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"Fare Fac - Say Do"

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The Fare Facs Gazette

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The Freedmen's Bureau and School at Fairfax Court House

by William Page Johnson, II



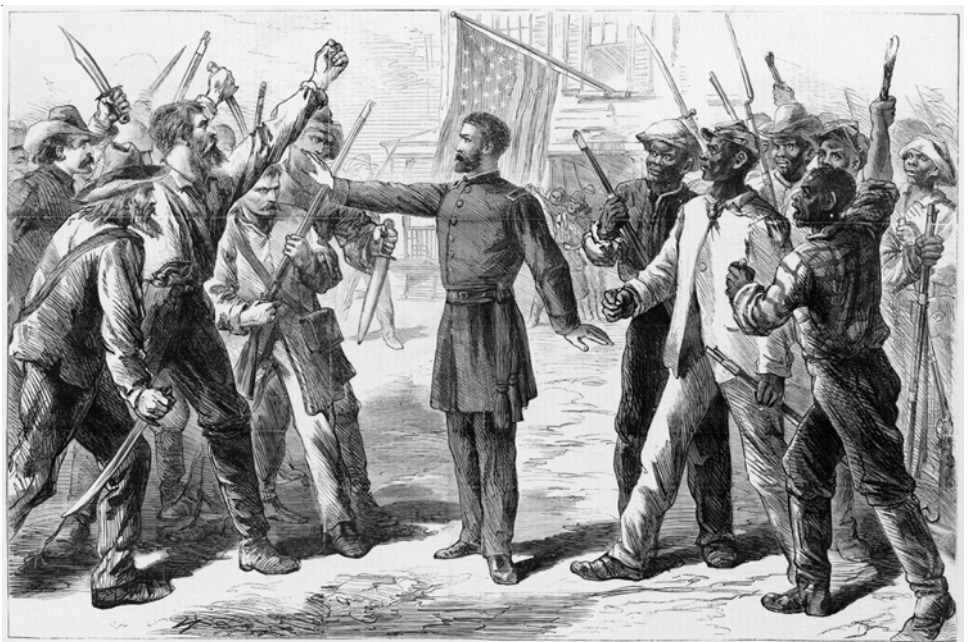
On September 22, 1862, one week after the Battle of Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that effective January 1, 1863, *"all persons held as slaves within any state...in rebellion against the United States ... shall be then, and thence forward, forever free."*¹

At the time, the *Emancipation Proclamation* was largely symbolic as it would be more than two years before the Civil War came to an end. For the vast majority of the now former slaves in the South, while legally free, it would be years before they were actually free. Even after the war ended in April 1865, some were still held in bondage against their will, for months, or years afterward:

*"Bureau R.F. & A.L.
 Headquarters 5th District of Va.
 Alex., Va., Sept. 4, 1865*

*Special Order
 No. 9*

Capt. Geo. A. Armes, will immediately proceed to the house of Mrs. Nancy Ratcliffe and bring away the two colored children Sarah and Fannie Harper, who are still held as slave by said Mrs. R., and deliver them to this office. If it is necessary to take them by force – or even bloodshed – let it be done. The purpose of the Bureau must and shall be carried out so far as it is in the power of the Supt. of this District. Capt. Armes will attend to this matter in person and if he has nor



"The Freedmen's Bureau," by Alfred R. Waud, Harper's Weekly, July 25, 1868.

From the Desk of the President-

October 2016

This year HFCI committtes have taken action to support and protect historic interests with developers and others whose plans effect the character of our city.

One of these initiatives is working with the developer, IDI, on the proposed redevelopment of the Paul VI school property. Paul VI will move to a new campus in 2020. HFCI strongly supports preserving and repurposing the original 1936 Fairfax High School building. A letter writing campaign by Fairfax High School alumni lent additional weight to HFCI's efforts. The developer is proposing two plans. The one HFCI supports is to preserve the original school building, including the green space fronting Routes 29/211/50, and repurpose the building for senior housing. Final plan approval awaits Fairfax City Council approval.

A continuing HFCI initiative is fund raising. We have just concluded our ninth annual "Taste of the Vine" – Our main fund raising event to be used for refurbishment of the City's historic properties and supporting exhibits at the Fairfax Museum, Blenheim Interpretive Center and the Radcliff-Allison House. Your TOV ticket purchases and contribution – and purchase – of silent auction items each year enables HFCI to continue its financial support of the City's historic preservation programs at a substantial level.

Finally, your HFCI Board is working to grow our membership and to encourage current members to increase their participation in HFCI activities. Let's all get out and encourage our friends and neighbors to become a member of HFCI to join with us in continuing our important historic preservation programs. Membership information and applications are available at the Fairfax Museum and the Blenheim Interpretive Center.

Sandra Wilbur
President

Welcome New Members!

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

Judith Blaine-Stewart
Matthew Cher
The Etters
Gerald and Kristin Leedom
Joseph Lipari
Patricia Pearson

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.

Visit us on the web:
HFCI Website!

<http://www.historicfairfax.org>

At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

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

Strong Men & Women in Virginia History - Temporary Exhibition July 18 - August 27 Gano Gallery.

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, November 13, 2 p.m.
"Discovering Colchester's History"

Christopher Sperling, Senior Archaeologist with Fairfax County Park Authority, will share discoveries from his work at Colchester, a bustling port on the Occoquan River in 1700s.

Sunday, December 11, 2 p.m.
"American Holiday Postcards, 1905-1915: Imagery and Context"

Book talk and signing with Daniel Gifford from George Mason University, who will discuss the uses and meanings of holiday cards in the early twentieth century. *Susan Kelly as "The Yankee Schoolmarm"*

2017

Sunday, January 8, 2 p.m.
"Educating Freedmen in Fairfax County During Reconstruction"

Debbie Robison, historian and member of the Fairfax County History Commission, will share her research on the 15 schools established from 1864-68 for African

Sunday, February 12, 2 p.m.
"African American Schools and Desegregation"

Sunday, March 12, 2 p.m.
"The Fairfax Ladies Memorial Association and the Fairfax City Cemetery"

Curator Susan Inskip Gray will discuss the role of Fairfax women to reinter Confederate war dead and the cemetery's transition to a community burial place.

Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

"Blenheim's Civil War Soldier Signatures: A Diary on Walls". Explores the local Fairfax Court House history and the experiences of soldiers who wrote on the walls of the Willcoxon home (Historic Blenheim.) The replica attic is a life-sized replica of the house attic that shows the clearest graffiti in the house.

Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center Program Series Programs are free and held at 2 p.m. on Saturdays (unless otherwise noted) at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Information: 703-591-0560.

Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m.
"Clashing Dynasties: Charles Francis Adams and James Murray Mason in the Fiery Cauldron of Civil War"

Book talk and signing by Gerard Gawalt.

Sunday, December 4, Noon - 4 p.m. - SPECIAL DATE and TIME
"Christmas in Camp"

Holiday customs, Victorian crafts, music, and camp drills with Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, "*Fairfax Rifles*," C.S.A

2017

Saturday, January 28, 2 p.m.

“The CSS Shenandoah and the Last Shot of the Civil War”

Local author William Connery will tell the story of the Confederate Navy’s last ship, the CSS Shenandoah.

Saturday, February 25, 2 p.m.

“A Slave No More: Lewis Lee of Fairfax Court House”

Retired educator Wes Boutchard will unfold the incredible story of a mulatto slave related to Blenheim’s Willcoxon family, his escape from slavery and the choices he made as a free man.

Saturday, March 25, 2 p.m.

“Harriet Tubman: Move or Die”

Actress Gwendolyn Briley-Strand will perform a presentation as Ms. Tubman followed, by a question and answer session. Ms. Strand will display an exhibit, **“The Portals Through Time,”** about Miss Tubman on the Eastern shore, in Auburn, New York and the people with whom she interacted.

Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

17th annual Fairfax Civil War Day

Living history programs, infantry and cannon firings, scholarly talks, military drills, historic house tours, Civil War music, wagon rides, youth activities, barbecue and more! Admission: \$5/adults; \$3/youth, 12 and under.

Saturday, May 20, 2 p.m.

“Loudoun Boundary Line and Stuart’s Significant Achievement”

Local historians Jim Lewis and Chuck Mauro will discuss the creation of the Loudoun County/Fairfax County line and will then chronicle J.E.B. Stuart’s onerous journey through our area on June 27, 1863, impacting his arrival time at Gettysburg.

Volunteers and Docents are sought for the city’s historic buildings: Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer 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 Susan.Gray@fairfaxva.gov, or call **703-385-8415**.

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 Susan.Gray@fairfaxva.gov or call **703-385-8414**.

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**.

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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.

Fairfax News of 50 Years Ago

Fairfax City OKs 75 Townhouses

A 75-unit townhouse project has been approved for construction on a seven-acre tract across from the Fairfax County Library headquarters, two blocks north of the county court house.

Zoning for the development was granted to Washington Landowner Irving S. Lichtman by a 4 to 2 vote of the Fairfax City Council last night.

Units averaging \$35,000 are proposed for the site between Chain Bridge Road and University Drive directly east of the home of Fairfax City Mayor Edgar A. Prichard, who spoke in favor of the project.

Editor Note: This is The Mews townhome development.

Evening Star, November 2, 1966, p. B-4, c. 8

100 Years Ago

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, VA.

Fairfax Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, held its December meeting with Mrs. Howard A. Flecher, Mrs. Claude Wiley presiding. Plans were made to provide Christmas baskets for needy widows of Confederate veterans in Fairfax county, and a play was given at the town hall Friday evening to obtain funds for the purpose.

Evening Star, December 17, 1916, p. 78, c. 1.

150 Years Ago

"REWARD" OF KINDNESS.—Two young women (white) applied to the citizens of Fairfax Court House, about two weeks ago for work, and were kindly taken in by Mrs. Judge Thomas, and Miss Nancy Allison, respectively. On last Saturday night they repaid their benefactresses by taking *them* in—decamping with sundry articles of their clothing. Constable Jno. H. Thomas, with commendable professional zeal, pursued and overtook them and brought them back to the Court House, where they were committed to jail. They managed to destroy most of the clothing, when caught, tearing up dresses with malignant spite.

Alexandria Gazette, November 28, 1866, p. 3, c. 1.

200 Years Ago

NOTICE

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,
YOU are hereby notified that the District Tax, for 1816, has become due and payable, and that attendance will be given to receive the same at the following times and places, viz:

At Fairfax C. House on Monday, the 21st of October,

And that correct copies of the Tax Lists remain with the principal assessor of this Collection District open to the inspection of any person who may apply to inspect the same.

JOHN LITTLEJOHN, Collector
of the Revenue for the 2nd Collection
District of Va.

Alexandria Herald, October 28, 1816, p. 4, c. 3

sufficient force at his command, he will call on Capt. Baker, at Vienna, for men.

James I. Ferree

Act. Supt. 5th District Va.”²

*“Headquarters Military Governor
Alexandria, Va., October 10, 1865*

Lieut. Smith

Asst. Supt. & C.

Lieut.

The bearer of this is, Amelia Bolding from Washington, D.C., she has a little niece, at one Mr. R. Ford’s of Fairfax Court House, who refuses to give up the little girl. If it is so that you can, please send one soldier & have him take the child from Mr. Ford & deliver her to this woman. If you can it would be well to send her to the C.H. in your wagon. Then send her to the station.

I am, Lieut.

