

The Map of Arlington in 1878— Places and People

By C. B. ROSE, JR.

At first glance, this map (see pp. 32-33) does not appear to be a map of Arlington County at all—at least not as it is represented today. The characteristic right angle appears not at the upper left, but at the lower left. This geometric figure, of course, is the result of the fact that Arlington is the major portion of what was once the area ceded by Virginia as part of the District of Columbia. The right angle was formerly the northwest corner of the original 10-mile square as laid out in 1791 under the direction of George Washington.

Another apparent distortion is the width of the Potomac River: it looks broader relative to the land area shown than it does on present-day maps. That is not a fault of the map maker—it *was* broader. Silting and fill have brought its banks closer in the last hundred years.

The designation "Alexandria County, Virginia" emphasizes a fact which, to the uninitiate, helps to confuse research into Arlington's past. Those who have struggled with the records remember that prior to 1920 when the General Assembly changed the name of the County to Arlington in honor of General Robert E. Lee¹ this area had been called Alexandria County since 1801, when it became part of the District of Columbia. So named originally by Act of Congress, this designation was retained when the area was retroceded to Virginia in 1846.²

There *is* something wrong with this map, even for its day. It includes the City of Alexandria as part of the County. The City had been separated formally from the County in 1870. That was when the Virginia Constitution of 1869 went into effect. Under the Acts of Assembly which implemented that Constitution³ the counties of the State were to be laid off into districts the boundaries of which were to exclude any town or city of 5,000 or more inhabitants with its own form of government. Alexandria City was such an entity.

Alexandria County thus was laid off into three districts by a commission appointed by the judge of the County Court.⁴ Its members were John Slater, G. B. Wibirt, John Birch, and George R. Adams. The lines of these districts

¹ Arlington was the name of the Custis estate, Lee's dearly beloved home, though never owned by him. His father-in-law, George Washington Parke Custis, died in 1857, leaving it to his grandson, George Washington Custis Lee, with a life interest to his daughter, Robert E. Lee's wife.

² For an account of the cession and retrocession of this area, see articles by Harrison Mann in *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2.

³ Chapters 39, 110, and 188 of the Acts of Assembly, 1869-70, relate to forms of local government.

⁴ "Minute Book" of the Alexandria County Court, May 2, 1870.

were to have meaning until the county-manager form of government went into effect in Arlington in 1932, when, as the result of a referendum in 1930, they were abolished. But in 1878 the districts were significant. A supervisor was elected for each, and together the three supervisors—one from Washington District, one from Arlington District, and one from Jefferson District—were the members of the governing body of the County. In 1878 the members of the Board of Supervisors were Charles W. Payne of Washington District, chairman; William A. Rowe of Jefferson District; and William H. Robinson of Arlington District. The constitutional officers that year were: Edmund Burke, Commonwealth's attorney (1/1/74-6/30/83); H. L. Holmes, commissioner of the revenue (7/1/75-12/31/03); Jefferson Tacey, treasurer (7/14/75-1/14/80); William C. Wibirt, sheriff (1/1/76-6/30/79); and Louis E. Payne, clerk of courts (1/1/74-2/19/79).⁵ These officers were all elected on a county-wide basis. And the County was larger then than it is now. It ran down to the boundaries shown on the map for the City of Alexandria. Annexation by the City in 1915 and 1929 reduced Arlington to its present boundaries.⁶

In 1878 the County was divided not only into Magisterial Districts, but each of these in turn was divided into road districts. These had been laid out by a special commission for each Magisterial District in 1875.⁷ Maintenance of the County roads was the concern of an overseer, or "surveyor," of the roads for each district, elected for the purpose after the first appointments. It was the job of this official to see that the public roads were kept in good shape. For this purpose he was allotted "hands" who either did the work themselves or paid to have it done. Accompanying the report of the commissioners for each of the districts is the allotment of hands which they recommended for each road precinct. This has value to the historian, helping him to locate Arlingtonians in time and place. A superintendent of roads for the County supervised the overseers.

The map under consideration here comes from a publication entitled *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the Counties of Fairfax and Alexandria, Virginia*. It was compiled and drawn from "actual surveys" by G. M. Hopkins and published in Philadelphia in 1879. Accompanying the portion dealing with Arlington is a "Historical Sketch" most of which relates to the District of Columbia. About the County itself it says:

Alexandria County is situated in the north-east part of Virginia, opposite Washington, D.C. It borders on the Potomac River and was formerly part of the District of Columbia but was retroceded in 1846. Area, 36 Square miles. [Arlington now embraces 25.5 square miles.] Population in 1870, 16,755; in 1860 it was 12,652. [Actually both those figures include the City of Alexandria which had by far the lion's share. The population for the

⁵ The span of years shown indicates the period during which these individuals held the office named.

⁶ For an account of the development of the boundaries of Arlington, see article by C. B. Rose, Jr., in *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 1.

⁷ "Minute Book" of the Board of Supervisors, No. 1, p. 98 ff. See Appendix.

County alone in 1860 was 1,446; in 1870, 3,185; and in 1880, two years after the date of the map, 3,887.] The surface is undulating, the soil but moderately fertile, but susceptible of great improvement.

It is traversed by the Washington and Ohio Railroad, the Alexandria and Washington Railroad, and the Alexandria Canal, affording cheap and rapid communication. From its proximity to the National Capital, affording a fine market. The prospect for a rapid increase in value of land is very favorable.

Agricultural productions in 1870 were—Wheat, 3,161 bushels; Rye, 1,573 bushels; Indian corn, 21,679 bushels; Oats, 5,527 bushels; Irish potatoes, 6,940 bushels; Sweet Potatoes, 736 bushels; Butter, 3,805 pounds; Hay, 1,124 tons. Cash value of farms, \$660,875. Total estimated value of all farm productions, including additions to stock, etc., \$97,024.

The map clearly shows the railroads of which this account speaks. The Washington & Ohio Railroad was first the Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad and is now part of the Washington & Old Dominion. The Alexandria & Washington Railroad ran along what is roughly the present U.S. Route 1, crossing at the Long Bridge about where the railroad bridge is now. The Chain Bridge had no transportation line. The Alexandria Canal (*not* Chesapeake & Ohio Canal as it is here labeled; it was under different ownership and only connected with the C & O Canal) came across the Aqueduct Bridge and entered the Potomac River between Montgomery and First Streets in Alexandria. At Four Mile Run it crossed over both the railroad and the turnpike on a stone and brick structure. These were the transportation facilities in the County in those days. Everything that did not move by them moved by horse and wagon or by shanks' mare.

