HISTORICAL CASE STUDIES OF ALEXANDRIA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

CONTRAST IN DEVELOPMENT: THE MERCHANT'S MANSION AND A FREE AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

ARCHIVAL DATA PERTAINING TO 113-119 SOUTH WEST STREET AND THE DARNELL FAMILY

Sara Revis



Alexandria Archaeology Publications Number 36

> Alexandria Archaeology Office of Historic Alexandria City of Alexandria, Virginia Copyright 1991

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

Patricia S. Ticer, Mayor

William C. Cleveland, Vice Mayor

Kerry J. Donley

T. Michael Jackson

Redella S. Pepper

Lonnie C. Rich

David G. Speck

CITY MANAGER

Vola Lawson

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	iii
CONTRAST IN MODES OF DEVELOPMENT	1
NO. 117 S. WEST STREET: DARNELL FAMILY	2
1800-1850 – Henry Darnell	2
1850-1901 – Robert Darnell	4
1900-1987 – Hattie Darnell	
NO. 119 S. WEST STREET	6
1800-1850 – Brown/Jackson Families	6
1850-1900 – Townsend Solomon	7
1900-1987 – Darnell Family	8
NO. 113-115 S. WEST STREET	9
1810-1850 – Daugherty/Irwin Families	9
1850-1890 – Violett Brothers	
NO. 115 S. WEST STREET	11
1890-1910 – George Darnell	11
1910-1087 – Margaret Darnell Evans	
NO. 113 S. WEST STREET	12
1897-1970 – Dudley/Tucker Families	12
1970-1987 – Samuel Darnell	13
Appendix 1 - Deed Book Description of 113-119 S. West Street	14
Appendix 2 - Tax Assessments for the Southwest Quadrant, King and S. West S	Streets15
Bibliography	19
Index	21

Foreword

The <u>Alexandria Archaeology Publications</u> series is composed of papers on various aspects of research conducted under the auspices of Alexandria Archaeology, a division of the Office of Historic Alexandria, City of Alexandria, Virginia. The authors include professional staff members, university students and Alexandria Archaeology volunteers. Editing of the papers has been kept to a minimum. It should be understood that the papers vary in tone and level of technicality, since they were originally directed toward many different audiences.

We are pleased to offer the papers within this series and in so doing are opening our "manuscripts on file" - including professional conference papers, background documentary studies, student course papers, and volunteer research papers - to professionals and public alike.

Sara Revis has been researching and writing the history of Alexandria's archaeological sites since 1980. She has produced many important outlines and summaries which have guided our investigations. By using deeds, tax, census and city directory sources Sara has been able to piece together the history of lots, streetfaces and blocks. By editing her work, Sara has produced fascinating histories of parts of Alexandria. They are case studies of urban life in Alexandria.

This case study demonstrates the complexity and multifaceted nature of urban life. Originally embarking on this research with the general goals of land use history, Sara discovered that these four properties actually deserved far greater detail. This research is important for documenting the inception of a free African American neighborhood as early as 1810. Sara provides an index to the individuals as well as tax assessment and deed information in Appendices I and II. It is our hope that this manuscript will lead to a greater understanding of how the 836 African Americans with free legal status in 1810 established neighborhoods and family homes while the other two thirds of the black population were enslaved.

Pamela J. Cressey, Ph.D. City Archaeologist 1991

Archival research on Nos. 113-119 S. West Street was undertaken in 1987 for Alexandria Archaeology at the request of the Meushaw Development Corporation, purchaser of the properties from the heirs of Samuel Darnell. The property consisted of four separate house lots centered on the west side of West Street in the first block south of King Street. The deed of sale on May 11, 1987 (Alexandria Deed Book [DB] 1211:768), gives the measurements of the four parcels and some background on each. See Appendix I.

CONTRAST IN MODES OF DEVELOPMENT

Numbers 113-115 and 117-119 represent two categories of development. The line separating Wards 3 and 4 runs between them, dividing the two sets of houses, as does the center line of the square. Nos. 113-115 fall in the half-acre quarter square adjoining King Street, while Nos. 117-119 are in the quarter square to the south, which extends to Prince Street. Since Alexandria development followed a pattern of sale by quarter squares, the two sets of house lots reflect in the history of their development the difference in location and the activity of early owners. Nos. 113-115 began as the backyard of an Alexandria merchant's mansion and served through the years largely as white-owned rental property, just off a main commercial thoroughfare, King Street. Nos. 117-119 were part of a residential subdivision created and sold by lot to free blacks. Eventually, however, all four lots from Nos. 113 to 119 were owned by one family, the Darnells, who first resided at No. 117. The most interesting pattern to emerge from archival research was that of the quarter square containing Nos. 117 and 119. This quarter square belonged to George Gilpin, who had acquired it from William Thornton Alexander. Gilpin granted the lots to two free blacks in July 1807 for an annual ground rent of \$10 in silver, due each October, and with the covenant that each build and furnish a tenantable house in 1-1/2 years. No. 117 went to Henry Darnell (DB O:184). No. 119 went to Benjamin Brown with the additional covenant that the Gilpins would maintain an alley running from West Street to the western edge of the quarter square (DB O:80). In accordance with the covenants, Nos. 117 and 119 each had a house in place by 1810 (Alexandria Tax Records [TR]).

