

A GUIDE TO THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

SECOND EDITION 2016

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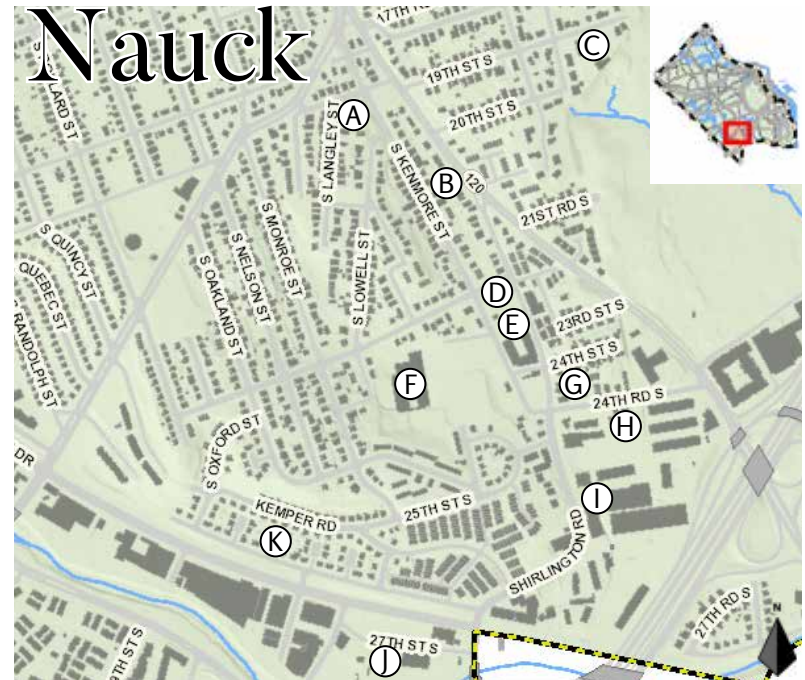
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Hall's Hill & High View Park



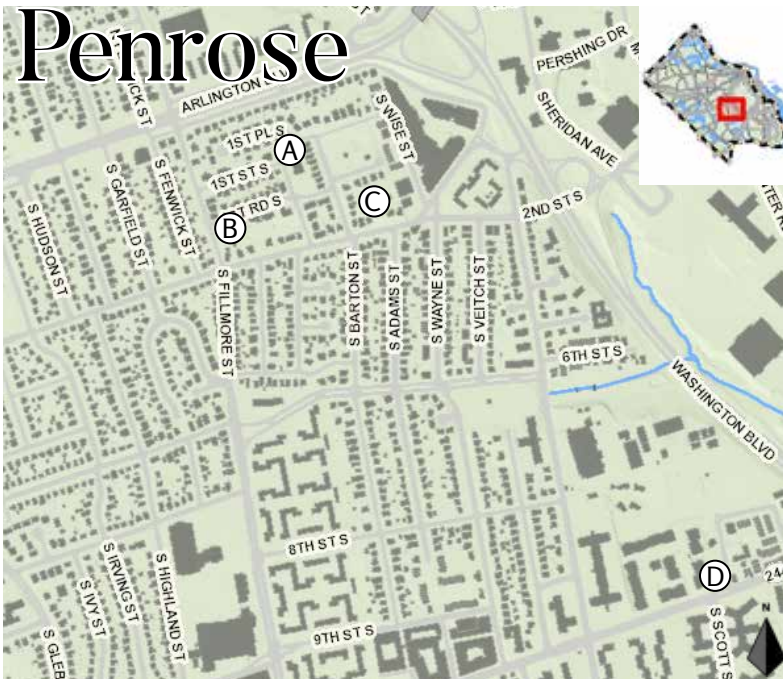
A: Calloway United Methodist Church and Cemetery (5000 Lee Hwy); **B:** Fire Station No. 8 (4845 Lee Hwy); **C:** John M. Langston High School Continuation Program & Langston-Brown Community Center (2121 N. Culpeper St.); **D:** Mount Salvation Baptist Church and Cemetery (1961 N. Culpeper St.); **E:** Segregation Wall (N. Culpeper St. and 17th St. N.)

Nauck



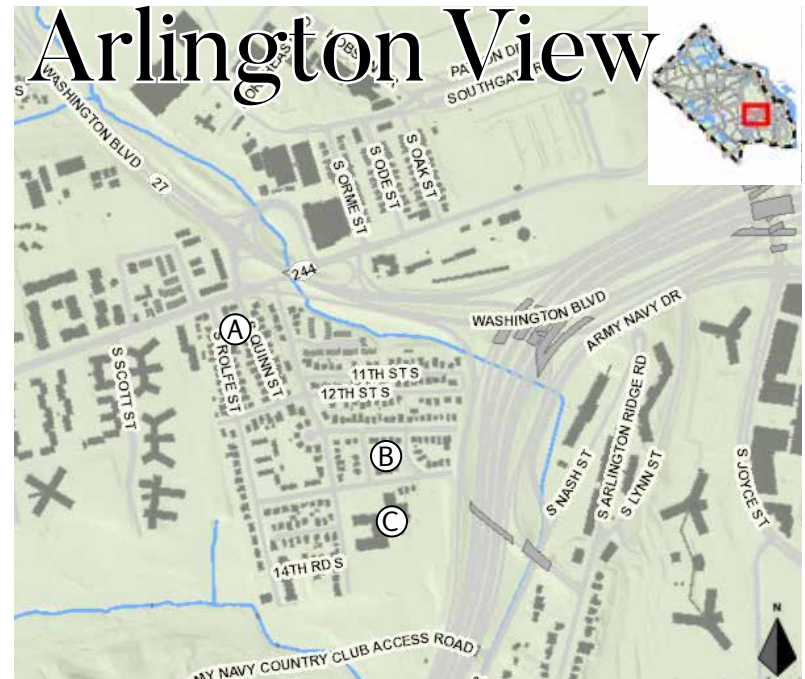
A: Mount Zion Baptist Church (3500 19th St. S.); **B:** Dr. Roland Bruner House (2018 S. Glebe Rd.); **C:** Our Lady, Queen of Peace (2700 19th St S.); **D:** Macedonia Baptist Church (3412 22nd St. S.); **E:** Arlington Lodge No. 58 (2222 S. Shirlington Rd.); **F:** Drew Model School (3500 23rd St. S.); **G:** Green Valley Pharmacy (2415 S. Shirlington Rd.); **H:** Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church & Cemetery (2704 24th Rd. S.); **I:** Chinn Funeral Home (2605 S. Shirlington Rd.); **J:** Jennie Dean Park (3630 27th St. S.); **K:** Fort Barnard Heights

Penrose



A: Charles Drew House (2502 1st St. S.); **B:** Sumner G. Holmes House (2804 1st Rd. S.); **C:** William H. Butler House (2407 2nd St. S.); **D:** St. John's Baptist Church (1805 Columbia Pike)

Arlington View



A: Harry W. Gray House (1005 S. Quinn St.); **B:** Mount Olive Baptist Church (1601 13th Rd. S.); **C:** Hoffman-Boston Elementary School (1415 S. Queen St.)

Discover Arlington's African American Heritage

Introduction and Acknowledgments

This second edition of *A Guide to the African American Heritage of Arlington County, Virginia* augments an earlier brochure and records new people, places, and events that are often overlooked in our collective memory of Arlington County.

In 1900, African Americans comprised 38% of the County's population. By 2010, however, African Americans comprised only 8.2% of the overall population. Today, the African American population is not simply growing at a slower rate than other demographic groups but is declining. Arlington County is slowly losing an important part of its cultural heritage.

Withstanding the bonds of slavery, fighting for freedom, and striving for equal rights and progress, African Americans played a central role in the formation and development of Arlington County. This booklet seeks to remind residents and visitors how ordinary Arlingtonians had the courage and conviction to take extraordinary measures to cure injustice and advance society.

The Historic Preservation Program (HPP) hopes readers take the opportunity to learn about and visit the robust number of sites, consider how local African Americans shifted the paradigm of state and national history, and how these achievements and events affect our lives today. African American history is not a separate component of the Arlington story, but a central part of our shared history. The neighborhood maps on the facing page call out specific sites of interest highlighted in this guide.

The telling of the story of African American heritage in Arlington County is far from complete. This booklet is not meant to be a comprehensive history and primarily documents events into the 1960s. We welcome additional information and look forward to collaborating with and engaging new audiences.

The HPP would like to acknowledge the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for supporting the production of this document. We would also like to thank Judith Knudsen and other staff members at the Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library for providing building permits, historic photographs, archival materials, and their expertise. Lastly, thank you to our community reviewers: Craig Syphax, Dr. Alfred O. Taylor, Carmela Hamm, Sandra Green, Eric Dobson, and Laura Everdale.

Forward by Craig Syphax, President of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington

The story of Arlington County's African Americans awakens in this descriptive booklet. Historical events, people and places are brought together in an explanatory way to reveal to the reader precisely the power struggles, mental anguish, spiritual inspiration, educational discord and social behaviors that were prevalent during the evolution of Arlington.

This second edition printing of *A Guide to the African American Heritage of Arlington County, Virginia* is a factual account of exciting research by the Historic Preservation Program. The original document has been expanded and redesigned to capture the most important moments, epic photographs, and drawings of life in the early beginnings of Arlington County.

This booklet holds special meaning to me because of my heritage and ancestry. Dr. Evelyn Reid Syphax, my mother, was owner of the Syphax Child Care Center, Chairman of the Arlington County School Board, President of the Arlington Historical Society, creator of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington and family historian.

A Guide to the African American Heritage of Arlington County, Virginia is the vision of recently passed Dr. Talmadge Williams. He dedicated his time to preserving Arlington County's rich cultural history and highlighted the contributions made by African Americans. Dr. Williams advocated for honoring the story of Freedman's Village and worked successfully with the Commonwealth of Virginia to have the Washington Boulevard Bridge over Columbia Pike be renamed as "Freedmans Village Bridge" in September 2015. This updated booklet honors the unwavering efforts of Dr. Williams to celebrate Arlington County's African American heritage.

Boundary Markers of the District of Columbia

Benjamin Banneker

A free, self-taught African American astronomer and mathematician, Benjamin Banneker assisted Andrew Ellicott on the original survey of the District of Columbia from February to April 1791. Ellicott retained Banneker to make astronomical observations and calculations to establish the location of the south cornerstone of the 10-mile square. On April 15, 1791, officials dedicated the first boundary stone based on Banneker's calculations. The fourteen sandstone markers on the Virginia side of the Potomac River were placed in 1791 (the stones on the east side were placed the following year). In 1847, Congress retroceded the land south of the Potomac River to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I apprehend you will embrace every opportunity, to eradicate that train of absurd and false ideas and opinions, which so generally prevails with respect to us [African Americans]; and that your sentiments are concurrent with mine, which are, that one universal Father hath given being to us all; and that he hath not only made us all of one flesh, but that he hath also, without partiality, afforded us all the same sensations and endowed us all with the same faculties...
--Benjamin Banneker to Thomas Jefferson, August 19, 1791

Banneker Boundary Stone

The Southwest 9 Intermediate Boundary Stone, located at Benjamin Banneker Park at 18th Street North and North Van Buren Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1976, the stone was selected by the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation to commemorate Banneker's life and contributions.



SW 9 INTERMEDIATE BOUNDARY STONE.

The boundary stones are the oldest Federal monuments. Ten stones are located within present-day Arlington County.



Arlington House

George Washington Parke Custis

George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted grandson of George Washington, arrived at the Arlington estate in 1802. In order to establish himself as the worthy heir of Washington's legacy, Custis sought to construct a mansion house as a monument to his family's heritage.

Custis was rich in land and slaves, but poor in cash. He inherited over 18,000 acres of land and 200 slaves. As many as 63 African American slaves lived and labored on the Arlington estate. The slaves served as the chief labor force to construct the mansion and associated landscape. Slaves fabricated the bricks and stucco, cleared and harvested the timber from the surrounding forest, and built roads.

Slave labor allowed for the aristocratic lifestyle of the Custis family. They performed the daily upkeep of the house, labored on the plantation, and worked to harvest the market garden. Some Arlington slaves performed agricultural tasks, while others became skilled blacksmiths, tanners, and adept in animal husbandry.



Courtesy of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

ARLINGTON HOUSE, 1853. WATERCOLOR BY BENSON J. LOSSING.

Custis Family and Slavery

Historical evidence suggests that a number of Arlington slaves received atypical educational opportunities. Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis, wife of George Washington Parke Custis, was a devout Episcopalian who taught a number of the estate's slaves to read and write.

My mother devoted herself to the religious culture of the slaves. Her life was devoted to this work, with the hope of preparing them for freedom. Through her influence, my father left them all free five years from his death.

-- Mary Custis Lee, Daughter of George Washington Parke and Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis

The Custis family largely maintained slave families and manumitted several women and children. Proponents of the Colonization Movement, Custis relocated a slave family to Liberia, Africa. George Washington Parke Custis died in 1857 and his will stipulated that Mary Custis Lee receive a lifetime inheritance and that Arlington slaves were freed within five years or sooner if all estate debts were settled.

Robert E. Lee and Arlington Slaves

Robert E. Lee, the son-in-law of George Washington Parke Custis, set forth to execute the will. In an attempt to increase the economic efficiency of the plantation, he disrupted the lives of slave families when he leased a large number of individuals to other estates. In 1859, three slaves who had anticipated immediate freedom upon Custis' death fled north. They were captured shortly thereafter and returned to Arlington House. Historians continue to debate the treatment and punishment of the slaves upon their return to the estate, but purported first-hand accounts state that the slaves were whipped and their wounds salted.

We were immediately taken before Gen. Lee, who demanded the reason why we ran away; we frankly told him that we considered ourselves free; he then told us he would teach us a lesson we never would forget; he then ordered us to the barn, where, in his presence, we were tied firmly to posts by a Mr. Gwin, our overseer, who was ordered by Gen. Lee to strip us to the waist and give us fifty lashes each, excepting my sister, who received but twenty...

-- Wesley Norris, former Arlington Slave, 1866

Civil War at Arlington House

On April 12, 1861, the firing on Fort Sumter signaled the beginning of the Civil War. Lee resigned his Federal post and accepted command of Virginia's forces. Mary Lee remained at the estate, removed the most valuable Washington heirlooms, and prepared the home for the expected Union occupation. On May 15, 1861, she fled with a few of her slaves. On May 24, 1861, the Army crossed the Potomac and occupied land to defend the District of Columbia including Arlington estate. Many of the Arlington slaves continued to reside on the property for a number of years. In accordance with Custis' will, Lee manumitted the slaves at Arlington House in December 1862.

The Union Army utilized the estate in diverse ways. Freedman's Village was established in 1863 and 200 acres of the estate were set aside for Arlington National Cemetery the following year. On January 11, 1864, the United States government purchased the estate at public auction for \$26,800.



ARLINGTON HOUSE, VIRGINIA, JUNE 28, 1864.

Maria Carter Syphax



Courtesy of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Maria Carter Syphax was the only former Custis slave to own property at the Arlington estate. She was likely the illegitimate daughter of Airy Carter (a slave of George and Martha Washington) and George Washington Parke Custis.

In 1821, Maria Carter married Charles Syphax, a leader of the slave community and overseer of the dining room, in Arlington House. Five years after their wedding, Custis manumitted Maria and

her children and gave her 17.5 acres of land on the estate. After the government seized the estate, the Syphax claim to the gifted property was called into question since they never received a title. William Syphax (her son) successfully petitioned the government on behalf of his mother's estate.

The children and descendants of Charles and Maria Carter Syphax held important positions within Arlington County. Residents such as John B. Syphax served on the Board of Supervisors (1872), Clerk of the Court (1872), Virginia House of Delegates (1874-1875), County Treasurer (1875-1879), and Justice of the Peace (1879). Today, the Syphax family continues to have an active role in the community.

Selina Norris Gray

A second generation Arlington slave, Selina Norris served as the personal maid and eventual head housekeeper of Mary Custis Lee. She married Thornton Gray, had eight children, and lived in the Southern Slave Quarters.

Unable to remove all the Washington artifacts from the house prior to fleeing to the South, Mary Custis Lee entrusted the household keys to Selina Gray. For six months she actively protected the items from pilfering soldiers. In December 1861, she requested that General McDowell safeguard the collection. McDowell subsequently removed the items to the Patent Office.

Thornton and Selina Gray purchased a 10-acre property in present-day Nauck in 1867 and remained there for the remainder of their lives. Their descendants were instrumental in providing first-hand accounts of Arlington House during its early-twentieth century restoration and became pillars of Arlington's African American community.



Reproduction from the Harry Gray Gileam Collection

SELINA GRAY, DATE UNKNOWN.

Arlington National Cemetery

As the final resting place of military veterans, Arlington National Cemetery is significant as the premier national cemetery and a testament to the measures taken to honor individuals who participated in our country's history.

On June 15, 1864, Brigadier General Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the United States Army, appropriated 200 acres of the Arlington plantation for a national cemetery. By the end of the Civil War, 404 African American soldiers (designated with the letters U.S.C.T. for United States Colored Troops) were buried in the cemetery. The cemetery also offered interment to impoverished African Americans. Between 1864 and 1867, at least 3,235 freedmen or contrabands were buried in present-day Section 27; their headstones are marked with "Civilian" or "Citizen."

Famous African American Burials

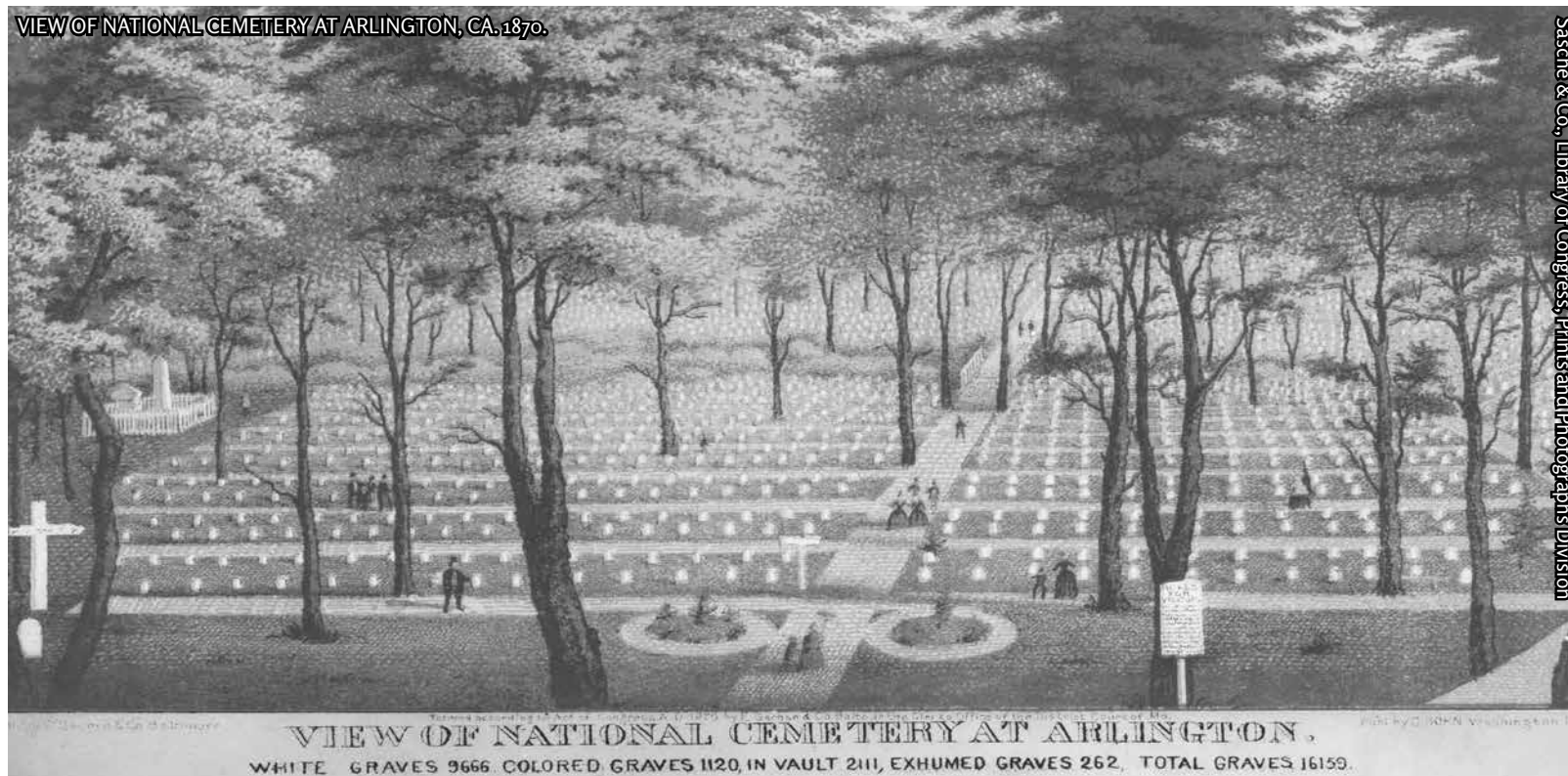
Buried at Arlington National Cemetery are many notable African Americans. Among them are Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; Medgar Evers, slain civil-rights leader; Matthew Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole; Joe Louis, legendary world heavyweight boxing champion; Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., first black general officer in the United States Army; Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., first black general in the United States Air Force; and Air Force General Daniel "Chappie" James Robinson, first African American promoted to four-star general.

James Parks

Many of Arlington National Cemetery's first graves were dug by James Parks. Parks, the son of Lawrence and Patsy Clark, was born into slavery at Arlington Plantation and served as a field hand. During the Civil War, he built fortifications, resided at Freedman's Village, and dug graves for the government after the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery on his former master's estate.

He continued to work at Arlington National Cemetery until 1925 and assisted the government in the restoration of Arlington House. The Secretary of War made an exception to policy and allowed him to be buried at the cemetery with full military honors. He is the only known person buried in Arlington National Cemetery who was born on the property. Parks' headstone is located at Section 15E, Grave 2.

VIEW OF NATIONAL CEMETERY AT ARLINGTON, VA, 1870.



Sasche & Co., Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

VIEW OF NATIONAL CEMETERY AT ARLINGTON.

WHITE GRAVES 9666. COLORED GRAVES 1120, IN VAULT 2111, EXHUMED GRAVES 262, TOTAL GRAVES 16159.

