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Sesquicentennial Wedding Anniversary of the Spy and the Millionaire

By William Page Johnson, II



In the midst of the bleakness and desolation of the Civil War, a most poignant love story unfolded at Fairfax Court House. March 10, 2014 marks the 150th wedding anniversary of Antonia Ford and Joseph Clapp Willard.

From the outset, the entire Southern population, it seems, was caught up in the fervor of *the cause*. Southern boys set off for war, some, no doubt, with thoughts of bravery and bravado straight out of Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* swirling in their heads. Equally, many southern women showed their devotion to the Confederacy by various acts of loyalty, including clandestine acts of spying and smuggling.

As the southern army poured into Fairfax County, the young women of Fairfax Court House and the surrounding area were regular visitors to the camps of their equally young defenders. This was no accident, the war had called away nearly every young man, and potential suitor. For young women, these visits meant a considerable improvement in their flagging social lives. In addition to stimulating conversation, in the camps there could be found dances, games, entertainments, moonlit walks, long carriage or horseback rides, and serendipitous espionage.

Then as now, the exchange of information was critical to both sides who attempted to gain some sort of strategic advantage over the other. General J.E.B.

Stuart, commanding the Confederate cavalry, was very anxious to obtain any information as to the position of Federal forces coming out of Washington. Stuart, although happily married, enjoyed flirting with pretty young ladies almost as much as he enjoyed fighting Yankees. It is also well known that he obtained useful military information from a number of these young ladies. In the summer of 1861, subsequent to the First Battle of Manassas, he became acquainted with a highly educated, quiet and refined young lady of Fairfax Court House, who possessed great nerve and spirit, and was known to have an enthusiastic devotion to the cause of the South.

Antonia J. Ford

Antonia J. Ford was born July 23, 1838 at Fairfax Court House, Virginia, the daughter of Edward Rodolph (Randolph) Ford (1813-1871) and Julia Jackson Ford (1816-1898),¹ who were first cousins.²

She attended the Fairfax Ladies Seminary at Fairfax Court House, aka Coombe Cottage, (see *Coombe Cottage*, The Fare Facs Gazette, v. 8, n. 1, Summer 2011), operated by Dr. Frederick Baker. After Dr. Baker became seriously indebted to Antonia's father, a merchant at Fairfax Court House, Antonia was sent to the Buckingham Female Collegiate

Fairfax, Virginia - March 2014

Greetings from the President -

It is my pleasure to become president of HFCI as we begin to implement our new Strategic Plan that will guide our work for several years ahead. Special attention will go toward outreach to encourage community groups and individuals to know more about all aspects of HFCI — from city history walking tours, to oral history collection, to markers of historic sites, to financial support, and to preserve historic sites in our city.

Additionally, we are partnering with the city's Historic Resources staff to assist with accreditation of the Fairfax Museum which will enhance its stature and allow it to apply for grants to mount new exhibits and carry forward needed projects. For the longer term we need to find additional funding sources to sustain HFCI's mission.

We welcome three new Board members who are already becoming active participants and hope that as HFCI members you will let us know more about your interests and talents so we can include you in the many projects that could benefit from your participation. Also, encourage your friends to join us!

Our special thanks to outgoing HFCI president David Pumphrey for his highly effective, wise, and steady leadership during the past six years. David's wife, Cathy, assisted our strategic planning with her organizational and collaborative skills. We are grateful for her contribution. The Pumphreys are retiring to Kiawah Island, South Carolina. We will miss them and their contribution to our community. Kiawah will certainly benefit from their presence!

Hope to see each of you at our annual membership meeting Wednesday, April 7
Sandra Wilbur

Welcome New Members!

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

Ernest and Bonnie Baldwin	Mark Meinke
Linda Baringhaus	John P. Murphy
Sue Brown	Jim and Alice Noone
William Clements	Steve Palmeter
Susan Ellicott	Robin Powers
Catherine Foust	Phil Reilly
Margaret Hively	Carol Rentz
John Keith	Martha Sharma
Nancy Meidenbauer	J. Noel Tunny
and Roger Hillson	Gregory Wilson

At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

Saturday, March 22 – 2 p.m.

“Confederate Memorial Day in Alexandria from 1866 to the Present”—Talk and book purchase and signing by Ann Graham, local historian and author, will trace the roots and continuation of the the annual Confederate Memorial Day in Alexandria, Mrs. Graham is the past chapter president of the Alexandria Mary Custis Lee 17th VA Reg #7 UDC

Special Events, Programs:

Thursday, April 10 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Opening Reception for the New Exhibit - **"The Civil War Seen Through the Eyes of German-American Cariatists Thomas Nast and Adalbert Volck."**

Saturday, April 26 – 10a.m. to 5 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

14th Annual Fairfax Civil War Day

See Program Insert

**Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center,
3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-591-0560.**

Second Sunday Series...

Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m.

“The Civil War Romance of Antonia Ford and Major Joseph C. Willard”

Curator Susan Inskeep Gray will tell the story of Antonia Ford, a suspected Confederate spy, and her courtship with a Union Army officer.

This is a joint program with Historic Blenheim and will be held at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway.

Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m.

“Our Most Important Public Building”

Local historian John Murphy will share the history of the Fairfax County Courthouse. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street.

Saturday, May 10 at 2 p.m.

“Virginia Architecture”

Margaret Hancock, from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will discuss architecture in Virginia, highlighting the traveling exhibition “Virginia Architecture” at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Then join a guided walking tour highlighting the architecture of buildings in the Old Town Fairfax National Register Historic District. Note: This “Second Sunday” Program has been moved to Saturday so everyone can enjoy Mother’s Day.

Sunday, June 8 – 2 p.m.

“World War II: D-Day through the Battle of the Bulge”

This special program will mark the 70th Anniversary of the successful invasion by the United States and allied forces of Nazi-occupied France on June 6, 1944, local historian, author, and filmmaker Jim Lewis will give an illustrated presentation incorporating a “Now & Then” theme weaving in several World War II movie classics and television programs. This is a joint program with Historic Blenheim and will be held at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway.

New Exhibition at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center:

“**Architecture in Virginia**” will open at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, on Sunday, March 9 and be on view through May 31. The exhibition is a partnership with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. 703-385-8414.

New Exhibition in the Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center Gallery:

Tuesday, April 8–June 27, 2014

“The Civil War seen through the eyes of German-American caricaturists, Thomas Nast and Adalbert Volck”.

Both caricaturists were German-Americans and while Nast supported the Union, Volck supported the Confederacy. The exhibit not only focuses on these two men’s opinions on the war, but it also explains the role German-Americans played in the Civil War. Traveling Exhibition presented by the German-American Heritage Museum, Washington, D.C.

Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway. 703-591-0560.

Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission

2014 Signature Conference

“The American Civil War in a Global Context”

Saturday, May 31st

George Mason University

Center for the Arts

4373 Mason Pond Drive

Fairfax, VA 22030

Please register: <http://www.virginiacivilwar.org/2014conference.php>



Institute, at Gravel Hill, Buckingham County, Virginia in 1854. She is believed to have graduated from this institution sometime between 1857 and 1859.



Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute, Buckingham Co., VA
Photo credit: *Virginia Landmarks Registry*

The Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute was the first chartered college for women in Virginia and opened its doors in 1838. It operated until forced to close in 1863 as a result of the Civil War.

