Council of War

at
Fairfax Court House

by William Page Johnson, II

“Success here at this time saves everything; defeat here loses all.”


Until now, the location and owner of the home depicted in the famous Civil War photograph below has remained somewhat a mystery. The Library of Congress has simply identified the photo as “Fairfax Court House, Va. House used as a headquarters by Gen. G.B. McClellan and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard.” After 150 years this mystery is now solved. The following is the story of a pivotal event of the Civil War that occurred in this home in the autumn of 1861.

By the late summer of 1861 nearly everything had gone in favor of the fledgling Confederacy. The invading Federal army had been soundly defeated in battles at Big Bethel and Manassas, Virginia. Following the battle at Manassas the Federal army, had withdrawn to the safety of the Potomac. Anticipating a Confederate assault on Washington, D.C., Union Gen. George B. McClellan had begun the organization of the massive number

Dunleith, the home of Thomas R. Love at Fairfax Court House, built c. 1842 Used as a HQ by Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard (1861) & Gen. George B. McClellan (1862)
Photographs attributed to Timothy H. O’Sullivan 1863, courtesy The Library of Congress

Continued on Page 3
Greetings from the President--

We had an extremely successful fundraising with this year’s Taste of the Vine on October 14th. The wines of Lost Creek Winery were excellent, the food pairings by Café Villa Mozart were delicious and the music of Christian Perez was delightful. The Silent Auction for nearly 20 items was very competitive and added significantly to the funds that were raised. We raised over $7,500 at this event. Congratulations to Betsy Rutkowski and her committee for all of their hard work in organizing this event.

While the Taste of the Vine has become HFCI’s major fundraiser it is not the only one. We are again selling White House Christmas Ornaments this year. They are on sale at the Museum and at the Blenheim Interpretive Center. We will also have a booth at the upcoming Holiday Craft Show at Fairfax High School. These ornaments look great on your tree and they make great holiday gifts so please stop by and pick some up.

This year we were able to use money we have raised to partner with the City to stabilize “Gramma’s Cottage” at the Blenheim site. We are looking at additional investments at Blenheim as well as worthwhile projects in the Historic downtown. We are also assisting the Historic Resources Department in the cataloguing of the acquisitions at the Museum. Our fundraising activities support all of these efforts.

It is almost time for membership renewal and I hope that all of you will continue your memberships and encourage others to join and support our efforts to maintain the City’s historic resources. You can follow our activities at www.historicfairfax.org.

Thank you for your continuing support.

David L. Pumphrey

---

At The Museum...

**Historic House candlelight Tours**
December 3rd - 6th  7 pm (after the tree lighting in Pozer Garden).
**Ratcliffe-Allison House - 10386 Main Street.**
Tour the oldest house in town and learn about holiday customs of the past.

**Christmas in Camp**
December 4th - 12th  4 pm
**Historic Blenheim and the Civil war Intrepretive Center - 3610 Old Lee Highway**
Interactive living history with Co. D, 17th Virginia Infantry, Fairfax Rifles
Talks with Extra Billy Smith and The Common Soldier
House Tour 1 pm
Music with OLLI Recorder Consort

**The Banjo in the Civil War**
December 11th  2 pm
Fairfax Museum & Visitors Center - 10209 Main St.
Performance & talk by Greg Adams, Historian & Musicologist

**Liberty Middle School Strings Group**
December 17th  2 pm
Fairfax Museum & Visitors Center - 10209 Main St.
Enjoy holiday music while shopping for unique holiday gifts

---

Welcome New Members!

Sandra L. Abold  Karen C. Murphy
Webster & Frances Brown Scott Patton
Antonio “Tony” A. Chaves Sarah Pease
Barbara J. Huyett

The President & Board of Directors of HFCI extends a hearty welcome to all new HFCI members.
troops arriving there. He had reason to be concerned. Confederate Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard were anxious to go on the offensive after their victory at Manassas, but Johnston, in particular, felt they lacked the men, material and logistics to do so. Additionally, while Gen. McClellan enjoyed the full support of President Abraham Lincoln who had given him a free hand to organize the army as he saw fit, Johnston clashed with a meddling Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Johnston also faced a fractured command structure that was rife with competing personalities.

While Johnston was technically the overall commander of the Confederate Army of the Potomac at Manassas, he was also in direct command of half of the army with Gen. Beauregard in direct command of the other half. Johnston and Beauregard also squabbled over rank and tactics. President Davis attempted to fix this by creating additional command positions in the late summer of 1861. One of these was Gen. Gustavus W. Smith who would command the Second Corps. It would be several months, however, before the Confederate command structure coalesced and the Army of Northern Virginia was created and even longer until command of that army was given to Gen. Robert E. Lee.

On July 22, 1861, the day after the battle of Manassas, Col. Benjamin F. Terry along Captain Thomas Whitehead’s Cavalry, re-entered Fairfax Court House, cautiously pursuing the retreating Union army and picking up stragglers. His arrival was cheered by the people in the village: ‘Once more we are free. Sans Deo, after a reign of terror for five days since the enemy entered, we, the citizens of this place, have been under a surveillance which we could scarcely brook; but, thanks to Almighty God, we are once more free. Col. Terry, the gallant Texan, this morning, with a detachment of Captain Whitehead’s Rangers, re-entered Fairfax Court House, cautiously pursuing the retreating Union army and picking up stragglers. His arrival was cheered by the people in the village:

‘Once more we are free. Sans Deo, after a reign of terror for five days since the enemy entered, we, the citizens of this place, have been under a surveillance which we could scarcely brook; but, thanks to Almighty God, we are once more free. Col. Terry, the gallant Texan, this morning, with a detachment of Captain Whitehead’s Rangers from Amherst, entered our village. Soon he, with his own unerring rifle, shot away the Stars and Stripes, (which the Lincolnites had placed upon the cupola of the Court-House,) once the emblem of freedom, but now a standard under which men are fighting who do not recollect, if ever they knew, the associations connected with it, and have by their acts converted it into the ensign of dishonor and degradation.