Freedman's Village

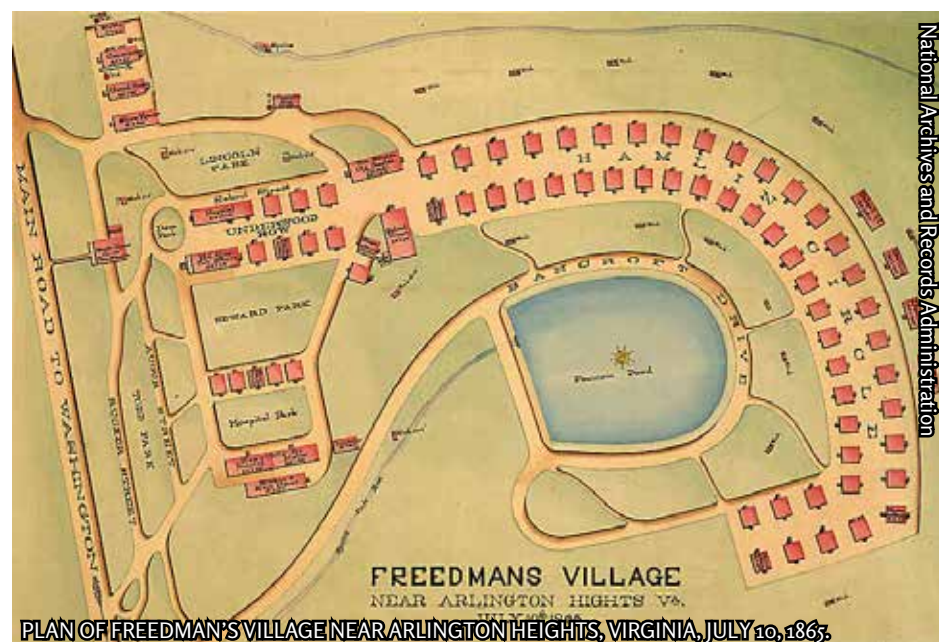
Opening of Freedman's Village

When President Lincoln passed legislation freeing all the slaves in the District of Columbia on April 16, 1862, large numbers of emancipated and fugitive slaves from Virginia and Maryland fled to the city for protection. Facing a humanitarian crisis, contraband hospitals and camps were established, but overcrowding and poor living conditions led to rampant diseases that contributed to high mortality rates. The issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, led to an additional influx of African Americans and prompted military officials to establish Freedman's Village.

On May 5, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Elias M. Greene, and Danforth B. Nichols, American Missionary Association, selected Arlington Plantation as the site for a model community for emancipated and fugitive slaves. The location satisfied the government's desire to remove the former slaves from the city and served as a symbol to house the freedpersons on Robert E. Lee's property. By June 1863, 100 former slaves settled on "a fine plateau on the top of a hill on the Arlington Estate." Formally dedicated on December 3, 1863, the village consisted of approximately 50 frame dwellings each divided down the middle for occupancy by two families, a hospital, a home for the indigent, a school, and a chapel.

The Freedman's Bureau categorized residents into three classifications: 1) dependents (well and sick) who were unable to work; 2) residents in government employment; and 3) residents who received rations and liens on crops. The objective of the camp was to provide protection, education, instruction, and employment to residents. Men living at the village were often expected to work as military laborers or on government farms. Women labored in tailor shops sewing clothing and other goods. Over a three-month span, the industrial school produced 1,000 garments per month. The government assumed that the village would serve only as temporary housing, but many residents stayed and created a semi-permanent settlement that lasted until the turn of the twentieth century.

The population of the village greatly fluctuated with estimates suggesting over 1,000 residents at first. On one day alone, March 22, 1864, 408 survivors from the failed freedmen colony established on Ile à Vache, a small island off the coast of Haiti, arrived at Freedman's Village. In July 1867, 837 inhabitants lived at Freedman's Village: 619 occupying tenements (330 of whom were dependent), 83 residing in the home for the indigent, 35 staying at the hospital, and 100 in the vicinity of the village proper.



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, CA. 1863-1866.

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CHIEF OF BUREAU

REGULATIONS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE, GREENE HEIGHTS, ARLINGTON, VA., AND THE GOVERNMENT FARMS, MECHANICAL SHOPS, HOSPITALS, HOMES, SCHOOLS, &c., CONNECTED THEREWITH.

The Superintendent of Freedmen, under the direction of Lieut. Col. Elias M. Greene, Chief Quartermaster Department of Washington, shall have the charge of the interests of Freedman's Village, and the contrabands on the various Government farms.

Contrabands upon their arrival at camp, shall be immediately put in a cleanly condition, provided with comfortable clothing, rations, and the best quarters which can be assigned them.

The Superintendent of Contrabands will, without delay, select the most intelligent of the young men and women, and assign them to duty in the workshops; have the able-bodied field hands transferred to the Superintendent of Government farms; send the children to school; the sick to hospital; and the aged and infirm to the home provided for them. Those able to labor will have the clothing furnished to them charged against their earnings.

ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS.

1. A book shall be provided, in which the names of each contraband arriving and departing at the camps shall be registered, with age, sex, condition in life, and former place of residence of such contraband, the condition of each person on arrival, and the places to which those who leave the village, or farms, intend to go, and the date of their departure; also the diseases, ages, &c., of those who die.

2. An abstract of these facts shall be made by the Superintendent of Contrabands, in his monthly report to the Chief Quartermaster.

3. All complaints against the freedmen shall be made in writing to the said Superintendent, and the same shall be placed on file for the inspection of the Chief Quartermaster.

4. The Superintendent shall keep a debit and credit account with each and every contraband who works upon the Government farms, or in the workshops, debiting him, or her, with whatever he, or she, receives, either clothes, rations, quarters, or fuel, for himself or herself, and non-laboring members of his or her family, and crediting him, or her, with the number of days labor in each month, and statement where rendered; a summary statement of such account to be reported to the Chief Quartermaster of the Department monthly, with such suggestions and recommendations as the said Superintendent may deem it advisable to make. He will also make weekly reports of all stores, tools, materials, and other property received, issued, and expended under his direction, according to printed forms, which will be furnished by the Chief Quartermaster—calling particular attention by a red-ink note to any supplies or materials likely to become exhausted in fifteen days, or less.

5. The Superintendent of Government farms will report to the Chief Quartermaster weekly the time made by all employees, designating them as white, or colored, and, if colored, as man, woman, or child, and stating how employed, whether in farming or otherwise.

6. The farmer in charge of each farm shall obey the instructions of the Superintendent of Government farms, and make such reports as are required by him from time to time.

HOSPITALS AND HOME.

1. The hospital will be under the charge of the Surgeon, or Surgeons, assigned to that duty by the Medical Director of the Department of Washington, who will make proper regulations for the Government of the same.

2. The superintendent of contrabands will keep on hand such necessary supplies, not furnished by the medical department, as may, in the opinion of the surgeon, be necessary for the care and comfort of the sick and infirm in the hospitals and home, and for the burial of the dead; and will make such reports in regard to said supplies, and take such precautions against their being exhausted as has been above prescribed in reference to other property and supplies.

LABOR.

1. The labor on each farm shall be under the direct supervision of the farmer in charge of the same, subject to the discretion of the superintendent of Government farms.

2. All the able-bodied men and women will be required to labor each day, either on the farms or in one of the mechanical shops, as their services may be required.

3. All persons who would excuse themselves on the plea of disability must furnish to the superintendent a written declaration to that effect from the surgeon in charge.

4. The hours of labor shall be, during the winter months, from 7, a. m., to 12, noon, and from 1 to 5, p. m.; from 7, a. m., to 12, noon, and from 1 to 6, p. m., in summer.

5. In case able-bodied men or women refuse to work, their cases shall be promptly reported to the superintendent by the overseers of labor, who shall take such steps as will insure obedience to these regulations.

SCHOOL.

1. The educational and religious interests of the village shall be under the supervision of the American Tract Society. Their schools shall be conducted by proper teachers for children under 14 years of age, in day time—opening 10 a. m., and closing at 12 noon; recommencing at 1 p. m., and closing at 4 p. m. No child under the age of fourteen years shall be detained from school, during the winter months, unless in case of sickness.

2. An adult evening school shall be opened, for the benefit of the laborers on the farms and in the mechanical shops. The teachers shall require of each boy over 16, or girl over 14, a permit from the Superintendent, before he or she can be admitted to the day school;

nor shall the Superintendent give such permit while their services are required in the labor department.

3. No child old enough to be benefitted by school instruction will be permitted to absent himself or herself therefrom, without a written pass from the Superintendent of Contrabands; and in case a child is found out of school during school hours, without such pass, the guard will arrest and take the delinquent to school.

4. The Superintendent of Contrabands will embody in his monthly report a statement of the condition of the schools, the number of pupils admitted and dismissed during the month, the average attendance, and such other information, statistical and otherwise, as it may, in his judgment, be necessary to communicate to the Chief Quartermaster.

POLICE REGULATIONS.

1. The camps and village shall be daily policed and inspected, under the direction of the Superintendent of Contrabands.

2. Inspection reports shall be submitted to the Chief Quartermaster by the said Superintendent, with his regular monthly report.

3. The buildings and other people property must be kept in good order, and not defaced; and no injury to the walks, enclosures, or shrubbery will be allowed.

4. Proper precautions must be taken to remove filth from the vicinity of the camps; and any accumulation, likely, in the opinion of the surgeon in charge, to endanger the health of the occupants, will subject the person responsible for such accumulation to instant dismissal.

5. Inmates of the camps, who have voluntarily left the same for service outside, will not be re-admitted, without submitting to the Superintendent evidence that they have been treated cruelly or unjustly by their employer or employers, or that they have been defrauded, or that there is an intention to defraud them, out of their earnings.

PUNISHMENTS.

1. Punishments shall be of three grades: In mild offences it shall be a reproof from the officer in charge of the delinquent; in cases of illness or disposition to shrink from labor, or untidiness or uncleanness in person or habitation, the one so offending shall be deprived of his or her ration of sugar for the next five days, and also be deprived of all passes from the camp during that time.

2. In case a person refuses obedience to orders, or is guilty of drunkenness, or theft, or any gross offence, the person so offending shall be tried by a commission, consisting of the Superintendent, the Captain commanding the guard detachment, the Superintendent of the Educational and Religious interests, and the Surgeon in charge, and such a punishment administered as the said commission shall designate, of deprivation of privileges, fine, or imprisonment in guard-house, after the sentence has been submitted to the Chief Quartermaster of the Department of Washington, for his approval.

3. No brutality or violence towards the inmates of the camp will be allowed, and no punishment administered, except as provided for above.

These REGULATIONS will be posted in conspicuous places about the Village, Farms, and Camps, and no person subject to the same will be allowed to plead ignorance of them, in excuse of misconduct.

VISITORS MUST BE TREATED WITH COURTESY AND ATTENTION.

ELIAS M. GREENE

Freedman Village Va.

July 20. 1868.

To, ^{the} Honorable General.

O. O. Howard Commissioner of the
F. R. H. Lands,

Sir, we the undersigned a duly appointed
Committee in the behalf of the Citizens of Freedman
Village in Arlington Va. Have the honor to beg your
Clemency in our behalf and in the behalf of the above
named Village which we here represent,
we would most respectfully ask you to suspend
the sale of all such houses property &c now occupied
be and in the use of the people we here represent,
living in the said Village until the next session of
the Congress of the United States, Thuse allowing time
to consummate such arrangements as shall best
secure the property that is now in question, to
ourselves & our children.

Your favorable consideration and early reply
is humbly asked in the behalf of the Citizens of
Freedman Village Va.

J. B. Laws
G. W. Jackson
Wm. A. Rose

Nelson Wormely Committee



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE NEAR ARLINGTON, CA, 1900.

Living Conditions

Living conditions and the treatment of residents also widely varied. In December 1864, an investigation into the treatment of residents yielded troubling results, but the investigation spurred improvements.

Within the short space of three weeks thirty of these houses, forming one hundred and twenty distinct dwellings have been nearly completed. The inmates of the old tents have been removed to these comfortable dwellings, and the whole camp wears a different aspect. 'The Home' has been opened; and the old and feeble have been comfortably provided for. The hospital was also opened with thirty-two beds within ten days after our first visit. This has been a great relief; and a number who were suffering in misery have passed away their last hours in comparative comfort.

--Special Inspectors at Arlington Heights, 1864

Some residents resented the policies of both the Army and then the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Tensions over rent and rent collection strained relations. In 1866, the Freedmen's Bureau issued regulations that all inhabitants who were remotely capable enter the workforce and be required to pay rent in advance. Fifty-two heads of family were relatively successful and cultivated 280 acres of land on the estate. Renters of land included William Butler, Thornton Gray, William Rowe, and Austin Syphax. Dependent households with a lack of job opportunities, however, suffered under the new regulations. A number of residents that constructed dwellings outside of the village proper were evicted from their homes.

Closing of Freedman's Village

In 1868, government officials attempted to close Freedman's Village permanently, but the residents successfully resisted. The government then moved the inhabitants of the Abbott Hospital and Home for

the Indigent to Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C. Residents of the village were allowed to purchase their dwellings and rent approximately 600 acres of land (in approximately 10-acre lots).

[In 1868,] the buildings were generally of frame; in size about 28 by 24 feet; one and a half stories in height, with 8 rooms each. They had shingled roofs, brick flues, and were sheathed on the outside with rough weather-board siding. They were not plastered or ceiled inside. The price paid was from \$35 to \$50 for each building.

-- Military Reservation of Fort Myer and Arlington, VA., 1888

The residents continued to live on the property for another 30 years and invested in the community. They believed that they would possess a claim to Arlington as implied by the government. Between 1868 and 1888, new homes were constructed, improvements were made to the purchased dwellings, and a brick church was built.

Most of the purchasers have improved the premises by reflooring, by reroofing, by plastering or ceiling the rooms, and in several cases such improvements have been equal to twice or thrice the original cost of the building. [The buildings]...are occupied by the builders, or by those who purchased from the builders. To these have been added small outbuildings, such as stables, sheds, chicken-houses, etc.

-- Military Reservation of Fort Myer and Arlington, VA., 1888

In 1888, the village consisted of 124 dwellings, 3 shops, 2 churches, 1 school, and 170 families totaling a population of 763. There were two justices of the peace, one constable, and two special policemen. Most of the adult males voted and paid taxes (personal property, poll, school, and road taxes). Over 50 percent of the families who lived at the village had resided on the property for at least 15 years.

Development pressure and other factors led to renewed efforts to close Freedman's Village. John B. Syphax requested that the Secretary of War compensate each homeowner \$350 for the loss of property.

Many of these people have been soldiers, teamsters, workers on fortifications, and sufferers by the Freedman's Bank swindle. Coming from the shades of the past, these people have proved, in their new condition of self-reliance, more thrifty and less vicious than could be reasonably anticipated; ...Twenty-four years residence at Arlington, with all the elements involved in this case, inspire the hope that full and ample justice will be done even to the weakest members of this great Republic.

-- John B. Syphax, 1888

The government delayed closing Freedman's Village until ca. 1900. They compensated the residents a total of \$75,000, accounting for the appraised value of the dwellings in 1868 and return of the contraband-fund tax that had been collected during the Civil War. No remnants of the village remain, but Jessup, Clayton, and Grant drives retain the route of the village's main street in Sections 3, 4, 8, and 18 of Arlington National Cemetery.

Freedman's Village served as one of the first experiences out of bondage for thousands of African Americans. The villagers who remained in the area established Arlington County's African American neighborhoods including Arlington View, Hall's Hill, and Nauck.

Freedman's Village Chapel

The first chapel at Freedman's Village, remembered as "Old Bell Church," led to the creation of four still active congregations in Arlington County. In 1863, the American Tract Society erected a

large wood-frame building for religious and educational purposes. Described as a conspicuous building, the chapel commanded an extensive view of the Potomac River and Washington, D.C.

The chapel, a large, unplastered building, whose adornment had been left entirely to the colored people, bore witness to an unusual simplicity of taste. Its side was hung with evergreen. The only motto (that placed above the speaker's stand) was the name of Lincoln, while across the room was suspended the flag!—the flag...which today means more to us all than it ever could before.

--New Year's Celebration, 1867

Abbott Hospital

Freedman's Village Hospital, also known as Abbott Hospital, served the residents of the community. In 1865, Anderson Ruffin Abbott, the first black Canadian medical doctor, became the hospital's Acting Assistant Surgeon In-Charge. He joined the Union as a contract physician in 1863. One of 13 known African American surgeons in the Civil War, he reported to duty at Abbott Hospital (named after the Medical Director of the Department of Washington) on October 14, 1865. Ruffin directed the hospital and staff, submitted monthly reports to superiors, and provided medical services. In 1866, he resigned his position, received multiple commendations, and then returned to Canada.

The number of patients and the condition of Abbott Hospital fluctuated. In February 1867, 53 individuals were treated with a range of



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE, AFRICAN AMERICAN ADULTS AND CHILDREN READING BOOKS IN FRONT OF THEIR BARRACKS, CA. 1864-1867.

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



conditions including but not limited to pregnancy, typhoid fever, syphilis, heart disease, and inflammation of the lungs. The same year, the mortuary was located in the cellar of the hospital.

I would respectfully request permission to have a new dead house constructed and authority to make requisition of lumber. The present dead house, or what is used as such, is merely a cellar under the wards of the [Abbott Hospital]. There is not room enough in it for any post-mortem operations that might be necessary, and it is also

used as a place for worn out and broken furniture. In addition to this, it must in hot weather be very offensive to the patients above, and not very conducive to their health.

--G.A. Wheeler, A.A. Surgeon, February 20, 1867

Abbott Hospital closed circa 1870, requiring African Americans seeking medical attention to travel to Washington, D.C.

Freedman's Village School

Freedman's Village had one of the "first thoroughly systematic and genuine contraband schools...within the sight of the national Capitol." On December 7, 1863, the American Tract Society built a spacious school house that housed primary and secondary classes. The number of students often corresponded to the population of the village. Between June 19 and June 23, 1865, the school averaged 99 students per day in primary classes and 144 students per day in secondary classes. The following year, however, the number of students decreased to 40 and 60 students, respectively (many of whom were noted as the children of the former Custis and Lee slave families).

Ca. 1870, the Arlington District of Alexandria County acquired the school building but not the property and named the school Arlington School No. 2. Due to the size of the school, two teachers (or a single teacher and two monitors) were required to educate the 60 to 125 pupils. The age of the students ranged from seven to twenty years old. Similar to the other African American schools in the County, students often missed classes to plant and harvest crops. In 1888, the Federal government valued the building at \$295.68. The school closed with the disbanding of Freedman's Village.

Fort Myer & Buffalo Soldiers

Fort Myer, part of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, started as a Civil War fortification named Fort Whipple and continues to serve as a military post. Between 1891 and 1894, Troop (Company) K of the 9th U.S. Cavalry was the first African-American regiment to be stationed at Fort Myer as a reward for meritorious service.

Created by Congress in 1866, Troop K received the name "Buffalo Soldiers" from Cayenne warriors who combated the regiment. African Americans embraced the name as a badge of honor. The *Washington Post* described Troop K as follows:

During his many years of service on the frontier Col. Henry has seen much of the colored soldiery, having commanded colored troops for years. He says they make better soldiers than white men. When a Negro enlists and puts on a uniform he is in his glory. It elevates him. He regards enlistment in the Army as something to be proud of... Negro soldiers are especially valuable as Indian fighters, Col. Henry says. The Indians are more afraid of them than of white men too.

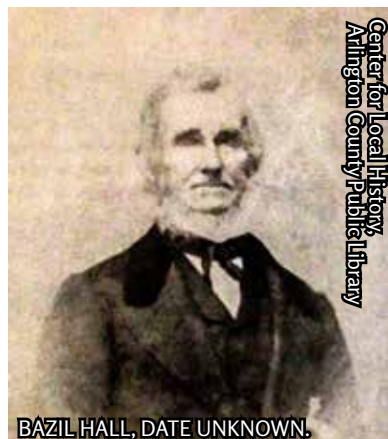
-- Description of Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Myer, Washington Post, June 6, 1891

Company H of the 10th Cavalry (the other original African American Cavalry Regiment created by Congress in 1866), served at Fort Myer between 1931 and 1949. Their official duties included traditional cavalry roles (participating in horse shows and parades) and care of all of the horses. They were the last African American unit to serve at Fort Myer before the integration of the U.S. Army.

Hall's Hill & High View Park

Bazil Hall

The neighborhood of Hall's Hill has long been associated with plantation owner Bazil Hall. Born ca. 1806 in Washington, D.C., Hall gained employment as a Massachusetts whaler and later spent time in South America and California. In 1846, he married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Winner. The couple had a son named Ignatius in 1848 and remained in California for another two years before starting a six-month journey to Virginia. On December 13, 1850, Hall purchased 327 acres of land in present-day Arlington County from Richard Smith, agent of John Peter Van Ness of Washington, D.C., for approximately \$5,000.



Bazil Hall, Slavery, and the Murder of Elizabeth Hall

Hall established a plantation and purchased several slaves including Jenny Farr and her son, James Clark, in Alexandria, Virginia. Jenny had three additional children born into slavery on the plantation. Jenny's husband, Alfred Farr, was a free black who lived in Washington, D.C.

Records suggest that the Halls were harsh slave owners. The *Alexandria Gazette* reported that the family's slaves had burned a number of Hall's farm buildings. Records show that Elizabeth Hall was murdered by her slave Jenny Farr on December 13, 1857.

When I roused up, I asked Jenny where was Salina, and she said she had sent her to the spring. I asked her why she had sent her to the spring contrary to my orders? She gave me some of her insolence, and I slapped her in the mouth. She then took a piece of pine board, and put it into the fire. I told her that was wrong, as she knew I wanted the ashes saved to make ley [sic].... She then took it out of the fire. She again put it on the fire. I told her to take the board out of the fire again. She then caught me and put my head between her knees, and pushed me in the fire.

-- Deposition of Elizabeth Hall Prior to her Death, December 13, 1857

In *Reminiscences and Incidents of "the Early Days" of San Francisco*, John Brown recalled the following statement from Elizabeth Hall's father regarding his daughter's treatment of slaves.

Mr. Winner told me that Mrs. Hall treated the colored woman brutally; and the woman, tired of her treatment, and determined to have revenge, one day put Ms. Hall's feet into the fire, and held them there until she burned to death.

-- John Brown, 1886

Alexandria courts quickly convicted Jenny Farr and she was executed on February 26, 1858. The *Evening Star* reported the details of her execution and that she confessed to the crime.

Hall's Plantation and the Civil War

Bazil Hall then married Francis Harrison on May 6, 1858. Utilizing slave labor, the plantation remained very successful. In 1860, Bazil Hall had seven slaves: a 47-year old male; 22-year old female; 8-year old male; 6-year old male; 6-year old female; 5-year old male; and a 3-year old male. Assessed at \$10,000, the plantation had a dwelling valued between \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Hall voted against secession from the Union, but his property would be forever changed by the conflict. On August 29, 1861, he fled his house due to an imminent Confederate attack that led to the burning of his home, outbuildings, and barns.

The ground on which the camp was situated was part of a farm of three hundred and twenty seven-acres, owned by Ba[zil] Hall, which was large enough for the entire division. The battery was finally encamped near the site of Hall's house, which was a large and well-furnished mansion at the beginning of hostilities. Unfortunately for Hall, as the Union army advanced into Virginia, he found himself between two fires, and during one of the frequent skirmishes he was driven from his house. During his absence, soldiers of the Union army stripped the house of furniture. Next the rebels advanced, and burned the building. Hall recovered some of his furniture, and retired to the summer residence of his sister, Mary Hall a well-known Washington character.... Of his numerous slaves he saved but two, Jim [James Clark] and Bill [William Farr], nine and twelve years old.

-- John Lord Parker, Henry Wilson's Regiment, 1887

Even after initial skirmishes, the Union Army continued to utilize the property as a camp site.

They are encamped on a high hill near Falls Church. I believe it is called Halls Hill. From its summit, on which there is an observatory,

Schedule of personal property owned by Basil Hall and which was in possession of said Hall and on his farm in Alexandria County State of Virginia on the 29th day of August 1861 (orig.)

