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"Fare Fac - Say Do"

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# The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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## The Edith Thompson House on *Lover's Lane*

by William Page Johnson, II



In 1920, there were just 500 people residing in the Town of Fairfax. North Street, in downtown Fairfax, was a narrow, unpaved, tree-lined, backstreet nearly devoid of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. So infrequent was the traffic that North Street was known locally as *Lover's Lane*. Layton Hall, the estate of Joseph E. Willard, ran the entire length of the street on the north, a dense border of trees separating the two. There were only a few homes fronting on along North Street on the south. Today, only one of those houses remains standing.

The house, located at 10413 North Street, was built by Oliver B. Campbell<sup>1</sup> for Edith Thompson during the summer of 1921. Situated on the south side of North Street in the center of the block between Mechanic Street, now University Drive, and East Street, now Old Lee Highway, it is on the west

side of Lot 7 in the original plan of Town of Providence established in 1805.

Immediately to the east of the Edith Thompson House is *Campbell's Alley*, a right-of-way connecting Main Street and North Street, providing access to the former Fairfax Baptist Church, now the law office of Fred H. Coddling, Esq. The alley was established by Oliver B. and Annie (Powell) Campbell in 1917. "O.B." Campbell was a dry goods merchant and mortuary owner on Main Street. He was also a Baptist. But there was no Baptist Church serving Fairfax. To remedy this, Campbell built the Fairfax Baptist Church on his land in 1914. In June 1917, the Campbell's formally conveyed the church and a small lot to the trustees of the



The Edith Thompson House, 10413 North Street, Fairfax, VA. Built in 1921. *Campbell's Alley* is to the left of the house.

Photo credit: Page Johnson, December 2007.

Fairfax, Virginia, December 2007-

Greetings from the President--



This is my last column as president of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. Our new president for 2008 is David Pumphrey. He has been our vice president for the past two years. He and I are switching roles. I will become HFCI's Vice President for 2008. Both David and I along with John Peterson, Treasurer and Betsy Rutkowski, Secretary would like to wish everyone the best for 2008.

Commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Virginia Colony and the Nation, a fourth Historic Marker for 2007 was dedicated on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Draper House at 10364 Main St.. The Draper House has the distinction of being the second oldest home still standing in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District. The placement of this Historic Marker is a project of the City of Fairfax/HFCI Jamestown 2007 Program. This is the last of the four markers to be dedicated for the Jamestown 2007 celebration.

In December, Historic Fairfax City, Inc. gave to the City of Fairfax our check for \$43,000 as our contribution to the costs of Blenheim and Grandma's Cottage. HFCI also gave the city in 2007 a previous check for \$26,000 for the costs of Blenheim and Grandma's Cottage. HFCI is pleased to have given a total of \$69,000 in 2007 to the city of Fairfax. These funds are from individual donations and HFCI sponsored fund raising events such as the Homes Tour. The city has done an excellent job of developing the Blenheim site. We all are looking forward to the completion of the new Blenheim Interpretative Center in 2008.

HFCI would like to extend our thanks to the Loyola Foundation for their generous contribution of \$500. This contribution will be used for HFCI sponsored projects.

HFCI is also pleased to announce that a 1739 land grant document, signed by William Fairfax (land agent for Lord Thomas Fairfax) conveying 540 acres of land in Prince William County to Catesby Cocke, was purchased by the Museum and Visitor Center for \$1,053 from funds donated to the Museum from HFCI. The 1739 land grant document

has the Fairfax family seal on it. Mr. Cocke became the first Clerk of the Court for Fairfax County when it was formed in 1742, and the court record box he used is on display at the Museum and Visitor Center.

Karen Stevenson



## Getting To Know You

HFCI Board Member David L. Pumphrey



David Pumphrey was elected president of the HFCI Board for 2008. He has been a member of the Board since 2005 and served as vice president last year.

