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1861-1865



2011-2015

# The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Volume 11, Issue 4

Fall 2014

## The Skirmish at *Arellton* and the Michigan Cavalry Brigade Hospital at Fairfax Court House

by William Page Johnson, II

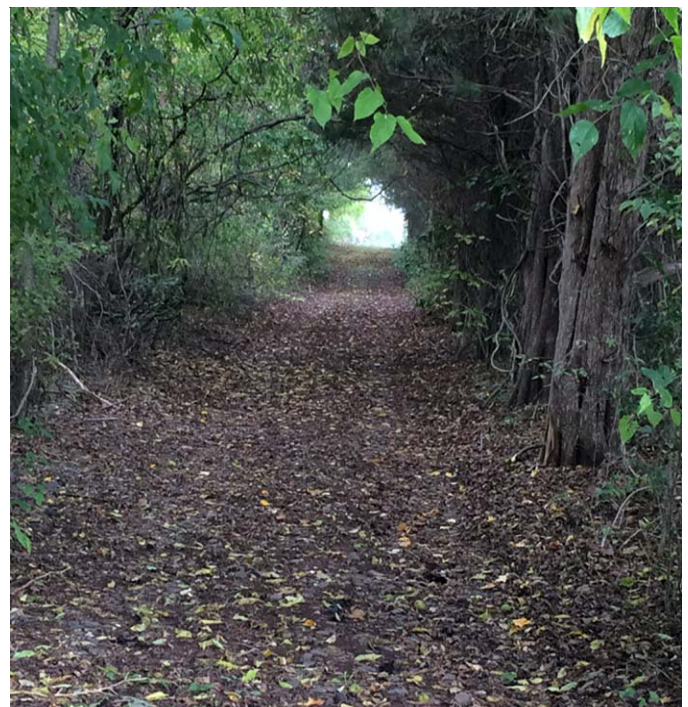


A small, but desperate skirmish occurred at *Arellton*, also known as the Marsteller Farm, on May 14, 1863, between three soldiers of 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, and six Confederates, likely all members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, aka the *Black Horse Troop*. Two of the six Confederates present were members of the Marsteller family, serving in the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry. All three members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan were wounded, one slightly, one severely, and one mortally. None of the Confederates were injured. Tragically, however, a civilian member Marsteller family was killed in the affair. <sup>1</sup>

All three Michigan men were brought to Fairfax for treatment after the skirmish. The more seriously wounded Michigan man, Sgt. Asa B. Isham, was brought to the Michigan Brigade Hospital at Fairfax Court House. He survived his encounter with

death, and gave a gripping account of his ordeal before a gathering of Union veterans in 1896.

*Arellton* was the home of Samuel *Arell* Marsteller (1793-1869) and Margaret Emily (Warder) Marsteller (1815-1858), which Margaret inherited from her parents. *Arellton* was located on present-day Fitzwater Drive near Nokesville, Virginia, in western Prince William County, within a mile of the Fauquier County line. Nearby was the home of Confederate General, Eppa Hunton, *Stoney Lonesome*.



Lane leading to *Arellton*, the former home of the Marsteller family, Nokesville, Virginia. Site of skirmish, May 14, 1863.  
Photo credit: Page Johnson, October 2014.



Fairfax, Virginia - September 2014

Greetings from the President -

As summer ends, HFCI is back with a busy schedule of activities.

I want to call your attention to a new exhibit, "Dressing for the Occasion" at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. You will see clothing from earlier times to the present and learn about the events surrounding them. For example, did you know that Kermit Roosevelt, Teddy's son, was married to Belle Wyatt Willard, daughter of then ambassador to Spain, Joseph Willard? They were married in June 1914 and their wedding portrait is on display in the exhibit.

As Old Town Square is being developed, HFCI will play an important role in adapting the landscape plan and plantings of the original Kitty Pozer garden. This area of the square will be approximately 30 by 60 feet in the rear of the Radcliffe - Allison house. The McCandlish garden, given by the Petersen family, will also be included in the square. Planting is scheduled to begin in March, 2015. HFCI will also help compose signage about Kitty Pozer and her garden as well as the history of the square and its founders. Visitors will learn more about the evolving history of our city through this signage.

As members of HFCI, I hope each of you will think of yourselves as true stakeholders in all our efforts and actively participate in our projects. We plan a more comprehensive means to let you know about specific ways you can contribute.

We hope to see you at the HFCI table at Fall Festival, October 11 and our White House Christmas ornament sale at the Fairfax Craft Show November 15 and 16.

Sandra Wilbur

## Welcome New Members!

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

Tom and Bonnie Burrell  
Sandra Mayo



## At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

### Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

**New Exhibit at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center** Opened July 4:

*"Dressing for the Occasion: An exhibition of costumes and textiles representing Fairfax personalities and events,"* - July 4, 2014 - February 8, 2015.

*The Fairfax Story* - Hamill Gallery. Permanent Fairfax history exhibition.

### Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center "Second Sunday" Programs

Programs are held at **2 p.m.** on the second Sunday of each month. Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street. Free (unless noted). Check back to find out about additional programs planned throughout the year. Information: **703-385-8414**.

Sunday, October 12, 2 p.m.

**"Taking Tea: Teatime Across the Centuries"**

Learn about the history of the tea drink and the tradition of taking tea as an afternoon snack or evening meal. Tastings of hot tea, scones, teacakes, and shortbread will follow the presentation. Fee: \$8/person. Program limited to 25 attendees. For reservations and to arrange payment, call: 703-385-8415.

Sunday, November 9, 2 p.m.

**“Not Forgotten: The Story of the Offerings at the Wall”**

Megan Leining, Collections Manager with Fairfax County Park Authority, will talk about her former work with the National Park Service of curating the objects left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.

**“Four Centuries of Virginia Christmases”**

Join author Mary Miley Theobald to explore Virginia Christmas customs and their evolution from pagan, British, German, and Dutch precedents.

**Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center**

*“Blenheim’s Civil War Soldier Signatures: A Diary on Walls”*

Permanent Civil War Soldier Graffiti exhibition.

**Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center Program Series**

Programs are free and held at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway (unless otherwise noted). Check back to find out about additional programs planned throughout the year. Information: 703-591-0560. HOURS BEGINNING JAN. 2014: 10am to 3pm, Tuesday through Saturday. 1 p.m. guided tour of historic house and site. FREE.

Saturday, October 25, 2 p.m.

**“The Little Women of Virginia: The Adventures of a Navy Widow and her Daughters during the Civil War”**

In the vein of Louisa May Alcott’s, *Little Women*, Jennie Forrest Richardson wrote a loving tribute about the ordeal of her penniless and widowed mother, Anna Henderson Forrest, and her five sisters during the Civil War. Adele Air will relate how the family survived while living in several states and Washington, D.C.

Saturday, November 22, 2 p.m.

**“Brother Against Sister: Rape in the Civil War”**

While nearly 30 soldiers were executed for the crime of rape during the War, hundreds of women came forward with horror stories of rape and attempted rape. In many cases, the judicial system worked against them. Based on her book, *I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War*, award winning author Kim Murphy, will contradict many historians claims that The American Civil War was a “low-rape” war to show the atrocities against women, both white and black. Book purchase and signing to follow.

Saturday, December 7, Noon to 4 p.m.

**“Christmas in Camp”**

Civil War Living History. Discuss Civil War-era Sunday, holiday customs, make Victorian ornaments, and participate in camp drills with Company D, 17th VA Infantry, “Fairfax Rifles” C.S.A. Guided tours of Historic Blenheim House.

**Other Information of Interest:**

**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).



Arell Marsteller was a wealthy auctioneer and merchant who was originally from Alexandria, Virginia. As a child, he attended the funeral cortege of President George Washington. His father, Phillip Marsteller, a close friend of Washington, served as one of the pallbearers.

The vicinity of *Arellton* was of strategic importance to both armies owing to the proximity of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which ran south through Manassas, Bristow, and Nokesville, in Prince William County, and Warrenton Junction (Calverton), Catlett and Bealeton, in Fauquier County. *Arellton* also lay within *Mosby's Confederacy*, named after the Confederate partisan ranger who conducted frequent raids against Union interests throughout the area. The O. & A. R.R. was a frequent target.

*"There is nothing in the shape of rebs in this vacinity[sic] except Mosbys Guerrilla squads, which are cutting around every where & at all times to take what prisoners they can; they are seldom seen in larger squads of than 20 or 30."*<sup>2</sup>

Arell Marsteller had quite a large family. Four of his five eligible sons served in the Confederate army. Eldest son, Warder Waddell Marsteller,<sup>3</sup> served in the 49<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry. Sons, LaClaire Arell Marsteller,<sup>4</sup> Yucatan Rice Marsteller,<sup>5</sup> and Alcpfar Arell "Acca" Marsteller,<sup>6</sup> all served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, the famed *Black Horse Troop*. All four men would survive the war. A fifth son, Osceola Copper Marsteller, did not take up arms for either side.