The Gilpins also granted other lots on the quarter square to free blacks on similar terms, all measuring 20 feet on Prince and running north 124 feet to a 12-foot alley. From east to west the new owners were as follows: Samuel Dober on the corner of Prince and West (DB O:174); James Evans (DB O:75); Landon Payne (DB R:15); Peter Parris (DB M:259); Leonard Dutcher (DB M:280); and farther down, Daniel Morrison (DB M:274). James Evans later acquired most of the lots, as in 1827 he was assessed \$2000 for five houses and lots up to the Dutcher property (TR). Nos. 125 and 127 S. West Street, which are still standing, were probably built by James Evans (Cox 1976:188). The entire quarter square, therefore, developed in the hands of free blacks.

The following are chronological summaries of information obtained on Nos. 113-119. The lots are presented out of numerical order, but rather are centered around No. 117, the first house and lot on the block occupied by the Darnells, who eventually owned all four properties.

NO. 117 S. WEST STREET: DARNELL FAMILY

1800-1850 - Henry Darnell

As mentioned, the Gilpins granted this lot in 1807 to Henry Darnell, a free black, who built the house. Some biographic information is available on this individual. He was born in Maryland about 1770 (1850 U.S. Census). The Darnells of Maryland were a very prominent white family, which included a Col. Henry Darnell (*Washington Post* article, May 19, 1988). Henry Darnell or his forebears may have served as slaves or have been otherwise associated with this family.

On May 17, 1815, he married Letty Grayson (Miller 1987: 72), born about 1790 (1850)

U.S. Census). This was evidently a second marriage, because in November 1828 he bought the freedom of four older children: Mary, aged ca. 22 years; Charles, 20 years; Priscilla, about 18; and Henry, about 16 years (DB R2:149). In March 1831, he also bought the freedom of Jane Grayson, aged about 35 years, perhaps a sister of Letty (DB S2:534; T2:4).

Darnell was a drayman in 1810 (U.S. Census). In 1831 he was one of 43 blacks who signed a petition of loyalty to the government of Alexandria, drafted in response to the Nat Turner rebellion (*Alexandria Gazette*, Sep. 21, 1831). He appears in Robert Miller's memoirs, *Reminiscences of an Old Bachelor*. Miller, an Alexandria Quaker, recalled him as tall and melancholy looking, a gravedigger by profession.

He was, I believe, strictly honest, and a worthy man in every sense. He had the confidence of all the citizens. (Miller, 1987:14.)

Darnell died in 1852 at the age of 82 years.

The Gilpins retained the ground rent of \$10 per annum; but Gilpin heirs sold it in 1814, along with the rents of other properties on the quarter square, to Abiel Holbrook (DB AA:156). Holbrook sold out, and eventually Edmund Lee held the rent, reduced it to \$5 a year, and sold it to Ezra and Sally Lunt for \$50 in 1835 (DB V2:445). For another \$50, the Lunts relinquished the tenement and lot entirely to Henry Darnell in 1838 (DB Z2:90).

Tax Information In 1810, Henry Darnell's house and lot were valued by the tax assessor at \$250. He apparently improved the house, which was assessed in 1820 at \$400; in 1830 at \$250 (probably reflecting a drop in values generally in Alexandria); and in 1838 and 1850 again at \$400 as a two-story house. He apparently owned, in addition, another \$250 one-story house as of 1838 (TR), probably built on a 50-foot-wide lot around the corner on Prince Street (DB: 55:305).

Census Information The household in 1820 (U.S. Census) consisted of seven children under 14, himself over 45, one female, probably his wife, between the ages of 26 and 45, and one over 45. The household in 1830, numbering 13, probably reflected the addition of some of his

freed children: Henry Darnell, over 55; Letty, between 36 and 55 years; four boys and two girls under 10 years of age; two females between the ages of 10 and 24, and one male aged 24-36.

By 1840 the household was back down to seven persons: Henry and Letty over 55, two males under ten years, two between the ages of ten and 24, and one female 24-36 years. The 1850 census shows only five persons: Henry Darnell, "mulatto," grave digger, age 80; Letty, age 60; Letitia, age 26; a son George, laborer, age 24; and Gertrude E. Taylor, age 5. There was another household in Alexandria that was probably related: Wesley Darnell, age 30; and Louisa, age 31; Albert, 3; James R., 1; and an infant.

1850-1901 - Robert Darnell

Maps and Tax Information The earliest map appears during this period. The 1877 Hopkins Map of Alexandria shows the house as L-shaped and the largest of the four houses, as it remained, with some changes in shape. The property in 1891 was assessed at \$350 (TR) and the Sanborn Insurance maps of 1891 and 1896 show little change.