David is a long time resident of the City of Fairfax. He moved into the City in 1956. He first lived in the Little River Hills neighborhood and later moved to the Halemhurst area where he and his wife, Cathy, now reside. David attended Layton Hall Elementary (now Daniels Run), Sidney Lanier Middle School and Fairfax High School where he graduated in the Class of 1967. David received a Bachelor's degree from Duke University and a Master's degree in Economics from George Mason University.

David worked for the Department of Energy for over 30 years as an international policy specialist. He retired in 2007 as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Energy Cooperation and currently working as a Senior Fellow for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

David has been active in the Fairfax community for many years. He served as president to the Southeast Fairfax Citizen's Association for several years. He was also active in the Fairfax Police Youth club by coaching and managing girl's basketball leagues.

David and Cathy have two daughters who both attended City schools. Their oldest daughter and her husband living in Fairfax and the younger one in New York City.

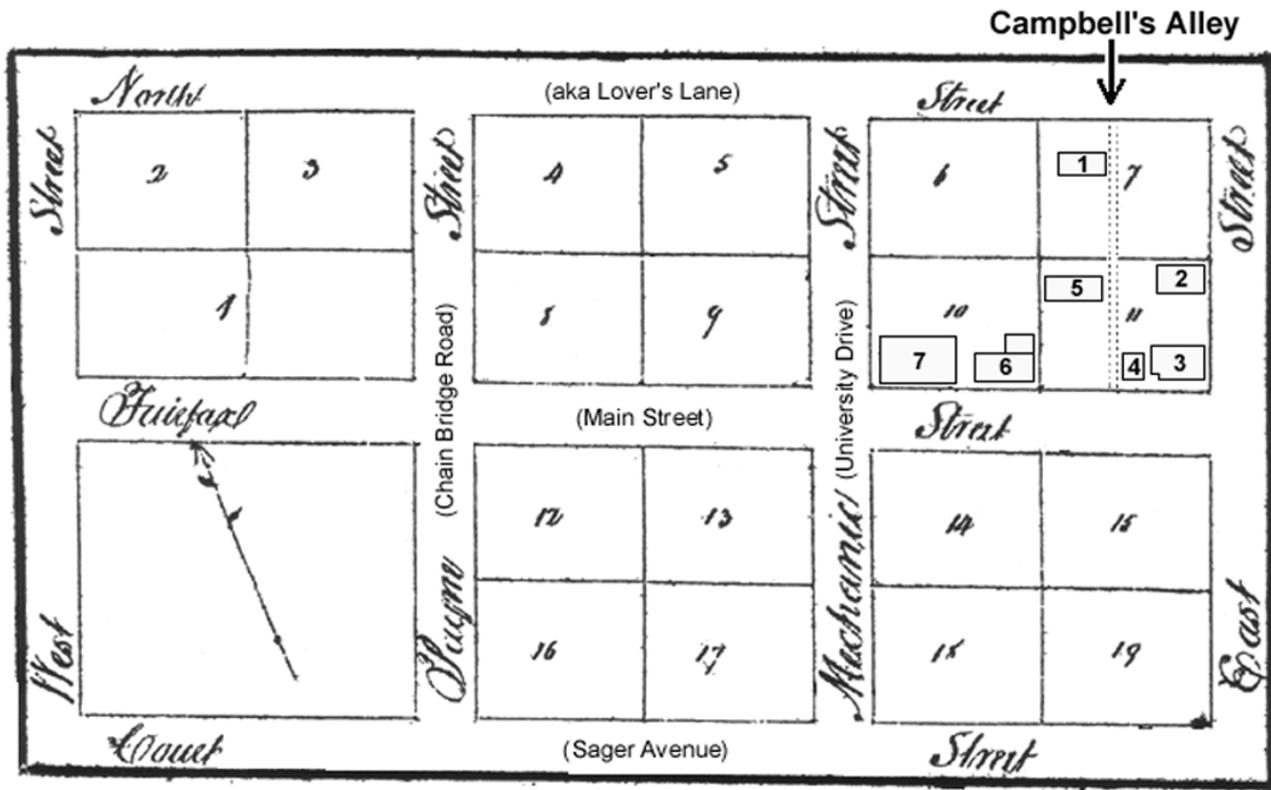


North Street, a.k.a. *Lover's Lane*, c. 1903. Photo was taken in the center of North Street at the intersection with Mechanic Street, (now University Drive), looking west towards Chain Bridge Road at the top of the hill.  
Photo courtesy of Lee Hubbard.

