The Fare Facs Gazette
The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Fall 1862 at Fairfax Court House: Changes and Challenges
by Andrea J. Loewenwarter

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Once the Civil War began, President Lincoln soon promoted the popular Franz Sigel to the rank of Major General. More than 1 million Germans had immigrated into this country between 1845-60 for both economic and political reasons.3

The XI Army Corps in Fairfax Court House

“Fairfax looks like as if one day a very lively town. But to look at it now you would think it would never be as it once was. There is [sic] no...”

David L. Pumphrey, President

Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
"Fare Fac - Say Do"

Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

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At the Fairfax Museum and Blenheim... 

Welcome New Members!

Endnotes for Criminline & Quinine continued from p. 22:

Endnotes for Changes and Challenges continued from p. 8:

Endnotes for Alfred Mow continued from p. 28:

Fairfax Court House News of 150 Years Ago

An Edict Against Irregular Sutters.
The following order was issued yesterday—

Endorsed by:

Title: HISTORICAL ANNALS OF VIRGINIA, FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, NOVEMBER SPECIAL ORDER—It is hereby ordered that all regular settlers occupying buildings or tents in the town vacate the same and proceed to their regiments immediately. All clothing dealers, butchers and tradesmen are hereby ordered out of the town. All stores remaining after 10 o’clock, A.M., November 25th, 1861, will be assumed and sold at public auction.

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 26, 1862, p. 8, c. 1.

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 26, 1862, p. 8, c. 1.

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 1, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 1, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

Hollister Advance, November 26, 1862, p. 2, c. 3.

San Francisco Bulletin, June 7, 1882, p. 2, c. 3.

Salt Lake Daily Herald, December 15, 1883, p. 8, c. 5.


The Prisoner of State, 1864, p. 313, Carleton Publisher, Philadelphia, PA.

The Prisoner of Sate, © 1863, p. 313, Carleton Publisher, Philadelphia, PA.

Alley in the Valley of the city and among the fields. Under the command of Gen. Joseph W. Martin, the 5th Georgia, 1862, p. 230, New York, N.Y.

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 1, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

The Prisoner of Sate, © 1863, p. 313, Carleton Publisher, Philadelphia, PA.

Philadelphia Inquirer, November 1, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

The Prisoner of Sate, © 1863, p. 313, Carleton Publisher, Philadelphia, PA.

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The Prisoner of Sate, © 1863, p. 313, Carleton Publisher, Philadelphia, PA.
Endnotes for "Crinoline & Quinine continued from p. 18:"

8 Report of Gen. Washington & Georgetown Directory, p. 86, © 1862, Thomas Hutchinson, Publisher, 492 Seventh St., W., N.Y. NY.
9 Message of the President to the Congress of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress, p. 553, © 1862, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.
10 Ibid p. 139, c. 1.
12 Alexandria Gazette, May 23, 1863, p. 3, c. 7.
13 Evening Star, October 31, 1862, p. 2, c. 3.
14 Compiled Confederate Serv. Recs., Res. Grp. 91, NARA, Wash., DC.
15 Records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-1863, NARA, Wash., DC.
16 Ibid.
17 Alexandria Gazette, May 13, 1862, p. 4, c. 1.
19 Ibid, p. 121.
21 "The Use of Quinine During the Civil War," John Hopkins Hospital Bulletin 17, June 1906.
22 "Table of Prices of Quinine Since 1821." Pharmaceutical Review 1, Oct. 1851, p. 258.
24 Alexandria Gazette, November 3, 1862, p. 1, c. 3.
25 Alexandria Gazette, December 28, 1862, p. 1, c. 3.
26 Washington Star, November 5, 1862, p. 2, c. 3.
28 Frank Leslie's Illustrated Magazine, November 22, 1862, v. 15, p. 373, c. 139, p. c. 4.
29 Report of Col. Charles Cummings to his wife, December 14th, 1862, Gen. Stoughton succeeded Gen. Sigel in having his headquarters at one of the camps.
30 Alexandria Magazine, November 22, 1862, v. 15, p. 373, c. 140, p. c. 4.
32 Report of Col. Charles Cummings to his wife, December 14th, 1862, Gen. Stoughton succeeded Gen. Sigel in having his headquarters at one of the camps.
33 Alexandria Magazine, November 22, 1862, v. 15, p. 373, c. 141, p. c. 4.
36 Sergeant John Lee (1820-1870) enl. as a Sgt., Co. C, 95th New York Inf., joined the 12th New York Volunteer Infantry on October 5, 1862. He had enlisted in the 61st Ohio Volunteer Regiment as a 16-year-old musician but soon became an assistant clerk in the Fairfax Court House."

Major General Franz Sigel

Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division

fences around the houses and no glass in the windows. The churches all torn down. And only a few negroes [sic] and some white women and children..."  

Zachariath Taylor (Z.T.) Miller painted this desolate view of Fairfax Court House in a letter to his mother on October 5, 1862. He had enlisted in the 61st Ohio Volunteer Regiment as a 16-year-old musician but soon became an assistant clerk in the Fairfax Court House."

The descriptive letters of Miller and other soldiers in the newly formed XI Army Corps, along with newspaper reports and official records, provide the military play-by-play and glimpses of soldiers as they attend to their daily activities. Whereas the words of local land owners, and enslaved people are scarce, we do find occasional documents and descriptions—often through the Union soldiers letters—that give us a slice of daily life in Fairfax Court House in Fall of 1862.

Henry Isaac Colyer, with the 157th New York Volunteers, describes his military movements, camp life, and the hardships he endured. When he first wrote from Fairfax Court House on October 18 he reflected on his march from Arlington and his new camp:  

“When I started my knapsack did not trouble me in any way. But my togs got so sore that I could hardly step.... We marched about one mile north of Fairfax and camped on a meadow...I wish you could see the coffee we half [sic] to eat. They are the size of soda crackers but they are hard as flint. They are tough. No more taste to them than chalk.”

But beginning in mid-October 1862, simple discontent from weather and physical conditions began to take a toll on the soldiers. Private Ernst Damkoehler from the 26th Wisconsin Infantry wrote to his wife, Mathilde,  

We...."went to our destination (Fairfax Courthouse).... However we had to sleep without tents because the baggage wagons had remained behind.... The hardships of hunger and camping under the open skies with no protection due to rain and other inconveniences were without limit. A fourth of each camp is sick, suffering from diarrhea, fever and colds. Adam Heilman was sick and Philip is still sick now....”

Henry Colyer’s letter home on October 21 also conveys the increase of illness among the troops. “Many of the soldiers are sick.” In Company I, there is not one sergeant fit for duty. The reality of the massive wave of sickness and many soldiers’ fate is realized by Colyer, on October 29 while he is battling a slight case of dysentery:  

“Last night a soldier of Co. B, 157th NY, died in the hospital. He had been sick for a long time. Today, his funeral procession goes down the slope from camp and up to a pine covered hill behind. The musicians play a dirge with the drum muffled.”

The hardships and realities of military life begin to take a toll for the XI Army Corps began to take the form of Daily National, October 18, 1862, p. 2, c. 3. The Daily National, October 18, 1862, p. 2, c. 3. The Daily National, October 18, 1862, p. 2, c. 3. The Daily National, October 18, 1862, p. 2, c. 3. The Daily National, October 18, 1862, p. 2, c. 3.

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The 11th Army Corps Reserve Hospital

The discovery of the records for the 11th Army Corps Reserve Hospital at Fairfax Court House resulted from research conducted on the soldiers who signed their names in the Historic Blenheim house, the former Willcoxon farm house on Old Lee Highway. Prior to and following the Civil War, the former Willcoxon farm house became the reserve hospital at Fairfax Court House resulting from operations in Northern Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, Mar 17-Sep 14.

City of Fairfax purchase of the ca. 1859 house and 12-acre farm on Old Lee Highway. Before the Civil War, the house was owned by Albert Richard Blenheim. Blenheim was a prominent lawyer and was a member of the law firm of Joel Panger and Albert Blenheim. After Blenheim’s death in 1858, the house was divided among his four children. The children sold the house and 12 acres in 1864 to John M. and Mrs. Jane McCargo. The McCargos lived in the house until 1874 when they sold it to the City of Fairfax. The city purchased the house and 12 acres to use as a hospital for Confederate soldiers.

The house was first occupied as a hospital on November 2, 1862, and was used for the treatment of sick and wounded Confederate soldiers. The hospital was used until the end of the war in 1865, when it was closed and the property returned to its former condition as a private residence.

The 11th Army Corps Reserve Hospital

FAIRFAX RESERVE HOSPITAL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY 1861-1865

The 11th Army Corps Reserve Hospital was one of the many hospitals established during the Civil War to care for the sick and wounded soldiers. The hospital was located in Fairfax County, Virginia, and was actively used from November 2, 1862, to September 1865.

The hospital was designed to accommodate up to 200 patients and was equipped with medical supplies and personnel. Patients were treated in the hospital for a variety of ailments, including diseases, injuries, and burns. The hospital was staffed by military doctors and nurses, as well as volunteers.

The hospital played a vital role in caring for wounded soldiers during the Civil War. It provided medical care and treatment to many soldiers who were otherwise unable to receive proper care.

Endnotes for Changes and Challenges continued from p. 7:


3. Ibid.


6. Ibid.

7. Colyer, October 29, 1862. Although the collection of Henry Isaac Colyer’s letters had been transcribed in the 1960s by his son they did not always include correct transcriptions. Patricia A. Gallagher, a volunteer with the “Blenheim Research Group” transcribed and annotated his letters in April 2001. It is interesting to note that he sometimes spelled his last name Collyer, as did the U.S. Army. At the hospital his “pension file is missing,” but he was sent from service file that he was discharged in July 1863. At some time he made his way out to California, but nothing else is known at this time. He was patient number 927 on the hospital Register #335, Reserve Hospital, Fairfax Court House. He had developed a continued fever. [Introductory notes to transcriptions of Henry I. Colyer].

8. New York Infantry,” by Patricia A. Gallagher, April 20, 2001, collection of Henry Isaac Colyer’s letters. Colyer, October 29, 1862. Although the collection of Henry Isaac Colyer’s letters had been transcribed in the 1960s by his son they did not always include correct transcriptions. Patricia A. Gallagher, a volunteer with the “Blenheim Research Group” transcribed and annotated his letters in April 2001. It is interesting to note that he sometimes spelled his last name Collyer, as did the U.S. Army. At the hospital his “pension file is missing,” but he was sent from service file that he was discharged in July 1863. At some time he made his way out to California, but nothing else is known at this time. He was patient number 927 on the hospital Register #335, Reserve Hospital, Fairfax Court House. He had developed a continued fever. [Introductory notes to transcriptions of Henry I. Colyer].

9. Ibid.


11. Ibid.

12. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Scott, a tremendous undertaking in local history, continued from p. 7.

13. Colyer, December 13, 1862.

14. New Yorker, William T. Rumsey had purchased the former estate of Richard Ratcliffe (d. 1825), Mt. Vinyard, west of the Fairfax Court House in 1842. Richard Ratcliffe was the founder of the Town of Providence (1805), former called Fairfax Court House.

15. Dr. J. Mortimer Craver was the assis. regt. m.d. for the 157th New State Volunteers. He served in the reserve hospital at Fairfax Court House until March, 1863 until he became ill. He returned to update New York for two more years to recuperate. He returned to service at Aqua Creek prior to the Battle of Chickamauga (http://www.onlinerecords.com, Biography of Dr. J. Mortimer Craver).
A statement in your paper to day that Washington’s will was some time since stolen from the office here, and has been sold to the British Museum.