30 Acres of Corn growing (very good)	\$450.00
62 Bushels of oats	24.00
150 Bushels white wheat	195.00
24 Tons of Hay in stacks	480.00
15 Tons of Hay in the barn	380.00
50 Bushel Rye	37.50
17 Horn cattle & 13 Hogs	415.00
House hold & Kitchen furniture	810.00
Family Clothing	257.00
3 fowling pieces, & other articles not enumerated	110.00
Lot of groceries & family provisions	150.00
Crop of Potatoes in the ground estimated 500 bushels	150.00
Market garden worth	500.00
3 waggons & 4 sets of Harness	170.00
Farming Utentials	237.00
7 Bee-hives with their Contents	30.00
150 Cords of wood	600.00
2 Bushels of seed Peas	8.00
10 Bushels of Beans	20.00
Garden seed (large quantity)	10.00
1 Carriage & double set of Harness	200.00
1 side saddle & bridle (new)	25.00
1 saddle & bridle	15.00

\$6263.30

*Fort Brown Virginia. September 14th 1861
I Certify on honor that the above Schedule is in
the main correct and just. And further that my own
personal knowledge know and do certify that the said
Basil Hall's house has been broken open and the furniture
destroyed and carried off for the greater portion thereof
by Soldiers of the U. S. Army (from N York Regt)
C. P. Johnson Major 14th N.Y. Vols*

PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY BAZIL HALL, AUGUST 1861.

I could distinguish the well defined outlines of the Blue Ridge mountains, their summits blending with the clouds. The scene is magnificent. I could not help thinking that with in the range of vision lay fields of contests which history will hand down as ever memorable, here shall be placed the chair of the future historian and he shall tell how Baker fell, the route at Manassas, and the many picket encounters. Every bush has its tale of blood to utter, here poised, swings the destiny of our great Republic.

-- Letter from the 7th Regiment, November 15, 1861

But bad as the scenes were at Fort Corcoran they could not begin to compare with the awful scenes at Halls Hill where our regiment was sent. Oh, it was terrible. I saw many a poor man die through the shock of amputation of an arm or a leg who might have lived and have had all his limbs saved, had there been but a chance to give them proper attention. We were washed out by the rain many times... and several times our tents were blown away.

-- Nancy M. Atwood LaGros,
Nurse with the 2nd Maine Regiment, Winter 1861/1862

Basil Hall returned to the plantation after the Civil War; however, the property's value plummeted. Mr. Hall valued the property at \$60,000 before the onset of the war, but stated that it was worth \$10,000 to \$15,000 (no more than \$30 per acre) in its current condition. The soldiers cut and cleared the valuable hardwood tree stands, removed the fences, cut crops and hay, and took livestock and farming equipment. In 1872, the Southern Claims Commission compensated Hall \$10,729 out of \$42,458 claimed.

Provost Court vs. Basil Hall

On July 27, 1865, Maj. General C. C. Auger, Headquarters Department of Washington, established a Provost Court (military court headed by a Provost Marshal) in the City of Alexandria to have exclusive jurisdiction over any civilian case involving the property or rights of African Americans. At the time, the Virginia state courts refused to hear testimony of African Americans.

That the establishment of [the provost court] has had a beneficial result, all good citizens will bear testimony for in it alone can the colored have justice done him in this community.

--Captain and Provost Judge, Paul R. Hambrick, 1866

The Provost Judge heard and delegated punishments with no jury. In March 1866, the Captain and Provost Judge Captain Paul R. Hambrick charged Basil Hall on two accounts: 1) assault and battery and threatening to kill "colored persons" in his employ; and 2) inhuman treatment of "colored persons," specifically withholding pay, proper food and clothing, and using said boys as slaves. The four African American boys cited in the case were James Clark (14 years old), William Farr (11 years old), John Lewis Farr (10 years old), and Joseph

Farr (8 years old). These former slaves of Hall were the sons of Jenny Farr who had murdered Elizabeth Hall in 1857.

Joseph R. Johnson, a missionary with the Freedmen's Bureau, represented the children. Johnson detailed the barbarous treatment of the boys and accused Hall of criminal activity or suffering from "monomania," a nineteenth-century psychology term suggesting partial insanity.

Hall had bucked and whipped all four boys after their legal emancipation. In bucking, the victim sat with his or her knees bent. The hands are then tied and brought down over their knees until the chin rests on the knees. A thick stick is then slipped over the elbows and below the crook of the knees. The victim is completely immobile, then whipped or clobbered, and experiences muscle strains and spasms.

I left Mr. Hall's Sunday before last. I left him because he whipped me. He bucked me and whipped me and whipped me with a strap. He whipped me Friday before I left. It was at his stable he pulled my breeches down. I cried please master don't kill me. It is not the only time Mr. Hall whipped me. He whipped me a heap of times.

-- Testimony of John Lewis Farr

About two or three weeks ago he tied me up with a piece of rope with a broom stick between my legs what is known in Virginia as bucking and in this position whipped me with a wagon whip. I was bucked again since that time with a strap....

-- Testimony of James Clark

He would tie my hands then draw them down before my knees and put a stick through them in this manner he would whip me. The last time he bucked me he whipped me with a wagon whip, this was because I staid [sic] too long at spring. He did not make any blood run. He would pull my clothes off. He has bucked us all. Joseph is my youngest brother and has bucked him.

-- Testimony of William Farr

The night John Lewis Farr fled Basil Hall, residents stated that Hall entered African American homes throughout the area seeking the child. He threatened violence against any individual, black or white, who harbored John.

Character witnesses for Basil Hall called him a profane and blustering man that "hollers and hoops a great deal," but meant nothing by it. Ignatius Hall, his son, argued that his father had bucked and whipped him as a child as well. Others claimed that he treated the sons of Jenny Farr as a father would.

Hall's defense noted that he rented land to African Americans at reasonable rates and provided land for a Freedmen's school. There are even accounts of him giving wood to Thornton Hyson (an African American who lived on an adjacent property). This dichotomy of behavior contributed to a leniency at sentencing.

On Saturday, March 24, 1866, Provost Judge and Captain Hambrick found Basil Hall guilty on both counts. Hambrick, however, only imposed a fine of \$50 citing his general treatment of African Americans in the vicinity, his acts of kindness, and his support for the Union cause.

Hambrick stated that Hall's treatment of the children could not be passed over without punishment and noted that he purposefully moved his "walking property" to Washington, D.C. to protect his assets from Confederate forces and then returned them to his home when the threat permanently passed. He stated that all the boys contributed to the plantation without pay or adequate compensation since emancipation. The court testimony noted that Hall misled Alfred Farr, the father of three of the boys, by suggesting that written notification from Congress was required to release the children to his custody.

Basil Hall, beats colored children who are even without protection and beats them in a such a manner as to cause the hardest heart to bleed of the thought....The punishment resorted to was suited for the dark ages.

--Captain and Provost Judge, Paul R. Hambrick, 1866

On May 3, 1866, after President Andrew Johnson's Proclamation 153 - Declaring the Insurrection in Certain Southern States to be at an End and other precedent court cases restoring habeas corpus, Basil Hall's attorney wrote President Johnson on behalf of his client. He outlined the case, argued that the Provost Court had no jurisdiction in the matter, and stated that Hambrick threatened to jail Hall in the underground and dark dungeons at Battery Rodgers if payment was not made.

The following day, President Johnson directed the military to drop all findings and sentences against Hall and to turn the case over to civilian authorities. Hambrick wrote that "nothing will be done with this case in the civil courts" and noted that the Virginia courts would have praised Hall's actions. No civil actions were ever undertaken.

Early Residents of Hall's Hill

After the Civil War, African Americans who returned and lived at Hall's Hill were likely employed on the surrounding farms. Basil Hall and other landowners required laborers at their plantations and rented space to tenants. On August 4, 1865, Reverend Joseph R. Johnson, on behalf of the residents of Hall's Hill, wrote a letter to General O. O. Howard:

Dear Sir: On Tuesday August 1st 1865, the Colored People of Halls Hill and vicinity, (near Camp Rucker, & Falls Church) VA - celebrated West India Emancipation, and American Emancipation.

During the business part of the celebration. Rev Jacob Ross, (colored) of Georgetown - was chairman, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: -

1. "We feel it to be very important that we obtain HOMES-owning our shelters, and the ground, that we may raise fruit trees, concerning which our children can say- "These are ours"; also that we may regularly and perseveringly educate our children, having our own school house in a central location, and also maintain public worship, and a Sabbath School, so that we may be an established and growing people, as welcome and efficient citizens of these United States—which is now our Country—made emphatically so by the blood of our brethren recently shed to save our Country."

2. Resolved: That we appoint a Committee of seven to visit the Freedmens Bureau, and enquire—Can the Bureau give us any aid, or advice, in regard to obtaining HOMES in this vicinity, or elsewhere?"

The Committee of seven consists of 1) George Rummels; 2) Charles Jackson; 3) Sandy Parker; 4) Charles Johnson; 5) Samuel Smith; 6) Henry C. Wilson; and 7) Isaac Peyton.

This Committee are bearers of this document. I trust that they will receive such a response as may much encourage them, and those who they represent. Yours for the Freedmen.

--Joseph R. Johnson, August 4, 1865

Testimony from the Provost Court vs. Bazil Hall noted other early residents of Hall's Hill including: 1) John Carter, resident since 1864; 2) Rose Lewis, resident since 1864; 3) Robert Champ, resident in 1865; 4) Eliza Harris, resident from 1862 to 1865; 5) Maria Duncan, resident from 1864 to 1865; 6) Joseph Burril, lived adjacent to the property; 7) Emdine Parker, lived near Hall since 1862; and 8) Jennie Day, an 81-year old mid-wife who was at the birth of three of the Farr children.

Ownership of Hall's Hill

African Americans continued to rent property on Bazil Hall's estate, but sale of the land to blacks in Hall's Hill did not start for another fifteen years. Hall attempted to sell all 327 acres in August 1872, but failed to receive an enticing offer. He then primarily sold sections of his property for profit and conveyed other parcels to family members.

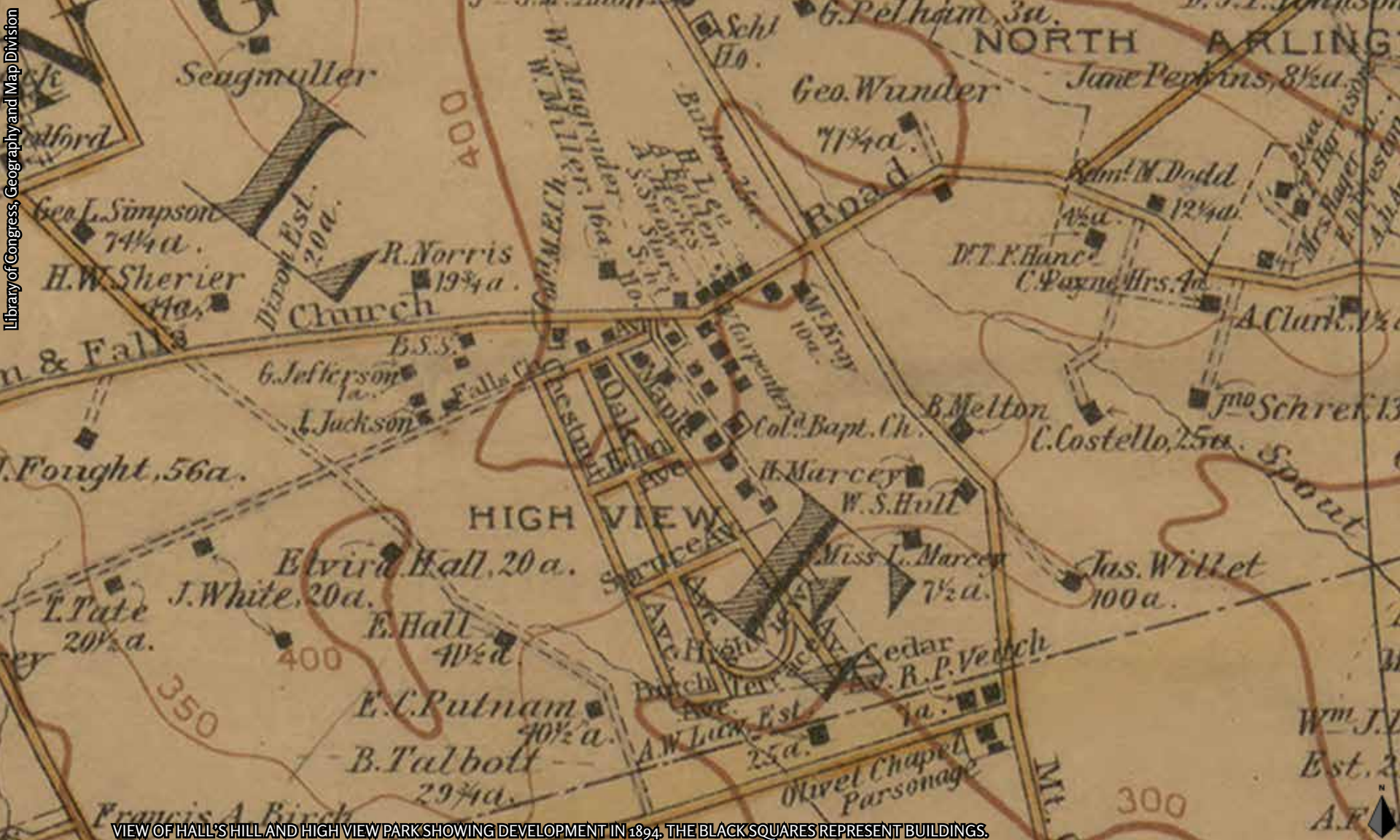
On November 9, 1881, Hall sold a one-acre parcel in present-day Hall's Hill to Thornton Hyson and Charles W. Chinn for \$108. He continued selling land, typically one-acre lots, to African American men and women until his death in 1888.

Other Arlington property owners in Hall's Hill also sold land to African Americans. For example, Alexander Parker sold a quarter-acre lot to Moses Jackson and Robert and Fannie Marcey sold a quarter-acre lot to Hezekiah Dorsey.

FOR SALE—FARM—Three hundred and twenty-five acres of LAND, three miles from the Aqueduct and five miles from Long bridge, in Alexandria county, Va., known as "Hall's Hill," with three good Dwelling Houses, well watered, and in a fair state of cultivation, is offered for sale as a whole, or will be divided to suit purchasers. This is a rare opportunity to purchase land near by and in sight of the national capital. It commands a full view of the Potomac river from Alexandria to Washington, overlooking all of the District of Columbia and a portion of Maryland. Visitors desiring to purchase will be shown the premises with pleasure.
BASIL HALL, Hall's Hill,
23-1m* half mile from Ball's Cross Roads.

ADVERTISEMENT, EVENING STAR, AUGUST 14, 1872.

BAZIL AND FRANCIS HALL'S LAND SALES TO AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HALL'S HILL (COMPILED FROM ARLINGTON COUNTY LAND RECORDS)				
	Purchaser	Date	Acres	\$
1.	Thornton Hyson and Charles W. Chinn	11/9/1881	1	108
2.	Horace Shelton	12/18/1882	1	80
3.	Robert Ferguson	6/7/1883	.5	20
4.	Jennie Williams	6/9/1883	2.5	N/A
5.	Henry Wilson	5/19/1884	1	80
6.	Eliza Butcher	6/23/1884	1	100
7.	Walter G. Wilson	4/1/1885	6	300
8.	Washington School District, Alexandria County	8/10/1885	.5	75
9.	Henry R. Fish	3/4/1886	1	80
10.	Elias Miles	6/16/1886	1	80
11.	Henry L. Wilson	8/18/1886	.5	100
12.	Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Hopewell Lodge No. 1700 (Moses Jackson, George H. Hyson, Shirley Snowden, Joseph Bolden, and Horace Shelton)	8/28/1888	1	80



Subdivision of High View Park

The creation of the High View Park subdivision comprising approximately 49 acres of land adjoining Hall's Hill greatly expanded the size of the neighborhood. The property had belonged to Basil Hall, but was sold by his heirs at the behest of the Chancery Court who appointed a Special Commissioner.

Dr. John Pickering Lewis (1842 - 1901) purchased the parcel on June 7, 1892, and subdivided the property on August 10, 1892. Pickering, a native of New Hampshire and resident of the District of Columbia, practiced medicine for a number of years prior to joining the Office of the Post Office, Washington, D.C. in 1873. Advertisements for the subdivision in the *Washington Bee* promoted High View Park's high elevation, healthy environment, and proximity to services located in Hall's Hill, including two African American churches, a school house, Odd Fellow's Hall, two stores, and an additional church to be constructed.

16 *Hall's Hill & High View Park*

Development of the Community

The Hall's Hill and High View Park neighborhood continued to grow and expand in the twentieth century. The building of churches, schools, and lodges provided social, cultural, and religious enrichment. Two lodges, Hopewell Lodge No. 1700 of the Grand Order of Odd Fellows and Wilson Lodge No. 196 of the Independent Order of Grand Samaritans, further enhanced the daily lives of African American residents.

Jim Crow laws led to the establishment of many African American-owned businesses that serviced the community. Small groceries, such as the Hicks Restaurant and Market, provided basic everyday needs. Many of the service-oriented businesses were located within the homes of the proprietors to offset the cost of purchasing land and building a shop. The end of segregation led to the closing of the majority of the African American-owned businesses in Hall's Hill and High View Park.

HIGH VIEW PARK.

Why don't you buy a lot? There is money in it. High ground, beautiful views, pure water. Small monthly payments will pay for your lot and then you can soon own your own home.

HIGH VIEW PARK

is located on one of the highest points in Alexandria county, Virginia, less than two and half miles from the free (Acqueduct) bridge, on the main road to Falls Church and on the line of the projected electric railroad, which will be built to Falls Church.

High View Park offers inducements to all, rich and poor, white and colored. The ground lies sloping to the south, well drained, and every lot exposed to the sun. All lots are 50 feet front and from 150 to 200 feet deep. The streets will be all graded and trees planted, and no pains will be spared to make this one of the most attractive and beautiful places around Washington.

The title of the lots is perfect and abstract can be seen at office.

The health of this section is perfect, no malaria, but pure fresh air, from the Blue Ridge, and the best and purest of water.

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, STORES, ETC.

High View Park has two colored churches, one school house, one Odd Fellows' hall, two stores, and a new handsome church will soon be commenced.

High View Park has the most beautiful and desirable lots around Washington.

High View Park offers a home within the reach of everyone.

High View Park is just the thing for an investment or a home.

High View Park overlooks Four Mile Valley, and is above malaria and disease.

Wives and Children — Perfect home life. Plenty of room for lawns, flowers, and out-door life.

Quiet and Clean — No Smoke, no dust, no soot; atmosphere clear as crystal.

Secure a home. Secure a vote. Purchase now before prices advance. Pure, water, fresh air, perfect health, schools, churches, Odd Fellows' hall, stores, etc. In short, nice homes for all and a safe investment for the rest.

We will drive you out to see the property free. Apply to

HIGH VIEW PARK CO.,
Room 3, Corcoran building, corner
15th and F Streets, Washington.

Calloway United Methodist Church and Cemetery

Calloway United Methodist Church started when several residents of Hall's Hill gathered for prayer services at the home of Mr. Samuel Smith. Smith resided at the Frederick B. Saegmuller Farm (approximately 2 miles away from the present site of the church). On August 8, 1870, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church purchased a 1,350-square foot lot from Alexander Parker and built a modest church in the 4800 block of Lee Highway. Winsted Calloway, the namesake of the church, served as minister from 1878 to 1880.

Moses Jackson, a church trustee, conveyed a half-acre lot to the Methodist Episcopal Church as a place of worship to accommodate the growing congregation in 1888. The church remained housed in a temporary building until the trustees constructed a larger church in 1904 at 5000 Lee Highway.

The original church was renovated and expanded in 1979, with E. Leslie Hamm as the project architect. The \$235,000 renovation almost doubled the original square footage of the church and featured an open bell tower, an expanded choir loft, a new front entrance vestibule, and new educational classrooms.

The Calloway Cemetery is affiliated with and maintained by the adjacent Calloway United Methodist Church. The cemetery is potentially the oldest remaining African-American burial ground in the

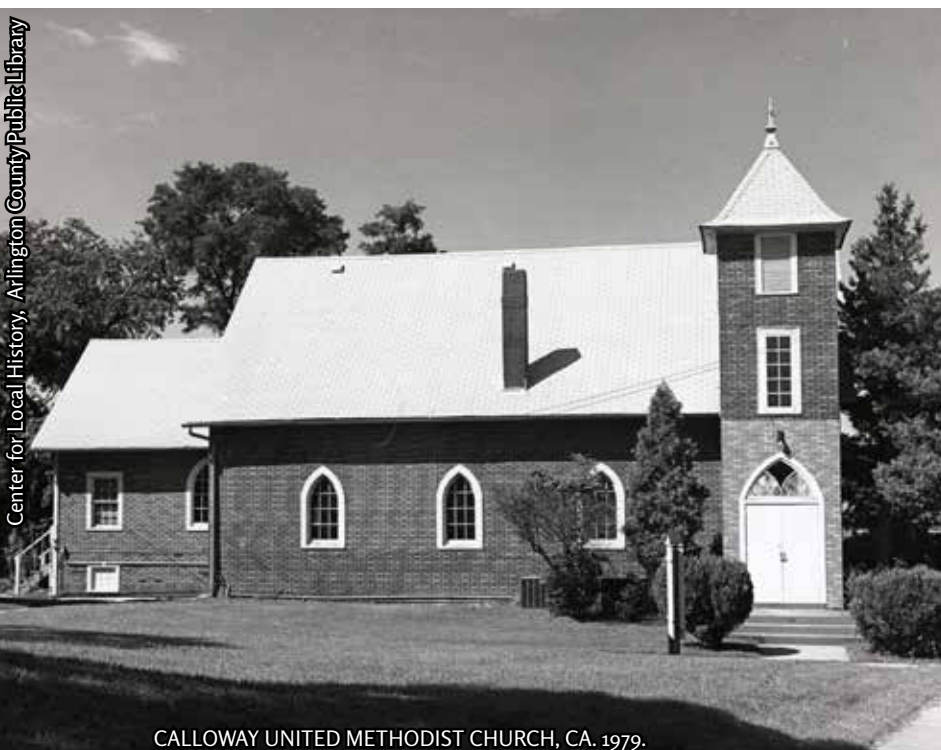
Hall's Hill community. The first recorded burial dates to 1891 and the last burial at the cemetery occurred in 1959. There are approximately 100 graves, of which only about one-half are marked with surface gravestones.

These headstones provide important details regarding individuals who made a substantial impact to the development of Arlington County. Interments include Hezekiah Dorsey, a slave who served the Union Army in the 31st Regiment, United States Colored Infantry. The details and iconography on the headstones shed light on the individuals as well, such as participation in fraternal organizations.

In 1959, the widening of Lee Highway impacted Calloway Cemetery. Ten graves were removed and relocated to an unknown location at Coleman Cemetery (in Fairfax County).

Arlington County designated Calloway Cemetery as a local historic district in 2012.

Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library



CALLOWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CA. 1979.

Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library



CALLOWAY UNITED METHODIST CEMETERY, 1986.