Very Respectfully &c.

J.W. Bushong

Actg. Supt, 5th Dist., Va.”³

However, as a direct result of the Emancipation Proclamation thousands of slaves fled to the freedom of Union lines. Unfortunately, their situation quickly became dire as there was no specific provision for their relief or assistance by the United States.

In March 1863, under intense pressure from northern abolitionist groups, Congress established the American Freedmen’s Inquiry Commission. This commission was charged with investigating the status, condition and capacity of the former slaves freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. The three member commission traveled to Union occupied areas of the South, where they interviewed many former slaves and Union field commanders and witnessed, firsthand, the deplorable conditions of the freedmen. In June 1863, the Commission made a report to

Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and recommended that the government help support the former slaves in their transition to life as freedmen.⁴

Congress took up the issue in January 1864, when a bill establishing a “*Bureau of Freedmen’s Affairs*”⁵ was introduced. After more than a year of debate, President Lincoln signed a bill establishing the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands on March 3, 1865. Popularly known as the Freedmen’s Bureau, the new agency was established within the War Department and was “*to continue during the present war of rebellion and for one year thereafter.*” The powers of the new agency were very broad and included the “*supervision and management of all abandoned [and confiscated] lands and the control of all subjects relating to refugees and freedmen from rebel states.*” Interestingly, poor whites were also included in the legislation and were to be assisted by the new bureau.

The new agency was to be headed by a commissioner, with assistant commissioners, “*for each of the states declared to be in insurrection.*” The commissioner and assistant commissioners were all to be appointed by the President. The act further authorized the Secretary of War to immediately issue such provisions, food, clothing, shelter, and fuel as he deemed necessary for the “*suffering and destitute refugees.*”⁶ In addition to providing these basic necessities, the Freedmen’s Bureau attempted to assist former slaves in locating lost relatives, legalizing slave marriages, settling labor disputes (usually with whites), and negotiating labor contracts.

*“To the Agent at the Freedman’s Bureau,
Fairfax Court House, Va.*

Sir-

I write this on behalf of a colored man named Wm. Dotson, a native of Virginia and formerly a slave of Commodore [Thomas ap Catesby] Jones, brother of Commodore Roger Jones, who is particularly anxious to discover the whereabouts of his family connections, to wit:

His mother, Rachel Dotson, belonging to Com. Jones and raised all his children namely... Mark, Mary, and Martha. This affectionate son who is anxious to her of the family connections and whether they are living or dead, and if not the latter would be glad to communicate with them.

According to the recollections of Wm. Dotson...he had two brothers, Robert and David, of whom he has never heard anything and is particularly anxious to learn something of them. If they are living and he can communicate with them in any manner, he is still willing to do the duty of a son and a relative and asks that you be kind enough to attend to this matter as it is well known that the family of Commodore Jones of the U.S. Navy [is from Fairfax].

The colored man applying to me appears to be, and I have no doubt is, a man of fine humane feelings and I would be glad to be the means of serving him in any way and hope that he may be able to discover his long lost relations.

*Yours respectfully,
Robt. P. Flemming
Editor of the Jefferson Journal”⁷*

*“Headquarters 5th Dist. Va.
Alex., Va., September 2, 1865*

Capt. G.A. Armes, Supt. &c.

The bearer, Tekoa Seals, col’d., complains that a Mrs. Farr, Farrell, or some such name, is trying to collect rent of her for the time period that she (the owner) was off in the rebel lines.

You will see that no rent is collected for such time, and that Tekoa Seals is not molested by the said Mrs. Farr, or any one acting for her until the matter is decided at these Head Quarters.

*Respectfully, &c.
James I. Ferree
Act. Supt. 5th Dist. Va.”⁸*

The task of the new agency was monumental. At the time, there was no tradition in the United States of the government taking responsibility for the welfare of any of its citizens, much less the bureaucracy to administer such programs. From the start, the Freedman’s Bureau was underfunded and understaffed. The Bureau employed less than 1,000 people, at its peak, to attend to the welfare of approximately 4 million former slaves. In addition, the Bureau was staffed by soldiers who were woefully unprepared to act as social workers. Some Freedmen Bureau staff were incompetent or even corrupt. However, most were diligent, hardworking and brave. Southerner whites resented the meddling of the Bureau and were often openly hostile to the Freedmen’s Bureau agents and the freedmen themselves.

To illustrate the feeling of some whites toward the Freedmen and the Bureau, 1st Lt. Marcus. S. Hopkins, Freedmen’s Bureau agent for Prince William County, wrote to his superiors following an incident between a white man and a former black Union soldier:

“To show you the state of feeling here among many people, (not all) in regard to such a transaction, Dr. C. H. Lambert, the practicing physician of this place, followed the freedman to me, and said, that: ‘Subdued and miserable as we are, we will not allow niggers to come among us and brag about having been in the Yankee army. It is as much as we can do to tolerate it in white men.’ He thought, ‘It would be a good lesson to the niggers &c. &c.’ I have heard many similar, and some more violent remarks, on this, and other subjects connected with the

*freedmen. ...They hold an insane malice against the freedman, from which he must be protected, or he is worse off than when he was a slave.”*⁹

While the powers of the new agency were very broad, they did not specifically address the one critical thing that most freed slaves desired, aside from their freedom, above all else. The one thing that had been denied them, by law, in every southern state for centuries – access to an education. Consequently, in December 1865 the Freedmen Bureau Bill was amended to include, among other things, specific authority for the commissioner to acquire land for erection of “*suitable buildings for asylums and schools*” for the freedmen. In February 1866, President Andrew Johnson, who had succeeded President Lincoln following his assassination in April 1865, vetoed the bill stating, in part:

*“The Congress of the United States has never heretofore thought itself empowered to establish asylums.... It has never founded schools for any class of our own people....”*¹⁰

The Congress overrode the President’s veto in July 1866 and the provisions of the amended Freedmen’s Bill, including the establishment of schools for the freedmen became law.

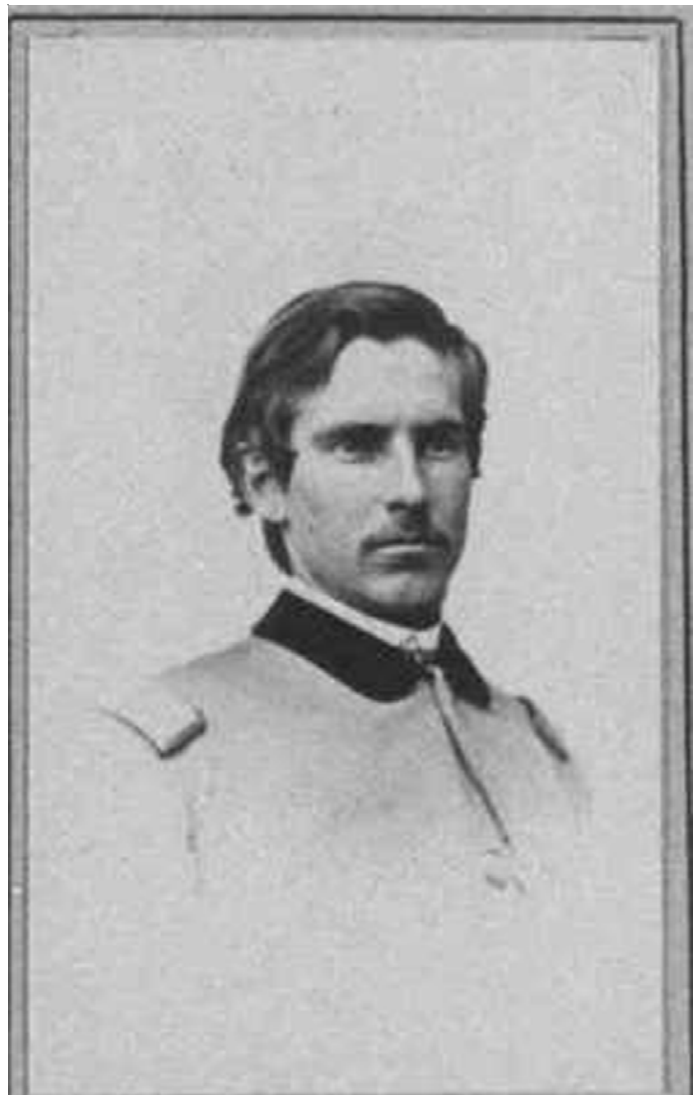
“A Calamity to the Freedmen”

Captain George Augustus Armes, age 21, became the first assistant sub-assistant commissioner, of the Fairfax County sub-district, in July 1865. Armes, was a native of the Annandale area of Fairfax County, and a veteran of the Union Army. He established his headquarters at Fairfax Court House in the home of Mrs. Martha Ann Moss,¹¹ the widow of former Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk, Thomas Moss. The Moss home stood on the block comprised of Court Street (Sager Avenue), East Street, South Street and Mechanic Street (University Drive). Armes had intended to stay in the home of Mrs. Henry Wirt Thomas. However,

the Thomas’ had recently returned to Fairfax Court House after spending the war years in Richmond as refugees.

In the summer of 1865, all buildings constructed by the Union Army in Fairfax County were to be conveyed to the Freedmen’s Bureau for the use by the freedmen. This included the substantial number of buildings at Fairfax Station and Vienna, which were to be dismantled and reconstructed elsewhere in the county as housing and schools. In an inventory of the buildings at Fairfax Station and Vienna conducted by Captain George A. Armes the buildings at Fairfax Station included:

“...nine (9) huts, one (1) railroad platform, two (2) stables, nine (9) block houses, one



Captain George Augustus Armes, Sub-Assistant Commissioner, Freedmen's Bureau, Fairfax County, Virginia, Aug. to Sept. 1865.

Photo credit: Unknown

*(1) store house, one (1) mess & grain house, three (3) log houses, six (6) buildings & stockades, two (2) officer's quarters, four (4) gun platforms, consisting of 60,625 feet of boards, 9,675 feet of plank, 5,450 feet of timber, 8,000 shingles, 1,800 feet of lineal stockade scantling, 6,800 feet of lumber... This will be of great value to the Bureau, as it is near the stations and convenient for the Freedmen."*¹²

In the summer of 1865, Thomas R. Love returned to Fairfax Court House to find his home, *Dunleith*, and all of his farm buildings completely destroyed.¹³ On September 6, 1865, he requested the assistance of Capt. Armes in recovering approximately 100,000 bricks which comprised his former home and farm buildings. The bricks had been taken by Union soldiers during the war to build chimneys and small shelters at Fairfax Court House. Armes was not at all sympathetic. In fact, Armes had already sold or given some "4 or 5 thousand" bricks to the Freedmen.¹⁴

*"I have made arrangements to build chimneys to the Freedmen's Houses & Schools House. I purpose putting here & if there are any of them left after I fix up suitable buildings, quarters &c., I will let him have them. Mr. Love left his farm buildings & everything and went south amongst the Rebels and now comes back a Union man and thinks he ought to have everything the same as if nothing happened."*¹⁵

Armes did certify that 100,000 bricks were used by the Bureau taken from the premises of Thomas R. Love and belonged to him for which had not received compensation.¹⁶

George Armes was also ordered to furnish a list to the Bureau "of all places in your sub-district where, in your judgement not less than fifty (50) colored children can be convened for the purpose of a school."¹⁷ This apparently not done as such a list was not found.