Fairfax Baptist Church as a place of worship.<sup>2</sup> Because the parcel conveyed to the church was landlocked, Campbell created a:

“...perpetual easement for a foot and roadway unobstructed with the eastern side line of said lot, of nine (9) feet in width, extending the full depth of the said lot hereby conveyed, for the benefit of the said parties of the second part, [the church] and which said perpetual easement hereby created shall never be closed or obstructed by the parties of the second part or their successor or successors...”<sup>3</sup>

In May 1921, Edith Thompson, a teacher at the Fairfax School, purchased a vacant lot from O.B. and Anne Campbell. The lot was located due north of the Fairfax



**Map of Historic Downtown Fairfax**

- 1 - Edith Thompson House, 2 - Draper Barn, 3 - Draper House, 4 - Campbell's Store, 5 - Fairfax Baptist Church, 6 - Ratcliffe-Allison House, 7 - Old Town Hall

Baptist Church and measured 66 ½ ft. of frontage along “railroad street” by 140 ft.<sup>4</sup> The deed to Thompson carried the same easement for a right-of-way. Edith contracted with O.B. Campbell to construct a new home.

**“New Building**

*Miss Edith Thompson has started the erection of a dwelling on the property she recently purchased from Mr. O.B. Campbell, on the street in the rear of Mr. Campbell’s residence. Within the next week, it is stated, the framework of the new structure will be underway.”*<sup>5</sup>

Edith Thompson was born in Falls Church, Virginia in 1884. She was the daughter of Samuel E. Thompson, a Wheelwright, & Florida (Lynn) Thompson. Incidentally, she was also the 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of Arthur “Tobe” Thompson who constructed Old Town Hall. She received early education in Fairfax County and graduated from Western High School in Washington, DC. She attended George Washington



**Edith Thompson, c. 1926.**

Photo credit: Shepherd College Yearbook, 1927. Now Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.

University, East Radford State Teachers College, University of Virginia, Teachers College, and Columbia University.<sup>6</sup>

In 1905, she opened a kindergarten school in the library at Falls Church, Virginia. In 1915, she was appointed principal of the Falls Church School. In the fall of 1916, she moved to the Fairfax School as the teacher of primary grades. She taught for one year and then accepted a position with the Fairfax County School Board. While in Fairfax Edith became a valued member of the community. She served as Secretary of the Fairfax County Fair Association.<sup>7</sup> She helped organize the Fairfax Home Demonstration Club, an organization whose goal was to improve farm and family life in rural Fairfax through lectures and home demonstrations on such subjects as nutrition, clothing, home management, budgeting, home furnishing, and child care.<sup>8</sup> She was a member of the Red Cross during World War I.<sup>9</sup> At a time when few men, and even fewer women, drove cars, Edith Thompson bought a brand new Ford in the spring of 1917.<sup>10</sup>

In March 1924, Edith purchased Lot 6 in the new subdivision being developed by John W. Rust.<sup>11</sup> She constructed another house on this lot which was located on the west side of Chain Bridge Road north of the intersection with Warwick Avenue.<sup>12, 13, 14</sup>

In the fall of 1925, the developers of a new subdivision in Fairfax held a contest to name their new subdivision with a prize of \$20 offered for the winning entry. Edith Thompson won the contest suggesting the new subdivision be named *Halehurst*, a conjunction of the given names of the landowners Harry N. & Emma A. Clark – “Hal & Em” Clark.<sup>15</sup>