At the time of the Civil War, Arell's five daughters, Margaret (*Mollie*),<sup>7</sup> Harrisonia,<sup>8</sup> Emily,<sup>9</sup> Llera,<sup>10</sup> and Korenore (*Cora*),<sup>11</sup> all single, were said to be very beautiful and alluring. As a consequence, the Marsteller ladies naturally attracted the attention of the officers and enlisted soldiers of both armies. Including, William D'Alton Mann, the Colonel of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry had been organized by Col. Mann in November 1862. They arrived in Washington, D.C. on February 27, 1863. After a month of additional training in Washington, they marched to Fairfax Court House, arriving there on March 26<sup>th</sup>. At Fairfax Court House they joined the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry and were formed into the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, aka the *Wolverine Brigade*, under the command of General Joseph T. Copeland.

Sgt. Edwin R. Havens, of Co. A, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, a prolific diarist and letter writer, described their camp in Fairfax:

*"We are in the field one mile east of Fairfax Court House Virginia. Go look on the map in the parlor find F.C.H., and imagine yourself just one mile east from there, camped out in the "great,"[?] under a little piece of canvas just high enough to sit under, with an old cornfield in front, a strong march wind, and a fair blue sky, and Sunday afternoon, and you have our situation. ...Genl. Copeland has his Hd. Quarters. at Fairfax C.H., which is said by those who have been there to be about as large as Bakertown and the Court House about the size of a Mich. farmers corn crib."*

*"The 5<sup>th</sup> is camped just across the pike from us and the 6<sup>th</sup> is encamped a little nearer the village house on the opposite side of the road."*

*"Near the village of Fairfax C.H. rifle pits have been dug and slight intrenchments[sic] for infantry have been thrown up and the log huts of the rebel troops still remain in many places."*<sup>12</sup>

Havens description of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan camp "one mile east" of the courthouse on the "pike" would place it on Little River Turnpike (now Main Street), approximately where Fairfax Square Apartments are now



Civil War Cavalry Picket Pin. One of 20 found in a line on the site of Fairfax Square Apartments in 1962 by Jerome Gibson. Given to Page Johnson by Lee Hubbard.

located. The *Picket Pin* pictured above was one of approximately twenty found, in a line, at Fairfax Square by Jerome Gibson just before construction began in 1962.

On April 25, 1863, the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan moved to Bristow Station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The O. & A. R.R. was then a major supply line of the Union army. Here, Col. Mann and his regiment were engaged in guarding the segment of railroad between Centreville and Bealton, Virginia against guerilla raids, principally, from the Confederate partisan ranger, Col. John S. Mosby.

By May 1863, the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan had only been in Virginia for a little over a month. Even though there was significant guerilla activity occurring all around them, they

were still reasonably inexperienced. In fact, they had not yet been involved in any direct combat at all. That was about to change.

On May 3, 1863, Mosby led a raid on Warrenton Junction (Calverton) on the O. & A. R.R., 10 miles south of Bristow Station. With approximately 100 men, he surprised and captured the 300 man garrison of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia (Union) Cavalry. Mosby's men were in the process of gathering up prisoners, horses, and other spoils, when elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont and 5<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry launched a devastating counterattack. The suddenness of the Union counterattack equaled Mosby's initial assault. The result was a devastating defeat for Mosby in which one man, a spy named, Templeman, was killed. More than twenty of his men were wounded and captured, most of those severely. Among them was Dick Moran, the G-G-G-grandfather of the author. Col. Mosby, too, was nearly captured.

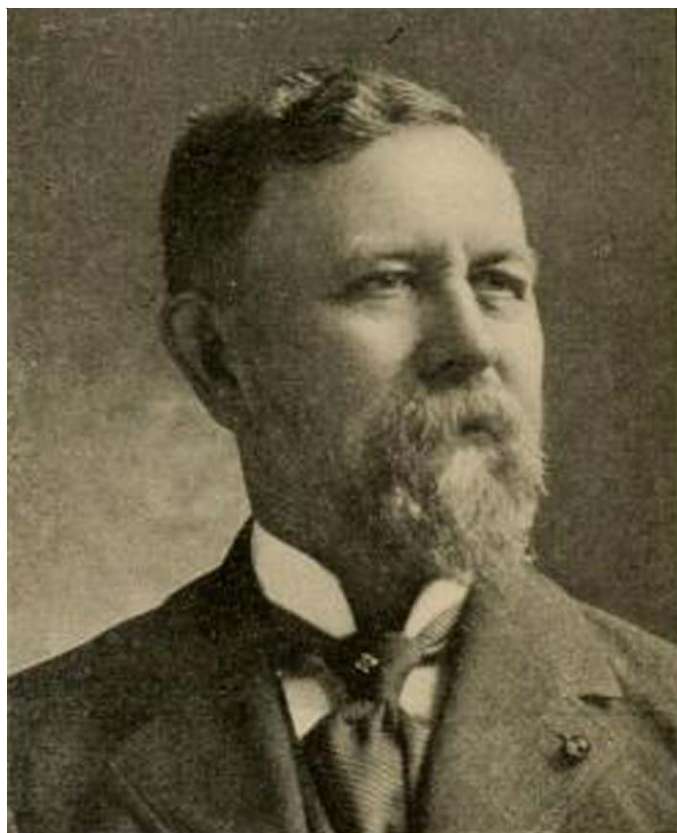
On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Edwin Havens wrote to his mother and father of this raid:

*"Warrenton Junction, May 5, 1863*

*... We heard the firing in our camp at Bristow and caught several horses which broke away and ran down as far as that. About noon Capt. Walker, myself and 9 others came up here reaching here about 3 o'clock P.M. and then I saw the first secesh soldiers and wounded men I ever saw. They were a hard looking set and some were wounded very badly. One, a Capt., was wounded in the face another known as Dick Moran, or Major, was lead shot through the windpipe. He it was who made the charge on the 1<sup>st</sup> Vt. Cav. some time ago near Drainesville [sic]. It is thought he can not live."*<sup>13,14</sup>

In response to this raid, the camp of 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan was moved to nearer Warrenton Junction on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, a little over a week after Mosby's disastrous raid on Warrenton Junction, Col. Mann, led



Sgt. Asa B. Isham, Co. E, 7th Michigan Cavalry, c. 1893.

Source: An Historical Sketch of the Seventh Regiment Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, © 1893.

companies B, C, E, & G, of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan out of camp on a scout. Mann was intent on capturing more of Mosby's men, or perhaps even Mosby himself. He had received word that several guerillas had been seen in the vicinity of the *Arellton*. Outside of camp, Col. Mann further divided his force sending companies B & G in one direction and C & E in another. This deployment was further divided into smaller squads that fanned out in an uncoordinated attempt to encircle the Marsteller farm. Col. Mann, with a small provost guard, arrived on a knoll above and to the east of the Marsteller farm.<sup>15</sup> Several horses were seen in the yard of the farm.

Col. Mann dispatched four men forward to investigate. This advance guard consisted of Sgt. Asa B. Isham,<sup>16</sup> age 19. Pvt. Aaron Kitchen,<sup>17</sup> also 19. Pvt. Alexander McLain,<sup>18</sup> age 25, all of company E, and an unnamed Sgt.

The advance guard approached the farmhouse with apprehension. They knew that Mosby was in the area and

had seen, firsthand, the results of his raid several days before. Yet, these young men were inexperienced in the art of warfare and they had no reason to fear the Marstellers. Quite the contrary, they had visited *Arellton* on several occasions without incident. The Marsteller ladies had also reciprocated and visited their camp. The beautiful young daughters of Arell Marsteller were well known to most of the Union soldiers stationed in the area.

A young Union soldier credits this as explanation for Marsteller family being able to survive in such hostile country.

*"At almost every place we find pretty girls, which I notice is generally the greatest safeguard they can have for their chickens, pigs, &c."*<sup>19</sup>

The advance guard entered the front yard. Sgt. Isham and the unnamed Sgt. dismounted and climbed the stairs to the front porch. Without warning, the front door suddenly swung wide open, followed quickly by a fusillade of gunshots from within. The unnamed Sgt. immediately *"took to his heels and then to his horse, and escaped unhurt."*<sup>20</sup> Isham stood his ground and was hit in the left hip and groin. Drawing his pistol, he returned fire. His first shot struck the door jam on a level with the head of his assailant. Severely wounded, Isham then crawled off the porch into yard and sought cover behind a corn crib. Pvt. McLain likely turned his mount in an attempt to flee and was shot in the small of the back. He fell, unmoving. Pvt. Kitchen, had also dismounted during the skirmish. He had been shot in the right cheek and mouth, *"the ball literally cutting his throat and coming out the back of his neck."*<sup>21</sup> In spite of this gruesome wound, he and Isham continued to return fire. In the exchange, all four of the horses of the Union troopers were shot multiple times and killed. The firing, which continued for some minutes, was heard by the Union troopers nearby who raced forward to assist.