Mount Salvation Baptist Church and Cemetery

The founding of Mount Salvation Baptist Church has been intricately linked to the Pelham family. Born in Culpeper, Virginia, Moses Pelham, Sr. (1828-1904) moved to Arlington County ca. 1871. He acquired a one-acre lot to the northeast of Hall's Hill from Robert Phillips and married Isabella Washington (1827-1892) on August 5, 1874. Church history suggests that Reverend Cyrus Carter organized Mount Salvation Baptist Church ca. 1872 and that prayer services were first held at Pelham's dwelling.

Moses Pelham, Sr. (who acquired an adjacent one-acre parcel in 1893) subdivided the property upon his death to his six children: Burrell Pelham, Gibson Pelham, Moses Pelham, Jr., Annie Spriggs (nee Pelham), Matilda Robinson (nee Pelham), and Edward Pelham. The children constructed houses on the lots and the area became informally known as "Pelham Town."

In 1884, the trustees of Mount Salvation Baptist Church, including Moses Pelham, Sr., Washington Jones, Bonaparte Moten, Harrison King, and Horace Shelton, purchased the one-acre site (now at 1961 North Culpeper Street) from Bazil and Francis Hall for \$80. A cornerstone indicates that the congregation built its first permanent gable-end church in 1892. Prior to the installation of a baptismal pool, the church often dammed up a section of Spout Run (near Lee Highway and Kirkwood Road).

When I was small and when they had the real baptizing after revival, they [Mount Salvation Baptist Church] baptized down here on Lee Highway and Kirk Rd.... The men used to go down there and dam up...this place and when the baptizing come they would be up in the trees, you know, and they'd bring the converts down on this long wagon...with straw in it and everything...and it was a happy time.

-- William Pelham

The church continued to grow to at least 500 parishioners in the mid-twentieth century. Under the leadership of Reverend N. R. Richardson, the congregation completely renovated the church property in the 1940s. Cathedral glass windows and automatic electronic bells/chimes were added. The chimes were played three times daily and were followed by the playing of two hymns. Later alterations, including the construction of a two-story tower, were completed in the early-1950s. The church demolished the original building in 1974 and constructed the present-day building in the location of the former parking lot.

A historic church cemetery is located to the rear of the property. Burials date from at least the turn of the twentieth century, but likely started soon after acquisition of the property in 1888. The number of burials is unknown, but there are at least 80 graves. Many graves retain features typical to historic African American cemeteries such as the use of sea shells and tiles to embellish headstones.



Mount Salvation Baptist Church Archives

MOUNT SALVATION BAPTIST CHURCH, 1950.



Arlington County Historic Preservation Program

MOUNT SALVATION BAPTIST CEMETERY, 2016.

Sumner School

Ca. 1872, the County formally established the Sumner School in Hall's Hill for African American children in the Washington District. Ettie J. Rowe served as the teacher and classes were held within a frame church. In 1876, the school was then moved to Odd Fellows Hall housing 50 to 60 children.

Sumner School, No. 2, of Washington District, is a colored school at Hall's Hill, taught by Miss Jennie E. Arnold, a very good instructress indeed. It has lately, by the care of Geo. Ott Wunder, esq., one of the trustees, been removed across the road to a much more commodious and comfortable house in Odd Fellows' Hall, and fifty to sixty children seemed to be doing well in their studies.

-- Alexandria Gazette, March 3, 1876

The next school visited was Sumner, No. 2, taught by Mr. R. W. Whiting, colored. This is a colored school, mixed in sexes, and has upon its roll fifty pupils, twenty five of whom were present, they being the youngest on the roll, the larger ones being required this time of the year to work. The examination of this school embraced but three studies, reading, spelling and geography, in which they did well under the circumstances, it being the coldest day of the season. The children were huddled around the stove, shivering....

The school room is the lower story of a building known as "Odd Fellows Hall" and is not very well adapted for school purposes, being [d]ark from having but few windows, and they small. The furniture, if such it may be called, is unfit for the uses for which it is required,

there being but one small black board and map of the world, with no other school appliances than a few rickety desks and benches unfit for school purposes.

-- Alexandria Gazette, November 27, 1879

Bazil Hall sold the Washington School District a half-acre lot at the present-day intersection of Lee Highway and N. Culpeper Street in 1885. The County constructed a new Sumner school and it remained until 1924.

John M. Langston School

In 1924, Arlington County received funding from the Julius Rosenwald Fund to construct the John M. Langston School. The school was named for John Mercer Langston, the first African American Congressman in Virginia. The Rosenwald Fund sought to improve education for African Americans in the South by utilizing public and private funds to construct new schools. In order to receive funding, the community had to commit public funding and individual cash donations. Mandatory construction standards (large banks of windows, adequate lighting, ventilation, quality blackboard and desks) elevated the design of the schools.

Designed by Upman and Adams (school architects) and constructed by Noble N. Thomas, an African American contractor who lived in Johnson Hill, the brick and hollow tile John M. Langston School consisted of four classrooms and cost \$33,000. Arlington County contributed \$31,400, the Rosenwald Fund provided \$1,100, and the African American community donated \$500.

VIEW OF THE JOHN M. LANGSTON SCHOOL, 1942.



Library of Virginia

On October 19, 1924, in the presence of over 1,000 spectators, Hopewell Lodge No. 1700 led ceremonies celebrating the laying of the cornerstone of the John M. Langston School.

The invocation was by the Rev. W. A. Gray, pastor of Halls Hill [Mount Salvation] Baptist church. The principal address was delivered by L.C. Baltimore, who for the last 11 years has been principal of the Halls Hill [Sumner] school. He spoke of the naming of the school, saying that no greater example could be placed before the children than the memory of the life of John M. Langston, who was one of the leaders of the race in Virginia.

-- Washington Post, October 20, 1924

On May 30, 1926, State Senator Frank L. Ball and other officials dedicated the school. The building (later expanded) was utilized as an elementary school until 1966 (the kindergarten remained on-site until 1971). The Arlington County School Board closed the elementary school as part of its desegregation plan. Three hundred and twenty Langston Elementary School students were sent to other nearby elementary schools. The school later functioned as a Child Care Development Center, adult education center, and Langston-Brown Community Center. The original building and later additions were demolished for the existing John M. Langston High School Continuation Program & Langston-Brown Community Center completed in 2003.

Fire Station No. 8

Organized as a volunteer unit, present-day Fire Station No. 8 was the County's first black-operated fire station. In 1918, members of the community started a volunteer fire department in Hall's Hill. The group purchased a 60-gallon chemical tank that required six men to pull it along muddy and unpaved roads.

In 1925, the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department (HHVFD) was formally organized and officers were selected. Incorporated two years later, the fire department slowly built up its fleet of vehicles.

The Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department, recently organized, will stage a carnival on the grounds of the John M. Langston School Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights. Chief C.H. Chinn, with the following officers of the department in charge: Robert Nickerson, president; Samuel Taylor, vice president; and William E. Lewis, treasurer.

--Evening Star, August 22, 1926



HALL'S HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AT THE JOHN M. LANGSTON SCHOOL, CA. 1930.

The HHVFD opened its first station on Lee Highway in 1927 and then moved to 2209 North Culpeper Street in 1934. The firehouse developed into a de facto community center, providing a source of news, conversation, and the convenience of a pay telephone.

Fire Station No. 8 continued to thrive despite unequal treatment, funding, and paid positions afforded to other firehouses by Arlington County government. The station did not receive its first County-paid positions until 1951, a decade after other fire departments.

Alfred Clark became the first African American Fire Captain in the County and continued to serve at Station No. 8. In 1963, Fire Station No. 8 opened the integrated firehouse at 4845 Lee Highway with 17 paid firefighters and new equipment.



HALL'S HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, CA. 1930.



VIEW OF FIRE STATION NO. 8, UNDATED.

Segregation Wall

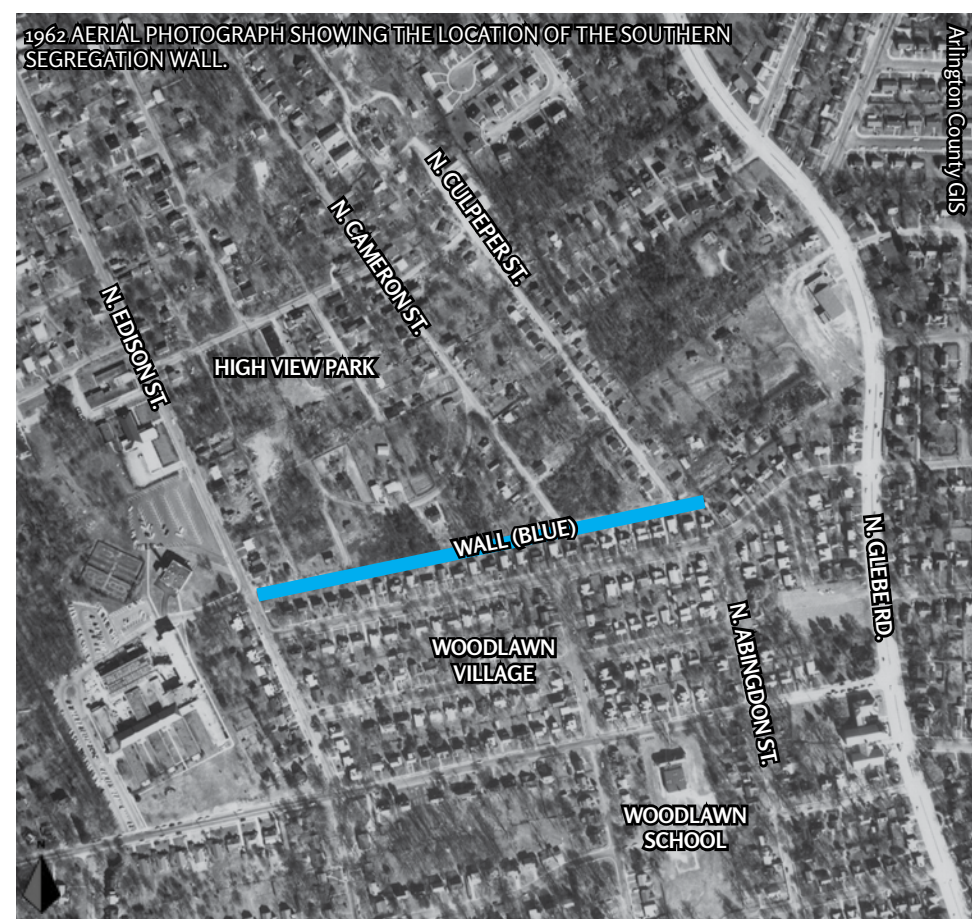
In the 1930s, the development of white-owned residential subdivisions adjacent to High View Park led to the construction of privately-owned continuous walls on the southern and eastern ends of High View Park to segregate the neighborhoods. The southern wall extended from North Edison Street to North Glebe Road.

The wall is a patchwork barrier of fencing and brick or cinder-block segments that has separated the negro neighborhood from nearby white homes for years.

-- Arlington County Officials, Evening Star, 1966

In 1966, a street outlet on the southern end of High View Park was requested by the Langston Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association, the United Churchwomen of Arlington, and citizen groups in the African American community. The opening served the children of High View Park who were integrated with Woodlawn Elementary School. The retention of the wall would have forced a number of students to walk an extra 14 to 15 blocks to reach their new classroom. To complete the extension connecting North Culpeper Street and North Abingdon Street, two properties in Woodlawn Village were acquired and demolished ca. 1966. Today, the remnants of this wall symbolize Arlington's history of segregation; it can still be seen at the intersection of 17th Street North and North Culpeper Street.

1962 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE SOUTHERN SEGREGATION WALL.



COPY OF LIST CERTIFIED TO THE COURT HOUSE May 16th. 1947

MEMBERS OF

ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE COMPANY# 8

As required by Chapter 20. of the Acts of Assembly for the year 1927, it is hereby certified that the following named persons are volunteer firemen of the,

ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE COMPANY# 8

a duly organized fire fighting company which possesses and operates fire fighting apparatus and equipment, and the said persons serve as volunteer firemen without pay, to-wit;

Officers

Chief Leonard H. Beckwith	Pres. Robert Nickerson
Co. John H. Moten	Vice Pres. Richard Whaley
Captain Roscoe Richards	
1st. Lt. Harrison Taylor	
2nd. Lt. Richard A. Whaley	
Seargt. Herman Nickerson	
Fire Marsh. Robert H. Branch	

Privates

Glovie H. Chinn
George Spriggs
Mervin Williams
Robert Nickerson
William Smothers
William Peterson
Granterson Clark
Ericson Simms
Guy Thornton
Fredrick Deskins
Rochester Weeden
Richard Brown Jr.
John Hicks Jr.
Willie Lewis
Leo H. Hill
Nathaniel Spriggs
Charles Courtney
George Moten
Theodore Harris
Howard Moten
Wilburt Johnson
Louis Williams
Samuel Hysen

Submitted By
Chief Leonard R. Beckwith

Nauck

Green Valley and the Fraser Family



GREEN VALLEY MANOR, 1915

Prior to the Civil War, the present-day boundaries of Nauck were primarily part of the land holdings of Gustavus Brown Alexander (1793-1860). The community, however, has long been associated with the name Green Valley, referencing the area's pre-twentieth century topography and landscape,

density of hardwood forests, and dominance of Anthony Reintzel Fraser and Presha Lee's Green Valley Manor on the surrounding environment. The Fraser and Lee mansion formerly stood at the intersection of 23rd Street South and Arlington Ridge Road.

The impression then made upon the mind of a northerner was, that no one seemed able to tell you of your whereabouts or how far it was to anywhere, or the names of any places in the vicinity smaller than large cities or rivers. For instance, we were told that we were at Frazer's Farm; some said Frazer's Mill, and some, Green Valley. Our camp was in a "beautiful valley surrounded by hills."

-- John C. Thompson, Corporal, 1881

Levi and Sarah Ann Jones

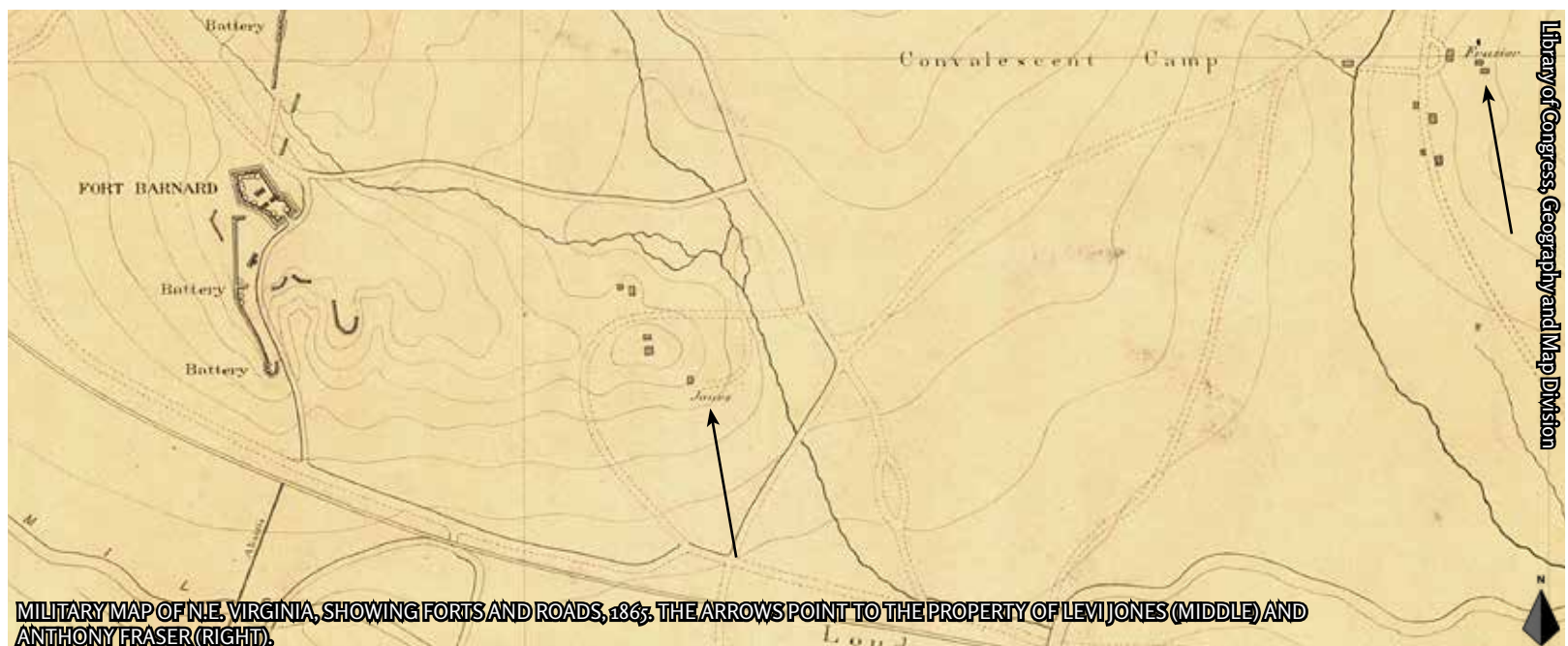
Levi and Sarah Ann Jones were the first African Americans to own property in Green Valley (which would not be known as Nauck until 1876). Born ca. 1810, Levi Jones was the son of Davy and Edy Jones who were both slaves owned by George Washington, but received their freedom upon the death of Martha Washington.

Levi Jones purchased a 14-acre property from Elizabeth Baggot on October 7, 1844. He may have purchased the property in order to be closer to then slave Sarah Ann Gardner (his wife). The couple had their first child, Isaac Jones, in 1846. Anthony Fraser owned Sarah and her children until the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Levi Jones farmed his property, planted a peach orchard, and built a small two-story log house and two barns (one of which was a dairy barn). The start of the Civil War, however, led to drastic changes to his property and the surrounding area as the Union Army built fortifications, a convalescent camp, and other encampments.

Whenever, the Union soldiers would come around and want anything I had, and had no money to pay for it, I would give it to them. I gave them milk. That is about all I had to give them.... I knew what side I was on, I had no vote before the war...

--Levi Jones, 1872



MILITARY MAP OF N.E. VIRGINIA, SHOWING FORTS AND ROADS, 1863; THE ARROWS POINT TO THE PROPERTY OF LEVI JONES (MIDDLE) AND ANTHONY FRASER (RIGHT).

During the course of the war, the Union soldiers tore down his log house and outbuildings, stole his horse and hog, and used one of his cows for target practice. Similar to the majority of properties in Arlington, all his trees and fencing were removed to erect fortifications and used for fuel. Jones claimed \$2,580 to the Southern Claims Commission for compensation for property loss during the war. He received \$183 from the Federal government.

Levi and Sarah Jones persevered, rebuilt the property, and were a critical component to the development of Nauck in the 1870s. Levi Jones died on July 22, 1886. After her husband's death, Sarah Jones remained in Nauck but subdivided the property into seven lots and conveyed the majority of the land to family by 1913. She died on June 20, 1915, and is buried at Lomax A.M.E. Zion Cemetery.

Convalescent Camp

For nearly 50 years after the Civil War, the Nauck neighborhood was associated with the massive Convalescent Camp constructed in 1863 by the Union on the present-day Army Navy Country Club. These camps were primarily intended for injured soldiers who no longer required active medical treatment, but could recuperate within a fixed amount of time. The camp consisted of 50 barracks, hospitals, officer and surgeon quarters, mess rooms, kitchens, store houses, commissary, baker quarters, guard house, blacksmith, wagoners, armory, soldiers library, dead house, sutlers store, dining saloon, barber shop, ambrotype (photograph) gallery, and post office.



During the first twelve months of operation, the camp processed approximately 111,000 soldiers.

The mode of receiving men in camp—as follows: Men arrive in camp daily from the Soldiers' Rest, Washington, by railroad—a branch of the track having been laid inside the lines of the camp. The men are drawn up in line in front of the receiving office...they are surrounded by a guard, when a Surgeon examines each man. Those whom he thinks yet unfit for service are retained in Convalescent Camp...and then distributed to the various divisions according to the regiments...or hospitals, as the case may be. Those fit for duty...[are] forwarded to Camp Distribution, to await transportation to their respective regiments.

-- *The Soldiers Journal*, February 24, 1864

An 1864 plan for Camp Convalescent (officially called Rendezvous of Distribution) notes the land comprising part of present-day Nauck as "swampy." After the Civil War, the camp was eventually disassembled. The plat of Nauck and a 1917 sale advertisement for a house recognizes the area as "Convalescent Camp," but the name falls from use by 1920.

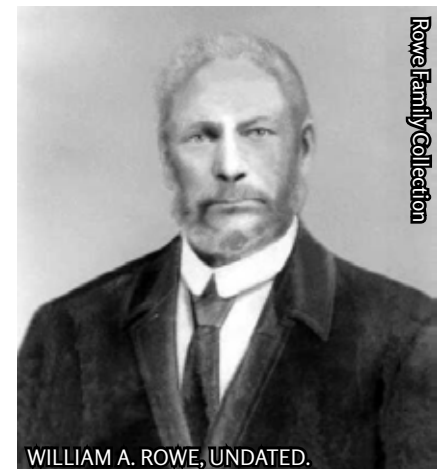
Early Residents of Green Valley

The second African American family known to have purchased land in the present-day boundary of Nauck were Thornton and Selina Gray. The Grays, former slaves at Arlington House, purchased 10 acres from Sewell Corbett in 1867.

Another early resident of Nauck was William Augustus Rowe. Rowe purchased 5 acres from Sewell Corbett for \$500 in 1876. A former slave according to family history, Rowe was an active member of the Freedman's Village community, leader of the Alexandria County Radical Republicans, and elected to numerous political positions including County Supervisor for the Jefferson and Arlington Magisterial Districts in Alexandria County.

Mr. William A. Rowe, who is one of the ablest and oldest politician [sic] in the town was seen at his home upon the heights of Nauckville...over-looking the Main Avenue and Passenger Stations, was asked his views, concerning further development of the town...

