



The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Fall 2004

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The Sisson House

by William Page Johnson, II



The small frame house adjacent to our City Hall was built in several stages with the earliest portion being constructed before 1845. It is known as the *Sisson House*, so named for the family of Robert Lewis Sisson, my great-great-uncle. The Sisson family has been living in Fairfax since Robert Sisson, grandfather of Robert Lewis Sisson, settled here in 1782 after his service in the Revolutionary War.

When our town founder, Richard Ratcliffe, died in 1825 his land was devised to his heirs. The Sisson House stands on a portion of that land which Ratcliffe owned outside of the then town limits. Richard Ratcliffe's Will directed that his land outside of Providence, as Fairfax was then known, be divided among his daughters as they may choose. Stephen Daniel, the husband of Ann W. Daniel, a deceased daughter of Richard Ratcliffe, as her legal heir, chose a ten acre parcel encompassing the site of the present Sisson House. The transfer of this property to Stephen Daniel was halted by a suit brought by Thomas Moss, and others, to settle debts on the estate of Richard Ratcliffe. The result of this suit was the distribution of Ratcliffe's land to

special commissioners for benefit of the estate. These commissioners were directed to sell "Lot 4" of the estate of Richard Ratcliffe consisting of ten acres. Daniel McCarty Fitzhugh acquired Lot 4 of Ratcliffe's estate from these commissioners on December 29, 1845.

In 1869, Daniel M. Fitzhugh sold to Robert Lewis Sisson all of Lot 4.¹ Surviving Fairfax County land tax records indicate the presence of buildings on this 10-acre parcel before 1845. In 1870, one year after Sisson's purchase, Fairfax County land tax records include the notation "*improvements added,*" indicating that Sisson added an additional building(s) that year. In 1872, Sisson purchased from Henry W.

Thomas, 6.93 acres of adjoining land to the south know as "*Cottage Farm.*" The name, "*Cottage Farm*", is curious because tax records indicate the land was vacant at the time. Robert Sisson probably purchased this



Sisson House built before 1845.

Sisson... - continued from pg. 1

land because of the valuable spring located on it. The spring, now covered over by the City Hall parking lot, is actually the headwaters of Daniels Run which flows east through the city into Accotink Creek.

Robert L. Sisson operated a stage coach line from Fairfax Court House to Fairfax Station from



Lillie Mae (Sisson) Perry c. 1900

1869 until his death in 1903. Twice a day for 34 years he would make this trip, delivering passengers and mail. He housed his carriages in a stable behind the current house. Robert Sisson had two daughters, Sallie and Lillian. Sallie married James W. Taylor in 1882 and Lillie married George Perry, of Orange County, VA, in 1892. The house may have been expanded about this time. All three families occupied the same household until about 1884 when Jim & Sallie moved into their own home.

In 1877, Robert Sisson added an additional \$400 worth of improvements to his original 10-acre parcel. For tax purposes the two parcels were "consolidated" in 1881. In 1884, Robert and Martha

Sisson sold one acre with improvements to their son-in-law, James W. Taylor. Deed research indicates that this parcel includes the home now owned by Jim and Shirlee Charnley. Fairfax County land tax records for the Charnley's house suggest that it was constructed between 1881 and 1884.

NOTICE.

—o—

JAMES W. TAYLOR,

UNDERTAKER

FAIRFAX, VA.

—o—

Having an up-to-date Hearse and a first-class ICE-BOX, am prepared to fill all orders at shortest notice and reasonable rates.

—o—

Also Superintendent of Fairfax Cemetery.

Sep 4

Source: Fairfax Herald, September 4, 1902.

Sallie and Lillie inherited the property from their parents in 1903. Sallie Sisson Taylor was active in social affairs, particularly the Confederate Memorial Association which erected the Confederate Monument in Fairfax Cemetery in 1890. Prior to their marriage,



Willard Scott & Lillian Mae (Sisson) Perry c. 1960

Jim Taylor had boarded with the Sisson family and worked for Robert Sisson on the stage line. He too, was active in community affairs. In 1900, Jim was elected to the Fairfax Town Council. When his father-in-law died in 1903, he took over the stage line and continued its operation until July 1, 1909 when he was forced out of business by the new electric trolley line, which had been extended to Fairfax C.H. in 1904.

