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# The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 3

Summer 2004

## Tallwood House

by William Page Johnson, II



Tallwood House, located at 4210 Roberts Road in the City of Fairfax occupies approximately 7 wooded acres and is bordered by Roberts Road on the east, the Fairfax Swimming Pool and Green Acres / Maple Hill subdivisions on the north and west and Aspen Grove subdivision on the south. The name *Tallwood* is derived from the use of the building as a private school of the same name from 1961 to 1968.

The property on which Tallwood now stands was once part of the larger Sager family farm known as *Aspen Grove*. In 1913, Aspen Grove, the estate of Andrew Jefferson Sager, was subdivided and sold. One hundred eleven acres, including that portion now containing Tallwood and much of Maple Hill subdivision, was acquired by Elihu Guy Burritt (1872–1936) and his wife Mary Frances (Moran) Burritt (1873–1970) of Washington, D.C.<sup>1</sup> Guy Burritt, as he was known, was born in Uniondale, Susquehanna Co., PA and was the son of Ira Nichols and Elizabeth Augusta (Nicholson) Burritt.<sup>2</sup> Guy's father was a Union Veteran of the Civil War and the publisher of the Sunday Herald Newspaper, Washington, D.C. Mary Frances (Moran) Burritt was the daughter of John & Catherine Moran of Ireland. Mary's father worked as a Tinner in Washington, D.C. The Burritt's and

their four children, Katherine Elizabeth (1897–????), who married Marshall G. Bond; Jane Carroll Burritt (1898–1992); Mary Frances Burritt (1900–1993), who married Frances Jepp Allen; and, John Moran Burritt (1901–????) were then living in Washington, D.C. In 1916, Guy Burritt sold 30 acres of land fronting on Roberts Road to his brother Erick Boyce Burritt<sup>3</sup> (1877–????) and his wife Elizabeth P. Burritt (1887–????). It is believed that Berritt Street in the Green Acres neighborhood is named in honor of this family – a corruption of the original Burritt.<sup>45</sup>

In 1923, Erick & Elizabeth Burritt sold 6 acres to William & Grace Earle.<sup>6</sup> William Edward Earle (1873–1935) and Grace Spencer Earle (1884–1969) were originally from South Carolina. William had recently retired as an Oil and Cotton Broker in Greenville, SC.<sup>7</sup> He and Grace settled in Fairfax shortly after their marriage in 1920. In December 1920, the couple purchased and enlarged a house on 50 acres along Roberts Road south of Aspen Grove, known as the *Weed Home*.<sup>8,9</sup> The Earle's 50 acre estate, which they named *Montague Farm*, comprised part of what is now the George Mason University Physical Plant, all of Green Acres Elementary School and frontage on Roberts Road. This home still stands south of Aspen Grove and is also owned by George Mason University.



**Tallwood House built c. 1937, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA**

Photo credit: GeorgeMason University



### Tallwood... - continued from pg. 1

William Earle died in 1935 after an extended illness.<sup>10</sup> Grace continued to live at Montague Farm, but in 1937 she had a larger and more comfortable home constructed on land she and William had purchased in 1923 from the Burritt's. This was Tallwood. The Fairfax County Land Tax Book for 1938 indicates a value of \$134.00 for the six-acres and a value of \$4,166 for a "building added."<sup>11</sup> Prior to this date no building improvements were listed on the six-acre parcel and the tax assessment reflected only land.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, this rather convincingly suggests that Tallwood was constructed in 1937.

It appears that Grace built Tallwood as an investment because she continued to reside at Montague Farm until shortly before her death. In 1961, she sold 10 acres for the creation of Green Acres Elementary School.<sup>13</sup> The remainder of her estate was acquired by what is now George Mason University shortly before her death. Grace Earle died in May 1969 at the Princeton, NJ home of Robert D. Murray, Jr., her "Attorney-In-Fact."<sup>14</sup>

