*, V. 4, No. 1, Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc., Fairfax, VA.
⁵ Robert Walton Moore (1859-1941). Attended the Episcopal High School near Alexandria, Va., and the University of Virginia; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1880 and practiced in Virginia and Washington, D.C.; member of the Virginia State senate 1887-1890; member of the State constitutional convention

Building History... - continued from pg. 2

- in 1901 and 1902; president of the Virginia State Bar Association in 1911; member of the board of visitors to the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia; from 1907 until WW I was special counsel for carriers of the South in cases before the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Commerce Court, and the United States Supreme Court; assistant general counsel of the United States Railroad Administration in 1918 and 1919; U.S. Congressman 1919–1931; did not seek re-election in 1930; Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution 1922; Assistant Secretary of State 1933; was made counselor in 1937–1941; buried Fairfax Cemetery. (See Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-Present, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/>)
- ⁶ Frederick Manning Brooks (1859-1941) Medical Doctor; served on the National Bank of Fairfax Board from 1902–1941. (See also *Fairfax County Medical Society, Early Years and Early Leaders*, Henriques, p. 38-42, 1984).
- ⁷ Merton Elbridge Church (1858-1931) Medical Doctor and Pharmacist. Was a resident of the Town of Falls Church. (See also *Falls Church by Fence and Fireside*, Steadman, p. 284-286, 1964).
- ⁸ Stephen Roszel Donohoe (1851-1921). He was the owner and Editor of the Fairfax Herald from 1886 until his death.
- ⁹ Milton Dulaney Hall (1848-1939) was Superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools 1886-1928.
- ¹⁰ Joseph Edward Willard (1865-1924) b. Wash., DC, grad. Virginia Military Institute 1886; attended U.Va. School of Law; Delegate Va. Gen. Assembly 1893-1901, AADC Spanish American War 1898-1899, Lt. Governor of Virginia 1902-1906, State Corporation Commissioner 1906-1910, Ambassador to Spain 1913-1921, owner of the Willard Hotel in Wash., DC. 1897-1924; d. New York City, NY, bur. Oak Hill Cem., Wash., DC.
- ¹¹ Ecce R. Swetnam (1852-1910) owned a General Store at Fairfax Station, VA; established the now defunct town of Swetnam in 1900 at Fairfax Station, Va.
- ¹² Thomas Benton Putnam (1842-1909) res. Catharpin, Prince William Co., Va.; a bachelor and native of New Hampshire served as a Pvt., Co. G, 16th NY Inf. during the Civil War. Appears to have been present for both the 1st and 2nd Battles of Manassas. Discharged for disability October 1862. Farmed in Prince William and Fairfax Cos. after the war. Sold his land in Fairfax Co., "*Sudley Farm*" for \$15,000 in 1902. Obit., Fairfax Herald, September 24, 1909, p. 3.
- ¹³ Thomas **Benton** Putnam, Prince William County WB X, p. 9, Prince William County Circuit Court Clerk, Manassas, VA.
- ¹⁴ *Fairfax Herald*, January 7, 1903, p. 3. (Note: The pamphlet, *The New Home of the National Bank of Fairfax, Virginia*, identifies George W. Hunt as the initial Vice-President.)
- ¹⁵ *The New Home of the National Bank of Fairfax, Virginia*, pg. 3, 1931, National Publishing Co., Washington, DC. (A pamphlet in the personal collection of Dwight Lee Hubbard, Fairfax, VA).
- ¹⁶ *Fairfax Herald*, December 18, 1903, p. 3.
- ¹⁷ *Alexandria Gazette*, July 25, 1854, p. 1 The Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerks Office (1854-1930) was constructed by William P. Speed & Addison Kidwell (see also A.G., October 28, 1854, p. 2).
- ¹⁸ Town of Fairfax, Council Minute Book, June 4, 1934, pg. 163.
- ¹⁹ *Fairfax Herald*, June 5, 1903, p. 4.
- ²⁰ *Fairfax Herald*, April 25, 1930, p. 1.
- ²¹ *Fairfax Independent*, September 18, 1930, p. 1.