One of the striking points of the map is the number of schools noted on it. The report of the County superintendent of schools for the year ended September 30, 1871, gives an 1870 population of 16,754 of whom 9,444 were white and 7,310 were colored. It states that there was a total of 4,385 registered voters but that the number of those 10 years old and older who could not read was 4,283; those who could not write, 5,388. As noted earlier, these figures obviously relate to an area which included Alexandria City. We have no such statistics for the County alone. According to this report, there was one school for white children and none for colored in the County. The one white school had one teacher and 25 children. The monthly cost per pupil was \$1.33. Since the school year then was 10 months long, this would make the total school budget for the County in that year \$332.50!

But what does the map show a bare seven years after the date of this report: six schools. A child who was born two years after the date of this map has described⁸ Carne School (one of the earliest) as it was when he attended there:

Painted a dirty dark red and about sixty feet long and forty wide. . . . the only space a child was allowed in a room stuffy with the odor of chewing tobacco was on a bench built for three pupils . . . on a platform at the far end of the room, behind a large flat

⁸ Charles Grunwell: *All in a Lifetime*, Dorrance & Co., Philadelphia, 1961.

desk sat our teacher.⁹ He chewed tobacco and kept a large spittoon on the floor by his side constantly busy. In the middle of the room in winter stood a tall, pot-bellied stove around whose red hot sides on very cold days the children sat on benches. When the teacher wasn't looking, the big boys would spit tobacco juice against the sides and giggle at the spit as it hopped and skipped about. Now and then on a windy day, when an extra strong blast hit the school house, it would jar loose chunks of plaster down on the children's heads.

As I look back now, I realize that the teacher of that school was a most remarkable man . . . With an average of seventy-five pupils, ranging from small children in the first reader up to nearly full-grown boys and girls under his care, he was a busy man.

Another aspect of life in Arlington is reflected by this map in the number of churches: Walker Chapel, Mt. Olivet, still another Methodist Church on what is now Lee Highway, the First Presbyterian Church at Ball's "X" Roads. The "Epis. Ch." on Columbia Pike is obviously Trinity. But present-day Arlington Methodist—originally located at Hunter's Chapel and burned during the Civil War—is not shown. The graveyards shown on the map were family graveyards and were not associated with churches.

As for shopping centers—there really were none. Almost every cross-roads had its blacksmith shop. A few "stores" are noted: Collins at Ball's Cross Roads, Ed Woody's near Chain Bridge, Nelson's in Cherrydale, and Johnston's near where the Georgetown-Alexandria Turnpike and Columbia Turnpike intersected. Shopping for those things not produced at home usually meant a trip to Alexandria or to Washington, and this was a real expedition.

The map carries the names of many individuals. A great many of these appear in other public records. Relying mainly on those, it is possible to give some life to the people and families noted here. Some are covered in considerable detail in *Arlington Heritage*.¹⁰ Additional research would fill out the picture even more. Here we have space for only a few salient facts.

One of the amusing things about the *Atlas* from which this map comes is that, in the fashion of the times, it carries a list of "patrons"—the people who subscribed for its publication, presumably. They were rewarded by having their names on the map in large type. Our reward is that it gives us some information about our early families that we would not otherwise have come by so easily.

Starting at the upper left, the most prominent names are those of "Robt" and "W^mT" Walker, members of the Walker family for whom Walker Chapel is named. The *Atlas* lists Wm. T. and R. Walker as owning 77½ acres, their occupation as farmer, and their nativity as "Virginia." A Robert Walker was a member of the commission to lay off the road districts in 1875 and a member of the electoral board in 1885. It may be supposed that he is the same Robert Walker who lost a three-year-old son George in the year in which this map was made; the cause of the baby's death was given

⁹ [Samuel Stalcup.]

¹⁰ Eleanor Lee Templeman: *Arlington Heritage*, Published by the author, 1959.

as "teething." A later Robert Walker was a member of the board of supervisors 1912-19 (chairman part of that time) and resigned to become the County's first sanitary inspector.

The map shows "Chas. Deeble" near the Walkers. An Edward Deeble was a County resident in 1851, when he was paid \$12 for work on the roads in the preceding year. He was a supervisor for Washington District in 1871-2. Elected in 1873 he failed to qualify, and Samuel Titus, whose name appears on the map as a near neighbor, was appointed in his place. Samuel died in 1889 of "old age" at 74, leaving a wife, Martha.

Immediately below Titus is Gilbert Vanderwerken, the largest landowner in the County with 1,316 acres. His name appears twice elsewhere nearby. According to the *Atlas*, he came to the County from New York in 1856. His first cousin was Gilbert Vandenberg, also shown. One of the Vanderwerken daughters married A. B. Grunwell; these were the parents of Charles Grunwell quoted earlier. The Grunwell home, "Bellevue," still stands on Glebe Road. Mr. Grunwell was a member of the board of supervisors for two terms, 1887-89 and 1895-97, chairman both times. Gilbert Vandenberg had been a member of the old County Court—the governing body of the County prior to 1870—when he was appointed to fill a vacancy. He was an elected supervisor for Washington District 1874-77, the last part of his term serving as chairman. One of *his* daughters married H. A. Lockwood whose name appears between "Chas. Deeble" and "Sam^l. Titus" just above Gilbert Vanderwerken. Another daughter married George Saegmuller whose name curiously does not appear on the map although he owned property here at the time.

Moving east and north, the Marcey family appears on the map although disguised: the name is spelled "M a s s e y." This is not the only misspelling on this map; there are many, and it requires some imagination and background in Arlington history to make a proper identification. Perhaps the most extreme case is "JDDvhon" (near the Arlington Station on the Washington & Ohio R.R.) who is almost certainly the Joshua DeVaughan of the "Howell" map of 1900.

The Marcey family came to the County early in its history, and there are members of the family still here. One of the characteristics of this family is the longevity of its members: the records usually report them as dying of "old age." The Donaldsons nearby are another old family. The Census of 1785 lists a number by this name in this area. They have left their mark on the map of Arlington. There is Donaldson Run today, and Cherrydale takes its name from Dorsey Donaldson's cherry orchard. His name appears as "D. Donaldson" on what is now Lee Highway.