In 1941, Oakleigh and Bertha Thorne purchased the home from Grace Earle. Oakleigh Lewis Thorne (1909–1978) was born in Bar Harbor, ME. He was the son of Birdseye Blakeman Lewis and Charlotte Pearsall Thorne. When Oakleigh's father died in 1921, he was formally adopted by his grandfather, and namesake Oakleigh Thorne, and his name was legally changed to Oakleigh Lewis Thorne.<sup>15</sup> He m/1 Martha Jean Kempner (1913-1969), which marriage ended in divorce. He m/2 Bertha Palmer. Oakleigh attended Hotchkiss Preparatory School and Princeton University. During WW II he served in the US Navy and was an aide to Admiral Chester Nimitz. He died in 1978 in Hobe Sound, Martin Co., Florida. Oakleigh was a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin of Julia Stimson Kerry, the former wife of the 2004 Democratic Presidential candidate John F. Kerry. Oakleigh & Bertha had three children Oakleigh Blakemore Thorne (b. 1932); Honore Thorne (b. 1934), who married Karl Wamsler; and Charlotte Pearsall Thorne (b. 1938) who married \_\_\_\_\_ Boudeaux. All of whom are still living.<sup>16</sup>

The Thorne's tenure at the home was brief because World War II interrupted whatever future plans they may have had. In 1943, they sold the home to Major General Clifford Lee Corbin (1883–1966) and his wife Emeline (Sweeney) Corbin (1889–1960).<sup>17</sup> The Corbin's owned the home from 1943 to 1947. General Corbin was Assistant Quartermaster General, Chief of the Supply Division, United States Army. General Corbin was born in Vandalia, Ohio. He was the son of Dr. Lee & Belle Corbin. He received an appointment to the United States Military Academy in 1900. In 1905, he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to the

Coast Artillery Division in Washington, DC. He was promoted to 1st Lt. in 1907; Captain of Field Artillery 1916. During WWI he was brevetted to Major 1917 and served with American Expeditionary Forces 1918–1919 at Toul Front, Verdun, and Coblenz. Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel 1918. After WW I his rank reverted to Captain. Promoted Lt. Colonel 1929; Colonel 1935; Brigadier General 1940; Major General 1942. He was Assistant Quartermaster General of the Army from 1940 to 1944. He retired due to disability in 1946. On the eve of his retirement he received the Distinguished Service Medal for his service during World War II. He died at Walter Reed Army Hospital in 1966 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA adjacent to his wife.<sup>18</sup>

In 1947 the Corbin's sold the home to Robert Joseph Coar (1906–1974) and his wife Helen (1908–1977).<sup>19</sup> The Coar's owned the home, which they rather cleverly named Coardial Acres from 1947 to 1961.<sup>20</sup>

Bob Coar was an electrical and sound engineer. During the 1930's he assisted in the production of President



**Robert & Hellen Coar c. 1959**  
Photo credit: Robert G. Coar

Franklin D. Roosevelt's informal Fireside Chats. About 1938, Bob Coar set up a private recording studio in the Old House Office Building, the first such facility in the United States Congress. For a small fee, he would "cut" vinyl records for members of Congress to make recorded announcements to be sent to radio stations back home. Congress liked the service so much that Robert's facility was made an official public office – the Joint

Senate and House Recording Facility. Robert was made the Coordinator and for the next twenty years he and his wife operated this facility together.

In the early 1950's, Coar introduced television cameras for Congressional use and built a motion picture studio in the "attic" of the Old House Office Building. In 1952, Sen. John F. Kennedy was among the first to embrace this new technology.

The Coar's retired to Phoenix, AZ in the early 1970's.<sup>21</sup>

Everett Otto Tauber (b.1922) purchased the property from the Coar's in 1961.<sup>22</sup> He was president of the Tallwood Independent School, which he organized in 1957. It is not

**Building History... - continued from pg. 2**

clear where the school operated initially, but by 1961 Tallwood School had begun operations at 4210 Roberts Road. Initially, the school prospered. By 1964, more than 100 children were attending this private coeducational school offering instruction for grades 1 – 12.<sup>23</sup> Tallwood’s slogan was “Let Your Child Grow Academically.”<sup>24</sup>



**Everette Otto Tauber**  
(1922- )  
Photo credit: Fairfax City Times, c. 1966

Unfortunately, Tallwood, and its owner ran into legal trouble in the fall of 1964. In September of that year, the City of Fairfax cited the school with having inadequate sewage facilities – a violation of the City health code. At the time, Tallwood was serviced by a septic system, which was clearly not designed for a school of more than 100.<sup>25</sup> In addition, the ground on which the buildings were built apparently did not percolate very well. Tauber was slow