Inside the farmhouse, the initial approach of the Federals had clearly not gone unnoticed. Acca Marsteller, age 20, an unidentified brother, and four members of the





Pvt. Aaron Kitchen, Co. E, 7th Michigan Cavalry. He was severely wounded in the face, (visible right side), May 15, 1863. Photo taken c. 1898. Photo Courtesy: Jane Kitchen Sipe.

*Black Horse Troop* had stopped overnight in the Marsteller home. They had the element of surprise. While the skirmish was taking place, the Marsteller women had gathered the horses of the Confederates at the rear of the house.<sup>22</sup> The southerners all managed to get away into the woods behind the house without injury.

The shooting stopped and the only sounds were the hoofbeats of the retreating Confederates. Then, all was quiet. Pvt. McLain lay motionless. Nearby, Sgt. Isham and Pvt. Kitchen lay bleeding. Fearing the enemy would return, both men began to crawl back in the direction they had come down the lane, or driveway, of *Arellton*. At that moment, Col. Mann and the remainder of his provost

guard entered the yard. Pvt. McLain was taken inside the farmhouse. His condition was grave. He had been shot in the small of his back and was completely paralyzed from the shoulders down. Although badly injured, Sgt. Isham and Pvt. Kitchen were provided fresh mounts and managed to return to the camp at Warrenton Junction.

The trip of eight miles must have been particularly excruciating for Isham, injured as he was in the hip and groin. Isham recalled the experience:

*"The ride of four miles to camp at Warrenton Junction was a severe test of endurance, performed, as it was, alone. Weary and faint, camp was reached at last."*<sup>23</sup>

Corp. Walden W. "Wally" Raymond, Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, was one of those present in the immediate aftermath of the skirmish. After dismounting, Walden stopped "to attend to a call of nature." While doing so, he observed "a man peeking around a tree." Assuming it was one of the Confederates who had fled the house, he took aim and fired. On investigation Corp. Walden discovered that he had shot the man in the head, killing him instantly.<sup>24</sup> Walden apparently took no pleasure in the killing however. As Corp. William G. Gage, of Co. C 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, observed:

*"Corporal Raymond, when being praised by his comrades for the successful shot, did not seem at all elated, but much sobered to know that he had taken another's life."*<sup>25</sup>

The Marsteller women, on the other hand, emerged from the house downright gleeful over the morning's events. They chided the Yankee boys that they had been whipped and rejoiced that their brothers had gotten away. Their giddiness turned to grief, however, when they discovered that Corp. Raymond had, in fact, killed their brother, twenty-five-year-old, Osceola Marsteller.<sup>26</sup> Sgt. Havens mentioned the incident in a letter to his brother:

*"He was unarmed and his sister said had never taken up arms on either side. But like*

*poor Troy he was found in bad company, and received punishment which perhaps should have been given to others. He has two brothers in the Black Horse Cavalry and was a strong rebel sympathizer himself and there is no doubt that this house was a rendezvous for rebels.*"<sup>27</sup>

In addition to the wounded Union soldiers, *Arellton*, itself, bore the scars of the skirmish. It was said that "you could not lay your hand anywhere on the partition back of this small stoop without covering a bullet hole from the fire of the Yankees."<sup>28</sup>

The day after the skirmish, May 15, 1863, Gen. Stahel mentioned the incident in his official report:

*"Colonel De Forest has just reported, in regard to the skirmish of yesterday, that a small scouting party which was sent out yesterday came across a party of rebels in the house of Mr. Marsteller, about 5 miles from Warrenton Junction. Marsteller, the owner of the house, was instantly killed, and several of the rebels wounded. We had*

*3 men wounded, 1 seriously, the others but slightly. Otherwise all is quiet along the front and along our lines.*"<sup>29, 30</sup>

The *Alexandria Gazette* reprinted Gen. Stahel's report, which contained several factual errors. Samuel Arell Marsteller had not been killed in the skirmish and none of the Confederates were wounded. The *Gazette* corrected the error several days later.

**It was not Mr. S. A. Marsteller, who was killed during a skirmish near Catlett's Station, a few days ago—but his son.**

*Alexandria Gazette*, May 27, 1863, p. 2, c. 3.

Feeling that they had been ambushed, it was only with difficulty that Col. Mann kept the Union troopers from burning *Arellton* to the ground.

*"We wanted to burn the house where our men were wounded but because a few good looking women happened to live there Col. Mann would not allow us to do so, and even interceded and saved it."*<sup>31</sup>

Col. William Mann would later be accused of being too fond of women and wine, a claim at least partially substantiated by one other officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry.

*"All that is said about women in connection with Col. Mann is true the [Marstella] case was a very [aggravating] one and caused some words between the Col. and myself."*<sup>32</sup>

## Care of the Wounded

Given his condition, a wagon was summoned to transport Pvt. McLain back to camp. All three men likely received initial treatment at Warrenton Junction from Assistant Surgeon George R. Richards,<sup>33</sup> who by all accounts was a kind and gentle practitioner.

However, no matter how kind or gentle, Sgt. Isham quickly came to understand the words of the poet Virgil,



20th c. home constructed c. 1917 on, or near, the site of *Arellton*. Photo credit: Page Johnson, October 2014.



*Aegrescit medendo*, which literally translates to *The remedy is worse than the disease*.

Surgeon Richards, although an 1861 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Medicine, was, like nearly everyone else in the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, young and inexperienced. It was likely the first gunshot wound he had ever seen. Isham recalled the experience:

He “*drew out of the wound with the forceps some pieces of clothing and patches of wadding, and probed industriously in all directions. To inquiries as to the degree of injury he said nothing, but gravely shook his head, only remarking, as he laid aside the probe, that it was ‘singular, if those two holes were made by one bullet, that the probe would not pass in one hole and out at the other.’ The process of acquiring wounds is an agreeable diversion compared with what one experiences after falling into the surgeon’s hands....*”<sup>34</sup>

All three men were then placed in a boxcar and transported down the O. & A. R.R. to Fairfax Station. At Fairfax Station, McLain and Kitchen were placed in the Field Hospital of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves, under the care Surgeon Edward Donnelly, of Philadelphia.<sup>35</sup> Isham was sent on to the brigade hospital at Fairfax Court House.

### Brigade Hospital at Fairfax C.H.

Fairfax Court House was the Headquarters of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade from March 26, 1863 to June 26, 1863. Dr. John P. Wilson established a brigade hospital here at that time, where he personally cared for a large number of sick and wounded soldiers.<sup>36</sup>

In April 1863, the Surgeon of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan, William Upjohn, who was not particularly well liked by the men, left the regiment and presumably remained in Fairfax Court House with the other brigade medical staff.



Willcoxen Tavern, Fairfax Court House, VA c. 1914. Used as the Michigan Cavalry Brigade Hospital from March to June 1863. Photo courtesy of Lee Hubbard.