In addition to operating the stage line Jim Taylor was also an early Fairfax Undertaker. He operated his mortuary from this residence. Conveniently, at that time, he was also the Fairfax County Coroner and Superintendent of the Fairfax Cemetery, now owned and maintained by the City of Fairfax. Longtime City resident Lee Hubbard recalls being told as a child of a horse drawn hearse belonging Jim Taylor which remained in the stable for years until fire destroyed the building at an unknown date.

The house has seen its share of misfortune. In 1900, Lillie Sisson Perry's husband, George Perry, worked two jobs to make ends meet. During the day he worked as a Clerk in Job Hawxhurst's store on the corner of Rt. 123 and Main St. in Fairfax. At night he worked as Telegraph Operator at Fairfax Station. In that same year, he suffered a serious head injury at the depot and was committed to Western State Hospital in Staunton, VA where he died in 1915.

Lillie remained at the house until her parents died in 1903. She then moved to Washington, D.C. to find work to support her son Warren Perry.

In June 1907, a guest of Jim and Sallie (Sisson) Taylor, Mamie Hawxhurst, committed suicide in the home. One story suggests that Mamie was in love with a young man in the neighborhood. Unfortunately for Mamie, the young man spurned her.

Mamie in utter despair took her own life in by drinking bi-chloride of mercury chloride - a poisonous antiseptic. As a result, she lay in agony in the front room upstairs until she died the next day. The

physicians called to the house could not save her because she refused all treatment.

Though seldom seen, Mamie is thought to haunt the house by moving objects and making strange noises as she eternally lives out her last hours of agony. (*See Moaning Mamie in this issue*).

Sallie Sisson Taylor died suddenly of a stroke in 1915. Without an heir, her interest in the property passed to her husband and sister.

Jim Taylor continued to live and work at the old home until his death in 1928. When her brother-in-law died, Lillie sold the house to Fairfax attorney John S. Barbour.² The Barbour's evidently leased the property. Several ads listing a cottage for rent appear in period issues of the *Fairfax Herald*. The Barbour's also owned the much larger mansion house now known as *Il Lupo's Restaurant*, located at 4069 Chain Bridge Road.

Mary G. Barbour, widow of John S. Barbour, sold the property to Jim and Shirley Draper on June 18, 1956.³ The Draper's were natives of Connecticut, having met at the University of Connecticut in 1941. Jim was an Army Intelligence Officer and Shirley was a Fairfax High School History Teacher and Guidance Counselor. Both were members of the Historical Society of Fairfax County. The Draper's subsequently sold the property to the City of Fairfax in 1990. After Shirley Draper's death in 2000, Jim Draper donated \$1.5 million to the University of Connecticut for the establishment the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair of American History.

In May of 1995, thanks to the efforts of Councilman Jeffrey C. Greenfield and Walter A. Wilson, III, the name was officially changed to the *Sisson House* to reflect its long association with that family.

(Endnotes)

¹ Fairfax County Deed Book L4, p. 199.

² Fairfax County Deed Book J10, p. 549.

³ Fairfax County Deed Book 1455, p. 355.

Moaning Mamie?

The ghost of a young woman named Mamie Hawxhurst who died nearly 100 years ago haunts the *Sisson House* in the City of Fairfax.

Mamie was the beautiful adopted daughter of Job and Margaret Hawxhurst. She was described as “*a woman of unusual attractiveness and vivacity.*” She was also “*universally popular*” and nearly everyone in Fairfax mourned her passing.¹

The Hawxhurst family was very prominent in Fairfax in the 2nd half of the 19th century. Mamie’s father, Job Hawxhurst, was a native of New York. He was a pacifist Quaker and Union loyalist during the Civil War. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in 1863 and again from 1869 to 1871. He served as Mayor of Fairfax from 1892 to 1896. He also operated a General Store on the corner of Main Street and Chain Bridge Road and was Postmaster of Fairfax from 1865 until he retired in 1903.² Mamie served as his Assistant Postmistress. In the days before free mail delivery citizens had to go to the post office to retrieve their mail. Because of her position Mamie was well known to everyone in the community.