The Fords were staunch secessionists. Antonia's father owned slaves and had voted for secession in May 1861.^{3,4} Her brother Charles "Charlie" Edward Ford, who attended the Virginia Military Institute, enlisted in the Confederate army and served as a 2nd Lt. in McGregor's Battery, Stuart's Horse Artillery. He was killed in action in Hanover County, Virginia in May 1864. Lindsay, a Ford family slave, had accompanied Charlie into the field as his body servant. It was Lindsay who returned to Fairfax Court House with Charlie's personal effects and the devastating news of his death.⁵


HOW GEN. STOUGHTON WAS CAPTURED.—
The following extract from a letter from a Federal soldier at Fairfax C. H. to a friend in Vermont, written four days prior to General Stoughton's capture, will probably explain how it was accomplished:

"General Stoughton, who commands the 2d Vermont Brigade, has his headquarters in the village, although his Brigade is five or six miles away. 'What he could or would do in case of an attack, I don't know, but it seems to me that a General should be with his men. If he is so fancy that he can't put up with them, the Government had better put him out.' * * *
"There is a woman living in the town (Fairfax) by the name of Ford, not married, who has been of great service to General Stuart in giving information, &c.—so much so that Stuart has conferred on her the rank of Major in the Rebel army. She belongs to his Staff. Why our people do not send her beyond the lines is another question. I understand that she and Stoughton are very intimate. If he gets picked up some night he may thank her for it. Her father lives here, and is known to harbor and give all the aid he can to the Rebs, and this is the little hole of Fairfax, under the nose of the Provost Marshal, who is always full of bad whisky. So things go, and it is all right. No wonder we don't get along faster."

The young woman mentioned above was arrested on Friday. Upon the premises were found letters which indicated that she had been corresponding with Rebels in Richmond. Some papers of an important character were not overlooked, and through them it is learned that another raid had been planned for Saturday night.

Several thousand dollars in Confederate bills and other secret papers were also found:

Evening Star, March 16, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

Continued next page 



Antonia Ford c. 1864, on Honeymoon, Philadelphia, PA.
Photo courtesy: *Library of Congress*

Early in the war, Antonia, who could not participate as soldier, often visited the camps of Confederate soldiers around Fairfax Court House. According to a cousin:

*"...she was young beautiful and accomplished...she was very vivacious, and often played and sang for the Southern soldiers."*⁶

Throughout the war the Ford family remained in their substantial Fairfax Court House home which was used during the war to house Union officers.

On the hot afternoon of July 17, 1861, Union troops arrived at Fairfax Court House. Federal officers took up residence in the Ford home. These officers spoke openly with the Ford family of their plans to march on Manassas, annihilate the Confederates, and crush the rebellion. Antonia Ford was privy to these discussions. Later that evening she obtained permission to visit her grandmother's home. She walked the six miles to Sangster's Station and spent the night. The next morning, July 18th, Antonia obtained a horse from her grandmother and rode to Union Mills. Confederate artillerymen were astonished to see a finely attired young woman riding leisurely up to them. Here she encountered Lt. Thomas L. Rosser of the Washington Artillery from New Orleans, Louisiana. Rosser arrested her and escorted her to General P.G.T. Beauregard. Antonia related to Beauregard the Union plans that she heard at her home the day before.

This story is established as factual from the following letter of Peter W. Hairston to his wife six weeks after the incident. Hairston was a civilian aide to Gen. J.E.B. Stuart.:

*"Fairfax Co. Va.
4th Sept. 1861*

My Dear Fanny,

A severe headache on yesterday renders me feverish and nervous to day, so I shall remain in my quarters.

I heard yesterday one of the most romantic incidents of the war. Miss Ford of Fairfax Court House having acquired information thro' the Federal officers who took up quarters at her mother's house, that the enemy intended to make an attack on the 18th of July on Manassas and their

plan of attack, received permission the night before to visit her grandmother who lived six miles off. She walked this whole distance. She then procured an old and rough-going horse and made her way to Manassas when she was taken prisoner by Capt. Rosser of the Washington Artillery from New Orleans. He carried her to Genl. Beauregard and she revealed to him their plan of attack which enabled him to place his men in ambush and commit such havoc on the enemy on the 18th.*

On yesterday I saw a beautiful bouquet which she had sent Capt. Rosser and I would not be surprised if the matter ended by her bading** him Captain. She is said to be beautiful and accomplished and I know him to be a brave and gallant man.*

I saw at Fairfax Co. Ho. Mrs. Thomas who is sister to Jackson who killed Ellsworth in Alexandria—His wife also lives there.

Many families in this county have left their houses and gone off some at the approach of our army and some at that of the enemy. It will be a howling wilderness for some time after the close of the war.

One of Genl. Beauregard's spies came into our camp last night and gave me information that the Federal government were sending reinforcements to forts Hatteras & Clark. I will telegraph the information to Govr. Clark.

I have not heard from you in several days and feel ___?___ and uneasy about the children.

*Most affectionately & truly
Yours,
Peter W. Hairston"*^{7,8}

*"Capt. Rosser," is Thomas Lafayette Rosser (1836-1910). In July 1861, he was a Lieutenant. He was appointed temporary Captain on Sept. 29th. He was

appointed Col. of the 5th Virginia Cavalry and later became a Major General of a cavalry. Thomas L. Rosser was also a favorite and close friend of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart:

**** Badinaging:** Webster's: to banter with or tease (someone) playfully.

In a letter, written by Gen. J.E.B. Stuart to Laura Ratcliffe, of Frying Pan, Fairfax Co., Stuart playfully hints at a possible relationship between Antonia Ford and Thomas Rosser. Both of whom were then single.

*"I send you a nice beau Capt. Rosser (Miss Antonia's friend) he will escort you here to dinner and hence to the Csd. to spend a night with Mrs. Ford."*⁹

Another letter from Stuart, dated January 30, 1862, addressed to both Laura Ratcliffe and Antonia Ford, at "Frying Pan" suggests that Antonia was then staying with Laura Ratcliffe. This is significant as Laura Ratcliffe is known to have shared military intelligence with Stuart. Laura is also known to have assisted in tending to Confederate soldiers wounded after the Battle of Dranesville in December 1861. The fact that Antonia Ford was at present at the Ratcliffe home at the same time suggests that she, too, was involved with both activities.¹⁰

On March 9, 1863, Confederate partisan ranger, John S. Mosby with twenty nine men captured Union Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton at Fairfax Court House (See *Mosby's Fairfax Court House Raid...*, Fare Facs Gazette, v. 10, n. 1, Winter 2013). Given the audacity of the raid, far inside Union lines, suspicion immediately fell on the townsfolk, one in particular...

*"...the beautiful and brilliant Miss Antonia Ford, who justly had the honor of being the handsomest and keenest woman in old Virginia...and was frequently seen in the streets of Fairfax Court House on the parade ground, at the brigade hospital [Willcoxon Tavern] and on horseback with the general as he moved about from regiment to regiment in discharge of his duty."*¹¹

Because they were often seen together, many foolish rumors and insinuations immediately filled the newspapers and the private letters of northern soldiers, suggesting that

an inappropriate and intimate relationship had existed between the two.