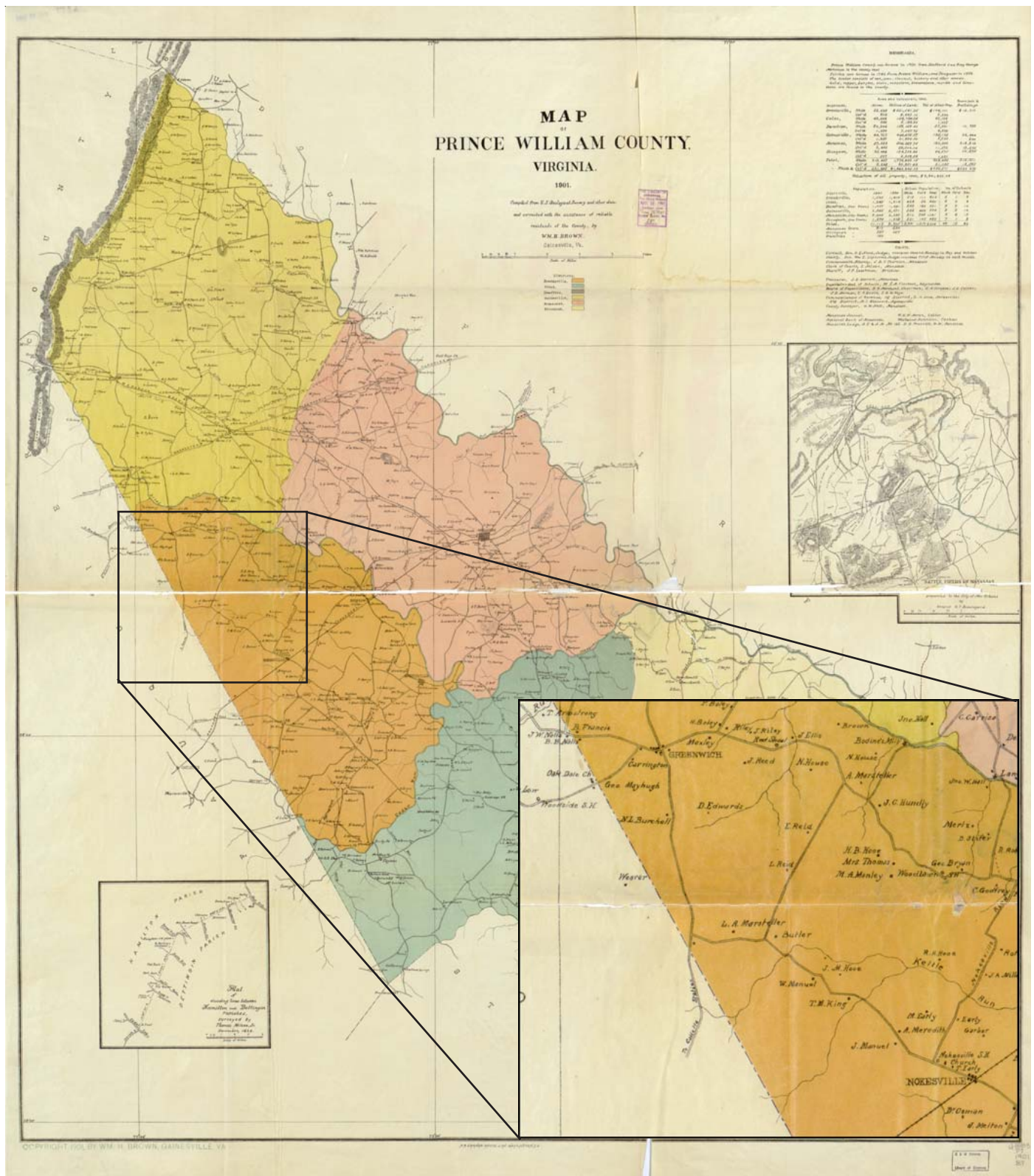
In a letter to his parents, Sgt. Havens of Co. A, recorded the general sentiment of the men towards Upjohn:

*“A little alteration has been made in our medical department. Our Asst. Surgeon Capt. Sherman<sup>37</sup> has resigned and Dr. Richards<sup>38</sup> of Grand Rapids has [been] appointed to his place. ‘Old Death’ our 1<sup>st</sup> Surgeon has left the regt. and it is rumored that he will never return, and we hope he will not. Dr. Richards is a fine fellow and is fast gaining the confidence and good will of[all].”<sup>39</sup>*

This feeling was utterly refuted by Pvt. George P. Cobb, Co. C, in a reminiscence years later:

*“...and I must not forget old Dr. Upjohn. From the first I heard him roundly abused and denounced as a butcher, but my own acquaintance, which began when I was desperately sick, left me with feelings of the highest respect and good will for him as a kindly, generous old man.”<sup>40</sup>*

In spite of his unpopularity, Upjohn was eventually promoted to Surgeon-in-Chief, First Brigade, First Cavalry Division, Army of the Potomac. After the war, he returned to private medical practice in Hastings, Michigan, with his nephew William E. Upjohn, who founded the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company.



The location of *Arellton* is indicated as "*L.A. Marsteller*" in the center of inset of Map of Prince William County, Virginia, 1901. "Compiled from U.S. Geological Survey and other data and corrected with the assistance of reliable residents of the county," by William H. Brown, Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C



Sgt. Isham left a remarkable account of the Michigan Brigade Hospital at Fairfax Court House and the treatment he received there. The hospital was likely located in the Willcoxon Tavern and fits neatly in with Isham's description. Writing in the third person narrative style, Isham recalled the experience:

*"[The] Field hospital at Fairfax consisted of an old two-story brick house of four rooms, surrounded by an aggregation of hospital and wall tents. It is not known how the rooms of the house were occupied, save that one, of the lower story, was filled with iron cot bedsteads, two feet wide, with space between only sufficient for one person to pass. Each bed or cot was supplied with a "tick" or mattress of corn husks, well stuffed, rounded at the top, together with the necessary bed clothing. These round-topped beds aroused in the occupants an anxious sense of insecurity, for they produced in them the sensation as though resting upon a ridge, where it was necessary to preserve the most exact balance in order to avoid being precipitated upon the floor."*<sup>41</sup>

Sgt. Isham was placed on one of these cots on his arrival. The room was filled with critically sick and wounded men. Even so, when *taps* sounded that evening the doctors and hospital stewards all disappeared leaving the men utterly alone until morning.

*"A sickly, spluttering coal oil lamp, cast weird glimmers over the sufferers, [and] went out altogether by midnight."*<sup>42</sup>

Second only to the unrelenting pain of Isham's wounds, was his maddening, unrelenting desire for a cool drink of water. At the time, cold water was deemed harmful to the recovery of a patient. Instead, a burnt hard cracker, *hardtack*, soaked in warm water was all that was permitted. Consequently, the demand for water was constant.

*"A single night spent under such conditions was a torment; weeks of them proved misery long drawn out. The pleadings for water of fever-parched invalids, the moans of those racked with pain, the mutterings and sometimes violent outcries of the delirious, the not uncommon noisy, gurgling respiration of those in the clutch of death, the curses and anathemas of worn-out, helpless ones who could get no rest in the midst of such a horrid Babel, linger in memory as though of an uncanny vision."*<sup>43</sup>

In the morning the hospital stewards returned and attended to basic needs of the soldiers. It was soon discovered that an unfortunate soul had:

*"...slipped its moorings in the night and abandoned its tenement of clay., ...the subject had been the host of a horde of crawling vermin, these disgusting things swarmed out the hair and off the body, to make their way down the sides of the cot. It made the flesh creep, it filled the soul with horror, to lie helpless, within hand's reach of such a spectacle, without the ability to move a muscle or make an effort to prevent it, and feel that this dreadful mass might in a little time be transferred over to riot on one's tissues."*<sup>44</sup>

The hospital stewards bundled the corpse and removed it. Shortly thereafter, another man was bought in and laid on the same cot. Hygiene, as we understand it today, was non-existent.

Such sights and sounds were all too common in field hospitals during the Civil War.

*"The loathing, the dread, the nameless terror, the despondency, they induced in those of gentle breeding who were making a brave struggle for life, in not a few instances turned the scale against them. A*



*soldier may view a corpse without disquiet, but it demands the stoutest heart in the soundest body to be brought face to face with all the unspeakable things pertaining to the living and the dead that may be encountered in a temporary army hospital.*"<sup>45</sup>

Each morning, the arrival of the hospital stewards was followed by the arrival of the surgeons. Every man in the room who was conscious loathed the arrival of the surgeons. The doctors busied themselves by taking turns probing bullet-holes, poking injuries, and prodding broken limbs, all the while asking *'does that hurt?'* Every morning Sgt. Isham lifted up the same prayer, *"Good Lord, deliver us."*<sup>46</sup>

Being in an army hospital was not all bad. As Sgt. Isham put it,

*"But good angels also came in, whose presence seemed to transform the place into an abode of bliss. The wife of the general commanding the brigade, with the sweet-faced daughter, just budding into womanhood, made glad the hearts of all by daily visits.<sup>47</sup> They brought flowers, old-fashioned flowers from Virginia gardens, to please the eye, and little creature comforts that brightened up the wan faces remarkably. They wrote letters for the sick soldiers, at their dictation, to the loved ones at home. One such letter read about as follows:*

*'Field Hospital, Fairfax C. H., Va., May 15, 1863.*

*Dear Mother: — I was shot in the leg slightly in a fight we had yesterday morning near Warrenton Junction. It is a simple flesh wound, and I will be laid up for only a short time. I rode four miles on horseback after I was shot, so you may know that it is not of*

*much consequence. But the surgeons thought I had better stay in hospital until the danger of inflammation is over, and so I am here. Don't worry over it, because it don't really amount to anything. Miss C. is kindly writing this for me since the surgeons foolishly refuse to allow me to sit up in bed. I have every comfort here and am much better off than at home, because the doctors and nurses know so much better how to care for a bullet wound than the doctors at home. With love.*

*Your affectionate son, A.*

*P. S. — If you could manage to send me a box of grandmother's custard pies, they would be highly appreciated.'*"<sup>48</sup>

On his third day in the hospital Sgt. Isham developed a raging fever and became delirious. He became indifferent to everything except the constant desire for water.

*"Even the fair visitor failed longer to elicit attention. It is not known when her visits ceased, but they were probably not long continued, as the tide of war was rolling backward to the Potomac, and all not connected with the army were early sent back to Washington. ... Their compassionate ministrations are fondly cherished yet by at least one recipient of their favors, who has never ceased to wish them well, if living, or to bless their memories, if dead."*<sup>49</sup>

Days turned into weeks. Each day the routine was the same. Through his delirium, Sgt. Isham distinctly remembers that on one occasion, the surgeons were probing his wound, days or possibly even weeks, after his arrival. They extracted a piece of powder-blackened wadding. This foreign body had likely caused a massive infection which resulted in his fever.

