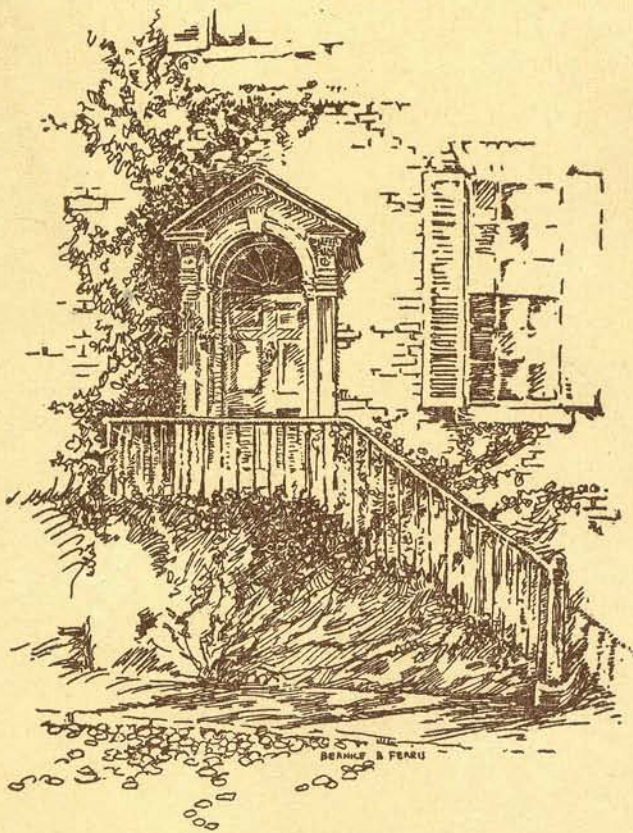
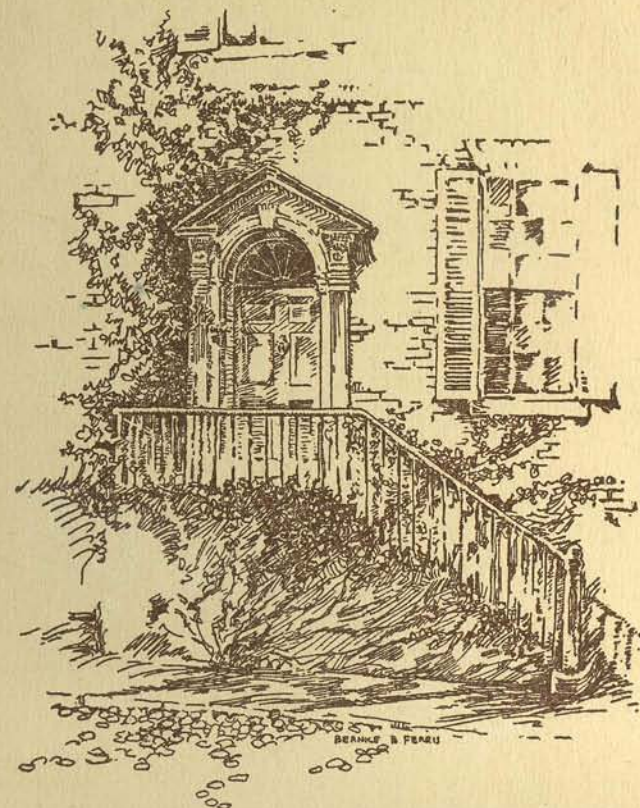


*Historic Homes
and Landmarks
of Alexandria, Virginia*



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By Mary Lindsey



Alexandria, Virginia
Nineteen hundred and forty-seven
Seventh Printing

Grateful acknowledgment is made to Mr. Charles H. Callahan for his keen interest and invaluable aid in compiling the history in this book, and to Mrs. L. S. Scott for use of notes on "Old Alexandria" by Mrs. Mary G. Powell.

Photographs by Alexandria Studio
Photo of Mt. Vernon courtesy of B. S. Reynolds Co.

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Alexandria, Virginia

FOREWORD.

THE history in these sketches has been compiled in order to present to Alexandria visitors a brief description of "old homes of old families of an old town." Bronze tablets placed by the City Council or by the Colonial Dames now designate the site of a number of these old places that have long since disappeared, but the stories herein contained are exclusively of those historic buildings left standing today. Interesting tradition has been omitted in order to use only accurate data that has been obtained from original sources or from well-known and acknowledged authorities.

INTRODUCTION.

IN 1669 Governor Berkeley of Virginia granted to Robert Howson six thousand acres of land, located on the Potomac River and extending from Hunting Creek on the South to the Little Falls on the North. Within a month this patent was purchased by John Alexander for 6600 pounds of tobacco. Sixty-three years later, in 1732, a group of Scotch merchants, agents of Glasgow firms, came seeking a suitable port for shipping tobacco, and the deep waters of the Potomac at the mouth of Hunting Creek induced them to build a warehouse at West's Point. It was known as the Hunting Creek Warehouse, and around this point grew up the little hamlet of Belhaven. Rapidly it expanded into a town that in 1748 was incorporated by Thomas Lord Fairfax, Lawrence Washington, John Carlyle, William Ramsay and their associates and, as it was founded on the land owned by the Alexanders, the name was changed from Belhaven to Alexandria.

All the tobacco grown in a wide area was brought here for shipment to foreign ports, and in a few years the river front presented a picturesque scene of commercial activity, with the wharves piled high with tobacco and other Virginia products, awaiting transportation on the white-winged ships that brought in return cargoes of the manufactured products of the mother country.

The Fairfaxes, Carlyles, Washingtons, Ramsays and many others whose names are closely interwoven with the events of Alexandria's pioneer days, erected homes of stately proportions in or near the new metropolis. The Royal George, the City Tavern, and a dozen other hostelries, were soon in operation. The flag of England floated from the public buildings, and brilliant birthnight balls were given in honor of the King and Queen. To the tavern courtyards came tired horses and muddy coaches that had made their way over the primitive rolling roads or the King's Highway. The Alexandria theater brought to its footlights the great stage favorites, not only of America but of Europe as well. This was the flourishing time for Alexandria which lasted for over a century or until the beginning of the Civil War.

Young George Washington, then a novice at the profession, helped survey the first streets, the names of which bear witness to the loyalty of England's Virginia subjects—King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Duke. Royal and Pitt, but later as the town grew and political sentiment changed, our own patriots were likewise honored by the streets named Fayette, Washington, Lee, Franklin, Madison, Monroe and Jefferson.

These streets were paved in 1785 by the Hessians who remained in Alexandria after the Revolution and in some old parts of the town cobblestones are still in use. Here the mellowed brick pavements are edged by time-worn sandstone curbing from the Aquia Creek Quarries, and the crosswalks of bluestone flagging are worn thin and smooth by the passing footsteps of many generations.

The alarming encroachments of the French and Indians on the Western frontier in 1754 precipitated war and brought to Alexandria the British General Braddock and a thousand British regulars. It also brought for conference five Royal Governors to arrange a campaign for the protection of the western territory, known as the Ohio Country. At this conference these royal representatives recommended as a war measure to the British Ministry a species of tax to be levied on the Colonies, little dreaming that the far-reaching consequences of their decision would be revolution, and ultimately the independence of the American Colonies. Alexandria patiently bore her share of the tax burdens imposed by the British Ministry, but when the conflict became inevitable she resisted with spirit. George Mason, a member of her town Council, drew up the "Fairfax County Resolves," the mightiest protest against royal injustice of that period. "Here it was," writes a contemporary English traveller, "that George Washington stepped forth, amid the plaudits of the inhabitants, as the patron of sedition and revolt, and subscribed fifty pounds for the purposes of hostilities."

Alexandria has always been known as Washington's home town. He was a familiar figure on the streets which he helped to lay out, and here he maintained a town house, received his mail, purchased his supplies and established the first public school. He was one of the early trustees of the town, a depositor and patron in the Bank of Alexandria, owner of a pew in Christ Church, first Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge of Masons No. 22, and organizer of the Friendship Volunteer Fire Company.

A number of Alexandria's old homes and public buildings, that contain so much of historic interest and architectural beauty, have crumbled to decay or have been torn down to make way for modern structures, but it is hoped that the growing sentiment for things that are old and historic will help preserve the remaining landmarks of our colonial days. Not only should these old buildings in Alexandria be saved for the education and enjoyment of generations to come, but as a reminder of Washington's love for his home town, which was so beautifully expressed in a toast given by Lafayette on his second memorable visit: "To the City of Alexandria, may her prosperity and happiness more and more realize the fondest hopes of our venerated Washington."

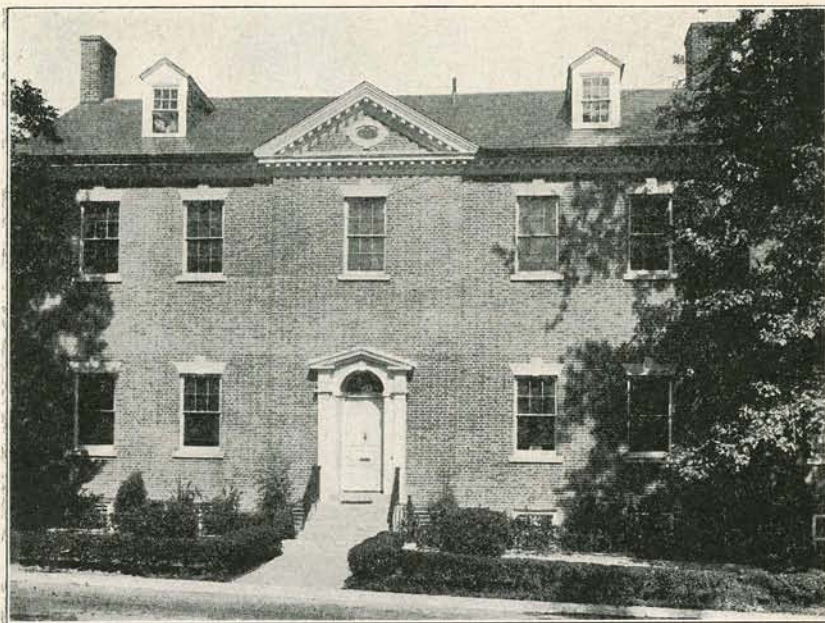


ROBERT E. LEE HOUSE

607 ORONOCO STREET

William Fitzhugh (of Chatham) Virginia purchased this house from John Potts in 1799, and came here to live. He was a life long and intimate friend of Washington, and they were often in each other's company as shown by many notations in Washington's diary. On July 7, 1804, his only daughter, Mary Lee, at the age of sixteen, became the bride of George Washington Park Custis, and left her Alexandria home to become mistress of Arlington mansion.

In 1818 Mrs. Henry Lee (Ann Hill Carter of Shirley) moved to this house after the death of her husband, General Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee. Her son, Robert E. Lee, who was born at "Stratford" January 19, 1807, was at this time eleven years old. After receiving his primary education at the Alexandria Academy, he was prepared for West Point by the Quaker Schoolmaster, Benjamin Hallowell, who conducted the well-known Hallowell School in the house next door. While the Lees resided here, Robert was a frequent visitor at "Arlington," where two years after graduating from West Point he married Mary Custis, daughter of George Washington Parke Custis, and by this marriage came into possession of that celebrated estate.