In return for Capt. Mosby's pleasantries, the exasperated Yankees pounced down upon an unprotected young lady, Miss Antonia Ford, of Fairfax, and dragged her to prison, on the pretence of her being a spy—a pretext as barefaced as it is cowardly, and based solely upon the fact that she possessed a humorous commission from Gen. Stuart, who of course has no authority to confer commissions, and gave her this only as an autograph memento of her hospitality and kindness. Comment is unnecessary.

Newspaper account the arrest of Antonia Ford.

Southern Illustrated News, April 4, 1863, p. 2, c. 1.

Antonia's father and nine other men of Fairfax Court House were immediately arrested by the Union Provost Marshall of Fairfax Court House, Capt. Lawrence O'Connor. All were confined in Old Capitol Prison, in Washington, DC on charges of spying and disloyalty. Several days later, as the story continued to grow in the newspapers, Antonia became the focus of Federal authorities.

Secretary of War Edwin Staunton ordered Lafayette C. Baker, head of the National Detectives (a forerunner of the United States Secret Service), to initiate an investigation. Baker dispatched part-time Union Spy and prostitute, Frankie Abel (aka Frances Jamieson) to



GENERAL STUART'S NEW AID.

"The rebel cavalry leader, STUART, has appointed to a position on his staff, with the rank of Major, a young lady residing at Fairfax Court House, who has been of great service to him in giving information," etc.—*Daily Paper*.

Cartoon of Antonia Ford

Source: *Harper's Weekly*, April 3, 1863

the Ford home at Fairfax Court House. Abel, masquerading as a refugee from New Orleans, gained Antonia's confidence, whereby Antonia allegedly divulged to Abel her complicity.¹²

*"While confined, one of those infamous women used by the Yankees as spies upon prisoners was sent to question her and find out her securers. The woman has since been in Richmond, and the police are in search of her."*¹³

Lafayette C. Baker, then dispatched one of his officers to Fairfax Court House. Detective John Odell, a former deputy sheriff and police officer from Cleveland, Ohio, arrested Antonia at her home on March 13, 1863.¹⁴
¹⁵ A search of the Ford home revealed an Honorary Commission of Lieutenant and Aide de Camp which had been given to Antonia Ford, by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. Which read:

*"To all whom it may concern,
Know ye,*

That reposing special confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and ability of Antonia J. Ford, I James E.B. Stuart, by virtue of the power invested in me as Brigadier General in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States of America, do hereby appoint and commission her my honorary

Aid-de-Camp, to rank as such from this date.

She will be obeyed, respected and admired by all lovers of a noble nature.

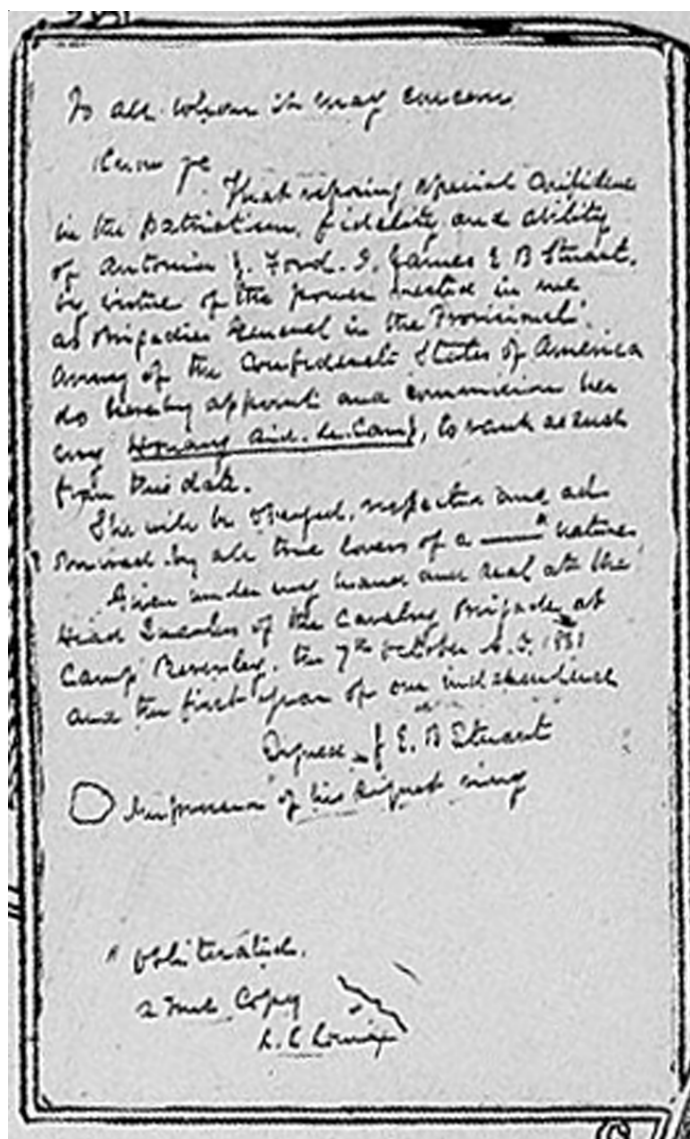
Given under my hand and seal, at the headquarters Cavalry Brigade, at Camp Beverly, the 7th of October, A.D. 1861, and the first year of our independence.

J.E.B. Stuart

[Impression of his signet ring]

*By the General,
L. Tiernan Bryan, A.A.G."*¹⁶

Also found was correspondence from southern sympathizers in Richmond and \$5,765 in Confederate



Honorary Commission of Aide de Camp for Antonia Ford (Facsimilie)

Source: *Richmond Times Dispatch*, June 2, 1907, p. 11.

money.¹⁷ This was enough to land Antonia Ford in Old Capitol Prison along with her father and neighbors. The evidence against her was thin however. General Stuart, who had no legal authority to confer a commission, honorary or otherwise, had likely given Antonia the commission, in jest, as a token of their friendship and in appreciation for her fidelity to the Confederate cause.

The following summary of her case is recorded among the papers associated with her arrest:

"Miss Antonia J. Ford, Rebel Spy, March 16, 1863, Is a native of Va. aged 20 years, a resident of Fairfax C.H., Va. Rather delicate in appearance. Is a defiant Rebel.

Pleads especially for her family and says that she alone is responsible for her sentiments and actions. Has a Rebel Commission, from the Rebel Genl. Stuart, which she declares he gave her as a compliment and as a personal acquaintance. She acknowledges the will, but asserts her physical inability to interfere in any manner in this National Strife, and positively denies having done a single act, for, or against either party, but claims having assisted the sick and wounded soldiers of both sides."¹⁸

It is true that Antonia Ford was often seen in the company of General Stoughton, they were both young and educated, but their relationship appears to have been purely platonic, not romantic. Antonia was a Lady and a woman of character and General Stoughton treated her with the respect that she deserved. In fact, at the time of his capture Stoughton's own mother and younger sister, Laura and Susan Stoughton, were guests in the Ford home. Had their relationship been anything other than mutual admiration, Stoughton would not have risked exposure to his own mother and sister.

Antonia Ford was a Southern patriot, as evidenced by her exploits prior to the Battle of First Manassas, and was willing to share what information she obtained. After Manassas, it is highly likely that she continued to do so. But her intelligence gathering was likely by serendipity rather than any overt act. There is one notable exception, however. Allegations persist that Antonia was complicit in General Stoughton's capture. However, no direct evidence has ever been presented which establishes this as a fact. Both the honorary commission and the dubious witness, Frankie Abel, a known alcoholic, prostitute, and thief, have subsequently been discredited.^{19,20} Mosby was known to have relied on the information given him by a deserter, James F. *Big Yankee* Ames, from the 5th New York Cavalry, then camped in the vicinity.