The gallant Colonel soon found the Stars and Bars which the gallant South Carolinians had given to a little boy of the village, and it was raised upon the flag-staff which they had erected

at their headquarters in the village, and from which had floated the banner, amid the rolling of the drums and the shouts of our citizens. Col. Terry was accorded the privilege and honor of driving the first nail into our flag which affixed it upon the pole they had raised, Senator Thomas the second honor, and Messrs. Chichester and Grinnell the next.‘

Col. Terry gave the captured flag to General Longstreet who presented it to Gen. Beauregard as a gift. Three indecisive weeks later, on August 8th & 9th 1861, the Confederate forces of Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard reoccupied Fairfax Court House, and other locations in Fairfax County in a line that extended from Springfield to the Little Falls of the Potomac River. In early September General Johnston moved his Headquarters from the Bloom Farm, now the Conner House, Manassas Park, to Coombe Cottage [see Fare Facs Gazette v. 8, n. 1] at Fairfax Court House. ‘Gen. Johnston’s quarters are now situated in a commodious building, at Fairfax Court-House, formerly used as a Female Seminary. The house is surrounded by beautiful grounds, filled with fine trees and tastefully-arranged shrubbery, which, even at this late season, are covered with dense foliage.‘ On September 12th, General Beauregard, too, moved his headquarters from Liberia, Manassas, Prince William County, to Dunleith, the home of Thomas R. Love, at Fairfax Court House. ‘A correspondent at Fairfax writes that Gen. Beauregard has advanced to that place, and made his headquarters at the residence of T.R. Love, Esq.’

Gen. Beauregard, commanding the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac, has his headquarters

A CARD.

THOMAS R. LOVE, Attorney at Law, will practice in the Superior and Interior Courts of Pennsylvania, Prince William and Fairfax, and will attend personally to all business entrusted to his care. His Office is in the basement story of Allisons Hotel, Fairfax Court House, where he may always be found when not professionally engaged elsewhere.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE, April 27, 1835.
The former location of Court House. The former location of The home was located on a small knoll just north of Fairfax for the Shopping Center where the CVS/Pharmacy now stands [see approximately at 10390 Willard Way in Courthouse Plaza]

Alexandria Gazette, December 7, 1847, p. 3

Continued next page

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall 2011

Jefferson Davis (1808-1889)
President of the Confederate States of America 1861-1865.

By Matthew B. Brady, c. 1860, courtesy The Library of Congress

All the sick have been moved away from Fairfax Court House, and the buildings cleaned and put in order; it is supposed for the wounded in the event of a battle. There is one church here, which, when I passed a few days ago, had the pew all out in the yard and the floor covered with mattresses full of the sick. They are scrubbing out-of-day and the pews are replaced as if for worship. Families are moving back to their homes, but they look empty and desolate. The mark of the destroyer is everywhere where furniture they are able to gather is so badly abused it is unfit for use and it is impossible to procure more. Every house is a boarding house and the poor who have been selected who can get a comfortable bed on the floor are fortunate. Indeed, many demes themselves so who get a spot out to-day and the pews are replaced as if for the use of a tent.

General Beauregard was also anxious to follow up the victory at Manassas and quickly end the War. From the Manassas.

in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Lowe [Love] just on the outskirts of the village of Fairfax Court-House. Your readers will be glad to know that Gen. Beauregard’s health is much improved since he left his quarters at Wier’s house [Liberia] near Camp Pickens.

Prominent Fairfax citizen, Thomas R. Love, voluntarily made his substantial brick house, Dunleith, available for use of General Beauregard in September and October 1861. The house was located on a small knoll just north of Fairfax Court House. The former location of Dunleith is approximately 10350 Willard Way in Courthouse Plaza Shopping Center where the CVS/Pharmacy now stands [see map pg. 10 & 14].

Fairfax Court House was now an armed camp filled with thousands of Confederate soldiers. A correspondent for the Charleston Courier described Fairfax in October:

“This place is always swarming with soldiers, but to-day the crowd seems greater than usual. With them and the wagons, with which the streets are filled, it is difficult to navigate. Some regiments are passing through, going out on duty to relieve others who are returning weary to their camps for rest; yet ready to send up exultant shouts as they pass each other. All hearts are buoyant and happy to-day. Men look up to the President of their four honored Chief Magistrate among us as a guarantee that the hour is close at hand when they will be permitted to strike a blow for... the land they love...
Another possible explanation for the destruction of Dunleith is the phenomenon of souvenir seeking. Both Union and Confederate soldiers, of all ranks, infamously sought souvenirs to send home to their loved ones as relics of their wartime experiences. The most famous example of a house being completely destroyed for this purpose is the Wilmer McLean Surrender House in Appomattox, Virginia. In addition, The Henry House on the battlefield at Manassas suffered the same fate. One soldier recalls seeing it shortly after the battle:

"It is completely riddled with cannon and musket balls, and the ridiculous custom of gathering relics is fast stripping it of laths, weatherboarding, &c., and I should suppose one summer's usual tide of travel would suffice to scatter the house in fragments to every county in the South."60

As Dunleith was occupied by at least three leading figures of the time, Jefferson Davis, P.G.T. Beauregard and later Union General George McClellan, it would have been a natural target for this type of activity.

The Love family paid a heavy price during the Civil War and its aftermath. All three of Thomas & Anne Love's sons served in the Confederate army. Their oldest son, Robert T. Love, was killed in action at Seven Pines on May 31, 1862. Middle son, James M. Love was wounded in action in Fauquier County, Virginia on December 21, 1864 and served in the Confederate army. Their oldest son, Robert T. Love, was killed in action at Seven Pines on May 31, 1862.

In 1891, Joseph Willard acquired the 10-acre Gunnell parcel [see map pg. 14] in May 1890.48 The following year, he married Belle Layton Wyatt of Middlesex County, Virginia. In 1893, the couple constructed Layton Hall on this small parcel. In January 1899, Joseph Willard acquired the 10-acre Layton Hall parcel [see map pg. 14].48 Following the death of Thomas R. Love in 1891, Sallie sold Dunleith to Joseph Edward Willard in March 1899.49 The acquisition of Dunleith, which adjourned his earlier 10-acre purchase on the north and west, substantially increased Willard’s land holdings.

