

Annexation of a Portion of Arlington County by the City of Alexandria in 1915*

By C. B. ROSE, JR.

Before the effective date of the Constitution of 1902, changes in the boundaries of Virginia cities were accomplished by special acts of the General Assembly. In this way, between 1748, when the Town of Alexandria was chartered, and 1870, when it was formally separated from the county of which it had been a part, the boundary was changed ten times.¹ In all but one case, the changes enlarged the jurisdiction of the municipality.

The new Constitution banned special acts, particularly with reference to boundary changes: "The general assembly shall provide by general law for the extension and contraction from time to time of the corporate limits of cities and towns and no special act for such purpose shall be valid."² Pursuant to this provision, the General Assembly established a procedure whereby a city could adopt an ordinance stating that it desired to annex certain territory, described by metes and bounds, and stating the necessity for this annexation. If the jurisdiction from which the territory was proposed to be annexed objected, it could file an answer, the case to be heard before a single judge.³

Alexandria was one of the first cities in the State to use the new procedure. The annexation of territory from the adjacent counties began to be agitated there in 1906. It was dropped for awhile, but was taken up seriously in 1910.⁴

It was probably this circumstance that led the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria County⁵ to appoint a committee of citizens in 1911 to look into the desirability of changing the form of government, and then to request the General Assembly of 1912 to confer upon it the powers of the councils of cities and towns because of the highly urban nature of the County.⁶ An Act was passed,

* This account is based largely on information contained in "Record No. 773 from the Circuit Court of Alexandria County" filed with the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in the case of *The City Council of Alexandria v. Alexandria County, et als.*

¹ *A History of the Boundaries of Arlington County, Virginia*, Office of the County Manager, Arlington, Va., 1957, p. 14 *et seq.*

² *Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, Sec. 126.

³ The procedure was changed in 1925 to provide for a three judge Annexation Court.

⁴ Testimony of A. D. Brockett in the instant case. Julian Y. Williams, however, testified that as early as 1904 the "Hon. Mr. Paff" in his first message to the Council recommended the extension of the corporate limits of the City, and as Mayor appointed a special committee to look into the matter.

⁵ The name of the County was changed to Arlington in 1920 and will be so referred to throughout this paper except in quotations.

⁶ *Minutes* of the Board of Supervisors, June 10, 1911, July 8, 1911, December 9 and 23, 1911.

granting such powers to "counties with a population of three hundred or more to the square mile" which at that time applied only to Arlington.

However, on December 28, 1911, the City Council of Alexandria had adopted an Ordinance to annex 866 acres from Arlington County, and 450 acres from Fairfax. The City claimed the necessity of relieving the "crowded and congested conditions at present prevailing"; that in order to extend the system of public improvements prior to the development of adjacent territory, it should have control of the area; that existing improvements in the area proposed to be annexed were inadequate; and finally, that there were several locations within the territory where the population was "more or less dense" and required better police and fire protection than could be afforded by the counties.

The counties filed answers categorically denying the claims of the City and further countering that in fact not more than one-half of the territory of the City was built upon; that the City was in a "stagnant and heavily indebted condition"; that it did not keep its public improvements in good order and could not since it "is suffering from an excess of territory which its revenues are insufficient to enable it to keep in proper safe and sanitary condition"; that the debt limit of the City had been about reached and that only a "ruinous" increase in taxation could bring in enough revenue to make necessary improvements; that the City had no plan for extending its improvements, and that "neither the failure nor inability of the authorities to properly care for the excessive and waste territory now within their control and limits can furnish any sufficient reason for entrusting still other territory to their care."