Deed Information and Wills Henry Darnell's will of April 1852 left all his property and household furniture to his wife, Letitia Darnell, and at her death to his children (Alexandria Will Book [WB] 6:54). Letitia Darnell, probably deceased, failed to meet the taxes for 1877-80 and 1882. The property went at auction on November 8, 1886, and her son, Robert, paid the amount due--\$13.39--and took possession as of 1889 (DB 22:566). A plat of the block was drawn up the same year showing as "Lots 1 and 2" the original holdings of Henry Darnell on West and Prince Streets (DB 22:449). Robert also executed a deed in 1890 in which Albert Darnell of Cincinnati for \$5 quitclaimed all right in the house and lot "lately belonging to Henry and Letitia, deceased, father and mother of Albert and Robert" (DB 28:1).

Robert Darnell lived all his life at No. 117 S. West Street. He was there in 1860 (U.S. Census), aged 23, with his wife, Martha Ann, age 28, and infant son, Henry. By 1870 (U.S.

Census), the household had increased to: Robert, age 31 [sic], laborer; Martha, aged 30 [sic]; Henry, aged 10; Louisa, 8; Margaret, 5; George, 4; and Hattie, 1 year. Directories list him as "waiter" in 1876 (house address then 15 S. West Street); "laborer" in 1889; and "janitor" in 1900. In 1903, he was listed at No. 117 as a grocer, with his son George, and Harriet L. Darnell, dressmaker.

Robert Darnell was active as a trustee of the Odd Fellows Joint Stock Company. He is indexed to a substantial number of deeds on behalf of this company, beginning in 1872 (DB 2:283). He also appears in the records of the Roberts Memorial United Methodist Episcopal Church, also known as the Roberts Chapel, as a steward and trustee. He was "reappointed" in December 1899 to serve in 1900-1901.

1900-1987 - Hattie Darnell

Robert Darnell died in 1906. Most of his children had moved north, although later deeds show they retained active ties with Alexandria. In October 1906, his sons George (and Ellen), John (and Margaret), and Henry (and Sarah G.) now in New York, and his daughter, Margaret Evans, and her husband, George Evans, of Newark, NJ, deeded the house and lot to their youngest sister, Hattie (DB 54:505).

Maps and Tax Information The house was still assessed at \$350 (tax) in 1901 and 1910, but maps of 1902 and 1907 show the house as covering the width of the lot and considerably elongated, with a shed or stable at the rear lot line. There is a building application on record, dated October 16, 1912, signed by Margaret E. Evans "for Hattie Darnell," requesting a permit to "renew the tin roof on the back kitchen with tar roofing--or felt." The cost was \$25 (Application for Building Permit #204). In 1921 it was still the most substantial of the four houses, with the addition of a smaller dependency on the north lot line, halfway down (insurance maps). In 1927, however, the valuation had dropped to \$50.

Hattie, the dressmaker, continued to live in the house and was also active in the Roberts Chapel. Among its records is a report of the Ladies Home Committee for the period September 1910 to June 1911, as follows:

From last report	\$ 5
Entertainment May 28	12.52
•	17.52
Disbursements	
To Rev Berggin(?) for Morgan	
College	\$12.52
Leaving balance in hands	

\$ 5

Hattie S. Darnell Pres. Ellen Adkins Sec.

of Treas.

Deed Information and Wills Hattie Darnell died in early March 1949. Her will dated March 20, 1949 bequeathed to her sister Margaret E. Evans the house and lot at No. 117 S. West Street for her lifetime, then to the Roberts Chapel. Second, to Margaret E. Evans all personal property. Third, to her nephew Samuel Darnell all victory bonds. Fourth, all money to Margaret and Samuel. Margaret Evans, executrix (WB 23:177).

It is doubtful that Margaret lived here (see under No. 115). Roberts Chapel trustees may have used the house for a time, but in 1968 they obtained court authority to sell the house to Samuel Darnell, Hattie's nephew and Henry Darnell's great grandson (Chancery Causes 60:19 and 63:390; DB 693:237). Samuel died intestate on August 21, 1984, and No. 117 was included in the sale by his heirs to the Meushaw Development Company (DB 1211:763).

NO. 119 S. WEST STREET

1800-1850 - Brown/Jackson Families

The builder of No. 119 S. West Street, Benjamin Brown, was a ships carpenter, born in Cecil County, Maryland, about 1770, who had come to Alexandria in 1791 with his owner, John Thomas Ricketts, with 15 years to serve at that time. Since then, he had, in fact, acted as a free

man on wages and his term of servitude expired in 1806. This information was contained in a certificate from Ricketts registered in October 1813, since Brown had lost his papers (DB X:351). He died about 1824 (TR).