In the fall of 1926, Edith left her position with Fairfax County to become Supervisor of Teacher Training, Lower Grades at Shepherd College State Normal School, now known as Shepherd University, in Shepherdstown, WV.<sup>16</sup> She remained at Shepherd until 1928. She returned to Fairfax in 1929 and was appointed Supervisor of Rural Schools for Fairfax County.<sup>17</sup>

In 1930, she built a substantial stone house, *Brierwood*, west of Fairfax on Lee Highway near Legato.<sup>18</sup> She had purchased this farm of 111-acres in 1910.<sup>19</sup> This

## Setting the Record Straight on Antonia Ford

On March 9, 1863, just hours after Colonel John S. Mosby's successful raid on Fairfax Court House, in which Brigadier General Edwin S. Stoughton was captured, Lt. Colonel Charles Cummings, of the 16th Vermont Infantry, wrote to his wife of the event:



**Lt. Col. Charles Cummings, 16th Vermont Infantry**  
"Fairfax Station, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Dear Wife,

Your letter of Feb 15th was received Feb 28 and yours of Feb 25th and March came to here in due course of mail. Since then, I have not received any letters from you. I wrote you last Saturday and sent the letter by Capt. Clarke who then said that he should be at home Tuesday, but who I applaud did not "fetch around" at that time I also sent home the sword presented me.

Last night was an exciting time in this vicinity. It was one of the darkest, rainiest, and muddiest nights that was ever felt - it could not be seen. In the night Fitz

Lee's cavalry made a raid into Fairfax Court House from the direction of Falls Church and captured Gen. Stoughton, all his horses and about a hundred men. They surrounded the house and other houses where Col. Wyndham and Col. Johnstone's Headquarters were. An officer rode up and knocked at the door of Stoughton's house. John Martin asked "Who's there?" The reply was "a friend who wishes to see Gen. Stoughton upon the door." John opened the door when the officer and other entered and putting a pistol to John's head, demanded to be shown to the General's room. John said that the General was at Fairfax Station One of the party replied that "He knew better as he had seen the General at the court house late in the afternoon." John then showed them to his room where he was a sleeping. But further threatening on the part of the rebels had him to know where to the General's room. The officer entered the General's room. The officer entered, woke the General and told him that Fitz Lee commanded the place and that he, the General, was his prisoner. So Stoughton got up, dressed and followed his captor without more ado. Col. Wyndham was in Washington, so he was not captured and Col. Johnstone of the 5th New York cavalry who with his wife and children making his headquarters in the village escaped by jumping from his window in his shirt and security himself under a barn floor not 14 feet from where a rebel guard was stationed. Some of the men taken belong to the 16th Vermont and 2 of them to Company B to wit Putty Baker and Barney Pratt.

I do not learn that even a gun was fired by our guards. It was a most complete surprise and was a brilliant exploit. Gen. Fitz Lee used to live close to here. He owned the ground on which our camps are now on. Nearly all his cavalry was raised in this county and they knew every road, lane, path, stream and house intimately. Besides, there is good reason for believing that they have spies in at Fairfax Court House nearly every day.

I had a narrow escape. I went up to the court house after dinner yesterday. It got to be dark before I got through supper at Spencer Jackson's where I boarded when I was Provost Marshall and they wanted I should stay all night as it was so dark and rainy. I was also urged to stay at headquarters. My horse was put up in the General's barn. I waited until it was time for the moon to rise, say 1/2 past 9 and then got my horse and started for camp. Up to this time it had not rained and although raining, the sun had set in a totally clearly sky. I had barely mounted my horse when the rain began to fall,



## The Farr Family Residences

### Historic Homes of Local Family Enrich Modern Fairfax City

by Steven C. Stombres

The legacy of the Farr family and the homes they built help tell the story of Fairfax city and add to the distinctive character of our community. The Farr Homeplace, Grandma's Cottage, and the Wilson Farr House provide a glimpse into our city's past and offer unique insights into the lives of one of Fairfax's leading families.