In 1923, Willard sold Layton Hall to the Fairfax Development Corporation, of which he was a director and Thomas Buchanan Love, a grandson of Thomas R. Love, was President. Joseph E. Willard died the following year. His widow, Belle L.W. Willard, died in 1954. The following year, 1955, the Fairfax Development Corporation sold the tract to Willard Development Corporation. In the late 1950’s University Drive was extended north into the Layton Hall tract. The extension paralleled the old driveway to Dunleith which lay just to the east.

As of this writing it is unclear what became of Dunleith after it was sold by the Love family.

Layton Hall


Joseph Eggleston Johnston (1807-1891)

Major General Confederate States Army

Unknown artist, c. 1860, courtesy The Library of Congress

The first piece was, of course, ‘Hail to the Chief’, the last the inevitable ‘Dixie’, after which the President withdrew to more on the Virginia Central Railroad to Gordonsville and from there on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad to Manassas and Fairfax Station, arriving there late that same afternoon.69 The President was met at the station by Generals Johnston, Beauregard, Smith and their staffs. The Adams Troop, a company of splendidly mounted cavalry from Natchez, Mississippi, President Davis’ home state, acted as his escort and body guard. The Adams Troop was led by Capt., later Major Gen., William Thompson Martin. This company was comprised primarily of wealthy planters, lawyers and college graduates from Adams County, Mississippi. In addition to procuring their own uniforms, horses and arms, they paid for their own passage to Northern Virginia, arriving there by steam boat and train. A soldier in the 1st Virginia Cavalry, to whom the Adams Troop were initially assigned, remembers seeing them for the first time:

"...we were all amazed at their bringing two wagon loads of trunks, and this after having left the most of their baggage behind in Richmond! They were the best mounted company I ever saw, even better than mine."68

The Adams Troop escorted President Davis up Chain Bridge Road (Rt. 123) to the four miles to Fairfax Court House. All along the route curious citizens and soldiers alike came out to gawk at the unexpected arrival of the Confederate President. The entire way Davis was loudly cheered and applauded. At least one reporter was on hand to record the spectacle of a sitting President entering Fairfax Court House:

"The President rode quite erect on a white horse, a little in advance of the party. As they entered the town, rest of the way by the side of Gen. Beauregard whom he seemed to [be] all the time in earnest conversation, except when he turned to recognize a civility from the army or citizens and even then he appeared to be thinking deep in his own mind of something else. He was dressed, as usual in plain citizens dress of Confederate colors, and appeared quite well, though thin from the loss of flesh during his recent illness. After a hearty supper he received the calls of all the principal officers of the army, and later in the evening was honored with a serenade by the handsome band of the First Virginia regiment.70 The first piece was, of course, ‘Hail to the Chief’, the last the inevitable ‘Dixie’, after which the President withdrew to more..."
Upon arriving in Fairfax President Davis was asked to make a speech. Normally a gifted orator the President simply said to those assembled:

“Soldiers: Generals Beauregard and Johnston are here, the orators of the day. They speak from the mouths of cannon, of muskets and rifles; and when they speak, the country listens. I will keep silent.”

Due to a bureaucratic mix-up no quarters had been arranged for President Davis at Fairfax Court House. Davis explained this in a letter to his wife:

“Fairfax C.H., October 2, 1861
My Dear Wife,

I am quite well though yesterday I rode many miles visiting the encampments. To-day if the weather permits I shall resume my labors and to-morrow hope to return. Hourly I think of you & the children and seem to hear my baby complaining as he did the evening before I left you.

There was a misunderstanding as to the selection of a house for me, but Genl. Beauregard met me and took me to his Qrs. where I remain.

The condition of things here is not as good as I expected, and the position has nothing except a house for me, but Genl. Beauregard met me and took me to his Qrs. where I remain.

I am quite well though yesterday I rode many miles visiting the encampments. To-day if the weather permits I shall resume my labors and to-morrow hope to return. Hourly I think of you & the children and seem to hear my baby complaining as he did the evening before I left you.

The escort consisted of several army officers, and of the Adam’s Troops, of Natchez, Miss., Captain Martin. In the advance was the President, dressed in deep-gray citizen’s clothes, and a beaver hat. Beside him, also in citizen’s clothes, rode Brig. Gen. Smith. Immediately following were Generals Johnston and Beauregard, and after them came Col. John S. Preston, Col. Thomas Preston, Col. Davis, Col. Randal, Prince Polignac, Capt. Ferguson, of Gen. Beauregard’s staff, Capt. Peyton, Lt. Lane, son of Jo. Lane, of Oregon, Lt. Twiggs, and “Your Own.” Following was the Adam’s Troop, dressed in a neat gray uniform, and presenting a truly imposing appearance.

Davis expressed an interest in seeing the Potomac but was told this was impossible as the Confederate Army had withdrawn from Mason and Munson Hill’s near Alexandria.

Later that evening, October 1st, President Davis dined with General Johnston at his HQ, Coombe Cottage, a Female Academy and the home of Dr. Frederick and Hannah

Head Quarters, 1st Brigade
1st Army Corps, Army of Potomac
Camp Gregg, Augst. 2, 1861
I certify that the encroachment causing the damage to Mr. Love’s property were made by the troops of the Confederate States under my personal direction, and in accordance with directions from Brigadier Genl. G.T. Beauregard & Brig. Genl. M.L. Bonam, and I have every reason to believe that the assessed damages are just and proper.

W. H. Stevens
Capt. Engineers
A copy from the original in my possession
Thos. R. Love
4 March 1862

Supplying both Union and Confederate troops proved to be challenging throughout the war. At a loss for basic supplies such as food, shelter and firewood, soldiers often turned to civilian property to meet their basic needs. In addition, outright theft and vandalism were also common occurrences. While some residents of Fairfax, such as Dr. Frederick & Hannah Baker of Coombe Cottage, remained to protect their property, much of the population had fled leaving no one to object to the wholesale destruction of homes and property. It is believed that the family of Thomas R. Love also remained in Fairfax. However, as a prominent citizen and secessionist leader, Thomas R. Love was arrested in Fairfax several times by Union troops. The first arrest came in August 1862 for refusing to take an oath of allegiance. He was arrested again in March 1863 after the capture of Gen. Stoughton by Col. J.S. Mosby. Both times he spent several weeks in Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. These absences may have left the Love home vulnerable to Union soldiers.