-- *Washington Bee*, June 13, 1896



John D. Nauck

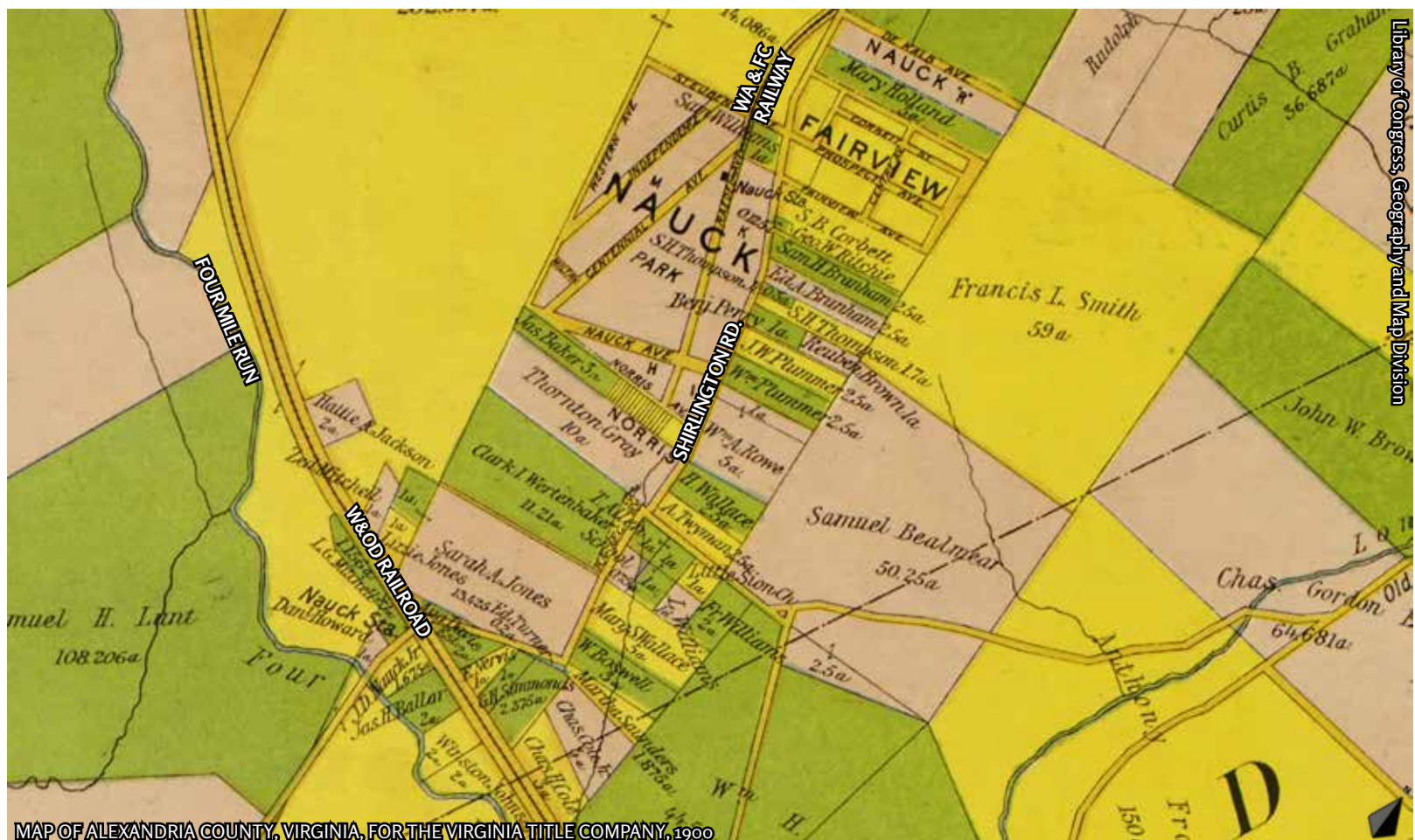
John D. Nauck purchased and subdivided a large section of Nauck. Born in Germany in 1846, Nauck immigrated to the United States ca. 1854. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate Army as a Private. After the war, he lived in Washington, D.C., worked as an upholsterer, and married Martha Ann Webb in 1872. They purchased 46 acres from Rudolph Buckley and Emma Jones on November 5, 1874, and 23 acres from John and Mary Winsatt on December 21, 1875. The Naucks subdivided the land and lived on a parcel with their two children. Thomas N. Carter completed a survey entitled the "Map of the Town of Nauck, Alexandria County, Virginia (formerly known as Nauckville and Convalescent Camp)" on July 1, 1876, but it was not recorded until November 16, 1885. The community continued to be known by African Americans as "Nauckville" into the late-nineteenth century as evidenced by weekly articles in the *Washington Bee*.

Nauck also held county positions such as Justice of the Peace between 1890 and 1891. Between 1880 and 1900, Nauck completed land

sales primarily to African Americans, possibly even those leaving Freedman's Village. The *Washington Post* reported that Nauck had sold considerable property to African Americans in Alexandria County. Purchasers had paid him per an installment plan. Nauck fled the County when an African American resident of Nauck in arrears reportedly assaulted and threatened him and his family when he tried to evict him from their property in 1891. John Nauck died on February 2, 1925, in Washington, D.C. He is buried in the Confederate soldiers section of Arlington National Cemetery.

Development of Nauck

The subdivision of Nauck slowly grew in the late nineteenth century. The availability of land coupled with a prominent group of settled African American owners, establishment of the A.M.E. Zion Church, success of the Kemper School, and opening of a railroad station on the Richmond and Danville Railroad (later known as the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad) made it a desirable location.





AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF NAUCK, 1934.

The Nauckville Post-Office, Nauckville is about two miles from the Arlington Post-Office, and with a Depot Station, School-house, and Church, to the population of one hundred fifty citizens are entitled to a post-office of their town.

-- Washington Bee, June 13, 1896

The neighborhood welcomed an influx of African Americans forced to vacate Freedman's Village. Between 1880 and 1900, the majority of Nauck residents served as farm laborers or brick layers. Additional employment opportunities were made possible with the opening of Nauck Station on the Fort Myer line of the Washington, Alexandria, and Falls Church Railway at the turn of the twentieth century. The electric railway allowed residents of Nauck to more easily commute to Rosslyn, Washington, D.C., and other nearby places of employment. Development of the neighborhood continued but African American settlement to Nauck, Alexandria County, and Virginia would soon be depressed with the adoption of the Virginia Constitution in 1902.

The State Constitution discriminated against blacks in numerous ways including disenfranchisement, segregation, and fewer public appropriations. By 1904, the number of African Americans who voted in Virginia dropped from 147,000 to less than 10,000. The Nauck community, however, continued to grow due to local residents who further subdivided property (such as the heirs of Thornton and Selina Gray, William Rowe, Henry Wallace, and Mary Norris) or the creation of adjoining subdivisions such as Fairview, West Nauck, Douglass Park, and Nauck Heights. All or significant sections of these subdivisions

are considered as part of the present Nauck community. Nevertheless, Nauck still had a significant percentage of vacant lots by World War II.

Nauck's churches, schools, and lodges provided social, cultural, and religious enrichment. Jim Crow laws led to the establishment of many African American-owned businesses, particularly along present-day South Shirlington Road. By the mid-twentieth century, Nauck businesses serviced the basic needs of its residents and beyond. Cecilia Gertzikoff and Etta Bregman opened a small grocery store named Green Valley Market. Ralph Delaware Collins started the Friendly Cab Company. James Elwood Chinn opened Chinn Funeral Home. Restaurants, auto repair stores, television repair stores, beauty and barber shops, a pharmacy, and other stores created a vibrant community. Similar to Hall's Hill, some residents operated small businesses from their homes, but these stores were closed after the end of segregation.

Fort Barnard Heights

Built in 1944, Fort Barnard Heights was a major development built in Nauck to provide permanent housing for African American workers. At the time, housing of World War II workers had become a crisis for the region. The War Housing Centers in Washington, Alexandria, and Arlington had nearly exhausted their registers of available spaces for African Americans in 1943.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DOUGLASS PARK, 1924.

**PROGRESSIVE
COLORED PEOPLE!**

Spend a Delightful Sunday Inspecting
DOUGLASS PARK

The New Suburb of Washington for colored people exclusively—just across the Potomac in Arlington County.

Nowhere can you find a more beautiful or healthier spot than Douglass Park, nestled among the Virginia Hills. Here is to be the future home of the Washington Baptist Seminary. The new \$14,000,000 bridge, as now planned, will lead directly to Douglass Park.

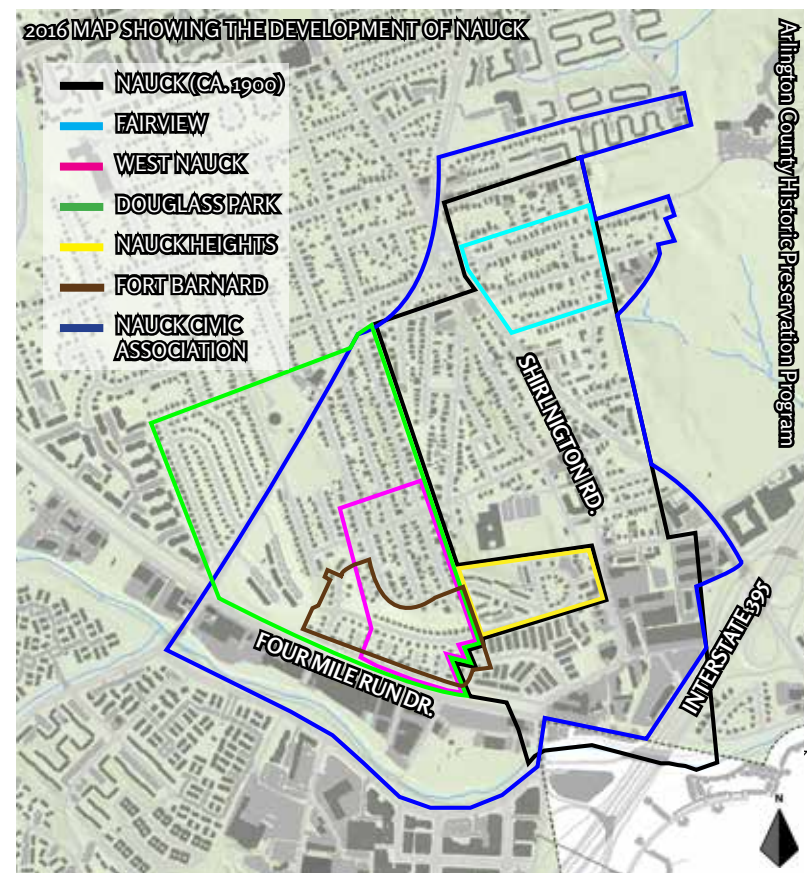
Washington Lies Within Sight

For the investor and the home builder Douglass Park spells Opportunity. Come tomorrow for a sightseeing trip; you will enjoy it!

Take Car at 12th and Pa. Ave, Get Off at Corbett
For Free Transportation Call Main 1835
Sunday 8:30 to 10 A.M.

Washington Development Corp.
1319 F Street, Washington, D. C.
Room 210

Evening Star [numerous dates], 1924



Designed by the architecture firm of Corning and Moore, the Colonial Revival styled brick homes each contained five rooms. This development was met with some community resistance. The New Arlington Citizens Association opposed the County Board's reclassification of the zoning and stated that the tracts went "beyond the needs of present residents of the Green Valley section."

Overlooking the Arna Valley, steam shovels are at work grading, laying out roads and sewer lines for Fort Barnard Heights, a most attractive community for Negro occupancy to include 210 semidetached houses. Privately built and financed, this project will provide 85 rental units, with the remaining units for sale. One of the better "close-in" areas, this little valley has been sparsely settled by colored people for many years. Abruptly falling land, necessitating expensive grading and filling, has prevented extensive building. Corning & Moore have done an excellent job of site planning for the project, keeping a high wooded knoll intact, set aside for play and park area. From this knoll the hillside has been graded, the valley filled, streets laid on a gentle curve, houses designed on two levels to fit the terrain, with the result that every home in the project will have easy access to garden, car parking areas, playground and through highways.

-- Evening Star, July 1, 1944

Fort Barnard Heights is primarily bound by South Oakland Street on the north, South Four Mile Run Drive on the south, South Monroe Street on the east, and South Oxford Street on the west.



CHINN FUNERAL HOME, CA. 1980.

FORT BARNARD HEIGHTS, 1945.



Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church & Cemetery



Center for Local History,
Arlington County Public Library

Methodists were the first religious denomination to establish a church at Freedman's Village. On June 12, 1866, the church formally organized as Little Zion Church. Fearing the closing of Freedman's Village, church leaders explored new locations for the church in 1874. The trustees of the Church (John Wells, Wallace Boswell, Nicholas Snow, Robert Smith, Chapman Gilbert, Daniel Howard, and L. Grandison Mitchell) purchased an acre of land in Nauck for \$75 from J.S. & Mary Viola Winsatt on March

6, 1876. Church histories suggest that a frame church at Freedman's Village was dismantled and rebuilt in Nauck on present-day 24th Road South. During construction of the church, residents of Nauck offered their homes as places of worship. Levi and Sarah Ann Jones and Henson Thompson were two families that held prayer meetings on their properties.

In 1876, the congregation renamed the church Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church in honor of Reverend T.H. Lomax who was elected Bishop for the Washington, D.C. region. Fourteen years later, on June 27, 1890, the congregation dedicated the second church building known as "Lomax Chapel." Three services were held by Rev. R.H.G. Dyson, J.S. Cowles, and J.R. Johnson. The parishioners remained in this church for another thirty years before needing a larger place of worship.

Under the leadership of Reverend F.R. Killingsworth, the parishioners constructed a Gothic Revival-styled church ca. 1922 for \$29,000. Members of the congregation had an active role in the construction: Thomas West was the carpenter; Leonard Gray (grandson of Thornton Gray) laid the bricks; and Willard Gant installed the footings. The same church stands today at 2704 24th Road South.

The cemetery is located to the south and east of the church. It contains approximately 107 interments of church members dating from 1894 to 1982. Unmarked graves and deteriorated markers may date prior to 1894.

Arlington County designated Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church & Cemetery as a local historic district in 1984 and the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

LOMAX A.M.E. ZION CHURCH & CEMETERY, 2010.



Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library

Mount Zion Baptist Church

The second church established at Freedman's Village was Mount Zion Baptist Church. In 1866, Reverend Dr. Robert S. Laws received 90 persons into the church. Laws, a scholar at the Wayland Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., and later graduate of Howard University (1876), resided at Freedman's Village where he supervised a school and represented the villagers in many affairs. He organized meetings to protest the government's rent collection policies, lack of rations, and inadequate clothing and shoes. Laws managed to improve living conditions, but the government expelled him from the village.

The Institution of Slavery has a history which makes the living shudder to recall the sufferings of the dead. It includes all the horrible crimes of the whites and all the indescribable suffering of the colored. We are here today, to leave on record by transmission to all coming generations...we have one nation, one citizenship, one constitution, one law and one house [all of whom should] unite in the celebration of one grand principle, freedom.

- Robert S. Laws, 1883

The Baptist congregation first worshiped at the Freedman's Village Chapel. In August 1875, the Mount Zion Baptist Church (built sometime between 1866 and 1875) collapsed during repairs and a new cornerstone was laid on October 10, 1875. The congregation continued to hold services at the village until the mid-1880s and anticipated the eviction of the villagers by the government. On December 20, 1881, trustees of the church (Thomas Pleasant, William H. Lomax, Jon Willis Wormley, Henry Thomas, and Nelson Wormley) paid \$75 for a one-acre property on Mount Vernon Avenue (present-day Arlington Ridge Road) from John R. Johnston and Maria L. Johnston.

Between 1884 and 1886, under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Matthews, the congregation hired Felix May to construct a two-story brick church with a slate facade that cost \$1,610 (in building materials) at the

Mount Vernon Avenue property within the ruins of Fort Albany. The building was completed in 1887. The following year, the government valued their church at Freedman's Village for \$241.95. Services stopped at Freedman's Village at an unknown date.

In 1930, during the 37-year pastorate of Rev. James E. Green, the congregation built a new two-story brick church on the same site for \$26,000. The United States

government, however, condemned and demolished the property in 1942 to construct the Pentagon and its road network. The congregation temporarily held services at Odd Fellows Hall on Columbia Pike.

On June 4, 1942, the trustees purchased a 1.41-acre parcel at 3500 19th Street South in the Nauck neighborhood from Clara Newman. They hired architect Romulus Cornelius Archer, Jr. to design the new church costing \$35,000. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1890, Archer studied architecture at the International Correspondence School in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and finished his education at Columbia University in 1913. He opened a private practice in Washington, D.C. in 1921 and, in 1926, became the second African American licensed architect in the city. He apprenticed many African American architects, including Arlington County architect Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr.

Ground breaking services were held on April 9, 1944, and the present building at 3500 19th Street South opened in July 1945.



Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library



Mount Zion Baptist Church Collection



Mount Zion Baptist Church Collection

Macedonia Baptist Church

The Macedonia Baptist Church started as informal prayer gatherings at the home of Bonder and Amanda Johnson. Reverend Brass Clark and Reverend Frank Graham formally established the church in 1911. Reverend John Gilliam served as the first pastor.

The congregation held services in numerous buildings before church trustees John W. Price, Archie Turner, Bonder Johnson, George Scott, and George McGuinn, purchased four lots between 1922 and 1926 at the corner of South Kenmore Street and 22nd Street South. Under the leadership of Reverend Sherman Phillips, the Macedonia Baptist Church laid the cornerstone for its first permanent building on September 18, 1927.

By the 1970s, the congregation required a new place of worship to house its expanding membership and programs. The trustees acquired the lots to the east of the original property and Reverend Clarence A. Robinson initiated a capital campaign to construct the present-day church at 3412 22nd Street South. Members of Arlington Lodge No. 58 laid the cornerstone for the church on October 10, 1971. Robinson had national, political, and ecclesiastical leaders speak to the congregation including Reverend Jesse Jackson. Robinson served as minister of the church until he retired in 1995.

Arlington County dedicated a historic marker to celebrate the history of the church.



Our Lady, Queen of Peace Catholic Church

In 1945, a small group of African American Catholics gathered at the home of Edward and Alice Moorman with representatives of the Richmond Diocese to explain the need for establishing a parish in Arlington County. At this time, black Catholics living in the County either traveled to the District of Columbia or the City of Alexandria to attend services. Recognizing the need for a new church, Bishop Ireton granted the request and established Our Lady, Queen of Peace.

Father Joseph Hackett served as the first priest and celebrated the first mass at the home of Lawrence and Jessie Butler. For a period, the church celebrated mass at the residence of Father Hackett. Mr. Maurice Coates, a parishioner and manager of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Homes, offered a small auditorium at the site as a temporary location for church services. The church purchased the present-day property at 2700 19th Street South, celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony on September 20, 1946, and dedicated the new building on June 16, 1947.

While Our Lady, Queen Of Peace did not have an associated elementary school, two parishioners, Marguerite Thomas and W. Cassell Butler, negotiated the admittance of African American children into the local parochial school system before the desegregation of the public school system. In the 1970s, the Hispanic community became an integral part of the church.



Establishment of the Kemper School



Reproduction from the Harry Gray Collection

In 1876, the Arlington School District of Alexandria County established Kemper School No. 4. The Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church housed the school from its opening until 1883. Kemper School was the second school to serve African American children in the Arlington District of Alexandria County (the first being Arlington School at Freedman's Village).

Kemper School, colored, located at Convalescent Camp, has been open for about a year only, and most of

the scholars entered school then for the first time. Miss Jones is the teacher of this school, and her scholars upon examination showed they had made excellent progress.

-- Alexandria Gazette, February 8, 1877

The Arlington District schools faced financial hardships at first. In 1878, the schools were closed two months prior to the end of the regular term due to a lack of funding. Coupled with economic constraints, African American students faced pervasive racial discrimination:

He cautioned the [African American] scholars not to forget, while they were being educated that they had to learn some useful business; ...they were not educated to become idlers and office seekers, but the State bore the expense of educating them for the purpose of making them more useful and intelligent citizens and better workmen...

-- Superintendent Richard Carne, Alexandria Gazette, April 22, 1878

In 1879, Kemper School had thirty pupils ranging from the age of nine to fourteen years old. Ada S. Gray (daughter of Thornton and Selina Gray), one of the first teachers at Kemper School, labored on behalf of her students and instructed them in all subjects allowed by law. Born into slavery in 1858 at Arlington House, Gray received part of her education at the Normal Institute, Howard University. She taught at Kemper School from 1876 to 1882.

On June 20, 1883, the Arlington School District of Alexandria County purchased 3/4 of an acre from John Nauck for \$67 for a new school. Located today at 2501 South Shirlington Road, the school site was bisected historically by a branch of Four Mile Run. The school board finalized construction plans in June 1885. Described as a "neat and comfortable school house," students utilized the new building by the beginning of the fall term.

32 Nauck

Alexandria Gazette, July 1, 1885

Arlington, Va., July 8, 1885.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED
 by the Board of School Trustees of Arlington District, Alexandria county, Va., up to the 15th of July for FURNISHING THE LABOR AND ERECTING A SCHOOL BUILDING to be 24x36 feet of FRAME, one story. A plan of the same and details given on application to either the chairman or secretary of said Board. The work to be completed by August 25th, 1885; to be done in a substantial manner and subject to the supervision and approval of said Board of Trustees.

The bids will be opened at 5 p. m. on Wednesday, July 15th, 1885, at the residence of H. Bailey.

A. P. DOUGLASS, Chairman.
 HARVEY BAILEY, Clerk. jy9-4t

Records suggest that the school remained in the small frame building for only a decade. In 1894, the Arlington District of Alexandria County constructed the second Kemper School, a two-story brick building.

In 1919, the Arlington District purchased a two-acre parcel for \$2,000 at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Lincoln Street and 22nd Street South for the construction of a new Kemper School. Similar to the John M. Langston School in Hall's Hill, the Kemper School received funding from the Julius Rosenwald Fund to construct the new school building.

The brick and hollow tile Kemper School consisted of four classrooms and cost \$31,400. Arlington County contributed \$30,000, the Rosenwald Fund provided \$1,100, and the African American community donated \$300.

More than 700 citizens of Arlington County yesterday attended dedication exercises of the colored school located at Nauck, known as the "Kemper School." Preceding the ceremonies there was a parade of all the colored organizations in the county, including a detachment of mounted service men from Fort Myer.... The ceremonies opened with the invocation by the Rev. Frank B. Killingsworth, pastor of the Loma[x] Methodist Church, followed by the singing of "America" by school children.... Presentation of the American flag by the Parent-Teacher league was made by Mrs. Ester Cooper, after which it was raised with the State flag on the building by Miss Ella M. Boston, principal.

-- Washington Post, June 1, 1925



Library of Virginia

REAR OF KEMPER SCHOOL, 1942.

Principal Ella M. Boston

Ella M. Boston, the daughter of J. Isaac and Maria Boston, was born in the District of Columbia ca. 1863. Working as a cleaner at the Department of Treasury, Maria Boston raised four children after the death of her husband. At the age of seventeen, Ella Boston worked as a servant for a family in Washington, D.C. She started teaching in Arlington County at Rosslyn School by 1892. In 1904, Boston became Principal of Kemper School and remained in this position. After 36 years of teaching, Boston retired in 1928.

The public school of Roslyn [sic], Va., was closed on last Friday night.... The teacher Miss Ella M. Boston of Washington, D.C. deserves much credit for the faithful performance of her duty. She has worked hard to bring the school up to its original status and has succeeded in doing so. The citizens of this place are much pleased with Miss Boston's work and are very anxious for her return next fall, as she has done more for the uplifting of the school than any other teacher.

-- Washington Bee, June 18, 1898

In addition to public education, Boston was very active in civic affairs in Washington, D.C. She served as Superintendent of the Colored Department of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Superintendent of the Ladies Auxiliary to the National Home Association, Secretary of the Bethel Library & Historical Association, officer of the Afro-American Story Telling Association, and founder of the Women Auxiliary, National Memorial Association. In 1911, she directly lobbied Speaker of the House James Beauchamp "Champ" Clark to support H.R. 4644, to reimburse the depositors in the Freedman's Trust Co., and H.R. 4705, to establish a National Memorial Home for Aged and Infirm Colored People.

Ella M. Boston died on September 10, 1931. The following year, Arlington County honored her lifetime achievements by renaming the Jefferson School as Hoffman-Boston Junior High School.