I am assured by a gentleman here, in whose statement I have entire confidence, that so far from such being the fact, the will in question is still in the office, Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. 33 While in prison he heard of the fall of Richmond, Virginia to be exchanged for Capt. John T. Drew (endnote 33), 1862.  His final resting place is unknown.

When Richmond fell to Union forces in 1865, the records of Fairfax County were once again pillaged. George Washington’s Will was found on the floor in Secretary Munford’s office “among the papers lying scattered by Federal soldiers.” 35 Fortunately, the Will was returned to the Fairfax County Clerk’s Office where it remains today.

(Endnotes)
1. Fairfax County Minute Book 1835, p. 229, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Fairfax, Va.
8. Alexandria Gazette, February 14, 1854, p. 3, c. 3.
22. Fairfax County Minute Book 1845, p. 15, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Fairfax, Va.
33. NARA (RG 94), Records of the Adjutant, General Office A.C. REG 353

soldiers on the walls at Historic Blenheim are also listed on this register, particularly from the 13th  New York State Volunteer (NYSV) and the 26th Wisconsin Infantry.

Other represented regiments are the 54th NYSV, the 73rd, 74th and 75th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (these regiments were primarily composed of German-born soldiers).

The featured ailment listed during this time period was rheumatism (305 patients). Given the physical strains of walking an average of 13 miles a day in mud, heat, and cold, and sleeping with and without tents outside in various conditions, it is not surprising that arthritis complaints abounded. There was no cure for the rheumatism but rest and pain relief were prescribed. 36 Fevers—intermittent (coming and going) and typhoid—along with diarrhea and dysentery were the most prevalent diseases.

In an 1888 deposition in his pension file, Morris Coats, from the 136th NYSV, stated:

“I contracted Rheumatism on or about the month of November 1862.  I had had Typhoid fever just previous to that, and was sent to a Hospital called the “Brock House Hospital” near Fairfax, Va. and had been treated for it for some five or six weeks….  I felt the effects of the Rheumatism while I was in the Hospital at Fairfax first.  When it got so that I could be up and around, I felt in the pain that I felt all over….  I was treated for that in connection with the fever by the physicians in that Hospital.”

After being transferred to a Hospital in Alexandria in which he stayed until March 1863 he described:

“I was delirious part of the time, and was blistered for the trouble in my lungs and the rheumatism.  They were applied to my chest and back.” 40

Morris Coats was first hospitalized as on November 3 for dysentery, according to the hospital register. He was readmitted on December 28th, though a reason was not stated. Thomas L. Perine who signed his name on the attic wall above Coats, was patient #823 and entered for diarrhea. 41 Perine enters with diarrhea, but in his pension file it is stated that he had typhoid fever. In examining the hospital registers along with soldier pension files and letters it becomes clear that many diseases or ailments are often symptoms of another disease. Indicative of this is Charles, W. Wetherbee, Patient #111, on Register #353. He is admitted with rheumatism on November 3, 1862 and died on December 29, 1862. His service and pension files have not been examined, but it is highly unlikely that he died of rheumatism.

Simultaneously, a third, smaller register, “No. 358” with 100 patients on it was in operation from October 17, 1862 – January 21, 1862. The primary disease listed was typhoid fever, although almost half of the diseases are illegible on the original documents. It included soldiers from various regiments and it is unclear whether they were shipped off by regiment to different areas or were just hospitalized in...
one site over that hospital period. On this list were several
Fairfax Court House area must of have been terrifying to
Stuart's cavalry raids through Occoquan, Burke's Station,
in action in mid-to-late December with Confederate J.E.B.
By researching their regiments, they appeared to have been
in 1860—four men and two women. Had
they chosen one of their slaves who ranged in age from 17
to 65 to drive the carriage out to Middleburg? Who would
they pick: the young 17-year-old, one of the more mature
enslaved people in their 20s and 30s, or the older 65-year-old enslaved
man? Or, had they hired another man to assist?

We don’t know how long Mary and the children
local families who still remained in the vicinity. Albert and
Mary Willcoxon had a 3-year-old boy, Harry, and a 2-year-
old daughter, Bessie during this hospital period. There
must have been great concern and apprehension as to how
to keep their family safe from the communicable diseases
that surrounded them. A Union-issued pass exists, written
on November 11, 1862, that was purchased in the Scott
family estate sale in 1897, prior to the City of Fairfax’s
ownership of the house and property. Currently in private
hands, it states,

“...two ladies (Mrs. Wilcox), two children
and one colored driver with carriage from here [Aldie] out-side our picket lines to
Middleburgh, Va.”

Mary had grown up in Leesburg and might have
been retreating to some friend’s home. The other woman
noted on the pass may have been here sister, Isabelle, or
perhaps her mother, Margaret. We can only speculate
about the “colored driver”. The Willcoxons owned 6
enslaved people in 1860—four men and two women. Had
they chosen one of their slaves who ranged in age from 17
to 65 to drive the carriage out to Middleburg? Who would
they pick: the young 17-year-old, one of the more mature
men in their 20s and 30s, or the older 65-year-old enslaved
man? Or, had they hired another man to assist?

“Vulnus Sclopeticum” Homefront Survival
The reality of sick and dying soldiers throughout the
Fairfax Court House area must of have been terrifying to
one site over that hospital period. On this list were several
soldiers with a “Vulnus Sclopeticum” (gunshot wound). By researching their regiments, they appeared to have been
in action in mid-to-late December with Confederate J.E.B.
20 Stuart’s cavalry raids through Occoquan, Burke’s Station,
in action in mid-to-late December with Confederate J.E.B.
20 Alfred was a slave holder and a staunch secessionist.
He ran as the secession candidate to the Virginia Secession
Convention in 1861.20 He lost to the more moderate
candidate William H. Dulany. Not surprisingly, he voted
for secession at Fairfax Court House when the issue was
put to the voters in the form of a referendum.

Records of Fairfax County Plighted
When General Milledge L. Bonham of South Carolina
arrived at Fairfax Court House with his brigade in the spring
of 1861, Alfred Moss enlisted in the Confederate Army.
He was appointed a Major and served as a volunteer Aide
de Camp to General Bonham, and later in the same capacity
to General Richard S. Ewell, of Virginia.20

After the 1st Battle of Manassas in July 1861, it
became apparent that nothing of value would be safe from
the contending armies in Fairfax County.

A Union soldier in a Maine Cavalry Regiment
described, in a letter dated April 13, 1862, what had been
happening to the public records housed in the Fairfax County
Clerk’s Office at Fairfax Court House:

“The floor of the office is strewn several
inches deep with papers dating from 1690
down to the present time. Nearly all the boys
secured some to send home.” 21

In early 1862, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk,
Alfred Moss, gathered up all the court records he could
carry including the Will of President George Washington
and drove them to Warrenton, Virginia. He continued on to
Richmond, Virginia where he turned the Will over to George
W. Munford, Secretary of the Commonwealth, for
safekeeping.

Alfred continued to serve as Clerk of the Fairfax
County Court until the spring of 1862 when, after refusing
to take an oath of allegiance to the United States, his office
was declared vacant by Francis H. Pierpont, Governor of the
restored government of Virginia.

In July 1862, Alfred Moss was captured along with
Col. Charles Lee Jones21 by Federal troops of “Bayard’s
Died at the Peohatan Hotel in this city on Sunday, Major Al-
FRED G. M UNFORD. The demand has been for many years Clerk of Fairfax coun-
y, Virginia. In the years 1846 and 48 he was a member of the
Virginia House of Delegates from that county. His most promi-
nent characteristic was his uniform kindness to the poorer class of the community in which he lived, and indeed, wherever they
came within reach of his kind hand. He was known far and near as their firm, steadfast and ever ready friend, and many a year
will start at the news of his death. He was courteous affable and
gentle, and very rarely did an unkind word pass his lips.
Major Moss was for a considerable time connected with the
staff of Brigade General M. L. Bonham of S. O., and during the
times that officer commanded the advance of our troops, was most
valuable and efficient in giving plans of the whole country around
the region of Manassas, Centrevilla and Fairfax Court House—
he was bold and daring, and more than once has it fallen to the
fortune of the writer to be in company with him when ranging
within the lines of the enemy or creeping upon their ill-fated
pickets.

Subsequent to the election of General Bonham as member of the
Confederate House of Legislature, after which he resigned his
commission Major Moss was connected with the Major General
Ewell’s staff. He had the ill-fortune to be taken prisoner by the
Federals during the past summer and was taken to Washington
City, where he was confined in the Old Capitol building.

There he contrived, it is supposed, the aggrieved name of
Xandliss, which in consequence of his close confinement until
his release, within the past three weeks, was the incident to be
shedded, and he sank very rapidly, having confined to his
room not more than one week, up to the time of his death.

His loss will be much mourned by a wide and family and by a
large circle of warm friends and acquaintances.

A TN, 7th

Richmond Whig, October 7, 1862, p. 3, c. 2.
Bayly then said it was lie! Angered, Jones snapped back, “Do you mean that for me sir?” and then raised his crop and struck Bayly. Bayly wrestled the crop away and then raised his in what proved to be a mortal wound.

Abandoning his wife and two small children, Buck immediately rode off in the company of a Confederate soldier, never to return. In spite of the fact that Dr. McGuire had witnessed the entire incident, no coroners inquest or criminal proceedings appear to have been initiated in Fauquier County. By September of 1867, Buck Bayly resurfaced in San Francisco, California, where he had established himself as a merchant on the corner of Pine and Montgomery Streets.

In November 1872, Buck submitted a claim to the Southern Claims Commission through his brother, Sampson, for almost $5,000 for livestock (Sheep, cattle, horses, milk cows and oxen) taken by Gen. Gamble in 1863. The claim for almost $5,000 for livestock (Sheep, cattle, horses, milk cows and oxen) taken by Gen. Gamble in 1863. The claim was denied.

In 1871, Buck was living in Hollister, California. In a deposition given in November of that year, he stated that he had been a resident of California continuously since 1867 and that he was formerly a citizen of the Confederate States. In the early 1870’s he ran a saloon in Hollister. According to the Hollister Advance, the saloon of “Merss. Bailey & Eastman [was] one of the handsomest in town.”

By 1874, the partnership of “Emerson, Bayly & Eastman” had been dissolved and Bayly “re-occupied his premises on Fourth street, near Briggs office.” That same year he took on a new partner, Andrew Jackson Speegle.

The new saloon, Speegle & Bayly, featured a bowling alley and operated on the corner of Fourth and San Benito Streets in Hollister. The following story on Bayly in the Hollister Advance, in December 1873:

“M.B. Bayly has finally settled down commercially. His next plunge will, we apprehend, be matrimonially. He has joined SPEEGLE (COPELAND) retiring in the famous “Corner.” Fourth Street, which is now being transformed into a star of the first magnitude by removing partitions and putting up a first-class billiard table.... [Advertisement] SPEEGLE & BAYLY, late SPEEGLE & COPELAND, new billiard table; Cov. Fourth & San Benito Sts.”

By February 1882, Buck was in trouble again, “M.B. Bayly, who has been drumming up custom[ers] at Sacramento, Marysville and elsewhere, for Bach, Meese & Co., wholesale liquor dealers at 321 Montgomery street, was arrested last evening by officer A.T. Fields, at the Oakland Ferry, and lodged in the City Prison on a charge of embezzlement preferred by a member of the firm, who accuses him of having collected some $300, which, it is alleged, was spent in dissipation and gambling. Bayly claims that on a settlement his account would not be far short of being square.”

A few months later the following appeared in the San Francisco Bulletin:

“BENCH WARRANT ISSUED. – In Department Twelve of the Superior Court to-day M.B. Bayly, charged with embezzlement, did not appear for trial and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.”