During his brief tenure as Assistant Superintendent, George Armes received a number of complaints from citizens.

Lawrence & Sarah Kearney,¹⁸ both Irish immigrants, had come to Fairfax Court House in May 1864 with the 16th New York Cavalry. Sarah Kearney was employed as a cook for the officer's mess.¹⁹ Lawrence Kearney was a U.S. Army veteran of the 2nd Seminole War in Florida in the 1840's. In July 1865, the Kearney's were granted a license to keep an ordinary in their home at Fairfax Court House. When the license was issued they were apparently told that they were "subject to all military orders relating to the sales of liquors."²⁰ Military orders at the time strictly forbade the sale of liquor to soldiers. In early September 1865, Capt. Armes discovered his orderly so drunk that he could not attend to his duties and that the Kearney's had sold him the liquor. Capt. Armes sent for the Kearney's and advised them that they were in violation of orders against selling liquor to soldiers and if it happened again he would take action.

Three days later Capt. Armes found several of his men so drunk that "it was not safe for people to go through the town after dark." He sent for Mrs. Kearney who denied selling the men the liquor. He then sent for his men, who acknowledged in the presence of Mrs. Kearney that she had sold them the liquor. Armes fined the Kearney's five dollars and told them if they sold anymore liquor to his men that he would seize all of their liquor and report them to authorities in Alexandria. Mrs. Kearney became incensed and began swearing. She stated that "she had paid her license and would sell to whom she pleased."²¹

Capt. Armes then went to the Kearney home with a squad of soldiers and "took a large barrel of whiskey, some gin and a small keg of whiskey." He also seized 10 blankets as stolen federal property as they had the "U.S." mark on them. Mr. Kearney became so upset that Armes had him arrested and sent to his superior, Chaplain James I. Ferree, in Alexandria. Armes then placed a guard "over the whiskey shop also at the Union Hotel. The hotel keeper soon afterward came to see me and explained in

a satisfactory manner how he came to sell enlisted men liquor.”²²

In the meantime, at Alexandria, Lawrence Kearney related his version of the facts to Chaplin Ferree, whereupon he was released. Subsequently, Ferree issued orders for Capt. Armes to return the items taken from the Kearney’s and to remove the guard from around their home.²³ The orders further stated the:

“Capt. is informed that he is not a Provost Marshal, but an Assistant Superintendent of Freedmen, and he will in future leave such business as this to those who are Provost Marshals”²⁴

Several leading citizens of Fairfax Court House also came to the defense of the Kearney’s in the form of an affidavit:

*“Fairfax Court House, Va.
September 15th 1865*

We the undersigned citizens of the Town of Fairfax Court House certify that we have never seen any disorderly conduct at Mr. Laurence Kearney’s as has been reported:

*W.R. Chapman G.W. Gaines
Joseph Whitehead A.I. Mills
Geo. H. Williams A.T. Willcoxon
T.J. Murray Thomas Martin
William H. Pettitt F.D. Richardson”²⁵
David A. Steele*

In January 1866, Kearney filed suit against Armes in Fairfax County Circuit Court for Trespass. His complaint stated the Armes had:

‘laid hold of him and with great force and violence pulled and dragged him about...and struck him a great many violent blows and strokes...and compelled him...out...of his store and dwelling...and into the public street...and the said Armes did break open and enter the store and

dwelling house...and seized 10 blankets, 45 gallons of whiskey & 3 gallons of rum...being of great value \$300...and that he and his family during all the time aforesaid, not only greatly disturbed and annoyed...but also...prevented from carrying on...affairs necessary and business...all to the damage of the plaintiff of \$1,000.00...therefore he brings this suit”²⁶

The suit appears to have been continued until September 1867, when it was dismissed.

In a another incident, Cornelius White,²⁷ a native of New York, who resided a half mile northeast of Fairfax Court House near Chain Bridge Road and Accotink Run, accused George Armes of:

“...stealing my mules.... I came back on my farm last spring, everything destroyed. No house. No furniture. I have laid out all I have for a team, and a cheap house, so this breaks me up entirely. How shall I get along now I know not. I hope you will bring the rascal to justice some way. For I think it is time, before he burns my house. For I do not feel safe at no time.”²⁸

As a consequence of these incident George Armes was relieved from duty on September 14, 1865 after only a month and a half as sub-assistant commissioner, and having been accused of: 1) use a government spring wagon and team as a conveyance to and from the Court House and Station, Tuesday, September 5, 1865, the day of the Tournament; 2) punishing Silas Jackson, a former slave, “for neglecting to feed the horses” and several negro boys, tying them to posts by their thumbs with their hands raised high behind their back, and by bucking and gagging another, all this in front of his office; 3) being intoxicated while on duty; and, 4) refusing to obey orders directing him to return the property (whiskey and blankets) of Lawrence & Sarah Kearney at Fairfax Court House. In his recommendation to Gen. O.O. Howard, Chaplain Ferree,



Capt. Sidney Byron Smith, c. 1866. Sub-assistant commissioner (Fairfax County), Freedmen's Bureau, 1867.

Photo courtesy: Archives of Michigan, Lansing, MI.

flatly stated that Captain Armes was a “calamity to the freedmen and their interests.”^{29, 30, 31}

After George Armes was relieved, Lt. Sidney Byron Smith of the 3rd Michigan Infantry, was appointed sub-assistant commissioner. He reported to Fairfax Court House on September 18, 1865. By the fall of 1865, there were approximately 130 former slaves residing at Fairfax Court House.³² Most were refugees who had come to Fairfax to be within the lines of the Union Army. Lt. Smith wrote of the conditions he encountered at Fairfax Court House upon his arrival:

“I regret to say that I found almost everything appertaining to this Bureau at this place in a very bad condition. I have as yet found no Refugees or Freedmen who were self-supporting. There are no colonies or camps in this Division where Freedmen

are congregated to any considerable number. At the place there are about one hundred and thirty (130) colored people.”³³

Fairfax Freedmen's Bureau School

“The Virginians think the negroes cannot learn, but they are mistaken.”³⁴

Almost immediately upon his arrival, Lt. Smith began urging the Bureau to establish schools for the freedmen in Fairfax County:

“Fairfax C.H., September 25th 1865 – I am desirous of operating a school here for the colored children of this place. I think if I could get a few school books I could manage all else by myself. The books should be for scholars who are just beginning. Can you advise any means for getting them?”³⁵

Lt. Smith wrote to his superior again a week later about his efforts:

“Fairfax C.H., October 1, 1865 – I have established a school here, the teachers of which are two soldiers of the 195th Ohio Vol. Inf. The children appear very intelligent and learn with remarkable rapidity. This is the only school in this Division for colored people. I would respectfully recommend that measures be taken to establish a school in this vicinity which would be permanent during the winter. The one which is already established is kept in the basement of Mrs. Morse's [Moss'] house and in all probability cannot long last.

We have had a Sabbath School here this morning which was a good one. Old and young attended.”³⁶

On September 30, 1865, Sidney Smith was ordered to relocate his office to Vienna Station on the Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad. Mrs. Moss' property at Fairfax Court

House was restored to her without “compensation for damages to the property or to rents which may have accrued.”³⁷

On October 2, 1865, Lt. Smith moved his headquarters to Vienna, Virginia. He wrote to his commander:

*“I deeply regret to leave here on account of them. They will both surely have to be dispensed with. I am interested in them both. Cannot some measures be taken to secure this house and keep the school in operation?”*³⁸

The school he started in Mrs. Moss’ cellar closed the same day.³⁹

On October 10, 1865, Smith again wrote to his superior about educating the former slaves:

“The colored people appear to be anxious that their children should attend school & often tell me that if they had books & someone to instruct them they would study nights and such other times as they had leisure. The desire for education among these people appears to be universal. Now is the time, in my opinion, for the Bureau to extend its aid to them for the acquirement of it. If I had suitable buildings at my command, together with books &c., there are soldiers here who would be glad of the privilege of teaching them.

Until the morals and education of these Freedmen are put in proper training, we have not much to expect of them. I would recommend that some measures be taken to encourage marrying among themselves. I often find male and female living together as man and wife, who have never been married and who appear to have a very vague idea of marriage. Until these evils and vices are remedied, we have but little to

*expect better of them. I have been here to inform you where schools could be located to the best advantage, but one at Fairfax C.H. and Fairfax Station should be attended to at once.”*⁴⁰

Over the next two months Lt. Smith wrote often about the need for schools for freedmen in Fairfax County. On November 30, 1865, in frustration he wrote:

*“In reply to your communication of the 29th inst. requesting me to forward without delay school report for November 1865. I have the honor to inform you that there are no schools for colored children in this county. I assure you Chaplain, that I deeply regret that I have no school to report to you.”*⁴¹

Sidney Smith was in communication with the Philadelphia Society of Friends (aka Quakers) seeking their assistance with the establishment of schools for the freedmen in Fairfax County. In December 1865 the following appeared in the *Friends Intelligencer*, a periodical of the Philadelphia Society of Friends:

*“Lieut. Smith, assistant superintendent for Fairfax County, Va., says that all the refugees and freedmen there are self-supporting, and no camps for either now exist. There is not a school in the county, although there are one hundred and thirty five freedmen in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House, fifty at the Station, and the same number at Lewinsville. The behavior of the people is in every way exemplary, and few cases of oppression have come to his notice. Education is the greatest want.”*⁴²

In January 1866, Sidney B. Smith wrote to the justices of the Fairfax County Circuit Court seeking permission to:

“...use the brick house which stands near the courthouse and which is unoccupied, for the purpose of establishing a school for



Capt. John A. Ross, Sub-Assistant Commissioner, Freedmen's Bureau, Fairfax County, Virginia, March 1866 to November 1866.
Photo credit: CDV from the Collection of Ralph Baughn.

colored children there.” He added that, “as officers of the same great Government – both civil and military – I trust that the necessity of co-operation between us, for the good of the freed people and for our own good too, will be sufficient incentive to overcome all feelings of a minor consideration which may perhaps be entertained by either party.”⁴³

In February 1866, Sidney B. Smith was mustered out of the service. He was succeeded by Captain John A. Ross, a white officer, of Co. K, 107th United States Colored Troops

(U.S.C.T.). The headquarters of the Freedmen’s Bureau in Fairfax County, remained at Vienna Station.

In March 1866, Jacob M. Ellis of the Philadelphia Society of Friends travelled to Vienna, accompanied by Mary Elizabeth McBride, age 19, of Philadelphia. Mary had been engaged by the society as a teacher “*to locate at any point where a prospect opened of being useful.*”⁴⁴

At Vienna, they met Captain Ross, with whom Ellis had established a correspondence prior to their arrival. Together, the three travelled around Fairfax County, in a four-horse ambulance, scouting suitable school sites for Fairfax County freedmen and for boarding arrangements for Mary McBride. On their journey, Jacob Ellis described what he saw:

“Desolation has truly stamped its impress everywhere around us. The tillers of the soil are for the most part fenceless.... Chimneys are to be seen without houses; charred stumps of trees; and indeed whole woods have been either cut or burned down. In most places in this section, so complete has this kind of desolation been, that there is not enough wood left to fence the ground. Efforts at resuscitation however, are beginning to show themselves here and there; occasionally a short panel of new fence may be seen, though in most instances there is nothing more than an impromptu one, made of the tops of pine trees driven down diagonally and crossing each other.”⁴⁵

RECEIPTS FROM GOVERNMENT SALES.