Presumably, Union soldiers dismantled or destroyed the handsome brick home sometime in 1863. Although both sides had standing orders not to molest civilian property, these orders were often ignored. It is possible that Dunleith was destroyed because Thomas R. Love was a prominent secessionist in Fairfax. Similarly, the Griswby House, aka Four Chimneys, in Centreville was destroyed during the war and may have also been a vengeance target because of the family association with slave trading. On the other hand, both Union and Confederate soldiers commonly used scavenged bricks and other local building materials to construct their primitive huts.
or six miles away.” ‘Why don’t you wait until morning – the Yankees won’t be here for three days to come?’ ‘Well, sir, I’m afraid to trust them, and I would rather know that my family are safe, if we do have to travel on foot all night.’ I tried to induce the man to go home again, by giving him every assurance possible that he would not be molested, even if he remained – for he was too poor to steal from – but no consideration would induce him to retrace his steps, and I left him trudging on with a half dozen little ones and a feeble wife, realizing for the first time in this struggle, the terrible devastating effect of war.”

During the exodus several barns and outbuildings at Fairfax Court House were burnt either by accident or intentionally to prevent their use by the enemy. A small picket force comprised of a portion of Bonham’s South Carolina brigade remained behind.

Aftermath

Although the Confederate army did eventually invade the North, twice, they would never again have the opportunity of a lightly defended Federal capital.

In 1880, when Davis was evidently first made aware of the existence of the 1862 statement of Smith, Johnston and Beauregard, he defended his position by stating that as President he could not strip other areas of the Confederacy for a mass invasion of Maryland, because it would leave too many Federal troops in the south to engage in other duties. However, at noon the next day, October 3rd, Davis formally continued his visits of Confederate army encampments.

Baker. Afterwards, Davis met for two hours with generals Johnston, Beauregard and Smith at Beauregard’s HQ, at Dunleith, the home of Thomas R. Love. No minutes of this meeting were recorded. However, four months later on January 31, 1862 at Centreville, Virginia, Gen. Smith prepared a written statement recounting the events of their two hour Council of War. This document was also signed by Johnston and Beauregard. Smith, Johnston and Beauregard allege that all, including Davis, agreed the best way to guarantee the long term success of the Confederacy was to concentrate all the available forces and “attack the enemy in their own country.” In the statement Smith warned, “Success here at this time saves everything, defeat here loses all.” The generals suggested a massive invasion of Maryland near the Federal capital. They felt that it would be better to risk losing everything on the far side of the Potomac than to witness a “gradual dying out and deterioration of the army.” Interestingly, Jefferson Davis was not made aware of the existence of this document until 19 years after the war.

Reviewing the Troops

On October 2nd it rained and Davis was unable to continue his visits of Confederate army encampments. However, at noon the next day, October 3rd, Davis formally reviewed the Confederate brigades of Cocke, Jones, Longstreet and Walker, the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, Walton’s Battery, and Col. Stuart’s unattached cavalry. There were other units around Fairfax Court House at the time, but they were engaged in other duties.

Still, an estimated 15,000 Confederate troops formed a two-and-a-half-mile-long parade line on the north side of the Little River Turnpike, (Main Street). The line extended from the Courthouse all the way up to the village of Germantown (the intersection of Rt. 50 and Germantown Road). Hundreds of civilian and military spectators crowded the road to witness the Review. One South Carolina soldier wonderfully described the event in a letter to his hometown newspaper:

“Men were busy brushing clothes, burnishing muskets, donning clean shirts and collars, and arranging themselves generally in gala trim. Officers, likewise, prepared to look their best, while the bands rehearsed….

As the hour of twelve approached, the several brigades took up their positions at the point indicated, and shortly afterwards the President arrived. I am not very good at describing scenes, but if you will imagine a dignified looking gentleman in plain clothes, riding with ease and grace a white horse, his eye fixed in military curiosity on the long bristling line before him and his hand raised to his hat at every salutation, you will see the President as he appeared. That stern looking man, riding just behind the President... is Gen. Johnston. Just behind him is Beauregard… That large, fine looking gentleman by the side of Beauregard, in civilian’s garb, is Gen. Gustavus W. Smith, the new General. …Following the Generals are their respective staffs, composed of officers who represent the wealth, education and best blood of the South. From our own State I see Col. Preston…. Following this brilliant cortege are the Adams Troop of Mississippi, who are acting as the body guard of the President during his stay. And a crowd of miscellaneous horsemen, as the penny...
Drums beating, flags dipping, bands playing, horses prancing, arms presented, soldiers stiff as statues, a throng of ladies and gentlemen on the opposite side of the road in carriages, on foot and on horseback, mingling with the uniforms of officers and men who are off duty – all these are details which you will fill in the quantum sufficient, to suit your individuals idea.

A number of batteries were present. Among the scene.

Drums beating, flags dipping, bands playing, horses prancing, arms presented, soldiers stiff as statues, a throng of ladies and gentlemen on the opposite side of the road in carriages, on foot and on horseback, mingling with the uniforms of officers and men who are off duty – all these are details which you will fill in the quantum sufficient, to suit your individuals idea.

As a result of the Council of War at Fairfax Court House, Gen. Johnston was compelled to withdraw his army to Centreville and Manassas and adopt a defensive posture. At approximately 7:00 pm on evening of October 15th the order was passed to the army to get ready to march by 1:00 am. Under cover of darkness, the army packed up and pulled out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:

"Houses were turned topsy turvy. Lights flashed from every window. Wardrobes were emptied in a tuce[?]; trunks, carpet bags and boxes grew obese with their hastily gathered contents; children were got out of bed and dressed the wives of officers flew through the streets to out of Fairfax and marched all night to Manassas. A soldier recalled the chaotic scene:
Amateurs from different regiments have likewise added their force to this review.

This evening, the various headquarters in the vicinity of Fairfax were expected to be visited by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Among the Confederate troops present for the Review at Fairfax Court House was the regiment of Col. Montgomery D. Corse, of Alexandria. The Fairfax Rifles, a company within this regiment, was comprised of men from Fairfax County. They must have been particularly proud to pass in review of President Davis in their hometown. However, this was not the first Review in which the Fairfax Rifles participated. At the end of July, the Confederate army was reviewed by visiting dignitary Prince Jerome Napoleon of France at Centreville. As a result of the Council of War at Fairfax Court House, Gen. Johnston was compelled to withdraw his army to Centreville and Manassas and adopt a defensive posture.