to react to this growing situation and the City eventually took legal action. The school was closed by order of the Health Department in December 1965.<sup>26</sup> Tauber obtained a temporary stay and the school was allowed to reopen in January 1966. The City reacted by filing criminal charges against Tauber for “failing to provide an adequate sewage disposal system.”<sup>27</sup> Simultaneously, one of Tallwood’s teachers, Dr. Betty Bradford Bloom, sued Tauber in Fairfax County Circuit Court for breach of contract. In exchange for teaching at the school, Tauber had apparently agreed to 1) build her a house, which he did in 1964; and, 2) to allow her to live on the property, rent free, for the remainder of her life. Dr. Bloom was then 82 years old. Apparently, as part of the arrangement she named Everett Tauber as the sole beneficiary in her Will. The house built for Dr. Bloom, which still stands on the grounds of Tallwood at 4212 Roberts Road, was completed in the fall of 1964 but lacked water or sewage facilities. At some point during the fall Tauber began to charge Bloom rent for the home. All of this was apparently too much for Dr. Bloom and she went to the local newspaper with her allegations of breach of contract against Tauber.<sup>28</sup> Bloom eventually won the lawsuit and apparently changed her Will and subsequently moved.<sup>29</sup>

In the Spring of 1966, in the midst of his legal struggles with the City and Dr. Bloom, Everett Tauber decided to run for Mayor of the City of Fairfax against incumbent Mayor Ed Prichard. It was a very close election, but not for Tauber. Tauber lost badly, not only to Prichard but, to write-in candidate John C. Wood. Wood and Tauber both favored an independent school system for Fairfax City while Prichard favored remaining within the Fairfax County School system. The vote tally was Prichard 1,006; Wood 905; Tauber 105.<sup>30</sup>

By the fall of 1966, Tauber was actively attempting to sell the school property and was fighting just for the right to be able to continue to live in the home. Although the school never reopened its doors, it did continue to operate for a brief time out of Truro Episcopal Church. In the fall of 1966, Tallwood School had just three students!<sup>31</sup>

In 1968, Tauber and school defaulted on the mortgage held by Old Dominion Bank and the property was sold to the George Mason College Foundation, Inc.<sup>32</sup> The property was then donated to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia.<sup>33</sup> George Mason College was then a part of the University of Virginia. Subsequently, George Mason University has used the buildings continuously and for a variety of purposes. Currently, Tallwood, is home to the GMU Learning in Retirement Institute (LRI).

**Chain of Title**

1970-Present	7.06 ac. Board of Visitors of the Univ.of Va. (now George Mason University)
1968-1970	7.06 ac. George Mason College Foundation
1968-1968	7.06 ac. Old Dominion Bank
1961-1968	7.06 ac. Tallwood School, Inc.
1947-1961	7.06 ac. Robert Joseph & Helen B. Coar
1943-1947	7.06 ac. Clifford L. & Emeline S. Corbin
1941-1943	7.06 ac. Oakleigh L. & Bertha P. Thorne
1938-1941	1.06 ac. Grace S. Earle
1928-1938	24 ac. Francis J. & Mary F. (Burrirt) Allen
1923-1941	6 ac. William E. & Grace S. Earle
1916-1928	30 ac. Eric B. & Elizabeth P. Burrirt
1913-1916	111 ac. Elihu Guy & Mary Frances Burrirt
1911-1913	111 ac. Abram V. & Hannah A. Sagar
1865-1911	303 ac. Andrew Jefferson Sager
1855-1865	303 ac. William & Dolly Sagar
1855-1855	303 ac. Albert & Almira Billings
1851-1855	303 ac. Elisha & Catherine Billings
1847-1851	303 ac. John E. & Margaret Spicer
1845-1847	303 ac. William & Elizabeth Newcomb
1836-1845	604 ac. John & Nancy Powell
1811-1836	Robert & Mildred Ratcliffe
1798-1811	Richard & Locian Ratcliffe
1797-1798	Augustine J. Smith & Henry Rose
1796-1797	Battaille Fitzhugh
1783-1796	Giles Fitzhugh
????-1783	Col. Henry & Sarah Fitzhugh
1701-????	Henry & Susanna Fitzhugh
1694-1701	William Fitzhugh (“Ravensworth Patent”)

**(Endnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book P7, pg. 208, March 1, 1913.

Fairfax, Virginia, July 2004-

Message from the President:

Greetings-

Summertime and the living is easy! Although HFCI's Board has taken some time to take it easy this summer they are also hard at work on several projects.

At our July Board meeting we were hosted by Mick Frasier at his lovely estate Olde Post Farm for a social. There was a short business meeting but most of the meeting was spent just getting to know each other, enjoy the good potluck dishes and the lovely evening.

