



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

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liquors, or any mixture of any of them, to be drunk in or at the place of sale, shall be deemed to keep an ordinary."¹ Keepers of ordinaries were required to serve all comers and provide reasonable security for their property. An additional distinction of these establishments were fixed prices for meals.

Houses of Private Entertainment: were houses where "for compensation, lodging or diet to travelers, sojourners, or boarders in his house, or provender for a horse feeding in his stable or on his land, with five miles of any city, town or village."² These establishments were located in

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Spring 2017

Jim Ferguson's Eating House and Livery Stable

by William Page Johnson, II



For thirty years after the Civil War, Ferguson's Eating House and Livery Stable was a colorful local landmark at Fairfax Court House.

In 1867, Virginia law defined various *public* houses for purposes of taxation. Hotels, ordinaries, taverns, boarding and eating houses, and livery stables were all to be licensed by local county courts. The establishments that catered almost exclusively to the traveler or visitor were:

Hotels, Ordinaries, or Taverns: were houses where "for compensation..., lodging or diet furnished to travelers, sojourners or boarders in his house, or provender for a horse feeding in his stable or on his land (except a drove of livestock and persons attending it), and sell, by retail, wine, spirituous or malt



An artists rendering of *Jim Ferguson's Eating House and Stable* (left background) c. 1870. A structure similar to this stood on the east side of Mechanics Street (now University Dr.), north of present-day Old Town Hall between Main and North Streets. The site now comprises a portion of Old Town Square.

From the Desk of the President-

May 2017

Our Annual Membership Meeting was held on April 19th at the Huddleston Library. At the meeting I reported that during 2016, HFCI raised over \$60,000 through our various fund raising activities and with those funds we helped with various upgrades to the Fairfax City Museum, added new historic markers, and other valuable contributions to projects of the City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources.

The speaker at the Annual Membership Meeting was Charles V. Mauro, noted local author about Civil War subjects. Mr. Mauro delivered a fascinating talk about the tremendous effects that the Civil War had on the civilian population of Northern Virginia. Much is studied and said about battles and military leaders, but it was especially interesting to hear about how the residents of the area fared during the war.

HFCI will be active in 4th of July celebrations this year and will also be participating in the commemoration of the 275th Anniversary of Fairfax County. The formation of Fairfax County was authorized on June 17, 1742 and the history of our area over the past 275 years is phenomenal. The current Lord Fairfax will be here at the Sherwood Community Center on June 15th to celebrate with us.

At the Annual Meeting the immense contributions of Immediate Past President, Sandra Wilbur, and Immediate Past Secretary, Deb Mullan were recognized. Both of them are resigning from the Board of HFCI and their energy, expertise and knowledge will be sorely missed. If you are reading this message and would be interested in serving on the Board of HFCI, please communicate your interest to me or another Board member; we would love to talk to you about coming on board.

John A.C. Keith
President

Welcome New Members!

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

Alice Bredin-Karny
Gary & Catherine Fahy
Suzanne W. Max
Rosalie & Charles Oate



DUES ALERT

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

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



Visit us on the web:
HFCI Website!

<http://www.historicfairfax.org>

At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

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

“Chalkboards to Smartboards: Public Schools in the County of Fairfax and Fairfax City” - Gano Gallery. This exhibition explores the history of County and City public schools from their creation, massive development and growth periods; from segregated schools to integration; changing technologies; new structures and notable and everyday students. Through mid-July 2017.

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center “Second Sunday” Programs

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

Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.

“Changes, Challenges and Looking Ahead”

Panel discussion with local officials and educators, Ann Monday—Interim City of Fairfax School Superintendent, Janice B. Miller, City of Fairfax Council Member and former Chair, City of Fairfax School Board, and Dr. Mitchell Sutterfield, City of Fairfax School Board.

Sunday, July 9, 2 p.m.

“Rural Retreat and Riverine Relaxation: The History of the Mason Family’s Occupancy of Theodore Roosevelt Island”

Bradley Krueger, a National Park Service Cultural Resources Specialist for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, will tell the little-known history of the various ways George Mason’s family interacted with the landscape.

Sunday, August 13, 2 p.m.

“Reston: A Revolutionary Idea”

Author and biographer Kristina Alcorn will discuss the history of Reston and sign and sell her book, *“In His Own Words: Stories from the Extraordinary Life of Reston’s Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.”*

Sunday, September 10, 2 p.m.

“The 35th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial”

Janet Folkerts, Curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, will share stories of the artifacts left at the Memorial and the soldiers they honor.

Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

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

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

Saturday, June 24 2 p.m.

“Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I”

Preservationist, historian, and author Edward T. Wenzel will discuss notable incidents from the first two years of war in Fairfax County that have been included in his day-by-day Civil War chronology. This impressive volume of 618 pages includes 50 maps and more than 350 photos, while his separate index is 200 pages long. Both will be available for sale and signing.

Saturday, July 22, 2 p.m.

“Artificial Limbs in the Civil War”

Guy R. Hasegawa, Pharm D. will discuss the wartime

provisions made for amputees in need of artificial limbs—programs that revealed stark differences between the resources and capabilities of the North and the South and that eventually led to the modern government's role in rehabilitating soldiers.

Saturday, August 26, 2 p.m.

“The Battle of Ball’s Bluff,”

James Morgan local historian will focus on the causes of the battle, the fighting itself, and the ramifications which were more significant than might be thought for what really just a skirmish. His tactical study of Ball’s Bluff, *A Little Short of Boats: the Battles of Ball’s Bluff and Edwards Ferry*, the definitive work on that little fight will be available for purchase and signing.

Saturday, September 23, 2 p.m.

“Lincoln’s Generals’ Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War - For Better and for Worse”

Author Candace Shy Hooper will discuss how the wives influenced their husband’s careers.



Exhibition at Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House

Location: 10386 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030
Open Saturdays from 11am-2pm May-October for free tours; or call 703.385.8414 for tour appointment.

“Dr. Kate Waller Barrett: Mother to Many” -

Exhibition examines the life of this prominent social reformer of the Progressive Era, who saved the early 19th-century Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House from demolition in 1923.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Fairfax News of 50 Years Ago

FOXCROFT COLONY

Is Pleased to Participate
in the Fairfax City
Heritage Week, May 21-27

In honor of the occasion, beautiful costumed ladies will be showing our large, spacious apartments and grounds during the month of May. Come out and see our Colonial-style apartments and enjoy the atmosphere of the HERITAGE which is ours.

1 BEDRM. -- From \$114.50
2 BEDRMS. -- From \$134.50

ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED

Large Swimming Pool—Playgrounds
24-Hour Security Patrol
Plenty of Trees and Landscaping

RESIDENT MANAGER, 273-7173

DIRECTIONS: Take any bridge to Virginia, then straight out
Rte. 50 to FOXCROFT COLONY on left, just before Fairfax Circle.

SHANNON & LUCHS MANAGEMENT

Evening Star, May 19, 1967, p. F-12, c. 6

In 2017 a 1 Bedroom *Condo* Foxcroft Colony can be leased for \$1,000 per month, or purchased for \$145,000. A 2 bedroom for \$1,500 per month, or purchased for \$195,000.

KEITH AND MAIN BLDG. (across street from Fairfax Medical Center), Fairfax City, Va.—Modern air-cond. office bldg., suitable for any profession, will do some partitioning to suit tenant, approx. 650 sq. ft. at \$250 per mo. 273-4322.

Evening Star, June 14, 1967, p. D-20, c. 2.

The Keith and Main Building was demolished in 2003. The Fairfax Surgical Center replaced it.

REGISTERED NURSES

Modern new hospital in the City of Fairfax, Virginia (18 miles from Washington, D.C.) to open first part of July. \$550 per mo. staff nurse starting salary plus fringe benefits. A hospital where nurses can nurse. Team nursing. Unit clerks around the clock. Brewer drug system. Write Director of Nursing, Commonwealth Doctors Hospital, 4215 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia or call 703-273-2733. 11M

Richmond Times Dispatch, June 24, 1967, p. 19, c. 4.

Commonwealth Doctors Hospital opened in 1967. It was acquired by the Fairfax Hospital Association in 1976, which became INOVA. In 1987, INOVA Fairfax Oaks Hospital was opened and Commonwealth was converted Commonwealth Health & Rehab Center, along-term care facility.

100 Years Ago

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE.

Judge James M. Love and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Love have returned from Washington and reopened their home here for the summer. Miss Jennie Moore attended the May day celebration of Sweetbriar College last week. Miss Nell Carter of Washington is the guest of Mrs. Howard Fletcher. Mrs. Robbins and son, who have been visiting Mrs. Sarah Franklin, left Saturday for New York. Confederate Veterans' Camp, No. 171, of Washington, visited Fairfax last Friday and presented the public school with a picture of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Mrs. Mulcair made the presentation and Mr. John Rust received it in behalf of the school. Col. Robert Lee, Rev. Frank Page, Mrs. Mulcair and Mr. Rust made brief addresses. Mrs. Claude Wiley has been appointed sponsor by James Thrift Camp, Confederate Veterans, to the reunion in Washington in June.