In December 1883, the Salt Lake Daily Herald listed the arrival of one “M.B. Bayley, [of] Sacramento.”

He was still listed as a fugitive from justice in San Francisco in 1891. He is presumed to have died in obscurity.

Volume 9, Issue 4 The Fair Facs Gazette Fall 2012

In an ironic twist, Buck Bayly served as a Juror in a murder trial in Hollister in 1874. In the case of San Benito County v. Vitale Rosetta, Rosetta was acquitted. By 1880, he was living in Redding, Shasta County, California on the “Rail Road Reservation” and was employed as a bar keeper in the Golden Eagle Hotel.

Henry Coley, the prolific soldier, with the 157th New York offered many descriptions of hospital room arrangements, the quality, or lack of quality of care, “We have a good Dr. he is very particular about the patients keeping clean. They mop the floors every three days.”

He is able to pass on news that he hears from his active regiment, but also has a pulse on what is happening in the community. While he is feeling a bit better from his “camp fever” he manages to take his cap outside and milk the cows of a local farmer (Dec 16). On Christmas Day. He again mentions milking cows, but this time names the farmer, “Stevenson, ” who would be Abner Stevenson who property abuted the Rumsey property. In one of his last letters written from Fairfax Court House, Coley tells his mother,

“These soldiers have taken the boards off the Ramsey barn and last night the frame and roof blew down.”

On this same date Henry relates that General Slocum’s headquarters is now at Fairfax Court House and that there are rumors that the sick Vermont soldiers will replace them soon in the hospitals. In describing the military role at Fairfax Court House in January he states that,

“there are no troops here now. The Vermont Brigade has moved over to the station. The 12th Army Corps has moved from there and they have taken their place.”

Henry Isaac Coley left Fairfax Court House on January 23 for the King Street Branch Hospital in which he remained through July 63.

Moving on

The fall of 1862 was busy in Fairfax Court House. The demoralizing blow of the Union’s loss at the Battle of 2nd Bull Run/Mannassas, and the death of two Union generals at the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly in late summer, caused an upheaval and reorganization of leadership and troops. The 2nd Army Corps was in control of the greater village area and was attempting to boost morale and reassert its strength while being affected by the ebb and flow of troop movements and battles. The removal of the XI Army Corps brought the XII Army Corps and the 2nd Vermont Brigade (then reorganized within the XXII Army Corps) in and around the small village.

At Fairfax Court House, as with Union and Confederate troops everywhere, the soldiers battled not just the enemy, but the persistent threat and reality of disease.

The sheer number of soldiers who became ill for a few days, or for weeks and months at a time put a stress on the regiments and on the entire, still developing medical system. Organization, surgeons, nurses, supplies, food, transportation, death were many of the issues to be dealt with in a temporary hospital situation. And, for local inhabitants, whose homes and land were overrun by soldiers, well and sick, they had to continue to learn how to survive during hostile times.

The tumultuous times would continue with some surprises in early 1863. The

Fairfax Court Court House, Fall 1862 At-A-Glance

August 28-30 Battle of 2nd Manassas/Bull Run September 1 Battle of Chantilly/Oh Hill September 5 General Pope relieved of his command9

October 3 XI Corps moved headquarters to Fairfax Court House as support for the 2nd Army Corps. Most of XI Corps moved from FCt to Thoroughfare Gap and Warrenton

November 2 XI Corps headquarters returned to Fairfax Court House

December 12 Battle of Fredericksburg December 12 XI Corps began march to Fredericksburg, but arrived after the battle.

December 12-14 The XII Brigade entered Fairfax Court House; started for Fredericksburg but turned back. They remained in Fairfax Station, Dumfries, but arrived after the battle.

December 12-16 2nd Vermont Brigade,—Abecrombie’s Division of the Military District of Washington—were then moved to Fairfax Station, Centreville and eventually to Wolf Run Shoals.

December 20 2nd Vermont Brigade, now Casey’s Division, 2nd Army Corps at Fairfax Court House.

December 28 Burke Station Raid (Christmas Raid) by Confederate Cavalry under the command of J.B. Stuart

Endnotes:

1 Alexandria Gazette, July 13, 1846, p. 3, c. 3. Compiled Confederate Service Records, Richard P. Buckner & Sampson

2 John A. Adams (1819-1892) son of John Adams & Ann Thompson; attended the Univ. of VA, 1837 & Univ. of PA; Physician, m. Mary E. Barber, Fauquier Co., Feb. 10, 1840; organized a prewar cavalry troop in Fauquier Co.; enr. Apr. 1861, developed dyspepsia, edema associated with heart failure, resigned Sept. 1862, Jan. 19, 1882; bur. Cul Strip Meth.


4 Philadelphia Inquirer, November 1, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.


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12 Philadelphia Inquirer, November 1, 1862, p. 1, c. 2.

Fairfax, as Viewed From a Brisk Carriage

The following letter appeared in the Salem Observer, Salem, Massachusetts, October 25, 1862, p. 2, c. 4. The letter, from a soldier in the 40th Massachusetts Infantry, provides a very good description of Fairfax County as seen by one of four Massachusetts men during a carriage ride from Munson's Hill to Fairfax Court House in early October 1862. At least one of the men (not the author) has been positively identified as Albert G. Browe (1805-1885), of Salem, MA.  Browe was the father of Albert G. Browe (1805-1885), of Salem, Massachusetts. The letter and a Brisk Carriage ride between Munson's Hill to Fairfax Court House is quite interesting to compare with the view of Fairfax from another soldier’s perspective and for the historical information provided. The following is an excerpt from this letter:

Dear —

We rode in a very comfortable carriage to enjoy an excursion the other day which was so interesting that I will give you some account of it. At 9 A.M., two Salem friends, (Mr. H. Johnson, and Mr. Brown, father of our Governor’s Military Secretary), whose speech was like the echo of “Home Sweet Home,” appeared at our camp in a light carriage drawn by a pair of spirited horses, and Capt. Johnson and myself were soon briskly travelling over the turnpike with them toward Fairfax Court House and Centerville.

The morning was just like one of our early September days in Massachusetts, just the slightest tinge of autumn in the falluating temperature, the sun-light. The face of the country resembled many parts of New England,—irregular, abounding in hills of easy ascent, woodland and clearing interspersed. Pine oak forests are seen, although the trees in this vicinity are mostly of recent growth, and one looks in vain for the forests that have heretofore been so attractive to Northern ship builders. Northern farmers however cannot fail to be charmed with the natural advantages of soil and situation. It is not uncommon for our soldiers who have an eye to such things to say, “I have picked out my farm,” “I think I shall bring my wife and settle here.” Nor is there so much of assumption in remarks like these, as there may seem to be. For judging by present appearances the whole region will be ready for re-settlement by the time the war ends. New roads and an inhabited house are passed, but many of the residences, particularly of the better class, are deserted, untenantable, not a few in ruins. Those still standing show by their rudely jointed and potted walls, their unshapely chimneys—often built of logs—their scattered out-buildings, their general air of untidliness, that they belonged to a race, whose ideas of convenience and taste differ essentially from those prevalent among the “mud sills” of New England.

The road is somewhat better than the Leesburg turnpike, which I described to you the other day. The practice of dispensing with bridges, except over the larger streams, obliges the traveler to pass through many a slough. At the ascents we found the same side tracks, not long in use, for avoiding the steepness of the summit. The Virginia engineers seem to have had an artistic disregard for such conveniences, accordingly we dubbed them, whether justly or not, Yankee turn-outs.

Some few miles this side of Fairfax Court House we came upon an encampment by the road side which consisted of three or four Silksby and as many tents pitched, in a deserted farm yard. Several broken down army horses were fastened near by. On inquiry we were told it was a new-look’s encampment; and at the instant up rode a man from Washington, whose horse was loaded with fresh papers. A few moments only were sufficient to sort and distribute them among those waiting solders, who jumped into the saddle and reassembled forward toward the camps. We hailed the leader and learned that he was from Boston.—James Mc Neely by name. The whole organization he told us is in charge of one man, who employs six boys and eleven horse. He pays the boys two dollars a day and expenses. They sell on an average between three hundred and four hundred papers a day at five cents apiece. Here is an example, perhaps not the least significant, of the changes which this war is introducing.

We reached the encampment of the Old Mass., of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was well known, stormed into Lafayette Baker’s office in the War Department and presented him with a written order for the return of the property signed by President Lincoln. Baker, flippantly informed him that he could not comply with the order as the property had already been turned over to the Medical Department and Quarter master and disposed of. Blair, who could be abrasive, then demanded that Stanton remove Baker from office. Stanton refused, but released Lou Buckner from Old Capitol Prison on her taking the oath of allegiance to the United States several days later.

Blair, a moderate with strong Southern ties, had numerous conflicts with other members of Lincoln’s cabinet. One reporter described him as “a restless mischief maker... who was apparently never so happy as when he was in hot water or making water hot for others.” Because of this, Blair lost the confidence of the more radical element of the Republican Party. Lincoln ultimately accepted his resignation in September 1864 on the eve of the Presidential election. In spite of this, Blair remained loyal to Lincoln to the end.

When Buck Bayly was interrogated by Lafayette Baker he initially refused to admit guilt and denied having anything to do with smuggling. He was returned to Old Capitol. In prison, Bayly, an aristocratic Southerner, was treated harshly by the prison guards. He was placed in solitary confinement for waving, or attempting to communicate with passersby outside a prison window.

After more than a week in confinement Bayly wrote to Col. Baker he initially refused to admit guilt and denied having anything to do with smuggling. He was returned to Old Capitol. In prison, Bayly, an aristocratic Southerner, was treated harshly by the prison guards. He was placed in solitary confinement for waving, or attempting to communicate with passersby outside a prison window.

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told them they would not be going any further. Both Mrs. Turner and Lou Buckner vehemently protested, attempting to influence Corp. Hunt. They pleaded that their documents and cargo were legitimate. When it became clear that Hunt did not believe them, they switched tactics and complained that it was about to rain and they and their clothing would soon be wet. Unmoved, Corp. Hunt placed them all under arrest and had them escorted under a cavalry guard to Brigadier General Julius Stahel’s headquarters in Centreville, five miles away.

Gen. Stahel made his headquarters at Royal Oaks, the home of Joseph Whaley. Here the prisoners were turned over to Col. Leopold von Gilsa of the 41st New York Infantry. Captain Brown, Assistant Provost Marshal of Fairfax Court House, arrived. He conducted a search of the wagon which revealed a tremendous amount of groceries and 60 one-ounce vials of quinine concealed in a cinnamon tin from venerable Baltimore spice dealer George W. Wait & Son. A search of Buck Bayly revealed two letters and several contraband newspapers concealed on his person. Col. von Gilsa then had the delicate task of searching both Lou Buckner and Mrs. Turner. Civility made this task impossible for him, or any other man, to complete. The only woman in the Centreville area available to do this was Augusta von Gilsa, the wife of Col. von Gilsa. She flatly refused to do so. An officer then remembered another “strong Union woman” in one of the other regiments. When it became apparent that she would be searched, Lou Buckner tried to shame the Union officers by allegedly saying, “So, this is the way you treat Southern ladies?”

Augusta von Gilsa then agreed to act as a witness “to prevent the possibility of the woman being tampered with.” Lou Buckner was then escorted into an adjoining room. A thorough search of her clothing revealed an additional 60 ounces of quinine in one-ounce vials hidden in “long pockets lined with oiled silk” sewn into her dress. Mrs. Turner was led into another room and thoroughly searched. Nothing was found on her.