C. C. Nelson whose name looms large on the map does not appear in the public records. The *Atlas* states that he was a merchant who came to the County from New York in 1872 and owned six acres of land. Closer to Rosslyn than this Cherrydale group is "P i c e r c e," which stands for

Pearce. Allan Pearce, whose picture hangs in the Capitol in Richmond, was a Delegate to the General Assembly from this area 1871-73. He had also been a member of the County Court in 1869. He had died before this map was drawn: in 1873 at the age of 62 of "cancer in stomach."

Randolph Birch is the closest name to Rosslyn. There were (and are) many Birches in the County, representing different branches of this prolific family. Randolph was overseer of the roads for District #4 in Arlington District in 1875 and also a member of the special police for the County in that year.

Moving back up present Lee Highway, the largest name is R. G. Cunningham. To judge from the size of type he must have contributed well to the *Atlas* which states that he owned 12 acres, was a clerk, had been born in Scotland, and came to the County in 1873. Nearby is Francis G. Schutt. His name appears twice, each time as "Shutz," giving a clue as to how it was pronounced in those days. It is now pronounced as though spelled "Skut" with a short "u." He served as a supervisor from Arlington District beginning April 8, 1873, when he was first appointed to fill a vacancy, then was elected, and finally served as chairman from July 1, 1874, to June 5, 1877, when he moved from the district—presumably across the line to the more westerly location shown on the map.

Charles A. Payne has been mentioned as a supervisor in 1878. He had served on the County Court 1862-64, been a supervisor 1870-71, overseer of the roads in 1875, road surveyor in 1885, and died in 1886. His name on the map is spelled "Paine" rather than "Payne" as it appears in the records.

Just a little farther west on this road is the name Wunder. Their name is perpetuated only in the subdivision "Wundoria," but at one time—and not so long ago as history goes—the crossing of Lee Highway and Glebe Road was known as "Wunder's Cross Roads." Henry D. Wunder, born in Germantown, Pa., in 1791, was a doctor who took part in public life. At the time of his death in 1866 he was a member of the County Court. He had run for Delegate to the General Assembly in 1861 but was defeated. His son, George Ott Wunder, apparently held few public offices but was largely instrumental, with a few others, in persuading Washington District to tax itself for the purpose of establishing public schools after the Civil War, and contributed his own funds to make this possible.

Still farther west, in large type, is the name of Basil Hall. The *Atlas* lists him as owning 327 acres and as a farmer who came from the District of Columbia to the County in 1850. In that year he bought part of the Van Ness land which had been part of the Glebe of Alexandria's Christ Church. He served as a justice of the peace for Washington District in 1870 and died in 1888. He has left his name on the present day map in Hall's Hill, a term current in 1878 apparently.

West of Basil Hall are the Minors. They were early in the County. In the last century William, who died in 1859, served as a school commissioner for the County in 1848. This was before the Civil War when public schools were

not so highly thought of as today. He was sheriff in the same year and overseer of the poor in 1851. His son, William J., died at the age of 65 of Bright's disease in 1880. The name of this family is perpetuated in "Minor's Hill" where the County reservoir now is.

Near the Minors are a number of Birches. The most frequent references to them in the County records are in connection with their being paid for work done on the roads—Thomas in 1851 and 1852, Samuel in the former year, and Caleb in the latter. Among the public offices held by members of the Birch family were the post of overseer of the poor by William B. in 1855, supervisor from Arlington District 1891-93 by Millard, and sheriff by Jacob who died a few months after taking office in 1912.

An early appearance of the name Febrey in the records is as "Nichols Phefrey"—actually Nicholas Febrey who was a chain carrier in a survey made in 1839. His son Henry W. who appears on the map (near Falls Church) was elected to the County Court in 1866 and resigned the next year. Henry was supervisor from Washington District 1872-73 and died of cancer in 1881 at the age of 52. He was one of those who worked with George Ott Wunder to bring public schools to Washington District. His son, in turn, served several terms as a member of the board of supervisors: 1892-3, 1904-07, and 1908-11 when he was chairman. This map shows John and Amanda, who is credited with 120 acres. She died in 1882 at the age of 65.

Near John Febrey, and within the boundaries of East Falls Church, is "Dr. Lewis E. Gott." (The proper spelling is "Louis.") His father, Richard, had been an engineer on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal project. This work brought him from Towson, Md., to the District of Columbia where his son was born. Dr. Gott served as a medical officer in the Confederate Army and practiced medicine in this area for 50 years afterward. The war ruined the family fortunes and forced them to move to what had been Richard Gott's hunting lodge in the woods of Alexandria County. Later Dr. Gott built a large home which still stands, also in East Falls Church. Dr. Gott's land figures in the legal description of the Town of Falls Church when it was chartered in 1875 by the General Assembly. The map shows that portion of the town which lay in Arlington County. The boundary description in the statute mentions "a pin oak tree near Dr. L. E. Gott's spring; thence to the northeast corner of John Brown's barn." John Brown's house is also shown on this 1878 map; if the line shown for the Town of Falls Church is accurate his barn must have been a good distance away. This boundary was dissolved by court action in 1936 when the town limits were redrawn (upon petition of the citizens) to exclude the part in Arlington, and East Falls Church again merged indistinguishably into the County. The description in the court order makes mention of "a point which formerly marked the northeast corner of John Brown's barn" and a "point at which there formerly stood a large pin oak on the Gott tract." Time had obviously taken its toll of both tree and barn.

The Torreyson family long operated a large dairy farm in this area, but

there is little mention of them in the records. Later there was a Torreyson station on the electric railroad line, but it was some distance from the spot shown for "W^m Torreyson" on this map near the County line. Near this Torreyson are the Carlins who gave their name to Glencarlyn and Carlin Springs Road. Their tenure in this area goes a long way back. This map shows Mary Carlin's house, which still stands.

Just above, George R. Adams' name stands out boldly. The *Atlas* lists him as having come to the County in 1865. As noted above, he was a member of the commission to lay off the magisterial districts in 1870.

The "T. Hyson" shown on the map was Thornton who was listed in the voters' list for 1874 as a laborer living "near Mrs. Febrey." This list contains the information that he had lived in the County only three years at the time, but there were Hysons in the County as far back as 1853 when Samuel, noted as "Free Colored," died of typhoid at the age of 45. There are still Hysons in the Hall's Hill area today.