The total receipts from the sales of stockades, sheds, stables, abattis, &c., at Fairfax Court House, Flint Hill, Peach Grove, and Prospect Hill, Va., belonging to the Government, amounted to \$3,318.25. The main and most valuable buildings at Fairfax Court House and Flint Hill were not offered for sale, but were turned over to the Freedmen’s Bureau.

Evening Star, September 1, 1865, p. 2, c. 5.



A teacher and her students outside a Freedmen's School known as James Plantation School, Pitt County, North Carolina, c. 1868. This school would have very similar to the one at Fairfax Court House. Photo credit: Unknown.

The federal government was then in the process of selling surplus lumber and property, including Union Army and government buildings, at various locations in Fairfax County.⁴⁶ It was decided to move an existing log building at Fairfax Station to Fairfax Court House for use as a school. The building selected was a hewn-log structure, "16 ft. wide by 25 ft. long," with a dirt floor.⁴⁷ Jacob Ellis wrote to the *Friends Intelligencer*:

"The building appropriated for a school was all well enough, but I could not conscientiously ask any lady to locate there [Fairfax Station] with all the repulsive surroundings. ...The Captain again thought with me, and then offered, if we could find a lot for the school-house, and board for our teacher at Fairfax Court House...he would move the building there. ...The opinion had always been entertained that it would be almost impossible to establish a colored school at the place, to such an extent does the spirit of rebellion still exist thither.

...The next day, saw a site selected for the school house at 'Fairfax Court-house,' and the building at the 'Station' sufficiently demolished to commence its removal to the first named place. It is to be rebuilt on a little spot of ground facing the turnpike, and

*although there are no trees immediately shading it, there will be shade close by. The ground belongs to a Union man, but as the devastations of war have in many instances very much impoverished such as he, we have agreed to pay him a nominal rent annually for the use of it."*⁴⁸

*"The school house belongs to the colored people but stands on Mr. Sagar's ground without rent, which he says it may continue so long as they will keep up the fence around it. Mr. Sagar is a good man & a true friend to these poor people."*⁴⁹

The Fairfax Court House Freedmen's Bureau School was located on the south side of Little River Turnpike (Main Street) "*1/4 mile east of the C.H. ...on Mr. Sagar's land.*"⁵⁰ Andrew Jefferson Sager owned 285-acres of land adjoining Fairfax Court House.⁵¹ A comprehensive review of the land records of Fairfax County indicates that Sager's land began approximately where Daniel's Run crosses Main Street.⁵² Therefore, the approximate location of the school was between the east bank of Daniels Run (at Main Street) and the present Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center. The school was likely situated very close to the Daniels Run floodplain. This assumption is supported by a surviving repair contract






Main Street at Daniels Run looking southeast. The Fairfax Court House Freedmen's Bureau School was located on the opposite side of the street, likely in the Daniel's Run floodplain.

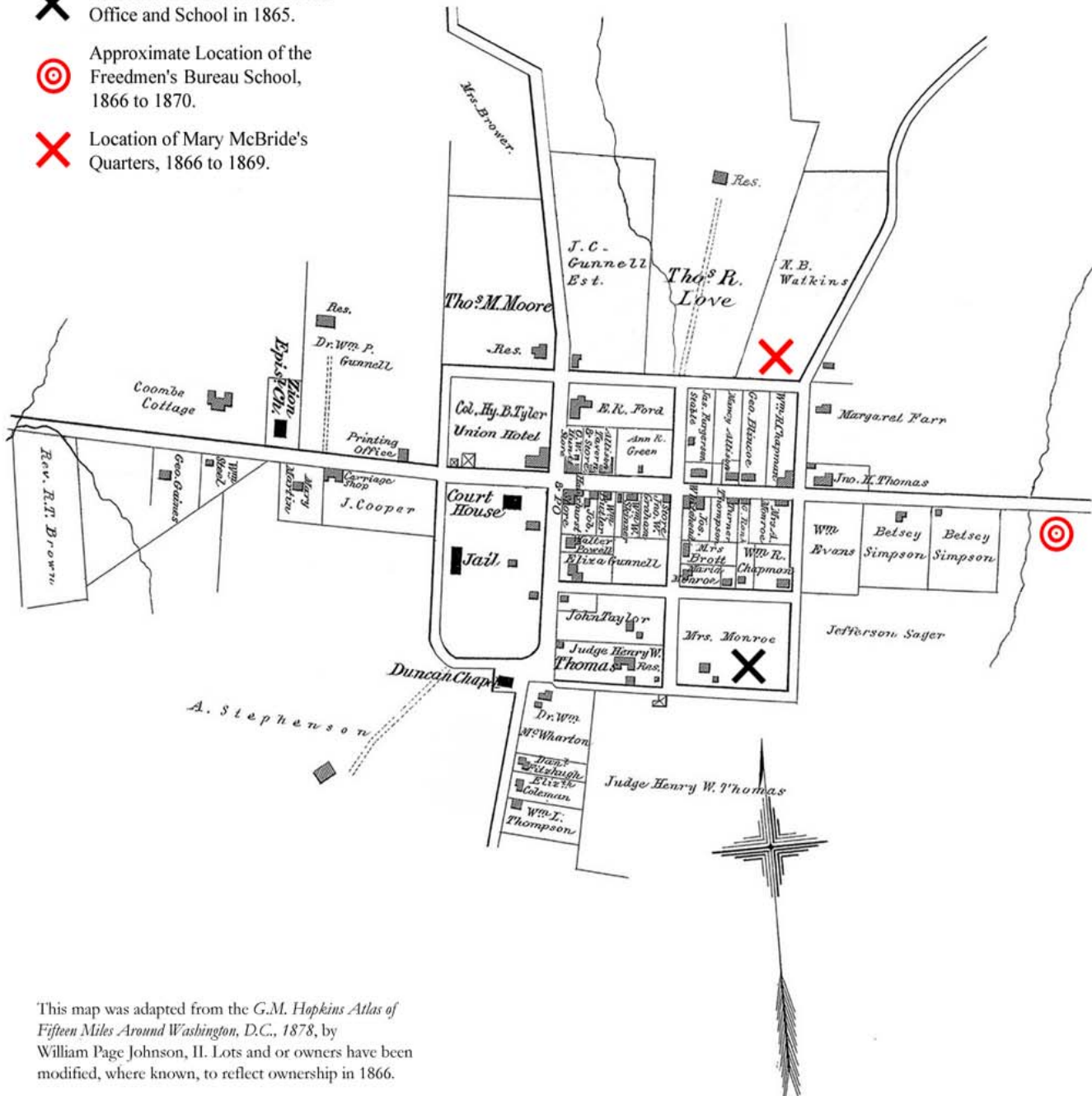
Photo Credit: Page Johnson

FAIRFAX C.H.

C. 1866

Scale 300 feet to an Inch.

-  Location of Freedmen's Bureau Office and School in 1865.
-  Approximate Location of the Freedmen's Bureau School, 1866 to 1870.
-  Location of Mary McBride's Quarters, 1866 to 1869.



This map was adapted from the *G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C., 1878*, by William Page Johnson. II. Lots and or owners have been modified, where known, to reflect ownership in 1866.

for the school which seems to indicate that it was built on a hillside *“he will...provide slabs and put them up all around the house so the same can be banked up with earth.”*⁵³

On March 26, 1866, Capt. Ross wrote to his superior in Alexandria:

*“I am building a school house at Fairfax C.H., will have a school started in four or five days. I think there will be an average attendance of fifty (50).”*⁵⁴

The building at Fairfax Station was dismantled and reconstructed at Fairfax Court House by members of the 107th U.S.C.T. under the supervision of Capt. John Ross. The log structure was small with few windows, but drafty due the chinking between the logs being inadequate. The interior of the building was open. The school was furnished with desks and benches constructed of rough planks by a soldier of the 107th U.S.C.T.⁵⁵

While the school building was being reconstructed at Fairfax Court House, arrangements were made for Mary McBride to board with a *“Mrs. Watkins.”*⁵⁶ This was likely Napoleon B. and Virginia Watkins who maintained a residence in Fairfax Court House. Napoleon Watkins was a native of New York who had immigrated to Virginia with his parents, Elida & Clorine Deyo Watkins, about 1840. Napoleon had married Virginia Willcoxon, the daughter of Fairfax Court House tavern owner, Rezin Willcoxon. The couple resided on a ten-acre parcel on the northeast corner of North Street and the Falls Church Road (where the Fairfax City Regional Library is now located). Virginia had received this parcel in the distribution of her father’s estate.⁵⁷ Jacob Ellis wrote to the *Friends Intelligencer* of the difficulties encountered in finding suitable boarding arrangements for Mary McBride:

*“...our first application for board was made to a gentleman who is the proprietor of a large boarding-school.”*⁵⁸ *He met us very blandly, but his excuses for not accommodating us were as awkward as they*

were amusing. He was an Englishman; his daughter had married a Virginian, and they thought of the Negro as other people did (without, however informing us what that opinion was). There might be some feeling arising in the matter, and he did not think it would suit. Besides this, he had pretty much given up the establishment to his wife and daughter, (whom, however, he did not offer to consult.) When the John Brown raid passed through there he had eighty scholars, in consequence of which it fell off to twenty....

*Upon leaving, he gave us at our request the names of two or three in the neighborhood who might possibly accommodate us. These all proved to be sound Union people. The first was the postmaster, who has a deep interest in our undertaking, would do all he could to forward it, but whose family is so situated they cannot take a border.”*⁵⁹ *A very cordial invitation, however, was given our teacher to mingle with them in social intercourse. He sent us to a widow lady, who has been thoroughly loyal throughout the war, and whose name our ‘Englishman’ had already given us; and there we were successful.*

For much, I might say almost all, of the successful results that have been attained, are we indebted to Captain. Ross. He was ever ready to second any suggestion or effort, and I desire to record my appreciation of his kindness and his services. To some of my acknowledgments of this character, his response was, that he was sufficiently rewarded with any success attained; that he was determined to have schools if possible, and must exert himself to that effect during the short time he would be likely to remain in service, as it is rumored his company is

*soon to be mustered out. ...so earnest is he on the subject of education he had been teaching a school in his camp this winter, and, as some of his men show, with considerable success.”*⁶⁰

Although the Watkins resided relatively close to the school, Mary wrote of “wading through ice, snow, mud and rain for a mile, and experiencing considerable difficulty in crossing swollen brooks.”⁶¹

The Fairfax Court House Freedmen’s School was completed by April 1866 and Mary McBride took up new duties. Almost immediately she began to be harassed and intimidated by the local white citizens.

*“Miss McBride commenced this school under great disadvantages...and has persistently and with more than common courage fought a cowardly prejudice extended her ‘nigger school’ by the chivalry.”*⁶²

One evening a group of drunken men, one of whom was named Fox and all allegedly former confederate soldiers of Mosby’s command, visited the Watkins home. The men demanded that Mrs. Watkins turn over the teacher of the “nigger school.” They stated their intention to “tar and

THE RECONSTRUCTED AT FAIRFAX COURT-HOUSE.—An intelligent and patriotic lady from Philadelphia, commenced, a few days ago, a school at Fairfax Court-house, in which she was trying to enlist forty or fifty colored children. Some of the chivalrous sons of the reconstructed in that place, and among their number a son of Judge Thomas, took it upon themselves a duty to put a stop to a proceeding so distasteful to their dignity by throwing stones at the teacher as she passed to and from the school-house, whereupon the military authorities were notified of their conduct, and a squad of cavalry soon made their appearance in the village, but were unable to arrest the offending parties, they having left this county for their country’s good.—*Virginia State Journal*.