When her father retired due to health reasons in 1903, Richard Ratcliffe Farr, Jr. was appointed to fill the position.³ Mamie went to work in the Clerk’s office until her brother, George W. Hawhurst, who was the Mayor of Falls Church, was appointed Postmaster in Falls Church in September 1906.⁴ Within two weeks Mamie left Fairfax and went to work for her brother as the Assistant Postmistress in Falls Church.⁵

Tragedy had recently visited the Hawxhurst family. Mamie’s mother, Margaret (Borden) Hawxhurst died in 1904 at age 61.⁶ In 1906, both her father and brother, Wilbur Hawxhurst, had died.⁷ Perhaps this was the cause of her despair. Perhaps too, Mamie had expected to be appointed Postmistress in Fairfax when her father retired. It has also been suggested but not substantiated that Mamie was in

love with a young man in the neighborhood but the young man did not feel the same towards her. As a result of being spurned she left Fairfax. It is clear that she either did not enjoy working for her brother in Falls Church or she simply missed her life in Fairfax because she returned to Fairfax after only nine months in Falls Church.

Mamie returned to Fairfax on June 7, 1907 and was a guest in the home of Jim and Sallie (Sisson) Taylor.⁸ In the weeks preceding her own death four other members of the Fairfax community had taken their own lives. These events were chronicled in the *Fairfax Herald*.^{9, 10} Just days just before her death Mamie appears to have been contemplating suicide as well. On a visit to the graves of her parents in the town (now city) cemetery she pointed out to a friend the spot, next to her mother that she would like to be buried.¹¹

On Sunday morning, June 16th, the Taylor’s went to church about 11 o’clock leaving Mamie at home alone. In a rash act, Mamie took her own life in the upstairs front bedroom by drinking a solution of bi-chloride of mercury chloride - a poisonous antiseptic. When the Taylor’s returned from church and found her they immediately summoned two physicians’ to the house, Dr. Howard Fletcher and Dr. Walker P. Moncure. Mamie refused all treatment that might have saved her life. She expected the poison to have an immediate effect, but instead she lingered in agony in the front room upstairs until she died 24 hours later. As she lay dying she selected the pallbearers for her funeral and even directed how her personal effects should be distributed to her friends.¹²

The *Sisson House* is now owned by the City of Fairfax and houses the offices of the City’s Superintendent of Schools and Voter Registrar. Though Mamie is seldom seen, city staff members who occasionally work late into the night, especially at election time, have complained of strange noises and objects being moved in the house. So if you happen to be in the *Sisson House* late one night and hear and

Fairfax, Virginia, October 2004-

Message from the President:

Greetings from the President - -

Last year our newsletter editor, Page Johnson, reported on the historic house on the corner of Route 123 and Stratford Ave – the *Roberts-Chichester House* (or the Hope Farm as it is sometimes called). HFCI was asked to evaluate the house for its historic value. We recommended that the original part of the house be preserved. The developer agreed to do that and build around it. Along came Mike and Cindy Pappas, who purchased the house – as is!

This summer, one year later, I had the pleasure of visiting the Pappas' home to catch up on the renovation. I was astounded by what they had accomplished. Mike and Cindy have done this before but as they said *"Everyday something unforeseen comes up and work must halt so that we can take care of it"*. This is a 2-person (w/ help from Cindy's Father) operation, with most of the work being done by the Pappas'. We salute them for their perserverence. We are looking forward to see the finished product when the house is one of our key Homes Tour stars.