Mrs. Turner and apparently, Dr. Adams, owing to his feeble health, and the unidentified boy, were all permitted to return to Fauquier County in the carriage. Capt. Brown then escorted Buck Bayly, Lou Buckner, and the contraband goods to Fairfax Court House. Capt. Brown deposed to Camp, to Gen. Sigel, notified Col. Baker of their arrest:

“United States Military Telegraph

Received Oct. 29, 1862

From Fairfax C.H. Oct. 29

To Col. Baker, Pro. Marshal

Buck Bailey and Mrs. Turner & Mrs. Buckner were arrested at twelve (12) o’clock near Chantilly. Their papers letters and all will be brought from Centreville here tonight.

Please send some of your men here immediately to take them off our hands.

C.W. Asmussen

Capt., A.D.C.”

Sergeant John Lee then conveyed them to Washington, D.C. where they were confined in Old Capitol Prison pending an interrogation by either Col. Baker or his associate, Col. Levi C. Turner.

After Lou Buckner was confined in Old Capitol Prison her uncle, Montgomery Blair, became incensed and in spite of the smuggling charge, demanded that the property, which he had unknowingly paid for, be returned. The property in question, not only consisted of the quinine and groceries, but the personal effects of Lou Buckner and Buck Bayly, as well as the horse and wagon. Blair, whose dislike of this side of Fairfax, as the regiment was marching out to be reviewed by Brigadier General Steinwahr. Their appearance, under the lead of their spirited commander and his associate officers, was highly gratifying to Massachusetts men. It seemed to be less to the General, to judge from a few words of hearty commendation which he spoke to them at the close. When the review was over Col. Maggi welcomed his friends, particularly Mr. B., with his characteristic enthusiasm. Accompanying him to his tent we enjoyed some unexpected pleasure of an interview with Generals Sigel and Shurz. The noble form, fresh countenance, vivacious manner, and brilliant speech of General Shurz will be easily recalled by all who saw him on his visit to Massachusetts a year or two (?) ago. Military life however has given his figure a roundness that it did not then possess. General Sigel, you may well believe, we looked upon with special interest. Although easily recognizable from the likeness of him which abounds, yet justice is not done him in any of them which I have seen. His features are more angular it is true, and Tusticule than the portrait, but do not wear that krague smart look with which he is generally represented. On the contrary, his expression, manner, speech, are eminently thoughtful and deliberate. Though rather small in person, there is nothing stiff or pompous in his bearing. His eye generally witch a meditative look; and much of the time, though by no means self-absorbed, he seems to be pouting weighty matters. Every now and then, however, he concentrates upon you a gaze which is peculiarly piercing. In size, deportment, and obvious mental traits he reminded me very much of General Banks—the same quiet self-possession, composed, clearness of thought and speech.

Accompanying the Generals, in a carriage, were Madames Shurz and Lyons—the latter the wife of the General’s Secretary. The presence of ladies of refinement more is Virginia to make an occasion memorable than in Massachusetts. During the interview the band of the 54th (mainly the private literally of the regiment and its cultivated officers), played some of the finest music admirably. After dinner we passed through Fairfax, once a pretty village,—its gardens now tramplng, its buildings defaced or dismantled, the rude brick Court House now used as a guard house, and continued on our way to Centreville, twenty-six miles.

The farther we advanced the more numerous the sad traces of war. Many a horse that has come to an untimely end lies by the road-side, his skin forming the only winding sheet of his remains. In the view of Centreville all is desolation. The fields are tramplng till they are hardly distinguishable from the highway and strewn with the wrecks of the refugee left by the myriads of Federals and of Rebels, who have alternately encamped here. The village itself has degenerated into a few dreary, isolated dwellings, interspersed with sutler’s shops. From the earth-work, which crowns the hill near by, we looked for miles over the twice fought field of Bull Run, and could understand as never before, why it is that great battles have so often been fought on fields made historic by former engagements.

I purposed to describe the prospect somewhat in detail and to give you some account of our ride back to the camp of the 40th. But orders have just been issued to the Regiment to prepare to move our position at 7 A.M. to-morrow, to Miner’s Hill, situated a few miles north-west of us—consequently all is bustle, and the necessary preparation for a start prevents me from writing anything more about a trip which none of the party will soon forget.

Cordially yours,

If you are not a member of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (HFCI) or if you have not renewed your membership, THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

Please help us preserve the past for future generations. Become a member or renew your membership today!
A Pleasure Visit
by William Page Johnson, II

On October 5, 1862, the New York Times reported that General Franz Sigel had visited the Battlefield of 2nd Manassas for a “pleasure visit.” Leaving his headquarters at Fairfax Court House, Sigel was accompanied by “General Schurz, Mrs. Schurz, Mrs. Capt. Lyon, Miss Chase, members of the Press and others.” General Schurz, who had been engaged in the battle, gave the group a guided tour.

Miss Chase, was Katherine Chase, the vivacious daughter of United States Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase. She had been escorted to Fairfax Court House by an ambitious, 32-year old, Union Brigadier General, who, several days later, wrote of the experience in a letter to his brother:

“On Friday last, Miss Kate Chase and I took their carriage and a pompous liveried driver and allowing him to change his tall plug for a comfortable slouch, we set out for General Sigel’s headquarters at Fairfax Court House. Miss Chase had prepared two large baskets of provisions, partly for a present to the General and partly for our use if we should go on to the battlefield.”

“We went on, across Bull Run to the limit of the late battle for about five miles beyond Centreville...We saw hundreds of graves, or rather, heaps of earth piled upon bodies where they lay. Scores of heads, hands, and feet protruding, and so rapidly had been the decomposition of 34 days that naked, eyeless skulls grinned at us as if the corpses had lifted their heads from their deathbeds to leer at us as we passed by. Shells and round shot lay scattered all over the field and broken muskets and dismantled gun carriages were very plenty. Hats, caps, coats, equipment, letters, and all that lately belonged to life were scattered around.

I picked up a promisory note of $1,000, which would probably be valuable to the heirs of some poor solr. ‘Your loving wife ‘till death’ was the conclusion of a letter which lay near the bones of a skeleton arm which reached through the side of its grave, and had doubtless one day not long ago clasped the loving wife...

We followed the path of where the fierce giants struggled and saw their battle trucks thick with graves. At last we stopped and took a glass of milk with the old Negro who lives on the eastern margre of the field on the bank of Bull Run (to be a sadly famous stream hereafter) and who saw both battles of 1861 and 1862. All along the road from the Run to Centreville, and even further this side toward Fairfax are wrecks of burned wagons and artillery carriages.”

After a festive evening spent in Fairfax Court House as the guest of General Sigel, Kate Chase and her Union escort returned to Washington the next day.

Eventually, the ambitious young officer was promoted to Major General. After the war he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from his native State of Ohio nine times. He then served briefly in the United States Senate before being elected the 20th President of the United States in 1880.

James Abram Garfield served just 200 days as President before he was assassinated on September 19, 1881.

Endnotes:
1 New York Times, October 7, 1862, p. 8, c.

Update!

In response to the article The Jerzmanow Foray in the last issue of the Fair Faces Gazette, former City of Fairfax resident, Asa Swart, age 79, who grew up on the former Jerman Farm, recalls as a child using the community well referenced in the article. According to Asa, the Well sat directly on the Flint Hill Road (now Jerzmanow Road) approximately where the Wendy’s Hamburger Restaurant is now located. “The store, telegraph office and blacksmith shop, were all before my time. I remember the Well though. Probably sometime in the 20’s my Dad installed a pump in the well and ran a pipe under Little River Turnpike to bring water into our house.”

Union 11th Corps commander, Major General Franz Sigel, had recently made his headquarters at Fairfax Court House in the home of Dr. William Presley Gunnell. He arrived on the scene and personally inspected the documents. Satisfied, he apologized to the ladies, returned their property and issued them fresh passes. The travelers rested for about an hour, possibly dining at the Union Hotel, before continuing on their way again.

Meanwhile, the activities of the smugglers while in Washington had not gone unnoticed. That afternoon, a Negro servant in the Gallaher house, possibly a former Gallaher slave, tipped off Col. Lafayette C. Baker, of Baker’s Detective Force, a forerunner of the United States Secret Service. The servant indicated that contraband goods were being smuggled into Virginia and provided Baker with the names and probable destination of the smugglers. Having likely seen Lou’s dress, the servant indicated that some of the contraband goods would be found secreted on Lou Buckner’s person.

After receiving the tip, Baker immediately went to Postmaster General Montgomery Blair and informed him of his discovery. After which Blair replied,

“We’ll arrest them, those people are as loyal as you are, and I loaned them the money... I have just had my note for five hundred dollars discounted to help these poor people.”

Baker was emphatic. Blair became agitated and said,

“Well arrest them and if you find the quinine, put them in the Old Capitol.”

Late that afternoon, Col. Lafayette Baker telegraphed the Provost Marshal’s at Centreville and Fairfax Court House with an order for the arrest of Buck Bayly, Lou Buckner and Mrs. Turner. There was no mention of Dr. Adams or the boy. Col. Baker also immediately dispatched one of his men, Sergeant John Lee, in pursuit.

Baker’s message was received at Centreville. However, “the telegraph line not being in working order” at 11th Corps Headquarters at Fairfax Court House the message was delayed.

The following morning, Sgt. Lee arrived at Fairfax Court House with the news of the smugglers. He immediately telegraphed Baker:

“United States Military Telegraph
Received Oct. 29, 1862, 11:41 AM
From Fairfax C.H., Oct. 29
To Col L.C. Baker, PM
No message was rcvd. here yesterday concerning those persons in the wagon. I have searched the roads but can find no trace. Am now returning to Fairfax. Sergt. Lee.”

After about twelve hours Baker’s dispatch finally made its way to Gen. Sigel in his Headquarters in the home of Dr. William Presley Gunnell at Fairfax Court House.

General Sigel sent the following reply to Baker:

“United States Military Telegraph
Received Oct. 29, 1862, 2:40 PM
From Fairfax C.H., Oct. 29
To Col L.C. Baker, PM
Your dispatch in regard to B. Bailey & Mrs. Turner & Miss Buckner has just been received from Centreville. It is too late. The parties passed here last night at five pm. [They] had passes from Gen. Wadsworth & recommendations from Pres. Lincoln and Mr. Blair. PMG Your agent will now start for home.

F. Sigel, MG”

Col. James S. Robinson, 40 of the 82nd Ohio Infantry, Provost Marshal of Fairfax Court House, immediately dispatched his Assistant Provost Marshal, Captain Jonathan Brown, 41 to Centreville.

From Centreville, Captain Albert G. Lawrence, 42 of General Stahel’s staff was tasked with alerting all of the Union pickets in the area to be on the lookout for the fugitives. Captain Charles P. Wickham, 43 of the 55th Ohio Inf., and Provost Marshal of Centreville, was dispatched to alert the pickets in the vicinity of Chantilly. At a little before midnight he arrived at a picket post on Little River Turnpike near Chantilly six miles west of Fairfax. This was likely the site of Ayres Wagon Stand near present-day Stringfellow Wagon Stand Corporation Franklin M. Hunt, 44 Co. L, 55th Ohio Infantry, of the picket guard to be on the lookout for Bayly, Buckner and Turner. Around midnight the two wagons containing the fugitives were stopped at Hunt’s picket post. Mrs. Turner produced her documents. After Corp. Hunt confirmed their identities he

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druggist, was in the Confederate Army serving as a Hospital Steward in the Alexandria Riflemen, Co. A, 17th Virginia Infantry.14

John L. Kidwell was also a Virginian. In addition to being a druggist, he was also a former slave owner, his three slaves having recently been forcibly emancipated when the District of Columbia abolished slavery in April 1862.15

Alexandria druggist, Henry Peel, an Englishman, had been arrested in February 1862, along with 22 other men from Alexandria, and confined in Old Capitol Prison for his association with the Alexandria based Volunteer Relief Society.16 He, and the other men, were charged with “Furnishing aid to the insurgents by contributions to support the families of those absent serving in the rebel army.”17

As so not to arouse suspicion, Buck only purchased small quantities of the drug, quinine, from each druggist. In this manner, he was able to acquire approximately one hundred twenty ounces. Quinine was a drug that was used to treat malaria and was in critically short supply in the South.