Daily National Republican April 19, 1866, p. 3, c. 3.

A statement having appeared in print, to the effect that a son of Judge H. W. Thomas, of Fairfax, was, among others, engaged in stoning and otherwise maltreating a lady from Philadelphia, engaged at the Court House in organizing a negro school, it may be proper to state, upon good authority, that two or three little boys, between the ages of 10 and 12 years, threw some pebbles at the teacher and her pupils as they marched in procession through the village—a merely childish trick, out of which has been manufactured the statement referred to.

Alexandria Gazette, April 18, 1866, p. 3, c. 3.

feather” her.^{63, 64, 65} When Mrs. Watkins indicated the teacher was not at home, stones were then thrown at the house. Mary McBride also had stones thrown at her as she walked to and from the school. After these incidents, Capt. Ross was compelled to station a guard at Fairfax C.H. for over a month to protect Mary and to keep her schoolhouse from being destroyed.⁶⁶

Jacob M. Ellis wrote of these incidents in the *Friends Intelligencer*:

“She has met with considerable opposition and indignity, accompanied with threats of personal violence, the latter, however, confined to a plentiful throwing of stones at her, on one or two occasions, on her way to the school-house. Notwithstanding this, she perseveres with a firm and dignified determination, will not give up the work unless forced to do so by the ‘authorities,’ and has now forty pupils in attendance, with good progress. From the seeds thus sown good fruit must certainly be produced, and we cannot but desire her encouragement, Much sympathy has been felt and expressed for her in her trying position, accompanied with the hope and belief that the offenders themselves will ere long become ashamed

There was an examination of the children charged with stoning the school mistress at Fairfax Court House last week, in that Village day before yesterday, at which the military authorities were present. The result of the examination was that one little boy had thrown some pebbles at the lady; and that some drunken men, for whose conduct the citizens are not responsible, and utterly condemn, went to the house of the lady in question one night some time ago, and threatened her.

Alexandria Gazette, April 21, 1866, p. 3, c. 2.

of their conduct, and desist from annoying her.”⁶⁷

Mary was determined to make her school a success and she asserted:

“There is certainly a great deal of talk, but that troubles me very little. There are some things that are very unpleasant here for me, but I am determined to stay here until sent by the proper authorities into another field, or dismissed the service entirely.” She further remarks: “It is not labor for me, as some would call it; I love the work.”⁶⁸

The children at the Fairfax Court House Freedmen’s School adored their teacher. In a letter to Jacob Ellis, Mary McBride wrote:

“How pleasant it is to return after absence and find you have been greatly missed, and your appearance hailed with delight. Last Sabbath was reception day with me; at one time I counted fifteen colored visitors, some cried, some laughed, and others looked their happiness – their faces beamed with joy. Some of my children told me yesterday they ‘knew I would come back,’ ‘Why?’ ‘Because we prayed for you night and morning!’ I sincerely hope their prayers will not be vain in other respects. It made me happy to know these poor children had not forgotten

to pray for their teacher while absent. I was soon installed in my old log school-house, surrounded by my dusky flock, all eager, attentive, and glad to get back to school.”⁶⁹

Mary was equally fond of her students:

“I am quite proud of my pupils. A number of them take particular pride in dressing neatly and nicely, and looking like ladies, two of them especially, in the first class. They are good, faithful girls, in whom I have every confidence, and I think in the future they will be able to take entire charge of the school. They are good spellers and readers, write well, and talk grammatically. A number of the young ladies at the boarding school here do not read or write as well as four of the girls in my first class.”⁷⁰

In the same letter she also alludes to another pupil, a daughter of the village blacksmith, nine years of age, who kept her father’s books, and did all his writing, much to the astonishment of the people of Fairfax Court House.

Several children had to walk as much as five miles, each way, to attend the Freedmen’s School at Fairfax Court House. Many students attended irregularly. Through necessity, they were hired out by their parents as laborers, especially during the spring planting season and fall harvest. Many students were also without adequate shoes and clothing, even in the winter months. Consequently, illness was also a cause for absence from school. Early in 1867, Mary McBride reported “two pupils removed by death” and that “attendance has been lessened by sickness.”⁷¹

But in spite of all the hardships, the students were grateful for the opportunity of an education. In spring of 1867, they wrote to their benefactors:

“To the Philadelphia Association of Friends:

Ladies and Gentlemen – In the name of the pupils of the colored school of Fairfax C.H. we the undersigned beg leave to thank you

for your kindness to us, not only in sending the clothing and gifts, but also in provending us a teacher, books, &c., for a school. We can simply say 'thank you,' and endeavor by our future behavior and improvement to prove that 'actions speak louder than words.'"

*The above was signed by twenty-one of the pupils, the teacher penciling the ages opposite each name, Their ages range from 8 to 16 years – the writer of the address being only thirteen."*⁷²

The Freedmen's Bureau and the schools in Fairfax County continued to be a target of vandals. In September 1866, Capt. Ross' own quarters in Vienna were destroyed by fire. Arson was suspected.⁷³ That fall the school house at Frying Pan was also burned down by arsonists and the school and church building at Lewinsville was partially destroyed by a mob.⁷⁴

On October 17, 1866, Capt. Ross reported to his superior:

"The principal work of the Bureau in this county since January 1, 1866, has been settling claims and locating schools. During which time many claims have been settled and eight schools located. The colored people being very illiterate and but little capable of making an agreement, the white people take all the advantage of them they possibly can often defrauding them of their hard earnings. A number of Freedmen have been severely assaulted by the late so-called Confederate States soldiers. Some of the cases have been tried by civil authorities and I am not aware of their having punished any of the defendants. Most invariable if a colored man wishes to get a warrant of a magistrate for the arrest of parties committing depredations upon them. I am compelled to intercede on their behalf as



Major Orrin E. Hine, 50th New York Engineers, Assistant Superintendent, (Fairfax County) Bureau of Freeman, Refugees and Abandoned Lands.

Photo credit: Unknown, c. 1865.

*but few of the magistrates will do anything for the colored people unless they are compelled."*⁷⁵

On November 6, 1866, the 107th U.S.C.T. was mustered out of service. As a result, Captain John A. Ross was succeeded by Orrin E. Hine, of the 50th New York Infantry. In a final goodwill gesture, Capt. Ross requested 1,500 feet of plank, 200 feet of scantling and 8 window sashes and glass for the repairing of the school house at Fairfax Court House.⁷⁶

Mary was assisted in her duties by Alice Sutton, of Fairfax Court House. Alice was a member of the Society



Winfield Scott Chase, Assistant Sub-assistant Commissioner (Fairfax County), Freedmen's Bureau, 1867-'68.

Photo credit: Unknown.

of Friends in Fairfax County.⁷⁷ Another assistant at the Fairfax Court House school was Maggie Lewis, a former student of the school. Maggie wrote the following letter to the Society of Friends:

"To my benefactors, the Association of Friends of Philadelphia:

I am very grateful to you for all that you have done for me; and I will try to do as well as I can to deserve it. My education is, as you know, very poor yet, but I will endeavor to do the best of my ability with the scholars which Miss Mary has placed under me to teach them. My own tasks I study as good as I can, but I do not always know them as well as I would like to. I get along very well with my scholars, and I hope

that I shall do my part with them. My parents also desire to be remembered gratefully to you for your kindness to us.

*Yours, respectfully,
Maggie Lewis"*⁷⁸

Mary McBride apparently suffered from some type of affliction of her eyes, which was serious enough to impair her vision and to periodically prevent her from teaching.^{79,80} During these intervals, the students were under the direction of Maggie Lewis.

2nd Lt. William Shields succeeded Orrin E. Hine on February 23, 1867.⁸¹ In April 1867, Lt. William Shields wrote to his superiors of the condition of the schools in Fairfax County:

*"The school houses are totally inadequate to accommodate the scholars. Most of them are very low, built of logs and mud, poorly ventilated, miserably furnished, and so small that half the scholars must remain outside while the other half recites. Some of them have neither locks nor hinges on the doors."*⁸²

Lt. Shields was subsequently succeeded by 2nd Lt. Winfield Scott Chase of the 18th Veterans Reserve Corps in the summer of 1867. Systematic harassment of the freedmen was on the rise. Lt. W.S. Chase wrote ominously about a new organization:

*"The organization called the "Ku Klux Klan is said to be in full operation here and will, no doubt, show itself on the next election."*⁸³

*"The Freedman's Bureau are now engaged in organizing schools in Fairfax County, Va., for the use of the negroes. One is already in operation at Fairfax Court House, with fifty scholars. Schools are soon to be started at Dranesville and other points in that section of the State."*⁸⁴

Also during 1867, Mary McBride helped establish Providence Lodge No. 3, of the Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.).⁸⁵

Mary wrote of this accomplishment in a letter to Jacob Ellis:

*“Two other ladies and myself have started a Temperance Society at Fairfax. We prepared a paper and sent it amongst the citizens. Some of the very first names annexed were those of the leading rebels of the place, notwithstanding the appeal bore my signature. One or two of the lower classes objected on that account. However, we have fully succeeded; have over thirty members, at which I am so rejoiced, as whiskey has been the ruin of this part of the country. The Southern ladies will not unite with us; in fact, they rather encourage moderate drinking; and I know of one young gentleman who has quite lost caste with them since he joined the ‘Yankee Society,’ as they term it.”*⁸⁶

As a “Worthy Templar” Mary pledged total abstinence from spirituous liquor,⁸⁷ and “*To safely keep all money of the Lodge, and pay the same only on the order of the Worthy Chief Templar and Worthy Secretary.*”⁸⁸

It is likely that at about this time she met and developed a relationship with Clarence Clarendville Ford, the son of Fairfax merchant Edward R. & Julia Ford. Mary and Clarence were married in Washington, D.C. on January 29, 1869. They returned to Fairfax and resided with Bleeker Canfield. Mary appears not to have told Jacob Ellis of her marriage as she continued to sign her name as “*Mary E. McBride*” on her school reports.

The Freedmen’s Schools in Fairfax County, in particular the teachers, were entirely dependent on funding from the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, who in turn relied on donations from their membership and the public.

It was a constant struggle to pay the teachers and keep the schools in good repair and open. When Mary received the news that her school would be continued for the 1868-69 term she was delighted:

*“Yours of the 2d received, and read with the usual interest. The news therein contained regarding the continuance of the school another term, I read to the assembled pupils. It was some time before I could command order again, they were so delighted; nor did I try very hard,—I thought they had cause for a little jubilee. The news was very unexpected to them, as they had made up their minds ‘for the worst,’ as they termed it.”*⁸⁹

In January 1870, Henry M. Laing, Treasurer of the Friends Association for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen announced that that the association had “*an exhausted treasury*” and could not pay “*moneys due the teachers of our thirteen schools.*”⁹⁰

In April 1870, Jacob Ellis, secretary of the Friends Association for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen, published what he believed would be his last report on the teachers.