In fact, Stuart, Mosby and Stoughton, himself would later deny or refute any involvement by Antonia Ford in the Fairfax Court House Raid.

Stuart wrote to Mosby shortly after Antonia was arrested. Stuart requested that Mosby provide him evidence that Antonia had nothing to do with the raid.

*"I was greatly obliged to you for the saddle of Stoughton. I wish you would send me whatever evidence you may be able to furnish of Miss Ford's innocence of the charge of having guided you in your exploit at Fairfax, so that I can insist on her unconditional release."*²¹

Mosby, too, always denied her involvement in the raid and would later write in a letter to a friend:

*"She was as innocent as Abraham Lincoln."*²²

Even General Edwin Stoughton later sought to exonerate Antonia. In a letter to John S. Mosby in June 1867, Stoughton requested that Mosby provide him a statement denying her involvement in his capture.²³

Every dark cloud has a silver lining. While confined at Old Capitol Prison, Antonia Ford became reacquainted with Union Major Joseph Willard, who was a frequent visitor. Willard was the wealthy co-owner of the Willard Hotel, in Washington, D.C. The pair had met more than a year before when Willard accompanied General Irvin McDowell and other Union officers to Fairfax Court House. The group stayed in the Ford home. Willard recorded the event in his diary at the time, and mournfully years later:

*"April 9, 1862 – Started for Fairfax Court House very severe snow storm. Arrived Fairfax Court House about dark. Gen. McDowell, Schriver (?) and few of staff quartered at the house of Mr. Ford."*²⁴

*"April 9, 1884 – Snowstorm as on this day 22 years ago the day I first saw my dear, dear Antonia."*²⁵

Antonia was released from Old Capitol in May 1863. She was arrested again however, for "*disloyalty*" on September 14, 1863 and again sent to Old Capitol Prison by way of Centreville and Alexandria. She took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States on September 16, 1863 which was "*sworn and subscribed*" to by "*J.C. Willard, Maj., A.A.D.C.*"²⁶

Several days later, a defiant Antonia Ford wrote to the Provost Marshall, of Alexandria, Col. Henry H. Wells:

*"Fairfax C.H.
Sept.
Col. Wells*

You will please hand to Mr. Hawxhurst \$14 in U.S. Treasury notes the amount taken from me while undergoing search at your office. I have taken the oath, consequently am entitled to its restoration.

*Antonia Ford"*²⁷

Wells then responded:

*"Headquarters Provost Marshal General,
Alexandria, Va., September 15, 1863.
J.H. Taylor
Lt. Col. & A.A.G., Wash., DC.
Colonel:*

I forward herewith for your disposition, Miss Antonia Ford of Fairfax C.H. together with a certified copy of the communication accompanying her to these Headquarters.

Very respy, Yr. obt. servt,

*H.H. Wells
Lt. Col & Provst Mar. Genl.
Def. So. of Potomac"*

[In separate handwriting bottom of the page]

*"The above party was searched at these Hd. Qtrs. but nothing particular was found upon her, but the accompanying wallet containing papers principally referring to business transactions and some Confederate money certificates &c."*²⁸

The arresting officer at Alexandria had this to say of the incident:

*"Headquarters Provost Marshal General,
Def. So. of Potomac
Alexa., Va., Sept. 24, 1863.
Lieut. J.Y. Donn, 1st D.C. Infy says:*

The pocket book of Miss Ford was handed to me by Lieut. Winship, A.A.Genl. to Pro Mar. Genl. Defs. So. of Potomac, to take a with her to Washington. Said pocketbook was opened in the presence of

Miss Ford and Thomas Smoot, (Govt. Detective) to see what money was there.

Not finding any Union money but a \$2 greenback, she gave me that to pay her bill at the Hotel, which was \$1. I handed her the \$1 change, which she returned to me together with a \$5 Southern Bank Note, and requested that I should put them in the pocket book. I did so in her presence; closed the book and delivered it without again opening the same at the Headquarters of Maj. Genl. Heintzelman in Washington.

*(Signed) John Y. Donn
Lieut., 1st D.C. Infy."*²⁹

Joseph Clapp Willard

Joseph Capp Willard was born in Westminster, Vermont on November 11, 1820, the son of Joseph Willard and Susan Dorr Clapp. From c. 1844 to 1849 he was employed by the New York and Troy Steamboat Co., Troy, N. Y., and later by the Astoria House, New York, N. Y.

On March 7, 1849, Joseph was married to Caroline Moore (1826-????), at Trinity Church in New York City.³⁰ "Carrie" Moore was the daughter of John Armour Moore and Hester Ann Armour, of New York City. John Armour Moore was a New York City Merchant and a Vestryman at Trinity Church. Joseph and Carrie resided with the Moore's in New York City in 1850.³¹

While at the Astoria House, Joseph became acquainted with William H. Aspinwall (1807-1875), co-owner of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The Pacific Steamship Company was engaged in shipping passengers, goods and gold, from New York to San Francisco by way of an overland connection across the Isthmus of Panama. Aspinwall employed the business savvy, Joseph as a cashier. In late 1850, Joseph and Carrie embarked for San Francisco, California. On one occasion Joseph crossed the Isthmus alone on horseback carrying \$100,000 in gold for the company.

Joseph and Carrie returned east in 1853, penniless. Joseph's brother, Henry A. Willard, took him in as a full partner in the City Hotel, Washington, D.C., which Henry and another brother, Edwin, had purchased in 1847.³²



Major Joseph C. Willard, c. 1863

Photo courtesy: *Library of Congress*

The Willard

In June 1853, the Willard brothers closed their hotel for a complete renovation.^{33, 34} The hotel reopened in late November of that year with a spectacular banquet under the new name of the Willard Hotel.³⁵

According to a contemporary account, the Willard brothers were excellent hosts:

"The Willard's gave to this establishment the same attention which had characterized their labors on board of the steamboat. They met their guests as they alighted from the stages in which they came to Washington. They stood at the head of their dinner-tables, wearing white linen aprons, and carved the joints of meat, the turkeys, and the game. They were ever ready to courteously answer questions, and to do

*all in their power to make a sojourn at the City Hotel homelike and agreeable."*³⁶

In actual practice, brother, Henry Willard "attended to the practical management of the hotel," while brother Joseph "had charge of the books and office."³⁷ Joseph Willard was, indeed, the true businessman of the partnership, shrewd and calculating. It was said of him:

*"... he could charge a man a good, round sum and yet do it in such a way that one not only would not take offence at the size of the bill, but would feel perfectly satisfied with it."*³⁸

Another contemporary related the following:

"Joseph Willard was a money-maker. In the Hotel Willard there was an army officer who imbibed a great deal of champagne. In the course of time he had to depart, and he ordered his valet to pack the trunks. The valet tried, but there was much overflowing. In this predicament he called for the proprietor of the hotel, and Mr. Joseph Willard responded. Mr. Joseph Willard tried to use his own expertness and he attempted to pack the trunk. He did almost get everything in the trunk and was about to renew his efforts when the officer blurted



The Willard Hotel, upper center, during the Grand Review of the Union Army, May 1865.