In the meantime, Gen. McClellan was alerted to Davis’ visit by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Among the Confederate troops present for the Review at Fairfax Court House was the regiment of Col. Montgomery D. Corse, of Alexandria. The Fairfax Rifles, a company within this regiment, was comprised of men from Fairfax County. They must have been particularly proud to pass in review of President Davis in their hometown. However, this was not the first Review in which the Fairfax Rifles participated. At the end of July, the Confederate army was reviewed by visiting dignitary Prince Jerome Napoleon of France at Centreville. As a result of the Council of War at Fairfax Court House, Gen. Johnston was compelled to withdraw his army to Centreville and Manassas and adopt a defensive posture.

In the meantime, Gen. McClellan was alerted to Davis’ visit by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Amateurs from different regiments have likewise added their force to this review.

This evening, the various headquarters in the vicinity of Fairfax were expected to be visited by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Amateurs from different regiments have likewise added their force to this review.

This evening, the various headquarters in the vicinity of Fairfax were expected to be visited by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Amateurs from different regiments have likewise added their force to this review.

This evening, the various headquarters in the vicinity of Fairfax were expected to be visited by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Amateurs from different regiments have likewise added their force to this review.

This evening, the various headquarters in the vicinity of Fairfax were expected to be visited by the capture of a Confederate cavalryman, Lt. Andrew J. Sigler, of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, on October 4th. Sigler was captured hiding in a tree while on picket duty near Fairfax Court House. The incident, dubbed, A Confederate Treed, appeared in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly Newspaper on October 26, 1861. Not to be outdone, General McClellan held his own Review of the Union army troops in Washington, October 8, 1861 on the grounds of the United States Capitol.
or six miles away." 'Why don’t you wait until morning – the Yankees won’t be here for three days to come?'” Well, sir, I’m afraid to trust them, and I would rather know that my family are safe, if we do have to travel on foot all night.’ I tried to induce the man to go home again, by giving him every assurance possible that he would not be molested, even if he remained – for he was too poor to steal from – but no consideration would induce him to retrace his steps, and I left him trudging on with a half dozen little ones and a feeble wife, realizing for the first time in this struggle, the terrible devastating effect of war.”

During the exodus several barns and outbuildings at Fairfax Court House were burnt either by accident or invasion. He claimed that all conferees fully understood this opportunity of a lightly defended Federal capital. Viewed from the North, twice, they would never again have the chance to induce the man to go home again, by giving him every assurance possible that he would not be molested, even if he remained – for he was too poor to steal from – but no consideration would induce him to retrace his steps, and I left him trudging on with a half dozen little ones and a feeble wife, realizing for the first time in this struggle, the terrible devastating effect of war.”

During the exodus several barns and outbuildings at Fairfax Court House were burnt either by accident or invasion. He claimed that all conferees fully understood this opportunity of a lightly defended Federal capital. Viewed from the North, twice, they would never again have the chance to induce the man to go home again, by giving him every assurance possible that he would not be molested, even if he remained – for he was too poor to steal from – but no consideration would induce him to retrace his steps, and I left him trudging on with a half dozen little ones and a feeble wife, realizing for the first time in this struggle, the terrible devastating effect of war.”

Aftermath

Although the Confederate army did eventually invade the North, twice, they would never again have the opportunity of a lightly defended Federal capital.

In 1880, when Davis was evidently first made aware of the existence of the 1862 statement of Smith, Johnston and Beauregard, he defended his position by stating that as President he could not strip other areas of the Confederacy for a mass invasion of Maryland, because it would leave those areas, particularly western Virginia, open to Federal invasion. He claimed that all conferees fully understood this point and that an invasion of Maryland on a grand scale could only occur with the aid of arms from abroad. Those arms were expected to arrive by the spring of 1862. In the interim he alleges that a less risky plan was agreed on. A limited invasion of southern Maryland could perhaps defeat the Federal army there. This plan carried less risk because a smaller force could cross and re-cross the Potomac more easily by utilizing steamboats then docked near Aquia Creek.

In the end, Gen. G.W. Smith’s concern of a “gradual dying out and deterioration of the army” proved prophetic.

Dunleith

Thomas Ronsie Love (1806–1891) was the oldest son of John Stephen Love (1787–1828) and Mary Vermillion (1789–1864). He was a prominent Fairfax attorney and a respected former member of the Virginia General Assembly. He married Anne R. Moss, daughter of Thomas & Jane Moss and a granddaughter of Richard Ratcliffe, on March 1, 1836. Thomas Love was a slave owner, who, not surprisingly, voted for the Secession in May 1861.

The home, Dunleith, was constructed by Fairfax attorney George Washington Hunter, Jr. in 1842–43. Thomas & Anne Love acquired the property in December 1856. Love family tradition holds that it was destroyed by Union troops sometime in 1863. This is supported by surviving Fairfax County Land Tax records which indicate a substantial building on the site in 1861 valued at $2,000. Due to the war, there were no recorded land assessments in Fairfax Co. for 1862 and 1863. However, the entry for Thomas R. Love in 1865 indicates a value of zero ($-0-) for buildings and a notation in the 1866 land book, “buildings destroyed”, confirms the tradition.

Baker. Afterwards, Davis met for two hours with generals Johnston, Beauregard and Smith at Beauregard’s HQ, at Dunleith, the home of Thomas R. Love. No minutes of this meeting were recorded. However, four months later on January 31, 1862 at Centreville, Virginia, Gen. Smith prepared a written statement recounting the events of their two hour Council of War. This document was also signed by Johnston and Beauregard. Smith, Johnston, and Beauregard allege that all, including Davis, agreed the best way to guarantee the long term success of the Confederacy was to concentrate all the available forces and “attack the enemy in their own country.” In the statement Smith warned, “Success here at this time saves everything, defeat here loses all.” The generals suggested a massive invasion of Maryland near the Federal capital. They felt that it would be better to risk losing everything on the far side of the Potomac than to witness a “gradual dying out and deterioration of this army.” Interestingly, Jefferson Davis was not made aware of the existence of this document until 19 years after the war.