## Fairfax Court House Evacuated

In late June 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee embarked upon the Gettysburg campaign, crossing the Potomac at several points into Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Union army promptly left Fairfax in pursuit. On June 25, 1863, the Michigan brigade hospital was also moved from Fairfax Court House. The sick and wounded were dispersed to various other hospitals in Alexandria and Washington, DC. As it happens, Isham awoke from his delirium that very day. He recalled:

*“The place was still Fairfax Court House, but instead of the brick house the patient was in a wall tent pitched up close to the edge of the Alexandria Pike [Ed. now Main Street]. Apparently not much life was left.”*<sup>50</sup>

After more than a month in bed, Isham had bedsores the size of his hand on his back and hips. He was extremely weak and apathetic to everything except the pain in his wounded hip. The pain was so great in fact that the mere approach of someone near his cot instilled a *“fear that it might be jostled in some way.”*<sup>51</sup>

From his hospital tent pitched directly on Main Street, near the Willcoxon Hotel, Isham witnessed, and *felt*, the departure of the Union Army for the battle of Gettysburg.

*“The army wagons, artillery, and ambulances passing along shook the ground and produced great discomfort. Throughout the night there was much movement over the pike, so that very little rest was obtained.*

*The next day opened bright and warm. The dust was thick upon the pike. In the early morning commenced the steady tramp of marching men. ...All day long until the shades of night fell, the regular step of that superb infantry, the rumble of army wagons and artillery, was heard and felt.*

*...The dust raised by the moving mass settled down over everything and filled the tent to suffocation. Tramp, tramp, tramp — would it never cease? Oh, the misery of that long day! ...As the last footfall died away, more dead than alive, sleep came to the worn-out system.”*<sup>52</sup>

As it grew dark, Sgt. Isham drifted off to sleep. Several hours later he awoke to the sound of an ambulance being backed to the door of his tent. Men with lanterns entered and he was told that Fairfax Court House was now deserted and defenseless. The entire village was being evacuated because *“Mosby’s guerilla band was momentarily expected in the town, and that the hospital inmates were to be removed forthwith to Fairfax Station, for rail transportation to Washington.”*<sup>53</sup>

As the hospital stewards were making preparations to place him in the ambulance, Isham begged the men to leave him behind to take his chances with Mosby rather than be moved. His cries were in vain. He was placed on his back in the ambulance on thin blankets spread over the floor. Another soldier, who had been wounded in the spine, was placed beside him. As soon as the men were loaded, the ambulance lurched forward. The blankets proved to be of little comfort to the helpless, prostate men. The road to Fairfax Station had recently been heavily corduroyed and was the roughest imaginable. Unlike his journey to Fairfax Court House, during which Isham was likely unconscious, he was now very much alert and wide awake. His memory of this trip down the corduroy road remained vivid, even after more than thirty years:

*“...the road was a corduroy of the roughest variety, tree trunks and saplings being arranged together haphazard, without any regard to evenness. Nowhere had dirt been thrown over the timbers. The jolt that resulted from the rebound of the springs when the wheels rolled off a large log to a sapling, or vice versa, threw the invalids half-way to the top of the ambulance. Sometimes*

*one was thrown higher than the other, and in falling down again landed on top of his fellow, so that they were falling and sprawling all over each other. The agony of such a ride to one wounded in the hip, unable to move a muscle without pain, and with large bed sores upon his back and hips, may be imagined. It beggars an adequate portrayal by the pen.*"<sup>54</sup>

The men begged the ambulance driver:

*"to shoot them through the head, or to drop them by the wayside to die of starvation and exposure, rather than to bounce them to death upon a corduroy road."*<sup>55</sup>

Several times the driver did stop, acutely aware of the pain and suffering of his occupants. He indicated that while he was sorry, his orders were *"to proceed to Fairfax Station with all possible haste."*<sup>56</sup> The driver, too, was likely fearful of being captured by Mosby. Shortly afterward, Sgt. Ishman passed out.

Asa Isham was transported by rail on the O. & A. R.R. from Fairfax Station to Alexandria. From there he was transported on the Washington & Alexandria R.R. to the B. & O. Depot in Washington, DC near Capitol Hill. From here he was moved by ambulance to Stanton General Hospital, located on I Street, NW, between 2nd and 3rd Streets.

The Poet, Walt Whitman, was present in Washington, DC at this time and visited the hospitals there almost daily. He witnessed the arrival of these ambulances, some of which also contained the wounded from the recent battle of Chancellorsville.

*"As I sit writing this paragraph, (sundown, Thursday, June 25,) I see a train of about thirty huge four-horse wagons, used as ambulances, filled with wounded, passing up Fourteenth-street, on their way, probably, to Columbian, Carver and Mount Pleasant Hospitals. This is the way the men*

*come in now, seldom in small numbers, but almost always in these long, sad processions."*<sup>57</sup>

## Army Doctors

Modern medicine was still in its infancy. Then as now, curiosity is a critical component to advancing the medical profession. The medical treatment received by soldiers during the Civil War would be deemed primitive by today's standard. Yet, we today are the direct beneficiaries of the natural curiosity of Civil War surgeons.

According to Ishman, at the time of the Civil War there were four distinct types of doctors: 1) the *'Simple old-fashioned country doctor;'* 2) the doctor pursuing *"scientific fads;"* 3) The doctor *"on the scent for rare cases;"* and, perhaps worst of all, 4) the doctor *'engaged in special lines of investigation or experimentation.'*

Edward Donnelly was definitely *not* a simple old-fashioned county doctor. He appears to have fallen into one of the other categories outlined by Isham.


Donnelly had been court-martialed the year before for *"an act in inhuman vandalism."*<sup>58</sup> On the evening of April 15, 1862, Chaplain William H. D. Hatton, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Rifles confronted Surgeon Donnelly on the Battlefield of First Manassas while *"rooting out the remains of one of those unfortunate men, who fell there."*

According to Hatton, Donnelly already:

*"had the leg joints in the bag and was in the act of pulling up the stockings that had contained the ankle and feet bones, which he picked out of the flesh with his fingers (I shudder at the thought!), leaving the shirt, pants and stockings and portions of the body and bone (which he did not consider of value) lying around on the surface of the ground. I remonstrated him, saying that 'Such an act of inhuman vandalism was a disgrace to our army and nation,' ...to*



## Fairfax Court House News of 150 Years Ago

 A company of negro troops has been raised at Alexandria for duty in Fairfax County, Va. They are to be credited to New York.

*Connecticut Courant*, October 1, 1864, p. 3, c. 1.

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—The *Commercial's* Washington special says:

General Augur has determined to put on the trains on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad secessionists from Fairfax and adjoining counties as hostages to prevent guerrilla outrages.

It is supposed a passenger train was captured on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad last night.

*Daily Illinois State Journal*, October 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 5.

**ARREST OF CITIZENS.**—General Slough, acting under special orders from the War Department, yesterday arrested a number of well-known rebel sympathizers in this city, for the purpose of sending them out on the trains of the Orange and Alexandria and the Manassas Gap railroads, in order to secure their safety against guerrilla attacks. The following named persons were arrested under this order: John Daingerfield, Edgar Snowden, Jr., Dr. J. B. Johnson, Dr. F. B. Robertson, Arthur Taylor, James A. English, Rev. O. O. Hitting, Dr. D. M. French, J. W. Stuart, and James McGraw. We learn that several other arrests are to take place, and probably will be effected to-day or to-morrow.

The following named persons, captured recently on the line of the above named roads, were sent out on the morning train: Robert E. Peyton, James W. Foster, Lewis D. Means, James A. Cochran, James Houdersahl, and James W. Flinn.

The following members of Moseby's Light Artillery (guerrillas), recently captured, are imprisoned in the slave pen, and will be used as occasions may require as "train guards": Alexander G. Babcock, Nathaniel Pontier, Wm. H. Musser, H. A. Warton, David L. Smith, E. M. Jones, John Aylor, Morgan Davis, Hugh Ohlin, Rufus Houdersahl, and J. Burns.

We learn that the friends of some of these people are greatly exercised over their arrest. They need have no fears, as the government does not intend the slightest harm to them. They cannot possibly be injured save by their own friends. When once the guerrillas learn that the trains are run for the special accommodation of their friends, they will not disturb the road. It will be a great saving of life and a great recommendation all round!

P. S.—Since the above was in type, we learn that all those arrested in this city yesterday, were sent out on the various trains to-day.—*Alexandria Journal*.

*Evening Star*, October 18, 1864, p. 4, c. 1.