Tax Information No. 119 was assessed at \$250 in 1810 and at \$300 in 1820-23. In 1825 it was listed as the Benjamin Brown estate, a one-story house occupied by his widow. The next year, it was occupied by "M Brown," and "Aunt Darke." Ann Jackson appears on the tax rolls in 1827 with the notation, "AJ heirs the property and pays tax." As with No. 117, the 1830 tax showed a lower valuation of \$200. In 1838, Ann and George Jackson occupy the house. In 1843, George Jackson is shown as the owner/occupant and the property is again valued at \$300. No deed or will has been shown for the change in owners and apparently it was inherited by the Jacksons.

The Census records in 1820 carry Benjamin Brown and his wife; both over 45 years, a boy and girl under 14 years and one each aged 14-26 years. Ann Jackson's household in 1830 consisted of herself aged 24-36, with a boy and two girls under 10 years. In 1840, Ann Jackson appears, still in the 24-36 age bracket, with male and female, aged 10-24 (probably including George Jackson), and a female aged 10-24. In the absence of deeds--which have not been found-it would appear that Ann was a daughter of the Browns, who inherited and continued to live in the house with her growing family, and passed it on to her son or younger brother, George.

1850-1900 - Townsend Solomon

In 1850 No. 119 had passed into the hands of Townsend Solomon, although again no deed has been found. He was a gardener, born ca. 1795 in Virginia (1850 U.S. Census). He was freed in 1826 by William Solomon, perhaps his father, who had purchased Townsend from Christopher Frye (DB T2:428). William himself had gained his freedom from Frye in 1821 (DB L2:18).

Maps and Tax Information One map during this period (Hopkins 1877) shows a small square house, just north of the alley. It appears larger in 1891 and does not change through at least 1931. The tax assessment was that of a one-story house in 1850, assessed at \$250. In 1891, it is the Solomon estate, assessed at \$400 and occupied by Townsend Solomon, Jr.

The Census of 1850 showed Townsend Solomon and his family, consisting of Susan, aged 50, and children: Wilson, 22, laborer; Charles, aged 21; Jane A., 18; Caroline, 14; Sarah, 12; and Theophilus, 3 years. Perhaps indicative of the uncertainty of Census data, the 1860 Census showed a different line-up: Solomon, 65; Susan 61; Jane, now 25 (Caroline may have been meant or the two confused); Sarah, 16; Theophilus, 13; Jane again, aged 7; Townsend, 3; and James, 2 years. A Catherine "Solmer" (B), age 23, appears in the household of George Washington, grain merchant.

In 1870, Townsend Solomon, aged 75, was a crockery packer, with \$1500 in real estate. Jane reappears as Jane A. Crouch, aged 35, schoolteacher, with a daughter Caroline M. Crouch, aged 2. Others of the household were Caroline, 33, a seamstress, Sarah E., 31, keeping house, Jane L., aged 17; at school; James, 12; and Townsend 11.

1900-1987 - Darnell Family

Tax Information By 1901, Henry Darnell, no doubt Robert's son, had acquired No. 119. He is shown as the owner of No. 119 in 1901 and 1910, still assessed at \$400 (TR).

About 1910 Henry moved permanently to New York. On May 31, 1919 Henry and Sarah G. Darnell, of 256 W. 131st Street, Manhattan, deeded No. 119 to his sister, Margaret, "residing at 115 S. West Street" (DB 68:218). Margaret evidently rented out the house. In 1936 and 1838, for example, it was occupied by a Katherine White, colored, domestic (Alexandria City Directory).

At Margaret's death in July 1959, the house and lot, along with all her other property went to her nephew, Samuel Darnell (WB 45:445), the last Darnell owner.

NOS. 113-115 S. WEST STREET

1810-1850 - Daugherty/Irwin Families

Nos. 113-115 were on the quarter square belonging to Robert Patton and his son, who evidently had a substantial house on the King Street face. The following information on the property is derived from deeds and tax records.

It was assessed at \$1000 (then vacant) in 1810, rising to \$1800 in 1813 and \$2250 in 1814 (TR). Patton conveyed the house to Daniel Daugherty, merchant, in 1815 for \$310 a year rents and charges (DB AA:348). From 1815 to 1825 Daugherty appears on the tax rolls with a steadily rising assessment, as he apparently improved and built further on the property and took on tenants. The rate jumped from \$3000 to \$6200 in 1817 and to \$7500 in 1818. There were no doubt other buildings on the quarter square by this time but no indication of their exact locations. Almost consistently, there was at least one merchant in actual residence, including Daugherty himself. Others, ranging from two to four, may have been commercial tenants. See Appendix II. Daugherty died in 1823 or 1824.

Thomas Irwin bought the "rents and charges" of \$310 directly from Robert Patton in 1824 and the next year repossessed the "Mantion House lately occupied by Daniel Daugherty, deceased" (DB N2:483). Irwin died in 1826, and his heirs carried on with his real estate until 1850. In the 1827 tax record under "Thomas Irwin estate" were seven houses and lots at West and King Streets. The assessment had dropped to \$6000 and it was "unoccupied;" but at the same time James Hammond "Col'd" is listed. Hammond, a free black, had built at least one substantial house--at No. 1012-14 King Street--as of 1810 and was probably working on this property. He was still there in 1828, along with six other occupants. In particular, Owen Leddy,

retail merchant, followed by Hugh Leddy, resided there until about 1842, in company with at least one other merchant and other tenants (TR).