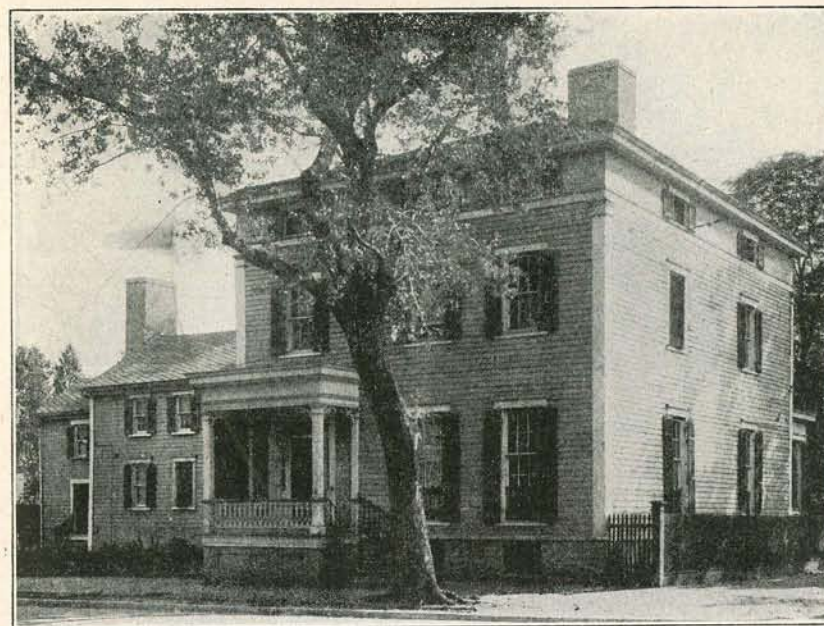
THE HALLOWELL SCHOOL

609 ORONOCO STREET

The Quaker schoolmaster, Benjamin Hallowell, opened his first school in this building in the Fall of 1820. In a few years the Hallowell School became famous and to its portals came the sons of distinguished families who were duly instructed in all branches of cultural education by a faculty of excellent teachers. Robert E. Lee was the thirteenth student to enter the school and here he was prepared for his entrance to the United States Military Academy.

Friend Benjamin Hallowell records in his Journal of October 17, 1825, that he and his bride were standing on their doorstep as the Marquis de Lafayette passed by to pay his respects to the widow of his beloved companion in arms, General Henry Lee, and that "when he got opposite . . . made us a graceful bow, not knowing it was to a lady who had been married the day before, and whom her husband had named his "Lafayette wife." "Each lover of liberty, surely must get something in honor of Lafayette, a Lafayette this, and a Lafayette that. But I wanted something as lasting as life, so I took to myself a Lafayette wife."

In later years the necessity for larger quarters led Mr. Hallowell to move his school, first to the corner of Washington and Queen Streets, then to the building next door where he converted a large sugar barn into a commodious and convenient school room, known as "old Brimstone Castle."

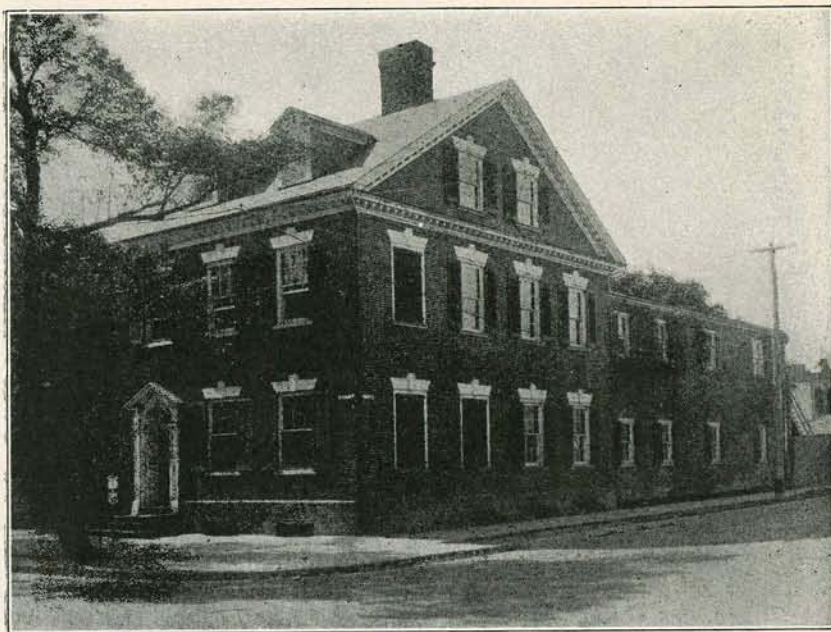


THE FENDALL HOUSE

429 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

The records of 1791 show that this house, built previous to that date of frame over brick, was the home of Philip Richard Fendall, a distinguished attorney of that day. His first wife was Elizabeth Steptoe Lee, mother-in-law of General Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee, and his second wife, Mary Lee, was a sister of that same famous cavalry general. Philip Fendall was one of the incorporators of the Bank of Alexandria, which was established here in 1792. In 1792 the house was deeded to Richard Bland Lee, and for the next half a century it was occupied by various members of the distinguished Lee family.

On the night of Washington's death a large group of citizens met here to make arrangements for the part Alexandria was to take in the last rites of their great fellow-citizen. At the funeral the town was signally honored in that the only official mourners were from Alexandria. The obsequies were attended by the Mayor, the City Council, the Masonic Lodge of which Washington had been Worshipful Master, and most of the citizens of the town, many of whom walked to Mt. Vernon and back to pay homage to their well-beloved friend and neighbor, George Washington.

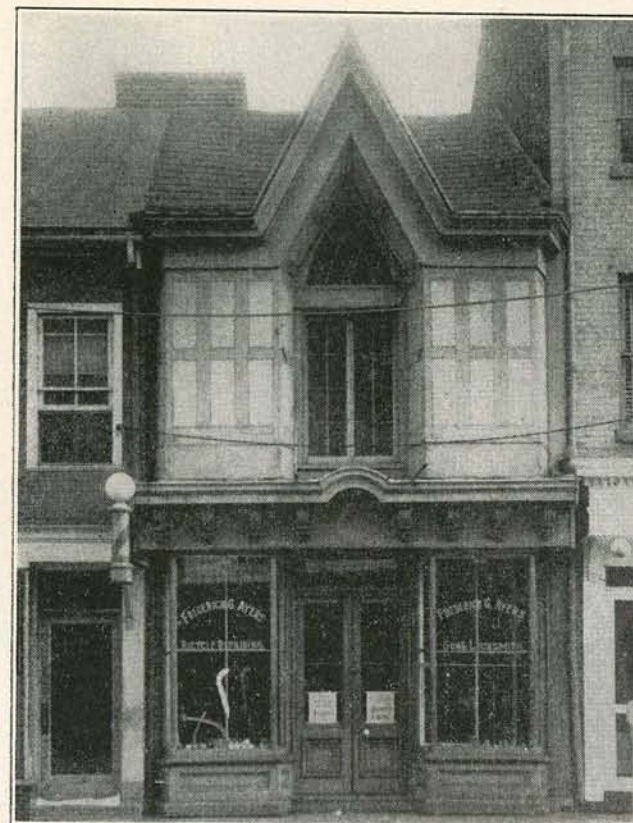


EDMUND JENNINGS LEE HOUSE

428 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

Edmund Jennings Lee, one of the four distinguished sons of Henry and Lucy Grymes Lee of "Leesylvania," built this house in 1799. He was an eminent lawyer and a man of fine attainments, who devoted much of his legal knowledge to the benefit of his church and his town. His services to Christ Church were of an unusual and interesting nature. The Episcopal Church in 1774 was ruled by the English law and owned a glebe, which was property allotted as a dowry for the support of the rector and for parish uses. By act of the Virginia State Legislature, the glebe lands were confiscated, to be divided among the poor of several parishes. In 1802 the vestry of Christ Church resisted this measure, and took it to court. Mr. Lee argued the case for the church and, due to his legal ability and perseverance, the law was declared unconstitutional, and the glebe lands reverted to the church. These lands were later sold and the proceeds used for the erection of a steeple, a wall around the churchyard, the purchase of a fine-toned bell, and the house at 407 North Washington Street, which for many years was used as the rectory of Christ Church.

It was in this house that Robert E. Lee first learned that the Virginia State Legislature had selected him to command the army of Virginia. General Lee had the day before resigned his commission as Colonel in the United States Army.



ALEXANDRIA SILVERSMITHS

324 KING STREET

Alexandria has the distinction of having been the home of many famous silversmiths in the days following the Revolutionary War. Outstanding among these were Charles A. Burnett and Adam Lynn, both of whom manufactured silver for prominent families of those days. John Adam created the famous "I Adam" silver and handed down his art to his four sons, William Wallace, Robert, James, and Charles. The quaint little workshop of Benjamin Barton is shown in the picture above. John Duffey was commissioned by the Alexandria Washington Lodge of Masons to design and make the silver trowel used by President Washington in laying the cornerstone of the Capitol of the United States. William A. Williams designed and made the silver cup presented to Mrs. Lawrison in appreciation of her kindness in lending her home to General Lafayette and his suite on his visit here in 1824. Signed pieces of beautiful old silver made by these fine artisans are the prized heirlooms of many Alexandria families.



CHRIST CHURCH

CAMERON AND COLUMBUS STREETS

The land on which Christ Church was built was given by John Alexander of Stafford. In 1767 James Parsons agreed to build the church for 600 pounds, but he failed to fulfill his contract, and it was finished for an additional sum of 100 pounds by John Carlyle in 1773. The same year James Wren was paid eight pounds to "Write the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments" on the panels on each side of the wine-glass pulpit.

George Washington was one of the twelve vestrymen chosen for this parish in 1765. He remained a member and contributor until his death, and his funeral service was conducted at Mount Vernon by the minister from Christ Church, the Reverend Thomas Davis.

The family Bible of General Washington used at Mount Vernon was presented to the church by Washington's adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, in 1804. This treasured relic is used now on some important occasions. The vestry books, dating back to 1765, eight years before the church was finished, contain many interesting entries. Among them is one with the signature of Washington, showing that he purchased pew No. 5 for the sum of 36 pounds, 10 shillings. A silver plate designates this square pew where Wash-

ington and his family worshipped. Another pew was occupied by the beloved southern General Lee, during his boyhood, and in later years when he made his home at Arlington House. General Lee was confirmed here in 1853. White marble tablets on the east wall of the church mark the memory of these two great men.

Quaint and interesting inscriptions are found on the old tombs in the churchyard, where are buried many people who played important parts in the early history of the town.

Open to the Public.

THE FEMALE STRANGER

SAINT PAUL'S CEMETERY

Mystery, romance and tragedy combine in the story of the "Female Stranger," who, with her husband, landed in Alexandria from a foreign ship in 1816. The lovely young woman, evidently of gentle birth, was ill with typhoid fever when she was brought to Gadsby's Tavern. The doctor and nurse who attended her were solemnly obligated never to disclose anything they might see or learn concerning their patient. When she died a few weeks later, her husband erected a handsome marble tomb, which may be seen in Saint Paul's Cemetery, on which is this inscription:

To the Memory of a

FEMALE STRANGER

whose mortal suffering terminated
on the 14th day of October 1816

Aged 23 years and 8 months

This stone is placed by her disconsolate
husband in whose arms she sighed out her
latest breath and who under God
did his utmost even to soothe the cold

dead ear of death

How loved, how valued once avails thee not,

To whom related, or by whom begot.

A heap of dust alone remains of thee

'Tis all thou art and all the proud shall be.

To Him gave all the Prophets witness that
through His name whosoever believeth in

Him shall receive remission of sins.

This is all that is definitely known of the Female Stranger, but the charm and romance of this story becomes more intriguing as the years go by.



GENERAL HENRY LEE HOUSE

611 CAMERON STREET

General Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, moved from "Stratford," Westmoreland County, to this house in 1811, for the purpose of educating his children. He entered the Continental Army at the age of nineteen, and fought to the end of the Revolutionary War, during which he made a brilliant record as Major of the famous battalion known as "Lee's Legions."

In 1794, while Governor of Virginia, he took command of the troops sent to quell the "Whiskey Rebellion" in Pennsylvania. General Lee was serving as a Member of Congress in Philadelphia in 1799 when he prepared and delivered his famous eulogy on Washington, in which he used the phrase, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Returning from the West Indies, where he had gone, hoping to regain his broken health, General Lee died in Georgia, on the estate of his friend, General Nathanael Greene. After nearly a hundred years his remains have been brought back to Virginia, where they now lie in the chapel at Lexington, beside his distinguished son, Robert E. Lee.