The Homes Tour Research Chair, Mick Frasier and Karen Stevenson, Homes Tour Co-Chair have been seen around town looking at citizens homes for the April 30, 2005 Homes Tour. Since this year, the Homes Tour will feature "Fairfax Suburbia" - homes throughout the century, they are looking at various subdivisions. If you would like to offer your home, or if you would like to work on the Homes Tour Committee, please call Karen at 703 352 1255.

Pat Cummins, our Website Chair and his committee are working to update the HFCI website so that we can better spread the news. By next issue we should be up and running with our own name.

2005 is Fairfax City's 200th birthday and the City is planning a large celebration. HFCI will be working on four projects for the big event. On Friday, January 14th, we will host the City's birthday party with a cake worthy of 200 years, we will design and fill a time capsule to be opened in 100 years, and dedicate a marker in honor of our City's founder Richard Ratcliff. If you would like to work on any of these committee's please call me.

With the addition of Patricia Fabio, Bonnie McDaniel, Bradley Preiss and Eleanor Schmidt to our Board, we now have a full Board of 21 members. We welcome these additions and look forward to working with them. They each bring a special expertise to enhance our work of historic preservation.

Next time you visit the Museum & Visitors Center, please notice the new benches and planters in the front yard. This is the result of the Capital Campaign Project, which is ongoing. It's NOT TOO LATE to be a part of the memorial brick walk, which will be at the Ratcliff Allison House garden. If you would like you and your family to be remembered in the City's history, you can purchase an engraved family or corporate brick for \$500.00 and a sidewalk brick for \$250. For information on all of the

possible memorial objects, please call Bill Jayne at 703 352 1534.

The Blenheim Committee has been actively meeting and working to assure that the master plan work on the Blenheim Mansion and grounds will become a reality in our bicentennial year. Recent findings on the research of the family cemetery have produced some exciting results about the family history, which will help further our research. Thanks to Andrea Loewenwarter for guiding this work. Please join us at the Annual ISCC Volunteer of the Year awards on August 4th at Old Town Hall when we will honor Andrea as HFCI's Volunteer of the Year.

Welcome, also, members who sent in your membership dues for the 2004 and new members joining us. Your membership dues provide us with the funds to assist us with the work of preservation in the City of Fairfax. If you haven't sent in your dues please use the attached form and join HFCI's mission. Thank you to you donors who generously provide us with additional funds for special projects.

Those of you who are receiving this newsletter for the first time, we would like to hear from you and tell us of your interests in historic preservation. Thank you to our editor Page Johnson who does a wonderful job of researching and educating us on the rich history in Fairfax City.

Have a wonderful summer and come join us at our next Board meeting on September 8th at City Hall. Please call me with any comments or questions at 703 591 5305 or e-mail me at hilcarn31@aol.com. I love to hear your views.



## FAIRFAX FAST FACT!

Maple Hills subdivision was established in 1952 and comprises those homes on Addison, Locust and Collier Roads, and Forest Avenue to Berritt Street. Addison Road and Rodgers Road in the Maple Hills subdivision were named by builder Aura H. & Frances L. (Sheek) Tinkle.

**John Addison** Sheek (1890-1951) of Johnson County, Indiana, was the father of Frances L. Sheek and *Mattie Rodgers* Tinkle, also of Johnson County, IN, was the mother of Aura H. Tinkle.

## Getting To Know You

HFCI Board Member Patrick S. Cummings



Pat joined our Board three years ago and within a few months he became one of our most important members! Our long time Treasurer, David Bates, had to resign because of family illness, and Pat stepped in as “temporary” Treasurer. His management of our finances has gone beyond the duty of “temporary”.

In addition to the duties as Treasurer, Pat is currently Chairing the Policy Committee, the Website Committee, and is HFCI’s Delegate to Destination Fairfax (the City’s Tourism Committee). He is also active on several other committees’. Pat has a strong interest in local history, and is a volunteer at the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center. Thanks to Pat, HFCI now has their own website.

Pat, and his wife Gayla, hail originally from Kansas, and have lived in Northern Virginia since 1966. They have one daughter, Staci, who is married and living nearby in Alexandria. The other member of the family is their Scottish Terrier “Ch. Kriscots Haggis the Hooligan”. Haggis has won his AKC Championship, and Pat and Gayla enjoy traveling around and showing their prize dog.