Kemper Annex and Drew Elementary School

The Kemper School dedicated in 1925 quickly became insufficient for the neighborhood. During World War II, officials estimated that 265 students attended the four-classroom school. This required students to attend school in four-hour shifts to prevent overcrowding. To accommodate all of the students, Arlington Public Schools applied for and received a \$45,000 Federal Works Agency grant (half of the cost of the building) towards the construction of the Kemper Annex in 1944. This was a one-story, eight-room building at the present-day site of the Drew Model School at 3500 23rd Street South (on the former land of Thornton Gray).

Arlington Public Schools utilized both the Kemper School and the Kemper Annex for a period of time. Even with two school buildings, student shifts still occurred for first and second graders in the early 1950s. The two buildings had a combined enrollment of 349 students in 1951. As a result, the Arlington School Board awarded a contract to Schrieber Contracting Company to construct a \$270,000 addition. Designed by Graham and Lans, the brick-faced cement block building had a new multi-purpose room and three classrooms. Arlington County renamed the renovated Kemper Annex as Drew Elementary School in honor of Dr. Charles R. Drew in 1953.

Integration of the Drew School

The new building quickly failed to accommodate the growing school population. In 1960, 927 students enrolled at Drew Elementary; 400 of those students occupied the vacated Dolly Madison Building (referred to as Drew Annex) at 2300 24th Road South.



DREW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1996.

Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library

Racial integration delayed construction of a proposed addition to the Drew Elementary School. The Arlington School Board proposed to construct a \$950,000 22-room addition to Drew School. Robert M. Alexander, a parent of a student at Drew Elementary School, opposed the plan and argued that building such a large school (with a capacity of 1,100 pupils) in the center of Nauck would perpetuate segregation. Alexander, a World War II veteran, lawyer (graduate of Georgetown University), and member of the NAACP, contended that the school board "did not consider altering boundaries of the attendance area so as to include within it an appreciable number of white children, and a smaller number of colored children." He sued, but the Circuit Court dismissed the case.

The School Board hired John M. Walton and Associates to construct the addition in 1963. Upon completion of the building, students were removed from the Kemper School (built in 1925) and the Dolly Madison School.

As predicted by Alexander, issues with integration continued. In 1970, Drew Elementary School students were almost entirely African American. Parents raised concerns that de facto segregated elementary schools created social issues when students later attended integrated middle and high schools.

In order to remedy the segregation issue, the School Board decided to close Drew Elementary School and bus the majority of its 590 black students to predominantly white schools throughout the County. African American students were dispersed so that each school would have at least an 11% ratio of black to white students. Black families who had suffered the disadvantage of segregation were now forced to carry the burden of desegregation by means of busing. Members of the Nauck community argued that the desegregation plan perpetuated a stigma of inferiority. Parents sued the Arlington School Board (*John K. Hart et al., v. County School Board of Arlington County, Virginia*), but the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, affirmed the lower courts' decision that there was no insidious discrimination in relation to the desegregation plan.

At the site of the Drew Elementary School, Arlington Public Schools opened a special purpose school named the Drew Model School. The school had a more unstructured curriculum and lower student-teacher ratios than typical County elementary schools. The school board placed a quota of 40 black students and 260 white students. The first year, at least 40 black students were denied enrollment after the quota had been filled.

In 2000, Arlington Public Schools demolished the historic Drew Model School and replaced it with the existing building.

Head Start Program

President Lyndon B. Johnson created the Head Start program to help provide comprehensive child development services for preschool-aged children from low-income families in 1965. Two years later, the Arlington Child Development Center (with matching funds from the Office of Economic Development) rented the vacated Kemper School (built in 1925) and opened a Head Start Program. The all-day, year-round program served 135 children.

A wide community effort involving parents, teenagers, civic groups, churches, and businesses donated materials and time to equip the old Kemper School with curtains, preschool equipment, and toys. First Lady "Lady Bird" Johnson visited the Kemper School to appeal to Americans nationwide to serve as volunteers for Head Start in 1968. Arlington County demolished the Kemper School in 1981.



Jennie Dean Park

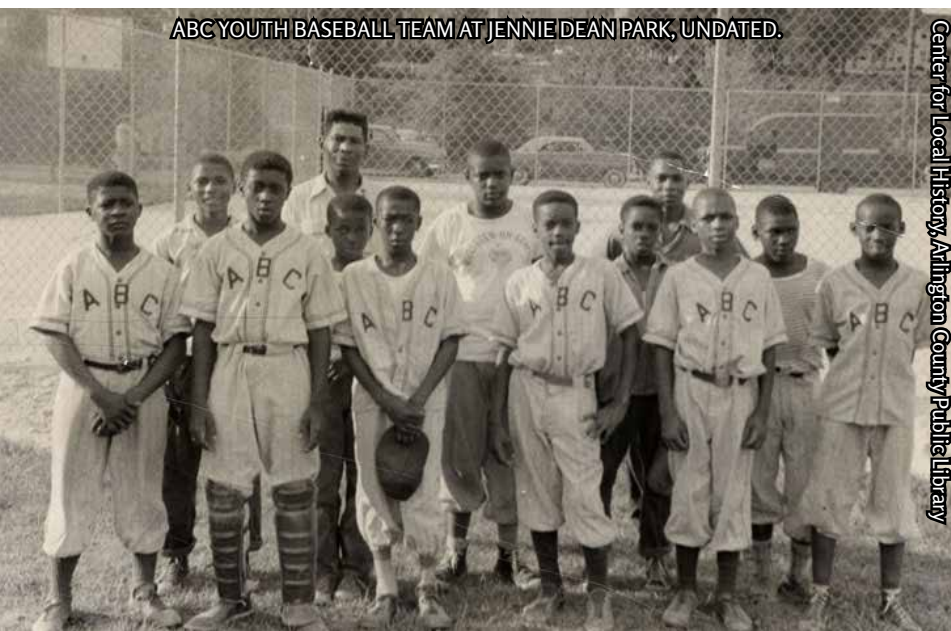
By the 1930s, Green Valley Ball Park was located at present-day Jennie Dean Park. Owned by Nauck residents James Barney Peyton (1883-1955) and Nettie (nee Boswell) Peyton (1894-1954), the ball park featured amateur African American baseball games. Local newspapers referenced a number of baseball teams playing at Green Valley Ball Park, including the Green Valley Quick Steps, Arlington Athletics, Virginia White Sox, Washington Black Sox, and Washington Aztecs.

James Peyton worked as a foreman for the Bureau of Printing and Engraving and lived in Arlington County for over 62 years. The Peytons' residence at 2118 Shirlington Road remains standing. Oral histories state that the family opened their property (including the baseball field) south of Four Mile Run Drive to recreational uses by the community. In 1942, the Peytons sold the Green Valley Ball Park.

Two years later, Arlington County purchased the 8.7-acre parcel as part of a \$150,000 program to establish recreational parks. The playground site first referred to as "No. 53 - Old Green Valley Ball Park in Nauck" was named Jennie Dean Park in honor of Jennie Serepta Dean. A former slave, Dean founded the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth.

By 1948, Jennie Dean Park had expanded to 10 acres and the newly created Department of Parks and Recreation developed an ambitious plan to build a \$300,000 facility at the site. The *Washington Post* stated that it would be the only one of its kind for African Americans in the country. Many aspects of the plan were never realized, but the park featured a softball diamond, baseball diamond, three grandstand sections, basketball court, two horseshoe courts, outdoor fireplace, two picnic tables, and a drinking fountain in 1950. Later additions in the 1950s included tennis courts and flood lights for the baseball field.

ABC YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM AT JENNIE DEAN PARK, UNDATED.



Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library

Green Valley Pharmacy



LEONARD "DOC" MUSE, 1980.

Green Valley Pharmacy has helped shape and define the Nauck community for more than six decades. The original owner of the business, Leonard Muse, often called "Doc Muse" by friends and customers alike, continues to operate and manage the pharmacy. Muse attended Howard University School of Pharmacy in Washington, D.C., and graduated on June 6, 1948. As one of 13 graduates in his class, he started his professional career employed by Johnson Pharmacy, located at 600 3rd Street in Southwest DC.

Muse was surprised to learn that there were no pharmacies in nearby Arlington that allowed African

Americans to come into their stores. Typically, black customers had to use rear entrances and were not treated well with their medical prescriptions. A friend from Norfolk, Virginia, Waverly W. Jones, who was a classmate of his at Howard and a member of the same graduating class, suggested they go into business together and open a pharmacy in Virginia.

ANNIE BROWN BEHIND THE COUNTER AT GREEN VALLEY PHARMACY, CA. 1952.



Leonard Muse Collection

Muse and Jones first rented a vacant grocery store at 2415 Shirlington Road and then formally purchased the property on September 14, 1955. The pharmacy was especially popular for its dine-in food counter. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, beverages, and an abundance of ice cream desserts were available. Customers of all ages could dine at the counter, which is still located on the right-hand side of the store just past the front door. From the onset, Muse felt it was very important to convince customers that his business was there to help them and unite the community. In 2011, Arlington County listed the property as a local historic district and dedicated a historic marker on the site.

Dr. Roland Bruner House

Born in 1902 in Burkittsville, Maryland, Dr. Roland Herman Bruner served the Arlington County community for 30 years. He graduated from Howard University College of Medicine as one of 24 students distinguished with an internship at Freedmen's Hospital. From 1935 to 1951, he was a part-time member of the clinical faculty of Howard University College of Medicine, serving first as a Clinical Assistant before his promotion to Clinical Instructor. There he specialized and lectured in obstetrics and gynecology.

On July 20, 1934, Dr. Bruner and his wife, Georgia Collins, purchased property in Nauck. He opened a private practice located in his house at 2018 South Glebe Road. Dr. Bruner filled a desperate need for African American physicians. He specialized in obstetrics, which allowed for African American mothers to deliver their children in Arlington County instead of Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D.C.



DR. ROLAND BRUNER, 1938.

Dr. Bruner was instrumental in establishing a Planned Parenthood clinic for Arlington's Department of Human Resources and in assisting African-American women in acquiring birth control and contraceptives. In 1938, Dr. Bruner was the only African-American doctor employed by Arlington County's Health Department in the prenatal clinics.

Dr. Bruner's notable professional achievements were only a small part of his legacy. During the Great Depression and World War II, he bartered with patients and declined payment from those who could not afford medical services. He continued to serve the Nauck community until a week before his death on May 9, 1978.

In 2005, Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC) purchased the half-acre site containing Bruner's home. AHC built a seven townhouse mixed-income complex. The developer preserved and incorporated Bruner's home and medical office by relocating the building on the site. Arlington County dedicated a historic marker to Dr. Bruner commemorating his service and dedication to the County.

Arlington Lodge No. 58

African American masons established The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1875. On April 26, 1888, 21 masons were given dispensation to hold meetings in Alexandria County. The following year, Arlington Lodge No. 58 consisting of 13 masons was formally established and its officers were installed. African American lodges nurtured solidarity, fostered self-organization during disenfranchisement and segregation, and offered insurance policies to members who were refused service by white-owned companies.

Arlington Lodge No. 58 held its meetings in Stevens Lodge No. 1435 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, better known as Odd Fellows Hall, formerly at 1600 Columbia Pike from 1892 to ca. 1960. Odd Fellows Hall suffered substantial damage from a fire in 1965 and was razed. Subsequently, the organization held meetings in numerous locations including Hoffman-Boston School. Over 700 individuals buried in the associated African American cemetery to the rear of the lodge were disinterred in 1968.

Arlington Lodge No. 58 constructed its first building at 2222 South Shirlington Road in Nauck in 1994. For more than a century, Arlington Lodge No. 58 has and continues to make charitable contributions to the greater community. Arlington County dedicated a historic marker at the site commemorating the organization's history.

Penrose

Initial African American Settlement

In 1878, the present-day boundaries of Penrose consisted of rural farmland. A small number of dwellings and the Columbia School fronted Columbia Pike. On February 1, 1882, Bushrod Washington Hunter sold distinct 13-acre parcels to African Americans Henry Louise Holmes and William Henry Butler. These 26 acres of land are presently bound by Arlington Boulevard to the north, 2nd Street South to the south, South Wise Street to the east, and South Fillmore Street to the west. Butler and Holmes each paid Hunter \$668.75 for their respective properties and then built dwellings for their families.

Henry L. & Emma B. Holmes

Little information is known regarding the early life of Henry L. Holmes. Born on July 3, 1855, in Virginia, he attended the Hampton Normal Institute in 1873. Holmes then likely moved to Alexandria County, where he lived in the Arlington Township of Alexandria County within or adjacent to Freedman's Village.

By 1875, Holmes had become an integral part of Alexandria County's Radical Republicans. That year, the Republicans selected Holmes as the nominee for Commissioner of Revenue of Alexandria County. He won the election but failed to qualify; however, he satisfied the requirements for the position the following year. Holmes served in this elected position for the next 27 years and remained in politics for the rest of his life.

Whereas, equal justice between man and man, and the right of representation are the cardinal principles of government under which we live; and whereas, a fair and reasonable consideration has been denied to the colored people of Virginia by the influence and power of those who have been helped to power by their votes.

--Henry L. Holmes, October 4, 1882

On May 1, 1877, Holmes married Emma B. Johnson, the daughter of Peter and Ann (nee Brooks) Johnson, in Alexandria, Virginia. Five years later, they moved to the property purchased from Bushrod W. Hunter and remained there for the rest of their lives. Over the course of their marriage, Emma Holmes had eleven children (six of whom were no longer living by 1900).

Holmes was active in the community. He served as the first Worshipful Master of Arlington Lodge No. 58, Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masons; Grand Master of the African-American Odd Fellows of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and one of the first trustees of St. John's Baptist Church.

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY VIRGINIA NOTES.

Mr. Henry L. Holmes, the County Revenue Commissioner, with his wife, Mrs. Emma B. Johnson Holmes and other well reared families, are located in the centre of the County upon a ten acre farm of good land and a fashionably built residence, comfortably arranged on a modern plan which does great credit to the race.

He is one of the best known Odd Fellows in the United States, and is well-known by all representative men of both races in Virginia.

His office is in the west wing of his residence on the first floor to the left of the hall in front of the parlor, with Prof. Sherley of the Public School at Arlingtonville as his Private Secretary.

His modestly generous wife with the graceful dignity of Mrs. Martha Washington, is an up-to-date society lady and admired by all of the ladies in the county.

His son Bert, is a huckster of vegetables, and like his father who is one of the leading politicians in the State, is active in business.

In council with United States Commissioner J. W. Wormley, Judge Jas. H. Lane and T. Allen, he is hard to catch.

The Collector will be in Queen City, Arlingtonville and Nauckville to-day.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON HENRY L. HOLMES, JUNE 27, 1896.



Arlington County Office of the Treasurer

PORTRAIT OF HENRY L. HOLMES, UNDATED.

Henry L. Holmes and Emma Holmes died on April 13, 1905, and February 24, 1924, respectively. The couple was buried at Odd Fellows Hall on Columbia Pike and later reinterred at Coleman Cemetery in Fairfax County. Arlington County recognized the achievements of Holmes by naming the first library for African Americans and a wing of the former County Courthouse in his honor. The library branch opened within the now demolished George Washington Carver Homes on June 26, 1944. A portrait of Holmes presently hangs in Arlington County's Office of the Treasurer.

William H. & Ann Butler

The early life of William Henry and Ann Butler (nee Queen), born in Maryland ca. 1828 and ca. 1832, respectively, is generally unknown. The couple had at least four children (including but not limited to William, Washington, Matthew, and Mary) by 1860. Similar to many other African American families, the Butlers may have been slaves who fled southward to the District of Columbia and Freedman's Village during the Civil War.

In 1863, Butler volunteered as a substitute soldier for Lewis Howard. Signed into law by Abraham Lincoln, the Enrollment Act allowed for men who were drafted to permanently avoid service by providing a substitute soldier. Already 35 years old, Butler likely received a substantial payment from Howard for agreeing to join the army for three years in his place.

Butler served as a Private in Company H, 2nd Regiment, United States Colored Infantry which formed at Arlington, Virginia. On March 6, 1865, at the Battle of Natural Bridge, Florida, 21 Union soldiers were killed, 89 soldiers were wounded, and 38 soldiers were captured. Butler was missing in action following the battle. His knapsack, with a personal letter from his wife (see pages 40-41), was found near a deceased soldier. The Union Army believed that Butler had died in battle, but he had been captured by the Confederates. He remained a prisoner of war until April 28, 1865, and discharged from the Union Army in Annapolis on May 20, 1865.

After the War, Butler returned to his wife and children at Freedman's Village. In 1867, Butler rented a 5-acre parcel for \$10 per year. He later rented a 10-acre parcel and built numerous buildings that the government valued at \$392.79 in 1888. By that time, however, he had already purchased and moved to the family's 13-acre property. The Butlers constructed a wood-frame Queen Anne-inspired dwelling at 2407 2nd Street South that continues to be owned by the Butler family.

Butler played an important role in the development of Arlington County. He served as the Commissioner of Roads, Surveyor of Roads in Arlington Magisterial District, Supervisor for Arlington Magisterial District, and Superintendent of the Poor. William Butler died between 1900 and 1910. Ann Butler died the following decade.



Arlington County Historic Preservation Program

WILLIAM H. BUTLER HOUSE, 1997.

Holmesville

Between 1890 and 1891, Holmes subdivided 5 acres of his 13-acre property. He created a 26-lot subdivision on the northern edge of his property called the "Henry L. Holmes Subdivision," but better known as Holmesville. A number of families purchased lots including: Lomax, Clarke, Scott, Hogan, Burless, Lee, and Johnson (Emma Holmes' brother).

Butler, who owned the 13-acre property adjacent to Holmesville, divided his land into six lots to gift to his family. He conveyed a lot to each of his sons, William W., Matthew L., and Joseph H. Butler in 1893, and a lot to his daughter, Mary C. Hunter (nee Butler) in 1900.

Holmesville and the greater Penrose community experienced substantial development in the first half of the twentieth century. By 1925, 28 dwellings were located within Holmesville. African American homeownership, however, quickly declined. Only six black households lived within Penrose by 1930. The following dwellings are examples of houses from the period of African American ownership of Holmesville: 2415 1st Street South, 2505 1st Street South, 2808 2nd Street South, and 2813 2nd Street South.

Dr. Sumner G. Holmes House



DR. SUMNER G. HOLMES HOUSE, 1997.

Arlington County Historic
Preservation Program

Henry L. and Emma B. Holmes' first house no longer stands, but their son's house at 2804 1st Road South remains. Born in 1881, Sumner Garrison Holmes, was raised in Arlington County. In the early 1900s, he taught at Kemper School in

Nauck. Holmes attended and graduated with a M.D. degree from Howard University in 1904. He briefly lived and practiced medicine in Washington, D.C. before returning to Arlington County by 1918. The availability of an African American physician likely greatly benefited the African American community whose options for medical care were severely limited and often required travel to Washington, D.C.

Similar to his father, Sumner was an active member of the community and Republican party. He died on May 6, 1930. Funeral services were held at St. John's Baptist Church. He was buried with his parents at Odd Fellows Cemetery, and later reinterred at Coleman Cemetery, Fairfax County. His second wife, Letitia Holmes (nee Scott) turned the house into the Fireside Inn, a restaurant and lodging for African American travelers. She remained at the dwelling until her death on June 24, 1966.

HOLMESVILLE.

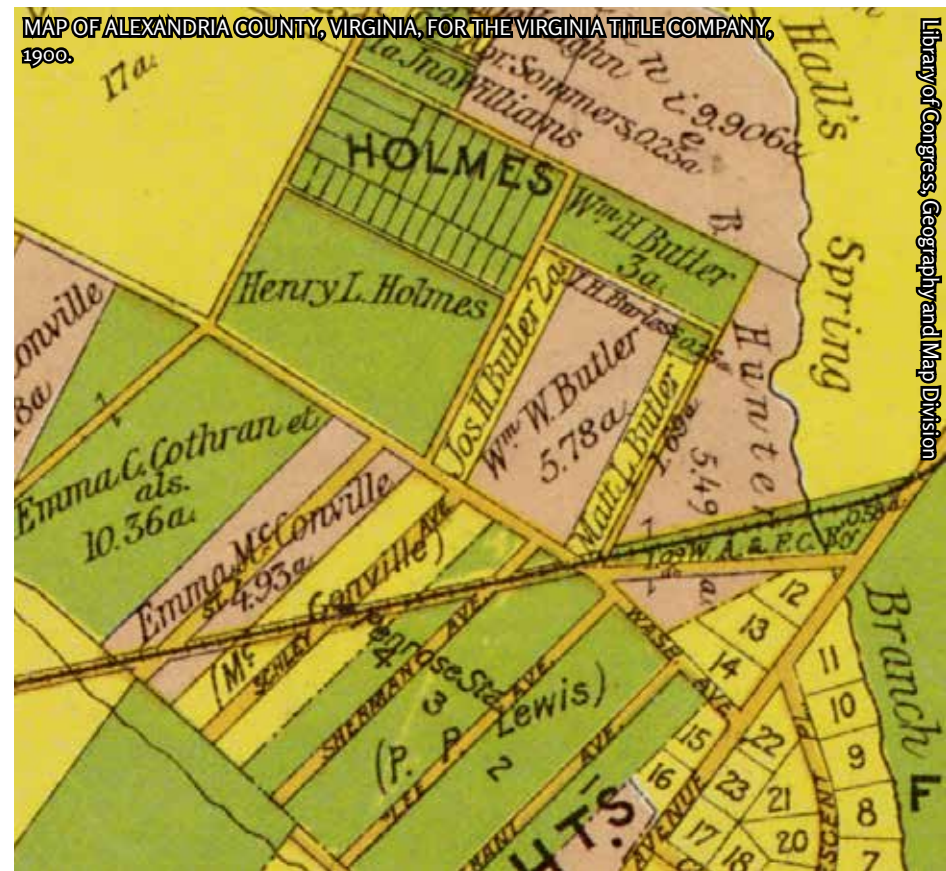
This beautiful land as THE BEE has before said, is centrally located in the county of Alexandria, and is a rapidly growing community. It was so named in honor of Holmes its first purchaser and subdivider.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson, was visited where we found Miss Ocquila, their handsome daughter who forms the social centre of that beautiful community where a pledge for social food was obtained.

Mr. Wm. H. Butler, another important figure of this place, of whom it may be said, as of Commissioner H. L. Holmes, is a \$20,000 neighbor whose time is given to agricultural development.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLMESVILLE, JULY 13, 1896.

MAP OF ALEXANDRIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, FOR THE VIRGINIA TITLE COMPANY, 1900.