The story of the Farr family residences begins with an event that led to the destruction of the original Farr house at the beginning of the Civil War. Fourteen year old Richard Ratcliffe Farr lived on the family farm near the intersection of Braddock



Richard Ratcliffe Farr

Road and Route 123 on property that his Grandfather, Samuel Farr, had acquired in 1797 as payment for his service in the Continental Army.<sup>1</sup>

History first took note of young Richard when he discovered that Federal troops were advancing along Ox Road to attack Fairfax Court House so he placed logs across the road where the troops would have to pass. He hid in the nearby underbrush and fired upon the union soldiers as they approached. The surprised soldiers believed that they had encountered a large group of rebels so they withdrew. When they learned that they had been bested by a single boy, they returned and burned the Farr home to the ground.<sup>2</sup> Richard eventually joined Mosby's Rangers and was

wounded on November 19, 1864 fighting near Kabletown, West Virginia.<sup>3</sup>

Richard Ratcliffe Farr would go on to become one of Fairfax's most distinguished citizens and served as a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, County Treasurer, the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Virginia, and the U.S. Marshall for the Eastern District of Virginia.<sup>4</sup>

Richard was also instrumental in building two of the Farr residences that enrich modern day Fairfax City. After the war, he began the expansion of what is today known as Grandma's Cottage.<sup>5</sup> The cottage was originally built around 1840 and features 18th century construction techniques, unique to the Fairfax area. The structure is important because of its combination of log-wall construction and rare hewn timber framing with brick infill between the studs in the oldest portion of the house.<sup>6</sup> The shed-roofed log portion was added to accommodate his mother, Margaret Willcoxon Farr who was known to the community as "Grandma Farr." Grandma Farr lived in the Cottage for nearly 40 years until



Grandma's Cottage

her death in 1904. In 1962, the cottage was moved to 3901 Old Lee Highway and was again moved to the Historic Blenheim Estate in 2001.

Around 1880, Richard rebuild the Farr Homeplace, also known as "Five Chimneys," that would serve as the principle residence of the Farr family. He used bricks made from a clay pit on the property, and a large cross design was worked into each of the five brick chimneys. The home is an example of the Georgian style with a two-story colonnaded portico.<sup>7</sup>



The Farr Homeplace, also known as Five Chimneys

Today, the Farr Homeplace is a private residence located at 10230 Main Street.

Richard's sons would follow in his footsteps and serve their community. Richard R. Farr, III served as the Mayor of the Town of Fairfax in 1936. Rezin Farr and Wilson M. Farr both taught at the old Fairfax Elementary School and Wilson later served as a Virginia Commonwealth Attorney.<sup>8</sup>

In 1915, Wilson built a new residence (not pictured), adjacent to the Farr Homeplace, for his bride Edith Wiley. He originally called the home "Ballynahown" after his mother's ancestral home in Ireland. The estate bears notable Georgian and Federal influences, borrowing from the Colonial Revival style, which first emerged in the 1880's as a testament to new pride in America's past. Beneath the manor's pitched slate roof and pedimented dormers is an elegant facade characterized by six-over-six double hung sash windows, louvered shutters and common bond brickwork.<sup>9</sup>

Wilson Farr was married to Edith Wiley at Ballynahown although the house lacked electricity and heat at the time of their wedding. The resulting reliance on candles for lighting caused a wedding mishap that would be appropriate for a theoretical episode of history's funniest wedding videos. As the story goes, "The poor bride caught fire from one of the numerous candles and her veil burnt off entirely right to the top, scorching her dress."<sup>10</sup> The Wilson Farr house, located at 10172 Main Street, was renovated

in 2001 and currently is utilized as a popular community gathering place.

In 1958, Wilson Farr and his daughter Viola Orr, offered the Town of Fairfax 150 acres of land that would become George Mason University located just south of the Town of Fairfax along Route 123, the very location of Richard Ratchliffe Farr's famed duel with federal troops. The Town Council voted unanimously to purchase the 150-acre site for \$300,000 and offered the site to the University of Virginia, the parent institution of George Mason College.<sup>11</sup>

The Farr family residences remain today and are architectural testaments to the success of this influential Fairfax family. They add distinction to our community and are a direct link to the unique history of Fairfax city.