- ²² Francis Pickens Miller (1895-1978) was a member of VA Hse. of Del. and unsuccessful candidate for Governor. Miller sold this home in 1956 to Don Niklason who established Flint Hill Preparatory School in the home in 1956.
- ²³ *Capital Adjustments 1981-1989*, various pgs., 1991, Maxwell Macmillan Professional Reference Publishing, New York, NY.
- ²⁴ *Capital Changes Report*, various pgs., 1999, CCH Inc., Chicago, IL.
- ²⁵ The law firm of Boothe, Dudley, Koontz, Blankenship and Stump has today evolved into MaguireWoods, LLP.
- ²⁶ Personal Communication of Douglass S. Mackall to Page Johnson, January 8, 2004.

Did You Know?

Van Dyck Park located at 3500 Lee Highway is named for the City of Fairfax Attorney Everett Calvin Van Dyck (1915-1967). A native of Portsmouth, VA, Calvin Van Dyck was the Town/City Attorney from 1955-1960. He successfully represented the Town of Fairfax when it sought to gain its independence from Fairfax County in 1959 (Fairfax County v. Town of Fairfax 201 Va. 362, 111 S.E.2d 428). Van Dyck graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, VA in 1931. He received a degree in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1935. During WW



Everett Calvin Van Dyck
Courtesy: McCandlish & Lillard

II he served in the US Army Corps of Engineers attaining the rank of Major. He was a 1948 graduate of the University of Virginia Law School. After graduating from law school he worked as a patent attorney for AT&T. In 1951, he moved to Fairfax to join the law firm of Richardson, McCandlish & Lillard where he practiced from 1952 until 1961 when he was appointed by Governor Almond as a Judge to the Fairfax County Circuit Court.

Van Dyck was apparently very civic minded as well. He served on the board of directors of the Town of Fairfax Library Association. He was married to the former Ann Harmon Roberts, of Alexandria, VA. The two were avid tennis players. They had two children Charles Tucker and Mary "Polly" Cameron Van Dyck.

His former law firm describes him in the following manner: '*Quiet, thorough, very cautious, scholarly and professorial.*' Judge Van Dyck suffered a fatal heart attack in February 1967 at the age of 52. In March, just weeks after his death a grateful Fairfax City Council honored him by naming the not yet completed new city park in his memory.

Fairfax, Virginia, January 2004-

Message from the President:

Happy New Year to all! I'm looking forward to another exciting year working as president of HFCI. It is indeed an honor to be reelected and I pledge my dedication to our mission "of preservation of the history of the City of Fairfax."

Thank you for your membership and support of HFCI. It was a pleasure to meet and speak with so many of you at our two general meetings this past year and I was so encouraged to learn of the interest that so many of you profess for our City's history.

January is our membership renewal month. I encourage you to renew your membership by filling out the attached membership form and sending it in. Those of you who have not yet joined, we hope you have enjoyed receiving our newsletter and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (HFCI) I invite you to become a member. HFCI is a nonprofit organization and we operate with the funds that are raised or donated, and by the membership dues. By sending in your membership, you will be helping us to continue to expand our mission of preserving and promoting the rich history of the City of Fairfax. Enclosed is our brochure that explains our mission as well as informing you of "what we are about".

This has been a busy, exciting and productive year for HFCI. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Insuring the preservation of Ratcliffe Cemetery
- Reopening the newly renovated Museum and Visitors Center
- Holding the 2nd Annual Historic Homes Tour
- Participated in the production of the Civil War Days at Blenheim
- Working with the City to approve a master plan for the Blenheim Estate
- HFCI was awarded the City's "Group Volunteer Service Award" for 2003
- Establishing an Outreach Committee to education the public about preservation

- Conducting a survey to establish a Historic Properties Register

Benefits of membership include:

- 10% discount on merchandise at the Museum Shop
- Admission discounts on special tours, lectures and programs
- Subscription to HFCI Newsletters
- Admission to historic programs at the HFCI general meetings
- Invitations to receptions and other members-only events

Volunteerism is a key component of our efforts to increase citizen awareness about our mission. Thanks to the many volunteers, the Museum and Visitors Center can remain open every day including weekends and holidays; the Homes Tour and Civil War Weekends run smoothly. One of the Board's goals for 2004 is to encourage our members to participate on the more than 10 established committees.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be involved with historic preservation and heritage tourism. With the City's 200th birthday in 2005, the downtown revitalization, the Blenheim Estate and Grandma's Cottage renovation and the Ratcliffe Cemetery study, your support in 2004, whether monetary or by participation, will help us preserve and promote the City's history for future generations. We welcome citizen input and I encourage you to share with us your vision and ideas for future projects. Feel free to call or e-mail me at (703) 591-5305 or hilcarn31@aol.com.