Photo courtesy: *Library of Congress*

out, 'It is no use. If a man who can get a quart bottle of champagne in a pint bottle can't pack a trunk, it can't be done.'"³⁹

In any event, as a result of this partnership, on the eve of the Civil War, Willard's Hotel was the place to stay in Washington, D.C., and the Willard brothers were among its most wealthy and affluent citizens.

Among the notable guests that stayed at the Willard and its predecessor, the City Hotel, were statesmen John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, and Millard Fillmore; newspaperman, Horace Greeley; authors, Charles Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the stirring *Battle Hymn of the Republic* in her room, Washington Irving, Mark Twain, and Walt Whitman; Generals Ulysses S. Grant, William Rosecrans, Zachary Taylor, and John E. Wool; showmen P.T. Barnum, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Jenny Lind, and General Tom Thumb. The Willard later hosted notable guests, Harry Houdini, the Rev. Martin Luther King, who wrote his *I Have a Dream Speech* in his room, Gypsy Rose Lee, Samuel Morse, Gloria Swanson, the Duke of Windsor, and many others.

Willard Warns Mr. Lincoln

Nearly every President-elect of the United States since Franklin Pierce, had stayed at Willard's Hotel prior to their inauguration and subsequent relocation to the White House. Such was the case with President-elect Abraham Lincoln in 1861. However, the Presidential election of 1860 was a bitter contest. The sentiment against Mr. Lincoln in Washington, D.C., a truly a southern city, was running high. There were even rumored threats against his life.

Joseph Willard was a slaveholder, but also a Unionist who supported Lincoln. He was alarmed enough to dispatch one of his employees, William E. Chandlee (1833-1902), to warn Lincoln of these threats. Chandlee, who operated the cigar stand inside the Willard Hotel, recounted the story for a newspaper in 1900:

"On the afternoon of March 2 or 3, I forget which, in the year 1861, as I was standing behind my cigar counter, Joseph C. Willard came up to me in a most excited way. 'Chandlee,' he said, 'I want a man to go to Philadelphia at once on a most important mission; most important, I tell you, and I



The Willard Hotel, about the time of the Civil War.

Photo courtesy: *Library of Congress*

believe you are the man. Will you go?’ I told him I would. Then he handed me a sealed document. ‘I want you to go to Philadelphia. Go to the Continental Hotel. Mr. Lincoln and the Presidential party should be there by that time. Hunt up Col. Sumner, who is in charge of the party, and deliver this document into his own hands, and into no one else’s. If the party has not reached Philadelphia go to Harrisburg, and meet them there. Tell no one where you are going or why you are going, or if you are going anywhere at all.’ I went to Philadelphia at once. The Presidential party was at the Continental. I sought Col. Sumner. The stairway and entrances were guarded by armed soldiers. I was refused admission, and also refused permission to see Sumner. I studied the matter over, and finally fixed on a plan, I sought the rear of the hotel, gained entrance there, bribed a colored boy to take me to the floor occupied by the party, and found Sumner. I handed him the document. He disappeared into his room, returned much agitated, and handed me a note addressed to Willard. I then returned to Washington. Years afterward I met Ward H. Lemon, who was second in charge of the party at the Continental and afterward became Lincoln’s biographer. I recalled the incident to him, and asked him what was the character of the secret document that I carried for Willard. He told me that document contained the information and warning that led to the change in the plans of Lincoln’s trip to Washington and to his passing disguised through Baltimore at night.”⁴⁰

Presidential Bedroom Slippers

President-elect Lincoln arrived at the Willard Hotel at night and in disguise, entering through a side entrance off 14th street. In his haste Lincoln discovered that he had failed to pack his bedroom slippers. A search of all available stores failed to turn up a pair that would

accommodate the President’s feet, which were quite large. The Willard brothers, every the accommodating hosts, gave the new President a pair of slippers which belonged to their grandfather, former Vermont Congressman, William C. Bradley (1782-1867). Bradley happened to be then staying at the home of Henry A. Willard on 14th Street across from the hotel.⁴¹ These slippers still exist and are now housed in the Library of Congress.

For his hospitality, Joseph C. Willard was included among the honored guests at President Lincoln’s First Inaugural Ball, held in a temporary building behind Washington’s City Hall on March 4, 1861.⁴²



Bedroom slippers loaned to President Abraham Lincoln by Joseph and Henry Willard, during his stay at the Willard Hotel.
Courtesy: Library of Congress

Major Willard is Smitten

Joseph Willard was commissioned a Captain in the Union army as a result of his position as co-proprietor of the Willard Hotel and likely through his friendships with men like the influential William H. Aspinwall. On April 3, 1862, he received his commission and was ordered to report as an Aide de Camp to Aspinwall’s intimate friend, Major General John C. Fremont, commanding the Mountain Department.⁴³ However, within the week, he accompanied General McDowell to Fairfax Court House and was quartered in the home of Edward R. Ford. Here he met, for the first time, Antonia Ford. Although married, Joseph C. Willard, was instantly smitten. The pair began a two-year courtship.

In April and May 1862, Joseph Willard’s organizational skills were put to good use in the army

obtaining supplies and assisting in the construction of the United States Military Railroad. His services were recorded in general orders and also acknowledged in the report of Herman Haupt to Secretary of War Staunton in regarding the reconstruction of the railroad and bridges in Virginia.

*"Hdqrs. Department of the
Rappahannock,
Chief Quartermaster's Office
Opposite Fredericksburg, Va., April 23,
1862.*

*Capt. J.C. Willard,
Acting Assistant Quartermaster,
Headquarters:*

*I understand that you can obtain
corn at the farm of Mr. _____, about 2
mile from here. You will send your teams
to haul sufficient from there to this place
for this day's supply for animals at these
headquarters.*

Very respectfully, &c.,

FRED. MYERS,

*Captain Assistant Quartermaster and
Chief Quartermaster."*⁴⁴

*"The services of captains Simon Barstow
and Joseph C. Willard, of the staff, cannot
be too highly estimated."*⁴⁵

On July 15, 1862, Joseph Willard was promoted to Major and was assigned to duty to with Major General Irvin McDowell.^{46, 47, 48, 49} In December 1862, Joseph was called to give testimony before a Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War. Ostensibly, he was there to defend Major General Irvin McDowell who was charged with drunkenness.⁵⁰

Subsequent to Antonia's arrest in March 1863, Major Willard visited her often in Old Capitol Prison and "showered her with attentions, flowers, and gifts, and to interest himself in her behalf."⁵¹ Major Willard allegedly pressed hard to obtain her release in May of that year. By late 1863, Joseph Willard seems to have proposed marriage, for in a surviving letter dated, December 31, 1863, Antonia wrote:

*"It seems I was literally thrown into your
arms by a power above us. I call it Destiny;
I think it has a prettier sound than fate."*⁵²

She further stated that she would marry him "when you are at liberty to marry,"⁵³

This letter indicates that Antonia was well aware of Joseph's previous commitment and the obstacle to their union – Caroline Willard. Nonetheless, after receiving Antonia's positive affirmation, Joseph, ever the efficient businessman, worked quickly to put his personal affairs in order.