Lou had agreed to assist Buck in this scheme. She carefully modified her top skirt with specially constructed long pockets lined with oiled silk in which to hide the bulk of the quinine.18 However, her true motivation seems to have been only friendship.

Buck Bayly’s motivation was strictly profit. The quinine Buck purchased was manufactured by the Philadelphia firm of Powers and Weightman, who, during the war had a virtual monopoly on the drug.19 However, her true motivation seems to have been only friendship.

The day was bright and sunny, but the roads were somewhat muddy after several days of rain. They intentionally took a circuitous route to avoid Union pickets. They also had to stop frequently to rest their horses. Consequently, their progress was slow. By 5:00 PM, they had reached Fairfax Court House. Mrs. Turner produced their pass and other documents, which the Provost Marshal scrutinized. Not satisfied, he seized their wagon of contraband goods, detained them, and summoned his superior.

### Major Alfred Moss (1816-1862)

By William Page Johnson, II

Alfred Moss was born at Dranesville, Fairfax County, Virginia c. 1816. He was the son of Thomas Moss (1779-1839), Clerk of the Fairfax County Court, and Jane Ratcliffe. His grandfather was Richard Ratcliffe, who founded the Town of Providence (now the City of Fairfax) in 1805. On November 12, 1839, he married his first cousin, Martha Ann Gunnell (1823-1904) in Fairfax County. She was the daughter of George West Gunnell and Lucretia Lucy Ratcliffe. Martha's grandfather was also Richard Ratcliffe. Alfred and Martha had the following children:

Lou Moss b. 1840, d. 1851; Mary Moss b. 1842; Anne Moss b. 1844; Thomas Moss b. 1847; Ida Moss b. 1848, d. 1854; George W. Moss b. 1853; and Minnie H. Moss b. 1855.

Alfred Moss served as Deputy Clerk of the Fairfax County Court from 1835 to at least 1842. When his father died in 1839 he was appointed Clerk pro tem until Col. Spencer M. Ball was elected to fill the vacancy.1

Throughout his life, Alfred was very active in the affairs of Fairfax County. He was a member of the Fairfax Education Society, organized in 1846. He was a founding member of the Fairfax Agricultural Society, organized in October 1848, and served as its inaugural Treasurer.2 This organization became the Fairfax County Fair Association. He was also an early stockholder in the Orange & Alexandria Railroad and served on a committee that assisted in developing the route of that line through Fairfax County.3

In 1851, he was appointed a Fairfax County Road Commissioner “to allot the hands to work the several public roads of the county, and to appoint surveyors thereof; and they are to meet for that purpose at the tavern of G.W.H. Smith, Fairfax Court House, on the second Monday in August.”4 In 1852, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Fairfax and Potomac Plank Road Company, authorized by the Virginia General Assembly to construct a plank road from the Town of Providence to the Potomac River near Georgetown.5 That same year he became a member of the Board of Directors of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company, organized in 1850 by an Act the Virginia General Assembly, to develop a large-scale textile milling operation utilizing water power from the Potomac River.6 Both ventures failed.

In February 1854, he was appointed to the board of directors of the Southern Protection Insurance Company and served as its General Council. His appointment likely came at the request of his friend, Henry W. Thomas, who served as president of the same organization.7 Alfred served only briefly, resigning in April.8

In October 1854, his youngest daughter, Ida, was critically injured in a fall at the home of his brother, Edgar Moss of Alexandria, Prince William County.9 She died several days later.10

Alfred was a member of the old Virginia Democratic Party of Fairfax County. He served as Chairman of the Party in 1848 and was Secretary from 1843 to 1845, and 1848 to 1852.11,12,13,14,15 In 1844, Alfred, along with Henry W. Thomas and Thomas R. Love, were appointed by the School Commissioners of Fairfax County “a Committee of Examination, to be located at Fairfax Court House, whose duty it will be to examine all teachers that may come before them, as to their moral and literary qualifications, and if in the opinion of said Committee the teacher or teachers are properly qualified, they shall certify the same their hands and seals.”16

He defeated his friend and fellow Fairfax attorney, Thomas R. Love, and was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in April 1845. During the 1846 Session of the Virginia General Assembly, Delegate Moss presented three separate petitions to the House of Delegates signed by Fairfax County residents supporting the retrocession of the Town and County of Alexandria back to Virginia from the District of Columbia.17 He resigned as delegate and ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for the Virginia Senate in April 1846.18 He was not a candidate for re-election to the House of Delegates in 1847, but remained active in politics. In 1849 he served as one of the “Commissioners of Elections” appointed to oversee elections in Fairfax County.19

In the spring of 1852, he was elected Clerk of the Fairfax County Court.20 In October of that year, he lodged a protest with the Fairfax County Court complaining against the use of the courthouse for any purpose other than what it was erected.21

In 1853, Alfred Moss wrote to George Washington Parke Custis, of Arlington, the nephew and sole surviving heir of President George Washington. Moss wanted to inform Custis of his intention to seek special permission of the Virginia General Assembly to remove President Washington’s Will from the county and send it to New York for the purpose of having a liographic copy of it made.
Crinoline and Quinine
by William Page Johnson, II

In the dead of night, three figures sat uncomfortably in a creaking, groaning carriage as it jolted its way west along the Little River Turnpike. Close behind them were two figures huddled in a rough, heavily laden road wagon, drawn by three immense horses. The small caravan passed the occasional hulk of a home whose roofless, ravaged, walls clung to blackened chimneys. The recent battlefield of Chantilly, the smell of death still discernible, appeared in the smoky haze. Even they, gentrified Virginians with powerful friends in Washington, were now feeling the strain of a brutal war being waged on their doorstep. While almost no one could travel freely between the Federal capital and Virginia, their life on their plantation homes near Rectortown, Virginia, was growing brighter with each clip-clop of the horses. With luck, they would be home by sunrise.

The gloom and the clatter of their wagons wheels made them oblivious to the Union picket guard hailing them from the middle of the Little River Turnpike, his musket raised, blocking their path and shouting Halt! Halt! Marcus Buck Hobson Bayly was a handsome, blond-haired, twenty-three-year-old, born into a life of privilege in Loudoun County, Virginia. Buck Bayly was a member of one of the First Families of Virginia (F.F.V.), whose ancestor, William London Bayly, a jamestown settler, had arrived in Virginia in 1610 just three years after the founding of the Colony. Buck’s father, Albert, was a merchant in Washington, D.C., who also maintained an expansive plantation, Grafton, near Salem, (now Marshall) Virginia. Buck’s very tall uncle, Montjoy Bayly, had been an officer in the Continental Army and later in life served as the Doorkeeper and Sergeant-At-Arms of the United States Senate. Buck’s relatives also included former U.S. President Franklin Pierce, a distant cousin.

Likewise, his companion, Louisa Berrymann Buckner, age 22, known to her family and friends as Lou, was an upper piedmont beauty, delicate and thin. Her father, Richard Bernard Buckner, was a planter who had established himself on a 1,000 acre estate which he dubbed, St. Bernard, near Rectortown, Virginia. Lou’s uncle was Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General of the United States, and a member of President Abraham Lincoln’s cabinet.

The third member in the carriage was Lou’s mother, Louisa Hinks Turner, age 55. After Lou’s father died in 1839, her mother, the former, Louisa Hinks Berrymann, had remarried Thomas B. Turner of Baltimore in 1842. Sadly, Thomas Turner, too, had died at St. Bernard in 1846. Louisa Turner’s brother was Lt. Otway H. Berrymann (1817-1861) of the United States Navy. Lt. Berrymann was in command of the U.S.S. Wyandot in March 1861 and singlehandedly prevented Fort Pickens, Florida from being captured by the Confederates.

In spite of their obviously powerful Union connections, the Buckner and Bayly family sympathies lay decidedly with the South. Lou’s third cousin was Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner of Kentucky. Her brother, Richard Pratt Buckner, was a member of the 7th Virginia Cavalry and would later serve in the famed Mosby’s Rangers, 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry. Buck’s older brother, Sampson Pierce Bayly, had been a member of Co. H, Adams Cavalry, 6th Virginia Cavalry.2

It is believed that Dr. John A. Adams, a physician from Salem, Virginia, was in the second wagon accompanied by an unidentified boy. Dr. Adams had been the captain of the prewar Adams Cavalry, now the Wise Dragoons, Co. H, 6th Virginia Cavalry. He had recently resigned his commission in September 1862 due to dropsy, or congestive heart failure.1 One newspaper described him at the time as “the chief of a notorious guerrilla band.”5

Ultimately, the druggists were exonerated. However, all three did have close Southern ties. Parker and John Milburn were Virginians, having been born in Alexandria. Their younger brother, Washington C. Milburn, also a...
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The small group had started from Washington, D.C. early that morning after a delay of several days due to severe wind and rain. Throughout that day the weather had been bright and sunny, but now, at nearly midnight, it was exceedingly cold, even for late October. The old lady was tired from their extended trip and yearned for the warmth of her hearth and the comfort of her bed.

The gloop and the clatter of their wagon wheels made them oblivious to the Union picket guard hailing them from the middle of the Little River Turnpike, his musket raised, blocking their path and shouting "halt! halt!"

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While in Washington they stayed at the home of Louisa Turner's daughter, Eliza, and son-in-law, Lt. Benjamin F. Gallacher, who resided at 421 15th Street NW, Washington, DC, one block east of the White House. Benjamin Gallacher had been a paymaster in the United States Navy until August when he was dismissed for embezzling approximately $28,000 and gambling it.

Immediately after arriving, Mrs. Turner and Lou called on their relation, Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair. From him they secured from him a gift of $500.00 and a personal note indicating that they were loyal Union citizens and the goods they intended to transport were for their own personal use. Blair had even secured for them, a similar note from President Lincoln attesting to their loyal character.

In the meantime, Buck visited three druggists – J.P. Milburn & Co., operated by brothers J. Parker & John A. Milburn, and located just around the corner from the Gallaher home on 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, opposite the Willard Hotel, 1 J.P. Kidwell & Laurence, operated by partners John L. Kidwell and Joseph A.S. Laurence, situated at 296 E. North Street, in Georgetown; 10 and Peel & Stevens, operated by Henry Peel and located on the corner of King and Alfred Streets, in Alexandria, Virginia. 12

The Alexandria Gazette and the Evening Star identified the three druggists visited by Buck Bayly and reported on their arrest:

"Messrs. Kidwell, of Georgetown; Peale, of Alexandria; and Milburn, of this city, druggists, were yesterday arrested and sent to Old Capitol Prison for selling these parties the contraband medicines, knowing as is alleged, where they were to be carried."