*“Friends Association of Philadelphia for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen” have closed all their schools in Virginia for the present. How many will be resumed in the Fall must depend upon circumstances—prominent among which will be the amount of money contributed by Friends during the interim.”*⁹¹

The Freedmen’s School at Fairfax Court House was closed in the winter of 1870 due to lack of funding. An attempt was made to reopen the Freedmen’s Bureau School at Fairfax. Jennie Speer, the former teacher of the Freedmen’s School at Manassas, wrote to Jacob M. Ellis, Secretary of the Friends Association for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen seeking their assistance.

"Once again I come with our appeal for the colored people, feeling assured that you still feel an interest in their welfare. I suppose you are aware there is a system of "free schools" established in Virginia, but generally the salaries are too small to induce a good teacher to risk her health and pay expenses. The trustees are not generally anxious to keep up the "colored" schools, as funds are otherwise appropriated. Last winter the school here was kept but two months and then dropped. Many of the leading colored men have appealed to me to take the school, but as I could not board at home, it being two miles distant, and as board is so extravagantly high in the village, I cannot consent to do it without help from the Friends. Having had experience, I feel confident of raising the school to its former flourishing condition, though I may sacrifice some home comforts by not keeping our own neighborhood school - yet I am willing to do so.

I do not know how this will be received; you may feel that your labors have ceased in this direction, but I assure you I shall try to make it a real benefit to the school if you can aid it. If your Society can give ten dollars per month, I think the public fund will be twenty-five per month more, though it may run short; I am willing to risk the balance. The people are anxious the school

Mrs. Mary E. Ford, widow of the late Clarence C. Ford, and mother of Commonwealth's Attorney C. Vernon Ford, died in Washington Saturday morning and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery on Monday, Rev. Dr. Page of this place officiating.

Fairfax Herald, August 24, 1951, p. 6, c. 1. Reprint of August 9, 1912.



Graves of Mary and Clarence Ford, Rock Creek Cemetery, Wash., D.C.
Photo credit: Page Johnson

*shall be opened as soon as possible, so please let me hear from you as soon as possible."*⁹²

In July 1869, Virginia voters ratified a new constitution, which notably gave *all* male citizens above the age of 21 the right to vote and established a system of free schools for *all* children between the ages of 5 and 21. The new constitution took effect in January 1870. That year, the Freedmen's Bureau school at Fairfax Court House was closed. That same year a new African American free school east of, and adjacent to, the Fairfax City Cemetery was established.

Under intense pressure from southern whites, Congress dismantled the Freedmen's Bureau in 1872. The Bureau, although a relatively short-lived, understaffed and underfunded, did provide initial opportunities for African Americans. By far their most last legacy was the establishment of over 1,000 schools throughout the south and several black colleges, such as Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee⁹³ and Howard University in the District of Columbia.⁹⁴ The Freedmen's Bureau efforts also signaled the beginning of a new era of federal government intervention into the issue of social welfare for its citizens.

In Fairfax County, the Freedmen's Bureau ultimately established twelve schools at Accotink (Woodlawn), Andrew's Chapel, Centreville, Fairfax Court House, Falls Church, Frying Pan (Herndon), Big Falls (Great Falls), Gum Spring, Lewinsville, Lincoln Village (Lincolnia), Painter's (located on Ox Road 3 miles south of Fairfax Station), and Vienna.

Mary E. (McBride) Ford, the teacher of the Freedmen's School at Fairfax Court House, died August 3, 1912, in Washington, D.C., her contributions unheralded. She and Clarence are both buried in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C.⁹⁵

For additional information on the Freedmen's Bureau schools in Fairfax County, see: *Educating Freedmen During Reconstruction in Fairfax County*, Debbie Robison. Northern Virginia History Notes, December 6, 2014 (www.novahistory.org). See also *African American Education in the Town/City of Fairfax*, Fare Facs Gazette, v. 4, no. 1 (2006).

Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau in Fairfax County

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES

ALEXANDRIA

Superintendent of Contrabands

A. Gladwin Oct. 1863–June 1865

Superintendent

James I. Ferree (5th District) July–Nov. 1865

Henry E. Alvord Nov. 1865–Jan. 1866

Superintendent and Subassistant Commissioner

Samuel P. Lee Jan. 1866–Mar. 1867

Samuel P. Lee (10th Subdistrict) Mar. 1867–Dec. 1868

Superintendent

Samuel P. Lee (6th Educational Subdistrict of VA) Jan.–Apr. 1869

FAIRFAX COURTHOUSE (Fairfax County)

Assistant Superintendent

Capt. George A. Armes Aug.–Sept. 1865

Lt. Sidney B. Smith (at Vienna) Sept. 1865–Feb. 1866

Capt. John A. Ross (at Vienna) Mar. 1866

Orrin E. Hine Nov. 1866–Mar. 1867

Assistant Sub-assistant Commissioner

Lt. William J. Shields (at Falls Church) Apr.–Aug. 1867

Lt. Winfield S. Chase (at Falls Church) Aug. 1867–Apr. 1868

Lt. Winfield S. Chase (at Manassas) Apr.–Oct. 1868

John Raeburn Oct.–Dec. 1868

Henry Elijah Alvord (1844–1904) b. Greenfield, MA; Student, Norwich University at start of war; enl. 1st Sgt., 7th Squadron, Rhode Island Cavalry, June 1862; mustered out Oct. 1862; enl. at Providence, R.I., 2nd Lt. Co. K, 2nd Mass. Cav., Nov. 1862; prom. 1st Lt., Jan. 1864; prom. Capt., Oct 1864; prom. Maj. 1865; not confirmed; mustered out as Capt., Aug. 1865; Superintendent Freedmen's Bureau for Virginia July 1865 to Jan. 1866; enl. 1st Lt. 10th U.S. Cav. (Buffalo Soldiers) Jul. 1866; prom. Regt. Adj. June 1867; Capt. July 1867; Assigned to 9th U.S. Cav. Jan. 1871; resigned Dec. 1871; m. Martha T. Scott Swink, Springhill, Fairfax Co., VA, Sept., 6, 1866; Prof. of Agriculture at Mass. Agricultural College, Amherst; Pres. Maryland Agricultural College; d. of a stroke, St. Louis, MO., Oct. 1, 1904; interred Green River Cem. Greenfield, MA.

George Augustus Armes (1844–1919) b. May 29, 1844, Richmond, Henrico Co., VA; moved to Annandale, Fairfax County, VA c. 1949; son of Josiah Orcutt Armes and Caroline Olive Older; mbr of Ball's Fairfax Cavalry c 1860; messenger U.S Dept. of State, 1861; on leave as a scout for the U.S. Cavalry in 1861 because of his knowledge of the roads in northern Virginia.; participated in the raid on Fairfax Court House, June 1, 1861 and was wded.; wded. at Battle of Bull Run; wded. Battle of Williamsburg, May 1862; enl. as a Pvt., Co. B, 16th (West) Virginia Infantry, Sept. 1862; prom. 2nd Lt. Nov. 1862; asgnd. 2nd Lt. to Co. F, 13th Veteran Reserve Corps, July 1863; rsgnd. Oct. 28, 1864; enl. Cat. 2nd N.Y. Heavy Artillery, Nov. 7, 1864; bvtd. Major, Mar. 1865; apptd. Assistant Superintendent for the

Freedman's Bureau at Fairfax Court House, Aug 1865; accused of official misconduct and that *"both the Freedmen and the loyal whites regard his being there as a calamity to the freedmen and their interests;"*⁹⁶ relieved Sept. 1865; asgnd. 2nd Lt. 2nd U.S. Cav., May 1866; asgnd. Co. F, 10th U.S. Cav. (Buffalo Soldiers) w/ Henry E. Alvord; wded. (hip), Battle of Saline River, KS, Aug. 2, 1867; m/1 Lucy Hamilton Kerr (1851-1927), October 14, 1874; divorced, date unknown; trans. Co. L, 10th U.S. Cav., May, 1878; retd. From the Army Sept. 15, 1883; published autobiography, Ups and Downs of an Army Officer, 1900; m/2 Marie Theodosia Atkinson (1864-1944), Dec. 24, 1910, Phila., PA; d. Dec. 18, 1919, Ventnor City, New Jersey; bur. Arl. Natl. Cem.

Winfield Scott Chase (1835-1910) b. October 17, 1835, Palmyra, NY; m/1 Elizabeth Parkins (1840-1871), 1861, St. Louis, MO; enl. Nov. 22, 1861, at Palmyra as Pvt., Battery L, 1st N.Y. Artillery; apptd. Sgt., date not stated; wded. Battle of Chancellorsville May 2, 1863; trans. April 6, 1864, to the Veteran Reserve Corps (V.R.C.); prom. 2nd Lt. 18th V.R.C., Apr. 23, 1864; fndg. mbr. Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, April 15, 1865; on duty with Freedmen's Bureau Dec. 18, 1865; apptd. Assistant Sub-assistant Commissioner, Fairfax County, Aug. 1867; m/2 Georginia Virginia "Jennie" Speer (1847-1929) 1874, Fairfax, VA; Jennie Speer was a former teacher of the Freedmen's Bureau School at Manassas; d. June 3, 1910; both are bur. in Rock Creek Cem., Wash., DC.

James English Ferree (1822-1891) b. Ohio c. 1822; occ. Meth. Min., Kentucky Conference, Meth. Circuit in *"Greenville, Morganfield, Henderson, Bardstown and Shelby Street in Louisville"*;⁹⁷ m. Samantha Williams, Crawford Co., IL, Dec. 20, 1849; res. Waukegan, Lake Co., IL; enl. Chaplain, 9th Ill. Inf., July 26, 1861; resigned Dec. 1, 1861; prom. Capt., assigned as a Hospital Chaplain, July 14, 1862; m/2 Abby M. Laflin, Dec. 5, 1864, Wash., DC; actg. Superintendent of Contrabands, L'Overture Hospital, Alexandria; apptd. Superintendent Virginia Freedmen's Bureau, July 1865; mustered out Mar. 3, 1866; res. Sacramento, CA in the 1870's; Mail Agent for the California and Oregon R.R. 1870-71; m/3 Lucy J. "Sophie"

Fuller, Sacramento, CA, Apr. 12, 1876; div. Oct. 17, 1876; Lectured in California on Religion and Temperance; res. Eureka, Humboldt Co., CA 1880; d. May 16, 1891, bur. Veterans Memorial Grove, Yountville, Napa Co., CA.

Rev. Albert Gladwin (1816-1869) b. Apr. 22, 1816, Essex, Middlesex Co., CT; ordained a Baptist Minister, 1867; moved to Alex., VA winter of 1862-'63 under the direction of the American Baptist Free Missionary Society of New York; initiated religious meetings and schools among the newly freed slave of Alexandria;⁹⁸ accused of racism and harsh treatment of the contrabands (i.e. former slaves); apptd. first Superintendent of Contrabands, Alex., VA, 1863 by the Military Governor, Gen. John P. Slough to deal with the influx of former slaves who had flooded the city after the beginning of the Civil War. Two of his duties were to record the deaths of freedmen and to assist poor and destitute people with coffins, headstones, and burial; helped est. the Freedmen's Cemetery at Alex., VA in February 1864; relieved as Superintendent in 1865 after he insisting on burying deceased United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) in the Freedmen's Cemetery instead of the soldiers' cemetery (Alex. Natl. Cem.); later missionary for the American Baptist Publication Society; d. unexpectedly, Nov. 14, 1869, Laramie, Albany Co., Wyoming Territory; bur. Prospect Hill. Cem. Essex, CT.