Reviewing the Troops

On October 2nd it rained and Davis was unable to continue his visits of Confederate army encampments. However, at noon the next day, October 3rd, Davis formally reviewed the Confederate brigades of Cocke, Jones, Longstreet and Walker, the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, Walton’s Battery, and Col. Stuart’s unattached cavalry. There were other units around Fairfax Court House at the time, but they were engaged in other duties.

Still, an estimated 15,000 Confederate troops formed a two-and-a-half-mile-long parade line on the north side of the Little River Turnpike, (Main Street). The line extended from the Courthouse all the way up to the village of Germantown (the intersection of Rt. 50 and Germantown Road). Hundreds of civilian and military spectators crowded the road to witness the Review. One South Carolina soldier wonderfully described the event in a letter to his hometown newspaper:

“Men were busy brushing clothes, burnishing muskets, donning clean shirts and collars, and arranging themselves generally in gala trim. Officers, likewise, prepared to look their best, while the bands rehearsed...

As the hour of twelve approached, the several brigades took up their positions at the point indicated, and shortly afterwards the President arrived. I am not very good at describing scenes, but if you will imagine a dignified looking gentleman in plain clothes, riding with ease and grace a white horse, his eye fixed in military curiosity on the long bristling line before him and his hand raised to his hat at every salutation, you will see the President as he appeared. That stern looking man, riding just behind the President...is Gen. Johnston. Just behind him is Beauregard... That large, fine looking gentleman by the side of Beauregard, in civilian’s garb, is Gen. Gustavus W. Smith, the new General...Following the Generals are their respective staffs, composed of officers who represent the wealth, education and best blood of the South. From our own State I see Col. Preston.... Following this brilliant cortege are the Adams Troop of Mississippi, who are acting as the body guard of the President during his stay. And a crowd of miscellaneous horsemen, as the penny...
Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard (1818-1893) Major General Confederate States Army

The escort consisted of several army officers, and of the Adam’s Troops, of Natchez, Miss., Captain Martin. In the advance was the President, dressed in deep-gray citizen’s clothes, and a beaver hat. Beside him, also in citizen’s clothes, rode Brig. Gen. Smith. Immediately following were Generals Johnston and Beauregard, and after them came Col. John S. Preston, Col. Thomas Preston, Col. Davis, Col. Randal, Prince Polignac, Capt. Ferguson, of Gen. Beauregard’s staff, Capt. Peyton, Lt. Lane, son of Jo. Lane, of Oregon, Lt. Twiggs, and “Your Own.” Following was the Adam’s Troop, dressed in a neat gray uniform, and presenting a truly imposing appearance.

Davis expressed and an interest in seeing the Potomac but was told this was impossible as the Confederate Army had withdrawn from Mason and Munson Hill’s near Alexandria.

Later that evening, October 1st, President Davis dined with General Johnston at his HQ, Coombe Cottage, a Female Academy and the home of Dr. Frederick and Hannah

George W. Hunter, Jr., esq., has sold his residence near this village, with 100 Acres of land, to Thomas R. Love, esq. for $200 per acre.

Alexandria Gazette, September 13, 1865

Dunleith was also damaged by Confederate troops during their occupation of Fairfax C.H. in 1861.

“Mr. Smith, 53 of Virginia presented the memorial of Thomas R. Love of Fairfax County, in relation to damages done him by Confederate troops, which was referred to the Committee on Claims, without being read.”

“State of Virginia Fairfax County, etc. This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County of Virginia presented the memorial of Thomas R. Love of Fairfax County, in relation to damages done him by Confederate troops, which was referred to the Committee on Claims, without being read.”

A. Broadwater, J.P.

We do hereby certify that having been first duly sworn for that purpose, we have gone upon the farm of Thomas R. Love near Fairfax Court House and have assessed his damages for the erection of entrenchments near his dwelling house, the destruction of fences and the loss of crops occasioned thereby, the said works having been erected under the direction of Brigadier Genl. Bonam [Bonham] of the Confederate Army. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this first day of August 1861.

J.C. Gunnell
Newman Burke
A.T. Wilcoxen

Supplied both Union and Confederate troops proved to be challenging throughout the war. At a loss for basic supplies such as food, shelter and firewood, soldiers often turned to civilian property to meet their basic needs. In addition, outright theft and vandalism were also common occurrences. While some residents of Fairfax, such as Dr. Frederick & Hannah Baker of Coombe Cottage, remained to protect their property, much of the population had fled leaving no one to object to the wholesale destruction of homes and property. It is believed that the family of Thomas R. Love also remained in Fairfax. However, as a prominent citizen and secessionist leader, Thomas R. Love was arrested in Fairfax several times by Union troops. The first arrest came in August 1862 for refusing to take an oath of allegiance. He was arrested again in March 1863 after the capture of Gen. Stoughton by Col. J.S. Mosby. Both times he spent several weeks in Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C.  These absences may have left the Love home vulnerable to Union soldiers.

Presumably, Union soldiers dismantled or destroyed the handsome brick home sometime in 1863. Although both sides had standing orders not to molest civilian property, these orders were often ignored. It is possible that Dunleith was destroyed because Thomas R. Love was a prominent secessionist in Fairfax. Similarly, the Grigby House, aka Four Chimneys, in Centreville was destroyed during the war and may have also been a vengeance target because of the family association with slave trading. On the other hand, both Union and Confederate soldiers commonly used scavenged bricks and other local building materials to construct their primitive huts.
Another possible explanation for the destruction of Dunleith is the phenomenon of souvenir seeking. Both Union and Confederate soldiers, of all ranks, infamously sought souvenirs to send home to their loved ones as relics of their wartime experiences. The most famous example of a house being completely dismantled for this purpose is the Wilmer McLean Surrender House in Appomattox, Virginia. In addition, The Henry House on the battlefield at Manassas suffered the same fate. One soldier recalls seeing it shortly after the battle:

“It is completely riddled with cannon and musket balls, and the ridiculous custom of gathering relics is fast stripping it of laths, weatherboarding, &c., and I should suppose one summer’s usual tide of travel would suffice to scatter the house in fragments to every county in the South.”

As Dunleith was occupied by at least three leading figures of the time, Jefferson Davis, P.G.T. Beauregard and later Union General George McClellan, it would have been a natural target for this type of activity.