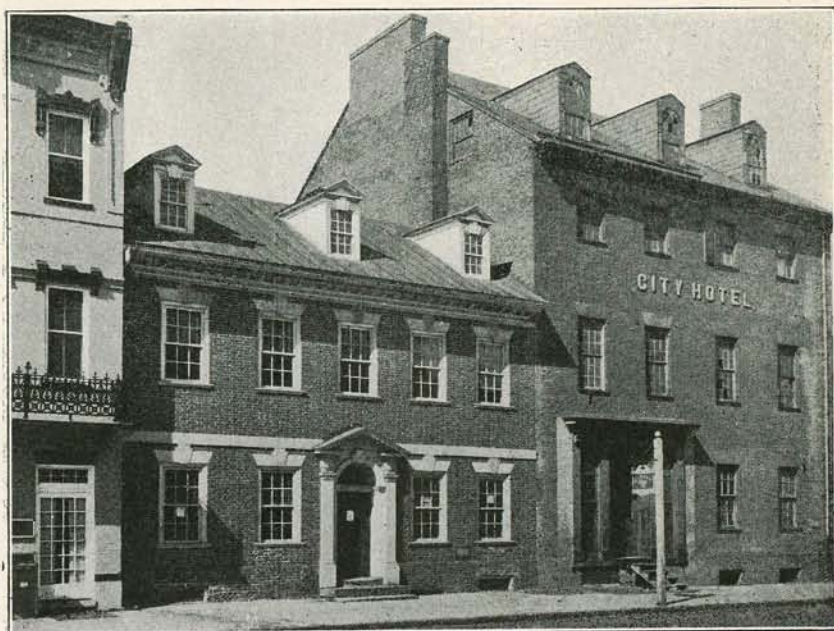
THE LORD FAIRFAX HOUSE

607 CAMERON STREET

On land leased from Charles Alexander, this house was erected in 1816 by William Yeaton, who came to Alexandria in 1800. In 1830 it was sold under a deed of trust and purchased by Lord Thomas Fairfax, ninth Baron of Cameron, son of Lord Bryan Fairfax of Mount Eagle, who used it for a winter residence until his death in 1846. It was then occupied by his son, Dr. Orlando Fairfax, a prominent physician of Alexandria, who owned it until after the Civil War.

Lord Thomas Fairfax inherited over forty thousand acres of land in Fairfax County, and led the life of a country gentleman, supervising the management of his large estates.

The Fairfax family has always been prominently identified with the public affairs in the early history of Alexandria, and to the old Lord Thomas Fairfax of "Greenaway Court" is ascribed the keenness of perception to first discover the spark of greatness in his young protegee and surveyor—George Washington.



GADSBY'S TAVERN

128 NORTH ROYAL STREET

This famous old tavern, so rich in historic interest, romance and tradition, was built at a time when Alexandria was a world-famous port and a center of social and political importance.

The smaller building next to the corner was erected in 1752 and was then known as the City Tavern. On at least three occasions Washington occupied it as his military headquarters; first in 1754, at the beginning of the Great Meadows Campaign, when as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Virginia Militia he recruited and drilled two companies of provincial troops—his first command; second, when he returned from the disastrous defeat at Great Meadows and disbanded his troops in Alexandria; and again when he was commissioned a Major on the staff of General Braddock. It was from this celebrated hostelry that Washington, with a contingent of Braddock's army, set forth on that ill-fated expedition to Fort Duquesne, where the British army suffered defeat and the unfortunate Braddock lost his life.

In 1775 Washington presided at a public meeting in this building which resulted in the adoption of the famous "Fairfax County Resolves." These resolutions, drawn up by George Mason of "Gunston Hall," constitute the first assertion of colonial rights, and served as a model for other protests of a kindred nature.

The first celebration of the adoption of the Federal Constitution took place at the City Tavern in 1788. Washington was present and wrote of the event to his friend, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

In 1793 both buildings were rented by John Gadsby, who consolidated them under one management as Gadsby's Tavern, and soon it became famous throughout the colonies as a fine public resort.

Here the Alexandria Assembly held their meetings and Assembly balls. In November, 1792, the treasurer, Jonathan Swift, advertised a "meeting of the golf club to be held at their rooms in Gadsby's Hotel." This was probably the oldest golf club in America.

The last public celebration of Washington's birthday during his lifetime was held here on February 22, 1799 (February 11th, old calendar), with the General and Mrs. Washington present, and the festivities were concluded with an elegant ball and supper at night. In November of the same year, a month before his death, he reviewed the local troops from the steps of this historic tavern and gave his last military command.

The Washington Society, created in order to carry on Washington's local enterprises and activities, was organized in the City Tavern, thirty days after his death.

A few years ago the whole interior of the beautifully panelled ball room, where the birthnight balls were held, was purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and was reconstructed there in the American Wing.

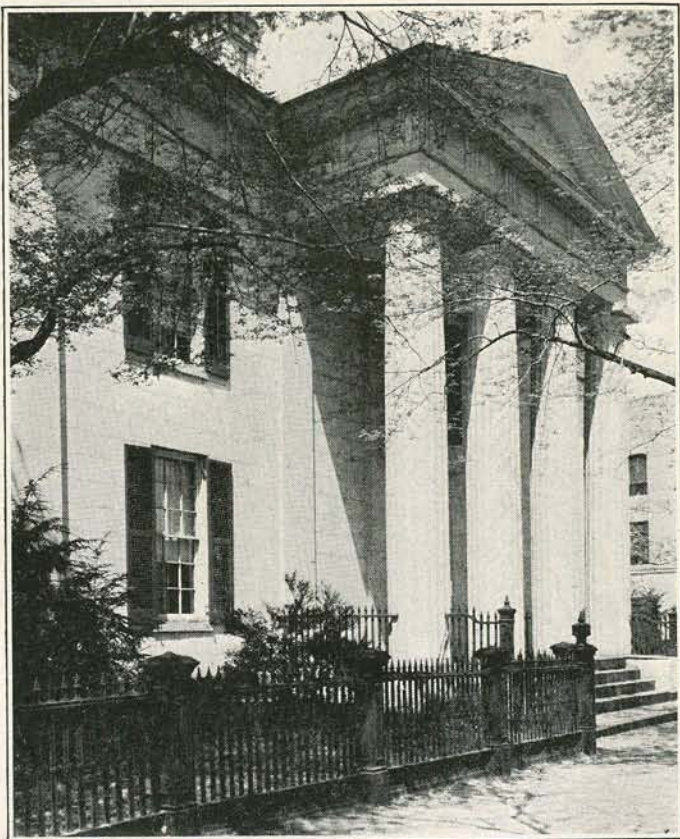
The celebrated English actress, Ann Warren, known as the "ornament of the American stage," died here in 1808, while fulfilling an engagement at the Alexandria Theater, and her remains were buried in Christ Church yard.

Gadsby's was on the old King's Highway and a link in the chain of taverns that extended from Williamsburg to Boston. To the Tavern Courtyard came regularly couriers and stage coaches from all the principal colonial towns. Here during the Revolution John Paul Jones, founder of our American Navy, met the Marquis de Lafayette and the Baron de Kalb, who had just arrived from France to assist the Colonies in their struggle for independence, and a friendship was formed between the three that lasted throughout their lives. When Lafayette visited this country as the nation's guest in 1824, he was entertained at Gadsby's by the Alexandria Lodge of Masons, and also by the citizens of Alexandria.

The old Tavern has recently been acquired by the Alexandria Post of the American Legion, and the smaller building cleaned and repaired. All that remains of the Tavern Courtyard has been restored by the Garden Club of Alexandria, with bricks from the ruins of "Abingdon," birthplace of Nellie Custis, and cobblestones, flagging and curbing from the old streets of Alexandria.

Recent research has brought to light a wealth of valuable information concerning its past, which will greatly add to the interest of this historic old Tavern.

Open to the Public.



THE LYCEUM

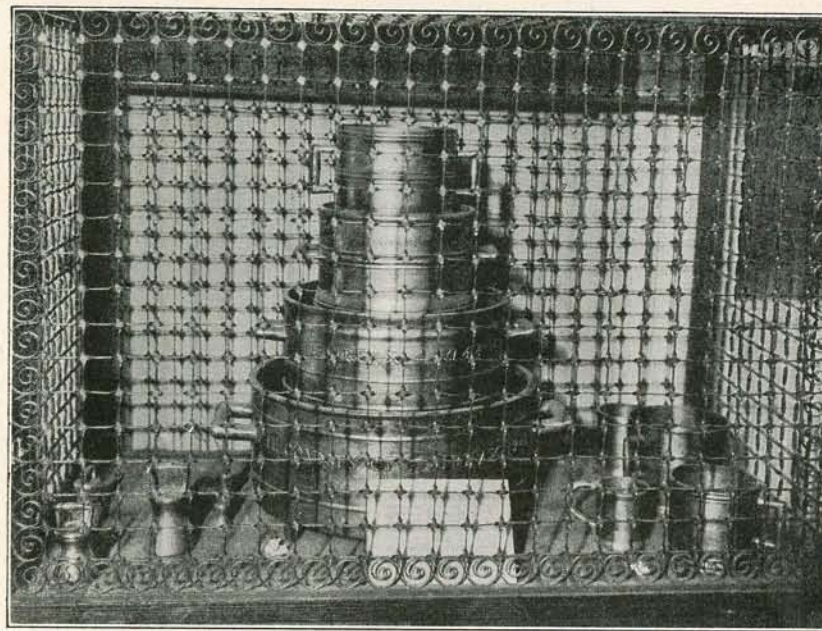
201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

The stately design of the Alexandria Lyceum is worthy of note, since it has been recorded by architectural authorities as the finest type of Greek revival architecture remaining in this country. The building was erected in 1837 by prominent citizens of the town to be used as a Lyceum or Lecture Hall, and to house the Alexandria Library, which had already been in operation for fifty years.

The Library occupied the first floor and on the shelves were found the best publications of England and the United States. The old records reveal that many of the patrons were seafaring men, who took out books to read on their long voyages.

In the Assembly room on the second floor, lectures were given by men of national fame, John Quincy Adams, Samuel Goodrich, (Peter Parley) Benjamin Hallowell and many other distinguished scholars of that day.

During the Civil War, the Lyceum was used as a hospital by Federal authorities and at the close of the war, the association was dissolved and the house converted into a private dwelling.



WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

CITY HALL

The Market Square, where many generations of Alexandria people have come to buy the products from the nearby farms and waters, has always been a point of great interest. In the early days of the town tobacco, grain, canvas-back duck and deer were also offered for sale. Here soldiers were drilled, fairs and public meetings were held, and on court days horses and cows were sold or traded.

Necessity for uniform weights and measures led to the enactment of a law requiring the merchants to test their measures by a standard. These measures, sent from England in 1744, consist of

3 wine measures, one pint, one quart, one gallon

4 dry measures, one quarter-peck, one half-peck, one peck and one bushel

A four-foot rule for measuring lumber

Weights from one to twenty-eight pounds.

They are all inscribed "County of Fairfax" and are known to be the only complete set of early English standards in this country.

Open to the Public.



THE BANK OF ALEXANDRIA

133 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET

The Bank of Alexandria, organized in 1792, was the first financial institution authorized by the General Assembly of Virginia. It had a maximum capital of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars, divided into seven hundred and fifty shares. All the incorporators were prominent citizens of the town, and the first President, William Herbert, was a son-in-law of John Carlyle, in whose home, "Carlyle House," the funds of the bank were kept while the building was under construction. The old iron vault, built in the wall of the bank, but concealed behind a panelled door, is now an object of interest.

Washington was a depositor in the bank from its organization and a stockholder from 1796 until his death. Open to the Public.