Richard Southern, somewhat north and east of Hyson, had died of "old age" at 87 the year before this map was made; hence "Rch^d. Southern, Hrs." He had served as overseer of the poor in 1849, as a commissioner of election in 1862, and was a member of the County Court 1862-64. Note these dates: they point up a situation which would be considered strange today—he was a commissioner of election in an election in which he was a candidate! This was not unusual at the time; other instances appear in the records.

Near Balls "X" Roads is "C. Y. Lacy." In later days the name was spelled "Lacey," and this property is where Lacey Station on the electric railroad was located. Still in the Ball's "X" Roads area is George Mortimore who had a blacksmith shop and a store, made coffins, and did an undertaking business. An early school was located on the second floor of his place.

There are a couple of Veitches in this area, but they also lived elsewhere in the County. When Wm. C. died in 1878 he was described as living "opposite Cruit's" and that is in the Cherrydale area. (Mention is made of Cruit's in the description of the road districts, and the name appears on Civil War maps but not on this one of 1878.) Leafing through the records, one comes across Andrew Veitch; George, who was a special policeman in 1869; George W. who was superintendent of the poor in 1871 and a supervisor from Arlington District in 1885-87; Isaac, who was elected constable in the County in 1866; Richard A., who was sheriff from 1883 to 1895; Robert R. who was a special policeman in 1870 and a member of the electoral board in 1885; and W. P. whose occupation was given as tailor and who died in 1856 at the age of 45. Members of this family, though not bearing the name of Veitch, are active in the County today.

And then there are the Balls for whom the crossroads was named, our present Ballston. They had moved a bit away from that area by 1878. The map shows "H. Ball," "Wm. Ball," and "S. Ball," closer to what we now think of as Clarendon. This family has been prominent in the history of Arlington

County ever since the first record of James Ball as a tenant of the Alexanders before 1735. Closer to the time of this map there is Horatio Ball, Sr., who was relieved of the payment of taxes in 1868 "on account of old age and infirmities." He died at the age of 88 in 1873. His son, Horatio Jr., served as supervisor from Arlington District in 1887-89. W. D. Ball was a Delegate to the General Assembly in 1877. The most active Ball in the decade before the Civil War was James T., who at various times was a commissioner of election (1849, 1850, 1852), school commissioner (1849), and overseer of the poor (1850). He took the oath of allegiance on February 6, 1865, when his age was given as 58 and his occupation "farmer." E. Wade Ball was County treasurer from 1908 to 1932, a record tenure in the office. His brother, Frank L., was Commonwealth's attorney from January 1, 1916, to December 31, 1923, and then Senator in the General Assembly. Today he is a well-known attorney and Arlington's "elder statesman" called upon for all sorts of civic duties.

Near the Balls on the map are two Douglasses: W^m J. and A. P. They were brothers. A. P.'s son was W. W. Douglas who was supervisor from Arlington District, 1904-07. His son is Lawrence W. who was Commonwealth's attorney from 1932 to 1947. Nearby also is "A. Hayes," the grandfather of Douglass R. Hayes. Alonzo Hayes served as secretary of the commission to select a site for the County Courthouse when its removal from Alexandria was authorized in 1896.

In the present-day Clarendon area the map shows "Wm. H. Robertson." One of this name served as supervisor from Arlington District 1877-79, his name appearing in the "Minute Book" of the Board of Supervisors both as Robertson (as it does on the map) and as Robinson, more often the latter. On the basis of frequency alone, it would seem that the name was "Robinson," making the map notation incorrect. Ira F. Munson, in large type above Mr. Robinson, was noted by the *Atlas* as a New Yorker who came to the County in 1868. His occupation is given as fruit canning.

The U.S. Military Cemetery and "Arlington" show up prominently on the map. "Mrs. General Rob^t E. Lee" is given a dot near the canal. The ownership of this property was not settled until 1883, when the United States Government paid \$150,000 to Mrs. Lee's son. The Jackson City station on the Washington & Alexandria R.R. marks the Virginia end of the Long Bridge. Nearby is "Tho^s Peen, occp^t." This is the only tenancy noted on the map, doubtless because he was a "patron." Mr. Peen was an Englishman who came to the County as a farmer in 1872. Fort Runyon, the largest single element in the defenses of Washington during the Civil War, survives as a station on the railroad. The names of five different brick companies are in this area of the map. Brick making was the major, and almost the only, industry in the County at that time and for a long time afterward.

Near the crossing of Columbia Turnpike and the Georgetown-Alexandria Turnpike (more recently Arlington Ridge Road) the name of William A. Rowe appears twice, once with the spelling "Roe." (In the records it is also

sometimes spelled "Wroe" and, by a copyist, "Rome.") His name also appears in what today is known as Nauck. In 1878 he must have been living at the most northerly of these locations as he was supervisor from Jefferson District. When his son Charles died in 1876 it was noted that he lived on Georgetown Road. William Rowe had been a special policeman in 1869, a clerk of election in 1870, and collector for Jefferson District that year. In 1871, he was elected supervisor for the first time, and he served continuously until April 1879, when he moved to Arlington District, forcing his resignation. He must have been very well regarded in the County since the other two supervisors, both of whom were white, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved that the resignation of William A. Rowe as a member of this board having been made known, the faithful and efficient discharge of his duties during the past ten years, and the upright and honorable conduct that has marked his public service entitle him to the confidence, esteem, and gratitude of the people of this County.

This must have had some effect as he was promptly elected from his new district. He began a new term as supervisor from Arlington District on July 1, 1879, and served until June 30, 1883. Following that he was supervisor of the poor for three years. The "Minute Book" records that in 1877 he petitioned for recompense for the loss of a horse which had fallen through a bridge on the road from Aqueduct Bridge to Alexandria, the Georgetown-Alexandria Turnpike. On the evidence of J. R. Johnston and N. S. Wright as to the bad condition of the bridge he was paid \$100 by order of the Board of Supervisors. Apparently no one thought it odd that he was sitting as a member of the board at the time and voted on the question!