Ultimately, the druggists were exonerated. However, all three did have close Southern ties. Parker and John Milburn were Virginians, having been born in Alexandria. Their younger brother, Washington C. Milburn, also a

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Crinoline and Quinine
by William Page Johnson, II

Adaptation of Illustration by Baron C. DeGrim. Holley, Marietta, Crinoline and Quinine, p. 11, © 1892, Funk & Wagnalls Co., NY, NY.
and served as its General Council. His appointment likely came at the request of his friend, Henry W. Thomas, who served as president of the same organization. 1 Alfred served only briefly, resigning in April. 2

In October 1854, his youngest daughter, Ida, was critically injured in a fall at the home of his brother, Edgar Moss, in Arlington, Prince William County. 3 She died several days later. 4

Alfred was a member of the old Virginia Democratic Party of Fairfax County. He served as Chairman of the Party in 1848 and was Secretary from 1843 to 1848, and 1848 to 1852. 25, 26, 27 In 1844, Alfred, along with Henry W. Thomas and Thomas R. Love, were appointed by the School Commissioners of Fairfax County “a Committee of Examiners to be located at Fairfax Court House, whose duty it will be to examine all teachers that may come before them, as to their moral and literary qualifications, and if in the opinion of said Committee the teacher or teachers are properly qualified, they shall certify the same their hands and seals.” 28

He defeated his friend and fellow Fairfax attorney, Thomas R. Love, and was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in April 1845. During the 1846 Session of the Virginia General Assembly, Delegate Moss presented three separate petitions to the House of Delegates signed by Fairfax County residents supporting the retrocession of the Town and County of Alexandria back to Virginia from the District of Columbia. 29 He resigned as delegate and ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for the Senate in April 1846. 30 He was not a candidate for re-election to the House of Delegates in 1847, but remained active in politics. In 1849 he served as one of the “Commissioners of Elections” appointed to oversee elections in Fairfax County. 31

In the spring of 1852, he was elected Clerk of the Fairfax County Court. 32 In October of that year, he lodged a protest with the Fairfax County Court complaining against the use of the courthouse for any purpose other than what it was erected. 33

In 1853, Alfred Moss wrote to George Washington Parke Custis, of Arlington, the nephew and sole surviving heir of President George Washington. Moss wanted to inform Custis of his intention to seek special permission of the Virginia General Assembly to remove President Washington’s Will from the county and send it to New York for the purpose of having a lithographic copy of it made.
A Pleasure Visit
by William Page Johnson, II

On October 5, 1862, the New York Times reported that General Franz Sigel had visited the Battlefield of 2nd Manassas for a “pleasure visit.”24 Leaving his headquarters at Fairfax Court House, Sigel was accompanied by “General Schurz, Mrs. Schurz, Mrs. Capt. Lyon, Miss Chase, members of the Press and others.” General Schurz, who had been engaged in the battle, gave the group a guided tour.

Miss Chase, was Katherine Chase, the vivacious daughter of United States Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase. She had been escorted to Fairfax Court House by an ambitious, 32-year old, Union Brigadier General, who, Acting Secretary of War, was the Union’s harbinger of that battle. Miss Chase was escorted to the battlefield in the Union Hotel and returned to Washington the next day.

Update!

In response to the article The Jermantown Foray in the last issue of the Fair Faces Gazette, former City of Fairfax resident, Asa Swart, age 79, who grew up on the former Jermantown Farm, recalls as a child using the community well referenced in the article. According to Asa, the Well sat directly on the Hunt’s picket post. 46,47 Mrs. Turner produced her property and issued them fresh passes. The travelers documents. Satisfied, he apologized to the ladies, returned arrived on the scene and personally inspected the telegraph office and blacksmith shop, were all before my time. I remember the Well though. Probably sometime in the 20’s my Dad installed a pump in the well and ran a pipe under Little River Turnpike to bring water into our house.”

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“On Friday last, Miss Kate Chase and I took their carriage and a pompous liveried driver and allowing him to change his tall plug for a comfortable slouch, we set out for Genearl Sigel’s headquarters at Fairfax Court House. Miss Chase had prepared two large baskets of provisions, partly for a present to the General and partly for our use if we should go on to the battlefield.”

“We went on, across Bull Run to the limit of Centreville...We saw hundreds of graves, or rather: heaps of earth piled upon bodies where they lay. Scores of heads, hands, and feet protruding, and so rapidly had been the decomposition of 34 days that naked, eyeless skulls grinned at us as if the corpses had lifted their heads from their deathbeds to leer at us as we passed by. Shells and round shot lay scattered all over the field and broken muskets and dismantled gun carriages were very plenty. Hats, caps, coats, equipment, letters, and all that lately belonged to life were scattered around.

I picked up a promissory note of $1,000, which would probably be valuable to the heirs of some poor skeleton. ‘Your loving wife ‘till death’ was the conclusion of a letter which lay near the bones of a skeleton arm which reached through the side of its grave, and had doubtless one day not long ago clasped the loving wife...

We followed the path of where the fierce giants struggled and saw their battle trucks thick with graves. At last we stopped and took a glass of milk with the old Negro who lives on the eastern margin of the field on the bank of Bull Run (to be a sadly famous stream hereafter) and who saw both battles of 1861 and 1862. All along the road from the Run to Centreville, and even further this side toward Fairfax are wrecks of burned wagons and artillery carriages.

After a festive evening spent in Fairfax Court House as the guest of General Sigel, Kate Chase and her Union escort returned to Washington the next day.

Eventually, the ambitious young officer was promoted to Major General. After the war he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from his native State of Ohio nine times. He then served briefly in the United States Senate before being elected the 20th President of the United States in 1880.

James Abram Garfield served just 200 days as President before he was assassinated on September 19, 1881.

Endnotes:
1 New York Times, October 7, 1862, p. 8, c.

Union 11th Corps commander, Major General Franz Sigel, had recently made his headquarters at Fairfax Court House in the home of Dr. William Presley Gunnell.29,30 He arrived on the scene and personally inspected the documents. Satisfied, he apologized to the ladies, returned their property and issued them fresh passes. The travelers rested for about an hour, possibly dining at the Union Hotel, before continuing on their way again.31

Meanwhile, the activities of the smugglers while in Washington had gone unnoticed. That afternoon, a Negro servant indicated that contraband goods were being smuggled into Virginia and provided Baker with the names and probable destination of the smugglers. Having likely seen Lou’s dress, the servant indicated that some of the contraband goods would be found secreted on Lou Buckner’s person.32

After receiving the tip, Baker immediately went to Postmaster General Montgomery Blair and informed him of his discovery. After which Blair replied, “Why, Baker, those persons are as loyal as you are, and I loaned them the money. ...I have just had my note for five hundred dollars discounted to help these poor people.”33

Baker was emphatic. Blair became agitated and said, “Well arrest them and if you find the quinine, put them in the Old Capitol.”34

Late that afternoon, Col. Lafayette Baker telegraphed the Provost Marshall’s at Centreville and Fairfax Court House with an order for the arrest of Buck Bayly, Lou Buckner and Mrs. Turner. There was no mention of Dr. Adams or the boy. Col. Baker also immediately dispatched one of his men, Sergeant John Lee, in pursuit.35

Baker’s message was received at Centreville. However, “the telegraph line not being in working order” at 11th Corps Headquarters at Fairfax Court House the message was delayed.36

The following morning, Sgt. Lee arrived at Fairfax Court House with the news of the smugglers. He immediately telegraphed Baker:

“United States Military Telegraph Received Oct. 29, 1862, 11:41 AM
From Fairfax C.H., Oct. 29 To Col L.C. Baker, PM
No message was recvd. here yesterday concerning those persons in the wagon. I have searched the roads but can find no trace. Am now returning to Fairfax. Sergt. Lee.”37

After about twelve hours Baker’s dispatch finally made its way to Gen. Sigel’s Headquarters in the home of Dr. William Presley Gunnell at Fairfax Court House.

General Sigel sent the following reply to Baker:

“United States Military Telegraph
Received Oct. 29, 1862, 2:40 PM
From Fairfax C.H., Oct. 29
To Col L.C. Baker, PM
Your dispatch in regard to B. Bailey & Mrs. Turner & Miss Buckner has just been received from Centreville. It is too late. The parties passed here last night at five pm. [They] had passes from Gen. Wadsworth & recommendations from Pres. Lincoln and Mr. Blair. PMG Your agent will now start for home.

F. Sigel, MG”38


From Centreville, Captain Albert G. Lawrence,42 of General Stahel’s staff was tasked with alerting all of the Union pickets in the area to be on the lookout for the fugitives. Captain Charles P. Wickham,43 Co. D, 55th Ohio Inf., and Captain John Lee, in pursuit.44

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told them they would not be going any further. Both Mrs. Turner and Lou Buckner vehemently protested, attempting to influence Corp. Hunt. They pleaded that their documents and cargo were legitimate. When it became clear that Hunt did not believe them, they switched tactics and complained that it was about to rain and they and their clothing would soon be wet. Unmoved, Corp. Hunt placed them all under arrest and had them escorted under a cavalry guard to Brigadier General Julius Stahel’s headquarters in Centreville, five miles away.

Gen. Stahel made his headquarters at Royal Oaks, the home of Joseph Whaley.48 Here the prisoners were turned over to Col. Leopold von Gilsa of the 41st New York Infantry.49 Captain Brown, Assistant Provost Marshal of Fairfax Court House, arrived. He conducted a search of the wagon which revealed a tremendous amount of groceries and 60 one-ounce vials of quinine concealed in a cinnamon tin from venerable Baltimore spice dealer George W. Wait & Son. A search of Buck Bayly revealed two letters and several contraband newspapers concealed on his person. Col. von Gilsa then had the delicate task of making a thorough search of both Lou Buckner and Mrs. Turner. Civility made this task impossible for him, or any other man, to complete. The only woman in the Centreville area available to do this was Augusta von Gilsa, the wife of Col. von Gilsa. She flatly refused to do so. An officer then remembered another “strong Union woman” in one of the other regiments.50 When it became apparent that she would be searched, Lou Buckner tried to shame the Union officers by allegedly saying, “So, this is the way you treat Southern ladies?”51

Augusta von Gilsa then agreed to act as a witness “to prevent the possibility of the woman being tampered with.”52 Lou Buckner was then escorted into an adjoining room. A thorough search of her clothing revealed an additional 60 ounces of quinine in one-ounce vials hidden in “long pockets lined with oiled silk” sewn into her dress.53 Mrs. Turner was led into another room and thoroughly searched. Nothing was found on her.

Mrs. Turner and apparently, Dr. Adams, owing to his feeble health, and the unidentified boy, were all permitted to return to Fauquier County in the carriage.

Capt. Brown then escorted Buck Bayly, Lou Buckner, and the contraband goods to Fairfax Court House. Capt. Brown then uncovered the true nature of the smuggling charge. The property in question, not only consisted of the quinine and groceries, but the personal effects of Lou Buckner and Buck Bayly, as well as the horse and wagon. Blair, whose dislike for the Union officers was obvious, was also present in the carriage.

Charles W. Asmussen,54 Aide de Camp, to Gen. Sigel, notified Col. Baker of their arrest:

“United States Military Telegraph
Received Oct. 29, 1862
From Fairfax C.H. Oct. 29
To Col. Baker, Pro. Marshal
Buck Bailey and Mrs. Turner & Mrs. Buckner were arrested at twelve (12) o’clock near Chantilly. Their papers letters and all will be brought from Centreville here tonight.
Please send some of your men here immediately to take them off our hands.
C.W. Asmussen
Capt., A.D.C.55

Sergeant John Lee then conveyed them to Washington, D.C. where they were confined in Old Capitol Prison pending an interrogation by either Col. Baker or his associate, Col. Levi C. Turner.

After Lou Buckner was confined in Old Capitol Prison her uncle, Montgomery Blair, became incensed and in spite of the smuggling charge, demanded that the property, which he had unknowingly paid for, be returned. The property in question, not only consisted of the quinine and groceries, but the personal effects of Lou Buckner and Buck Bayly, as well as the horse and wagon. Blair, whose dislike for the Union officers was obvious, was also present in the carriage.