The Homes Tour Committee, under the able direction of Karen Stevenson and Carol Cope, continued working this summer on organizing the 3rd Annual Homes Tour, which will be held on April 30th. They have secured six exceptional homes in the City that will depict suburban development in Fairfax over the last 100 years. We thank those courageous homeowners who have agreed to show their homes. Watch for our brochure and tickets, —they will be available in March.

Our Bicentennial Committee, chaired by David Meyer, finalized the project plans for HFCI's contribution to the City's 200th year celebration. The January 14th birthday of the City will be hosted by HFCI with a dedication of a marker at the site of our

founder's home. "Richard Ratcliff" himself will be attending. Please call David to volunteer your services for these bicentnneal events.

On October 4th the HFCI Board and the City Council members met at a "getting to know you" session at Old Town Hall. It was a wonderful exchange of ideas between the two organizations. We thank the Council for giving us the opportunity to visit with them and get to know them better.

Welcome members who sent in your membership dues for the 2004-year and new members joining us for their first year. Your membership dues provide us with the funds to assist us with the work of preservation in the City of Fairfax. If you haven't sent in your dues please use the attached form and join HFCI's mission. Thank you to you donors who generously provide us with additional funds for special projects. Those of you who received the newsletter for the first time, we hope you enjoyed reading it.

Upcoming events:

November 10: HFCI Board Meeting, City Hall

November 11: Fall General Meeting, Old Town Hall

April 30, 2005: Third Annual Homes Tour

Ongoing: Capital Campaign

Ongoing: Membership

I would like to thank the Board members for their dedication and hard work for historic issues in the City and for all of you who support us. I look forward to meeting you and please call or e-mail me if you have any suggestions or ideas to make our organization a better one. My phone # is 703-591-5305 and e-mail is hilcarn31@aol.com.



The HFCI Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in room 306, at City Hall, Fairfax, Virginia. Visitors are welcome!

Fall General Meeting

Join us at Old Town Hall on November 11th!

Historic Fairfax City, Inc (HFCI) will be conducting its Fall General Meeting and Program on Thursday, November 11 beginning at 8:00 PM. All are welcome to join us!

We'll begin things with light refreshments at 7:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to meet and chat with the Board and your fellow members of HFCI. Next, we'll convene a short General meeting to report on what HFCI had been doing over the past six months. Then we'll conclude with a short program of historical interest (guest speaker to be announced).

This event is free and open to the public. Families are welcome. No need to RSVP — simply show up and enjoy yourself. See you at the meeting!

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a way with wrapping paper? Do your friends and family exclaim how beautifully wrapped your gifts to them are? Do you know of someone with a magic touch when it comes to wrapping presents?

If so, HFCI could use your help! Every holiday season, Borders Books and Music in Fairfax City sponsors charity gift wrapping — they provide the paper and the tables and organizations like HFCI provide volunteers to offer gift wrapping services to holiday shoppers. The gift wrapping itself is free, but we are allowed to accept donations from the patrons. It's a fun way to spend a few hours and a good opportunity to help HFCI become better known in the community.

We have four dates reserved need two volunteers for each of the following shifts:

Saturday, November 27th

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Sunday, November 28th

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Monday, December 20th

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Thursday, December 23rd

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

If you are interested, please contact Ann Adams at 703-273-6911 and leave a message with your preferred shifts and contact information. Alternatively, a sign-up sheet will be available at the Museum and Visitor Center and at the Fall General Meeting and Program on November 11th. You will be contacted by the week of November 19th to confirm your shift.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the idiom "*I Heard it Through the Grape Vine*" came into popular usage with the invention of the telegraph in 1844 - long before the song of the same title by Marvin Gaye in the 1960s! The phrase provided a wry comparison between the twisted stems of a grapevine and the straight lines of the telegraph, the first lines of which were installed between Washington, DC and Baltimore. The new invention vastly improved the speed of communication between cities and towns. In comparison, the '*grape vine telegraph*' was individual to individual, often garbling the facts or reporting untruths (so reflecting the gnarled and contorted stems of the grapevine), but likewise capable of transmitting vital messages quickly over distances.