1850-1890 - Violett Brothers

Irwin heirs finally sold the quarter square in September 1850 to Robert G., John W., and William A. Violett, of New Orleans for \$2866.66, along with a three-inch slip from King Street along the western line (DB N3:526). Accordingly, Robert G. Violett, a flour merchant, was the owner of six houses and lots, assessed at \$3100 in 1851 (TR). At this time, some "colored" occupants were interspersed with other tenants.

The first definite information on Nos. 111-115 was in Robert Violett's probate inventory of 1872 (WB 1:5) which lists three houses on West: Nos. 9, 11, and 13. Next, No. 115 appears on a map as a small square block next to the larger duplexes of Nos. 111-113 (Hopkins, 1877). No. 115 may have been a fairly impermanent structure as in 1891 it is gone (Sanborn map).

The 1850 census lists two small black households here, more probably Nos. 111-113, the duplexes.

Presumably at No. 113 - Cornelia Jones, black, age 28, with David, 5; and Ada A., 2 years.

Presumably in No. 111 - Lucy Wilkerson, age 75; and Mary Stuilley, age 100, both black.

The 1860 U.S. Census, shows three households, evidently white, next to the Darnell home:

Presumably in No. 115 - Elizabeth Spinks, domestic.

In No. 113 - John Ashton, shoemaker.

In No. 111 - James Patterson, shoemaker.

In keeping with the Violett inventory, two houses are located in the 1870 Alexandria City Directory (a third not found):

At No. 9 - Warner L. Jackson (c) waiter. John Strother (c) butcher.

At No. 13 - Dangerfield Thompson (c) laborer.

Only one of the households was located in the 1888-89 directory (for some reason the Darnells and possibly others were not listed). At No. 111 South West were: Emanuel Pines, John Washington, and Elias Watkins, laborers, all black.

NO. 115 S. WEST STREET

1890-1910 - George Darnell

In December 1890, following a court case involving Amanda Violett vs. William Kramer, the lot was sold to Henry and George "Daneille" by A. W. Armstrong, Commissioner, for \$40 (DB 28:365). Henry and Sarah G. Darnell sold their share to their brother George Darnell for \$80 in October 1894 (making a profit of \$40). The deed was delivered to their father, Robert Darnell (DB 33:246).

George Darnell was apparently living in New York (see above), and his father Robert Darnell applied for a permit on November 17, 1903, to build a woodshed. It was to be a 1-1/2-story frame, with felt roof, fronting on the street. The cost was \$60 (Application for Building Permit #76). On May 18, 1907, however, J. W. Devers, builder, submitted an application on George's behalf to build a wood dwelling at a cost of \$1,350. It was to be two stories, with mansard roof of tin and brick foundation. The front measurements were to be 16 feet in width and 12 feet deep; the rear would be 14 feet wide and 12 feet long. In addition, there would be stove heating, a trap door to the roof, and a bay window, two stories high, 8 feet wide and with a projection of 12 inches (Application for Building Permit #163). This description of the facade is very similar to that of the renovated house standing today.

1910-1987 - Margaret Darnell Evans

George's sister, Margaret Evans, lived in the house as of 1919 (DB 68:218). It is

probably the "house and lot on West Street," which George S. Darnell left her in his will of 1933, probated August 1945 (WB 15:486). (Other heirs were Ethel Darnell, niece, and George Darnell Buchanan, son of Walter S. and Ida C. Buchanan.) Margaret passed the property to Samuel Darnell by her will of July 1959 (WB 45:445).

Margaret Evans was a teacher, living with her father Robert at 117 S. West Street in 1897-18 (Alexandria City Directory). She evidently returned to Alexandria as the widow of George Evans (DB 54:505; 1917 Alexandria City Directory) between 1906 and 1910. Deeds of trust between 1910 and 1912 and again in 1946 show that she held several mortgages and was probably fairly well off (DB 60:362, 582; DB 61:124, 424, 582; DB 62:25,555; and DB 227:344). At the same time she appears in the Roberts Chapel records as superintendent of Junior Leagues in 1911 and President of the Epworth League in 1912. She was a trustee in 1950 (DB 293:534 and 302:86). The only indication found of her later occupation is the 1938 City Directory, which lists her as a domestic. She died at the age of 94.

NO. 113 S. WEST STREET

1897-1970 - Dudley/Tucker Families

As noted, this was probably a duplex with No. 111, built by 1850. Benjamin Dudley, a white carpenter, bought it, along with No. 111 and still another lot to the north at auction from the Violett estate on June 17, 1897 (DB 71:183). Directories of the period list Dudley at 217 Payne Street and he was probably using houses and lots as rental property. According to his will in 1900, Dudley left No. 111 to his son, B. Ernest Dudley "for rents and profits" and No. 113 to a granddaughter, Daisy Dudley, as long as she should remain single, then to be administered by his daughters, Ella Hobson and Carrie Dudley, until Daisy was 21 years (WB 2:410).