The Love family paid a heavy price during the Civil War and its aftermath. All three of Thomas & Anne Love’s sons served in the Confederate army. Their oldest son, Robert T. Love, was killed in action at Seven Pines on May 31, 1862. Youngest son, Thomas R. Love, Jr. was captured in Culpeper, Virginia on October 11, 1863 and had his arm amputated. The Love home was completely destroyed. Finally, Anne R. Love died in December 1866.

In addition, The Henry House was occupied by at least three leading figures of the time, Jefferson Davis, P.G.T. Beauregard and later Union General George McClellan, it would have been a natural target for this type of activity.

The Love family paid a heavy price during the Civil War and its aftermath. All three of Thomas & Anne Love’s sons served in the Confederate army. Their oldest son, Robert T. Love, was killed in action at Seven Pines on May 31, 1862. Youngest son, Thomas R. Love, Jr. was captured in Culpeper, Virginia on October 11, 1863 and had his arm amputated. The Love home was completely destroyed. Finally, Anne R. Love died in December 1866.

In 1923, Willard sold Layton Hall to the Fairfax Development Corporation, of which he was a director and Thomas Buchanan Love, a grandson of Thomas R. Love, was President. Joseph E. Willard died the following year. His widow, Belle L.W. Willard, died in 1954. Following the acquisition of Dunleith, which included its earlier 10-acre purchase on the north and west, substantially increased Willard’s landholdings.

be devised several audacious plans which included the capture of Washington, D.C. Beauregard called for a small diversionary force to remain in front of the enemy in Northern Virginia while the main Confederate army would cross the Potomac River at either Edward’s Ferry, in Loudoun County or by means of a pontoon bridge near Georgetown and quickly take the Federal capital before the Union forces could react. Beauregard reasoned that the Union army was still in a state of disarray following Manassas and Washington had yet to be fortified. He presented this plan to his superior, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. While many Confederate officers, including Johnston, felt that a brief offensive might quickly end the war, Johnston was reluctant to go on the offensive without the necessary men and equipment to do so.

To address both issues General Johnston wrote to Confederate Secretary of War Judah Benjamin on September 26th and requested a conference with the Secretary of War, or Confederate President Jefferson Davis or his emissary to discuss the war situation and the available options. Jefferson Davis agreed and left Richmond, Virginia at 6:00 am on September 30th. Accompanied by Col. John S. Preston and other aides, he travelled by a special train on the Virginia Central Railroad to Gordonsville and from there on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad to Manassas and Fairfax Station, arriving there late that same afternoon.

The President was met at the station by Generals Johnston, Beauregard, Smith and their staffs. The Adams Troop, a company of splendidly mounted cavalry from Natchez, Mississippi, President Davis’ home state, acted as his escort and body guard.

The Adams Troop was escorted President Davis up Chain Bridge Road (Bl. 123) to the four mile Fairfax Court House. All along the route curious citizens and soldiers alike came out to gawk at the unexpected arrival of the Confederate President. The entire way Davis was loudly cheered and applauded. At least one reporter was on hand to record the spectacle of a sitting President entering Fairfax Court House:

"The President rode quite erect on a white horse, a little in advance of the party. As they entered the town, rest of the way by the side of Gen. Beauregard whom he seemed to [be] all the time in earnest conversation, except when he turned to recognize a civility from the army or citizens and even then he appeared to be thinking deep in his own mind of something else. He was dressed, as usual in plain citizens dress of Confederate colors, and appeared quite well, though thin from the loss of flesh during his recent illness. After a hearty supper he received the calls of all the principal officers of the army; and later in the evening was honored with a serenade by the handsome band of the First Virginia regiment." The first piece was of course, "Hail to the Chief", the last the inevitable " Dixie", after which the President withdrew to more
in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Love [Love] just on the outskirts of the village of Fairfax Court-House. Your readers will be glad to know that Gen. Beauregard's health is much improved since he left his quarters at Wier's just on the outskirts of the village of Fairfax Court-House.

Prominent Fairfax citizen, Thomas R. Love, voluntarily improved since he left his quarters at Wier's just on the outskirts of the village of Fairfax Court-House. It was a popular teenage hang-out spot. It flanked the old driveway on the east leading to Dunleith building. It was a popular teenage hang-out spot. Until it was cut down in 1979 to make way for a new office building.

As a child growing up in Fairfax, the immense Layton Hall or Dunleith estate of over one hundred acres was a wonderful wooded area in which to roam. An ancient towering white pine stands near 3940 University Drive. This tree was approximately two hundred years old, with a base circumference of at least eight feet. It flanked the old driveway on the east leading to Dunleith until it was cut down in 1979 to make way for a new office building. It was a popular teenage hang-out spot."

**Endnotes**

1. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.

2. Col. Thomas Lewis Preston (1812–1903). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.


4. Col. Thomas Lewis Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.


7. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.


9. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.

10. Col. Thomas Lewis Preston (1812–1903). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.


12. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.


14. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.

15. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.

16. Col. John Smith Preston (1812–1864). Was the son of Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan of Abingdon, VA. He was the brother of Col. John Preston Smith. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in law in 1833 and was licensed to practice law in the year 1833. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1834 to 1836. He was commissioned on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. George Washington, son of George W. & Angelina Love of the Scientific American. He died in 1863.
troops arriving there. He had reason to be concerned. Confederate Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard were anxious to go on the offensive after their victory at Manassas, but Johnston, in particular, felt they lacked the men, material and logistics to do so. Additionally, while Gen. McClellan enjoyed the full support of President Abraham Lincoln who had given him a free hand to organize the army as he saw fit, Johnston clashed with a meddling Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Johnston also faced a fractured command structure that was rife with competing personalities.

While Johnston was technically the overall commander of the Confederate Army of the Potomac at Manassas, he was also in direct command of half of the army with Gen. Beauregard in direct command of the other half. Johnston and Beauregard also squabbled over rank and tactics. President Davis attempted to fix this by creating additional command positions in the late summer of 1861. One of these was Gen. Gustavus W. Smith who would command the Second Corps. It would be several months, however, before the Confederate command structure coalesced and the Army of Northern Virginia was created and even longer until command of that army was given to Gen. Robert E. Lee.