On February 9, 1864, Joseph Willard resigned his army commission to take effect March 1, 1864, citing health and family concerns.⁵⁴ He then obtained a hasty divorce from Caroline. On March 2, 1864, newly appointed Judge Andrew Wylie of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (then called the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia) issued the decree.

In the mid-19th century, a legal divorce was a rarity and very difficult to obtain. Perhaps surprised by the speed at which Joseph procured the divorce, Antonia wrote to him that same week teasingly:

*"...you ought to be willing to be a perfectly
free man for one week. Why such a hurry
to enter bondage again?"*⁵⁵

DECREE OF DIVORCE.—This morning, Judge Wylie, sitting in equity, made a decree divorcing Catherine M. Willard a vinculo matrimonii from her husband Joseph O. Willard. The parties were married in New York in 1849 and removed to this city in 1853, when the respondent, in connection with his brother, started and conducted for some years the hotel known as Willards'.

The respondent states in his answer that it would be better that the marriage should be severed, and he therefore unites with the wife in her petition, feeling that the happiness of both would be promoted thereby.

John O. Kennedy appeared for the petitioner, and W. F. Mattingly for the respondent.

Evening Star, March 2, 1864, p. 3, c.2

It should be stated here that there was a significant stigma associated with divorce in the 19th c. As a result, Antonia's parents were greatly opposed to the marriage.⁵⁶ It is likely that they also objected due to the fact that Joseph was eighteen years older than Antonia and a Yankee. There

is little doubt as to the affection Joseph and Antonia held for one another. However, a more cynical view would suggest that Joseph's tremendous wealth may have had something to do with the resolution of this stigma, in the minds of both Antonia and her parents.

After the divorce, it is not immediately known what became of Carrie Willard, she likely returned to her parents home in New York City. A final reference to her name appears on a *List of Letters Remaining in the Washington City Post Office, Thursday, September 29, 1864*.⁵⁷

Later that week, exactly a year to the day that Mosby had captured General Stoughton, Joseph Willard, now out of uniform, travelled to Fairfax Court House to secure his bride. The couple were to be married in Washington, D.C. The bridal party, which included Joseph, Antonia, and her parents set off for Washington, D.C., accompanied by a large sutler train. Travelling by carriage east on the Little River Turnpike, the party had reached "*the Old Broadwater estate*" just beyond Fairfax Court House (present day Burke Station Road and Main Street) when they were stopped by Captain James C. Kincheloe of Mosby's Rangers.⁵⁸ Jim Kincheloe was also a native of Fairfax County. As he rode up, he recognized the Ford family instantly. When he was informed of their purpose he apologized and permitted them to pass on.⁵⁹ Shortly after, Capt. Kincheloe discovered that the young man in riding in the carriage was a Union Major. He was unsuccessful in an attempt to overtake the bridal party before they reached the safety of Union pickets.

ANOTHER HEROINE.—Miss Antonia J. Ford, of Fairfax, who made some noise in the press, North and South, about a year since, and who was arrested by the Yankee authorities and carried to the Old Capitol, Washington, upon the charge of being "seesish" and holding an aid-de camp's commission from General Stuart, has made a little more noise. After her arrest, she was released, and came voluntarily or was sent South. Subsequently she went through the Confederate lines to Washington, and was overhauled the other day, driving a splendid carriage and pair of horses, by Captain J. C. Kincheloe's cavalry, and bound on a nuptial errand, with Major Willard, (one of the hotel firm), and Yankee post-quartermaster at Fairfax Court House. The cavalry spared the nuptial train, but pitched into a sutler's train behind, carrying off the horses and goods.

Richmond Examiner, March 22, 1864, p. 1, c.2.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A BRIDAL PARTY FROM GUXBIL-LAS.

Major Willard, recently married to Miss Antonia Ford, of Fairfax Court House, Va., had a narrow escape from capture by guerillas while on his way to Washington with the young lady and her father, preparatory to the marriage. The carriage was stopped by a gang who, after some explanations by Mr. Ford, who was known to them, suffered it to proceed. A few moments after the guerillas learned that the younger gentleman was Major Willard, whereupon they galloped off in pursuit, but without overtaking the carriage, the Major reaching car pickets but a few moments in advance of the gang.

New York Herald, March 16, 1864, p. 1, c. 4.

The wedding took place on March 10, 1864 at the Metropolitan Hotel in Washington, DC. The couple subsequently honeymooned in Philadelphia and New York. Afterwards they returned to Washington, DC and settled down.

MARRIED.—Mr. Joseph C. Willard was married on the 10th instant, at the Metropolitan Hotel, to Miss Antonia Ford, a young lady of Fairfax county, Virginia, who, it will be remembered, was arrested and sent to the Old Capitol in charge of giving information to the enemy resulting in the capture of Brig. Gen. Stoughton, in the rebel raid on Fairfax. Her innocence of the charge was, however, established, and she was set at liberty. She visits the city this time under more agreeable auspices.

Evening Star, March 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 5.

Their marriage may have been a bit rocky at times given the difference in their ages and political views. A cousin of Antonia related that Joseph Willard "*was of a very jealous temperament and the beautiful high spirited young wife was by no means a happy woman.*"⁶⁰

Whatever the true nature of their marriage, it was, sadly, brief. The seven year marriage produced one surviving son, Joseph Edward Willard, born May 1, 1865. Antonia Ford gave birth to two additional sons, but both died. Charles Willard was born April 13, 1867 and died September 2, 1867. Little Charlie Willard, was likely named for his uncle, Antonia's oldest brother, Charles "Charlie" Edward Ford, who was killed during the Civil War. The youngest child, Archie F. Willard, was stillborn February 3, 1871.

Weakened by her incarceration and recent childbirth, a grieving Antonia died on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1871. She was interred in Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C., beside her children.

DIED.

WILLARD. February 14, 1871, at 5 03 o'clock a. m. **ANTONIA FORD WILLARD**, daughter of E. R. and Julia F. Ford, of Virginia, wife of Joseph C. Willard, of this city, in the 33d year of her age.

Evening Star, February 14, 1871, p. 3, c.1.

Of Joseph Willard, it can only be said that he was never the same after Antonia's death. The remainder of his life he focused on his second love – money. The year after Antonia's death, he sued his brother Henry for control of the Willard Hotel – a suit which would drag on for twenty years – the result of which Joseph became the sole owner of the property 1892. In the interim, Joseph focused entirely on business and became a social recluse. When he did venture out it was said he would often cross the street to avoid direct encounters with people.

Joseph Clapp Willard died at his home in Washington, D.C., January 17, 1897. Present were his son Joseph, brothers Henry A. and Caleb C., nephew Henry K. Willard, and their wives. Also present were Dr. J.C. Boyd, his brother in law, Charles Vernon Ford, of Fairfax, Antonia's nephew, and Walter Carter, Joseph Willard's personal butler or servant.⁶¹ C. Vernon Ford was also Joseph E. Willard's first cousin, law partner, and the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County.

Joseph was interred beside Antonia in Oak Hill Cemetery. The pallbearers at his funeral were Dr. J.C. Boyd, C. Vernon Ford, George E. Howe, Henry K. Willard, Dr. A.L. Stavely, and Dr. L.W. Glazebrook.⁶²

It is estimated that at the time of his death, Joseph Willard had amassed an estate valued at approximately \$7,000,000. Adjusted for inflation, this would amount would be the equivalent of the staggering sum of \$200,000,000 today. In spite of his great wealth, he left no Will. His entire fortune went to his son Joseph E. Willard.