### GUERRILLA OPERATIONS BEYOND WASHINGTON.

On Friday night last, three men, named Moore, Pinkerton and Moore, belonging to the 6th Pennsylvania heavy artillery, started away from Wood Pile Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and after visiting several farm houses in the vicinity, were beset by a crowd of rebels hid in ambush, who fired and killed one of the Moores and Pinkerton. The remaining Moore made a desperate resistance and defended himself with the butt of his musket, and did not succumb until he had been wounded thrice and was weakened by the loss of blood. The bodies of the two killed have been brought in and embalmed, and will be sent to Pittsburgh to-day. The survivor is in a critical condition.

About one o'clock this morning the guerrillas made an attack on Burk's Station, west of Fairfax, and met with a warm reception as well as repulse. They attacked Edgall's Switch, on the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, about the same hour, and met with a like welcome. Their object was the destruction of the track.

Yesterday and to-day Dr. Johnson Stuart and a host of lesser rebel admirers are being treated to a free ride upon the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Their rebel friends have an opportunity to practise their sharpshooting upon a few of their known sympathizers.

The men raised in the Quartermaster's Department of Alexandria are progressing favorably with the work assigned them, namely, the felling the trees on each side of the track of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and the Manassas Gap Railroad, having cleared this end of the road of all shelter for guerrillas. Yesterday they sent in, under guard, five guerrillas who were captured by them.

### ARRESTS IN ALEXANDRIA.

The people of Alexandria were yesterday thrown into consternation by the arrest of twenty five or thirty of the most prominent Southern citizens, in accordance with a late military order; and this morning some of them were placed prominently upon the platforms of the Manassas Railroad cars, as a prevention against firing on the trains by guerrillas. This arrangement is to be continued.

Some of the newspapers have erroneously represented that Poolesville, Maryland, was burnt by the rebels. The object of the marauders was plunder.

*Philadelphia Age*, October 18, 1864, p. 2, c. 5.

**Yankees from Fairfax.**—Yesterday five Yankee prisoners were received from Fairfax station, on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, captured by Captain Kinchelow, the partisan of that section. They were captured within twelve miles of Alexandria.

*Richmond Examiner*, November 29, 1864, p. 2, c. 4.

*which he replied, that 'Every man had his peculiar taste in such matters.' ...He then tied the bag after putting in the two hip bones, tied it behind his saddle and rode off."*<sup>59</sup>

Hatton filed a formal complaint. A Court of Inquiry was convened, which recommended Donnelly for Court-martial. Donnelly pled guilty to collecting bones "for purpose other than internment." He was found guilty with "no criminality" subscribed thereto and was returned to duty.<sup>60</sup>

Pvt. McLain, who was being treated by Surgeon Donnelly, died after eight days of agony, at Fairfax Court House, on May 22, 1863. Asst. Regimental Surgeon, Sylvester L. Morris,<sup>61</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, recorded his death.<sup>62</sup> Surgeon Donnelly reported on Pvt. McLain's case which he likely found unusual:

*"Case – Private Alexander McLain, Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, was shot in the back at Fairfax Station, Virginia, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863, [Ed. Marsteller Farm, May 14<sup>th</sup>] by a rebel guerilla. He was admitted, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, to the regimental hospital of the 2d Pennsylvania Reserves. There was complete paralysis of the body from the shoulder to the feet; great dyspricea [Ed. panting] and a continued desire to expectorate without being able; paralysis of bladder, with complete retention of urine. Constipation for the first four days, afterward involuntary stools. Skin dark yellow, and for several days, unusually hot to the touch. Death resulted on May 22d, eight days after the reception of the injury. Necropsy: The missile, a conoidal pistol ball, entered the back, fracturing, or rather crushing the spinous process of the eighth dorsal vertebra, passed into the spinal canal, and up through the medulla spinalis as far as the first cervical vertebra, where*

*it was found almost entire but very much out of shape. Two small pieces had separated in its striking the spinous process; and were found imbedded in the transverse process. The lungs were congested and full of very dark blood. The bladder contained about four of thick mucus-like substance."*<sup>63</sup>

After his death, Pvt. McLain, was likely buried near Fairfax Court House. His final resting place is now unknown.

### Aftermath

Family patriarch, Samuel Arell Marsteller, died in 1869 in was buried "*in a spot of his own selection*" at *Arellton*.<sup>64</sup>

Sgt. Asa B. Isham, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, returned to duty in January 1864. He was captured at Yellow Tavern and spent months in various Confederate prison camps. He survived the war. Likely, due to his own personal experiences, he later became a physician and a writer.

Pvt. Aaron Kitchen, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, returned to duty and survived the war. He lived to be one of the last Union veterans from Muskegon County, Michigan.

Pvt. Alcafar Arell "Acca" Marsteller, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, was cited for specific gallantry by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. He survived the war and became a physician.

Pvt. LaClaire A. Marsteller, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry survived the war and returned to *Arellton* where he resided for many years. In 1877, he and his wife, Charlotte, named their first-born child, Osceola, after LaClaire's bother who was killed in the skirmish.

Mollie, Harrisonia, Emily, Llera, and Cora Marsteller, each married and had families of their own.

Osceola Copper Marsteller, who was killed in the skirmish at his home, was likely buried in the family cemetery at *Arellton*.<sup>65</sup>



*Arellton* was located Fitzwater Drive, three miles northwest of Nokesville, Virginia.<sup>66</sup> It was destroyed, possibly by fire, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> c. The present house was constructed in the same vicinity, about 1917. Today, the land surrounding *Arellton* remains remarkably pristine, despite encroaching development.

The Willcoxon Tavern, site of the Michigan Brigade Hospital, at Fairfax Court House, was demolished in 1931 to make way for the National Bank of Fairfax. The building is presently occupied by Bank of America.

#### (Endnotes)

- <sup>1</sup> Osceola Copper Marsteller (1838-1863)
- <sup>2</sup> Joseph Spafford to Mary Jane Spafford, May 15, 1863, Vt. Soc. Lib., Barre, Vermont, <http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/item/cwvhsSpaffordJoseph85>
- <sup>3</sup> Warder Waddell Marsteller (1836- aft. 1903) wded. and captured at Gettysburg July 3, 1863; POW at Old Capitol, DC, Pt Lookout, MD, and Elmira, NY; too Oath of Allegiance March 1865; m. Mollie \_\_\_\_\_, c. 1874; in 1900, res. Bugg Township, Hickman Co., Kentucky, occ. Farmer; res. Fulgham P.O., Hickman Co., Kentucky in 1903; had two children who died young.
- <sup>4</sup> LeClair Arell Marsteller (1839-1917) m. Charlotte; bur. Warrenton Cem., Warrenton, VA.
- <sup>5</sup> Yucatan Rice Marsteller (1840-1909) m. Lucy Ellen Menefee in 1866; shot and killed a man in St. Louis in 1887 over a \$15 loan (*Richmond Times Dispatch*, January 12, 1887, p.3, c.3); bur. in Mount Cavalry Cem., Richmond, VA.
- <sup>6</sup> Alcpfar Arell "Acca" Marsteller (1843-1904) became a Physician after the war; m. Emma Norman Smith in 1879.
- <sup>7</sup> Margaret Ann Marsteller (1834-1904); d. October 5, 1904, Wash., DC
- <sup>8</sup> Harrisonia Richardette Marsteller (1841-1918), married Henry Everett Massoletti (1845-1921). They resided in Connecticut. She was confined to Medfield State Asylum, in MA around 1900. She died in 1918 and is buried in St. Lawrence Cem., West Haven, CT. They had one son Joseph Davis Massoletti.
- <sup>9</sup> Emily Warder Marsteller (1844-after1870) m. widower, Samuel Newton Laws, son of Austin and Ann Laws, Prince William Co., VA, Dec. 21, 1875; Children step-son Walter, step-dau. Cora, Mary V. (1878-????), m. Ed Wilkins, Laurelia C. Laws (Jul. 28, 1879; d. Mar. 10, 1964) m. Thomas Henry Medley (1863-1949); Agnes Laws (1881-????), Edith Laws (1884-????)
- <sup>10</sup> Llera Corrine Marsteller (1845-1915) m. James Clinton Milburn, January 14, 1868, at *Arellton*; died March 1915, bur. St. Paul's Cem., Alex., VA.
- <sup>11</sup> Korenora ("Cora") A. Marsteller (1850-1929) m. Ethelbert Milburn at Catlett, VA, May 8, 1872; died Vienna, VA 1929.
- <sup>12</sup> Letter from Edwin R. Havens to Nelson Havens, April 2, 1863, Edwin R. Havens Papers, University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.
- <sup>13</sup> Letter from Edwin R. Havens to Our Folks at Home, May 5, 1863, Edwin R. Havens Papers, University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.
- <sup>14</sup> The reference to "Dick Moran," who "made the charge on the 1st Vt. Cav.," relates to the skirmish between Mosby's Ranger's and the 1st Vermont Cavalry at Miskel's Farm, Loudoun County, near Dranesville, VA on April 1, 1863. On the evening of March 31, 1863 Mosby and his men arrived at the farm of George Miskel. Most of the men were asleep in the barn loft, with the exception of Dick Moran, who had left the group to spend the night with a personal friend named Green. Miskel's Farm was the only place he could be sure of obtaining feed for his horses. A Union sympathizer saw Mosby's men that afternoon and alerted Union authorities. The 1st Vermont Cavalry set out with two squadrons to surprise Mosby. On their way down Leesburg Pike, Flint and his men stopped briefly at Green's farm, where Dick Moran was staying. Moran hid and as soon as Flint and his men moved on, Moran mounted his horse galloped off cross-country to warn Mosby. About sunrise Moran raced into the barnyard and shouted "MOUNT UP! THE YANKEES ARE COMING! just as Flint's first squadron entered through the gate in the outer fence. Moran, being the only member of the Rangers mounted and ready, likely led the attack against the Vermonter's, who were thoroughly routed.
- <sup>15</sup> Lee, William O., Personal and Historical Sketches and Facial History of and by Members of the Seventh Regiment Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, 1862-1865, Reminiscences, by William G. Gates, © 1901, 7th Michigan Cavalry Association, Detroit, MI.
- <sup>16</sup> Asa Brenaird Isham was born in Jackson, Jackson County, Ohio in 1844. He was the son of Chapman Isham and Mary A Faulkner. His father was a banker. He graduated from