In 1920, Daisy having married, the other heirs sold to Samuel A. Tucker, Jr. (DB 74:183). Tucker kept it until 1966, probably still as rental property; in 1936, for instance, it was

occupied by Parker Pauling (c) and in 1938 by Herbert Brooks (c), janitor, and Eliza, alongside of Margaret Evans, Hattie Darnell and Katherine White. Tucker sold to the Petite Investment Co., Inc. (DB 649:539), which sold to F. E. and Mary Recker (DB 655:536).

1970-1987 - Samuel Darnell

Samuel Darnell bought from the Reckers in April 1970 (DB 709:66). With three other houses on the block, he may have continued to use this one as rental property--or, perhaps, torn it down.

Samuel Darnell probably did not live in Alexandria. He does not show up in city directories and, in fact, was a resident of Corona, NY, when he received power of attorney from his aunt, Margaret Evans, in April 1959 shortly before her death (DB 490:319). (He also had two lots in Elmsford, Westchester County, NY, from his uncle George Darnell.) The only other deeds found on record in Alexandria were his acquisition of the old family home at No 117 West St. from the Roberts Memorial Methodist Church in December 1968 (DB 693:237) and a compensation of \$8000 from the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a property condemned at 326 South Alfred Street in December 1974 (DB 789:580). It was probably inherited from his aunt, along with Nos. 115 and 119 West.

With Samuel Darnell's death, intestate, in August 1984, his heirs sold all four properties to the Meushaw Development Corporation in 1987 (Appendix I). At that time only Nos. 115 and 119 were still standing. As of 1990, No. 115 has been restored to an appearance very like its description on the building permit of 1907.

Appendix 1

Deed Book Description of 113-119 S. West Street From DB 1211:763

- Parcel I 113 S. West Street. Begin on the west side of West St. 111' south of King, south on West St. 48'7" to Robert Darnell's line, west 110' to an alley, north 48'7"; east 110' to the beginning . . . LESS AND EXCEPT all those two certain lots . . . beginning the west side of West Street 111' south of King Street, south 32'2" to the center of a partition wall between the house and the next house to the south, west 110' to an alley, north 32'2", and east to the beginning. The same Samuel Darnell had according to DB 701:66. (This cumbersome wording dates from 1897, when Nos. 111, 113, and a northern lot were bought together by Benjamin Dudley, a carpenter, and devised separately to his descendants in 1900. By inference--or subtraction--No. 113 measures 16'5" by 110', beginning 143'2" south of King.)
- Parcel II 115 S. West Street. Begin at the center of the square, north 17' to a 3-foot alley, west 100', south 17', and east 100' to the beginning. For derivation of title see WB 45:455 (the will of Margaret E. Evans).
- Parcel III 117 S. West Street. Begin 156'7" south of King, south 20', west 123'5", north 20', and east 123'5" to beginning. Same Samuel Darnell had per DB 698:237.
- Parcel IV 119 S. West Street. Begin 156'7" north of Prince Street at the south line of Robert Darnell's lot, south 20' to a 12' alley, west 123'5", north 20', and east 123'5" to the beginning. See WB 45:445.
- Said Samuel Darnell died intestate 21 Aug 1984, leaving grantors as sole heirs. See WB 194:172, 24 July 1985 (giving Inga A. Watkins administration of estate).

Neil F. Phillips, Atty.

Heirs:

Louise Darnell Dunston, unm
George and Lucille Darnell
Dorothy (Darnell and Herbert R. Newsom
Louise Mullet, unm
George K. Carr, unm
Lillian Williams, unm
Shirley and James Williams
Nathan and Susie Dolson
Janet Aaron and Frank Dimartino
Judith Aaron Smith, unm
Louise Carter, unm
Marguerite Darnell Booth, unm
Martha Darnell Phillips, unm

Appendix 2

Tax Assessments for the Southwest Quadrant, King and S. West Streets, 1810-1851

1810 Robert Patton, Jr.	H/L l/2 acre	Vacant	\$1000
1813 Robert Patton, Jr.	H/L 1/2 acre	Vacant	\$1800
1814 Robert Patton, Jr. Robert Young	H/L	Tenant	\$2250
1815 Daniel Daugherty John Manley	H/L l/2 acre l tithable (th), 2 stories (st), stories (lst)	Tenant 2 lamp	\$2250
1816 Daniel Daugherty Daniel Haines, wholesale mer	H/L 1/2 acre chant, 1 th, 4 st, 4 lst	Tenant	\$3000
1817 Daniel Daugherty William Latham, 1 th, 1 st Betsey Keene, 1 st Daniel Cawood, wholesale me	Hs/Ls 1/2 acre erchant, 2 st, 2 1st, horse, do	Tenants g, cart, dray	\$6200
1818 Daniel Daugherty Self, wholesale merchant, 4 st Jonah Deck Betsey Keene Henry Grimes, retail merchan George Newman, 2 st, 2 st Daniel Haines, wholesale mer	t, 2 st, 2 lst	Self/tenants	\$7500
1819 Daniel Daugherty Self, wholesale merchant, 2 th John Pepsico, 1 st Daniel Haines, 1 st Henry Grimes, 2 st, 2 lst Zephaniah Legg, 2 st, 2 lst	Hs/Ls a, 4 str, 4 lst, 2 horse, cow, ca	Self/tenants art, 2 dray, two-horse carr	\$7500 iage