In addition to Pat’s interest in show dogs, he is researching his family genealogy, particularly his Scottish roots. He has discovered two of his family lines came to Virginia as early as 1640. Pat is also a member of the Scottish St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C., where he serves on the Member Relations Committee.

Lucky for us, Pat is retired and devotes a lot of his time to HFCI and other historic related work. Pat retired from the Senior Intelligence Service of the Central Intelligence Agency. He has seen extensive overseas service, with tours including Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Pat holds several multi-agency honor, leadership and performance awards, including the CIA Career Intelligence Medal. We feel fortunate to have all this expertise on the HFCI Board.

“I appreciate the way the City of Fairfax’s leaders have consistently recognized the importance of our outstanding history. Through their recognition, education, and historic preservation, they help support the pride and values of our current and future area residents.”

The above quote from Pat tells us how he feels about living in Fairfax. HFCI is indeed richer by having him as a Board member. We thank him for all his work.

## Building History... - continued from pg. 3

<sup>2</sup> Ira Nichols BURRITT b. 12/28/1838, PA; Enlisted as a Pvt., 25<sup>th</sup> Pa. Inf. Regt.; disbanded; Enlisted as a 2nd Lt. on Mar. 03, 1862 Co. K, 56th Pa. Inf. Regt. on 03/03/1862; Promoted to 1st Lt. on Feb. 03, 1863; Prom. to Capt. on Feb. 27, 1863; Wounded, thigh, July 1, 1863 Gettysburg, PA; Wounded on Aug. 18, 1864 at Weldon Railroad, VA; Discharged Company K, 56th Pa Inf. Regt. on Nov. 21, 1864; d. Feb. 20, 1887, Garfield Hospital, Wash., DC, Cancer of the Bladder.

<sup>3</sup> Erick Boyce Burritt was a veteran of the Spanish American War.

<sup>4</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, various issues detail personal information on the Burritt family.

<sup>5</sup> Death Information, Social Security Death Index.

<sup>6</sup> Fairfax County DB C9, pg. 542, June 28, 1923.

<sup>7</sup> *Washington Post*, February 22, 1935, obituary.

<sup>8</sup> Fairfax County DB S8, Pg. 476, December 21, 1920.

<sup>9</sup> The *Weed Home* was the home of Charles and Dollie A.

(Slayton) Weed. Dollie was the daughter of Katherine Jane Sager Slayton who was the daughter of William & Dolly Sagar. The *Weed Home* is owned by GMU and is still standing immediately s. of Aspen Grove as of this date.

<sup>10</sup> *Fairfax Herald*, February 22, 1935, p. 2; obituary.

<sup>11</sup> Fairfax County Land Tax Book, 1938.

<sup>12</sup> Fairfax County Land Tax Books, 1912-1961.

<sup>13</sup> Fairfax County DB 2004, Pg. 578, May 18, 1961.

<sup>14</sup> Power of Attorney, Fairfax County DB 2537, pg. 609, November 12, 1964.

<sup>15</sup> Oakleigh Thorne was Pres. of The Trust Company of America, which evolved into Chase Manhattan Bank.

<sup>16</sup> Personal Communication of Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II, 2119 Spruce St., #5, Boulder, CO, 80302, March 26, 2004.

<sup>17</sup> Fairfax County DB 405, pg. 53, March 19, 1943.

<sup>18</sup> Register of Graduates and Former Cadets of the USMA, © 2000, Assoc. of Graduates, USMA, West Point, NY.

<sup>19</sup> Fairfax County DB 596, Pg. 245, November 19, 1947.

<sup>20</sup> Personal Communication of Robert G. Coar, 5739 41st Pl., Phoenix, AZ, 85018, March 16, 2004.

<sup>21</sup> Personal Communication of Robert G. Coar, 5739 41st Pl., Phoenix, AZ, 85018, March 16, 2004.

<sup>22</sup> Fairfax County DB 1997, Pg. 96, March 30, 1961.

<sup>23</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, December 24, 1965, p. 1.

<sup>24</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, August 27, 1965, p. 19.

<sup>25</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, December 24, 1965, p. 1.

<sup>26</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, December 24, 1965, p. 1.

<sup>27</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, April 29, 1966, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, April 29, 1966, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, June 17, 1966, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, June 17, 1966, p. 2.

<sup>31</sup> *Fairfax City Times*, September 30, 1966, p. 1.

<sup>32</sup> Fairfax County DB 3078, Pg. 653, Aug. 23, 1968.