ANNE LEE MEMORIAL HOME

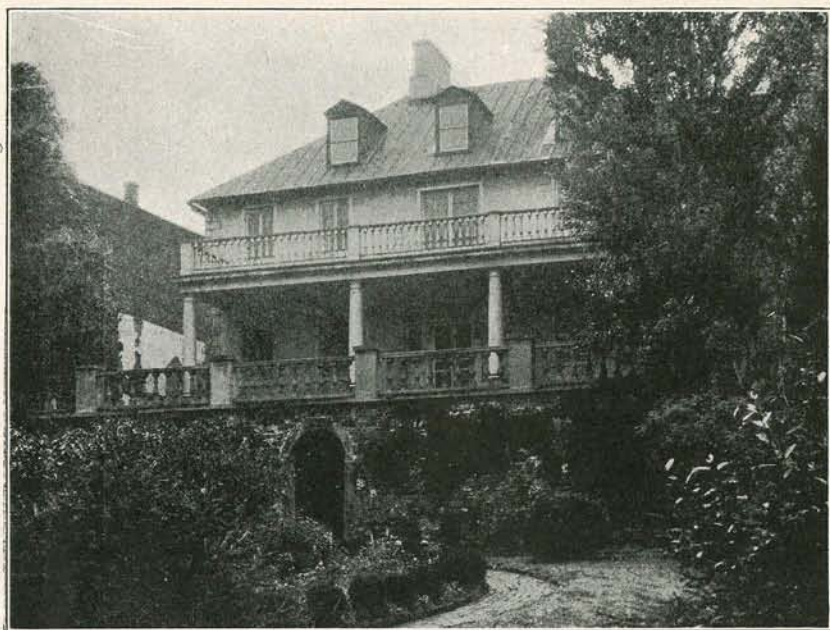
201 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET

This building was begun by John Dalton who died in 1777, before the structure was finished. He lived in the next house on Fairfax Street and was one of the first Trustees, and an outstanding citizen of the early days of Alexandria. It was due to the untiring efforts of his great granddaughter, Ann Pamela Cunningham, that Mount Vernon was saved from decay and restored to the country as a National Shrine.

The house was later purchased, completed, and used as a Tavern by George Leigh. He was succeeded by John Wise, a well-known innkeeper, who called it the "Bunch of Grapes."

When the corner stone of the District of Columbia was laid on April 15, 1791, the District Commissioners, the Masons, the city officials, and a large body of the populace assembled there to proceed to Jones Point, where Dr. Dick, Master Mason of the Washington-Alexandria Lodge, laid the corner stone with Masonic ceremonies.

On April 16, 1789, when General Washington travelled from Mount Vernon on his journey to New York to be inaugurated the First President of the United States, he stopped at this tavern to be greeted by an ovation given in his honor by the people of Alexandria. The Mayor, Dennis Ramsay, made the farewell address to which Washington responded to "his affectionate friends and kind neighbors."



THE CARLYLE HOUSE

123 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET

The Carlyle Mansion, now hidden from the street by the Wager Apartment, was built in 1752 by John Carlyle of Dumfries, Scotland. He was one of the incorporators of Alexandria in 1748, Major in charge of the Commissary and Supplies for General Braddock's expedition against the French and Indians, and one of the outstanding personalities of Colonial days. He married Sara Fairfax of "Belvoir" and their home was famed as a political and social center of the times.

This stately mansion is said to have been built on the foundation of an old stone fort that protected this section of the country from the Indians, and which would explain the presence of the dungeon cells under a part of the old house.

It was occupied for a time through the courtesy of the owner by the British General Braddock, and since then has been known as "Braddock Headquarters." Here, in April, 1755, General Braddock and Admiral Keppel held a conference with the representatives of the colonies concerning plans for the protection of the western frontier against the encroachments of the French and Indians along the Ohio River. Five royal governors were present, Dinwiddie of Virginia, Delacey of New York, Morris of Pennsylvania, Sharp of Maryland

and Shirley of Massachusetts. Washington was invited to meet this distinguished group and to give them the benefit of his knowledge of Indian warfare.

As a military aide, with the rank of major, Washington joined Braddock's staff, but the General obstinately refused to be guided by his advice. In the campaign that followed Braddock was killed by the Indians at the fierce battle of Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh), and Washington read the burial service at the grave when the unfortunate general was buried at midnight in the middle of the road.

The following statement hangs on the wall of the Carlyle House:

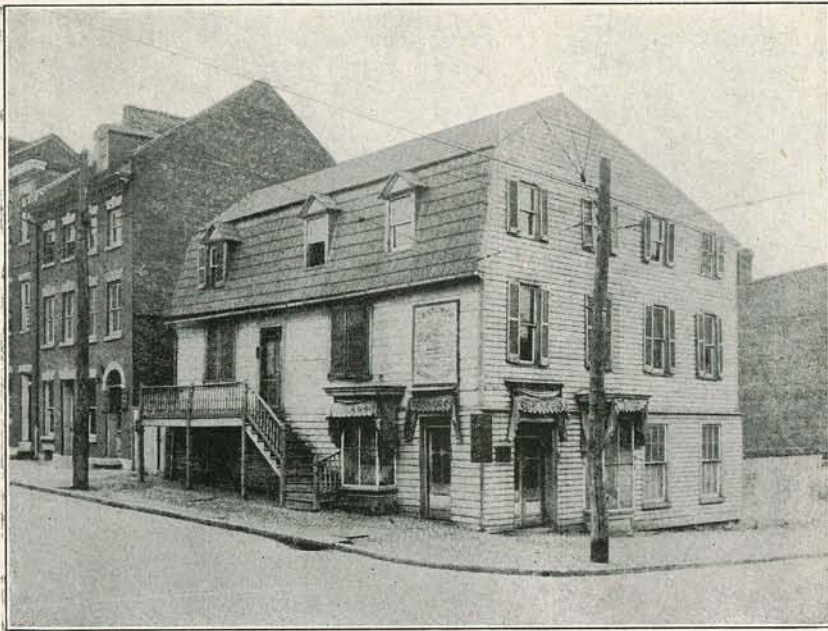
"This house is said to be the place where the revolution was born, for within its walls, ten years before the Stamp Act, first came the demand from the officials representing the British Government for taxation of the Colonies by Act of Parliament, which when finally carried out, resulted in its resistance, the independence of the Colonies, and the formation of the United States."

Open to the Public.

THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

317 KING STREET

The Alexandria Gazette is the oldest daily newspaper in the country. It was founded in 1784, and has had an almost continuous publication for nearly a century and a half. During the Civil War, when Alexandria was occupied by the Federal troops, *The Gazette* was suppressed, but in its place a one-sheet newspaper called *The Local News* was published by the editor. In February, 1862, the little paper printed a graphic account of the proceedings in St. Paul's Church, when the rector was dragged from his pulpit to the office of the Provost-Marshal because he had omitted from the church service the prayer for the President of the United States. The following night, in retaliation, the printing office and all the equipment were burned by the Union soldiers. For some months afterwards the paper was printed on a small hand press in a secluded little office, but after the war it took on new life and soon became one of the well-known newspapers in the South. Invaluable data is found in the bound files of the old paper, as well as interesting descriptions of all the important events in American history from the days following the Revolutionary War until the present time.



THE RAMSAY HOUSE

CORNER OF KING AND FAIRFAX STREETS

The Ramsay House is the oldest house in Alexandria. It was built in 1748 by William Ramsay, an influential Scotch merchant, who took a prominent part in all important affairs in the early days of the town, of which he was first Postmaster and one of the first Trustees.

William Ramsay married Anne McCarty, a cousin of Washington's on his maternal side, who was famed, not only for her wit and beauty, but her ardent patriotism. She raised a large sum of money for the Continental Army and worked unceasingly for the welfare of the orphan children of the revolutionary soldiers. Washington was a frequent visitor, and was entertained with many other distinguished guests, who gathered here to enjoy the far-famed hospitality of the Ramsay home.

This was also the home of Colonel Dennis Ramsay, an officer of the Revolutionary Army, who in 1788 was mayor of the town and one of the honorary pallbearers at Washington's funeral.

Open to the Public.



LEADBEATER'S DRUG STORE

107 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET

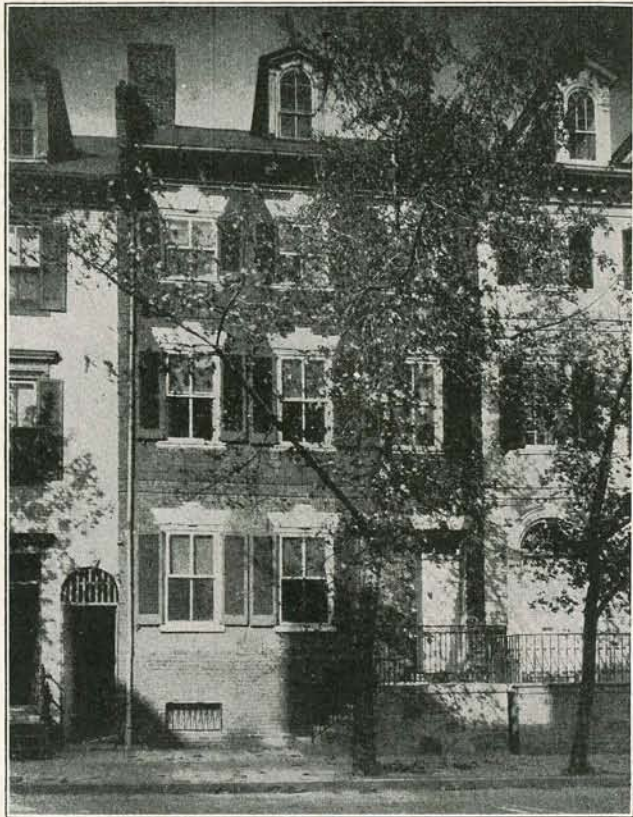
This drug store was established in 1792 by Edward Stabler, whose descendants for nearly a century and a half have continued in the business in the same location, and have served at least six generations of Alexandria families. In the musty old files are found quaint and interesting communications from the Washingtons, Lees, Custises, Fairfaxes and other prominent people of this vicinity. Among them is a note in the handwriting of Martha Washington which reads: "Mrs. Washington desires Mr. Stabler to send by bearer a quart bottle of his best castor oil and a bill for it. Mt. Vernon, 1802." A note from Nellie Custis (Mrs. Lawrence Lewis) requests "Mr. Stabler will oblige Mrs. Lewis by sending 2 ozs. borax, 2 boxes of Lee's pills, 2 boxes such pills as Mrs. Robinson uses, prepared by Mr. Stabler."

In 1859 Robert E. Lee, at that time a Colonel in the U. S. Army, was in this store when Lt. J. E. B. Stuart brought an order from the Secretary of War directing Colonel Lee to "proceed without delay to Harper's Ferry."

Here the Visitor may see hundreds of old bottles, mortars, pestles, weights and scales including three items of the original order of 1792.

This property is owned and maintained by the Landmarks Society of Alexandria, Virginia.

Admission Free.