Orrin Eugene Hine (1836-1899) b. Triangle, Broome Co., NY, June 28, 1836; son of Elisha and Nancy (Rodger) Hine; educated at Oxford Academy; occ. Teacher; enl. Pvt. Co. E, 50th N.Y. Engrs., Aug. 29, 1861; commissioned a 1st Lt. same date; prom. Capt. Aug. 7, 1862; mustered out City Point, VA, Mar. 6, 1865; breveted Major, Nov. 1865; m. Alma Delano, June 18, 1866, Maine, Broome Co., NY; dau. of Marshall Delano and Lydia Gibson; apptd. Assistant Superintendent, Freedmen's Bureau for Fairfax Co., Nov. 1866; relieved Mar. 1867; mbr. of the Virginia Constitutional Convention from Fairfax Co. in 1869; postwar occ. Realtor; in 1890 Orrin and Alma Hine donated land on Church Street in Vienna, VA to the Vienna Methodist Episcopal Church. Orrin Hine promoted public education and the improvement of the streets in Vienna. He was responsible for the planting of maple trees along six miles of Vienna's roads, including

Maple Avenue. He served as Vienna's first mayor from 1890 to 1900; Presidential Elector for William McKinley in 1897; d. Sept. 19, 1899, Vienna, Fairfax Co., VA; bur. Arl. Natl. Cem.

Samuel Perry Lee, (1833-1890) b. Hallowell, Kennebec Co., Maine, June 11, 1833; enl. July 31, 1861 as 1st Lt., Co. E, 3rd Maine Infantry; prom. Capt., Co. E, Sept. 1, 1862; prom. Major Nov., 14, 1862; A.D.C. Gen. Birney and Gen. Sickles; wded. (Thigh) Battle of Fredericksburg, December 1862; wded. right arm (amputated) Battle of Gettysburg, July 1863; Veteran's Reserve Corps November 1863 to 1864, Wash., DC; apptd. Commander Johnson's Island POW Camp, Sandusky, Lake Erie, OH, July 1865 to Dec. 1865; on duty with Freeman's Bureau Dec. 1865 to April 1869; apptd. Capt. 45th U.S. Inf., July 1866; (Bvt. Lt. Col., Mar. 1867 for "distinguished gallantry at Fredericksburg"); d. Oct. 20, 1890; bur. Arl. Natl. Cem., Arl., VA.

Mary Elizabeth McBride (1847-1912) Mary E. McBride was born in Pennsylvania in 1847. She married Clarence Clarenville Ford on January 29, 1869 in Washington, D.C. Clarence was the son of Edward Rodolph and Julia F. Ford, and the brother of Antonia Ford. In 1870, they were residing at Fairfax Court House in the home of Bleeker Canfield.⁹⁹ They had one child Charles Vernon Ford b. August 9, 1871. C. Vernon Ford was the Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County from 1897 until his death in 1922.¹⁰⁰

Mary's eye condition persisted well after her days as a teacher and was chronic enough for her to seek treatment. In 1874, the Fairfax News reported:

*"Mrs. Ford, wife of C.C. Ford, Esq., late of Fairfax county, and now residing in Washington, narrowly escaped death by poisoning on Saturday. Mrs. Ford had been taking some pills containing arsenic for the benefit of her eyes, and by mistake took an overdose of them, they having got mixed with other pills."*¹⁰¹

Clarence Clarenville Ford (1845-1889) worked in the U.S. Foreign Service from 1876

until his death in 1889. He was Consul at La Union, El Salvador in 1878 and Consul General at Sagua la Grande and Havana, Cuba in 1882 and 1885, respectively.¹⁰² He died of kidney disease at Eckington, the home of Winfield S. Chase, in Washington, D.C., on May 28, 1889.^{103, 104} Chase was a former Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau at Fairfax Court House. Chase had married Jennie Speer, a native of Fairfax County and the former teacher of the Freedmen's School at Manassas, Virginia and a friend to Mary McBride.

John S. Raeburn (1840-1889) b. Ayreshire, Scotland, 1840; m. Amanda Virginia McKnight (1845-1927), b. Del., dau. of James McKnight & Virginia McDonald, Sept. 3, 1867, Wash., D.C.; d. Nov. 27, 1889; both bur. Glenwood Cem., Wash., D.C.

John A. Ross (1844-1921) b. Clermont, OH; d. Las Vegas, NM; enl. Co. G, 48th Ohio Vol. Inf. 1861, Dec. 1861, age 17; prom. date unk. to Sgt.; trans. as 1st Lt. to 107th United States Colored Troops; served as Assistant Superintendent, from March 1866 to Nov. 4, 1866; unfortunately, he kept very bad records of his activities;¹⁰⁵ m/1 Martha _____; m/2 Mina DONNELLS (1860-1940) c. 1885; Engineer on the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad; moved to Las Vegas, NM c. 1885; occ. Santa Fe R.R. Engr.; mbr. Sherman Post G.A.R.; bur. Riverview Cem., Seymour, Jackson Co., IN.

William James Shields (1841-1877) b. Rockland, Knox Co., ME; enl. June 15, 1861, as Sgt., Co. D, 4th Maine Infantry; prom. to 2nd Lt. date unknown; prom. 1st Lt. Oct. 1862; wded. "shot through the lungs" at Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862; resigned September 27, 1863; assigned 1st Lt. 44th United States Infantry, Veterans Reserve Corp; March 25, 1863, to Captain, 85th Company, 2d Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps. 1st Lt. William Shields, May 11, 1864, to 51st Company, 2d Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps; m. Sarah Anne Frost, Philadelphia, PA, Feb. 2, 1866; d. Jan. 13, 1877, Brooklyn, NY from the effects of wd. received at Battle of Fredericksburg; bur. Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

Sidney Byron Smith (1836-1883) b. August 21, 1838, NY; son of Torry and Jane Smith; moved to Ada, Kent Co., MI c. 1840; enl. at Grand Rapids, MI, 3rd Cpl., Co. A, 3rd Mich. Inf., May 13, 1861; prom. Sgt. date unknown; wded. (in the body three times) Battle of Seven Pines, May 31, 1862; absent (wded.) until Aug. 26, 1862; prom. 2nd Lt., Co. D, 3rd Mich. Inf., Jan. 1, 1863; severely wounded, struck in the left foot by cannonball resulting in its' amputation, at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863; trans. 47th Co., 2nd Btl. Veterans Reserve Corps, Aug. 20, 1863; trans. Co. B, 12th Veterans Reserve Corps; m. Mariana Sutton (1842-1921?), Sept. 4, 1866, Fairfax Court House, VA; dau. of Charles and Phoebe Sutton, sister of Freedmen's Bureau teacher, Alice M. Sutton; a Quaker: returned to MI, Nov. 1868; settled in Middleville, Barry Co., MI; occ. Hardware Store Owner; mbr. G.A.R., Hill Post No. 159; was killed in a fire in his hardware store in Middleville, Michigan on October 21, 1883;¹⁰⁶ bur. Mount Hope Cem., Middleville, Barry Co., MI.

(Endnotes)

- ¹ Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862, National Archives and Records Administration (N.A.R.A.), Wash., D.C.
- ² Special Order No. 9, James I Ferree, Sept. 4, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11767-180107-25?cc=1596147>).
- ³ J.W. Bushong to Sidney B. Smith, Oct. 10, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-111191-24?cc=1596147>).
- ⁴ Preliminary Report Touching the Condition and Management of Emancipated Refugees Made to the Secretary of War by the American Freedmen's Inquiry Commission, June 30, 1863, © 1863, John F. Trow, Printer, N.Y., N.Y.
- ⁵ *Cleveland Morning Leader*, January 26, 1864, p. 1, c. 6.
- ⁶ An Act to establish a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees, March 3, 1865.
- ⁷ Robert P. Fleming to Freedmen's Bureau Agent. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-12393-178269-39?cc=1596147>).
- ⁸ James I. Ferree to George A. Armes, Sept. 2, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-12122-189497-61?cc=1596147>).
- ⁹ Excerpt from 1st Lieut. Marcus S. Hopkins to Maj. James Johnson, 15 Jan. 1866, H-59 1866, Registered Letters Received, series 3798, VA Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands, Record Group 105, National Archives.
- ¹⁰ MESSAGE of the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, returning Bill (S. 60) to amend an act entitled "An act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees," and for other purposes, with his objections thereto. February 19, 1866.
- ¹¹ Martha A. Gunnell Moss was the daughter of Col. George West Gunnell and Louisa Locian Ratcliffe, and granddaughter of Richard Ratcliffe and Louisa Bolling. She married Alfred Moss, Fairfax Co. Circuit Court Clerk. They resided on two acres in Fairfax Court House known as lots 22, 23, 26 & 26 in the division of the estate of Richard Ratcliffe. The property was bounded by Mechanic St. (now University Dr.) on the west, Court St. (now Sager Ave.) on the north, East St., on the east, and South St., on the south.
- ¹² George A. Armes to John F. Marsh, Aug. 22, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-266-11846-24143-25?cc=1596147>).
- ¹³ See *Council of War at Fairfax Court House*, Fare Facs Gazette, v. 8, n. 2, Fall 2011. (<http://www.historicfairfax.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/HFCI82-2011.pdf>).
- ¹⁴ Geo. A. Armes to John F. Marsh, Sept. 6, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-266-11846-33410-32?cc=1596147>).
- ¹⁵ Geo. A. Armes to O.O. Howard, Sept. 13, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-114085-97?cc=1596147>).
- ¹⁶ Certification of Geo. A. Armes Sept. 18, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-113561-98?cc=1596147>).
- ¹⁷ James I. Ferree to George A. Armes, Aug. 22, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-12393-181234-65?cc=1596147>).
- ¹⁸ Lawrence Kearney (1809-1884) b. County Cavanagh, Ireland c. 1809; enl. July 15, Utica, NY, Pvt., Co. E, 8th U.S. Inf. for 5 yrs. "5'4", grey eyes, brown hair, occ. Stonemason, stationed at Ft. Marion, Florida. Veteran of the 2nd Seminole War. Laid the stones at the Dept. of Agriculture and Howard University. d. Jan. 24, 1884. Sarah Kearney (1830-1906). d. Nov. 24, 1906. The Kearney's came to Fairfax Court House in May 1864. Res. Wash., D.C. c. 1869 to at least 1906. Both are bur. Mount Olivet Cem., Wash., D.C.
- ¹⁹ Newton Whitten to S.P. Lee, Sept. 11, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://www.fold3.com/image/305213311>).
- ²⁰ George A. Armes to Max Woodhull, Sept. 20, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://www.fold3.com/image/305213374>).
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Special Order No. 13, James I. Ferree, Sept. 13, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11767-176203-43?cc=1596147>).
- ²⁴ Special Order No. 11, James I. Ferree, Sept. 6, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11767-180107-25?cc=1596147>).
- ²⁵ Affidavit of Citizens of Fairfax Court House, Sept. 15, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://www.fold3.com/image/305213483>).
- ²⁶ Kearney v. Armes, Sept. 1867. Fairfax County Circuit Court.
- ²⁷ Cornelius White (1801-1874) a native of Hillsdale, Columbia Co., NY. m. Louisa Gilbert (1803-1866). Moved to Fairfax Court House in 1854 and purchased 104 ac. His farm extended east of Chain Bridge Rd. to Accotink Creek, south to the boundary of approximately Wood Rd. and north to Rt. 50. The entrance his farm was via Stratford Ave. at Chain Bridge Rd. He was arrested by Confederate forces in 1862 and imprisoned in Richmond for 3 mos. On his release, he spent the remainder of the war in Wash., D.C. His house, barn, stable, and kitchen were all destroyed during the war. As were his crops and livestock. He submitted a claim for \$3,000 to the Southern Claims Commission, but died before it was resolved. His estate received just \$645. Both he and his wife Louisa are bur. Flint Hill Cem., Oakton, VA.
- ²⁸ Cornelius White to O.O. Howard, Sept. 26, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-114726-55?cc=1596147>).
- ²⁹ James I. Ferree to F.W. Baker, Sept. 8, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-12122-181623-43?cc=1596147>).
- ³⁰ F.M. Baker to James I. Ferree, Sept. 9, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://www.fold3.com/image/305213421>).
- ³¹ James I. Ferree to O.O. Howard, Sept. 16, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-12122-183243-43?cc=1596147>).
- ³² Sidney B. Smith to Co. John Eaton, Nov. 1, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-119277-27?cc=1596147>).
- ³³ Sidney B. Smith to James J. Ferree, October 1, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-119097-21?cc=1596147>).
- ³⁴ *Friends Intelligencer*, v. 23, No. 8, March 3, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, Jacob M. Ellis, p. 553, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ³⁵ Sidney B. Smith to James I. Ferree, Sept. 25, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-119202-6?cc=1596147>).
- ³⁶ Sidney B. Smith to James I. Ferree, Oct. 1, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-119097-21?cc=1596147>).
- ³⁷ Special Order No. 20, Sept. 20, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-12393-179991-20?cc=1596147>).
- ³⁸ Sidney B. Smith to James I. Ferree, Oct. 1, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-115050-20?cc=1596147>).
- ³⁹ Sidney B. Smith to James I. Ferree, Oct. 5, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-118690-26?cc=1596147>).
- ⁴⁰ Sidney B. Smith to Chaplain John Kimball, Oct. 10, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-118690-26?cc=1596147>).
- ⁴¹ Sidney B. Smith to Chaplain John Kimball, Nov. 30, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-118690-26?cc=1596147>).
- ⁴² *Friends Intelligencer*, December 2, 1865, v. 22, p. 622, © 1866, Emmor Comly Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁴³ Sidney B. Smith to Fairfax County Circuit Court, January 13, 1866. Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.
- ⁴⁴ *Friends Intelligencer*, V. 23, No. 7, April 21, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, Jacob M. Ellis, p. 109-111, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁴⁵ *Friends Intelligencer*, V. 23, No. 8, April 28, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, Jacob M. Ellis, p. 123-125, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁴⁶ *Evening Star*, July 31, 1865, p. 2, c. 4.