This J. R. Johnston, who is noted on the map as owning 85 acres, gave his name to Johnston's Hill. He had been elected a member of the County Court in 1866 but was removed by the commanding general of the Military District on March 15, 1869. He was a commissioner of election in 1873 and a member of the commission to lay off the road districts in 1875. The *Atlas* lists him as a merchant (he furnished groceries to the poor in 1877) and farmer who had been born in Virginia. Even before he died in 1882 he had transferred some of his land to his son Richard. A property description in his will has a nice touch: ". . . on the east by a gully or wash and on the south by the lower or southern edge of the currant bushes . . ." It is pleasant to know where some currant bushes were growing in 1882. Richard continued the process begun by his father of developing this area into building lots for sale to the Negroes then being forced to leave Freedman's Village, established by the Federal Government after the War as a settlement for freed slaves. Richard was a commissioner of election in 1875 and 1877, supervisor from Jefferson District 1885-87, and Commonwealth's Attorney 1891-1903. His grandson is active in business in the County today.

N. S. Wright, who shows up so boldly on the map, owned only 7 acres. He is listed as a merchant and farmer who came to the County from New York in 1861. One may suspect that he came with the Union Army as a sutler. He was a justice of the peace and acting coroner at one time. Along

with C. B. Graham and F. P. Crocker he was mentioned in the *Alexandria Gazette* of January 23, 1873, as one of "the only white people present" at a mass meeting in Freedman's Village where the annexation of Alexandria County to the District of Columbia was agitated.

Moving up Columbia Pike, the name of Henry B. Austin appears on the map. He was Benjamin Austin who was a member of the commission to lay off the roads in 1875 and a justice of the peace that year. He was elected County clerk in 1879 and served until 1886 when he was "removed." There is nothing in the record to show the reason.

In this same area are the Wibirts. Garret B., as mentioned earlier, was a member of the commission to lay off the magisterial districts in 1870. He held various local offices in Arlington District under the township form of government in effect from 1870 to 1875. Stephen B. Wibirt was superintendent of schools at the time of his death in 1882. He was the father of W. C. who was an inveterate public office holder. He was sheriff 1876-79, treasurer 1881-1907, and supervisor from Arlington District 1912-19, the second term being chairman.

"Capt H. D. Smith" came to the County from New York in 1867. He was a merchant and farmer according to the *Atlas*. He served as supervisor from 1870 to March 3, 1873, when he resigned.

There are two Crockers on the map in the Columbia Pike area known as "Arlington P.O.": Ellen and Maggie. The records yield a P. Crocker who was a special policeman in 1869, and a Lott W. who was appointed overseer of the poor in 1867 and supervisor for Arlington District to fill out Captain Smith's term. Curtis B. Graham was a supervisor from Arlington District in 1884 and 1885; Curtis B. Graham, Jr., was commissioner of the revenue 1904-11.

Emma Buckley, owner of 53 acres, resided near Columbia Pike. Together with her husband, "R. Buckley," she bought 40 acres from the executors of Gustavus Alexander in 1867 and sold it to John D. Nauck, Jr., in 1874. He added to this holding and began the development of the "Town of Nauck," a designation still recognized today. It is all the more curious, therefore, that his name does not appear on the map. He was an upholsterer who first bought land when he was living in the District of Columbia, later moving to the County.

On the other side of Columbia Pike from Mrs. Buckley is S. B. Corbett. He was a New Yorker who came to the County in 1849. For terms beginning in 1866 and again in 1869 he was a member of the County Court. F. (Fred.) S. Corbett was sheriff, 1879-83, and supervisor from Arlington District for various terms between 1889 and 1911. Virgil Corbett was treasurer from 1870 until his death in 1875. His brother Frank (Francis) E. filled out his unexpired term. Lawrence W. Corbett was the Delegate to the General Assembly 1887-88, and Dr. H. C. Corbett was the County's first health officer in 1910.

Southeastward down Four Mile Run is the area now known as Nauck or

Green Valley. Here is Henson Thompson who was collector for Arlington District in 1870, overseer of the poor for that District in 1874, and superintendent of the poor for the County 1874-79. His occupation was that of carpenter which came in handy in his post: the "Minute Book" of the Board of Supervisors notes a number of payments to him for coffins for burying the poor.

J. Whitehead of the map was Joel E. who was overseer of the roads for District #1 in Arlington District from Convalescent Camp to Ball's Cross Roads. When the plat of the "Town of Nauck" or "Naucksville" was first recorded it was described as covering an area formerly known as Convalescent Camp. This would put the Camp on the other side of the hill from where it has generally been located.

Levi Jones, simply "Jones" on the map, is listed by the *Atlas* as a farmer owning 17 acres, born in Virginia and having moved to the County in 1833. He died of old age in 1886 leaving a wife Ann. His age at death was given as 86, but various records do not agree on the date of his birth. It is quite likely that he did not know it. He was listed as "free colored" and a property owner before the Civil War. The Dunbar Homes now stand on his land. He and his wife were benefactors of the community, active in church and school work. On the other side of the railroad tracks from the Joneses is "H. Fractious." His first name was Hampshire and his daughter was Mrs. Sylvia Jones, possibly a daughter-in-law of Levi Jones. Fractious is said to have come by his name honestly.

A stream just beyond L. W. Hatch (member of the commission to lay off the roads in 1875) is shown running directly into Four Mile Run. Actually this is probably the Rapid Run of olden days which emptied into Long Branch. The "Gr. Yd." here is that of the Fraser family, still standing on the grounds of the Army-Navy Country Club. Anthony Fraser (here "Frazier") was a representative of a family which first came to the County as tenants of the Alexanders early in the 19th century. When Anthony registered to vote in 1878 his age was given as 85, and it was stated that he had lived in the State 85 years, in the County 74.

Ed. D. Crane is on the map in large type, but the records reveal only that he owned 50 acres, was a dairy farmer, and came to the County in 1861, having been born in England. The map shows simply "Mrs. Hunter" on the old Abingdon estate of the Alexanders and Custises. Alexander Hunter was a Delegate to the General Assembly, 1877-78, and served a brief term as County clerk in 1879. The *Atlas* describes him as "Journalist" and as having come to the County in 1843.

John Slater, on the river front near Alexandria, gave his name to Slater's Lane in present-day Alexandria. He is listed as owning 8 acres and having come to the County from England in 1850. He served on the County Court in 1866 and again in 1869 and was a member of the commission to lay off the magisterial districts in 1870. When he took the oath of allegiance in 1864 his age was given as 53 and his occupation as "gardener."

Joseph Markham, another in large type, was an Englishman who came here in 1854; he was a farmer and dairyman. Alex McKericher came from Scotland in 1860 and was a nurseryman and florist.