THE DR. DICK HOUSE

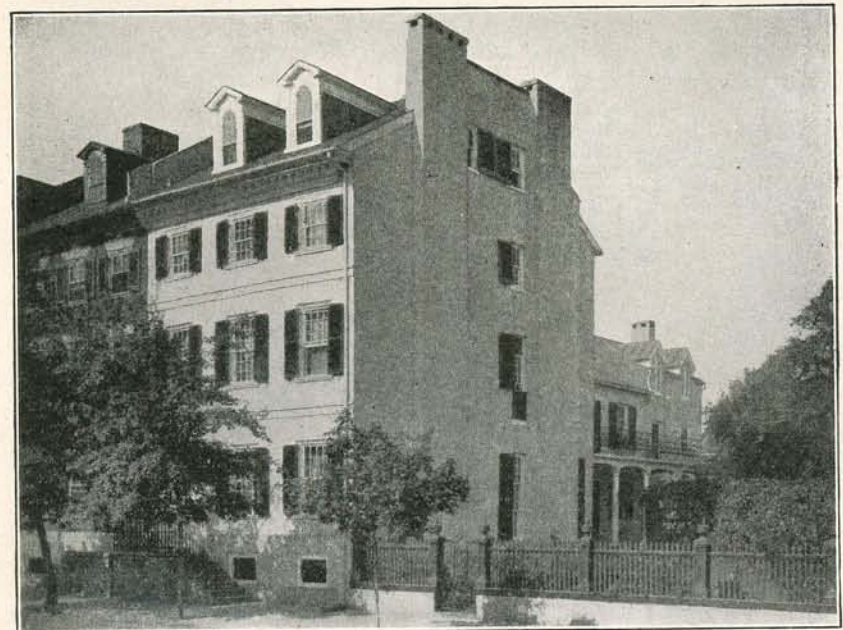
209 PRINCE STREET

This was the home of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, who came to Alexandria from Philadelphia in 1783. He was a noted physician and held the position of Health Officer of Alexandria during the epidemic of yellow fever and small-pox so dreaded in those days. Under General "Light Horse Harry" Lee he commanded a troop of cavalry sent to quell the "Whiskey Rebellion" in Pennsylvania in 1794. He succeeded George Washington as Worshipful Master of the Alexandria Lodge of Masons, and while he held this office, laid the corner stone of the District of Columbia at Jones' Point in 1792. He was called by Dr. Craik as consulting physician in Washington's last illness, and according to an old custom stopped the hands of Washington's bedroom clock, at the moment of his death, which was 10:20 p. m. This clock was later presented to the Masonic Lodge by Mrs. Washington and is now one of their most valued possessions. Dr. Dick performed the Masonic Service at the funeral of Washington at

Mt. Vernon, December 18th, 1799. He is buried in an unmarked grave in the old Quaker burying ground on Queen Street.

Among other relics of a bygone day found in an ancient trunk in the attic of an old Alexandria house, is an interesting dinner invitation from Dr. Dick, which reads:

"If you can eat a good fat duck, come up with us and take pot luck. Of White-backs we have got a pair, so plump, so round, so fat, so fair, an London Alderman would fight, through pies and tarts, to get one bite. Moreover we have beef or pork, that you may use your knife and fork. Come up precisely at two o'clock, the door shall open at your knock. The day 'tho wet, the streets 'tho muddy, to keep out the cold we'll have some toddy. And if perchance you should get sick, you'll have at hand, Yours, E. C. DICK."



THE GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX HOUSE

207 PRINCE STREET

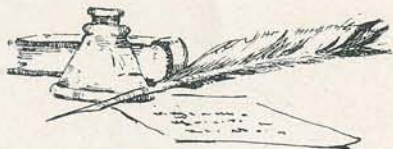
The land on which this house is built was purchased by Colonel William Fairfax, at an auction sale of lots, held at the first meeting of the Trustees of Alexandria on July 13th, 1749. The house was erected in 1752 by Colonel Fairfax, who had come to Virginia to supervise the vast estate belonging to his cousin, Lord Thomas Fairfax. In 1753, according to the records in Fairfax Court House, the

house was deeded to his son, George William Fairfax, whose sister married Lawrence Washington and became the first mistress of Mount Vernon.

It was at the home of William Fairfax at "Belvoir" that Washington lived for a time and studied surveying under George William Fairfax, and it was from here the two young men started on their journey to the Valley of Virginia to survey the wide domain of the old Lord Thomas Fairfax, Baron of Cameron.

George William Fairfax was one of the first Trustees of Alexandria. He represented Fairfax County in the House of Burgesses, and took an active part in the important affairs of the community, until shortly before the Revolution when he and his wife went to England to visit. When war was declared against the Mother Country, they were loyal to the Crown, and never returned to America.

The next owner of this house was Robert Adam, a Scotchman of wealth and position, who succeeded William Fairfax as Trustee of Alexandria. This position he held until the town was incorporated in 1780. Washington in his diary notes on different occasions that he had been fox-hunting and fishing with Robert Adam. In 1782 Adam was instrumental in founding the Alexandria Lodge of Masons, of which he became the first Master.



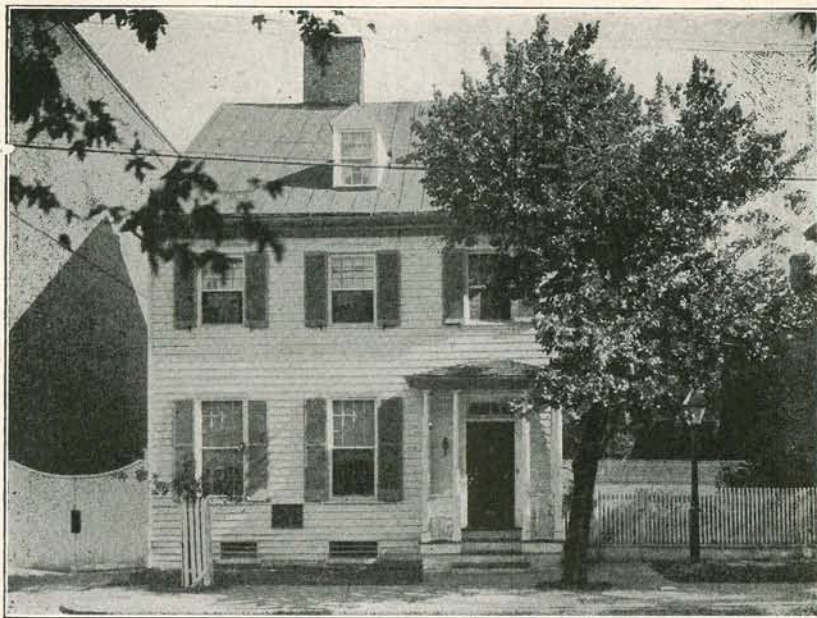
THE PRINCE STREET HOUSES

100 BLOCK, PRINCE STREET

During a period of years when the port of Alexandria was known all over the world, many sailing vessels that had crossed the ocean came here to dock at the wharves, and unload their cargoes of freight from foreign countries. Frequently the captains who sailed these ships made their land homes in Alexandria, on streets adjacent to the waterfront. Several of the houses at the foot of Prince Street were owned or occupied by these seafaring men.

Built over a century ago, of brick, very close together, and flush with the pavement, they have an Old World look, characteristic of the seaport towns of England and Scotland, and in all these years they have been little disturbed by modern changes.

Realizing the interesting atmosphere and quaint charm in the simplicity of these little houses, a few discerning individuals, after having carefully restored them, have come here to live on this picturesque old street.

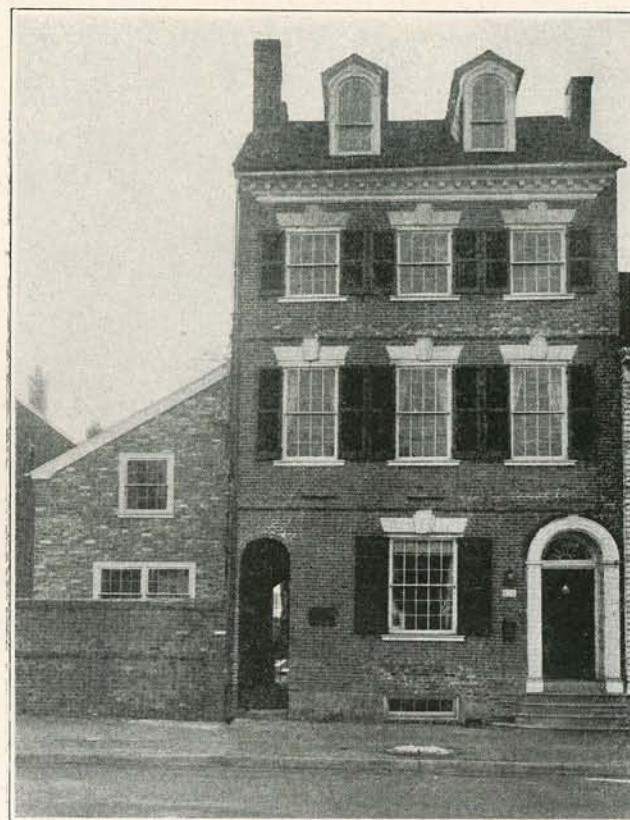


THE WILLIAM BROWN HOUSE

212 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET

This colonial home of frame over brick was erected in 1775 by Dr. William Brown, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Brown was for two years Physician-General and Director of Hospitals of the Continental Army, author of the first American Pharmacopoeia, a charter member of the Society of Cincinnati, formed by officers of the Continental Army, and a vestryman of Christ Church until 1792. After the war Dr. Brown was selected as president of the Board of Trustees of the Alexandria Academy, and under his supervision was erected the old school building at the corner of Washington and Wolfe Streets, in which George Washington organized, as an adjunct to the Academy the first free school in Northern Virginia.

Dr. William Brown was a nephew of Dr. Gustavus Brown, one of the three noted physicians with Washington in his last illness. He was buried at "Preston," the home of his sister, Mrs. Charles Alexander, but in 1921 his remains were moved to Pohick Churchyard, where a bronze tablet, erected by the D. A. R., marks his grave.



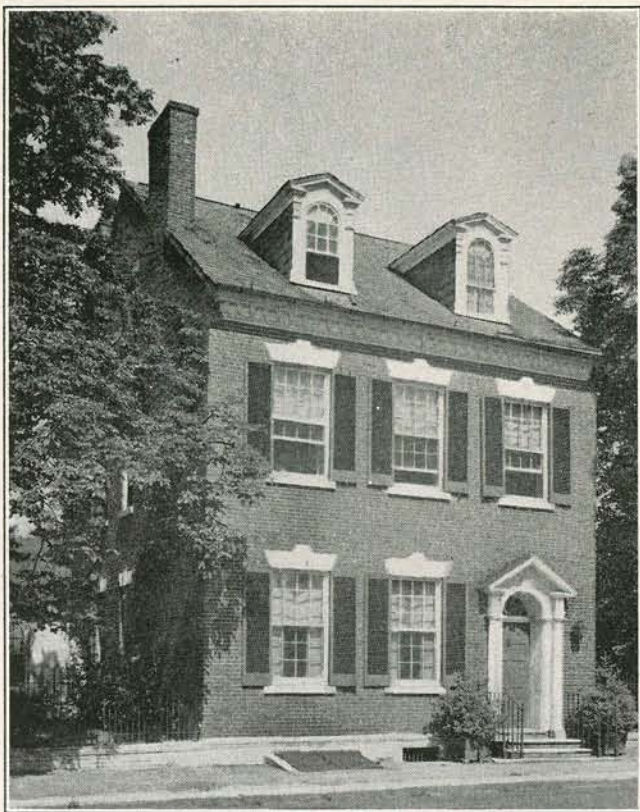
THE CRAIK HOUSE

210 DUKE STREET

Dr. James Craik emigrated from Dumfries, Scotland, to Virginia about 1751 and later took up his residence in Alexandria. He was a distinguished surgeon and a close friend of George Washington, who refers to him in his will as "my old and intimate friend, Dr. Craik."

During the French and Indian War, he served with the Provincial troops. In the Revolutionary War he was Surgeon-General of the Continental Army, director of the hospital at Yorktown, and was with Washington in every battle from Great Meadows to Yorktown. It has been recorded that "he ministered to the dying Braddock at Monongahela, saw the gallant Hugh Mercer breathe his last on the field of Princeton, dressed Lafayette's wounds at Brandywine, was at the deathbed of John Custis, Mrs. Washington's son, at Eltham after Yorktown, with Washington when he passed to the great beyond, and soothed the dying moments of Martha, the wife of Washington."

Dr. Craik is buried in the cemetery of the old Presbyterian Meeting House on South Fairfax Street.