Joseph Edward Willard

After his mother's death, six year old "Joe," was sent to Fairfax Court House where he was raised by his grandmother, Julia, and aunt, Patsy, Antonia's mother and sister.

Joe grew to manhood and attended the Virginia Military Institute. At the time of his father's death in 1897, Joe was by then a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. With his new found wealth he purchased the estate of Thomas R. Love, "*Dunleith*," at Fairfax Court House. He constructed a sizable mansion which he named *Layton Hall* in honor of his wife Belle Layton Wyatt. He also commissioned the construction of a building, now known as Old Town Hall in 1899, which he gifted to the Free Masons of Fairfax Court House (aka Henry Masonic Lodge #57). At about the same time he embarked on a major renovation of the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC. In 1900, the old Willard Hotel was demolished and in its place rose a new Willard Hotel. Construction of the Beaux Arts style building was completed between 1901 and 1904. This iconic structure still stands today.



Willard Hotel c. 1920

Courtesy: Library of Congress

In 1905, Joseph E. Willard, along with other investors purchased the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The Jefferson had been gutted by a devastating fire in 1901. They restored the building to its present condition just in time for the tri-centennial celebration of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1907.

Joseph Edward Willard was elected Lt. Governor of Virginia in 1902 and later served as Ambassador to Spain during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. He died in 1924.

(Endnotes)

- ¹ *Evening Star*, July 2, 1898, p. 22, c. 3, obituary of Julia F. Ford,
- ² Harris, Rose Rebecca, "Some Family Side Lights," p. 126, © 1922, Sangster Family Papers in possession of Jethro Hurt, W. Palm Bch., FL. Note : Rose Rebecca Harris (1847-1944) dau. of Ann Barry Sangster (1812-1900) who married John C. Harris, was a 2nd cousin to Antonia Ford, ABS was the sister of Edward Ford Sangster and Mary Kendall Lee. EFS was the son of Priscilla Ford and James Sangster. PFS was the sister of Charles F. Ford. CFF was Antonia Ford's grandfather.
- ³ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedule, Fairfax Co., VA.
- ⁴ Ordinance of Secession, Poll taken at Fairfax Court House, May 23, 1861, Fairfax Co. Circuit Court Archives, Fairfax, VA.
- ⁵ Johnson, William Page, II, *Brothers and Cousins: Confederate Soldiers and Sailors of Fairfax County, Virginia*, © 1995, Iberian Publishing Co., Athens, GA.
- ⁶ *Ibid* 2.
- ⁷ Letter of Peter W. Hairston, to his wife, Fanny, September 4, 1861. Peter Wilson Hairston Papers, #299, Series 1, Subseries 1.4, Folder 12, Wilson Library, UNC. Original letter in Southern Historical Collection. Microfilm, Reel #5, at UVA.
- ⁸ This letter was obtained through the diligent research of Civil War Historian and author, Edward T. Wensel, of Vienna, VA.
- ⁹ Mauro, Charles V., *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*, © 2009, The History Press, Charleston, SC, Original letter in Lib. of Cong., Wash., DC
- ¹⁰ *Ibid* 10.
- ¹¹ A Brief Tribute to Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton, by Lt. Col. William D. Munson, *Pictorial History of the 13th Regiment Vermont Volunteers, War of 1861-1865*, © 1910, Vermont Regimental Assoc., VT.
- ¹² Baker, Lafayette C., *History of the United States Secret Service*, p. 173, © 1867, Privately Published, Philadelphia, PA.
- ¹³ *Mobile Register*, June 3, 1863, p. 1, c. 5.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid* 12.
- ¹⁵ *Plain Dealer*, May 22, 1905, p. 2, c. 4.
- ¹⁶ *Charleston Mercury*, March 25, 1863, p. 1, c. 3.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid* 12.
- ¹⁸ Papers of and Relating to Military and Civilian Personnel, compiled 1874-1899, documenting the period 1861 – 1865, File of Antonia J. Ford, (M347) Rec. Grp. 109, NARA, Wash., DC.
- ¹⁹ Chamberlin, Taylor M. & Souders, John M., *Between a Reb and Yank: A Civil War History of Northern Loudoun County, Virginia*, © 2011, McFarland & Co., Jefferson, NC.
- ²⁰ Blanton, DeAnne and Cook, Lauren M., *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*, © 2002, Thompson & Shore, Inc., Dexter, MI
- ²¹ Letter of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart to Capt. J.S. Mosby, Mar. 25, 1863, Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Ser. I, v. 25, p. 858, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.
- ²² Ramage, James A., *Gray Ghost: The Life of Col. John Singleton Mosby*, © 1999, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- ²³ Letter from Edwin H. Stoughton to John S. Mosby, June 1, 1867, (copy) J.S. Mosby Biographical File, Virginia Room, Fairfax City Regional Library, Fairfax, VA.
- ²⁴ Diary of Joseph C. Willard, Box I: 1-2, Willard Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.
- ²⁵ Diary of Joseph C. Willard, Box I: 1-2, Willard Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC
- ²⁶ *Ibid* 18.
- ²⁷ *Ibid* 18.
- ²⁸ *Ibid* 18.
- ²⁹ *Ibid* 18.
- ³⁰ Marriage Registers, Trinity Church, New York, NY.
- ³¹ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, New York, New York, Ward 5, p. 128-129 (handwritten), 64B-65A
- ³² *The Morning Times*, January 18, 1897, p. 1, c. 7.
- ³³ *Evening Star*, June 13, 1853, p. 3, c. 2.
- ³⁴ *Evening Star*, July 13, 1853, p. 3, c. 1.
- ³⁵ *Evening Star*, November 25, 1853, p. 3, c. 1&2.
- ³⁶ Poore, Perley, Ben, *Perley's Reminiscences of Sixty Years in the National Metropolis*, v. I, © 1886, Hubbard Brothers, Publishers, Philadelphia, PA.
- ³⁷ Willard, Henry K., *Henry Augustus Willard: His Life and Times*, Records of the Columbia Hist. Soc., Wash., D.C., Vol. 20, © 1917, pp. 241-282, Hist. Soc. of Wash., DC.
- ³⁸ *Ibid* 37.
- ³⁹ *Ibid* 37.
- ⁴⁰ *Morning Telegraph*, December 16, 1900, p. 1, c. 6.
- ⁴¹ *Ibid* 37.
- ⁴² *National Republican*, February 22, 1861, p. 3, c. 6.
- ⁴³ Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1863-1870 (NARA M 1064), Joseph C. Willard, file W117, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94, NARA, Wash., DC
- ⁴⁴ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vo. XII, pt. I, p. 118, © 1885, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.
- ⁴⁵ Haupt, Herman, *Reminiscences of General Herman Haupt*, © 1901, Wright & Joys, Co., Milwaukee, WI.
- ⁴⁶ Journal of the Executive Proceeding of the Senate of the United States of America, From December 2, 1861 to July 17, 1862, Inclusive. V. XII, p. 432, © 1887, US Govt. Prtg., Ofc., Wash., DC.
- ⁴⁷ The National Almanac and Annual Record For the Year 1864, p. 134, © 1864, Geo. W. Childs, Philadelphia, PA.
- ⁴⁸ General Orders No. 93, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, DC, August 2, 1862, Additional Aides De Camp, US Govt. Printing Office, Washington, DC.
- ⁴⁹ Joseph C. Willard, Major, Additional Aide de Camp, "On Major General McDowell's Staff, Washington, DC," U.S. Congressional Serial Set, Volume 1149, Issue 1, p. 5, January 1, 1863, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.
- ⁵⁰ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, V. XII, pt. I, p. 43, 45, © 1885, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid* 2.
- ⁵² Antonia Ford to Major Joseph C. Willard, December 31, 1863, Willard Family Papers, box 1:167; see also "Memorial to Joseph Edward Willard," *ibid.*, box2:2, Willard Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.
- ⁵³ Antonia Ford to Major Joseph C. Willard, December 31, 1863, Willard Family Papers, box 1:167; see also "Memorial to Joseph Edward Willard," *ibid.*, box2:2, Willard Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.
- ⁵⁴ Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1863-1870 (NARA M1064), Joseph C. Willard, file W117, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94, NARA, Wash., DC
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- ⁵⁶ *Ibid* 2.
- ⁵⁷ *Evening Star*, September 30, 1864, p. 1, c. 2.
- ⁵⁸ Letter of Katherine Gunnell Malone Willis, dated 1928, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA.
- ⁵⁹ *Ibid* 2.
- ⁶⁰ *Ibid* 2.
- ⁶¹ *The Morning Times*, January 18, 1897, p. 1, c. 7.
- ⁶² *The Evening Times*, January 18, 1897, p. 2, c. 2.