Lacking the ability to read and write, southern slaves, often adopted the '*grape vine telegraph*' as a means of communicating with one another.

Run Out of Town

During the U.S. Presidential election of 1860 in which Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, was elected President, Fairfax was overwhelmingly Democratic and voted for the opposing Democratic candidate John Breckenridge.

It was actually hazardous to be a Republican in Fairfax in those days as reported by the Alexandria Gazette:

“Excitement At Fairfax Court House. We learn from a friend that on Wednesday at Fairfax Court House, a man named Gartrell, who had voted for Lincoln, was seized by a party while he was coming out of the Court House and carried a short distance from the village, where he was blacked completely with printer's ink, mounted on a horse and started for his house in as uncomfortable a situation as one would wish to be in.”

Source: *Alexandria Gazette* November 9, 1860, p. 3, c. 2.

Flip Flop

During the 19th century Democratic and Republican social ideologies were arguably reversed. The Republican Party, the party of Lincoln, was founded in 1854 and were opposed to the westward expansion of slavery, a quite liberal point of view. The early Democratic Party, the party of Jefferson, was founded in 1828 and were aristocratic and quite conservative. This party opposed the ratification of the Constitution in favor of a Bill of Rights.

Even stranger, Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, and the first Democrat, yet he was the head of the Democrat-Republican Party, know simply as the Republican Party. This old Republican, or Anti-Federalist Party, did not assume the name "Democratic Party" until 1828. Prior to that time the two parties were known as the Federalists and the Republicans. It is an irony of political history that the name discarded by the Democrats was later assumed by their most bitter opponent.

Political Trivia

Other than George Washington, who was the only U.S. Presidential candidate unopposed at the polls?

Answer: James Monroe was unopposed in his second election. It would have been unanimous but an elector from N. H. cast one dissenting vote.

Quote-worthy

'My father fought for this country in the Revolution and I fought for it in the War of 1812 and I'll not vote now to tear it asunder as long as the sun shines on my head.'

- Robert Townsend Sisson,
(1790-1873) of Fairfax, VA
Attributed to the above
during Virginia's Secession
Referendum, March 1861

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.”

- Woodrow Wilson,
28th President of the
United States

If you are not a member of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (HFCI) or if you have not renewed your membership. THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

Please help us preserve the past for future generations. Become a member or renew your membership today!

Getting To Know You

HFCI Board Member Ann Adams



Ann joined our Board two years ago and immediately became the Vice President. I have appreciated her support to me during these 2 years. The Vice President is also the program Chair so we have Ann to thank for the very interesting semi-annual meetings that are held in Spring and in the Fall. Ann helped to organize the first HFCI Historic House Tour and has been active on behalf of Blenheim restoration.

In addition to her duties as Vice-President, Ann is currently Chairing the Outreach Committee and is a member of the Investigative Historic Properties and Fundraising Committees. Our Outreach Committee members are always looking for ways to spread the word about HFCI by speaking and showing our power point show to organizations, school's and clubs. Please call Ann if you are interested in learning more about that Committee.

Ann has lived in the City of Fairfax almost all her life. She is a graduate of George Mason University (with honors) and her degree is in Communications. She puts that to good use in her work with a non-profit advocacy and publishing organization as their Contracts Administrator. Ann can be seen around town at many of the events and meetings as she is very interested in "the true sense of community that is so apparent here" she says.

In her spare time she is currently helping to restore an 1880's house in the city of Petersburg with her fiancée' who owns the historic home. She is affiliated with the American Association of Museums, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Virginia Association of Museums, and others. Ann likes to get dirt under her fingernails while working in her garden, likes to hike and explore. She recently traveled to the United Kingdom and stayed

at a 16th Century almshouse in the Yorkshire Dales and in a 17th Century banqueting house in the Cotswolds.

"I love the City of Fairfax – it is my home and I am eager to participate in preserving it's remaining historic buildings that they may be appreciated by generations to come. We are fortunate to have an organization like HFCI that is dedicated to protecting our city's unique character and to promoting an appreciation for an understanding of our city's place in the history of the region, the state and, indeed, the nation."