Evening Star, May 6, 1917, p. 12, c. 1

Fairfax Court House auxiliary has furnished 100 comfort bags, filled, which went with our Hospital Corps to France. This auxiliary is preparing for a lawn fete in June, the receipts to go for Red Cross work.

Evening Star, June 1, 1917, p. 7



private homes and often provided more upscale accommodations. Single women, travelling alone, were often patrons.

Boarding Houses: were houses where “for compensation, board and lodging [was furnished to more than five persons] for a period as long as a week.”³ As with houses of private entertainment, boarding houses were typically in private homes and catered to those intending to stay longer than a few nights. Single women, traveling alone, also frequented these establishments.

Eating Houses: were houses where “for compensation, diet or refreshments of any kind for casual visitors at his house, and sold for consumption therein...; but the refreshments herein named shall not consist of wine, spirituous or malt liquors, cider, or a mixture of any of them.”⁴ Eating houses were the 18th and 19th century equivalent of today’s restaurants or cafes.

Livery Stables: were “stables or stalls in which horses are kept at livery or fed, or at which horses are hired for compensation by the proprietor....”⁵ A livery stable was a place where horses, teams and wagons could be hired or rented, but also where privately owned horses could be boarded for a short time. They were often attached to a hotel or boarding house.

Virginia law required that a separate license for the sale of alcohol be obtained for houses of private entertainment, boarding houses, and eating houses.

Allison’s Tavern and Store

Robert and Gordon Allison, natives of Ireland, arrived at Fairfax Court House about 1820. In 1828, they purchased a tavern and storehouse at Fairfax Court House from their brother William Allison, of Richmond, Virginia. The Allison’s operated both the tavern and the store for many years trading under the name “G & R Allison.”⁶

For nearly forty years, *Allison’s Tavern*, stood on the north side of Main Street near Chain Bridge Road and was known variously as the *Allison’s Hotel*, *Prichartt’s Hotel*, and the *Virginia Hotel*, as well as others.

Allison’s tavern and store stood on a portion of Lot #8 outlined in the original *Plan of the Town of Providence*

until it was burned by Union soldiers during the Civil War. Over the course of forty years, there were two locations for Allison’s livery stables.

The year 1837 was a difficult one for the Allison’s. Gordon Allison’s wife, Elizabeth *Eliza* (Wilkinson) Allison, died May 29th.⁷ In addition, as a result of the *Panic of 1837*,⁸ “the mercantile concerns” of Gordon and Robert Allison “became greatly embarrassed.”⁹ In June, “to prevent a total wreck”, the Allison’s agreed to place all of their real estate, consisting of the “store, tavern and lot of ground on which they are erected...two brick and one wooden tenement, and the stables used with the said tavern” in trust to secure their creditors.¹⁰

In July, in a last ditch attempt to satisfy their creditors, the Allison brothers sold nearly all of their personal property.^{11,12}

PUBLIC SALE.
UNDER the authority of a Deed of Trust, from G. and R. Allison to the subscribers, they will offer for sale at public auction, at Fairfax Court House, on Tuesday, the 18th of this month, all the personal property of the said G. and R. Allison, (*Household and Kitchen Furniture excepted*) consisting of a number of valuable *Slaves, Merchandize, Horses, Cattle, Hogs*, and a large supply of *Vinegar*. A credit of six months will be allowed on all purchases above \$20—purchases not exceeding that sum, to be paid for in cash.
R. I. TAYLOR,
July 7—ts THOS. R. LOVE.

Alexandria Gazette, July 7, 1837, p. 3, c. 6.

Finally, on November 20, 1837, Allison’s tavern, store and stables were sold at auction.¹³ However, Gordon Allison’s son, James Gordon Allison, was the hire bidder, acquiring the tavern and store on a portion of Lot #8, as well as the stable lot consisting of one quarter acre on the east side of Lot #10.¹⁴ Thus the Allison family still controlled their tavern and mercantile businesses. In February 1843, James Gordon Allison sold the tavern and store lot to his uncle, William Allison.¹⁵

In 1838, Gordon Allison was married to Nancy Stanhope. However, due Gordon's financial difficulties, Nancy's substantial assets, consisting of slaves and *other* property, real estate, rents, and money, all of which she had inherited from her parents John and Ann Stanhope,^{16,17} and grandmother, Elizabeth Gunnell, daughter of Henry and Mary Gunnell,¹⁸ were placed in trust to Ferdinand D. Richardson. Her assets were to be held by "*Richardson in trust for her sole and separate use...not liable in any manner for any debts or contracts of the said Gordon Allison.*"¹⁹

In June 1840, James Gordon Allison sold a house and lot to Lawson Turner Thompson, [the great-great-great-grandfather of this author] The house and lot were described as "*adjoining the house and lot purchased by Henry Taylor fronting and binding with the turnpike on the south on the east by H. Taylor's lot on the north by the stable lot belonging to the said James G. Allison and on the west by the lot of Mrs. Patsy Coleman.*"²⁰

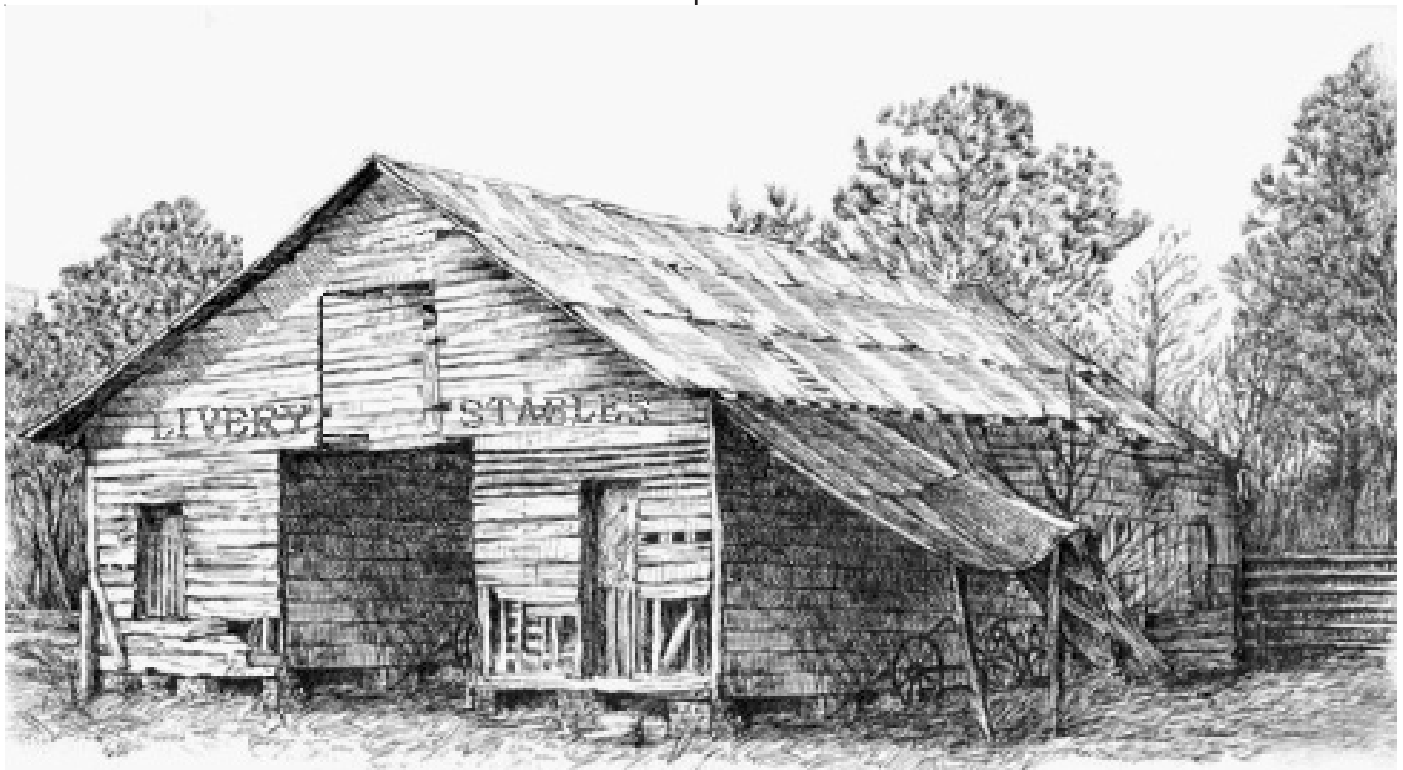
This description places the Thompson house between the what is today known as the Ratcliffe-Allison House and Old Town Hall.