- ⁴⁷ O.S.B. Wall to S.P. Lee, Nov. 23, 1868. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11841-72914-5?cc=1596147>).
- ⁴⁸ *Friends Intelligencer*, V. 23, No. 7, April 21, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, Jacob M. Ellis, p. 109-111, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁴⁹ Report of School at Fairfax C.H. by O.S.B. Wall, November 23, 1868; "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11128-34636-47?cc=1596147>).
- ⁵⁰ O.S.B. Wall to S.P. Lee, Nov. 23, 1868. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11841-72917-75?cc=1596147>).
- ⁵¹ William Sagar, of the Town of Wheeler, Steuben Co., New York, purchased 303 ac. from Albert and Almira Billings adjoining Fairfax Court House and fronting along Main Street. Sagar's Little River Tpke. (Main Street) frontage started at Daniel's Run and ran east to Robert's Road (see Fx. Co. DB X3, Pg. 13). In 1865, William Sagar conveyed his land holdings in Fairfax to his son Andrew Jefferson Sagar (see Fx. Co. DB F4, Pg. 95).
- ⁵² In 1866, Andrew Jefferson Sagar's land along Main Street, aka Little River Tpke., began 544.5 feet from East Street in the village of Fairfax C.H., aka Providence. See Fairfax Co. DB S2, pg. 265 (165 feet); Z3, pg. 102 (214.5 feet); B4 pg. 457 (165 feet).
- ⁵³ Contract for Repairs to Fairfax C.H. School, Nov. 30, 1868; "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11074-95574-7?cc=1596147>).
- ⁵⁴ John A. Ross to S.P. Lee, Mar. 26, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11846-32137-26?cc=1596147>).
- ⁵⁵ O.E. Hine to S.P. Lee, Nov. 27, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872".
- ⁵⁶ Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869, National Archives Microfilm Pub. M1055 Roll 21, "Miscellaneous Reports and Lists," NARA, Wash., D.C.
- ⁵⁷ Fairfax Co. Chancery Suit, 1868-043, Newman Burke, et. al. vs. Sheldon J. Hoag, et. al. See also Fairfax Co. DB Z3, Pg. 357, Fairfax Co. Circuit Court Clerk.
- ⁵⁸ This is a reference to Coumbe Cottage operated by Dr. Frederick Baker and Hannah Maria (Burgess) Baker (see Fair Facs Gazette, v. 8, n. 1, Summer 2011).
- ⁵⁹ This is a reference to Job Hawxhurst, a native of New York, who was appointed postmaster at Fairfax Court House in 1862.
- ⁶⁰ *Friends Intelligencer*, V. 23, No. 7, April 21, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, p. 109-111, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁶¹ *Friends Intelligencer*, No. XIII, V. 24, No. 43, January 25, 1868, Amongst the Freedmen, pp. 749-751, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁶² O.S.B. Wall to S.P. Lee, Nov. 23, 1868, "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11841-72914-5?cc=1596147>).
- ⁶³ M. Sullivan to S.P. Lee, May 5, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11596-145342-33?cc=1596147>).
- ⁶⁴ Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869, National Archives Microfilm Pub. M1055 Roll 21, "Miscellaneous Reports and Lists," NARA, Wash., DC.
- ⁶⁵ O.S.B. Wall to S.P. Lee, Nov. 23, 1868. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11841-72914-5?cc=1596147>).
- ⁶⁶ John A. Ross to S.P. Lee, Oct. 17, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11074-95776-99?cc=1596147>).
- ⁶⁷ *Friends Intelligencer*, V. 23, No. 10, May 12, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, Jacob M. Ellis, p. 153-154, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁶⁸ *Friends Intelligencer*, V. 23, No. 16, June 23, 1866, Extracts from the second Annual Report of Friends' Association of Phila. for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen, p. 249-52, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
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- ⁷⁰ *Friends Intelligencer*, No. II, V. 23, No. 39, December 1, 1866, Amongst the Freedmen, pp. 617-19, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁷¹ *Friends Intelligencer*, No. V. 23, No. 52, March 2, 1867, Amongst the Freedmen, pp. 825-27, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁷² *Friends Intelligencer*, No. VI, V. 24, No. 5, April 6, 1867, Amongst the Freedmen, pp. 74-75, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁷³ John A. Ross to S.P. Lee, Sept. 18, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11093-141544-15?cc=1596147>).
- ⁷⁴ Fannie E. Gause to O.E. Hine, Nov. 28, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-12393-178846-48?cc=1596147>).
- ⁷⁵ John A. Ross to S.P. Lee, Oct. 17, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872."
- ⁷⁶ John A. Ross to S.P. Lee, Nov. 4, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872."
- ⁷⁷ Alice M. Sutton b. March 22, 1857; she was the daughter of Charles and Phoebe Sutton. She married Howard Coates at the Woodlawn Monthly Meeting House (Quaker), Fairfax Co., January 9, 1872; she d. July 20, 1927; bur. Eastland Friends Burial Ground, Little Britain, Lancaster Co., PA.
- ⁷⁸ *Friends Intelligencer*, No. IX, V. 24, No. 21, July 27, 1867, Amongst the Freedmen, pp. 331-333, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁷⁹ Mary E. McBride to S.P. Lee, November 9, 1868. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872."
- ⁸⁰ *Friends Intelligencer*, No. 20, V. 25, No. 50, February 13, 1869, Amongst the Freedmen, pp. 795-798, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁸¹ Orders for William Shields & O.E. Hine, February 23, 1867. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872."
- ⁸² William Shields to S.P. Lee, Apr. 30, 1876. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-114067-99?cc=1596147>).
- ⁸³ W.S. Chase to O. Brown, Apr. 30, 1868. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-119607-19?cc=1596147>).
- ⁸⁴ *New York Herald Tribune*, October 6, 1865, p. 5, c. 1.
- ⁸⁵ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 12, 1868, p. 4, c. 2.
- ⁸⁶ *Friends Intelligencer*, Amongst the Freedmen, No. IX, V. 24, No. 21, July 27, 1867, pp. 331-333, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁸⁷ Peirce, Isaac N., *History of the Independent Order of Good Templars*, © 1873, Birmingham, England.
- ⁸⁸ Ritual of the Independent Order of Good Templars, © 1864, Right Worthy Grand Lodge, I.G.O.T., Chicago, IL.
- ⁸⁹ *Friends Intelligencer*, Friends Amongst the Freedmen, No. 17, V. 25, No. 22, August 1, 1868, pp. 347-348, Emmor Comly, Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁹⁰ *Friends Intelligencer*, v. 26, January 1, 1870, p. 699, Emmor Comly Pub. PA.
- ⁹¹ *Friends Intelligencer*, April 23, 1870, v. 25, p. 622, Emmor Comly Pub, Phila., PA.
- ⁹² *Friends Intelligencer*, v.28, December 16, 1871, p. 666, Emmor Comly Pub., Phila., PA.
- ⁹³ Fisk University in Nashville was founded in 1866 and was named in honor of Union General Clinton B. Fisk, Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for the State of Tennessee.
- ⁹⁴ Howard University in Washington, D.C. was founded in 1867 and was named for Union General Oliver Otis Howard the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau.
- ⁹⁵ Rock Creek Cemetery, Section C, Lot 44, Graves 3 & 5.
- ⁹⁶ James I. Ferree to O.O. Howard, Sept. 16, 1865. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FPXK-3Z4>).
- ⁹⁷ *Louisville Daily Courier*, August 3, 1861, p. 1, c. 4.
- ⁹⁸ Special Report of the Commissioner of Education on the Condition and Improvement of Public Schools in the District of Columbia, © 1871, U.S. Govt. Prntg. Ofc., Wash., D.C.
- ⁹⁹ United States Census of 1870, Fairfax Co., Virginia.
- ¹⁰⁰ Charles Vernon Ford b. Aug. 9, 1871, d. Apr. 25, 1922. Attended Virginia Military Institute (1891) and the University of Virginia Law School.
- ¹⁰¹ *Fairfax News*, April 10, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.
- ¹⁰² *Washington Post*, April 2, 1882, p. 1, c. 4.
- ¹⁰³ *Washington Post*, May 29, 1889, p. 6, c. 5.
- ¹⁰⁴ *Alexandria Gazette*, May 29, 1889, p. 3, c. 3.
- ¹⁰⁵ Report of O.E. Hine, Dec. 10, 1866. "Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1872," (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11600-117969-98?cc=1596147>).
- ¹⁰⁶ *Indiana State Sentinel*, October 24, 1883, p. 1, c. 4.



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"The dead continue to live by way of the resurrection
we give them in telling their stories." - Gerda Lerner

"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

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