Two dots on the map are labeled "Mrs. Sanborn." A Thomas Sanborn was a judge of elections for Jefferson District in 1870, and this may well have been his widow. When the road districts were laid out in 1875, hands were allotted from the "Sanborn farm" described as lying "east of the railroad near Hunter," which does not seem to fit either of the locations shown.

Near the Poor Farm (shown on the map as "Alms House") is "T. B." Pinn. His first name was Travis, and he must have moved into the County after he was—according to the *Alexandria Gazette*—"deprived of his seat on the Alexandria Common Council in 1873 by order of Secretary of State Fish."¹¹ He was supervisor from Jefferson District for a short time in 1880-81.

The Duncans lived in the same area. James and John (both shown on the map) came here from Ireland in 1846 and 1857, respectively, and are described as laborers and gardeners. In 1862 when he took the oath of allegiance, John was 32 and a "keeper of an ordinary." In a later generation, Edward Duncan was a supervisor from Jefferson District for 27 years, 1908-1931. In the latter year he ran for sheriff but was defeated. William, his brother, was supervisor from Jefferson District 1895-1903, commissioner of the revenue 1912-19, and clerk of courts 1920-1932.

The map shows both Richard and John Lloyd; the *Atlas* lists only Richard, who is credited with 175 acres and described as in the real-estate business, having been born in Virginia and come to the County in 1816. This is the origin of Lloyd's Lane which runs into Russell Road in Alexandria.

Some of the other names in the area since annexed by Alexandria are known only from the information supplied by the *Atlas*, but Francis (Frank) Mills held a number of public offices including that of supervisor from Jefferson District 1881-83. He is described in the voters' list as an "orchardist" living on the Old Leesburg Pike who had come to the County in 1870.

Mention has already been made of some of the curious omissions from this map. Others can be pointed out. Christopher Costolow who held a variety of offices beginning in 1875, including that of supervisor from Washington District 1881-1903, is missing. So are the Clements, although it was not long after this that James E. became Commonwealth's attorney and later superintendent of schools. Neither H. L. Holmes, who was commissioner of the revenue for so long, nor his partner W. H. Butler, who was superintendent of roads for quite a period, is shown; together they developed the Butler-Holmes Subdivision near the present Washington-Lee Shopping Center. Frank Hume does not appear for a good reason: he first bought property in the County in 1879 after this map was drawn. But the Roach family, builders of Prospect Hill, are not here. Yet "Berty" Roach, 10-year-old son of J. C. and Rebecca, died of typhoid at Prospect Hill Farm on July 26, 1878, so some

¹¹ Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State under President Grant.

members of the family must have been here then. Berty's father had been sheriff as recently as 1874-75.

Right near where Roach *should* have been shown is a curious name. It reads: "E. J. R. Winner." This appears to stand for F. K. R. Windsor who in the 1878 voters' list was described as living at Windsor Castle (hence Windsor Park Subdivision, no doubt) with his occupation given as "Gentleman at Leisure." The sneer is almost visible! His only public office appears to have been that of treasurer, to which he was appointed in 1880 to fill an unexpired term.

Another blank is Syphax. None is shown, but John, at least, was active in the County. He was a supervisor from Arlington District in 1872; elected clerk in 1873, he was removed after only a brief term. Elected treasurer in 1875 he failed to qualify, but he did serve a term as Delegate to the General Assembly 1874-75.

The last name on the list, given on the map as "J. Tracy" at the edge of the County on Leesburg Pike, is that of Jefferson Tacey. He appears to be an unknown so far as written accounts of County or Alexandria history go, yet he appears frequently in the records. On February 4, 1861, he advertised in the *Alexandria Gazette* thus:

Paperhanger, upholsterer, gilder and house decorator in general
Thanks for the two years he has been among us
Doing business at the old stand
149 north side King Street

This seems like an unlikely list of qualifications for an office holder, yet he served as clerk of courts throughout the Civil War period and after, and was reappointed by the judge in 1870 when the new form of government went into effect. He was superintendent of roads in 1874 and was appointed treasurer in 1875 when John Syphax failed to qualify. He died in that office at "Middle Pike" (the old name for Leesburg Pike) in 1880 of consumption at the age of 50, leaving a wife Maud to settle his accounts with the County. Another brief note in the *Alexandria Gazette* adds something to the picture. He had brought the Editor some peaches, and the news account credited him with being the only one in these parts to be able to grow such fine ones. Here was a well-rounded man: paperhanger, upholsterer, civil servant, and orchardist, who took time out from his busy life to bring peaches to the Editor!

This fleeting account has hit only the high spots. But perhaps it will serve to show that a two dimensional map joined with dusty records can come alive and having meaning in terms of places and people.

Appendix

Board of Supervisors Minute Book No. 1—page 98 ff. (1877)

Road Districts

At a County Court held for Alexandria County at the Courthouse of said County on Monday the 26th of April 1875—

The Court doth appoint the following Commissioners, under an act of the Legislature of Virginia approved on the 20th day of March 1875, to divide the County of Alexandria into Road Districts:—

Arlington Mag. District, George H. Mortimore, Robert Walker and Benjamin Austin;

Washington Mag. District, Samuel Titus, G. C. Vandeburgh [sic] and Christopher Costellow;

Jefferson Mag. District, Luther W. Hatch, Francis M. Mills, and John R. Johnston;

And the said Commissioners are commanded to report their proceedings under this order to the May term 1875, of this Court.

Arlington Magisterial District

Report

This Magisterial District is now divided into Four Road Precincts:

Precinct No. 1—Commencing at the district line at the Convalescent Camp and running to Ball's Cross Roads—Joel E. Whitehead, Overseer.

Precinct No. 2—Commencing at Columbia Pike, at George Klines, running to the Georgetown Road at Lubber's Run, thence with the Georgetown Road to John Febrey's—W. H. F. Carlin, Overseer.

Precinct No. 3—Commencing at John Burless' blacksmith Shop, thence to Lubber Run, thence from Ball's Cross Roads to General Caleb Cushing's, thence from Mount Olivet Church to Henry Febrey's line. No Overseer. (Several appointed but would not qualify.)

Precinct No. 4—Commencing at the line of Arlington Cemetery, thence to the Aqueduct Bridge, thence to John Burless' blacksmith Shop, thence to John Veitch's. Randolph Birch, Overseer.