#### Endnotes - Farr Homes

1. Diane Cox Basheer (DianeCox Basheer.com)
2. "A History of the Town of Fairfax" by Jeanne Johnson Rust, Moore & Moore Inc., Washington DC, 1960, Page 22
3. "Mosby's Rangers" by James J. Williamson of Company A, New York, Ralph B. Kenyon, Publisher 1896. Page 22 (Photo) Account of wounding (Page 306)
4. Fairfax, Virginia: A City Traveling Through Time" by Netherton, Rose, Meyer, Wagner, and DiVincenzo, 1997, Page 43
5. Fairfax, Virginia: A City Traveling Through Time" by Netherton, Rose, Meyer, Wagner, and DiVincenzo, 1997, page 35.
6. Historic Fairfax City Inc. ([www.historicfairfax.org](http://www.historicfairfax.org))
7. "Fairfax, Virginia: A City Traveling Through Time" by Netherton, Rose, Meyer, Wagner, and DiVincenzo, 1997, ppg 40, and 128.
8. History of George Mason University (<http://www.40th.gmu.edu/farrframe1.htm>)
9. Diane Cox Basheer (DianeCoxBasheer.com)
10. *The Fairfax Connection*, September 7-13, 2006, page 42
11. History of George Mason University ([www.40th.gmu.edu/sitefram.htm](http://www.40th.gmu.edu/sitefram.htm))
12. Atlas of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1895.

#### Endnotes continued - Edith Thompson House

- <sup>13</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, March 20, 1925, p. 5.
- <sup>14</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, May 1, 1925, p. 5.
- <sup>15</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, October 30, 1925, p. 3.
- <sup>16</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, September 17, 1926, p. 5.
- <sup>17</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, June 21, 1929, p. 6.
- <sup>18</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, October 24, 1930, p. 1.
- <sup>19</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book F7, p. 36, March 5, 1910.
- <sup>20</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book P12, p. 579, July 2, 1937.
- <sup>21</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book 411, p. 239, July 15, 1943.
- <sup>22</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, September 10, 1943, p. 1.
- <sup>23</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, August 6, 1948, p. 2.
- <sup>24</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, March 10, 1961, p. 1.
- <sup>25</sup> *Herndon Observer*, February 28, 1935, p. 4.

house is still standing as of this writing. She maintained her dwellings in Fairfax as rental properties.

In 1937, she sold her home on Chain Bridge Road to Fairfax School Teacher and future Fairfax Mayor, Robert B. Walker.<sup>20</sup> Bob Walker was also the first Superintendent of Fairfax City Schools.

In 1943, she sold her home on North Street.<sup>21</sup> That same year she was appointed to the faculty of Lorton Elementary School.<sup>22</sup> She remained at Lorton only briefly and probably retired from Fairfax County Public Schools about this time - the mid 1940s. In 1948, she announced the opening of a Primary Day and Boarding School in her home "Brierwood Manor", near Centreville.<sup>23</sup>

Edith Thompson died at Fairfax Hospital in March 1961, aged 77, after a brief illness. She is buried at National Memorial Park in Falls Church, VA.<sup>24</sup>

### "Sycamore Thru My Window

by Edith Thompson, 1935

Sycamore thru my window  
Winter on the hearth.  
Picture without rival, living  
Always giving,  
Hope to cheer my heart

Sycamore thru my window  
Landscape cold and bleak.  
White arms strong and slender,  
Help me render,  
Thanks I fain would speak."<sup>25</sup>

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Personal communication of Lee Hubbard, December 3, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book EB, p. 113, June 15, 1917.

<sup>3</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book EB, p. 113, June 15, 1917.