The further we advanced the more numerous the raids and traces of war. Many a horse that has come to an untimely end lies by the road-side, its skin forming the only wading sheet of its remains. In the view of Centreville all is desolation. The fields are trampled till they are hardly distinguishable from the highway and are strewn with the wrecks of the refugee left by the myriads of Federals and of Rebels, who have alternately encamped here. The village itself has degenerated into a few dreary, isolated dwellings, interspersed with sentry’s <hugich><hugich>huts. From the earth-work, which crowns the hill near by, we looked for miles over the twice fought field of Bull Run, and could understand as never before, why it is that great battles have so often been fought on fields made historic by former engagements. I purpose to describe the prospect somewhat in detail and to give you some account of our ride back to the camp of the 40th. But orders have just been issued to the Regiment to prepare to move our position at 7 A.M. to-morrow, to Miner’s Hill, situated a few miles north-west of us—consequently all is bustle, and the necessary preparation for a start prevents us from writing anything more about a trip which none of the party will soon forget.

Cordially yours.

If you are not a member of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (HFCI) or if you have not renewed your membership. THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

Please help us preserve the past for future generations. Become a member or renew your membership today!
Fairfax, as Viewed From a Brisk Carriage

The following letter appeared in the Salem Observer, Salem, Massachusetts, October 25, 1862, p. 2, c. 4. The letter, from a soldier in the 40th Massachusetts Infantry, provides a very good description of Fairfax County as seen by one of four Massachusetts men during a carriage ride from Munson's Hill to Fairfax Court House in early October 1862. At least one of the men (not the author) has been positively identified as Albert G. Browne (1805-1885), of Salem, MA. Browne, was the father of Albert G. Browne (1805-1885), of Salem, MA, and Chaplin of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry. The author of the letter, is likely Daniel H. Johnson, Jr. (1837-1898), of Salem, MA. Captain of Co. B, 40th Massachusetts Infantry. “T.” may have been Joseph Henry Thayer (1828-1901), of Salem, MA and Chaplin of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

Head Quarters, 40th Mass. Reg't, \[Munson’s Hill, Va., Oct. 17, 1862.\]

Dear –

Would feel warranted in enjoying an excursion the other day which was so interesting that I will give you some account of it. At 9 A.M., two Salem friends, (Mr. H. Johnson, and Mr. Brown, father of our Governor’s Military Secretary), whose speech was like the echo of “Hound dogs,” appeared at our camp in a light carryall drawn by a pair of prompt horses, and Capt. Johnson and myself were soon briskly travelling over the turnpike with them toward Fairfax Court House and Centreville. The morning was like one of our early September days in Massachusetts, just the slightest twinge of autumn in the falling temperature, the sun-light. The face of the country resembled many parts of New England,—irregular, abounding in hills of easy ascent, woodland and clearing interspersed. Pine oak forests are seen, although the trees in this vicinity are mostly of recent growth, and one looks in vain for the forests that have heretofore been so attractive to Northern ship builders. Northern farmers however cannot fail to be charmed with the natural advantages of soil and situation. It is not uncommon for our soldiers who have an eye to such things to say, “I have picked out my farm, “I think I shall bring my wife and settle here. Nor is there so much of assumption in remarks like these, as there may seem to be. For judging by present appearances the whole region will be ready for re-settlement by the time the war ends. Now and then an inhabited house is passed, but many of the residences, particularly of the better class, are deserted, untenanted, not a few in ruins. Those still standing show by their rudely jointed and plastered walls, their unshapely chimneys—often built of logs—their scantily out-buildings, their general air of unfriendliness, that they belonged to a race, whose ideas of convenience and taste differ essentially from those prevalent among the “mud sills” of New England.

The road is somewhat better than the Leesburg turnpike, which I described to you the other day. The practice of dispencings with bridges, except over the larger streams, oblige the traveler to pass through many a slough. At the ascents we found the same side tracks, not long in use, for avoiding the steepness of the summit. The Virginia engineers seem to have had an artistic disregard for such conveniences, according we dubbed them, whether justified or not, Yankee turn-outs.

Some few miles this side of Fairfax Court House we came upon an encampment by the road side which consisted of three or four Silva and as many shanty tents, pitched in a deserted farm yard. Several broken down army horses were fastened near by. On inquiry we were told it was a newley’s encampment and at the instant up rode a man from Washington, whose horse was loaded with fresh papers. A few moments only were sufficient to sort and distribute them among the waiting privates, who jumped into the saddle and reassembled forward toward the camps. We halted the leader and learned that he was from Boston,—James Mc Nutly by name. The whole organization he told us is in charge of one man, who employs six boys and eleven horses. He pays the boys two dollars a day and expenses. They sell on an average between three hundred and four hundred papers a day at five cents apiece. Here is an example, perhaps not the least significant, of the changes which this war is introducing.

We reached the encampment of the Old Mass.,

of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was well known, stormed into Lafayette Baker’s office in the War Department and presented him with a written order for the return of the property signed by President Lincoln. Baker, flippantly informed him that he could not comply with the order as the property had already been turned over to the Medical Department and Quartermaster and disposed of. Blair, who could be abrasive, then demanded that Stanton remove Baker from office. Stanton refused, but released Lou Buckner from Old Capitol Prison on her taking the oath of allegiance to the United States several days later.

Blair, a moderate with strong Southern ties, had numerous conflicts with other members of Lincoln’s cabinet.

One reporter described him as “a restless mischief maker…,[who] was apparently never so happy as when he was in hot water or making water hot for others.”

Because of this, Blair lost the confidence of the more radical element of the Republican Party. Lincoln ultimately accepted his resignation in September 1864 on the eve of the Presidential election. In spite of this, Blair remained loyal to Lincoln to the end.

When Buck Bayly was interrogated by Lafayette Baker he initially refused to admit guilt and denied having anything to do with smuggling. He was returned to Old Capitol. In prison, Bayly, an aristocratic Southerner, was treated harshly by the prison guards. He was placed in the Old Prison, where he got into an argument with a neighbor James Fitzgerald Jones, of Grafton. He got into an argument with a neighbor James Fitzgerald Jones, of Woodside, Fairfax Co., Virginia. Jones, a former Major in the Confederate Nitre and Mining Bureau, accused Bayly of being “a restless mischief maker…,[who] was apparently never so happy as when he was in hot water or making water hot for others.”

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Bayly then said it was lie! Angered, Jones snapped back, "Do you mean that for me sir?" and then raised his crop and struck Bayly. Bayly wrestled the crop away and returned the blows, knocking Jones from his horse. A scuffle ensued. Bayly broke away and ran into his store and returned with a pistol. He aimed and fired, striking Jones in the neck, in what proved to be a mortal wound.86

Abandoning his wife and two small children, Buck immediately left Fauquier County, never to return. In spite of the fact that Dr. McGuire had witnessed the entire incident, no coroners inquest or criminal proceedings appear to have been initiated in Fauquier County.

By September of 1867, Buck Bayly resurfaced in San Francisco, California, where he had established himself as a merchant on the corner of Pine and Montgomery Streets.69 According to the Southern Claims Commission through his brother, Sampson, for almost $5,000 for livestock (Sheep, cattle, horses, milk cows and oxen) taken by Gen. Gamble in 1863. The claim was denied.70

In 1871, Buck was living in Hollister, California. In a deposition given in November of that year, he stated that he had been a resident of California continuously since 1867 and that he was formerly a citizen of the Confederate States.71 In the early 1870’s he ran a saloon in Hollister.72 According to the Hollister Advance, the saloon of “Messrs. Bailey & Eastman [was] one of the handsomest in town.”73 By 1874, the partnership of "Emerson, Bailey & Eastman" had been dissolved and Bayly ‘re-occupied his premises on Fourth street, near Briggs office.”74 That same year he took on a new partner, Andrew Jackson Speegle.75 The new saloon, Speegle & Bayly, featured a bowling alley and operated on the corner of Fourth and San Benito Streets in Hollister.76 The following story on Bayly in the Hollister Advance, in December 1873:

"M.B. BAYLY has finally settled down commercially. His next plunge will be, we apprehend, a matrimonial. He has joined SPEEGLE (COPELAND) retiring in the famous ‘Corner.’ Fourth Street, which is now being transformed into a star of the first magnitude by removing partitions and putting up a first-class billiard table.... [Advertisement] SPEEGLE & BAYLY, late SPEEGLE & COPELAND, new billiard table; Cov. Fourth & San Benito Sts."77

In an ironic twist, Buck Bayly served as a Juror in a murder trial in Hollister in 1874. In the case of San Benito County v. Vitalle Rosetta, Rosetta was acquitted.88 By 1880, he was living in Redding, Shasta County, California on the "Rail Road Reservation" and was employed as a bar tender in the Golden Eagle Hotel.89

By February 1882, Buck was in trouble again, "M.B. Bayly, who has been drumming up customers at Sacramento, Marysville and elsewhere, for Bach, Meese & Co., wholesale liquor dealers at 321 Montgomery street, was arrested last evening by officer A.T. Fields, at the Oakland Ferry, and lodged in the City Prison on a charge of embezzlement by a member of the firm, who accuses him of having collected some $300, which, it is alleged, was spent in dissipation and gambling. Bayly claims that on a settlement his account would not be far short of being square."90

A few months later the following appeared in the San Francisco Bulletin:

"BENCH WARRANT ISSUED. – In Department Twelve of the Superior Court to-day M.B. Bayly, charged with embezzlement, did not appear for trial and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest."91

In December 1883, the Salt Lake Daily Herald listed the arrival of one “M.B. Bayly; [of] Sacramento.”92 He was still listed as a fugitive from justice in San Francisco in 1891.93

He is presumed to have died in obscurity.

(Endnotes)

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Flow of troop movements and battles. The removal of the XI Army Corps brought the XII Army Corps and the 2nd Vermont Brigade (then reorganized within the XXII Army Corps) in and around the small village.

At Fairfax Court House, as with Union and Confederate troops everywhere, the soldiers battled not just the enemy, but the persistent threat and reality of disease. The sheer number of soldiers who became ill for a few days, or for weeks and months at a time put a stress on the regiments and on the entire, still developing medical system. Organization, surgeons, nurses, supplies, food, transportation, death were many of the issues to be dealt with in a temporary hospital situation. And, for local inhabitants, whose homes and land were overrun by soldiers, well and sick, they had to continue to learn how to survive during hostile times.

The tumultuous times would continue with some surprises in early 1863. ....

Fairfax Court Court House, Fall 1862

At-A-Glance

August 28-30 Battle of 2nd Manassas/Bull Run
September 1 Battle of Chantilly/Ox Hill
September 5 General Pope relieved of his command99
September 12 Army of Virginia merged in to the Army of Potomac
October 13 XI Corps moved headquarters to Fairfax Court House
November 2 Most of XI Corps moved from FC to Thoroughfare Gap and Warren yard
November 18 XI Corps headquarters returned to Fairfax Court House
December 12 December 11-15 Battle of Fredericksburg
December 12 XI Corps began march to Fredericksburg, but arrived after the battle
December 12-14 The XII Brigade entered Fairfax Court House; started for Fredericksburg but turned back. They remained in Fairfax Station, Dumfries, but arrived after the battle.
December 12-16 2nd Vermont Brigade...—here comes our Division of the Military District of Washington—were then moved to Fairfax Station, Centreville and eventually to Wolf Run Shoals.
December 20 2nd Vermont Brigade, now Casey’s Division, 2nd Army Corps at Fairfax Court House.
December 28 Burke Station Raid (‘Christmas Raid) by Confederate Cavalry under the command of J.E.B. Stuart

Endnotes:
1. United States Corps of Topographical Engineers. Map of n. eastern Virginia and vicinity of Washington / compiled in Topographical Engineers Office at Division Head Quarters of General Irvin McDowell, Arlington, Virginia and vicinity of Washington / compiled in Topographical Engineers Office at Division Head Quarters of General Irvin McDowell, Arlington, January 10th [sic] 1862, from published and manuscript maps corrected
soldiers with a hospital period. On this list were several men in their 20s and 30s, or the older 65-year-old enslaved people in 1860—four men and two women. Had they chosen one of their slaves who ranged in age from 17 to 65 to drive the carriage out to Middleburg? Who would they pick: the young 17-year-old, one of the more mature enslaved man? Or, had they hired another man to assist? We don’t know how long Mary and the children

Mary had grown up in Leesburg and might have been retrieving to some friend’s home. The other woman noted on the pass may have been here sister, Isabelle, or perhaps her mother, Margaret. We can only speculate about the “colored driver” - The Wilcoxon’s owned 6 enslaved people in 1860—four men and two women. Had they chosen one of those who ranged in age from 17 to 65 to drive the carriage out to Middleburg? Who would they pick: the young 17-year-old, one of the more mature men in their 20s and 30s, or the older 65-year-old enslaved man? Or, had they hired another man to assist?