Allison's Stables

To accommodate their tavern/hotel guests, Robert and Gordon Allison also maintained livery stables on Main Street.

From 1828 to 1845, Allison's stable lot was located on the east half of Lot #10, behind and north of "*two small brick tenements*" situated on one quarter acre acquired by Henry Taylor on December 20, 1837. Taylor's acquisition "*being part of the lot conveyed... to Gordon and Robert Allison, June 30, 1820*" is today the location of the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer house.²¹ The deed to Taylor reserved a four foot wide alley easement on the west side of his acquisition. Presumably, this was to provide for access to Allison's stable lot.

William Allison acquired the west half of Lot #10 from Patsy Coleman in 1844.²² Shortly thereafter, Allison's stables were moved to the northern half of this lot. The location of both the old stables and new stable[s] are further revealed in an auction notice published in the *Alexandria Gazette* of 1845 by "*Benjamin Waters, Attorney for Wm. Allison*"



An artists rendering of **Ferguson's Stables**, (aka Allison's Stables) c. 1870. A structure similar to this stood on Mechanics Street (now University Dr.), between Main and North Street's, to the north and in the rear of Ferguson's Eating House. The site now comprises a portion of Old Town Square.

"... The lot in the rear of the property occupied by Gordon Allison and L.T. Thompson on which the old stables attached to Pritchett's Hotel, formerly stood...

*...A lot in front of the new stable occupied by L.S. Pritchett's,²³ on the corner of Fairfax and Mechanic's Street, fronting on Fairfax St. 82½ feet, and running back about 50 feet."*²⁴

In November 1847, William Allison sold the lot "in front of the new stable"²⁵ to Albert and Susan Bradt. Susan was the daughter of Fairfax merchants Gerald L.W. and Jane (Johnston) Hunt.²⁶ This lot was located "at the southwest corner of Lot No. 10 (in the plan of said town) at the intersection of Fairfax and Mechanic's Streets," now known as Main Street and University Drive. Albert and Susan Bradt, sold the lot to Edward Sangster, the Sheriff of Alexandria.²⁷ Sangster placed the property in trust to secure the bond required for his office. He defaulted. Following a lawsuit by his securities, the property was auctioned. In 1859, Amanda Halley purchased the Sangster "house and lot" at auction for \$550.00. Although she completed her purchase on November 10, 1861, she did not receive a deed from Fairfax County Sheriff Joshua C. Gunnell.²⁸ This was probably due to the chaos at Fairfax Court House as a result of the Civil War. Old Town Hall now stands on the site of Amada Halley's house and lot.

William Allison died in 1850. A lawsuit styled *Allison v. Allison* was initiated by his heirs in Circuit Court for the City of Richmond to settle his estate. The details of the suit are not known as the records of the Richmond Circuit Court were destroyed by fire at the end of the Civil War. However, a decree was issued in 1853 directing Benjamin Waters, William Allison's brother in law, to effect the sale of Allison's lots at Fairfax Court House. The suit appears to have either been continued or there was some delay by Waters in effecting the sale. In the interim, Gordon Allison died on December 27, 1854, "aged about 70 years."²⁹ In November 1859, William Allison's lots at Fairfax Court House were sold at auction to Robert Allison for \$2,282.60. The lots consisted of "...the tavern property, then occupied by G.W. Garner and the Store House, then occupied by the said Robert Allison...and what remains

Letter from Fairfax.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

FAIRFAX Ct. Horse, Sept. 22, 1859.—As the Gazette reaches us tri-weekly, and always brings the news from abroad to our "Village of Providence," and is received with pleasure and satisfaction, what say you to letting the people know something of the doings around this little "Burg?" For old FAIRFAX has arisen from the lethargy which so long enveloped her ancient borders, and claims that the County seat should not be forgotten.

Last Monday was our regular monthly Court. Little business of interest was transacted. Out-doors the general topics were the Equinoctial storm and the shortness of the Corn crop. I regret to learn that much damage was done by the storm. Several sales were made—the most important, a tract of land, belonging to Hugh McGinnis, containing 80 acres, was sold by H. W. Thomas, Commissioner, for \$2500, to Judge Gill, of New Jersey. Also, the property known as the "Virginia Hotel," sold by the heirs of the late Wm. Allison, of Richmond, and purchased by Mr. Robert Allison, of this place, for \$2260, and regarded by all as a safe and judicious purchase.

On Tuesday next, our place will be enlivened by a Tournament; which "amusement" seems to be the fashion of the day. A pleasant time is anticipated. S. T. Stuart, esq., will deliver the charge to the Knights, and J. T. Williams, esq., of Brentsville, will address them. Those having it in charge are making extensive preparations, and, no doubt, many a young heart throbs with anticipation that the crown of "love and beauty" will rest upon her brow. At night, the enterprising proprietor of the Union Hotel gives the Ball, and if the past be any guarantee for the future, nobly will he acquit himself in affording pleasure to all who favor him on that occasion.

H.

Alexandria Gazette, September 24, 1859, p. 2, c. 2.

*unsold of a certain lot in the village of Providence upon which the stable is now situated which was purchased by William Allison from Patsy Coleman..."*³⁰

Robert Allison died in January 1864.³¹ Due to the ongoing Civil War, Robert's estate was not settled until 1866 when his heirs filed a lawsuit in Fairfax County to effect the sale of his real property.³² At the time of his death Robert Allison's property consisted of two lots at Fairfax Court House, the Tavern Lot and a Stable Lot, and *Hibernia*, a 72-acre farm located south of the courthouse on Chain Bridge Road.

Robert Allison's property was put up for auction in November 1866. On November 19th, the tavern lot was acquired by Orlando Wilson O.W. Hunt. The stable lot was acquired by a former slave, James Ferguson, also known as Jim Fogg.³³ Following Ferguson's winning bid of \$105, he put down \$10.50 (10%) and agreed to pay the balance in three equal installments of \$31.50 at intervals of six, twelve and eighteen months. Presumably, Ferguson had been operating the livery stable for some time prior to the auction. After paying the agreed installments Ferguson was issued a deed IN 1869.^{34, 35}

The sale was noted in the *Alexandria Gazette* with the following colorful commentary:

*"At December Court the last two lots in the centre of the 'burgh,' which have been eye-sores for some time, were sold. They are the lots on which the old Allison tavern and stable, which were kindly 'wiped out,' with the assistance of the element of fire during the late war, by our friends 'in blue.' Since then they have stood tenantless and forlorn, a waste and a ruin in the very metropolitan district of our village. They were purchased by O.W. Hunt, esq., and James Ferguson, F.B. – the latter a gentleman of color, who waited on one Joseph E. Johnston, from Manassas first to Atlanta, and has now settled in this Southern community, fearless of being 'crushed.' The lots will both be improved."*³⁶

Gordon Allison's widow, Nancy Stanhope Allison, died, intestate, in 1872. As she and Gordon had no children, her nieces and nephews, filed a lawsuit to force the sale of her property.³⁷

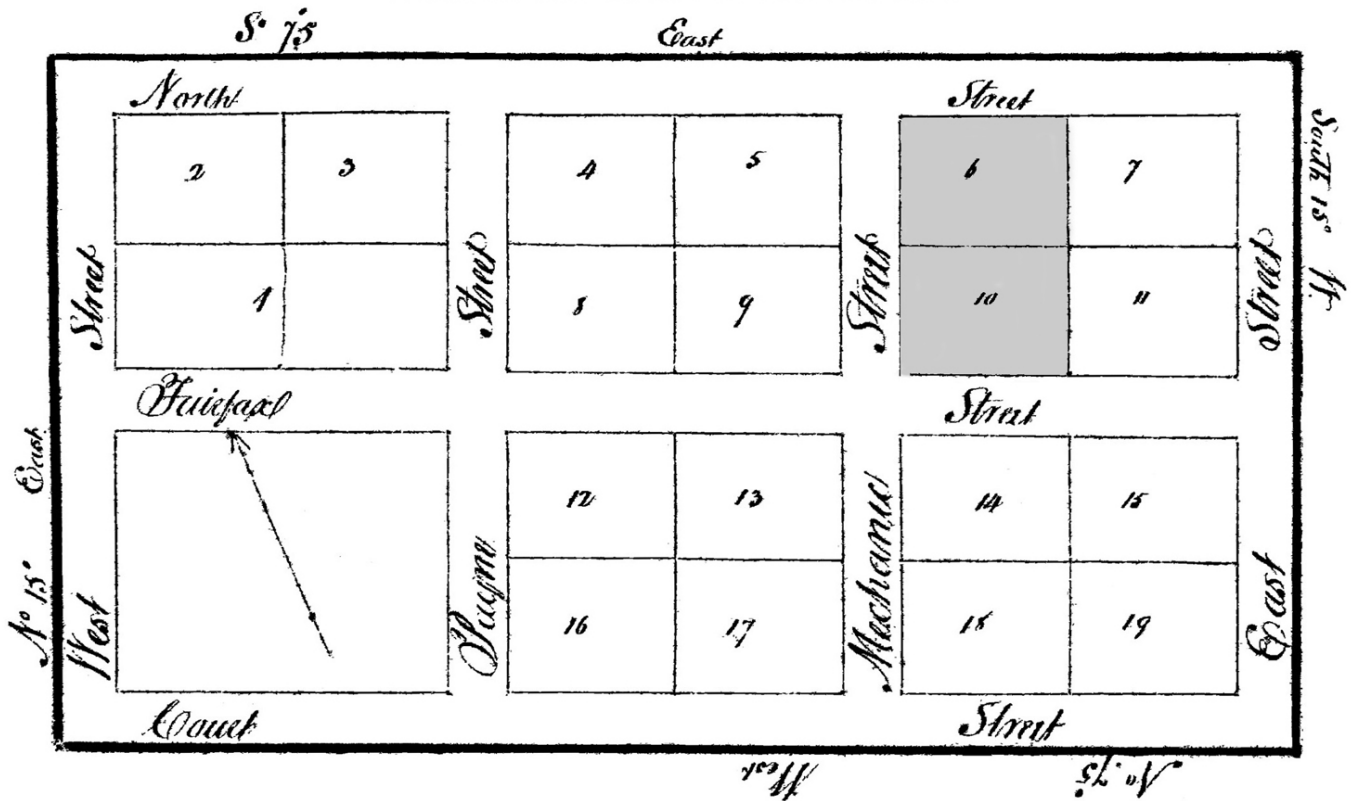
Jim Ferguson acquired the west half of lot #6 at auction on June 29, 1874. This "vacant lot" adjoined his earlier