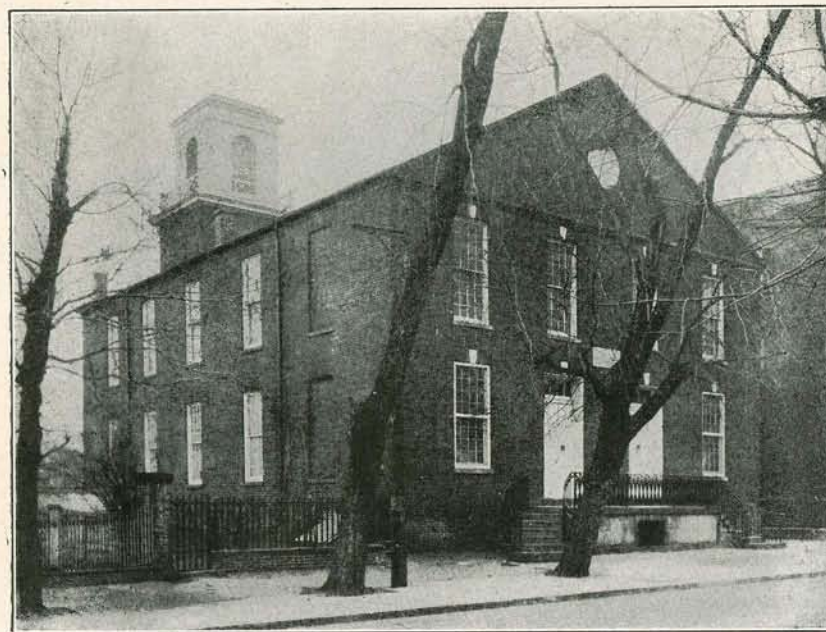


THE SNOWDEN HOUSE

611 SOUTH LEE STREET

The land on which this house is built originally belonged to John Alexander who deeded it to his son, William Thornton Alexander. The house was probably erected prior to 1798 as a deed granted at that time records that William Thornton Alexander and Lucy, his wife, leased all this property with houses, buildings, etc., to Thomas Vowell, Jr., for sixty-six silver dollars and sixty-six cents. In 1802 Thomas Vowell was relieved of the contract upon payment of two hundred pounds and thus became owner of the property.

In 1839 the house was purchased by Edgar Snowden, then owner and editor of the Alexandria Gazette, and it remained in his family until 1912. Mr. Snowden was one of the outstanding citizens of his day and was the first delegate sent from this area to the State Legislature after Alexandria was receded to Virginia from the District of Columbia. He was Mayor of the town from 1839 to 1843. In a collection of silhouettes, to be seen in London today, is one marked, "Edgar Snowden, Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia."



OLD PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE

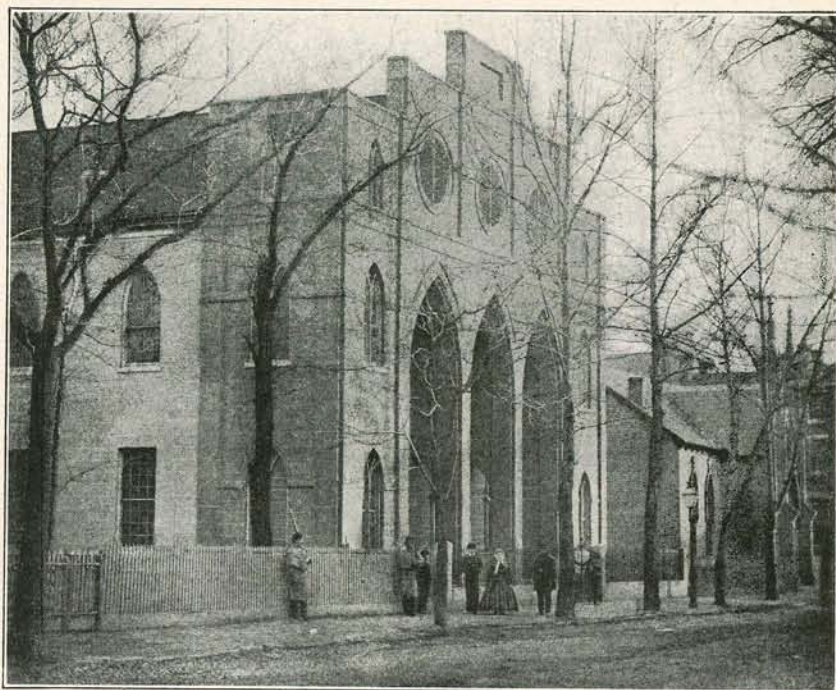
321 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET

The historic value of this colonial church, so marked in its simplicity, was recently brought to public notice, when it was found that beneath the crumbling tombstones lay the remains of so many distinguished citizens of Alexandria's early days. The names and dates on these old-tombs show that many of the founders of Alexandria were Scotch Presbyterians.

The church, begun at an earlier date, was finished in 1774 by John Carlyle. In 1835 the old edifice was partially destroyed by fire but the following year the damage was repaired and services resumed. It has housed within its walls many prominent people of those days, for here both the Washington Society and the Lodge of Masons held their memorial services on the death of Washington.

Among the revolutionary patriots buried here are Dr. James Craik, Surgeon-General of the Continental Army; John Carlyle, Commissary of the Virginia Forces, and Colonel Dennis Ramsay, who, as acting mayor of the town, delivered the farewell address to Washington when he left to become the first President of the United States, and the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War, whose grave was recently discovered, revealing the remains of a nameless soldier in the uniform of the Continental Army.

Open to the Public.



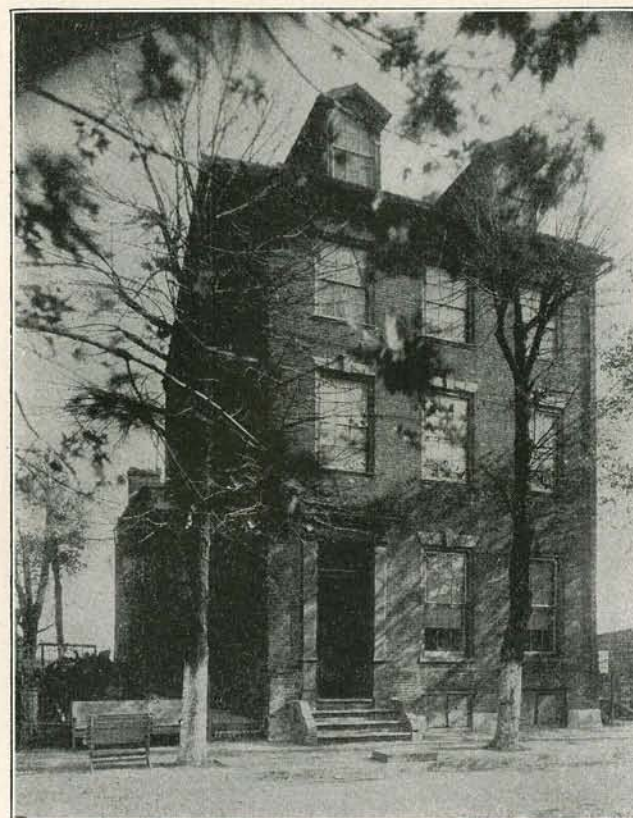
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

200 BLOCK SOUTH PITT

Old Saint Paul's Church on Fairfax Street had outgrown its small quarters when the present edifice was consecrated in 1817. The architect, John Latrobe of Baltimore, patterned the interior after Saint James in Piccadilly, London, designed by Christopher Wren. Among the distinguished communicants whose names are to be found on the old parish records are: Bushrod Washington and wife, Ann Blackburn of "Rippon Lodge"; Doctor Orlando Fairfax, son of Lord Thomas Fairfax, ninth baron of Cameron; and Major and Mrs. Lawrence Lewis of "Woodlawn."

From the outbreak of the Civil War, Alexandria was occupied by Federal Troops. An incident that exemplifies the bitter feeling of those days occurred at St. Paul's on February 9, 1863. While the Reverend Kenzie John Stewart was conducting morning services, a file of Federal soldiers entered the Church and ordered him to pray for the President of the United States. Mr. Stewart refused. He was immediately arrested, and though still wearing his vestments, was marched down the street to the office of the Provost Marshal.

The Church was then seized by the Federal authorities and converted into a government hospital and the rectory was used as a commissary. The above picture was taken at this time.



GENERAL ROBERDEAU HOUSE

418 SOUTH LEE STREET

General Daniel Roberdeau's family, driven from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, finally came to live in Philadelphia where Daniel was trained in the mercantile business. In 1775, he became president of the first American textile mill. His political career began as a warden of Philadelphia. In 1776 he was chosen first Brigadier General of Pennsylvania Militia. He developed a lead mine at his own expense, and built Fort Roberdeau to protect the mine. From 1777-1779 he was a member of Congress and signed the Articles of Confederation. As a member of Foreign Relations Committee, he passed on applications of foreign officers for posts in the army and in this way became a warm friend of General Lafayette.

At the close of the war, he moved to Alexandria, where his handsome home was the center of much social gayety. His lovely young daughter Ann Foster, eloped to marry Jonathan Swift, a prosperous young merchant and public citizen who built for her the stately home called "Belle Air"—later known as "Colross".



BENJAMIN DULANY HOUSE

601 DUKE STREET

Many prominent people of colonial times, who owned nearby estates, maintained town residences in Alexandria. This was the town house of Mr. Benjamin Dulany, a man of wealth and social prominence, who had an extensive estate in Fairfax County. The house was erected in 1783 and has always been famed for the gracious hospitality of its occupants.

In 1818 it was sold to Mr. Robert I. Taylor, a lawyer of eminence. His young daughter, Rosalie, was one of the flower girls who escorted General Lafayette through the town on his visit here in 1824. At that time Lafayette was to have made an address from the steps of the house across the street where he was staying, but the throng was so great that he came over to the steps of this house, where he could speak from a better elevation.

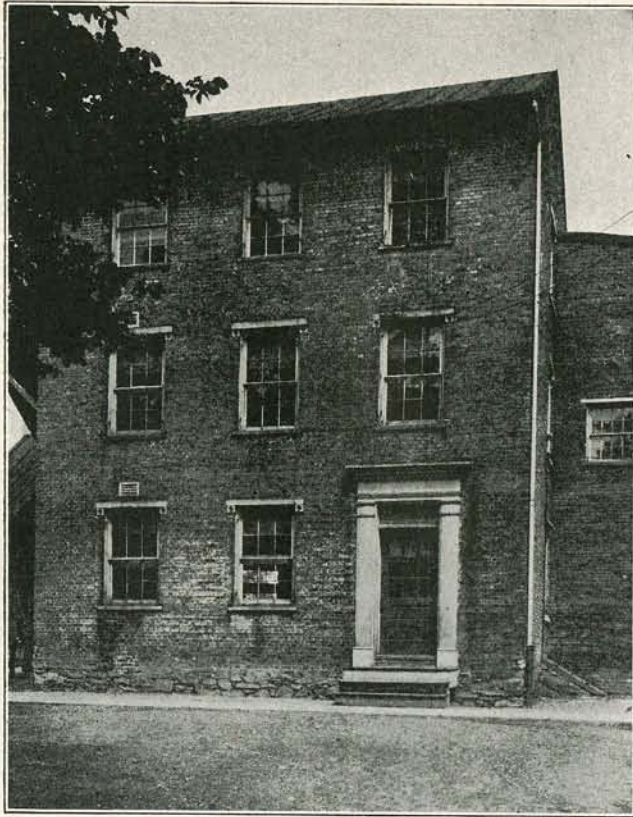


THE LAFAYETTE HOUSE

301 SOUTH ST. ASAPH STREET

This house is known as the "Lafayette House" because the owner, Mrs. Thomas Lawrison, graciously gave it up for the entertainment of General Lafayette and his suite when they visited Alexandria in 1824. Lafayette came to America by invitation of President Madison on a United States warship, to be the guest of the nation. Everywhere he was greeted with honor and delight. When he arrived in Alexandria one historian has said: "Every one in the community turned out and vied in doing honor to him who, when the infant republic most needed help, left his own country and cast his fortune with us. The 'Nation's Guest' passed over streets strewn with roses by the children of this town and beneath a triumphal arch, the like of which in grandeur has never been seen."