Jan 30 1868

Oklington Va
Freedmens village

My dear Husband

I have waited
and longed and longed and
waited for a letter from
you but seems all in vain
why dont you write to me
and let me hear some
thing from you. Not since
October last have I heard
one word from you
is any thing the matter
with you do write and
let me know to relieve
my anxious mind. The
children are all anxious
to see you and hear from
you William is living not
very far from me he is waiting

on an officer at Fort Word-
burg and Mathias is
waiting on an officer at
Fort Smith near about
2 or 3 miles off but I see
him very often which is
a great comfort to me as
I cannot see you but I
hope the time is not far
off when I shall once more
both see you and be
seperated ~~not~~ no more
until death which is
irresistable part us. till
we see each other let us
pray that ham may not
over take I feel it my especial
duty and greatest comfort
to pray for you at all times

you must pray for me
and the children Mary
is living in Washington
she and all the rest send
their best love to you
their dear absent Father
now William when you
receive this make no delay
in writing but hast to
answer this at once and
tell me every concerning
yourself and your where
abouts the smaller children
go to school in the village
every day they want to see
how much they can learn
by the time their Father
come with spoils from the
war. I will say no more
not but will trust in

The Lord for the safe
keeping of us both and
our little flock

Remain as ever your
devoted wife E Ann Butler

Direct your letters
as before Greedmens
village Care Capt Carrs

Arlington Va

Wm Butler
Co H 2^d U.S. Colored Imp.
Care Capt Carrs
Greens Keys
Fla

This letter was taken out of a knapsack found
done by a body on the battlefield of the natural bridge
near St Marks Fla March 6th 1865. by J. Parker
Co. A. Milton Lt. Artillery. Capt J. L. Dunham
It is believed the Butler above named was killed at that
place. C.S.A. Genl. Daniel Jones, M.D. and Newton

Dr. Charles Drew

Dr. Charles Richard Drew, the “father of the blood bank,” was born in Washington, D.C. in 1904 and moved to Arlington County in 1920. Pursuing advanced training at Columbia University Medical School, Dr. Drew demonstrated the practicality of separating and storing blood plasma. His published thesis, “Banked Blood,” earned him Columbia’s first Doctorate of Medical Science degree ever awarded to an African American.

Dr. Drew became the medical supervisor of the Blood for Britain project in 1940, then Assistant Director of the Red Cross Blood Bank and Assistant Director of Blood Procurement for the National Research Council (in charge of blood for use by the U.S. Army and Navy). He later returned to Howard University as Chair of Freedmen’s Hospital.

His work saved the lives of thousands of soldiers during World War II. While Dr. Drew and his achievements were ahead of his time, military policies required that blood be segregated by race. He publicly criticized such policies as unscientific and insulting.

It is fundamentally wrong for any great nation to willfully discriminate against such a large group of its people....One can say quite truthfully that on the battlefields nobody is very interested in where the plasma comes from when they are hurt.... It is unfortunate that such a worthwhile and scientific bit of work should have been hampered by such stupidity.

-- Dr. Charles Drew, 1944

Dr. Drew died in 1950 and is buried at Lincoln Cemetery, Prince George's County, Maryland. Twenty-six years later, in 1976, the Drew House located at 2505 1st Street South was designated a National Historic Landmark. Arlington County dedicated a historic marker at the site commemorating his achievements.

St. John's Baptist Church

St. John’s Baptist Church shares its early history with Mount Zion Baptist Church. In 1903, 23 parishioners desired a different place of worship and established St. John’s Baptist Church. The following year, the church trustees purchased a tract of land on the Guy Henry estate at the present corner of Columbia Pike and South Scott Street. The trustees included: Henry L. Holmes, Thornton Gray, John W. Wormley, Dallas Jones, and Robert Syphax.

Unable to construct a new church immediately, the congregation held services at Odd Fellows Hall on Columbia Pike until sufficient capital was accumulated for construction of a place of worship. The trustees selected Judge Winston Brooks, a carpenter and a member of the congregation, to build the church. The cornerstone was laid on September 29, 1907, and the Gothic Revival-styled building was completed in 1908.

Early pastors included Edgar E. Ricks (1903-1907) who helped found the congregation, James David Pair (1911-1919) who improved the house of worship and doubled the size of the congregation, and Junius Isaac Loving who had spent 60 years in the Baptist Church and was locally known as the “Baptist Encyclopedia of Washington.”

Between 1910 and 1913, St. John’s Baptist Church rented space to Arlington County for a school named “St. John’s Public School.” Teachers included Marie Wilson Syphax and Emma Holmes Clifford.

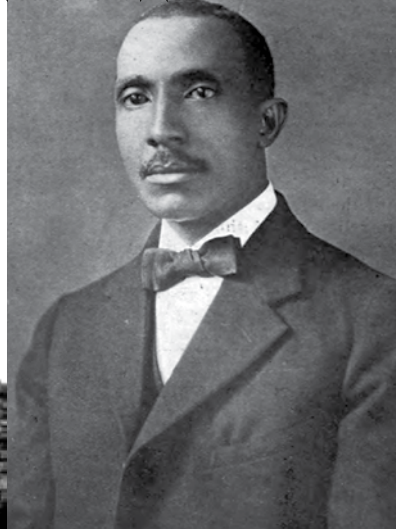
The first St. John’s Baptist Church was demolished in 2004. The present-day church located at 1905 Columbia Pike was dedicated in 2005. Arlington County dedicated a historic marker at the site commemorating the church's history.

DR. CHARLES RICHARD DREW HOUSE.



A.B. Caldwell, *History of the American Negro, 1923*, and the *Washington Herald*, 1935

EARLY PASTORS OF ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): EDGAR E. RICKS, JAMES DAVID PAIR, AND JUNIUS ISAAC LOVING.

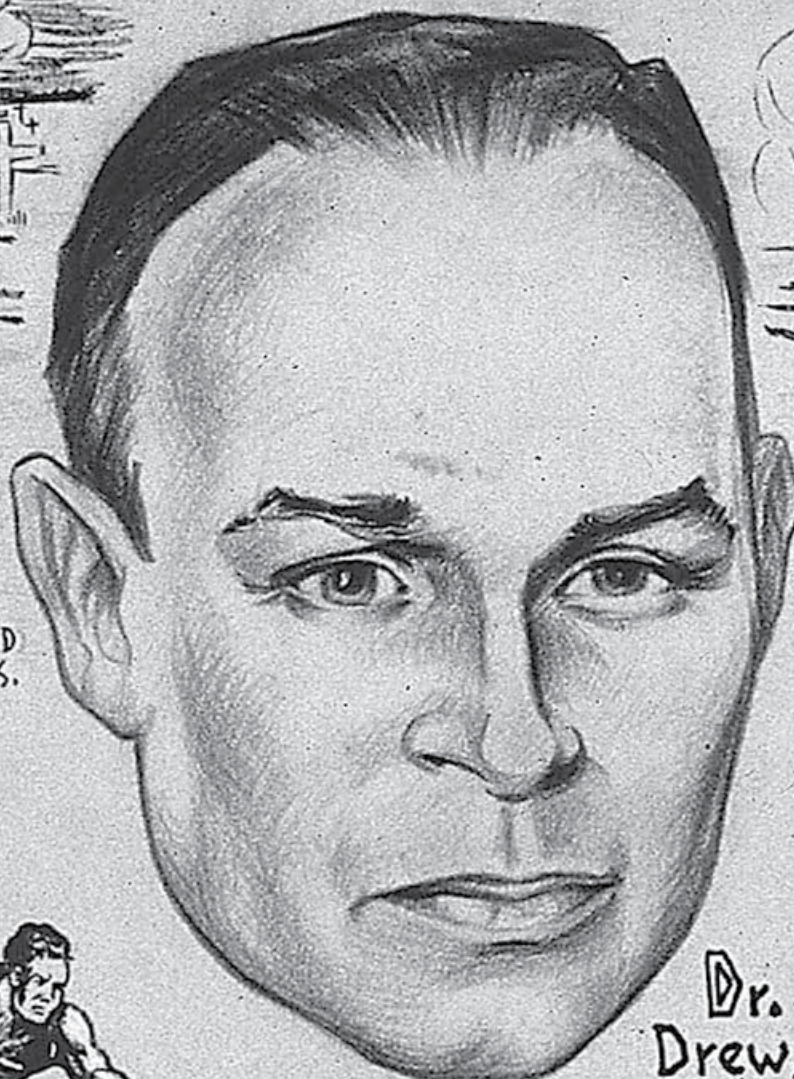




CHARLIE DREW WAS ONLY A YOUNGSTER IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHEN THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN DOUGHBOYS DIED IN THE LAST WAR BECAUSE OF LACK OF ADEQUATE BLOOD TRANSFUSION TECHNIQUES.



THIRTY-NINE YEAR OLD DR. DREW'S WORK IN STANDARDIZING THE PREPARATION OF BLOOD PLASMA, WILL SAVE THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS UNITED NATIONS FIGHTING MEN ON BATTLE FRONTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.



Dr. Charles Richard Drew, M.D., C.M., Med.D.Sc.

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, CHIEF SURGEON, FREEDMEN'S HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, D.C. 2001

RANKED AMONG THE FIRST FIVE HURLERS IN THE COUNTRY



ALL EASTERN HALFBACK

ALL AMERICA MENTION

MISSING THE OLYMPICS BY THE FLIP OF A COIN!!

RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON THE PREPARATION AND PRESERVATION OF BLOOD PLASMA, ~ MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE PLASMA FOR BRITAIN PROJECT, AND DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST RED CROSS BLOOD BANK SET UP FOR THE COLLECTION OF BLOOD AND PLASMA FOR THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES.

OUTSTANDING DOCTOR~FAMOUS ATHLETE

ALONG WITH PAUL ROBESON, NED GOURDIN, RALPH METCALFE, JESSE OWENS, CHARLIE DREW WAS A GREAT COLLEGE ATHLETE ~ FOUR LETTER MAN AND TRACK CAPTAIN AT BOTH AMHERST AND MCGILL. DESPITE HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN MEDICINE, HE RECALLS HIS POST AS COACH AT MORGAN COLLEGE



AS "THE BEST JOB I EVER DID!"

Arlington View

Establishment of the Community

The establishment of the present-day Arlington View neighborhood coincided with the Federal government's attempts to close Freedman's Village in the 1880s. African Americans were likely attracted to this area due to its proximity to the village.

The boundaries of the neighborhood extended to the northeast along Columbia Pike to its intersection with Arlington Ridge Road. In 1878, development at this intersection included several houses, two stores, a blacksmith shop, a toll gate, and the Jefferson School (for African Americans). Nearby property owners included the Johnston family who proceeded to sell land to African Americans including the land for the second Mount Zion Baptist Church.

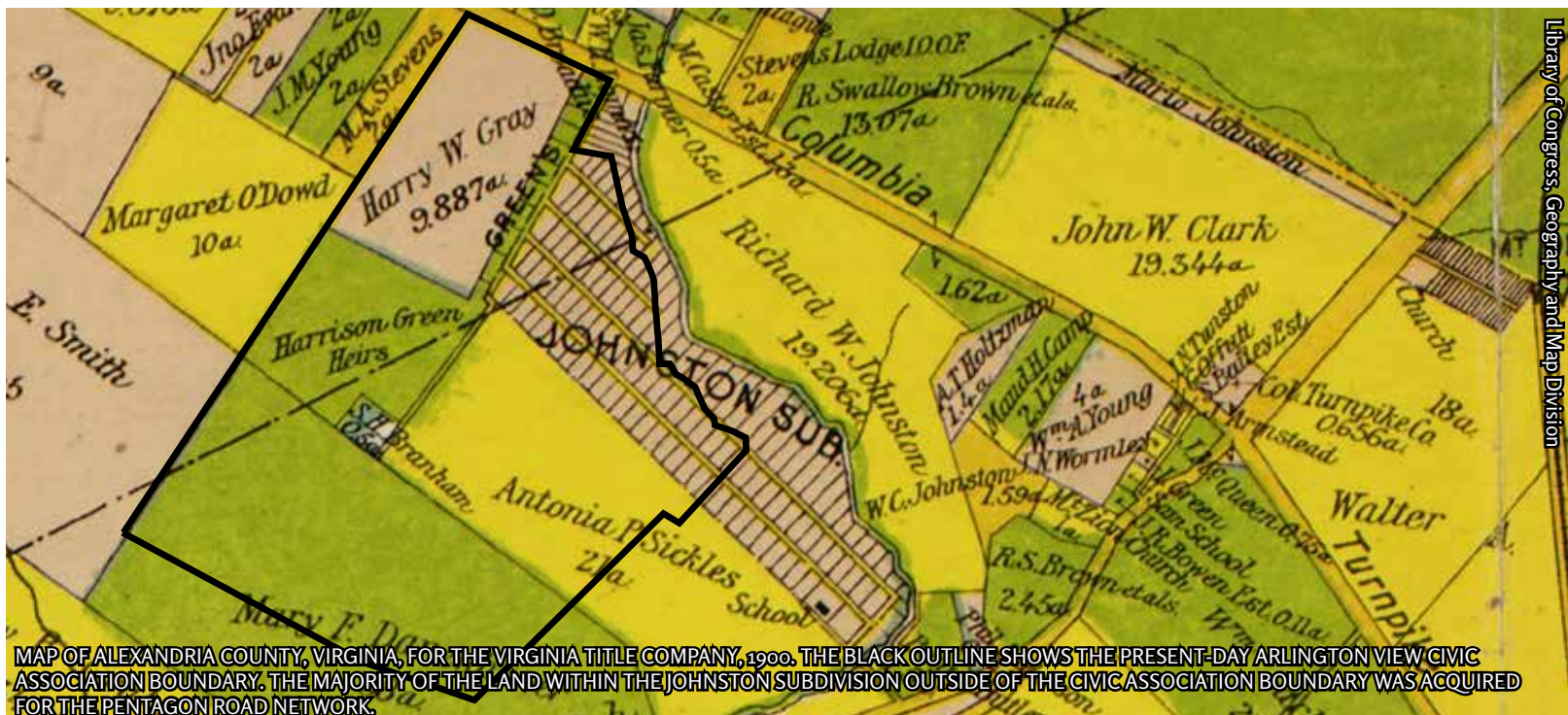
Johnston Family

Born in 1822, John Robert Johnston owned a 100-acre plantation valued at \$10,000 in Alexandria County prior to the onset of the Civil War. He owned 15 slaves ranging in age from 1 to 40 years old. Noted as one of the more prominent county residents, Johnston was active in local affairs. He served as a school trustee and later Superintendent

for the Jefferson Magisterial District, stockholder of the Arlington (Columbia) Turnpike Company, and donated land for Trinity Church. Johnston built the Jefferson School and spoke to issues of race. He believed that the conservative party should afford African Americans their rights as citizens and supported the nomination of African Americans for political positions such as magistrates and constables. In 1881, he conveyed an acre of land to the trustees of Mount Zion Baptist Church. He died the following year.

Richard Windsor Johnston and William Curtis Johnston, born in 1856 and 1858, respectively, were two sons of John Robert Johnston who had a significant impact on the development of the neighborhood.

The Johnston brothers inherited significant sections of their father's property. William sold land to African American residents including Harry W. Gray, Harrison Green, and John Offord in the 1880s. In 1888, Richard Johnston platted the Johnston subdivision that would later be known as Johnson's Hill (south of Columbia Pike and east of South Queen Street). He sold a number of acres within and adjacent to his subdivision to Emanuel Jackson (a resident of the District of Columbia) the following year. Jackson expanded the boundaries of the subdivision to the extents shown on the map below. Emanuel Jackson and the *Washington Bee* referred to this neighborhood as Arlingtonville, but the name quickly fell from use.



BEAUTIFUL BUILDING LOTS! AT ARLINGTONVILLE, VA.

These Lots are Beautifully located within 3 miles of the National Capital, South of the Columbia Pike and Fort Myer, and within Four Squares of the Washington, Alexandria & Mt. Vernon Electric R. R., where a first-class opportunity is now offered to Afro-Americans to secure Fine Building Lots $47\frac{1}{2} \times 115$ or 4,750 feet.

These Fine Lots lie between Holmes and Jackson Avenues. All arrangements for their purchase may be made with

E. JACKSON, Saddle and Harness Maker,
912 LOUISIANA AVENUE.

Terms to suit.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR ARLINGTONVILLE, SEPTEMBER 5, 1896.

Development of Johnson's Hill

Similar to the other African American communities in Arlington County, Johnson's Hill had a church (Mount Zion Baptist), masonic lodge, music hall, and a school house. These services provided social, cultural, and religious enrichment to its residents.

Johnson's Hill continued to expand and had approximately 300 to 400 African American residents by the turn of the twentieth century. Leaders of the community included United States Commissioner J.W. Wormley, Constable Isaac Green, and Policeman William H. Lomax. Other early owners included but were not limited to: Winston Brooks, Charlotte Carroll, Mary E. Cox, Susan Curtis, Russell Dabney, Tamer Evans, Maggie Fields, Jennie Goldman, Gus Hill, Benjamin Hines, Mary Hines, Frank Holmes, Charity E. & Louis Jackson, Georgina Jackson, Eliza Johnson, Nancy Johnson, William Jones, Ephraim Kelly, Alice Lane, Nellie Lee, Betsey Lewis, Charles Pinn, David Randolph, Lucy Russell, John Scott, John Taylor, and James Summerville.

New subdivisions continued to be created in proximity to Johnson's Hill including Arlington View, (first bound by 13th Road South, 14th Road South, South Rolfe Street, and South Queen Street), the present-day name of the community, and Southgate Vale (bound by 13th Street South, 13th Road South, and South Queen Street). A number of homes from the early development of these subdivisions remain standing.

The onset of World War II had lasting impacts on Johnson's Hill. The construction of the Pentagon and its associated road network resulted in the loss of a significant section of the community for Shirley Memorial Highway. Mount Zion Baptist Church relocated to the Nauck neighborhood and many displaced African American home owners of nearby neighborhoods were placed in trailer camps or temporary housing within or adjacent to Johnson's Hill. For example, the Federal government constructed the temporary George Washington Carver Housing Project and the permanent George Washington Carver Homes.

Residents recalled the government dumping refuse from the construction of the Pentagon within the neighborhood's ravines. All of these aspects led to a perceived notion of blight. The community, however, quickly rebounded in the post-war era in part due to the perseverance of its residents. By 1962, Johnson's Hill (now referred to as Arlington View) had 1,116 people and 311 dwelling units.

Being one of the older residential areas in the County, the neighborhood had badly deteriorated by World War II. Augmented by the relocation of people and the installation of Federal confiscation of land to build the Pentagon..., the decline of the neighborhood was pronounced, both in terms of physical aspects and its human potential for rehabilitation. In the post-war period, however, particularly the last decade, the area has experienced a renaissance

Arlington View 45

COLORED "SOUTHGATE VALE"

10 NEW DETACHED
HOMES—ALL BRICK

Modern in every respect, tiled
baths, automatic air conditioning,
hardwood floors.

PRICED \$4650 UP
\$400 DOWN—\$37 Per Mo.

OPEN DAILY

Located at 13th & Queen Streets,
South, in Arlington, Va.

To Reach: Drive out Columbia Pike
to Queen St., left 3 blocks to homes.

For further information phone

District 8888

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SOUTHGATE VALE, OCTOBER 28, 1939.

EAST ARLINGTON

MT. VERNON AVE.

MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH

COLUMBIA PIKE

STEVENS LODGE
NO. 1435, ODD
FELLOWS HALL AND
CEMETERY

Photo by
B. J. Macdonald
Army Photographer
1331 3rd St. N.W. Washington D.C.

VIEW FROM THE ARLINGTON RADIO TOWERS, DATE UNKNOWN, LOOKING EAST SHOWING PART OF JOHNSON'S HILL, COLUMBIA PIKE, AND EAST ARLINGTON PRIOR TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PENTAGON.



JOHNSON'S
HILL

S. QUEEN ST.

HARRY W. GRAY
HOUSE

in new construction, renovation, and the development and utilization of community leadership.

-- Arlington View Neighborhood Conservation Plan, 1964

In 1964, Arlington View homeowners spurred the creation of Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program. Arlington View became a pilot program for the joint citizen-government effort to retain and improve the residential character of neighborhoods. The neighborhood conservation plan addressed street improvements and the construction of culs-de-sac. This project sparked a sense of pride in Arlington View as it transformed the area's crumbling hard-surface and dirt roadways to paved streets with gutters, curbs, and sidewalks.

Today, Arlington View is a diverse community. Similar to the other historically black communities in Arlington County, the proportion of African Americans in Arlington View dropped from 99 percent in 1970 to approximately 62 percent in 2010.

Mount Olive Baptist Church

Mount Olive Baptist Church was the third congregation to originate at Freedman's Village ca. 1873. Reverend Washington Waller (1876-1899) led the congregation after completing seminary school in 1876. Church records suggest that the congregation was briefly reorganized as Antioch Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. prior to returning to Alexandria County and changing its name to Mount Olive Baptist Church.

On a little knoll at the extreme end of the old Lee estate...Waller and his followers erected a camp of worship which they termed "Mount Olive Church." Gradually they came to spend all their time at this camp of meeting, until a few shacks of brush and timber, their homes, appeared in the neighboring woods.

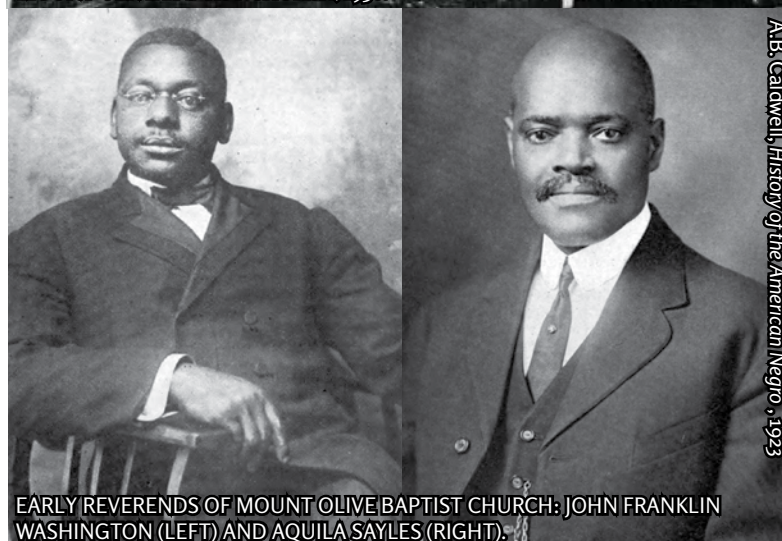
- Evening Star, January 26, 1908

In 1879, Lieutenant R. P. Strong permitted the congregation to erect a brick church at Freedman's Village. The building cost nearly \$2,000. In 1888, the Quartermaster Department valued the church at \$1,040 and recommended \$700 be allocated to the congregation to assist with moving the building.

Recognizing the inevitable closing of Freedman's Village, the board of trustees (Isaac Green, Robert Jordan, and Dallas Jackson) purchased a two-acre parcel for \$1,200 in the name of the church on August 12, 1892. To establish a viable community, the trustees subdivided the land with a street flanked by residential lots on either side and a large lot at the head of the street fronting Mount Vernon Avenue reserved for the church. African American parishioners purchased the twenty lots and created the Queen City community. On October 25, 1904, developers platted the adjoining 27 acres to create East Arlington.



MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1938.



EARLY REVERENDS OF MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: JOHN FRANKLIN WASHINGTON (LEFT) AND AQUILA SAYLES (RIGHT).



MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1966.

The Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rev. Washington Waller, pastor, baptised on Sunday last four happy souls in the Potomac River, at the South End of the Long Bridge, at Jackson City. The large and religiously enthused crowd was very attractive to listeners on both sides of the river.

- Washington Bee, June 13, 1896

Other early ministers included John Franklin Washington (dates unknown) and Aquila Sayles (ca. 1901- 1909). Under the Sayles pastorate, the pews and lights were installed and the church remodeled and left free of debt.