Hildie Carney, President
Historic Fairfax City, Inc.



Visit us on the web:

<http://www.ci.fairfax.va.us/Host/hfci/index.htm>

Getting To Know You

HFCI Board Member Andrea Loewenwarter



Although Andrea is one of our new members she is not new to the work of HFCI and historic issues.

Andrea came to the Washington area to attend The American University where she received a B.A. in art history then went on to attend a M.A.T. program in Museum Education at George

Washington University. She has worked as a historian and Assistant Park Manager at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.

Andrea's first association with HFCI was when she was chosen by members of the board to work as a part-time volunteer director at the Ratcliffe-Allison House. She was instrumental in overseeing the final phases of the houses' restoration; developed a volunteer program; created a tour script for the site and other curatorial activities. Andrea was one of original members of the Citizen Coalition for the Preservation of Blenheim. After the Coalition's success in lobbying the City of Fairfax to purchase the property, Andrea became the coordinator of historical research for the site. She continues this work today under the City's Office of Historic Resources.

Andrea is married to Jim Gillespie and they have two children, Carlin and Jacqueline. She joined the HFCI Board in 2003 and is very active on the Blenheim, Outreach, and Investigative Historic Properties Committees. She is currently Chair of the Ratcliffe Cemetery Committee, a committee working to restore the cemetery, which is believed to house the grave of Richard Ratcliffe, the founder of our City.

Andrea does have a life outside of HFCI! She is a member of the Slavic singing group, Slaveya. The group performs regularly in the Greater Washington Area, and has presented their show in Van Dyck Park and at Spotlight on the Arts in 1990.

Andrea – we are most fortunate to have you on our Board!



The HFCI Board meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month in room 306, at City Hall, Fairfax, Virginia. Visitors are welcome!

DUES ALERT

Your annual Historic Fairfax City, Inc. dues are payable in the month of January 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.

Membership Classifications:

· Class A Individual\$25.00
· Class A-1 Additional Household Member\$10.00
· Class B-1 Non-profit Organizations\$35.00
· Class B-2 For profit Organizations\$50.00



FAIRFAX FAST FACT:

Happy Birthday Fairfax!

On January 14, 2004, Fairfax celebrated it's 199th birthday! On that date in 1805, the Virginia General Assembly granted a charter for the Town of Providence to Richard Ratcliffe. The name of the village, which was commonly known as Fairfax Court House, was officially changed in 1874 from Providence to Fairfax. The Town of Fairfax became the City of Fairfax in 1961. Next year, 2005, will mark the Bicentennial Year of Fairfax!

Ratcliffe Cemetery Bicentennial Project Kicks Off

by Chris Martin, Ph.D., Historic Resources Director

Ratcliffe Cemetery restorations and historical investigations were approved by the City Council as a bicentennial project for the City of Fairfax. A project committee was formed, with representation from HFCI, City staff, cemetery neighbors, and staff from Fairfax County with knowledge about this property. Technical assistance is also contributed by the County’s archaeological staff in the Resource Management Division. The cemetery contains at least three generations of Ratcliffe family descendents and may contain the grave of town founder Richard Ratcliffe. A few known burials from other families, and the relatively large 2-acre size of the cemetery parcel, may support legend identifying this as the first community cemetery before the City cemetery was established.

Set to occur late this winter through spring, the first phase of the project involves historical research and a preliminary archaeological study to determine the extent of burials. The Louis Berger Group, an archaeological consultant with extensive cemetery experience, has been contracted to perform the archaeological delineation. The contract will produce archival research, a field survey, data analysis, and a report. Subsequent phases of the project will involve continued archaeological testing, improvement of the site’s appearance, and publication of project results.



Quote-worthy

“I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past.”

- Patrick Henry
March 23, 1775

HFCI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL

HISTORIC FAIRFAX CITY, INC. is a non-profit corporation (501©(3) organization)

Membership Classifications:

- Class A Individual\$25.00
- Class A-1 Additional Household Member\$10.00
- Class B-1 Non-profit Organizations\$35.00
- Class B-2 For profit Organizations\$50.00

Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership application and check made out to Historic Fairfax City Inc. for: \$_____

Name or Organization: _____

Telephone #: _____

Contact name: _____

e-mail: _____

Address: _____

Return to: Historic Fairfax City, Inc.,
Attention: Membership Committee
10209 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

Capital, \$25,000.00. Surplus and Profits over \$13,000.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF FAIRFAX,
FAIRFAX, VA.
 BEGAN BUSINESS AUGUST 25TH, 1902.