The body of Lafayette lies in a French cemetery, but in American soil that was transported from the United States for the grave of this illustrious soldier, whose tomb is surmounted by an American flag.



THE ALEXANDRIA ACADEMY

CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND WOLFE STREETS

George Washington established in this building the first permanent free school in northern Virginia. The corner stone was laid in 1785 with Masonic ceremonies, and the school was called the Alexandria Academy. The first president was Dr. William Brown, famous surgeon of the Revolutionary War. Washington was a trustee and guaranteed to give fifty pounds a year during his life, and in his will he "bequeathed to the trustees of the Alexandria Academy 1000 pounds, or in other words, twenty of the shares I hold in the Bank of Alexandria, toward the support of a free school, established at and annexed to the said Academy."

Robert E. Lee received his primary education in the pay department of this academy, under the Irish pedagogue, William B. Leary.

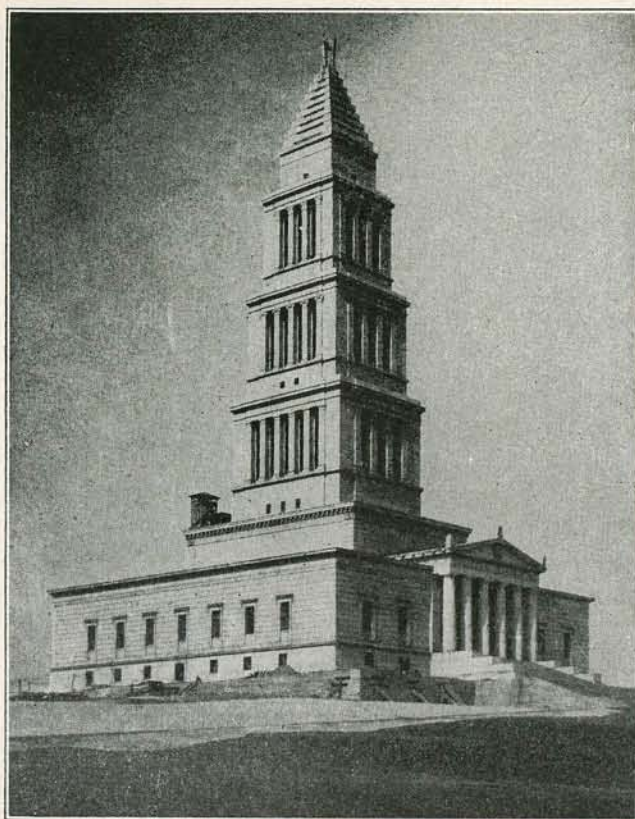


FRIENDSHIP ENGINE HOUSE

107 SOUTH ALFRED STREET

The Friendship Engine Company was organized in 1774 by the most responsible citizens of the town, and it has had a continuous membership up to the present time. In 1775 George Washington presented the company with a fire engine which he had purchased from a French company after seeing a similar one in Philadelphia. At that time it was considered the finest type of fire-fighting apparatus. In 1849 the Friendship engine was sold to a junk dealer in Alexandria, who resold it to a junk dealer in Frederick, Md. Here it was used for a while by the Frederick Fire Company, and was known as the "Washington Engine." Some years later it was purchased by the Veteran Fireman's Association of Baltimore and finally placed in a museum in Druid Hill Park. The identity of the old apparatus was recently definitely established when some paint was removed, revealing the name: "Friendship." The hand-pump engine, now in the Friendship Engine House, was purchased from Roger Bros., in Baltimore, in 1849.

Open to the Public.



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL TEMPLE

Silhouetted against the sky on a high elevation stands the Masonic National Memorial to Washington, the Mason. It rises four hundred feet above the town on the identical site once proposed for the Capitol of the United States.

It now houses the priceless collection of pictures and relics of Washington's era, owned by the Alexandria-Washington Lodge of Masons. The Lodge was chartered in 1788 and Washington was its first Worshipful Master. On its roster are found the names of some of the country's most illustrious citizens. In the unbroken chain of records of this lodge dating from 1783 are found invaluable historical data indicating that since its organization the members have taken part in practically all of the important ceremonies held in this locality from Colonial days to the present time.

Among the valuable collection of treasures owned by this Lodge are Sir Joshua Reynolds' portrait of Lord Thomas Fairfax, Charles Wilson Peale's portrait of Marquis de Lafayette, the ivory handled trowel used by Washington when President of the United States in laying the corner stone of the National Capitol, the Chipendale library chair presented and used by Washington when Worshipful Master of the Lodge and his bedroom clock, the hands of which still point to the hour he breathed his last.

Three million, two hundred thousand Masons throughout the United States are contributing to the erection of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Temple

Open to the Public.

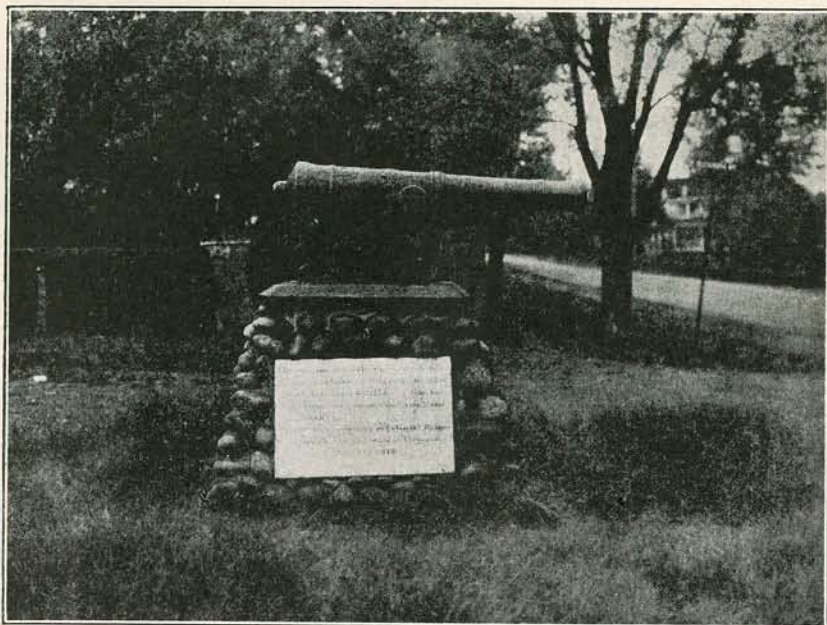


ARCH HALL 815 FRANKLIN STREET

Arch Hall, built in 1816 was the winter home of Nellie Custis, granddaughter of Martha Washington, and her husband, Major Lawrence Lewis, nephew of George Washington. Their beautiful estate, "Woodlawn" is situated a few miles below Alexandria in Fairfax County. Benjamin Hallowell, the Quaker schoolmaster, records in his Journal that Mrs. Lewis brought her children to the Hallowell school, and often remained with them during the day. In his will Major Lewis left this house to the window and four children of his brother, Robert Lewis.

Old parish records of St. Paul's Church show that Angela Lewis was married there in 1835 to Charles Magill Conrad of New Orleans and that the Rev. James T. Johnson officiated at the funerals of Major Lewis in 1839, of Mrs. Lewis in 1852 and of Angela Lewis Conrad in 1843.

Arch Hall is included in the U. S. Government survey of American homes possessing historical and architectural interest worthy of careful preservation. The plan is unlike that of any other early Alexandria houses and shows the Jefferson influence in classic revival in Virginia.



THE BRADDOCK CANNON

INTERSECTION OF RUSSELL AND BRADDOCK ROADS

When General Braddock and his army left Alexandria in 1755, at the beginning of the French and Indian War, he abandoned a number of large cannon because they were too heavy to haul over the rough mountain roads. Some of these cannon were used during the Revolution at Fort Columbia on Jones Point. Afterwards they were placed at the corners of the principal streets, where they remained for many years.

Realizing the historic value of these old guns, several of them have been preserved by the Colonial Dames of Alexandria, and the inscription on the cannon mounted here reads:

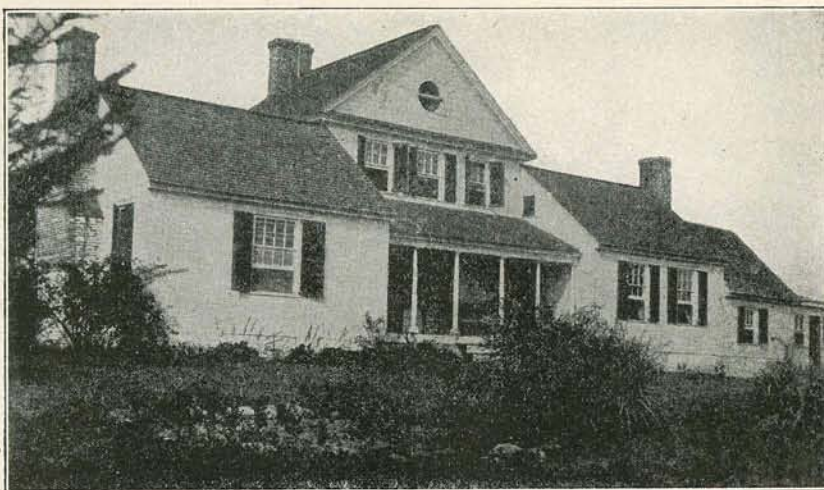
"This monument marks the trail taken by the army of General Braddock, which left Alexandria 20th April, 1755, to defend the western frontier against the French and Indians.

"The cannon used here was abandoned by General Braddock at old Alexandria, April, 1755. The cobblestones composing the mound were taken from the streets of Alexandria which were paved by legal enactment, 1785."

Nearby Colonial Landmarks
whose associations are closely interwoven
with the early history of Alexandria



Mount Eagle	Pohick Church
Wellington	Gunston Hall
Mount Vernon	Rippon Lodge
Woodlawn Mansion	



MOUNT EAGLE

WASHINGTON-RICHMOND HIGHWAY

"Mount Eagle" was the home of Lord Bryan Fairfax, eighth Baron of Cameron, and son of Colonel William and Deborah Clark Fairfax of "Belvoir." His title was confirmed in 1800 when he visited England and was received by his peers in the Baronage of Scotland. Just one hundred years later, in 1900, his great-grandson, Albert Kirby Fairfax, claimed his right to the peerage which was recognized by the House of Lords.

During the Revolutionary War the Fairfax family remained loyal to the crown. Bryan Fairfax used all his influence to dissuade his friend and neighbor George Washington from taking any part against the mother country, but in spite of their difference of opinion, they always remained close friends. In 1789 he entered holy orders and was ordained by Bishop Seabury in 1790. For the next two years he was a well-beloved rector at Christ Church, after which he retired to his estate at Mount Eagle, where he died in 1802.



UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

WELLINGTON

Wellington Farm was once a part of Mt. Vernon estate. The house was erected prior to 1760 and later became the home of Colonel Tobias Lear, who for sixteen years following the Revolution was private secretary to General Washington and tutor to his two adopted children, Nellie and George Washington Parke Custis. Lear, a native of New Hampshire, was graduated from Harvard in 1783 and took up the profession of teaching. He was married three times. His first wife died before he came to Virginia; he then married Mrs. Frances Bassett Washington, a relative of General Washington, and his third wife was Miss Dandridge Henley, a niece of Martha Washington.

The correspondence between Washington and his secretary shows that the two families were very intimate and that Colonel Lear was held in great esteem by General Washington. In appreciation of Lear's services, especially during the Presidency, Washington, in his will, bequeathed Wellington Farm to him during his life. Afterwards it was occupied for two generations by members of the Washington family.