<sup>33</sup> Fairfax County DB 3324, Pg. 190, Feb. 5, 1970.

## Speaking Of History...

The Outreach Committee of the HFCI Board has produced a computer-based presentation intended to serve as an introduction to HFCI for small audiences such as homeowners associations, clubs and service organizations.

Produced as a MicroSoft PowerPoint presentation, it consists of 11 slides providing background on HFCI, the historic and cultural resources program of the City of Fairfax and information about major properties such as the Museum and Visitors Center, Old Town Hall, Ratcliffe-Allison House and Blenheim. The presentation is designed to spark questions about historic preservation in Fairfax and encourage interest in HFCI.

It can be presented on a laptop computer with a projector or just as handouts. For more information, contact Bill Jayne at (703) 352-1534 or [billjayne@hl-productions.com](mailto:billjayne@hl-productions.com)



## Advertisements

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Source: *Fairfax Herald*, December 12, 1912, p. 2.

## Women's Service Organizations in Fairfax

Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> c. a woman's place was truly in the home! Society denied women the right to vote, hold public office, or even drive a car! Most clubs and fraternal organizations too, were the exclusive domain of men.

One of the few places where a woman could join with other women outside the home was through their church. Such organizations were obviously religious based, benevolent and charitable. Their goals were simple: feeding and clothing the needy, aid to community members in financial distress, visitations of sick members. Some groups had more specific goals. For example, the Daughters of Temperance, founded in 1846, sought the complete elimination of distilled spirits.

In 1868, the all-male New York Press Club excluded a female journalist, Jane C. Croly. She then resolved to organize a club of her own exclusively for women. Croly's club, which was one of the earliest non-denominational, non-partisan volunteer service clubs for women in the country, eventually evolved into the General Federation of Women's Clubs (1890). The GFWC still exists today.

Among the earliest known non-church organizations in Fairfax in which women could participate, was the Ladies Memorial Association. Founded in 1866 this organization created a place of interment and a permanent memorial to the Confederate Dead of Fairfax and is today the City of Fairfax Cemetery with its central Confederate Memorial erected in 1890.

By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as more and more doors opened to women there was a virtual explosion of non-religious women groups. There were Women's Literary Societies, Garden Clubs, Social Clubs and Women-for-women groups. In Fairfax three such organizations made their appearance. The Fairfax Garden Club (1926), The Tuesday Afternoon Club (1947) The Fairfax Woman's Club (1956).

### The Fairfax Garden Club (1926 – )

Mrs. Frederick D. Richardson hosted an organizational meeting at her home on Chain Bridge Road in June of 1926. Approximately 20 interested persons attended.<sup>1</sup> The newly organized club met monthly with subsequent meetings being hosted by individual members. One of the first things the Fairfax Garden Club agreed to do was to improve the grounds around the Fairfax School, now the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center.<sup>2</sup> Throughout the remainder of the 1920's the Garden Club held their first Flower Show at Old Town Hall (1927),<sup>3,4</sup> <sup>5,6</sup> "beautified the courthouse" and participated in the Fairfax

**Women... - continued from pg. 6**

County Fair (1929).<sup>7</sup> In the 1930's the club expanded its activities sponsoring a "children's garden" and a Dance.<sup>8, 9, 10</sup> That same year the club was managing Old Town Hall and assisting with its maintenance.<sup>11, 12, 13</sup> In 1932, the club spoke out against "sign boards" that were being placed along the highway and hosted what is believed to be the first periodic Historic Homes Tour in Fairfax.<sup>14, 15</sup> Throughout the remainder of the 1930's the club continued to expand its activities. Ever the innovators, in 1937 the Fairfax Garden Club held a Tennis Benefit.<sup>16</sup> The club suffered during World War II as thoughts turned to more serious pursuits. Between 1942-1945 no meetings or flower shows were held in Fairfax. However, the club members were active at Ft. Belvoir and Ft. Meyer. After the war, the club was back in action hosting a "Silver Tea" in Fairfax in 1946.<sup>17</sup> In 1965, the club was instrumental in the creation of the City of Fairfax Board of Architectural Review. The "BAR" is charged with the responsibility for reviewing alterations to all signs and structures throughout most of the city, particularly in the Historic District.<sup>18</sup>

Some of the members of this club have included Ruth Graham, Elizabeth G. Powell, Edith M. Keith, Grace Earle, Elizabeth Murray, Sally Hannegan, Roberta Carter and Kay Barker. Perhaps the most illustrious member of the club was Katherine "Kitty" Barrett Pozer, who was for many years the Garden Editor for the Washington Post. Pozer Garden, now owned and maintained by the City of Fairfax, is the site of her former home in the Downtown Historic District. Other garden clubs in Fairfax include the Fairfax Ferns, the Country Hills Garden Club and the Fairfax Villa Garden Club.