Tax Assessments for the Southwest Quadrant, King and S. West Streets, 1810-1851

1820 Daniel Daugherty Self, 1 th, 2 st John Devaughn Aaron Jones, 1 st John Giles, 2 st Henry Grimes, retail merchan	Hs/Ls t, 1 th, 2 st	Self/tenants	\$7500
1821 Daniel Daugherty John Giles, 2 st, 2 lst	Hs/Ls		\$7500
1822 Daniel Daugherty Self, retail merchant, 1 th, 4 st	Hs/Ls, King & west side of , 2 lst, 3 horse, cow, cart, dra		\$7500
1823 Daniel Daugherty John Ross, 1 th, 2 st, 2 lst Margaret Roby, 2 st, 2 lst	H/L, King & west side We	st St.	\$7000
1824 Daniel Daugherty estate Samuel Thompson, 1 st, 1 lst John Ross, 1 th, 2 st, 2 lst Margaret Roby, 2 st, 2 lst	H/L, King	Tenants	\$7000
1825 Daniel Daugherty estate John Ross, 1 th, 2 st, 2 lst Margaret Roby, 1 st, 1 lst Wilson Hill, 1 st, 1 lst	H/L, King	Tenants	\$7000
1826 Thomas Irwin Oliver P. Finly, wholesale me John Ross, 1 th Moses Bell, 1 st	H/L, King & West erchant, 2 st	Tenants	\$7000
1827 Thomas Irwin estate James Hammond, Col'd, 1 th,	7, H/L West & King to line l st /builder/	Unoccupied	\$6000
Thomas Irwin estate James Hammond, 1 th, 1 st, co Owen Leddy, retail merchant, George E. Lloyd, 1 th, 2 st, ho	, 2 st, 2 lst, horse	Tenants	\$6000

Tax Assessments for the Southwest Quadrant, King and S. West Streets, 1810-1851

1829 Thomas Irwin estate			\$6000
/Long list of tenants, including	line on Kin g Owen Leddy/	.g	
1831 Thomas Irwin estate Owen Leddy, Harrison Taylor	7 H/L, King & West r, William Gallet, Nathaniel	Tenants Coxen, Charles Violett	\$7000
1832 Thomas Irwin estate	7 H/L, King & West	Tenants	\$7000
1833 Thomas Irwin estate Owen Leddy, retail merchant, Snyder, flour merchant William Davis, flour merchant	t, 3 st	Tenants rse, cow, cart. dray	\$6500
1835 James & Wm H. Irwin Owen Leddy, retail merchant, William Davis, flour merchan		2 vacant	\$6500
1836 Thomas Irwin? Owen Leddy, retail merchant, John Harper, flour merchant,		Tenants	\$6500
1837 Jas & Wm. Irwin Leddy and Harper, as above	Hs/L, West & King	Tenants	\$6500
1840 Jas & Wm. Irwin Hugh Leady	H/L, King & West		\$5000
1842 Wm. H. Irwin Hugh Leddy, liquor retail lice Tilden Easton, l th, 2 st	5 H/L, King & West ense, 1 th, 3 st, horse		\$5000
1844 Wm. H. Irwin Alfred Grey, 1 th, 1 st, horse & James McGraw, shop, 1 th, 3 st George Benter, 1 th, 2 st Thomas Gordon, 1 th, 2 st Robert G. Violett, flour merch	st, horse	Tenants	\$3500

Tax Assessments for the Southwest Quadrant, King and S. West Streets, 1810-1851

1850

Thomas Irwin, James & Thomas Carey

6 H/L, King & West \$3100 **Tenants**

Caroline Jones, Col'd

James McGraw, merchant, 1 th, \$400 furn, 2 st, horse cow, cart, dray

Noah Beach, 1th

William Buckley, Col'd, 1 th, 2 st Charles Glasscock, 1 th, 2 st

William Carmikel, Col'd, 2 st

Wesley Summers, 1 th, 2 st

1851

Robert G. Violett 6 H/L, King & Wes /l/ Vacant \$3100

Caroline Jones, Col'd

James McGraw, retail merchant, 2 th, \$100 furn, 2 st, cow

William Buckley, Col'd, 1th, 2 st

William Caramickle, 1th, 2 st

Wesley Summers, 2 st

Bibliography

Cox, Ethelyn

1976 *Historic Alexandria*, Virginia: Street by Street. Alexandria: Historic Alexandria Foundation.