Marietta Academy (now Marietta College) in 1859. His first job was with the Lake Superior Journal in Marquette, MI, where he worked from 1860-1862. In 1862, he became City Editor for the Detroit Tribune. He enlisted as a Pvt. in Co. F, 7th Michigan Cavalry on November 18, 1862, at Detroit, MI. He was promoted to Sgt. on January 23, 1863. He transferred to Co. I, March 17, 1863. He was severely wounded in the left hip and groin at the Marsteller Farm, Prince William County, Virginia, on May 14, 1863. Afterwards was transported to Warrenton Junction and from thence to Michigan Brigade Hospital at Fairfax Court House, then to Stanton General Hospital, Washington, DC. He was returned to duty January 1, 1864. He was captured at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, Virginia, May 11, 1864 and sent to Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia, then to Macon and Savannah, Georgia; then to Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina, where he was exchanged December 10, 1864. While a prisoner, he was promoted to 1st Lt. of Co. F, on March 22, 1864. He was mustered out of service on April 11, 1865. On Feb 21, 1866 he received an Invalid's Pension on account of wounds he received on May 14, 1863. In 1866, he attended the Medical College of Ohio and graduated in 1869. He practiced medicine in Walnut Hills, near Cincinnati, Ohio until his death in 1912. He is interred in Spring Grove Cem., Cincinnati, OH.

<sup>17</sup> Aaron Kitchen (1844-1922) was a native of Blenheim, Ontario, Canada who immigrated with his family to the United States in 1846. Aaron became a naturalized American citizen in 1862. He enlisted as a Private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry on November 1, 1862 at Allegan, MI. He married Francis Louisa Shelman (1850-1927) in 1868. Together, they settled in Holton, Muskegon County, Michigan and had eleven children. He received a pension for his Civil War service in 1880. He died Nov. 13, 1922. He is buried in the Holton Cemetery, Holton, MI.

<sup>18</sup> Pvt. Alexander McLain (1838-1863) was born in White Lake Township, Oakland County, Michigan. He was the son of Alexander McLane and Rosanna McGee. He enlisted in Co K, 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry on February 12, 1863 at White Lake, MI. He was mortally wounded May 14, 1863 at the Marsteller Farm, Prince William Co., VA. he died May 22, 1863 at Fairfax Court House, VA. His burial location is unknown. His mother filed for a Federal Pension (App.# 33,913, Cert.# 30,591), Sept. 21, 1863; According to the Census of 1850 his sisters were Catherine McLane b. 1834; Margaret McLane b. 1836; Cecelia McLane b. 1840; brother James J. McLane b. Sept. 25, 1847, d. Feb. 8, 1907; bur. Woodmere Cem., Detroit, MI; m. May Lizzie Burshel, (1865-1941) b. Dec. 11, 1863, Collingwood, Ontario, Canada; dau. of Alfred Burshel and Anna Garnett, June 13, 1895, Birmingham, Oakland Co., MI; Lizzie m/2 Ford Ege; m/3 William Maitland; d. Apr. 1, 1943, Detroit, MI; bur. Woodmere Cem.

<sup>19</sup> Pvt. Joseph Spafford, 16<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry, to his sister, Mary Jane Spafford, Vermont Historical Society Library, Barre, Vermont, <http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/item/cwvhsSpaffordJoseph86> (accessed October 06, 2014)

<sup>20</sup> Isham, A. B., The Story of a Gunshot Wound, Sketches of War History, 1861-1865: Papers Read Before the Ohio Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, v. 4, © 1896, Robert Clarke Co., Cincinnati, OH.

<sup>21</sup> Letter of Lt. Col. Allyne Litchfield to Susan Litchfield, his wife, May 15, 1863, Litchfield-French Papers, 1862-1918, Box 1, Folder 6, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. See also O'Neill, Robert F., *Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby*.... © 2012, McFarland & Co., Inc., Jefferson, NC.

<sup>22</sup> *Richmond Times Dispatch*, August 28, 1904, p. 14, c. 5; Obituary of A.A. Marsteller.

<sup>23</sup> Isham, The Story of a Gunshot Wound.

<sup>24</sup> Lt. Col. Allyne Litchfield to Susan Litchfield, his wife, May 15, 1863, Litchfield-French Papers, 1862-1918, Box 1, Folder 6, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. See also O'Neill.

<sup>25</sup> Lee, William O., Personal and Historical Sketches and Facial History of and by Members of the Seventh Regiment Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, 1862-1865, Reconnaissance Around Warrenton Junction, Va, by William Glover Gage, © 1901, 7th Michigan Cavalry Association, Detroit, MI

<sup>26</sup> O'Neill, Robert F., *Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby*.... © 2012, McFarland & Co., Inc., Jefferson, NC. See also, O'Brien Family Papers, Bentley Historical Library, Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor, MI.

<sup>27</sup> Letter from Edwin R. Havens to Nelson Havens, May 16, 1863, Edwin R. Havens Papers, University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

<sup>28</sup> Henderson, E. Prioleau, *Autobiography of Arab*, p. 80, © 1901, R.L. Bryan Co., Columbia, SC.

<sup>29</sup> Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, v. 25, pt. 1, p. 1109, © 1889, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.

<sup>30</sup> It is interesting to note that the name "*Osceola Marsteller*," while recorded in the index of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion in connection with the Skirmish at the Marsteller Farm, does not appear in Gen. Stahl's report or elsewhere in the text. It is likely that Osceola Marsteller was originally identified in a report or correspondence that was inadvertently omitted.

<sup>31</sup> Diary of Edwin R. Havens, Undated letter of Edwin R. Havens, Edwin R. Havens Papers, University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

<sup>32</sup> Letter from Lt. Col. Allyne Litchfield to Austin Blair, Governor of Michigan, July 9, 1863, Boonsboro, MD, The Papers of Austin Blair, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI. See also O'Neill, Robert F., *Chasing Jeb Stuart and John Mosby*.... © 2012, McFarland & Co., Inc., Jefferson, NC. See also, O'Brien Family Papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

<sup>33</sup> George R. Richards (1842- 1895) Born in Ireland in 1842. He immigrated to Michigan as a child. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1861. He enlisted as an Asst. Surg. in 7th Michigan Cavalry on Feb. 5, 1863; m. Marie E. \_\_\_\_\_ (1835-



## HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has arrangements for supplying information gratuitously with regard to patients in the United States General Hospital at the following points. Others will be added as new hospitals are opened:

### EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

For information, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

Washington, D. C.,	Annapolis Junction, Md.,
Georgetown, D. C.,	Cumberland, Md.,
Alexandria, Va.,	Point Lookout, Md.
Baltimore, Md.,	Fairfax, Va.,
Frederick City, Md.,	York, Penn.
Annapolis, Md.	

*The Soldier's Journal*, October 5, 1864, p. 8, c. 2.

After dinner, in the absence of the president elect, Rev. Mr. Fay took the chair. A discussion on the relations of the church and the children was opened by Rev. Mr. Nightingale of Groton. Dr. Hill introduced the white slave child, Cassiopea Lawrence, recently baptized by Henry Ward Beecher. She was one of thirty who escaped together from Fairfax, Va., about two years ago and was adopted by Mrs. Lawrence, who is collecting funds for her education as a teacher. Her touching song, with the remarks of Dr. Hill, moved the audience profoundly. Rev. Mr. Putnam followed with an eloquent speech, alluding to the children of the south, declaring that Grant and Sherman are doing Sunday school work. Remarks were made also by Hon. Chas. Houston, and Rev. Messrs. Fay, Green, Dr. Stebbins, and Shippen, and Mr. Garfield of Boston.