The above quote from Ann confirms her dedication to her work in preservation and HFCI is indeed honored to have her serve on our Board. We thank her for all her work with us and for sharing with us the many things she has learned by attending the various historic organizations conferences.

FAIRFAX FAST FACT:

At the beginning of the Civil War, a strange dark blue flag with a single white star in the center could be seen flying atop the Fairfax Courthouse. Because the familiar battle flag had yet to be adopted the fledgling Confederacy used this - the Bonnie Blue Flag, or flag of secession.

In July 1861, Fairfax changed hands three times in a week. The Bonnie Blue was hauled down and replaced by the familiar Stars and Stripes of the Union on July 18th, only to be replaced by the Bonnie Blue Flag once again after the Union defeat at the 1st Battle of Manassas on July 21st.

hear or see strange things, do not fret its just Mamie noisily living out the agony of her final hours.

(Endnotes)

- ¹ Obituary of Mamie Hawxhurst, *Fairfax Herald*, June 21, 1907.
- ² Manuscript, Hawxhurst Family Papers, Fairfax City Regional Library, Virginia Room, Fairfax, VA.
- ³ *Fairfax Herald*, August 28, 1903, p. 3.
- ⁴ *Fairfax Herald*, January 12, 1906, p. 3 & August 3, 1906, p. 3.
- ⁵ *Fairfax Herald*, September 21, 1906, p. 3.
- ⁶ *Fairfax Herald*, March 19, 1904, p. 3.
- ⁷ *Ibid* 2.
- ⁸ *Fairfax Herald*, June 7, 1907, p. 3.
- ⁹ Obituaries of Elisha D. Berry, Nicholas Scott & Silas W. Putnam, *Fairfax Herald*, May 31, 1907, p. 3.
- ¹⁰ Obituary of George C. Fairfax, *Fairfax Herald*, June 14, 1907, p. 3.
- ¹¹ *Ibid* 1.
- ¹² *Ibid* 1.



NEW BOOK TELLS THE STORY OF THE FIRST TO INSCRIBE THEIR NAMES AT BLENHEIM

by G. William Jayne

This year's Blenheim Civil War Weekend, held on May 1 and 2, featured a talk on the "*Camp Life of Union Soldiers in Fairfax*" by author Michael Schellhammer. Mr. Schellhammer's talk was illuminating and his book, *The 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War*, adds much more insight into the life of a Civil War soldier, especially 14 soldiers who left their marks on the attic walls of Blenheim, or the Willcoxon place, as it was known then.

In March of 1862, Confederate General Joseph Johnston retreated from the position the army had established at Centreville, intending to establish a stronger line south of the Rappahannock River. Union General George McClellan, hoping to capitalize on the movement, sent the northern army in pursuit. In cold, rainy weather, several Union regiments left Camp

Leslie at Hall's Hill in what is today Arlington and made it to Fairfax Court House by sundown on March 10, 1862. Two of them—"Butterfield's Twins"—camped near the Willcoxon place. The commander of the brigade in which the regiments served was Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, the Union general who is best known as the composer of the bugle call Taps. One regiment, the 44th New York was an elite formation of picked men from all around the state of New York. Seven members of the regiment left their autographs on the attic walls of the old farmhouse in Fairfax Court House. The 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was a typical volunteer infantry unit from northwestern Pennsylvania around Erie. Fourteen members of the 83rd Pennsylvania signed their names at Blenheim and one, 2nd Lt. Daniel Clark, inscribed the earliest date on the walls, March 11, 1862.