In nearly all of the precincts there is a deficiency of accommodations for foot travelers at the various running streams, the requirements of the law in regard to sign boards at the various cross roads has with a few exceptions been disregarded, neither has the law in regard to mile posts been complied with. We respectfully submit the following recommendations:—

First—Road Precincts—That the road precincts be continued as now laid off.

Second—Allotment of hands—That the allotment now made and entered in each Overseer's book be continued, said lists to be turned over to the Surveyors when appointed, and qualified.

Third—Uncollected Tax—That inasmuch as there was no Overseer to precinct No. 3, and a tax levied but not collected, that the Surveyor of Precinct No. when appointed, be authorized and required to collect the tax for the past year and expend the same in improvement of his roads.

Fourth—Surveyors—That the following named persons be appointed for the road precincts as follows:—

- No. 1 Joel E. Whitehead
- No. 2 Clinton S. Benezette
- No. 3 George H. Mortimore
- No. 4 Randolph Birch

Fifth—Compensation of Surveyors—That the Court decide what compensation shall be paid to each Surveyor.

Sixth—Duties of Surveyors—That the Surveyors attention, when appointed and qualified, be particularly called to Sec. 19 of the Road Law approved March 20, 1875, in regard to the width and condition of roads and bridges.

Seventh—Schedule of Prices—That the Board of Supervisors be requested to prepare a schedule of prices for labor and implements to be allowed by Board for their use.

Eighth—Notification—That the Clerk notify all parties interested of what, if any, of these recommendations are approved. Respectfully submitted,

Benj. Austin
Robert Walker
Geo. H. Mortimore
Commissioners

Washington Magisterial District
Report

Road District No. 1—Extends from S.E. Corner of Hampton Dye's lot, to George Hill's lot near the Chain Bridge, and James Marcey, Sr. is the Overseer of the same, with the following allotment of hands and all titheables within the same—

R. A. Phillips, James Marcey, Lewis Marcey, Jas. Marcey, Jr., Sam'l Marcey, Wm. Marcey, R. H. Donaldson, Webster Donaldson, Fletcher Donaldson, J. C. Brown, Samuel Gardener, Wm. Collins, George W. Reed, John Williams, Sampson Carter, Wm. Allen, Henrietta Yeathers, James Walker, A. E. Heisted, George Hill, Jr., J. W. Vanarmin [Vanneman?], H. Zimmerman, J. S. Crocker, M. S. Wright, and Gustman.

Road District No. 2—Extends from East boundary of G. Vanderwerken's land to line of Arlington Magisterial District at Wm. Marcey's land and from Wunders Cross Roads to Cruitt's Branch, Charles W. Payne is Overseer of said road with the following allotment of hands and all titheables within the same—

Wm. Marcey's Estate, Robert Marcey, Rozier Marcey, Christopher Costellow, John Shirft [Thrift?], Samuel Birch, Robert Harrison's Estate, Thos. Harrison, Alfred Clarke, Dorsey Donaldson, Ball H., Wm. Carrier, M. Nelson, E. C. Jewell, Williams Estate, Thos. B. Dawson, J. J. Franklin, R. G. Cunningham, James Patten, Parker Estate, G. W. Babcock, Wm. E. Esby, Charles W. Payne, Gilbert Pellam, Moses Pellam, Basil Hall, Mary Hall, Lavinia Hall, Robert Butcher, Richard Birch, Charles Birch, Jacob Birch, Edward Birch, Robert Walker, Matt Carpenter, Henry Smith, Thos. Hurlbert, Geo. O. Wunder, Moses Jackson, Chas. Jackson, Jr., Chas. Mooney, W. Jones, C. W. Payne, Jr., Frederick Brown, Simeon Jackson, W. B. Evans, Mary Ann Gross, Samuel Gross, Matthew Hodges, Williams, Smith S., Wunder, William, John Payne, S. R. Marcey, Wm. J. Ganz, Rozier Donaldson, Robert Champ.

Road District No. 3—Extends from the East boundary of G. Vanderwerken's land to the County line and from Samuel Titus' to Pimmit Run—G. Vanderwerken is overseer of the same, with the following allotment of hands, and all titheables within the same.

Gilbert Vandewerken, Samuel Titus, Wm. Birch's Estate, J. W. Langston's Estate, H. A. Lockwood, E. K. Deeble, Silas Deeble, Wm. S. Walker, Thos. Hitchcock, D. Bowen's Estate, Geo. Carter, Henry Jackson, John Jackson, Washington Watt, A. Hyson, S. Williams, Luke Carter, Jno. Grey, Chas. Honesty, Benj. Trammel, Joseph McNear, Ella Deeble, John Walker, Thos. Langston, Linton Thomas, John Smith (?), C. G. Vandewerken, Cany [?] Dye, ***** Grunwell.

Road District No. 4—Embraces the road running by G. Vandeburgh's, by Caleb Birch's to Minor's Hill, and the road from the Arlington line past H. Febrey. Jared M. Donaldson is Overseer of the same with the following allotment of hands and titheables therein—

G. Vandeburgh, Jno. R. Minor, Wm. J. Minor, C. H. I. Linskey, Smith Minor, Samuel Birch's Estate, Henry W. Febrey, Jas. B. Phillips, William Tucker, Geo. W. Minor's Estate; Caleb S. Birch, Isaac Crossman, Jas. Donny, J. A. Brown, E. A. Greenhour, James Donaldson, Parker Smith, William Dixon, Amelia Key, Henry Sherry, James Thrift, Estate; Charles D. Birch, Orlando Birch, Sammy Bell, Asbury Parker, Allen Jones, C. S. Phillips, S. D. Phillips, Samuel Febrey's Estate; Rudolph Richmond, Phillip Myers, Jno. Myers, and George Sackmuller [sic]

We recommend for Surveyors of Roads—

- Precinct No. 1—James Marcey, Sr.
- No. 2—Samuel Birch
- No. 3—G. Vandeweken
- No. 4—Jared M. Donaldson

Respectfully submitted—

Christopher Costellow
Samuel Titus
G. Vandeburgh

Commissioners

Jefferson Magisterial District
Report

Road District No. 1—To begin on the old Georgetown road at a point at a point [sic] of the intersection of the Arlington Magisterial District on said road, thence continue the road to a point at the intersection of the County road, near the old Factory. The persons to work said road:— All persons subject to road labor or service living on the old Lee farm, on the Vorce farm, on the J. R. Johnston farm, the Roach farm, H. S. Johnston farm, Mrs. Scott's farm, Slaymaker's, Brown's, Ager's, Frazier's, Addison's, N. S. Wright's, and Hunter's farms north of the Railroad and on Water's place.