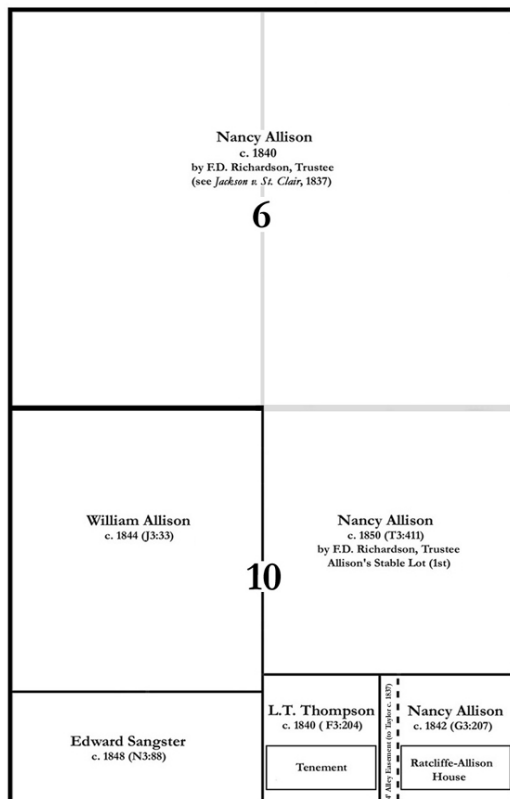
Interior view of The Wheatsheaf Eating House, Fleet Street, London, England.
Credit: *The Wheatsheaf Eating House*, by Thomas Rowlandson, c. 1805.

Source: Public Domain

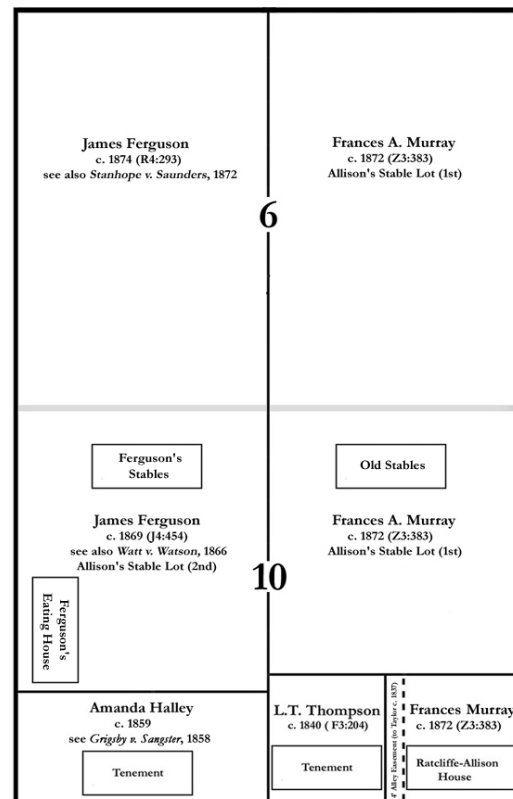
Plan of the Town of Providence



Owners of Lots 6 & 10



c. 1850



c. 1875

Plan of the Town of Providence, Fairfax County Deed Book M2, Pg. 137, October 1, 1805, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

FAIRFAX C.H.

Scale 300 feet to an Inch.

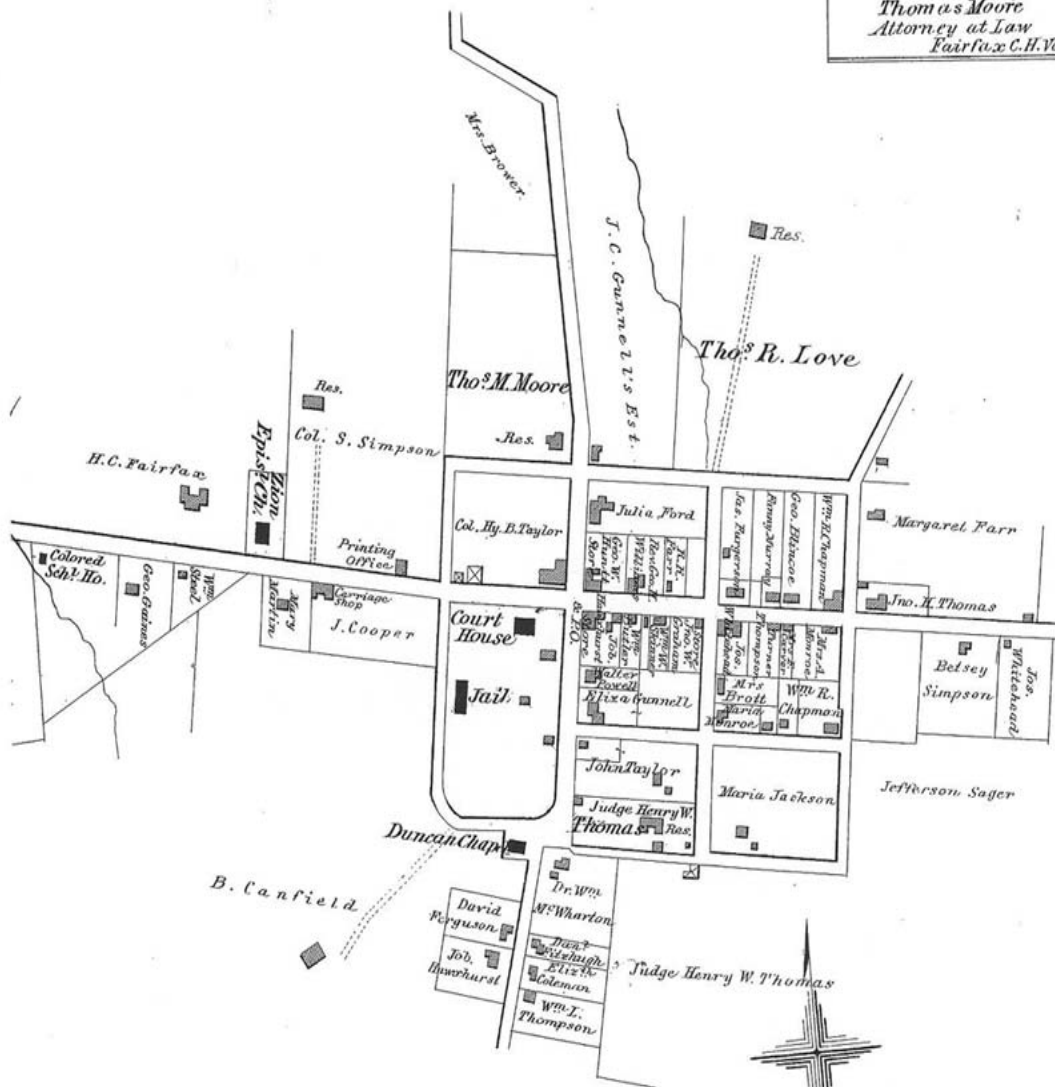
BUSINESS NOTICES

James M. Love.
Attorney at Law:
Fairfax Co., Va.

Thomas & Wells.
Attorneys at Law.
Fairfax Co. H. Va.