<sup>4</sup> Railroad Street is a reference to the right-of-way of the never completed Manassas Gap Railroad. North Street was to have been the railroad right-of-way through the Town of Fairfax.

<sup>5</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, March 18, 1921, p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> Shepherd College Yearbook, 1927, p. 19.

<sup>7</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, February 9, 1917, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, November 2, 1917, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, June 29, 1917, p. 3.

<sup>10</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, May 18, 1917, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book L9, p. 368, March 26, 1925.

<sup>12</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, October 31, 1924, p. 2

*slowly at first. My path was across lots, through woods, brush, and mud.*

*I could not see a rod before me to discuss anything. The sky was pitch black and the rain increasing. I rode on about two miles until I came to a house of a good Union man where some of our sick soldiers are quartered and as the rain was then falling in torrents and I had a stream to ford, I concluded to stay the night. This remaining, I was in camp before breakfast. It is proper to remark that at 2 o'clock it nearly cleared off, and the moon shone out. I was away from the court house about an hour and a half before the raid. Had I stayed all night, my horse and saddle would have been captured and I should have been on my way to Richmond. As it is, I am here and very well.*

*Your affectionate husband,*

*Charles.*

[PS] *Mrs. Stoughton, the General's mother and her two daughters are at the courthouse, and were stopping in a neighboring house. It is not necessary to say that their feeling are painful in a sense. General Lee, who captured Stoughton was a classmate of his at West Point."*

There are several minor inaccuracies with Col. Cummings account. However, he is correct on all major points. On March 16, 1863, he again wrote home to his wife. This time he refutes accusations printed in the *New York Times* that General Stoughton was drunk and engaged in "improper intimacy" with Fairfax resident Antonia Ford.

*"In camp near Fairfax Station, Va., March 16<sup>th</sup> 1863*

*My Dear Wife,*

*Your letter of March 6<sup>th</sup> was received Wednesday of last week, and yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., was delayed until Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>. The box you spoke of as having sent has not yet been heard from as yet, but then we have had no express matter come to the Regiment since Wednesday. It may be along tomorrow. I have delayed writing two days awaiting its arrival.*

*My health is excellent, although my voice has not got its usual timbre, or fullness and seriousness. Week before last I drilled the regiment four successive days and I*

*used it too much. I should not have done it but the Colonel was away and I wanted the practice. My appetite is enormous and I am getting fat for me not to an extent to exhibit any alderman is rotundity as yet. During the last four days I have been engaged in commanding a detail of 600 men engaged in constructing rifle pits for the defense of Fairfax Station. I am engineer and all having made the plans, location, and all else without one visit or direction from the Colonel commanding the Brigade. It is new business, but by the time I get thorough I shall have learned something. I have now about ten days more of work planned out, including four redoubts for artillery. I spent all day Sunday and most of my time evenings until 12 o'clock in making plans and specifications to guide the captains who immediately superintend the men. My outer lines on opposite sides of our camp are two miles apart so I have plenty of horseback exercise. At first it was contemplated to have a new officer detailed each day but after the first day the entire work was placed under my supervision. When completed I shall have three to four miles of rifle pits for the defense of this important place, important because it is the entry point for the supplies of an army holding this section of Virginia.*

*I was quite glad to receive the hair from the heads of the dear ones. It is a reminder of the little darlings who hardly suspect how dearly their father loves them nor how glad he would be to see them. Doubtless the hair has faded some since it was cut off, and yet I am not positive I do not see some streaks of red in Charlie's.*

*I see copied from the New York Times an article or communication in reference to Gen. Stoughton's capture, based on an extract of a letter written purporting to have been written by a soldier that is as mad as it is unjust, charging in substance that the General remained at Fairfax Court House on account of an improper intimacy with a certain Miss Ford and etc., now I was not personally acquainted with Miss Ford but I know she enjoyed the reputation among both men and women of being a chaste and virtuous young woman and her family although secehes were as respectable or considered so, as any family in Virginia. The General's mother and sisters stopped then. More than that the general has not had his quarters there these two months, and I doubt if he had seen the lady twice in that time as neither he nor his family ever boarded there. The two parts of the house were entirely district, save a common entrance, It is bad enough that the General should*