Daniel Clark was a shop clerk in the town of Tionesta, Pa., when he enlisted in the 83rd in September 1861 at the age of 21. When he passed through Fairfax Court House, he was the 2nd Lt. of Company G. With the rest of the Army of the Potomac, the 83rd soon embarked aboard ship and moved down the Potomac River and landed on "the Peninsula" at Fort Monroe in Hampton. From there they moved west toward Richmond. In the Peninsula Campaign, Lt. Clark fought on the line with Co. G at the battles of Yorktown, Hanover Court House, Gaines's Mill, and Malvern Hill between April and July 1862. He was wounded at Gaines's Mill. He was promoted to be the Quartermaster in July 1862, probably while the regiment camped at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, after the Seven Days' Battles. Clark served as Quartermaster until the he was discharged at the end of his three year enlistment in September 1864. He married in the summer of 1863, had 12 children, and died in 1932 at the age of 92.

Mr. Schellhammer's book tells the story of men like Lt. Clark, the stalwart volunteers of the 83rd Pennsylvania, in their own words. One soldier, Daniel Foote, tells us that they each carried about 70 pounds of gear as they marched to Fairfax in the rain and mud of the late winter of 1862. Oliver Norton, who became

Book Review... - continued from pg. 9

the brigade bugler and color bearer, tells us “We had a hard march. After we had gone some three or four miles the men began to throw off blankets, coats, and knapsacks, and towards night the road was strewn with them.”

The story of these men is typical of the men of the Army of the Potomac, and it's also emblematic. The 83rd stood shoulder to shoulder with the 20th Maine on Little Round Top on July 2, 1863, in one of the most dramatic and fateful engagements of the Civil War. They fought through the Overland Campaign of 1864 and at Five Forks as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia were finally forced to leave the trenches of Petersburg in the early spring of 1865.

It was a long way from that brief respite at Fairfax Court House in 1862 when the new soldiers of the 83rd had a chance to graffiti the walls of the big brick house. To recognize their long and arduous service, they were one of the units chosen to form the honor guard to receive the surrender of the legendary Army of Northern Virginia. After that solemn duty, they marched from Appomattox to Washington and passed in the grand review of the Union armies on May 23, 1865.

The “regimental history” is a staple of Civil War literature. There are many hundreds of regimental histories and they are all nourishing history but Mr. Schellhammer's version is also lively, readable, and illuminating. His research into the writings of the soldiers brings them to life and tells us what they saw and felt in their odyssey from Erie to Fairfax Court House to Appomattox. To order a copy of the book, contact the publisher, McFarland & Company, of Jefferson, N.C., at www.mcfarlandpub.com or order it through Amazon. Mr. Schellhammer is happy to sign books and send them back to people at no charge for postage. You can mail books to him for signature at 2454-A South Walter Reed Dr., Arlington, VA 22206.

Advertisements

Cephalic Pills
CURE
Sick Headache.
CURE
Nervous Headache
CURE
All kinds of
Headache.

Source: *Evening Star*, November 28, 1860, p. 4, c. 4.

HATS AS IS HATS!
I HAVE THIS DAY INTRODUCED THE new style of Winter or Season HAT, which is entirely new in style, finish and beauty. Gentlemen now in want of really a beautiful new style will find it greatly to their advantage to try the cheap Hat, Cap, Fur and Furnishing Bazaar. Getting in that good old way of purchasing for cash, I shall give my customers all the advantages.
Sign of the Dr. Kane's White Bear, corner of Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue
dec 4-2w **HOPKINS.**

Source: *Evening Star*, December 7, 1860, p. 1, c. 5.

Welcome New Members!

The Board of Directors of HFCI extends a hearty welcome to the following new members of Historic Fairfax:

**Elva L. Card
Steve & Linda Futato
Michael & Cynthia Pappas
Gwen White**



HISTORIC FAIRFAX CITY, INC.

Do you want to know more about the history of where you live?

JOIN HISTORIC FAIRFAX CITY, INC.

Just what is available to you as a member of HFCI?

A newsletter, 4 times a year announcing what is happening with all HFCI projects and events

2 general meetings a year, affording you an opportunity to meet and speak with people behind the scenes working to maintain interest in the history of Fairfax.

We are looking forward to having you be a part of the City's bi-centennial in 2005. We need and value your support. Together we will preserve the heritage that has been left to us.

The Board of Directors of
Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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

"Committed to Excellence"

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
Hildie Carney, President
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