After the death of Washington, Lear was appointed Consul to Santa Domingo and then Consul to Algiers, and in 1805 he was Commissioner selected to treat with the Barbary pirates. Later on President Madison appointed Tobias Lear Accountant of the War Department, which office he held at the time of his death in 1816.



MOUNT VERNON

Mount Vernon Mansion is built on land acquired by the Washington family in 1674. George Washington's father Augustine Washington, purchased the Hunting Creek Plantation from his sister, Mildred, who had inherited it as her part of the original Lord Culpepper grant. In 1735, when George Washington was three years old, Augustine Washington moved his family from their plantation in Westmoreland County to the Hunting Creek Plantation, then called by its Indian name, Epsewasson, afterwards named Mount Vernon. A few years later they moved to Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg. In 1740 Augustine Washington deeded the Hunting Creek Plantation to his son Lawrence, who had just come of age.

Recent research and documentary evidence have brought to light many interesting facts concerning the date of construction of Mount Vernon Mansion, but it is still to be determined, whether the house was begun by Augustine Washington for his young family, or built by Lawrence Washington for his bride Ann Fairfax, daughter of William Fairfax of Belvoir, whom he married in 1743.

Lawrence Washington died in 1752 when only thirty-four years of age, and by his will, Mount Vernon was bequeathed to his infant daughter, subject to life interest for his widow. On the death of the

child, Mount Vernon was inherited by George Washington, who, since a lad of fifteen, had made it his home.

In January, 1759, Washington married Mrs. Martha Custis, widow of John Parke Custis of New Kent County, Virginia. As the years went on he enlarged the boundary of the plantation until it included over eight thousand acres, and to the home itself he added the third story, the front porch and colonnades, the banquet hall, library and most of the outbuildings, of which there were more than twenty. Here he led the life of a Virginia planter. He wrote that "agriculture has ever been the most favorite amusement of my life" and while he was absent in the service of his country he planned for the time when he and Mrs. Washington could spend their days in quiet enjoyment at their beautiful home on the Potomac. Only two years and nine months after Washington returned to Mount Vernon, after serving his second term as first President of the United States, he died, on December 14th, 1799, in the sixty-eighth year of his life.

During the years that followed Mount Vernon suffered many vicissitudes, but it was finally rescued through the perseverance of one woman, Anne Parmelia Cunningham of South Carolina, who has saved for posterity the "greatest home in the world." It is now owned and efficiently cared for by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, the oldest incorporated patriotic association of women in the United States.

Open to the Public





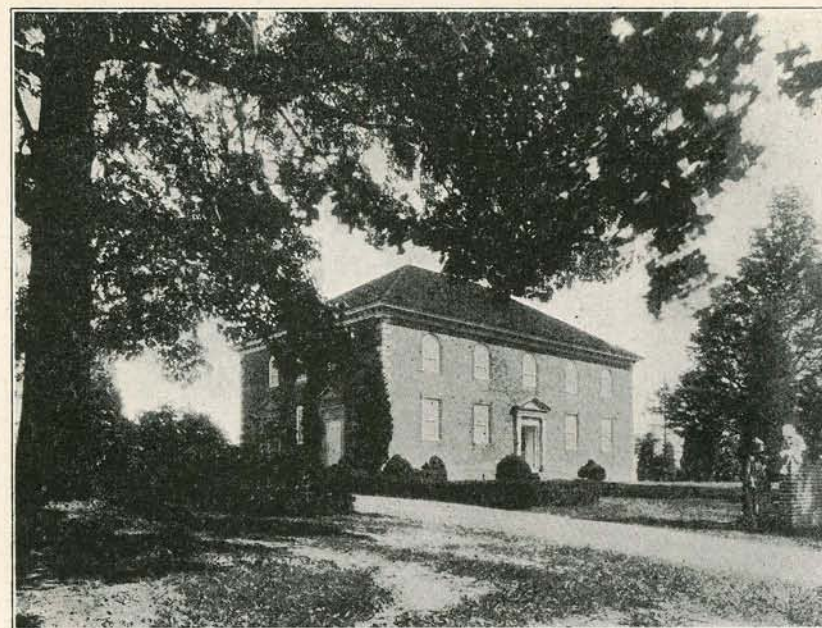
WOODLAWN MANSION

"Woodlawn," erected in 1805, was the home of Eleanor Parke Custis, better known as "Nellie Custis." She was Martha Washington's granddaughter and married Lawrence Lewis, the favorite nephew of General Washington. When her father, John Parke Custis, died at the siege of Yorktown in 1781, Nellie, then aged three, and her baby brother, George Washington Parke Custis, were adopted by General Washington and came to live at Mt. Vernon. Here she grew up, a beautiful girl, greatly loved and admired by all who knew her. A portrait painted by Charles Wilson Peale, that hung for fifty years in Arlington House, her brother's home, was always an object of admiration. On February 22, 1799, amid an assemblage of friends and relatives of the two distinguished families, she and Lawrence Lewis were married in the drawing room at Mt. Vernon.

By a provision of Washington's will, Nellie Custis and her husband Lawrence Lewis were bequeathed a large portion of the Mt. Vernon estate, of which "Woodlawn" was a part.

As the adopted daughter of the first President of the United States, her social position was like one of royalty, and with this prestige she presided for forty years as mistress of "Woodlawn Mansion."

The house stands today in perfect repair, a fine type of Georgian architecture and one of the most interesting of all the colonial homes in northern Virginia.



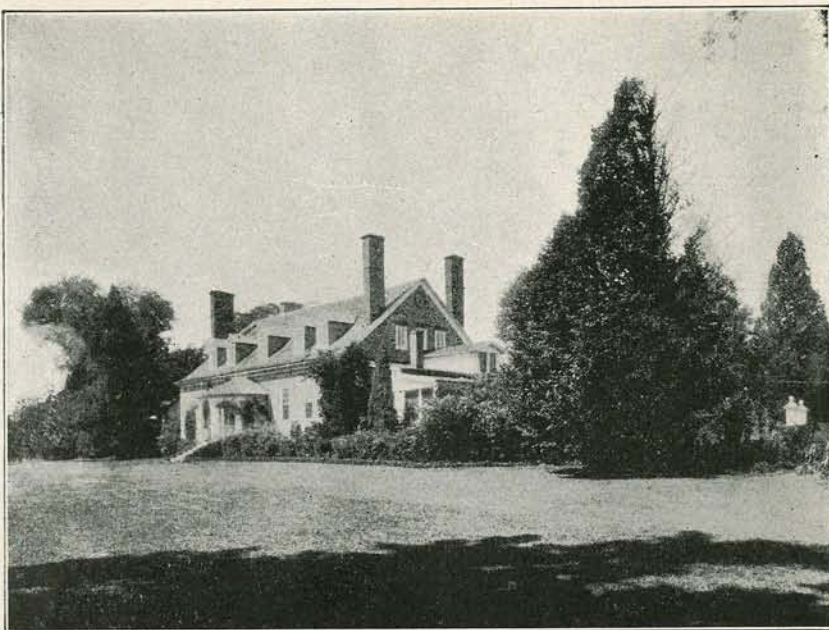
POHICK CHURCH

Under the supervision of George Washington and George William Fairfax, Pohick Church, which takes its name from a nearby creek, was erected between the years of 1768 and 1770. It is square-built of soft-hued bricks laid in Flemish bond, with corners of Aquia Creek stone, all characteristic of pre-revolutionary churches of Virginia. Originally the pews had high backs, which prevented the occupants from seeing anyone but the minister, and he preached from a tall pulpit, from which he could view the entire congregation.

Within a short distance of Pohick Church stood many stately homes, where dwelt the gentry of Fairfax County, whose names, so closely interwoven with the history of colonial times, are found on the register or in the old parish records. George Mason of Gunston Hall was a warden of the church, and both George Washington and his brother Lawrence were vestrymen. Washington served on the vestry until the beginning of the Revolution and he maintained two pews for his family and friends until the end of his life.

During the Civil War Pohick Church was greatly damaged by the Federal troops, who used it to stable their horses. In 1895 patriotic societies and public-spirited citizens began its restoration, which has recently been completed, and the old edifice now appears as it did in the days before the Revolution. The stone baptismal font, lost for many years, was discovered at a nearby farm, serving as a watering trough, and it has since been returned to its original place in the old church.

Open to the Public.



GUNSTON HALL

WASHINGTON - RICHMOND HIGHWAY

Overlooking the Potomac River, five miles from the Richmond Highway, stands Gunston Hall. It was built in 1758 by George Mason, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, the first Constitution of Virginia, and the Fairfax County Resolves. He assisted in framing the Constitution of the United States, and was among the first Trustees of Alexandria.

Only recently has it become known that the architect of Gunston Hall was James Buckland of Oxfordshire who was brought to this country under indenture in 1754 by George Mason's brother, Thompson Mason. James Buckland turned out to be so skilled a craftsman, so fine an artist, that George Mason recommended him to all his friends. Among other important commissions, he was engaged to build the Mathias Hammond House in Annapolis. So highly did Mr. Hammond regard the skill of James Buckland that he engaged Charles Wilson Peale to make a portrait of him which hung for many years in the reception room of the Hammond House.

Col. George Mason was one of the greatest constructive statesmen that America has produced. Washington wrote of him as "one of the strongest intellects of the day," and Jefferson said "I lean more heavily on George Mason than any other man."

Col. George Mason and his wife are buried in the Gunston family graveyard, where inscriptions on the old tombs relate the character and achievements of all those who are buried there.



RIPPON LODGE

WASHINGTON-RICHMOND HIGHWAY

Rippon Lodge, the oldest colonial house in this part of Virginia, was erected in 1725 by Richard Blackburn, emigrant from the cathedral town of Ripon, England. On his tomb in the nearby family burying ground is a time-worn inscription that relates at length his military achievements and political career. He was a member of the General Assembly of Virginia from 1745 to 1747.

His son, Colonel Thomas Blackburn, was a distinguished soldier of the Revolutionary War. Anne Blackburn, daughter of Colonel Thomas Blackburn, married Bushrod Washington, and her daughter, Jane Charlotte, married John Augustin Washington. Each of these ladies, in turn, became mistress of Mt. Vernon, and is buried there in the family tomb.

Rippon Lodge has a picturesque background of woodland and rolling hills that slope down to the shore line of Neapsco Bay. "Tea bushes," brought from Bermuda as a substitute for tea, are still growing on the lawn, as a dim reminder of the colonist's protest against the tea tax, and an old brick tunnel, running from the house to a nearby ravine, adds a note of mystery to this unique colonial farm house.

COLONIAL HOMES AND LANDMARKS IN ALEXANDRIA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. General Robert E. Lee House | 17. Doctor Dick House |
| 2. Hallowell School | 18. George William Fairfax House |
| 3. Philip Fendall House | 19. Prince Street Houses |
| 4. Edmund Jennings Lee House | 20. Doctor William Brown House |
| 6. Christ Church | 21. Doctor James Craik House |
| 7. General Henry Lee House | 23. Presbyterian Meeting House |
| 8. Lord Fairfax House | 24. General Roberdeau House |
| 9. Gadsby's Tavern | 25. Benjamin Dulany House |
| 11. Weights and Measures | 26. General Lafayette House |
| 12. Bank of Alexandria | 27. Alexandria Academy |
| 13. The Carlyle House | 28. Friendship Fire Engine House |
| 14. The Ramsay House | 29. George Washington Memorial |
| 15. Alexandria Gazette | 30. Braddock Cannon |
| 16. Leadbeater's Drug Store | |

Alexander Silversmiths,
The Snowden House,
Arch Hall,

324 King Street
611 South Lee Street
815 Franklin Street



Mount Eagle
Wellington
Mount Vernon

Woodlawn Mansion
Pohick Church
Gunston Hall

Rippon Lodge