The congregation thrived under the leadership of Reverend Aaron Mackley (1938 - 1993). The church underwent a substantial renovation in 1939. Designed by R. C. Archer, the new building cost approximately \$12,000. The War Department, however, condemned the property to construct the road network for the Pentagon.

On November 14, 1941, the church purchased the current property at 1601 13th Road South for \$2,000. The congregation hired R.C. Archer, but simply rebuilt the recently completed church. Mount Olive Baptist Church had an active role in the community's postwar development and participated in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1989, the church constructed a \$2.5 million 850-seat addition.

Jefferson School

The Jefferson School, the first school for African Americans in the Jefferson District of Arlington County, opened at the Convalescent Camp (located on the grounds of the present-day Army Navy Country Club) in 1870.

The [Jefferson] school house here is a comfortable one, in a beautiful grove, but the furniture is still of primitive description, though rather improved since his last visit. There were present but very few children, and these mostly in the lowest branches, the larger portion of the pupils being engaged in planting corn so the examination was brief.

-- Alexandria Gazette, May 13, 1871

John Robert Johnston, who served as a school Trustee of the Jefferson District, provided a new school house in 1872. Located at the center of Fort Albany (near the present day intersection of Washington Boulevard and Interstate 395), the school only had ten students the first year but enrollment swelled to 80 students under the leadership of teacher Calvin H. Richardson by 1876.

The school likely remained at this location until the trustees purchased property within Johnson's Hill in 1889. In 1895, there were over 120 students and only a single teacher. The same year, the County added a second story to the one-story school building allowing for two rooms and a graded school. An additional teacher was hired as well.

Jefferson School, No. 1, colored, in Jefferson district, taught by Mr. J. Johnson, colored, was the next examined. This school has upon its roll thirty-five scholars of both sexes, of whom but twenty-five were present. Reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography and grammar are the studies pursued, and in their examination the scholars showed a familiarity with them that could be only imparted by much care and labor. The larger pupils were not present, they being required at home to work. It is very unfortunate in any school that necessity requires any of the pupils to be absent. There is one feature in this school not found in the others: the pupils are taught music without trespassing upon the school time. They sang several pieces, and the performance was good and the music melodious. This school is situated near the crossing of the Columbia turnpike with the old Georgetown road, and was erected by Mr. John R. Johnston, who intends returfishing it with modern furniture, which it so much needs, as the more attractive school houses are made, the more anxious children are to meet for improvement.

Alexandria Gazette

DESCRIPTION OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL, NOVEMBER 27, 1879

Second Jefferson School

On June 29, 1912, a delegation of residents from the Jefferson School requested that the Jefferson District School Board finance the construction of a new school that would serve African American students from the first to the ninth grades. The three-acre property for the school was purchased from the South Arlington Cemetery Corporation in 1914. The School Board selected local architect Frank Upman to design the new 4-room school house. Completed in 1915, the project cost \$6,500 (\$3,000 borrowed from the state). In comparison, the Ballston School, constructed the same year for caucasian students, consisted of 8-rooms and cost \$23,000.

Addition to the Jefferson School and Dedication of the Hoffman-Boston Junior High School

Enrollment quickly exceeded the school's capacity and officials started planning an addition to the Jefferson School in 1930. Similar to the Langston School and the Kemper School, Arlington County received funding from the Julius C. Rosenwald Foundation for the Jefferson School. The addition, resulting in an eight-room school, cost \$43,250 (\$3,000 provided by the Rosenwald fund) and opened by October 1, 1931. The following year, Superintendent Fletcher Kemp dedicated and renamed the Jefferson School as Hoffman-Boston Junior Colored High School of Arlington County. The Colored Parent-Teachers League requested the renaming to honor Edward C. Hoffman and Ella M. Boston, former Principals of Jefferson and Kemper schools, respectively.

Edward C. Hoffman



Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library

EDWARD C. HOFFMAN, UNDATED.

Edward C. Hoffman, the son of Herman and Sarah Norris, was born in 1866, possibly at Freedman's Village. Sarah Norris was the daughter of Sally and Leonard Norris, slaves at Arlington House, and the sister of Selina Gray. Raised in Arlington County, Hoffman attended the Normal School at Howard University in the early 1880s. He then enlisted for three years in the U.S. Navy on July 14, 1887. Hoffman married Henrietta Henderson on

September 21, 1893, in Georgetown (District of Columbia). The couple lived and raised their children in Nauck.

Hoffman became the Principal of Jefferson School by 1896 and served in this position until his death in 1926.

[Edward C. Hoffman's] great aim was to render service. As a teacher of the eighth grade and principal, with three assistants, he was always dependable and loyal, and unselfish in all of his endeavors and purposes.

--Superintendent Fletcher Kemp, 1926



LIBRARY, HOFFMAN-BOSTON, 1948.



HALLWAY, HOFFMAN-BOSTON, 1948.

Records of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, National Archives and Records Administration

Desegregation Efforts

In the late-1930s, Hoffman-Boston became a combined elementary, junior, and senior high school. Prior to its inclusion of high school curriculum, African American students interested in furthering their education were required to attend segregated schools in the District of Columbia. Enrollment of high school students, however, remained low likely due to inadequate facilities in comparison to free African American high schools in the District of Columbia. The District, however, required tuition payments for non-resident students starting in 1946 and largely refused the admission of any non-resident students by 1949.



VIEW OF THE EXTERIOR OF HOFFMAN-BOSTON, 1948.

Once the District of Columbia started to close its schools to Arlington students, African Americans found new legal grounds to challenge separate but equal education standards. In 1947, African American student Constance Carter (later joined by Julius Brevard and Peggy Council) sued the School Board of Arlington County because the facilities for Hoffman-Boston were not equal to Washington-Lee High School. The Principal of Hoffman-Boston advised that no courses were offered for Spanish, Civics, or Physical Education, and that typewriting could not be offered because there were no desks. The Circuit Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, found that the facilities were not equal, and reversed the decision of the District Court and remanded the case for further proceedings. While the case did not upend the County's well-entrenched policy of school segregation, the suit galvanized the black community as they repeatedly tried, and failed, to enroll their children in the white schools.

In 1951, Arlington County Public Schools completed construction of the Hoffman-Boston Elementary School (now demolished) on the northeast corner of the site. Two years later, on February 22, 1953, a \$564,988 addition to the Hoffman-Boston Junior-Senior High School was dedicated. The project included but was not limited to a cafeteria, gymnasium, vocational shops, classrooms, and other offices. The gymnasium and cafeteria were the first facilities of its kind offered to African American students in the County. Later substantial additions were completed in 1959 and 1975.

As part of integration efforts, Arlington County Public Schools closed the senior high school at Hoffman-Boston in 1964. The following

year, the School Board adopted a plan to combine three junior high school districts into two (Jefferson and Gunston). From 1965 to 1971, the new Jefferson School District operated its integrated junior high school classes in two school buildings — Hoffman-Boston Junior High School and Thomas Jefferson Junior High School. Hoffman-Boston, then renamed Jefferson Annex, housed seventh graders, and Thomas Jefferson Junior High School housed eight and ninth graders.

Hoffman-Boston Program and Hoffman-Boston Elementary School

In 1972, the School Board established the "Hoffman-Boston Program," an alternative junior high school, at the school and the building's name reverted back to Hoffman-Boston. The program remained until 1978 when it merged with the Woodlawn Program and moved to the former Stratford Junior High School building. The Hoffman-Boston school then housed the George Washington Carver Community Center and Montessori classes. Arlington Public Schools currently utilizes the building for the Hoffman-Boston Elementary School. In September 2003, the County completed a \$12.9-million expansion and renewal project that added 23 new classrooms and renovated the interior of the existing building and surrounding grounds.

Harry W. Gray House

Harry W. Gray, a son of Thornton and Selina Gray, was born into slavery at Arlington House ca. 1852. Gray served as an assistant to the mason on the property and carried bricks and water to build a wall around the mansion. After briefly residing at Freedman's Village, the Gray family later purchased property within the Nauck neighborhood. During this time, Harry Gray worked at a local brickyard. On December 30, 1874, the Secretary's Office of the Department of the Interior hired Gray as a fireman. He earned \$720 per year. Six years later, on July 22, 1880, Gray became an Assistant Messenger for the Secretary's Office of the Department of the Interior, a position that he held for 33 years.

Gray married Martha Madison Hoard—a freed slave from James Madison's Montpelier estate—on February 27, 1879, in Washington, D.C. The couple first resided in Washington, D.C., before returning to Arlington County. On January 23, 1880, Gray purchased 9 acres of land on the south side of Columbia Pike from William Curtis Johnston for \$800.

Familiar with the Victorian-era Queen Anne and Italianate-styled row houses in Washington, D.C., Gray erected a home at present-day 1005 South Quinn Street in a similar manner. With the help of a bricklayer named Alexander and recalling the skills that he learned at Arlington House, Gray completed the house ca. 1881.

Yes, papa worked and bought a ten-acre farm, then over the years almost brick by brick he built the two-story brick house, at the time the only one for miles around. He always wanted a brick house. Since he built it like the city row house in Washington, there are no windows on the sides and the house is narrow and tall. But it was a brick house for his family. Papa worked as a messenger in the Interior Department of Washington, and farmed on weekends and evenings. He was proud that all four of his children finished high school at old M Street High in Washington. He had to room and board us in town for the winter. And two of his children finished normal school. That was something in those days.

-- Martha Gray Gillem, Daughter of Harry W. and Martha H. Gray

Harry and Martha Gray raised four children (Thornton, Sara, Julia, and Martha) at the dwelling. Harry Gray died on November 3, 1913. Similar to many other African American residents of Arlington County, he was buried at Odd Fellows Cemetery on Columbia Pike and later reinterred at Coleman Cemetery in Fairfax County. After his death, Martha Gray subdivided the property and named two of the streets Gray and Hoard streets in memory of the family's legacy. The Gray family owned the house until 1979 and it was designated an Arlington County Local Historic District in 1983 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. Arlington County dedicated a historic marker at the site commemorating the life of Harry W. Gray and the house.



HARRY W. GRAY, UNDATED.



HARRY W. GRAY HOUSE, 1005 SOUTH QUINN STREET, 2016.

ARLINGTONVILLE.

Mr. Harry Gray, son of Mr. Thornton and Selina Norris Gray, who was wedded to Niss Martha Hoard about 17 years ago, is a 25 year's employee under the National Government and is well known in the county, state and general government. He is one of the best-to-do citizens of Arlingtonville.

His son Thornton and daughter Julia being in the High School and the others in the 5th and 6th grades, they are not only tax-payers on \$20,000 worth of property, but they are made to stand among the literary people of the race. Mrs. Martha Gray, whose illness and recovery were recently mentioned in The BEE, belongs to our best society of Washington and Alexandria as well as the county.

World War II Public Housing Projects at Nauck and Arlington View

At the onset of World War II, African Americans in Arlington County had few options for housing. Coupled with racial prejudice and discriminatory real estate practices, the construction of the Pentagon, Navy Annex, and associated road systems led to the demolition of Queen City and East Arlington, both populated African American neighborhoods. Seventy acres of land consisting of 225 families (810 persons) were displaced by public condemnation proceedings. Some of the families had lived in these communities since the closure of Freedman's Village. Residents who had no other housing options accepted the government's offer of temporary accommodations.

Arlington and Green Valley Trailer Camps

In 1942, the only provision offered to displaced residents was temporary housing in a trailer camp (named the Arlington Trailer Camp) near Columbia Pike and South Queen Street in the Johnson's Hill (presently Arlington View) neighborhood. Later that year, the government established the Green Valley Trailer Camp at 2444 South Glebe Road in Nauck for African American workers and displaced families.

In all, the affected families were compacted into trailers sited on less than 25 acres of land. Conditions quickly deteriorated as sections of the Arlington Trailer Camp were abandoned due to poor living conditions in 1943. The government dispersed the Green Valley Trailer camp in 1949. Sixteen vacated trailers in "poor condition" were sold to the public for \$25 to \$100.



Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library



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George Washington Carver Housing Project

The Federal Public Housing Authority constructed the dispersible George Washington Carver project in 1943 adjacent to the Arlington Trailer Camp. These 100 temporary housing units cost \$308,000 to construct, but failed to meet the unit-size needs of many of the trailer or displaced families. Eighty of the families who moved into the residences had been in trailer camps.

The project had a citizen association, community building, and County-operated health care clinic. The complex was described as follows:

...[in] the frame houses...ample storage space is provided, gas stoves, iceboxes and heaters are installed and the light colored composition walls and dark woodwork present a cheerful atmosphere. Back doors lead to garden and lawn space...

--Evening Star, September 13, 1943

In 1944, the government had a total of 270 trailers and 100 temporary public-financed housing units for Arlington County's African Americans. In comparison, public-financed caucasian housing consisted of 3,495 permanent housing units and 6,580 temporary housing units. No caucasians lived in trailer camps.

The George Washington Carver Housing Project, called "eyesores" by local African American leaders, stood for a decade before the Public Housing Administration vacated and demolished the buildings in 1954.



Paul Lawrence Dunbar and George Washington Carver Mutual Homes Associations

In 1944, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt conducted a series of "fact-finding tours" including a visit to the two trailer camps in Arlington County to bring attention to the real estate and housing crisis for African Americans in the Washington, D.C. region. The Federal government and the Roosevelt Administration recognized the need for housing that could be offered at low rents.

Whatever happens, this is a democracy. These are our citizens, and their right to live decently at the same costs and under similar conditions as other citizens I think must be accepted by all.

-- Eleanor Roosevelt, January 22, 1944

The Federal Public Housing Authority moved forward with planning for permanent housing. The government condemned and acquired a 10.76-acre site in Nauck from African American resident Elizabeth Hicks. The project called for a 130-unit apartment complex; however, the government yielded an adjacent 3.5 acres to a private developer. This led to the construction of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Homes, 15 masonry buildings consisting of 86-units and costing \$551,500.

The government immediately sought a 3.84-acre site in Arlington View to construct the George Washington Carver Homes. The 8-building apartment complex consisted of 44 units (to reach a total of 130 units



between the Carver and Dunbar homes) and cost \$220,200. Both projects were designed by noted African American architect Albert Irvin Cassell and constructed in 1944.

At the end of World War II, Congress directed the Public Housing Authority to dispose of both properties. The Lanham Act of 1949 gave priority for disposition of publicly held housing for conversion to affordable housing. After Arlington County declined the government's offer to acquire the land, the tenants of the buildings pursued purchase. With little available housing options, the African American community feared the loss of the property to developers who may exclude black residents.

The tenants formed the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Mutual Homes Association and the George Washington Carver Mutual Homes Association. "Mutual" cooperative organizations were specifically formed to purchase war housing built by the government. Forming a cooperative organization allowed the tenants to pool financial resources to leverage their buying power and lower the cost associated with home ownership.

The Public Housing Administration accepted the George Washington Carver Mutual Homes Association bid of \$123,000 and the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Mutual Homes Association bid of \$261,000 for the purchase of these apartments. After an initial down payment, each member of the cooperative paid a monthly payment. For example, each member of the Carver Homes initially contributed \$50 for a total of \$2,200 towards the down payment. Members of the Dunbar Homes paid \$65 a month for a 2-bedroom or \$72 a month for a 3-bedroom unit during the 25 years of its first mortgage.

These were the first two African-American owned cooperatives in the United States. The houses provided an affordable path to residents of modest means and remained immensely popular. All but 10 of the original 44 owners of the Carver Homes were present for the burning of the mortgage in 1975.

Increasing real estate values led to the demolition of the Dunbar Homes in 2006 and the Carver Homes in 2016. A historic marker celebrating the original members of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Mutual Homes Association is located at the corner of South Kemper and South Shirlington roads. Two historic markers commemorating the history of the George Washington Carver Homes are located at the George Washington Carver Mini-Park.



© Eric N. Dobson



Arlington County Historic Preservation Program

Integration of Arlington County

Stratford Junior High School

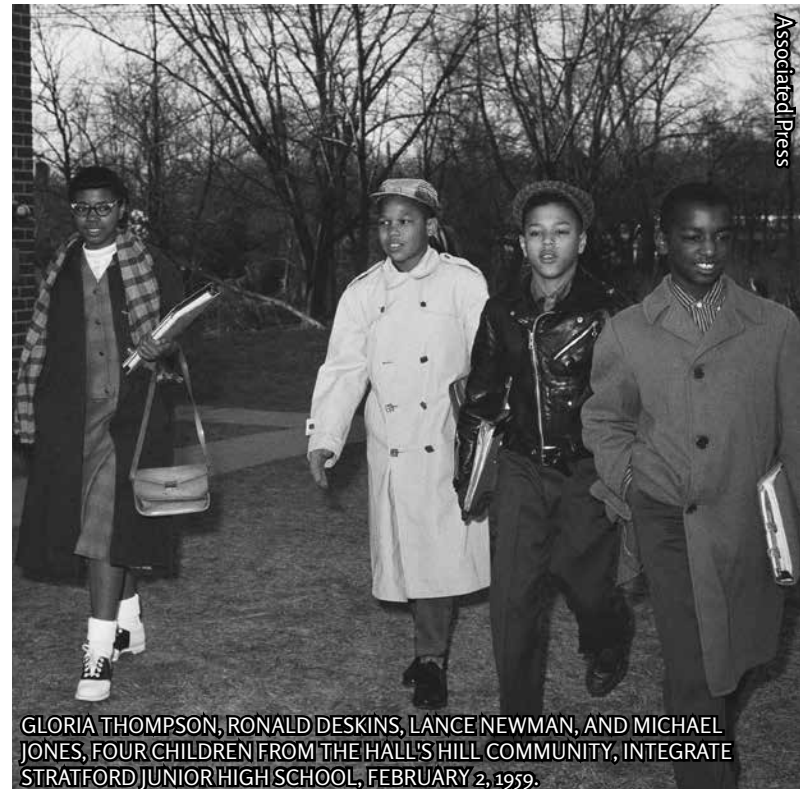
On February 2, 1959, Stratford Junior High School became the first public school in Virginia to desegregate with the admission of four African American students. The event was the end result of an extended conflict triggered by the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka* in May 1954, which proclaimed the segregation of schools by race to be unconstitutional.

Virginia officials had little intention of implementing any desegregation program pursuant to the Brown ruling. U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr. called for what became known as Massive Resistance, a group of laws passed in 1956, intended to prevent integration of the schools. When not a single African American student had been admitted to a white school in Virginia, the NAACP filed a series of law suits in Federal court demanding desegregation in Arlington, Front Royal, Charlottesville, and Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1958, Judge Bryan ruled that four African American students were unfairly denied admission to Stratford Junior High School and ordered that the students be admitted at the start of the spring term. On February 2, 1959, at 8:30 A.M., under the protection of approximately eighty-five Arlington police officers, Ronald Deskins, Michael Jones, Lance Newman, and Gloria Thompson entered and were admitted to Stratford Junior High School without incident, making Stratford the first public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to desegregate.

The successful integration of Stratford Junior High School marked the crucial beginning of the desegregation movement in Arlington County. The event signified the end of Massive Resistance and segregated schools in Virginia.

Located at 4100 Vacation Lane, Stratford Junior High School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. Arlington County listed the property as a local historic district in 2016 and a historic marker commemorates the integration of the school.



Associated Press

GLORIA THOMPSON, RONALD DESKINS, LANCE NEWMAN, AND MICHAEL JONES, FOUR CHILDREN FROM THE HALL'S HILL COMMUNITY, INTEGRATE STRATFORD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 2, 1959.



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

STRATFORD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 1, 1959.

Sit-In Movement

In 1960, African Americans were still denied equal access to public accommodations such as lunch counters, restaurants, bathrooms, public parks, and other services utilized by caucasians. College students exercised non-violent measures utilized by Martin Luther King, Jr. to integrate whites-only lunch counters starting at Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 1, 1960. Passive resistance ignited a youth-led movement to challenge racial inequality throughout the South.

The Nonviolent Action Group (NAG) started at Howard University and participated in picketing at the White House and U.S. Capitol. Under the leadership of students Laurence Henry and Dion Diamond, NAG shifted focus to lunch counters in Arlington County to highlight the hypocrisy of segregation policies that existed there and to start a dialogue in the community. A number of the businesses already served African Americans in the District of Columbia (and other states), but adhered to the local custom of segregation in Virginia recognizing there were no legal barriers.

I AM AN American.... If my country calls me to war...I serve. Therefore, if I am to die for my country, I want it to represent the best.... People should eat in dignity, not in dirt, not in a dark corner for Negroes. Half of the business of eating is to sit down and be comfortable.

-- Laurence Henry, 1960

On June 9, 1960, a bi-racial contingent of college students (including Arlington-raised Joan Mulholland) entered the People's Drug Store at Old Dominion Drive and Lee Highway, and Cherrydale Drug Fair at 3515 Lee Highway. The stores quickly closed the lunch counters and refused service. The protesters returned the following day and expanded the sit-in to Howard Johnson's Restaurant at 4700 Lee Highway. The owner of Howard Johnson's Restaurant had the police arrest Henry and Diamond for trespassing; they were summarily released on a \$250 bond. NAG then suspended the sit-ins to allow for the local government and business community to shift their policy.

You had to use what you had. I could use my white skin to go into a lunch counter, sit down and get a lot of food and then when my black friends sat down next to me I could pass some over. I could go scope out a situation without being conspicuous. I mean I was a sweet young thing back then. I could be what we called a spotter at a demonstration.

-- Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, 2014

The majority of the sit-ins were relatively peaceful except at the Cherrydale Drug Fair. Protesters encountered a hostile crowd, counter demonstrators, and Neo-Nazi "Storm Troopers" led by George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi Party. These individuals tried to

incite violence with taunts and abuse including elbowing the students, throwing fire crackers, placing lit cigarettes in their pockets, and giving vile verbal abuse.

I've heard the term, 'n[----],' so much in the last few days — more than I've ever heard it before. But I kept thinking that if I struck back, I'd be defeating my purpose.

-- Dion Diamond, June 11, 1960

Sit-ins resumed on June 18, 1960, at the Lansburgh's Department Store and Woolworth's Lunch Counter in Shirlington. On June 22, five major chain stores in Arlington agreed to desegregate their lunch counters for the first time. The desegregation had a cascading effect as nearly all department and chain stores in Arlington, Fairfax, and Alexandria, integrated their lunch counter within a few days.

Our progress in achieving this promised land - in which human dignity is secure and equal opportunity is enjoyed by all - has been remarkable progress indeed..... But our efforts must go on and increase - to achieve equal access to the voting booth, to the schoolroom, to jobs, to housing, and to public facilities, including lunch counters.

Such action inevitably involves some unrest and turmoil and tension - part of the price of change. But the fact that people are peacefully protesting the denial of their rights is not something to be lamented. It is a good sign - a sign of increased popular responsibility, of good citizenship, of the American spirit coming alive again. It is in the American tradition to stand up for one's rights - even if the new way to stand up for one's rights is to sit down.

-- Senator John F. Kennedy, June 24, 1960



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The story of African Americans is a story of resilience and perseverance. It traces a people who refused to accept the circumstances under which they arrived on these shores, and it chronicles the generations who fought for an America that truly reflects the ideals enshrined in our founding documents. It is the narrative of slaves who shepherded others along the path to freedom and preachers who organized against the rules of Jim Crow, of young people who sat-in at lunch counters and ordinary men and women who took extraordinary risks to change our Nation for the better.

-- President Barack Obama, January 31, 2012

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