We don’t know how long Mary and the children 

one site over that hospital period. On this list were several soldiers with a “Vulnus Sclopeticum” (gunshot wound). By researching their regiments, they appeared to have been in action in mid-to-late December with Confederate J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry raids through Occoquan, Burke’s Station, Fairfax Court House, Warrenton, and Culpeper.

Homefront Survival

The reality of sick and dying soldiers throughout the Fairfax Court House area must of have been terrifying to local families who still remained in the vicinity. Albert and Mary Wilcoxon had a 3-year-old boy, Harry, and a 2-year-old daughter, Bessie during this hospital period. There must have been great concern and apprehension as to how to keep their family safe from the communicable diseases that surrounded them. A Union-issued pass exists, written on November 11, 1862, that was purchased in the Scott family estate sale in 1897, prior to the City of Fairfax’s ownership of the house and property. Currently in private hands, it states, “...two ladies (Mrs. Wilcox), two children and one colored driver with carriage from here [Aldie] out-side our picket lines to Middleburgh, Va.”

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We don’t know how long Mary and the children
Cavalry, “near Orange C.H., Virginia. He was confined in Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. While in prison he allegedly contracted typhoid fever. At the end of August 1862, he was sent on “the steamer Juniana” to Fort Monroe, Virginia to be exchanged for Capt. John T. Drew, a 2nd Vermont Infantry.34,35

Several months later, on December 4, 1862, Henry T. Brooks, Alfred Moss’ Unionist successor as Clerk of the Circuit Court for restored government of Fairfax County, wrote to the Secretary Munford’s office that the late ALFRED MOSS, county clerk, safely deposited the will somewhere in Culpeper before his death. It was in his charge, and he is represented as a man of integrity.”36

When Richmond fell to Union forces in 1865, the records of Fairfax County were once again pillaged. George Washington’s Will was found on the floor in Secretary Munford’s office where it remains today.37

(Endnotes)

1. Fairfax County Minute Book 1835, p. 229, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Fairfax, VA.
3. Alexandria Gazette, February 27, 1849, p. 2, c. 5.
5. Alexandria Gazette, July 29, 1851, p. 2, c. 1.
8. Alexandria Gazette, February 14, 1854, p. 3, c. 3.
22. Fairfax County Minute Book 1845, p. 15, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Fairfax, VA.

NARA (RG 94), Records of the Adjutant, General Office A.C. REG 353

soldiers on the walls at Historic Blenheim are also listed on this register, particularly from the 136th New York State Volunteers (NYSV) and the 26th Wisconsin Infantry.

Other represented regiments are the 54th NYSV, the 73rd, 74th and 75th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantries (these regiments were primarily composed of German-born soldiers).

The featured ailment listed during this time period was rheumatism (305 patients). Given the physical strains of walking an average of 13 miles a day in mud, heat, and cold, and sleeping with and without tents outside in various conditions, it is not surprising that arthritic complaints abounded. There was no cure for the rheumatism but rest and pain relief were prescribed.38 Fevers—intermittent (coming and going) and typhoid—along with diarrhea and dysentery were the most prevalent diseases.

In an 1888 deposition in his pension file, Morris Coats, from the 136th NYSV, stated:

“I contracted Rheumatism on or about the month of November 1862. I had had Typhoid fever just previous to that, and was sent to a Hospital called the ‘Brock House Hospital’ [Historic Blenheim] near Fairfax, Va. and had been treated for it for some five or six weeks…. I felt the effects of the Rheumatism while I was in the Hospital at Fairfax first. When it got so that I could be up and around, I felt in the pain that I felt all over…. I was treated for that in connection with the fever by the physicians in that Hospital.”

After being transferred to a Hospital in Alexandria in which he stayed until March 1863 he described:

“I was delirious part of the time, and was blistered for the trouble in my lungs and the rheumatism. They were applied to my chest and back.”39

Morris Coats was first hospitalized as on November 3 for dysentery, according to the hospital register. He was readmitted on December 28th, though a reason was not stated. Thomas L. Perine who signed his name on the attic wall above Coats, was patient #823 and entered for diarrhea.40 Perine enters with diarrhea, but in his pension file it is stated that he had typhoid fever. In examining the hospital registers along with soldier pension files and letters it becomes clear that many diseases or ailments are often symptoms of another disease. Indicative of this is Charles, W. Wetherbee, Patient #111, on Register #353. He is admitted with rheumatism on November 3, 1862 and died on December 29, 1862. His service and pension files have not been examined, but it is highly unlikely that he died of rheumatism.

Simultaneously, a third, smaller register, “No. 358” with 100 patients on it was in operation from October 17, 1862 – January 21, 1862. The primary disease listed was typhoid fever, although almost half of the diseases are illegible on the original documents. It included soldiers from various regiments and it is unclear whether they were shipped off by regiment to different areas or were just hospitalized in

Washington’s Will.


To the Editor of the Washington Republican:

A statement in your paper to day that Washington’s will was some time since stolen from the office here, and has been sold to the British Museum,

I am assured by a gentleman here, in whose statement I have entire confidence, that so far from being the fact, the will in question is yet in the hands of the late ALFRED MOSS, county clerk, who was removed by the former clerk of the court, Mr. Moss, in whose possession he saw in May last; and since in September, he saw Mr. Moss and was assured by him that it was still safe.

Although my informant does not feel at liberty to divulge its exact locality, for obvious reasons, there need be no uneasiness about its safety; but that whoever shall reunite our country, and afford security, this interesting relic of our country’s father will be restored to its proper resting-place in this county the home of Washington.

Yours, truly,

Job HAWKHURST.

Alexandria Gazette, December 10, 1862, p. 2, c. 2.

Although a staunch anti-slavery Unionist, Hawxhurst, was an honorable man. He told the truth.

Not surprisingly, few Northern newspapers picked up Hawxhurst’s version:

“We are pleased to find it reliably contradicted, that the Will of the immortal WASHINGTON has been sold to the British Museum. The story of the sale is pronounced a canard, and a letter from Fairfax states that the late ALFRED MOSS, county clerk, safely deposited the will somewhere in Culpeper before his death. It was in his charge, and he is represented as a man of integrity.”41

When Richmond fell to Union forces in 1865, the records of Fairfax County were once again pillaged. George Washington’s Will was found on the floor in Secretary Munford’s office where it remains today.

“WASHINGTON, the late ALFRED MOSS, Clerk of the Fairfax County, wrote a letter to the Unionist Clerk of the Circuit Court for restored government of Fairfax County, alleging the stealing of President George Washington’s Will and the other valuable county records and selling them to the British Museum.”42 Other Northern papers quickly picked up the story and repeated it. However, the next day December 5, 1862, Job Hawxhurst, the Unionist Clerk of the Circuit Court for the restored government of Fairfax County wrote a letter to the Washington Republican exonerating Alfred Moss.
Over the wing there would be as much room as there is in this house. We are about a quarter mile from Fairfax. The house is upon a knoll surrounded by oaks and chestnut. There is a log house attached which is used for [a] hospital [and] accommodates about 16 men." 11

Colyer, with the 15th NYSV is not at the Willcoxon home, but might be at the Runsey home, Mr. Vineyard, off Little River Turnpike just west of the village.

An article in the Utica Morning Herald and Daily Times provided a good description of the hospital system:

FAIRFAX RESERVE HOSPITAL OF FAIRFAX SICK AND WOUNDED OF THE 15TH A.C. CORRESPONDENT: W.B.D.—writing to us from the Reserve Hospital, Eleventh Army Corps, Fairfax Court House, Nov, 20th, says:

"This Hospital was established soon after the occupancy of this village by our forces, in September, and the establishment of Gen. Sigel’s headquarters here, and, as needed, different buildings were occupied, until, on the advance of the army, Nov. 2d, some five or six large edifices were filled with over 700 patients who were not able to go with their respective regiments, over 60 being left behind from the 15th regt N.Y. Volunteers alone. The number, however, has been considerably reduced alone by death, remove to General Hospital, and recovery,... under the charge of Surgeon J. Mortimer Cravens. 13 The accommodations of the Hospital vary with the buildings occupied. This one, in which I am located, being the first occupied, is probably the best, and in it are the worst cases are brought, and consequently many deaths occur here, (five last week) though we have only twenty five or thirty six at one time in the building. We have regular hospital cots, for beds, and fall as many other conveniences and comforts for the benefit of the sick,... and yet, we lack many things necessary to enable us to save valuable lives." 16

Patterns of hospitalization can be gleaned from the three available registers of the “11th A.C. Reserve Hospital..."
Continued next page...
Welcome New Members!

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

Molly, Suzanne, and Virginia Grimsley
Alice Bredin-Kamy
Andrew R. Phillips
Robert Sullivan
Mary Valenta
Fall 1862 at Fairfax Court House: Changes and Challenges

by Andrea J. Loewenwarter

The Union’s demoralizing loss at the Battle of 2nd Bull Run/Manassas (August 28th-30th, 1862) and the Battle of Chantilly/Ox Hill (September 1st) prompted the Union to reorganize its command in the greater Washington, D.C. and northern Virginia region. General George B. McClellan took command of the Defenses of Washington, and, on September 5th, General John Pope was relieved of his command. Thus, the Army of Virginia was merged into the Army of the Potomac.

With this change, Major General Franz Sigel’s Corps became the XI Army Corps and was ordered to support the Defenses of Washington, from the banks of the Potomac out to Centreville and Manassas. The XI Army Corps moved its headquarters to Fairfax Court House on October 13th where its new configuration of regiments arrived and were detailed in the area.

After campaigns to Thoroughfare Gap and beyond in early to mid-November, the XI Army Corps headquarters returned to Fairfax Court House on November 18th, and remained until December 12th. The corps was then ordered out of Northern Virginia and made its slow and difficult march to Fredericksburg where it arrived following that devastating battle on December 11th-15th. It wintered in Stafford Court House.2

—I goes to fight mit Sigel

The commander of the XI Army Corps, Major-General Franz Sigel, was a German-American who had been a prominent military leader in Germany during the European Revolutions of 1848-49. Following a failed attempt to create a unified Germany, Sigel and many other German revolutionaries made their way to the United States. They became known as Forty-Eighers.

Once the Civil War began, President Lincoln soon promoted the popular Franz Sigel to the rank of Major General. More than 1 million Germans had immigrated into this country between 1845-60 for both economic and political reasons.3

The XI Army Corps in Fairfax Court House

“Fairfax looks like as if one day a very lively town. But to look at it now you would think it would never be as it once was. There is [sic] no...