The Arlington County authorities later amended their answer to include the contention that "the affairs of the county of Alexandria have been judiciously, efficiently, and economically administered; that its health rate, police protection, public schools and public roads are excellent and superior to those of the said city; that the county of Alexandria has no bonded or floating debt. . . ." The Act of Assembly of 1912 enlarging the powers of the County was cited as evidence that the County had equal power with the City to provide adequately for the inhabitants of the territory proposed to be annexed.⁷

These charges and countercharges lay out the ground over which the battle was fought when the legal maneuvering ended and the case came on to be heard on September 17, 1912, before Bennett T. Gordon who had been assigned as Judge. The evidence was all in by November 14, 1912, and the Judge rendered his decision on January 18, 1913. He found for the counties, stating that in his judgment the evidence showed that the proposed annexations were neither necessary nor expedient. The City of Alexandria appealed; the Supreme Court of Appeals overruled Judge Gordon and handed down an order setting forth the area to be

⁷ That the County lost its case in the end may have had some bearing on the action of the Board of Supervisors on October 14, 1913, in appointing a committee to draft a tentative charter for a city of the first class. This move came to nothing, but in 1915, the County foreshadowed the County Manager Plan of government adopted in 1930, when a "managing engineer" was appointed and given some centralized authority.

annexed effective April 1, 1915.⁸ It gave the City all the territory it had sought from Fairfax but only a part of that sought from Arlington.

The record of the case filed in connection with the appeal furnishes much interesting information on contemporary conditions in the City of Alexandria and the County of Arlington.

In 1912, Alexandria covered 713 acres with its boundary "running along the Potomac River to one-half square north of First Street and west through one-half a square west of West Street; south to the north side of Cameron Street and west to what was the old Francis Peyton lot to Baggott's fence and then going across King Street to the old District line at the crossover of Hough's [Hooff's] run just about 20 feet west of the store there and following the District line to the river."⁹ The 1910 Census population of this area was 15,329.

The territory to be annexed from Arlington is described as: Beginning at Peyton, Commerce and Duke Streets where the present corporate line joins with the old District line, 20 feet west of the bridge, then with the District line north of George Washington Park, then north to the north side of Lloyd's Lane where it intersects with the old Braddock Road, then northeast on the north side of Lloyd's Lane to the Washington-Georgetown turnpike where it crosses the railroad tracks, then to the river and down the river. Almost all of the area proposed to be annexed from Arlington would come out of Jefferson Magisterial District, one of the three into which the County was divided at that time.

The final order for annexation simply extended the existing north line of the City westward until it intersected with Braddock Road. The territory excluded was secured by Alexandria in the 1929 annexation from Arlington.

"CROWDED AND CONGESTED CONDITIONS"

The crucial question, of course, was whether Alexandria was so crowded that additional space was needed to accommodate people and industries which wanted to settle within its borders. Here the City seems to have been on the defensive. It could not deny that large stretches were vacant; it contended, however, that these areas were unsuitable for development either because of their nature (swampy, rocky) or their neighborhoods (railroad yards, low income "squatters"). Some of the testimony on these points has proven to be far-fetched in the light of subsequent development.

James Bayne, a bookkeeper living at 217 North Alfred Street, stated that there was all low land from St. Asaph's to the River in the northeast section; that this area was swampy, higher near the Canal, and that the City was building this up as a public dump. North of Queen Street and along Pitt Street was all swamp. "Around Windmill Hill [southeast corner of Lee and Wilkes Streets] it is not likely that it will ever be used for a residential section." Frank W. Latham, Superintendent of the City Gas Works, related that the "tide makes up as far as

⁸ *City Council of Alexandria v. Alexandria*, 117 Va. 230.

⁹ Testimony of C. E. Dunn, City Engineer.

between Lee and Fairfax Streets," that there was a ball park at Columbus and Oronocco Streets, and that the gas lines did not extend west of Columbus Street in the northwest section of the City, presumably because there were no customers to make it worthwhile.

Dr. Samuel H. Lunt, a real estate broker for the preceding 25 years in Alexandria, testified that the northeast section of the City housed the Standard Oil Company, a fertilizer company, and "the hard part of the City—the red light district." From Princess Street to beyond the Canal was barren, all ruts and ravines and "fit for gardening purposes only." In the southeast section of the City, near Windmill Hill, there were clay bluffs for 50-60 feet above the River and nobody lived there. "That block of Lee Street cannot be utilized for any purpose."