D. M. Chichester
Attorney at Law
Fairfax C. H. Va.

Thomas Moore
Attorney at Law
Fairfax C. H. Va.



This map is reproduced from G. M. Hopkins' *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, D.C., 1878*, courtesy Wm. Edmund Barrett and the Pioneer America Society, Inc., by the Friends of the Fairfax County Public Libraries, 1976.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington D.

purchase on the south, and bounded by Mechanics Street on the west, North Street on the north and Fannie Murray on the east.

Eating Houses

Eating houses were the 19th century equivalent of today's restaurants and cafes.

In most rural localities there was a single hotel, ordinary, or tavern where guests could find overnight accommodations along with food and drink. Patrons, often strangers, all shared the same table with the host or owner of the establishment. Meals were determined by the host and were served in all-you-can-eat buffet style at an appointed hour also determined by the host. Known as the *American Plan*, this method offered patrons both lodging and food for one fixed price. Prices were fixed and regulated by the local county court.

At Fairfax Court House, the old *Wilcoxen Tavern* (aka the *Union Hotel*) and *Allison's Tavern* (aka the *Virginia Hotel*) operated in this manner.

By contrast, eating houses did not offer sleeping arrangements. They only served food. By detaching eating spaces from sleeping places, eating houses allowed patrons flexibility, enabling patrons able to dine at almost any hour of the day that suited them and usually with a greater variety of serving choices. Eating houses relied on the *European Plan* of an à la carte menu and pricing.

CIVIL RIGHTS BILL INOPERATIVE AT FAIRFAX C. H.—Yesterday while the colored Sheriff of Alexandria county and his two sureties were in the village they went to an eating house kept by James Ferguson, (who was hostler to Gen. J. E. Johnson during the war,) a colored man whose house is much resorted to on public days by white people, as Jim keeps an excellent table and an orderly, respectable house. When dinner was served in the usual dining room, the colored sheriff and his friends essayed to enter, when mine host, the aforesaid J. F., motioned them back, and said, "Oh, no; you can't go in dar; dat is for de white gemmen; you come go in de kitchen and eat wid me and de ole woman." What will Sumner do now?—*Fairfax News*.

Alexandria Gazette, January 3, 1874, p. 2, c. 1

Although abundant in urban areas, such as nearby Alexandria and Washington, D.C., eating houses were not as common in rural areas. From 1869 to 1899 there was just one at Fairfax Court House, *Ferguson's*.

Start-up capital and overhead for an eating house was minimal. Advertising was also unnecessary as these places were known intimately and frequented mainly by locals. Most proprietors of eating houses operated their businesses from their homes. Thus the eating house contained much of the personality and temperament of the owner.

Although not exclusively operated by African-Americans, in the segregated South, eating houses were one of the few business opportunities available to former slaves. However, if not as owners, the presence of African-Americans in eating houses was ubiquitous, as cooks or waiters. This was certainly the case in the South immediately after the Civil War. Newly freed slaves had, after all, performed these duties in bondage for generations.

However, while African-Americans might have owned eating houses, they were likely not allowed to dine in them, unless, of course, the eating house catered exclusively to other African-Americans. Segregation encompassed all facets of life in America, particularly in the South, including eating houses. Jim Ferguson's Eating House was segregated and catered exclusively to white customers.

MYSTERIOUS.—One day last week a hack with a man in it drove into town and turning out the Falls Church road proceeded about a hundred yards, when the occupant got out and took a seat under a tree, (it was raining at the time) when the driver turned his horses and drove back into the village, and went to the stable of Jim Ferguson where he hastily fed his horses, occupying about fifteen minutes during which time the stranger kept his seat under the tree. As soon as the horses had finished eating the hack was driven back, when the man re-entered it and drove off in the direction of Falls Church. The mysterious part about the matter was the man, preferring to sit exposed to the rain, rather than come into the village.—*Fairfax News*.

Alexandria Gazette, September 14, 1872, p. 2, c. 6.

James Ferguson

James Ferguson, (aka *Jim Fogg*) was the son of John and Mary Ferguson. He was born in Fairfax County, about 1821. James Ferguson was first married to Nancy [last name unknown], born c. 1835.³⁸ The couple had seven known children, at least two of whom died in infancy.

During the Civil War Jim was a Hostler (a.k.a. Groom) to Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston.³⁹ Jim had charge of *Fannie*, a bay mare thoroughbred, and a favorite of the general.

On May 31, 1862, General Johnston was astride *Fannie* during the Battle of Seven Pines, when he was struck in the right shoulder by a bullet, immediately followed by a shell fragment which hit him in the chest. He tumbled from *Fannie*, unconscious, with a broken shoulder blade and two broken ribs. *Fannie*, however, was uninjured. In fact, *Fannie* survived many battles having never been wounded. She lived out her days on a Virginia farm.⁴⁰

After the war Jim Ferguson settled at Fairfax Court House. He operated Allison's Stables and an Eating House. Jim's Ferguson's business was well known and very successful. He was even known to cater a few events:

"Local Affairs. Masonic Supper – A supper will be given at Fairfax C. H. in the Masonic Hall at the next regular communication Dec., 18, to J. Y. Worthington, in consideration of his valuable services as Worshipful Master of Henry Lodge No. 57 A. F. A. M. A full attendance of the members, is desired.

James Furguson, caterer."⁴¹

By the 1870's Ferguson's Eating House was a well-established landmark at Fairfax Court House. In 1874, the following appeared in the *Alexandria Gazette*:

*"James Ferguson, (who was a hostler to Gen. J.E. Johnston during the war), a colored man whose house is much resorted to on public days by white people, as Jim keep an excellent table and an orderly, respectable house."*⁴²

Years after relocating to Florida, John Lee McWhorter, Associate Editor of the *Tampa Tribune* and former resident of Fairfax Court House, fondly recalled Fairfax and Jim Ferguson's in an editorial:

"Back in our boyhood days in Virginia there were four great court weeks a year and Monday in each of those weeks was known as 'Sale Day.' It was the day when all the fine stock, horses, cattle, sheep and hogs to be disposed of at more than usual farm price, were bought and auctioned. It was a big day with the farmers; for, despite the fact that whiskey was plentiful and cheap, and there was usually fighting from the 'court house to 'Jim Fogg's' restaurant half a mile down the street, these sales days were in reality 'fair' days for the county. Great exhibitions of fine stock for breeding purposes was especially the purpose of the exhibitors, and of course there was always a great amount of stock sold.

*With the establishment of the county fair the old fashioned court day sales went out of fashion. Today there is something like them needed as a clearing house for community product of field and farm, and we believe the re-establishment of something like the olds sales...."*⁴³

Jim Ferguson was enumerated in the U.S. Census of 1880, as a resident of Fairfax Court House, race "*mulatto*," age 50, occupation "*Keeps Eating House*." Living in his household were his wife Nancy, age 45; daughter, Alice, age 18; son, Royal, age 14; son, Edward, age 12; son Shelly, age 11; son Joseph, age 4. Also living in the household as a boarder was Addie Ware, race "*mulatto*," age 19, occupation "*School Teacher*."

Nancy Ferguson died sometime between 1880 and 1887. On November 13, 1887, James, then a widower, married Susan Jackson in Fairfax County. Susan was born in March 1849 and was a native of Madison Co., VA.

In 1886, Albert A. Dewey brought suit in Fairfax County Circuit Court against James Ferguson for the non-

payment of a \$90 debt. To secure Dewey, the Fairfax County Circuit Court ordered Ferguson's property to be sold at auction. On March 17, 1890, Mary C. Watkins was the high bidder at \$480.⁴⁴ The property was transferred to her by deed in 1891.⁴⁵

*"The house and lot at Fairfax C.H. owned and occupied for many years as a house of private entertainment by James Ferguson (colored) otherwise known as Jim Fogg, was sold on Monday to Mary C. Watkins for \$480."*⁴⁶

It is highly probable that Jim Ferguson continued to operate his eating house and the livery stable as the tenant of Mary Watkins after losing the property. The following is a description of an eating house at Fairfax Court House from a traveler in 1892:

*"...we adjourned to a pleasant house, where we had a dinner for twenty-five cents that, if persisted in, would put meat a foot thick on a stone statue. Pork and turnips, corn bread and sweet potatoes, preserves and cream and honey, homemade white bread, yellow butter, rich milk, beefsteak, and potatoes, pickles and plenty, and a good-looking woman with a melodious voice to wait on us and watch over us."*⁴⁷

In 1898, Mary Watkins sold her property, including Ferguson's old eating house and stables, to Joseph E. Willard.⁴⁸

*"Mr. Joseph E. Willard has purchased the lot at Fairfax Courthouse on which are situated the house and stables used by James Ferguson for many years as an eating house and livery stables. It is said he expects soon to have them torn down."*⁴⁹

Ferguson's Eating House and Stables were demolished in 1898. Joseph Willard now owned the entire west half of lots 6 & 10, having previously purchased the adjoining property, on the corner of Main and Mechanics Streets, from Amanda Halley in December 1897.⁵⁰

On the night of May 29, 1899, a fire destroyed the Moncure Brothers Store located across Mechanic Street from Willard's property on the opposite corner. The fire also consumed the Fairfax Post Office and the Undertaking establishment of William H. Steele situated further west on the same lot (#9).⁵¹ On the second floor of Moncure's Store were located the lodge rooms of Henry Lodge No. 57, A.F. & A.M. the Freemasons of Fairfax and Providence Lodge No. 3, I.O.G.T., the Good Templars of Fairfax.⁵² Joseph Willard, who was member of Henry Lodge, came to the rescue. In 1900, at his own expense, Willard erected a new Masonic hall on the property he had acquired from Amanda Halley *"to replace the old lodge room, which was burned some time since."*^{53,54} In July 1900, Willard gift deeded the property to the trustees of Henry Lodge No. 57, A.F. & A.M. for their use as well as *"inhabitants of said town"* of Fairfax.⁵⁵ This building still stands today and is known as Old Town Hall.