IN THE BUNKER WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT ON 9/11

Talk by Lt. Col. Robert Darling, USMC (RET.)

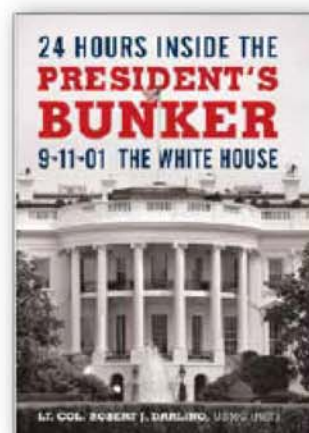
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 7PM

Stacy Sherwood C. Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

This lecture is **FREE** and open to all.
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"It immediately became very clear to me and everyone else in that room that our country's leaders were willing to take American lives in the air to save more American lives on the ground."

As a public speaker, **Lt. Col. Darling** has addressed numerous academic, government, military, and civic organizations to include Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and as a guest lecturer on the subject of Crisis Leadership and Counterterrorism at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Raids, Romance and Writings Fairfax in the Civil War

Special Tours and Programs at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Intrepretive Center in support of the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission 2014 Conference *"The American Civil War in a Global Context"* at George Mason University.

Friday, May 30

11 am - **"Introduction to Historic Blenheim and the Union Soldier Graffiti"** Illustrated talk by Andrea Loewenwarter, Historic Resources Specialist, City of Fairfax, Office of Historic Resources.

Noon - **"Col. John S. Mosby Combat Operations in Fairfax County"** Illustrated talk by historian and author Don Hakenson.

1 pm - Guided Tour of the 1st floor of Historic Blenheim House Visitors will see signatures and pictographs left by Union soldier on the house walls and learn about the ongoing restoration and conversation projects.

2 pm - **"Love and Legacy: The Civil War Romance of Fairfax's Antonia Ford and Union Major Joseph C. Willard."**

Illustrated talk by Susan Inskeep Gray, Curator, City of Fairfax, Office of Historic Resources.

Friday, May 30

3 pm - **Guided Tour of the 1st Floor of the Historic Blenheim House.**

4-5 pm Refreshments and informal questions and discussion focused on the use of Historic Blenheim by the Union Army in 1862 and 1863. Led by Andrea Loewenwarter, Historic Sources Specialist.

Note: Civil War films will be screened between scheduled talks and programs. Seating for talks and film screenings is limited to 90 guests, Tours of the Historic Blenheim House will be limited to 3 groups of 15 guests.

Saturday, May 31

Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission Presents the 2014 Signature Conference

"The American Civil War in a Global Context"

In support of the conference the following supplemental activities are available:

Ox Hill/Chantill Battlefield Park, 12161 Monument Drive, Fairfax, VA. Open dawn-dusk for self guided tours.

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Intrepretive Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open 9 -5. Free admission. 703-591-0560. See schedule

Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open 9-5. Free admission. 703-385-8414. See schedule.

Ratcliffe Allison House, 10366 Main Street, Fairfax. Open 11 - 2. Guided Tours. Oldest House in dntontn Fairfax interprest the lives of the many owners and residents from 1812-1981. Free admission. 703-385-8414.

Sunday, June 1

Ox Hill/Chantill Battlefield Park, 12161 Monument Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033. Open dawn to dusk for self guided tours.

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Intrepretive Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open 9 -5. Free admission. 703-591-0560. See schedule.

Special Tours and Programs at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Intrepretive Center

11 am - **Guided Tour of the 1st Floor of the Historic Blenheim House.**

12 pm **"A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Album of Laura Ratcliffe."** Illustrated talk by local author and historian Charles Mauro.

1 pm **Guided Tour of the 1st Floor of the Historic Blenheim House.**

2 pm **"Col. John S. Mosby Combat Operations in Fairfax County"** Illustrated talk by historian and author Don Hakenson.

Fairfax Court House News of 150 Years Ago

As Mrs. Milstead, residing in the lower part of Fairfax county, was on her way to this place, a day or two since, when near Pohick Church, she was halted by two of the Accotink "Home Guard," who ordered her to dismount, which she refused to do, whereupon the "valiant knights" caught her by her dress, pulled her from her horse, and took the animal, leaving Mrs. M. on the road to walk through the snow and mud, a distance of nine miles.

Alexandria Gazette, January 16, 1864, p. 2, 1.

A collision occurred yesterday on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, between a passenger train going west from this place and a freight train coming down, by which the locomotives of both trains were considerably damaged, but no one was injured. The collision took place two miles west of Fairfax Station, at 12.12 P. M., and is attributed to gross carelessness on the part of the engineer and conductor of the freight train, who have been put under arrest. The track was soon cleared and trains are running as usual. This is the first collision that has occurred on this road since it has been used by the U. S. government.

Alexandria Gazette, January 19, 1864, p. 2, 1.

SENTENCE OF A HIGHWAYMAN.

Private Irwin, Company D, Twelfth Illinois cavalry, has been dishonorably dismissed the service and sentenced to two years in the Penitentiary, for representing himself as one of Mealy's guerillas, and committing highway robbery within our lines. These practices were of frequent occurrence last winter, especially in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House.

New York Herald, March 7, 1864, p. 5, c. 2.

Special Tours and Programs at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Intrepretive Center (contd.)

3 pm **What Did you Learn at the Conference?**
Refreshments and informal discussion.

Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open 9-5. Free admission. 703-385-8414. See schedule.

Walking Tour

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

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

Uncovering History



Photo credit: Lee Hubbard

On March 10th a contractor, working at University Mall, alongside Chain Bridge Road (Rt. 123) near the intersection of Braddock Road, uncovered this bit of history.

For more about what this is, be sure to check out the next issue of the *Fare Facs Gazette*.

"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

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The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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