Howard W. Smith, member of the City Council for over four years and who had lived in Alexandria for eight or nine years, testified that there were two or three vacant lots on North Columbus Street where the old Court House had stood, and some on Washington Street but these were "right far out." Whether the intention was to show bias on the part of Mr. Smith is not clear, but a subsequent witness, Frank T. King, was asked by counsel for the County: "Howard Smith is one of the leading young politicians in the City, is he not?" and received an affirmative answer.

Julian Y. Williams, manager of the Havenner Baking Company and a member of the City Council for the preceding six years, testified that there were only two vacant houses on the south side of Prince Street below Lee Street down the hill, "but this of course is undesirable property." It was contended that if people wanted to build, they had to tear down existing houses since no suitable vacant space was left. As example, it was related that "Mr. Bendheim has tore down a \$10,000 house and put up one for \$31,000."

Countering the claim that the area proposed to be annexed was densely inhabited, the County put Henry Crocker, County Engineer, on the stand.¹⁰ He spoke of a dairy farm on Mt. Vernon Avenue just north of Timber Branch, said the land between Braddock Road and Slater's Lane was vacant, and that the old Daingerfield property from the boundary to the Slater farm land was all vacant. From Dean's shipyard where the Canal emptied into the River to the Old Dominion Glassworks was all open land.

Robert D. Woolf had 63 acres in Braddock Heights which he operated as a dairy farm, and Benjamin F. Baggott, who lived out King Street Extended with his fence on the corporate line, had 35 acres of good farming land.

Fielding Alexander Coapley of 1220 Prince Street, who had lived in Alexandria since 1866, testified for the County that there was plenty of vacant land in the City, that business was moving west, and that coming up from the wharf there were warehouses on the River which were not occupied, supporting the contention that the City was stagnating. George D. Uhler said that quite a few new houses had been built on the west side of Columbus Street between Prince

¹⁰ Another witness, Harrie White, testified that he had taken a census of the area and found 165 heads of families with a total population, white and colored, of 722.

and Cameron Streets. He mentioned the Cameron Apartments, the Warfield House, and that every house from Cameron to Queen was new on both sides except "the old Brook Lodge." The conclusion to be drawn, obviously, was that "can be developed" land was still available. John D. Normoyle, who had been a Deputy Sheriff for 10 years and in the real estate business for 15, testified that a good house with baths could be rented for \$20—\$30 a month; since rentals were moderate, there was thus no shortage of good housing.

ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

In trying to make the point that the City of Alexandria did not provide adequate streets, the County elicited some vivid statements. If these witnesses are to be believed, King Street was the only thoroughfare in the City with a relatively decent surface. It was paved with vitrified brick laid in six inches of concrete. Robert Elliott, who had lived on Braddock Heights for six years and ran a real estate business at 127 South Royal Street, testified that "I do not know of a road leading out of Alexandria in any direction that would put a team in as bad condition as some of the streets in Alexandria after traveling over them. I think I can travel from Alexandria to Fairfax Court House with a clean horse and buggy and have decidedly less dirt on the turn-out after I go to Fairfax Court House, than I would have after traveling over three blocks in some parts of the city of Alexandria."

George D. Uhler, however, testified that Columbus Street was surfaced with cobblestones and brick, and that there was blue stone curbing and brick "pavements" (sidewalks). This must have been an exceptional case, for John H. Trimyer, one of the witnesses for the counties, a salesman for W. A. Smoot & Co., who had been a member of the Alexandria City Council in 1896 and now was a school trustee in Jefferson District in the County, stated that four-fifths of the roads in the City were "very bad." Moreover, there were "ditches alongside the streets into which water from sinks runs and stands." Robert F. Green testified that "you can't use a machine in bad weather by Mr. Smoot's planing mills, which I pass on my way to the washerwoman's, because you get stuck."