On July 22, 1861, the day after the battle of Manassas, Col. Benjamin F. Terry along Captain Thomas Whitehead's Cavalry, re-entered Fairfax Court House, cautiously pursuing the retreating Union army and picking up stragglers. His arrival was cheered by the people in the village:

"Once more we are free. Sans Deo, after a reign of terror for five days since the enemy entered, we, the citizens of this place, have been under a surveillance which we could scarcely brook; but, thanks to Almighty God, we are once more free. Col. Terry, the gallant Texan, this morning, with a detachment of Captain Whitehead's Rangers, re-entered Fairfax Court House, cautiously pursuing the retreating Union army and picking up stragglers. His arrival was cheered by the people in the village:

"Col. Terry gave the captured flag to General Longstreet who presented it to Gen. Beauregard as a gift. Three indecisive weeks later, on August 8th & 9th 1861, the Confederate forces of Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard reoccupied Fairfax Court House, and other locations in Fairfax County in a line that extended from Springfield to the Little Falls of the Potomac River. In early September General Johnston moved his Headquarters from the Bloom Farm, now the Conner House, Manassas Park, to Coome Cottage [see Fare Facs Gazette v. 8, n. 1] at Fairfax Court House.

"Gen. Johnston's quarters are now situated in a commodious building, at Fairfax Court-House, formerly used as a Female Seminary. The house is surrounded by beautiful grounds, filled with fine trees and tastefully-arranged shrubbery, which, even at this late season, are covered with dense foliage.

On September 12th, General Beauregard, too, moved his headquarters from Liberia, Manassas, Prince William County, to Dunleith, the home of Thomas R. Love, at Fairfax Court House.

"A correspondent at Fairfax writes that Gen. Beauregard has advanced to that place, and made his headquarters at the residence of T.R. Love, Esq.

"Gen. Beauregard, commanding the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac, has his headquarters at their headquarters in the village, and from which had floated the banner, amid the rolling of the drums and the shouts of our citizens. Col. Terry was accorded the privilege and honor of driving the first nail into our flag which affixed it upon the pole they had raised, Senator Thomas the second honor, and Messrs. Chichester and Grinnell [Gunnell] the next."

Col. Terry gave the captured flag to General Longstreet who presented it to Gen. Beauregard as a gift.

The map was adapted from O.M. Hopkins' Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C., 1876, courtesy Wm. Edmund Barrett and the Pioneer America Society, Inc., by William Pope Johnson, B. 2011. Lots and or owners names have been modified, where known, to reflect ownership in 1861.
Greetings from the President--

We had an extremely successful fundraising with this year’s Taste of the Vine on October 14th. The wines of Lost Creek Winery were excellent, the food pairings by Café Villa Mozart were delicious and the music of Christian Perez was delightful. The Silent Auction for nearly 20 items was very competitive and added significantly to the funds that were raised. We raised over $7,500 at this event. Congratulations to Betsy Rutkowski and her committee for all of their hard work in organizing this event.

While the Taste of the Vine has become HFCI’s major fundraiser it is not the only one. We are again selling White House Christmas Ornaments this year. They are on sale at the Museum and at the Blenheim Interpretive Center. We will also have a booth at the upcoming Holiday Craft Show at Fairfax High School. These ornaments look great on your tree and they make great holiday gifts so please stop by and pick some up.

This year we were able to use money we have raised to partner with the City to stabilize “Gramma’s Cottage” at the Blenheim site. We are looking at additional investments at Blenheim as well as worthwhile projects in the Historic downtown. We are also assisting the Historic Resources Department in the cataloguing of the acquisitions at the Museum. Our fundraising activities support all of these efforts.

It is almost time for membership renewal and I hope that all of you will continue your memberships and encourage others to join and support our efforts to maintain the City’s historic resources. You can follow our activities at www.historicfairfax.org.

Thank you for your continuing support.

David L. Pumphrey

---

At The Museum...

**Historic House candlelight Tours**
December 3rd - 6th  7 pm (after the tree lighting in Pozer Garden).
*Ratchiff-Allison House - 10386 Main Street.*
Tour the oldest house in town and learn about holiday customs of the past.

**Christmas in Camp**
December 4th - 12th  4 pm
*Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center - 3610 Old Lee Highway*
Interactive living history with Co. D, 17th Virginia Infantry, Fairfax Rifles
Talks with Extra Billy Smith and The Common Soldier
House Tour 1 pm
Music with OLLI Recorder Consort

**The Banjo in the Civil War**
December 11th  2 pm
*Fairfax Museum & Visitors Center - 10209 Main St.*
Performance & talk by Greg Adams, Historian & Musicologist

**Liberty Middle School Strings Group**
December 17th  2 pm
*Fairfax Museum & Visitors Center - 10209 Main St.*
Enjoy holiday music while shopping for unique holiday gifts

---

Welcome New Members!

Sandra L. Abold  Karen C. Murphy
Webster & Frances Brown  Scott Patton
Antonio “Tony” A. Chaves  Sarah Pease
Barbara J. Huyett

The President & Board of Directors of HFCI extends a hearty welcome to all new HFCI members.
By the late summer of 1861 nearly everything had gone in favor of the fledgling Confederacy. The invading Federal army had been soundly defeated in battles at Big Bethel and Manassas, Virginia. Following the battle at Manassas the Federal army, had withdrawn to the safety of the Potomac. Anticipating a Confederate assault on Washington, D.C., Union Gen. George B. McClellan had begun the organization of the massive number

Dunleith, the home of Thomas R. Love at Fairfax Court House, built c. 1842 Used as a HQ by Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard (1861) & Gen. George B. McClellan (1862) Photograph attributed to Timothy H. O’Sullivan 1863, courtesy The Library of Congress

Until now, the location and owner of the home depicted in the famous Civil War photograph below has remained somewhat a mystery. The Library of Congress has simply has identified the photo as “Fairfax Court House, Va. House used as a headquarters by Gen. G.B. McClellan and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard.” After 150 years this mystery is now solved. The following is the story of a pivotal event of the Civil War that occurred in this home in the autumn of 1861.

“Success here at this time saves everything; defeat here loses all.”
-Major-General Gustavus W. Smith. Fairfax C.H., October 1, 1861.1