With the loss and subsequent demolition of their old eating house and stable, Jim and Susan Ferguson were forced to relocate nearby. On July 26, 1899, Susan Ferguson purchased a near half-acre of Lot #15 on the south side of Main Street for \$850 from George H. Carroll⁵⁶ of Washington, D.C.⁵⁷ George H. Carroll had acquired the property from the estate of Narcissa Monroe in 1886. George H. Carroll was the son of Susan Carroll, both of whom were the former slaves of Narcissa Monroe.^{58,59} The lot purchased by Susan Ferguson extended from the intersection of Main and East Streets, west along Main Street for 136' and south along East Street for 134'. Excluded from the purchase was a small 30' x 134' lot on the western border of Lot #15 which had been acquired by Susan A. Davis in 1893.⁶⁰ James and Susan Ferguson mortgaged \$550 the purchase. The *"two story frame and shingle"* dwelling was insured for \$550.⁶¹

The U.S. Census of 1900, provides additional insight into the life and habits of Jim Ferguson. He was then a prisoner in the Fairfax County jail. The census enumerates his birth as October 1821, thus making him then 78 years old. His occupation of *"Eating House Keeper"* is also recorded. The census indicated he owned his home. Jim may have been in the Fairfax County Jail for selling liquor, a charge he faced several times during his lifetime.^{62,63}

Susan Ferguson, age 51, Eating House Keeper, is also listed in the same census. Enumerated with her are her son Shell, age 30, born in Virginia in April 1870, occupation "Day laborer." Also listed is her grandson Wyatt Ferguson, age 10, born Washington, DC in May 1890, occupation "At School."

Susan Ferguson died March 19, 1901.⁶⁴ The appearance of her brief obituary in *Fairfax Herald* gives some indication as to her value and standing in the community.

In addition to the mortgage, Susan Ferguson's estate was indebted to Oliver Bishop "O.B." Campbell & Co., General Merchandise, Dr. Walker Peyton Moncure, M.D., and James W. Taylor, Undertaker. The estate was placed in the hands of a "receiver," Fairfax County Sheriff, George A. Gordon. As the receiver, Gordon's job was to seize the assets of Ferguson and, if possible, collect rents from the occupants. Fairfax attorney Robert W. Moore, of the firm Moore & Keith⁶⁵ wrote to creditor George H. Carroll on the matter in October 1903

*"The Receiver has not been able to collect rent from old Jim Ferguson, except a very small amount, and there has been no chance to rent to anyone else."*⁶⁶

Dr. Moncure, who had attended both Susan and her son Royal Ferguson between 1900 and 1901, filed an itemized bill with the Fairfax County Circuit Court for his services. This bill implies that Royal Ferguson may have died in late 1900, when the billings by Dr. Moncure for him ceased. If so, Royal was followed in death by his mother, Susan, in March 1901. Royal's wife, "the prepossessing,"⁶⁷ Matilda Ferguson, was apparently also living in the household as she is credited with paying rent to Sheriff Gordon from October 1903 until May 1904. Subsequently, the Ferguson's may have been evicted by Sheriff Gordon as a new tenant, Kate Murray, is credited with paying the rent from May 1904 until September 1905.

In November 1905, Susan and Jim Ferguson's property was advertised and ordered sold by the court to meet their obligations. Oliver B. Campbell was the purchaser.

*"Wednesday, November 1, 1905...Half an Acre. Said lot is improved by a good FRAM DWELLING HOUSE and Stable. It is the same lot which was formerly owned by Harrison Monroe, and later by George Carroll, who sold it to the late Susan Ferguson. This is a valuable piece of property. About ten electric trains per day connect the Town of Fairfax with Washington, D.C."*⁶⁸

The last known reference to Jim Ferguson was May 1904 when he paid partial rent to Sheriff Gordon on his former home.⁶⁹ He would have then been 83 years old. Nothing further is known about him.

At least one of his children survived him. Sheldon Ferguson was employed as a waiter in Washington, D.C. and a Butler in New York City in 1920.⁷⁰

Harvey Houses

At about the same time that Jim Ferguson was operating his small eating house at Fairfax Court House, Fred Harvey, a freight agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, opened two eating houses along the line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad in 1875. Harvey approached his employer about establishing eating houses system-wide along the length of the Burlington line. When declined Harvey contracted with the Atchinson, Toepka & Santa Fe Railroad to open several eating houses along that line on an experimental basis. His *Harvey Houses* proved so successful that he established his own company, the Fred Harvey Company, and opened dozens Harvey Houses.

Fred Harvey is credited with establishing the first restaurant chain in America. At their peak there were more than eighty Harvey Houses throughout the southwest. The chain endured until 1963.

A hallmark of every Harvey House was a strict adherence to uniform standards of cleanliness, high quality food, and first class service. Another popular feature of the chain, certainly with male patrons, were the *Harvey Girls*. Harvey only employed young, attractive, single women, of good character, between the ages of 18 to 30 to work as servers. Harvey insisted that they not marry until they had

put in a full year of work. They resided in housing adjacent to the restaurants, where they were supervised by the most senior Girl, who enforced curfews and chaperoned male visits. They were required to wear modest black and white starched uniform dresses, accented with aprons, black stockings and black shoes.

Harvey Girls were popular not only because of their pleasant and efficient service, but also because they were often the only women for miles around.

Jim Ferguson's Legacy

Jim Ferguson's grandson, Wyatt Ferguson (1890-1958), son of Sheldon and Catherine (Jackson) Ferguson, served honorably as a Private in the Headquarters Company, 308th Pioneer Infantry during World War I. This was the famed "*Lost Battalion*," comprised of six companies from the 308th regiment and three companies from the 306th and 307th regiments of the 77th Division of the United States Army. This battalion was isolated by completely surrounded German forces following a failed American attack in the Argonne Forest in October 1918. For six days the lost battalion fought off repeated German attacks and friendly fire from allied artillery. Despite this they held their ground long enough for an allied counterattack that forced a German retreat. Wyatt Ferguson is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

A Personal Remembrance

Forty years ago, while attending college, I spent several summers in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with a high school friend who was a native of the area. Together, with another friend, who was from nearby Conway, South Carolina, we rented a house. I worked three menial jobs for the privilege of living at the beach.

During those summers, I experienced firsthand what I now know was a dying institution – *a southern eating house*.

One day our Conway friend from took us to a little house on Carver Street in the historic, and onetime segregated, Booker T. Washington neighborhood, of Myrtle Beach. In the shadow of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, sat *Frances Place*, an eating house operated by a

stocky, elderly, silver-haired, African-American woman named – you guessed it, *Frances*.

Frances operated her business from her ancient shotgun style home. The faded whitewashed exterior of her house gave a clue to its true age. The small frame house was located across the street from the historic Fitzgerald Motel and site of Charlie's Place, (aka The Whispering Pines) a nightclub for African-American's from the 1930's to the 1960's. Charlie's Place featured top African-American acts like Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Ray Charles, Little Richard, Sam Cooke, and the Drifters who performed at the club and stayed at the Fitzgerald Motel during segregation. Charlie's is also allegedly where dance, the *Shag*, was born.

Frances did not advertise. There were no signs of any kind out front. Her business was derived entirely by word-of-mouth. In fact, the only indication of any business activity at all were the cars parked haphazardly in her yard and out on the street.

The interior décor was minimalist. The small dining room encompassed the entire front of the house. There was no air conditioning. Ceiling fans lazily circulated the oppressively humid coastal air. Patrons sat on mismatched chairs at small tables draped with red and white checkerboard tablecloths. Arranged on each table were salt 'n pepper shakers, vinegar, hot sauce and barbecue bottles, as well as other bottles featuring homemade concoctions. Here and there, bunches of red chili peppers tied together with string hung down from the ceiling for the more adventurous guests. In the rear of the dining room, near the kitchen door, was a table arranged with self-service pitchers of ice water and sweet tea - your only two choices.