Miller, T. Michael, comp.

1987 Alexandria City and County Minister Returns and Marriage Bonds, 1801-1852. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc.

Miller, T. Michael, comp.

1987 Manuscript of an Old Bachelor: Reminiscences of Alexandria. MS, Alexandria: Lloyd House Library.

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church records. Alexandria: Lloyd House Library, microfilm reel No. 73.

Index

	Page
Adkins, Ellen	6
Alexander, William Thornton	1
Armstrong, A. W.	11
Ashton, John	10
	-
Beach, Noah	18
Bell, Moses	16
Benter, George	17
Booth, Marguerite Darnell	14
Brooks, Eliza	12
Brooks, Herbert	12
Brown, Benjamin	1
Brown, M.	7
Buchanan, George Darnell	12
Buchanan, Ida C.	12
Buchanan, Walter S.	12
Buckley, William	18
Course James	10
Carey, James	18
Carey, Thomas	18
Carmikal William	18
Carmikel, William	18 14
Carr, George K.	14
Carter, Louise	15
Cawood, Daniel Coxen, Nathaniel	13 17
Crouch, Caroline	8
Crouch, Jane A.	8
Clouch, Jane 11.	O
Darke, Aunt	7
Darnell, Albert	4, 5
Darnell, Charles	4, 5 2 5
Darnell, Ellen	5
Darnell, Ethel	11
	5, 11, 13, 14
Darnell, George S.	11
Darnell, Harriet L. (Hattie)	i, 4, 5, 6, 12
Darnell, Henry i, 1	-6, 8, 11, 16
Darnell, James R.	4
Darnell, John	5, 16
Darnell, Letitia	4
Darnell, Letty Grayson (see also Letty Grayson)	3, 4
Darnell, Louisa	4
Darnell, Louisa (wife of Wesley) [delete?]	
Darnell, Lucille	14
Darnell, Margaret (see also Margaret E.	
Darnell Evans)	i, 4-6, 8
Darnell, Martha Ann	4, 14
Darnell, Mary	2

	8, 11, 12, 14 1, 6, 8, 12-14 5, 8, 11 9, 15, 16 17 11 15 15 14 14 12 12 12 12 12 12 17 5, 12 2
Evans, Margaret E. Darnell (see also Margaret Darnell)	5, 6, 11-14
Finley, Oliver P. Frye, Christopher	16 7
Galatt, William Giles, John Gilpin, George Glasscock, Charles Gordon, Thomas Grey, Alfred Grayson, Jane Grayson, Letty (see also Letty Grayson Darnell) Grimes, Henry	17 16 1 18 17 17 3 2
Haines, Daniel Hammond, James Harper, John Hill, Wilson Hobson, Ella Holbrook, Abiel	15 9, 16 17 16 12 3
Irwin, James Irwin, Thomas Irwin, William H.	17 9, 16-18 17

Jackson, Ann Jackson, George Jackson, Warner L. Jones, Ada A. Jones, Aaron Jones, Caroline Jones, Cornelia Jones, David	7 7 10 10 16 18 10
Keene, Betsey	15
Kramer, William	11
Latham, William Leddy, Hugh Leddy, Owen Lee, Edmund Legg, Zephaniah Lloyd, George E. Lunt, Ezra Lunt, Sally	15 9, 17 9, 16, 17 3 15 16 3 3
McGraw, James	17, 18
Manley, John	15
Miller, Robert	3
Morrison, Daniel	2
Mullet, Louise	14
Newman, George	15
Newsom, Dorothy Darnell	14
Newsom, Herbert R.	14
Parris, Peter Patterson, James Patton, Robert Patton, Jr., Robert Pauling, Parker Payne, Landon Pepsico, John Phillips, Martha Darnell Phillips, Neil F. Pines, Emanuel	2 10 9 15 12 2 15 14 14
Recker, F.E. Recker, Mary Ricketts, John Thomas Roby, Margaret Ross, John	12 12 6 16 16
Smith, Judith Aaron	14
Snyder,	17
Solomon, Caroline	8
Solomon, Charles	8

Solomon, James Solomon, Jane A. Solomon, Sarah Solomon, Susan Solomon, Theophilus Solomon, Townsend Solomon, Jr., Townsend Solomon, William Solomon, Wilson Spinks, Elizabeth Strother, John Stuilley, Mary Summers, Wesley	8 8 7, 8 7 7 7 7 8 10 10 10
Taylor, Gertrude E. Taylor, Harrison Thompson, Dangerfield Thompson, Samuel Tucker, Jr., Samuel A.	4 17 10 16 12
Violett Brothers Violett, Charles Violett, Amanda Violett, John W. Violett, Robert G. Violett, William A.	i 17 11 10 10, 17, 18 10
Washington, John Watkins, Elias Watkins, Inga White, Katherine Wilkerson, Lucy Williams, James Williams, Lillian Williams, Shirley	11 11 14 8, 12 10 14 14
Young, Robert	15