**Tuesday Afternoon Club (1947 – 1967)<sup>19, 20</sup>**

In May 1947, a women's social club was organized in Fairfax. Dubbed the Tuesday Afternoon Club because monthly meetings were held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, the club was primarily social organization. However, in its first year the club organized an annual Daffodil Show and a Greens Show at Christmas. They began awarding college scholarships in (1960). They organized Cotillions and Tea Dances as early as 1962. The club sponsored a Keep Fairfax Beautiful campaign in 1962. They often had musical entertainment and theatrical plays for club meetings.

Some of the members of this club included Ebie Kinchloe, Helen Sharpe, Sarah Mathy, Kathryn McCord, Louise Cobb, Kay Barker, Nancy Prichard, Jeanne J. Rust, Ruth Peter, Shirlee Charnley, Anne Van Dyck, Agnes Kelly, Ruth Trowbridge, Mary Petersen.

**Woman's Club of Fairfax (1956 – )**

The first reference to a Woman's Club in Fairfax occurred in 1915 when Mrs. John S. Barbour hosted the "women's club" with a luncheon at her home.<sup>22</sup> The next

mention of a Women's Club appears with the organization of the Falls Church Women's Club in 1922. However, it was not until 1956 that a Woman's Club in Fairfax was formally organized. According to official club history "*The club originated with a group of women, many new to the area, who were looking for purposeful activities directed towards community betterment, and also for an opportunity to enlarge their circle of friends.*"<sup>23</sup>

Meetings were held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. For almost 50 years the Woman's Club of Fairfax has been involved in nearly every aspect of community life. In service to their community the Woman's Club has raised scholarships and charitable funds supporting dozens of organizations - the Fairfax Symphony, Fire Department, Senior Citizens, and Historic Fairfax City, Inc. to name a few. The Woman's Club has, for many years, sponsored and maintained an exhibit on Antonia Ford, a Fairfax native and Confederate Spy, at the Ford House on Chain Bridge Road.

Betty Dittman, Pat Pflugshaupt, Ramona Lederer, Norma Darcey, Tottie Marsh, Dee Schmidt, Margaret Shallcross, Ann Trexler are a few of the many longtime members of the Woman's Club of Fairfax.

**(Endnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> History of the Fairfax Garden Club, by Roberta Carter, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Fairfax Herald, December 3, 1926, p. 5

<sup>3</sup> Fairfax Herald, March 11, 1927, p. 5

<sup>4</sup> Fairfax Herald, April 22, 1927, p. 5

<sup>5</sup> Fairfax Herald, February 25, 1927, p. 5

<sup>6</sup> Herndon Observer, June 16, 1927, p. 1

<sup>7</sup> Herndon Observer, May 9, 1929, p. 1

<sup>8</sup> Fairfax Herald, July 18, 1930, p. 1

<sup>9</sup> Herndon Observer, December 25, 1930, p. 1

<sup>10</sup> Fairfax Herald, January 1, 1931, p. 1

<sup>11</sup> Fairfax Herald, July 4, 1930, p. 1

<sup>12</sup> Fairfax Herald, November 14, 1930, p. 6

<sup>13</sup> Fairfax Herald, October 26, 1934, p. 3

<sup>14</sup> Fairfax Herald, January 9, 1931, p. 1

<sup>15</sup> Herndon Observer, October 20, 1932, p. 1

<sup>16</sup> Fairfax Herald, June 11, 1937, p. 6

<sup>17</sup> Fairfax Herald, November 29, 1946, p. 1

<sup>18</sup> History of the Fairfax Garden Club, by Roberta Carter, 2004.

<sup>19</sup> Fairfax Herald, May 23, 1947, p. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Fairfax Herald, June 27, 1947, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> Fairfax Herald, May 21, 1915, p. 3.

<sup>23</sup> A History of the Woman's Club of Fairfax, Betty Dittman & Margart Shallcross, 1984 & 2000.

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## The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

The Fare Facs Gazette ©2004  
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