There was no hostess. You just came in and sat down at any space available. Frances, herself, clad in a house dress and apron, pad in hand, greeted you and took your order. The menu consisted of what Frances had cooked that day and was written on a chalk board on the back wall. Country ham, black-eyed peas, stewed tomatoes, collard greens, and cornbread was typical, but the menu varied daily.

I don't recall the prices, but as a poor college student it seemed to be very reasonable.

Frances Place was not segregated, but the majority of her cliental were local working-class African-Americans. Although I was with my friends, the first time I went to *Frances Place*, as a white college kid, I felt decidedly out of place. But Frances and her fabulous food quickly made me feel at home and like a 'regular' and we did go there often.

Not long ago, I tried to locate *Frances Place* using *Google Earth*. Sadly, it seems that *Frances Place*, like *Ferguson's Eating House & Stables*, now only exists in memory.

Known Descendants of James Ferguson:

- 1) Henrietta Maria Ferguson d. May 31, 1872.
- 2) Female Ferguson d. Dec. 1873
- 3) Alice Ferguson b. 1862
- 4) Royal Ferguson b. 1866; d. bef. June 1900; m. Matilda _____ (1866-1916); Matilda died Jan. 7, 1916; she is bur Woodlawn Cem., Wash., D.C.; Royal was emp. as a Waiter with his brother Shelley Ferguson at 207 E. Capitol St., DC in 1885.
 - Ida M. Ferguson (1874-1915) b. May 4, 1874, Fairfax Court House, VA; d. Apr. 20, 1915, Wash., DC; bur. Woodlawn Cem., Wash., DC; m/1 George W. Roy, Apr. 24, 1893, Wash., DC; m/2 Frank J. Fuller (1869-????) b. CT; c. 1896, Phila., PA; res. Phila. in 1910.

Issue IF & GWR:

 - Georgie Tengue Roy (1893-1907) b. Nov. 2, 1893; d. Jan. 21, 1907, Phila., PA, "13 years, 2 months, 19 days;"⁷¹ bur. Wash., DC.⁷²

Issue IF & FF:

 - Inez Fuller (1897-1917) b. May 1897, Wash., DC; res. 2029 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY; occ. Dressmaker; d. Nov. 12, 1917, Queens, NY; bur. Evergreen Cem., NYC.
- 5) Edward "Eddy" Ferguson b. 1867
- 6) Sheldon "Shell or Shelly" Ferguson b. Apr. 1870; m. Carrie L. Jackson (1875-1901) Nov. 2, 1889, Wash., D.C. Carrie was a "Cook" for Orlando W. Bradt in Wash., DC in 1900. She died Jan. 24, 1901, Wash., DC; bur. Fairfax, VA; In 1920 Sheldon Ferguson was living at 182 W. 135th St., N.Y., N.Y.
 - Wyatt Ferguson (1890-1959) b. DC, May 10, 1890; d. June 11, 1958; m. Josephine "Arie" Jackson b. Sept. 16, 1889; d. June 15, 1977; Pvt. HQ Co., 308th Pioneer Inf., aka "The Lost Battalion," A.E.F., WWI; res. 1649 K St., NW, Wash., DC in

1917; both bur. Arl. Natl. Cem., Sect. 19, Grave 787-6

· Wyatt Ferguson, Jr. (1925-????) b. 1925; "Wyatt Ferguson, 19, colored, was sentenced by Justice McGuire to serve from one to three years for violations of the Selective Training and Service Act. He was accused of failing to register and of altering a registration certificate to make it appear his own. Justice McGuire ordered Ferguson's sentence to run consecutively with a sentence of from one to three years the defendant already was serving on robbery charges."⁷³

7) Joseph Ferguson b. 1876.

Partial Genealogy of the Allison Family of Fairfax Court House⁷⁴

- William Allison m. Ann Waters
 - o Hannah Ann Allison (1821-1873) m. Hugh Augustus Watt (1808-1882) both bur. Shockoe Cem., Richmond, VA.
 - § William Allison Watt (1839-1839)
 - § John S. Watt (1843-1843)
 - § Hugh A. Watt (1852-1853)
 - § James William Watt (1854-1924)
 - § Infant Watt (1880-1880)
 - o Jane Eliza Allison m. David W. Moore
 - o Ellen Victoria Allison m. Theodore C. Carson
 - o James Waters Allison
 - o William Henry Allison
- Gordon Allison (1791-1854) m/1 Elizabeth "Eliza" Wilkinson (1790-1837) dau. of John Wilkinson^{75,76,77}; m/2 Nancy Stanhope (1795-1872)
 - o James Gordon Allison (1816-1864) m. Martha Ann Roberdeau (1830-1873)⁷⁸ divorced in March 1848.⁷⁹
 - § James Roberdeau Allison (1864-1927), Sheriff of Fairfax County 1904-1927; m. Nora Wynkoop (1876- 1960) in June 29, 1905, Fairfax Co., VA
 - Virginia C. Allison (1908-1987) m. Henry Dudley Ludwig (1895-1974)
 - o Roberdeau Allison Ludwig m. Jane Brothers Fenner in 1971
 - Nancy Roberdeau "Robbie" Allison (1912-1998) m. Robert Butler Walker (1911-1974), Oct. 7, '38, Fairfax, VA.
 - o J. Larry Fones
 - § John _____
 - § Michael _____

- § Andrew _____
- § Elizabeth Gordon Allison (1858-1861)
- § Eliza Chatham Allison (1860-1940)
- o Eliza Allison
 - Robert Allison (1798-1864) never married
 - James Allison never married
 - Mary Allison m. _____ Watson res. Hampshire Co., (West) VA.
 - Rebecca Allison m. William Childs (1797-????), Mar. 7, 1815, Wash., DC; res. Norfolk, VA; occ. "Mariner" in 1850.
 - o William Childs
 - o Mary Childs
 - o Jane M. Childs (1816-1848) m. John Hardison, Jan. 28, 1837, Norfolk, VA; bur. Cedar Grove Cem., Norfolk, VA.
 - § _____ Hardison
 - § _____ Hardison
 - Jane Allison (1795-1862)⁸⁰ never married

(Endnotes)

- ¹ Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1866-1867, © 1867, James E. Goode, Printer, Richmond, VA.
- ² Ibid 1.
- ³ Ibid 1.
- ⁴ Ibid 1.
- ⁵ Ibid 1.
- ⁶ Fairfax County DB Y2, Pg. 24, September 20, 1828.
- ⁷ *Alexandria Gazette*, June 5, 1837, p. 3, c. 4. Obit of Eliza Allison.
- ⁸ Panic of 1837 was a financial crisis in the United States initiated by Andrew Jackson's *Specie Circular* in which stipulated that all government owned lands in the west must be paid for with gold or silver. This effectively dried up credit and touched off a major recession, lasting into the 1840's.
- ⁹ *G.&R. Allison v. William Woodyard* (1842), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ¹⁰ Fairfax County DB D3, Pg. 248, June 19, 1837.
- ¹¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, July 7, 1837, p. 3, c. 6.
- ¹² *Alexandria Gazette*, July 29, 1837, p. 3, c. 3.
- ¹³ *National Intelligencer*, November 8, 1837, p. 4, c. 3.
- ¹⁴ Fairfax County DB F3, Pg. 374, March 25, 1841.
- ¹⁵ Fairfax County DB H3, Pg. 144, February 23, 1843.
- ¹⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, February 2, 1836, p. 3, c. 4. Notice of Chancery *Ratcliffe v. Moss* (1836) Parties named.
- ¹⁷ *Ratcliffe v. John Moss* (1831), Prince William County Chancery Suit.
- ¹⁸ *Stanhope v. Gunnell* (1838) Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ¹⁹ Fairfax County DB D3, Pg. 601, August 31, 1838.
- ²⁰ Fairfax County DB F3, Pg. 204, June 1, 1840.
- ²¹ Fairfax County DB E3, Pg. 55, December 20, 1837.
- ²² Fairfax County DB J3, Pg. 33, October 21, 1844.
- ²³ Lewis A. Pritchard leased the Allison Hotel or Tavern from the estate of William Allison, father of Robert Allison. Robert Allison acquired the property from his father's estate in 1859.
- ²⁴ *Alexandria Gazette*, May 24, 1845, p. 3, c. 6.
- ²⁵ *Alexandria Gazette*, May 24, 1845, p. 3, c. 6.
- ²⁶ Fairfax County DB N3, Pg. 1, November 18, 1847..
- ²⁷ Fairfax County DB N3, Pg. 88, September 8, 1848.
- ²⁸ *Grigsby v. Sangster*, (1894), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ²⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, January 20, 1855, p. 3, c. 1. Obit of Gordon Allison.
- ³⁰ Fairfax County DB C4, Pg. 140, November 30, 1859.
- ³¹ *Alexandria Gazette*, January 25, 1864, p. 2, c. 2.
- ³² *Watt v. Watson*, (1866), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ³³ *Alexandria Gazette*, March 21, 1890, p. 2, c. 3.
- ³⁴ *Watt v. Watson*, (1881), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ³⁵ Fairfax County DB J4, Pg. 454, April 31, 1869.