*occupy a house a ways from his immediate command, for comfort of himself and friends; but it is not necessary to charge him with what no intelligent friend or enemy even has any reason to believe him guilty of. But you know the old saying about ever men giving a kick to one going down hill. And this leads me to speak of Webber who recently died at Brattlebaro. He was a moderate drinker only, but increased his rations after he quit business on account of his health, solely by the direction of physicians who knew his disease. There was no engineer on the road who was so much relied on as he by the management, and he never could have held the place with any sort of reputation for intemperance among the intelligent. I would not extenuate his fault of drinking more than I should deem advisable for me, but he could not properly be called intemperate, at least until after I left Brattleboro, and then he was doomed.*

*There is nothing of special interest here yet. Our regiments have not yet been called out, but we are living in a state of preparation for such an event. The rumors of rebel raids, and advances in this direction are not infrequent. There is little doubt that this country is infested with spies. An expedition Saturday night under command of Lt. Vinton captured four citizens one of whom had admitted enough to a supposed confederate but really one of our spies to convict him I think. He will be sent to Washington unless the authorities permit us to try and hang him. He is in close custody.*

*There is some prospect that something will be done before long at Vicksburg and Charleston. The former place is pretty fully surrounded and invested and it is believed that the latter will be.*

*Nothing has as yet been heard of the two Brattleboro boys captured with Gen. Stoughton. All the others including Abner White are quite well and looking finely. Nearly every man in the regiment is healthier than when at home.*

*Enclosed is a photograph of Col. Veazey taken when he was first Colonel of this regiment and much thinner in flesh than now as he had but recently recovered from sickness. Also a fine one of Hugh H. Henry of Chester, with his big stock and all, and one of Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum of the Army of the Potomac.*

*I also enclose one of a dozen or so copies of a profile view with measurements of a section of a rifle pit,*

**Second Sunday Programs**  
**at the**  
**Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**  
**10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA**

Note: Unless noted, all programs begin at 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Programs are free and include light refreshments. Call: 703-385-8414.

- January 13 "Danger Between the Lines" a locally-produced film chronicling Civil War events in the Oakton-Vienna area - showing on the HistoryMAX Big Screen
- February 10 African Americans in Fairfax County Living history presentation by Marion Dobbins
- March 9 "Give Me Liberty" Talk and book signing with local author Laura M. Elliott

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

- March 8 Women's History Day  
10 AM – 3 PM  
Living history presentations by Dottie O'Rourke as a suffragette at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Gallery scavenger hunts, hands-on activities, walking tour, and more! Co-sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission for Women.

The City of Fairfax is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all City programs, services, and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call Susan Gray at (703) 385 – 8415. Please allow seven working days in advance in order to make necessary arrangements.

*representing one end of the embankment and ditches if cut down through perpendicularly, the main ditch on the miner side for the protection of the men and the step for them to stand on when firing.*

*Give my love to mother and in the usually way to the babies. I do not think there is any special need of sending it especially to you.*

*By the way I must not omit writing that yesterday - Sunday - was the most peculiar day of the season. Four inches of fine solid hail fell, and all the afternoon it came in a succession of showers accompanied with sharp lighting and almost continued thunder. It was a novel thunder storm, so very cold and sleety.*

*Good night my dearest, Faithfully and lovingly, Your Husband*

*Charles."*

**Letters and photograph printed with permission from the Collection of the Vermont Historical Society, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609.**



**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.

**Membership Classifications:**

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

# Welcome New Members!

Pete Conklin  
Robert Waple

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



## 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 join us. 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

-or-

Website: [www.historicfairfax.org](http://www.historicfairfax.org)

E-mail: [info@historcfairfax.org](mailto:info@historcfairfax.org)

*"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."*



Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.  
Karen Stevenson, President  
10209 Main Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030



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## The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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