Road District No. 2—Beginning at an oak tree on the North side of 4 mile Run at the Convalescent Camp running South to the Washington & Alexandria Turnpike so as to embrace all persons for road labor on the old Roach farm South of 4 mile Run, Hatch's farm, John Buggott's, Miller's, Sam Buggotts, Wantes [?] and Smith, Swanns, Sanborns and Hunter's farm East of the Railroad, Robbs, Brown's, Daingerfields and Slater's farm and all other persons not embraced in Districts No. 1 and 3.

Road District No. 3—Beginning at the Corporation line of Alexandria City, running thence to Slater's, up Slater's lane to Washington Pike, on the pike to Markham's Lane, up said lane to Mt. Ida Gate taking in Mt. Ida farm and thence West to the Township or District line so as to embrace all persons to Leesburg Pike in Jefferson District, and thence along the Pike down to Alexandria Corporation line in Jefferson District, Alexandria County.

Further the Commissioners recommend to the Court the appointment of Surveyors of Roads as follows—

- District No. 1—N. S. Wright
- " No. 2—A. Bourdin
- " No. 3—Willis Cornell

All of which is respectfully submitted by

J. R. Johnston
L. W. Hatch
F. M. Mills
Commissioners

In Alexandria County Court, July 26, 1875

The reports of the Commissioner appointed at the April Term of this court to lay off the several Magisterial Districts of this County into Road Districts and to allot hands to work on the public Roads in said Districts, are hereby confirmed. And the Sheriff is directed to notify the Overseers appointed in accordance with the recommendations of the said Commissioners.

Teste Louis E. Payne, Clerk

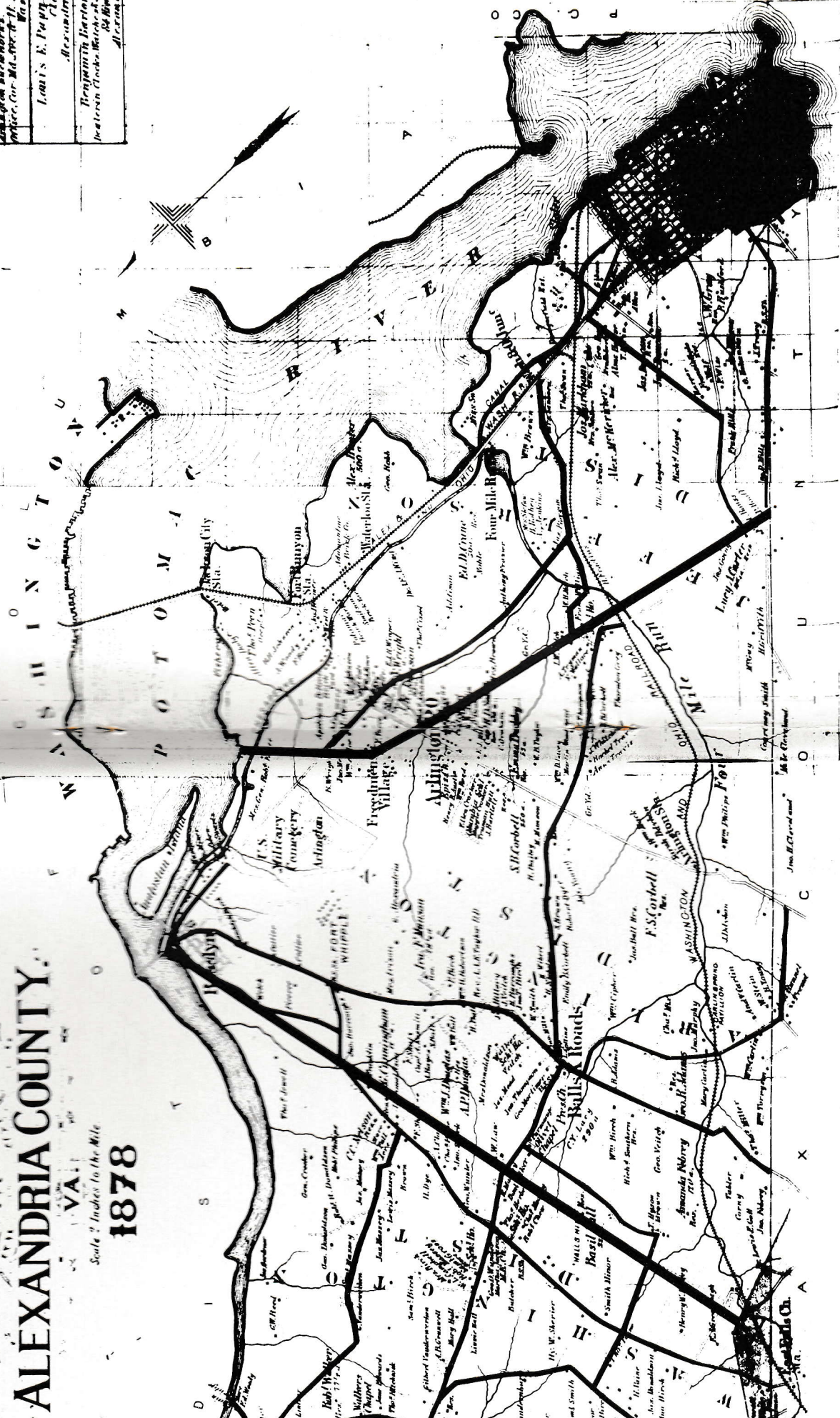
BUSINESS - NOTICES

W. T. & T. H. Washburn Architects, Box 10, Works Water, Cor. Mt. Vernon St. & St. Washington, D.C.
Louis E. Pappas Clerk Alexandria Co. Va.
Benjamin Barton Water Clocks, Watches, Jewels 24 King St. Alexandria, Va.

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY, VA.

Scale 2" inches to the Mile

1878



MAP OF ALEXANDRIA (ARLINGTON) COUNTY, VA., REPRODUCED FROM "ATLAS OF FIFTEEN MILES AROUND WASHINGTON INCLUDING THE COUNTIES OF FAIRFAX AND ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA." HEAVY LINES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO SHOW THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. THINNER SOLID LINES SHOW ROAD DISTRICTS.