- ³⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, December 8, 1866, p. 1, c. 1.
- ³⁷ *Stanhope v. Saunders* (1872), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ³⁸ US Census of 1870, Providence, Fairfax County, Virginia.
- ³⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, December 8, 1866, p. 1, c. 1.
- ⁴⁰ *Boston Herald*, May 30, 1897, p. 32, c. 7.
- ⁴¹ *Fairfax News*, December 14, 1872, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁴² *Alexandria Gazette*, January 3, 1874, p. 2, c. 1.
- ⁴³ *Tampa Tribune*, December 31, 1918, p. 6, c. 2. John Lee McWhorter was the Associate Editor of the *Tampa Tribune* in 1918. He was born at Fairfax Court House in 1867, the son of Dr. William & Mary (Millan) McWhorter. He died in Alexandria, Virginia in 1928.
- ⁴⁴ *Dewey v. Ferguson*, (1890), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ⁴⁵ Fairfax County DB K5, Page 88, January 31, 1891.
- ⁴⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, March 21, 1890, p. 2, c. 3.
- ⁴⁷ *Evening Star*, November 12, 1892, p. 7 c. 7 & 8.
- ⁴⁸ Fairfax County DB A6. Pg. 383, March 14, 1898.
- ⁴⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, April 5, 1898, p. 3, c. 3.
- ⁵⁰ Fairfax County DB A6, Pg. 65, December 8, 1897.
- ⁵¹ *Evening Star*, May 30, 1899, p. 2, c. 6.
- ⁵² *Ward v. Jackson*, (1872), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ⁵³ *Alexandria Gazette*, August 16, 1900, p. 3.
- ⁵⁴ The "old masonic lodge room" referred to was located on Lot #9, across Mechanic Street on the opposite corner (see also AG, March 21, 1872, p. 3, c. 1 & AG, May 30, 1899, p. 2, c. 6).
- ⁵⁵ Fairfax County DB F6, Pg. 307, September 12, 1899.
- ⁵⁶ George H. Carroll (1857-1903) was a former slave of Harrison and Narcissa Monroe. He was married to Alice Virginia Chapman (1851-1916), April 1882, Wash., DC. George H. Carroll purchased the same portion of Lot #15 from the estate of Narcissa Monroe in 1886 which he, in turn, sold it to Susan Ferguson in 1899. George H. Carroll was born November 1857. He died February 4, 1903, in Wash., DC (see *Evening Star*, February 9, 1903, p. 3, c. 4). His funeral took place from Ebenezer M.E. Church, cor. 4th and D streets, s.e. George and Alice are believed to be buried in Mount Zion Cemetery. Wash., DC. Daughter, Annie Carroll, born Feb. 1882.
- ⁵⁷ Fairfax County DB D6, Pg. 276, September 12, 1899.
- ⁵⁸ Census of 1870, Fairfax County, Virginia enumerates Narcissa Monore, white, Susan Carroll, age 29, black, and George Carroll, age 12, black, both domestic servants.
- ⁵⁹ Slave Census of 1860, Fairfax County, enumerates two slaves owned by Narcissa Monroe, a black female, age 18, and a black male, age 2.
- ⁶⁰ Fairfax County DB O5, Pg. 623, June 22, 1893.
- ⁶¹ *Campbell v. Ferguson*, (1903), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ⁶² *Fairfax Herald*, July, 2, 1886, p. 3 & August 21, 1903, p. 3.
- ⁶³ *Commonwealth of Virginia v. James Ferguson*, September 1886 Term. Indictment for Selling Liquor w/o a license, Ffx. Co. Cir. Ct. Clk.
- ⁶⁴ *Fairfax Herald*, March 22, 1901, p. 3.
- ⁶⁵ The law firm *Moore and Keith* was comprised of partners Robert Walton Moore (1859-1941) and Thomas Randolph Keith (1872-1937).
- ⁶⁶ *Campbell v. Ferguson*, (1903), Letter to George Carroll by persons unknown, Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ⁶⁷ *Washington Bee*, July 2, 1887, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁶⁸ *Campbell v. Ferguson*, (1903), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ⁶⁹ *Campbell v. Ferguson*, (1903), Fairfax County Chancery Suit.
- ⁷⁰ Census of 1920, Manhattan, New York.
- ⁷¹ *Evening Star*, January 23, 1907, p. 5, c. 8.
- ⁷² Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Death Certificate Index 1803-1915.
- ⁷³ *Evening Star*, June 19, 1943, p. b-11, c. 8.
- ⁷⁴ *Watt v. Watson*, (1881), Fairfax County Chancery Suit
- ⁷⁵ *Alexandria Gazette*, February 2, 1836, p. 3, c. 4. Notice of Chancery *Ratcliffe v. Moss* (1836) Parties named.
- ⁷⁶ *Alexandria Gazette*, June 5, 1837, p. 3, c. 4. Obit of Eliza Allison.
- ⁷⁷ Will of John Wilkinson, *Ratcliffe v. John Moss* (1831), Prince William County Chancery Suit, Prince William County Circuit Court Clerk, Manassas, VA.
- ⁷⁸ *Alexandria Gazette*, January 27, 1873, p. 3, c. 3. Obit. Of Martha Allison
- ⁷⁹ *Alexandria Gazette*, March 29, 1848, p. 2, c. 7. Divorce Notice.
- ⁸⁰ *Watt v. Watson* (1881) Fairfax County Chancery Suit, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk. "Robert Allison Estate – 1862 To Henry Lewis for digging grave for Jane Allison by direction of R. Allison \$4.00".

150 Years Ago

The Last Survivor of the Revolution.

There lives in Noble County, Ohio, the last survivor of the Revolution Army, John Gray. He was born at Fairfax Court House, Virginia, January 8, 1764, and is, consequently, in his 104th year. His father fell at Yorktown, and the son, then quite a youth, immediately stepped into the ranks to take the place made vacant by the death of his father. Recently, on being asked why he enlisted so young, he replied, while the fire of the Revolution flashed in his eye: "How could I help it? Was I not in the same county with Washington?" After serving with great gallantry to the close of the struggle for our independence, he was mustered out at Richmond, Virginia. He then returned to field labor, and the support of his widowed mother.

Mr. Gray has been married twice in Virginia and once in Ohio. One after another his family have passed to the tomb, and now, in his one hundred and fourth year, poor, aged and infirm, he lives the last lone monument of the grandest generation the world has ever seen.

For seventy-eight years he has been a faithful member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Gray is very poor. Owing to the neglect which so characterized the official records of the Revolutionary Army, no record of Mr. Gray's military services could be found. At length, however, Judge Bingham, of Ohio, having visited the old hero at his humble home, began to urge his case upon the attention of Congress, and during the last session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, a pension of \$500 was granted to the last survivor of the Revolution.

New York Commercial Advertiser, May 10, 1867, p. 5, c. 2

EPISCOPAL CHURCH MATTERS.—The sum of \$509.41 has been contributed to aid in rebuilding Zion Church, at Fairfax Court House, destroyed by Federal troops during the late war.

Alexandria Gazette, June 26, 1867, p. 3, c. 3

200 Years Ago

Twenty Dollars Reward.

Ran away from the subscriber living near Fairfax court house, on the 15th of January, a negro man named JESS—he is about 23 years of age, about 5 feet 11 inches high, dark complexion. He had on when he went away a dark cloth coat, domestic cloth pantaloons and various other cloathing. I will give the above reward if he be taken 25 miles or upwards from home and secured so that I get him again; and, if nearer, ten dollars.

Susannah Powell.

Fairfax County, Virginia,

March 6—19

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Alexandria Gazette, May 15, 1817, p. 4, c. 1.

A Store-House to Rent:

I OFFER ON RENT, for one or more years, a Store-House, &c. situate this place. The House is of brick, two stories, with excellent Cellar, Kitchen & Granery. The Stand is good, and to a person who would keep a good assortment of Goods, a profitable one. Possession can be had in a few days. The House would accommodate a small family independent of the Store. To a person wishing such a situation, I recommend to view the premises. For further particulars, call on the subscriber.

R^d. RATCLIFFE.

N. B. I wish to employ, immediately, a Brick Moulder, to mould, set and burn from 50 to 150,000 Bricks, and will furnish every attendance, wood, etc. and advance in money reasonably, while the work is progressing.

Fairfax C. H. June 24.

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Alexandria Gazette, July 11, 1817, p. 4, c. 2.

"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
John A.C. Keith, President
10209 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22030



The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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