R. WALTON MOORE, President. **Dr. F. M. BROOKS, Vice-President.**
JAMES W. BALLARD, Cashier.

Directors:
 R. WALTON MOORE, Jos. E. WILLARD, E. R. SWENHAM, F. M. BROOKS, T. B. PUTNAM,
 S. R. DONOHOR, M. E. CHURCH, C. VERNON FORD, M. D. HALL, A. G. COOPER.

Deposits solicited. Negotiable paper discounted. We have unsurpassed facilities for making collections. Collections made free of charge to depositors. Every accommodation consistent with prudent business methods will be extended to our patrons. Small deposits receive the same attention as large ones. Prompt attention given to all business. Loans negotiated.

Report of Condition to the Comptroller of the Currency at the Close of Business Nov. 12, 1906

Loans and discounts.....	\$138,473.43	Capital Stock	\$25,000.00
U.S. Bonds \$12,000; premiums on same, \$190	12,180.00	Surplus and undivided profits.....	12,904.37
Banking House, Furniture, and Fixtures	8,602.27	Circulation.....	12,000.00
Due from Banks.....	27,657.55	Deposits.....	149,142.78
Cash on hand.....	11,683.90		
Five per cent. Fund.....	450.00		
	\$199,047.15		\$199,047.15

Safe Deposit Boxes for Rent on Easy Terms.

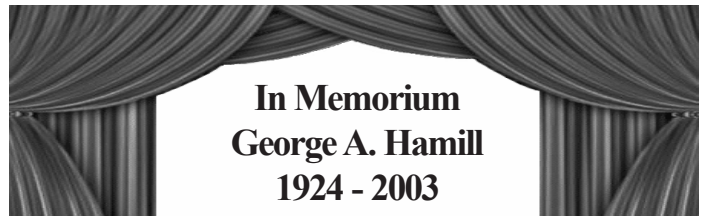
Source: *Fairfax Herald*, November 11, 1907, p. 3



THE HOME OF QUALITY BRANDS
 BEST GRADES OF
Coffees and Teas,
Everything in Groceries
 AND CANNED GOODS,
 Fresh Meats, Vegetables and Fruits.
C. J. Parkinson & Co.
 Fairfax, Va.

GOODS | PROMPTLY | DELIVERED.

Source: *Fairfax Herald*, September 20, 1912, p. 2



George A. Hamill passed away November 12th at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke, VA. He served as the first president of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. from 1983-1989.

Born in Washington, DC, and raised in Fairfax, George was a 1942 graduate of Fairfax High School. He entered the US Army Quartermaster Corps in 1943 and served in the European Theater during World War II. He remained in Europe for several years after the war working as a mapmaker. In 1946, he entered the College of William & Mary where he graduated in 1950. He returned to Fairfax and embarked on a career as an Insurance Agent specializing in Commercial and Business lines.

He served on the Fairfax Town and City Council from 1960-1968, and as Mayor of Fairfax from 1968-1970. He resigned in 1970 citing business and family pressures. In 1972, he was instrumental in helping saving the Ratcliffe-Allison House, which was formerly known as Earp's Ordinary. In addition to his service on the HFCI board, George also served as president of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (1958) and the Fairfax Rotary Club (1963).

He was the father of seven children. His wife, Sally, died in 1987.



Sign raising May 8, 1962, (l to r) Stacy C. Sherwood, Daniel J. Harrison, Roland Clark, John C. Wood, Dr. John N.G. Finley, George A. Hamill, and Dr. Fred M. Everley. The sign reads: "George Mason College of the University of Virginia, On February 10, 1959, this tract of 150 acres was given by the citizens of the town of Fairfax as a permanent site of the College."

Photo Source: A. Ellis Teachman, George Mason University, Special Collections & Archives, Fenwick Library, Fairfax, VA.

"Committed to Excellence"

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
Hildie Carney, President
10209 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22030



The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

The Fare Facs Gazette © 2004
Editor: William Page Johnson, II

E-mail: historicfairfax@aol.com
Website: www.ci.fairfax.va.us/Host/hfci/index.htm