*Massachusetts Spy*, October 12, 1864, p. 1, c. 7.

Mosby, the guerilla chief, lost a valuable assistant a few days since, in the person of a deserter from the 5th N. Y. cavalry, known as "the big Yankee." This fellow figured conspicuously in the capture of Gen. Stoughton, at Fairfax Court House, over a year ago. Indeed, it was principally through his aid that this dash of Mosby succeeded. A few days ago Mosby had some important message to send to a distant point, and the errand was considered a very dangerous one. "The Big Yankee" proposed to undertake the job, and Mosby not desiring to lose him, tried to persuade him not to go, but he persisted in going, and Mosby finally consented. On his way he encountered a small squad of our cavalry, who halted him and demanded his surrender. He refused, saying there was no surrender for him. At the same time he commenced firing into the squad which had halted him. Our men returned the compliment, which resulted in his death.

*Daily Eastern Argus*, November 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 3.

????) c. 1863; After the war, he located in Pontiac, of which city he was elected Mayor in 1870. He removed to Detroit in 1873. He died February 8, 1895 and was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Ann Arbor, MI. Children Frederick Richards (1863-????), Lewis Richards (1864-????), Katharine "Kitty" Richards (1868-????), George Richards (1872-????), Maria Richards (1876-????).

<sup>34</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>35</sup> Woodward, E.M., *Our Campaigns; or, the Marches, Bivouacs, Battles, Incidents of Camp Life and History of Our Regiment During It's Three Years Term of Service*, © 1865, John E. Potter, Phila., PA.

<sup>36</sup> *The Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society*, v. 4, p. 227, © 1905, Detroit, MI

<sup>37</sup> Adana Sherman, b. August 25, 1823, Houghton, Canada; grad. Western Reserve College, Cleveland, OH in 1851; m. Lydia Mary Winchell, Cuyahoga Co., OH, 1852; res. Lamont, MI, in 1860; enl. as Asst. Surgeon, 7th Michigan Cavalry, October 15, 1862, resigned April 29, 1863, honorably discharged; res. Talmadge, Ottawa Co., MI in 1870, occ. Physician; res. Malad City, Oneida Co., ID in 1880, occ. Physician; applied for a Federal Pension (App #539,946; Cert #573,271); d. Sept. 22, 1895, Malad City, ID; bur. Malad Cem., Oneida Co., ID.

<sup>38</sup> George R. Richards, b. Sept. 1861, Ireland; grad. University of Michigan, Medicine, in 1861; enl. as 2nd Asst. Surgeon, 7th Michigan Cavalry; obit. "Dr. George R. Richards, of Detroit, a stepson of the late Prof. Williams, of the University, died in Detroit, Wednesday [6 Feb 1895], of hemorrhage of the stomach. He was born in Ireland in 1842 and came to Michigan when a child. He graduated from the University and during the war was surgeon of the Seventh Michigan Cavalry. He located in Pontiac, of which city he was twice mayor. He removed to Detroit in 1873. He leaves a wife, a son and a daughter. His remains will be brought to this city tomorrow morning on the 9:20 Michigan Central train and will be immediately taken to Forest Hill cemetery for interment;"—Ann Arbor Argus, Friday, 8 Feb 1895 Widow, Marie E. Richards applied for a Federal Pension, from Ohio, March 9, 1895 (App # 610,345; Cert # 426,685).

<sup>39</sup> Letter of Edwin R. Havens to William and Celeste Havens, June 3, 1863, Edwin R. Havens Papers, University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

<sup>40</sup> Lee, William O., *Personal and Historical Sketches and Facial History of and by Members of the Seventh Regiment Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, 1862-1865, Reminiscences*, by George P. Cobb, © 1901, 7th Michigan Cavalry Association, Detroit, MI.

<sup>41</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>42</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>43</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>44</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>45</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>46</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>47</sup> The commander of the Wolverine Brigade was B.G. Joseph Tarr Copeland (1813-1893). His wife and daughter were Mary Jane "May" Wilson Copeland (1818-1888) and Agnes "Aggie" Theresa Copeland (1842-1906).

<sup>48</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>49</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>50</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

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<sup>56</sup> Isham, *The Story of a Gunshot Wound*.

<sup>57</sup> Whiman, Walt, *Memoranda During the War*, © 1875, New Republic Print, Camden, NJ.

<sup>58</sup> Woodward, E.M., *Our Campaigns; or, the Marches, Bivouacs, Battles, Incidents of Camp Life and History of Our Regiment During It's Three Years Term of Service*, © 1865, John E. Potter, Philadelphia, PA.

<sup>59</sup> Lowry, Thomas P., M.D. and Welsh, Jack D., M.D., *Tarnished Scalpels The Court-Martials of Fifty Union Surgeons*, © 2000, p. 80-83, Stackpole, Books, Mechanicsburg, PA.

<sup>60</sup> Lowry, Thomas P., M.D. & Welsh, Jack D., M.D., *Tarnished Scalpels, The Court-Martial of Fifty Union Surgeons*, © 200, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA.

<sup>61</sup> Sylvester L. Morris (1830-1887) grad. University of Michigan in 1852; d. June 10, 1887, Lincoln, NE.

<sup>62</sup> *Registers of Deaths of Volunteers*, compiled 1861-1865, p. 144, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Rec. Group 94, Natl. Archives and Rec. Administration, Wash., DC.

<sup>63</sup> Barnes, Joseph K., *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, © 1875, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Wash., D.C.

<sup>64</sup> Alexandria Gazette, May 25, 1869, p. 3, c. 4.

<sup>65</sup> Letter from A.A. Marsteller, Jr. to J.B.T. Thornton, December 22, 1902, Milburn v. Marsteller, 1904, Prince William Co., Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Manassas, VA. "...My father wishes me to say that the grave-yard was to be reserved from the sale of the homestead, Fearing you have not been notified to that effect, he wishes you to attend to it...."

<sup>66</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 158, Pg. 8, Foster to Morris, January 3, 1952; DB 67, Pg. 308, Dove to Foster, January 26, 1926; DB 61, Pg. 403, Edmonds to Dove, October 13, 1910; Marsteller to Edmonds, in PW Co. Chancery Suit, Milburn v. Marsteller, 1904.

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

**Volunteers and docents** are sought for the city's historic buildings: Ratcliffe-Allison House, Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center and Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Additionally, volunteers may be interested in assisting with walking tours and special events. For information email or call **703-385-8415**.

The city has published a free self-guided walking tour brochure that provides a brief history of the city and noteworthy buildings in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District. This brochure is available from the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, or call **703-385-8414**.

Select historic buildings are open during city special events, including the Chocolate Lovers Festival, Civil War Weekend, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival and Festival of Lights and Carols. To arrange group tours of city-owned historic buildings email or call **703-385-8414**.

The Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. It includes a variety of building and monument types and styles, including:

Fairfax Courthouse (1800)  
 Ratcliffe-Allison House (1812)  
 Joshua Gunnell House (c.1830)  
 William Gunnell House (c.1835)  
 Ford House (c.1835)  
 Fairfax Elementary School (1873)\*  
 Old Fairfax Jail (1885)  
 Old Town Hall (1900)  
 Marr Monument (1904)

\*Fairfax Elementary School was converted into the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center in 1992.

## In the Next Issue...

**After dinner, in the absence of the president elect, Rev. Mr. Fay took the chair. A discussion on the relations of the church and the children was opened by Rev. Mr. Nightingale of Groton. Dr. Hill introduced the white slave child, Casseopia Lawrence, recently baptized by Henry Ward Beecher. She was one of thirty who escaped together from Fairfax, Va., about two years ago and was adopted by Mrs. Lawrence, who is collecting funds for her education as a teacher. Her**

*Massachusetts Spy*, October 12, 1864, p. 1, c. 7.

The above article from the *Massachusetts Spy* refers to a Fairfax slave girl, *Fannie Virginia Casseopia Lawrence*, who was *Redeemed*. Slave redemption was the practice of purchasing the freedom of slaves, principally, by northern abolitionist groups.

Find out more about *Fannie* and slave redemption in the next issue of the *Fare Facs Gazette*.

Visit us on the web:  
**HFCI Website!**

<http://www.historicfairfax.org>

## DUES ALERT

If you have not paid your annual Historic Fairfax City, Inc. dues they are now due. Please remit based on the schedule below. Annual dues payments should be made out and sent to: **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.**, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Your annual dues help HFCI to continue to meet its basic goal of preserving the unique history of the City of Fairfax. Tax deductible donations over and above dues payments are encouraged.

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

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.  
Sandra S. Willbur, President  
10209 Main Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030



## The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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