Frank L. Ballenger, who had lived in the West End for 18 years and operated a store at a location where there had been one for over 100 years,¹¹ stated that teams with empty wagons got mired on Payne Street three blocks from King Street. In response to a question from counsel for the counties as to whether there were not "a good many mushpot streets" in the City, dairyman Woolf answered "yes." And James H. Patterson whose business was that of "expressman" testified that some of the cobbles in Washington Street were "as big as a beer keg."

In contrast, the County Superintendent of Schools stated that in his belief the roads of the County were not only better than the streets of the City but that they were the best in the State "outside of some of the Valley pikes." Further light

¹¹ The store mentioned in the description of the territory to be annexed.

on the condition of the County roads was shed by Dr. David Newton Rust, a dentist then practising in Washington but who had previously practised in Alexandria for 33 years and owned 135 acres of land in the County of which he was then Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "The County roads could not be better. Of course they are not macadamized; they are sand and gravel, as nice as anyone wants." (Yet Braddock Road which ran by Dr. Rust's place was known as "Mushpot Road.")

E. J. Roberts, Road Overseer for Jefferson District for the preceding 20 years, who had lived there since 1861 when he came from New York, stated that Slater's Lane was simply an outlet to the Daingerfield Farm and Slater's place, and that road construction cost 90¢ a yard with a six inch depth, nine feet long and six feet wide. According to him a "gravel surface will last 6-8 years if it is crowned up and well drained."

According to George H. Rucker, Clerk of the Alexandria (Arlington) Circuit Court, the last road survey showed 105 miles in the County, and an average expenditure of \$2,475 annually for the last five years on the roads. Furthermore, he testified that in the last ten years the County had spent on the roads from County levies, and not from State highway funds, \$219,843.43. This included the cost of bridges.

City Engineer Dunn in rebuttal maintained that Alexandria built its streets well. The streets were filled with cinder bats and oyster shells. They were excavated nine inches and six-inch large rocks were put in, covered with gravel. The rock came from Belmont on the Washington & Ohio Railroad at the rate of \$1 a ton. Another of the City witnesses, however, Superintendent of the Gas Works Latham, came out with the damaging admission that when the City authorities had filled in South Pitt Street "they were not very particular what they filled it with."

There was much discussion of the conditions surrounding water supply and sewage disposal, the latter an especially sore point. The City Engineer, C. E. Dunn, was the first questioned on this score, and he stated that "earth water closets" were allowed in the City. Moreover, the whole of Alexandria "is underlaid with a bed of water-buried gravel and possibly 60-70 per cent of the wells in the town go down to that water-buried strata where the sewage is filtered out or eaten up by bacterial action." He did admit that "occasionally the wells are filled up when people put in baths and soap and grease fills up the sand pores." If this happens, Mr. Dunn stated, "they dig another well and that lasts for a time."

John M. Johnson, one of the City legal counsel, substantiated Mr. Dunn's testimony as this exchange shows:

"This City of Alexandria is peculiarly situated so far as that goes by reason of the fact Mr. Dunn stated, that it is a self-draining city. You will sink a well, and I had one in my yard until I tapped the sewer about ten years ago, that had been in use for 60 years. It drains itself; you strike a strata of gravel about thirty or forty feet, then a stratum of sand, then a stream of water if you go

down 50 feet, all the closets are drained very well in the town of Alexandria. I have one in my office today."

"Your closets drain into your wells?"

"Undoubtedly."

"And you drink that water?"

"We are not as bad off as Alexandria County in that respect. Oh, no, Mr. Mackey, we do not drink any well water. We abandoned that years ago."

"A large part of your city relies for its water upon wells."

"There is not a well that I know of being used in Alexandria today."

"How do the people get the water who have no service from the city?"

"From the Alexandria Water Company."

"You heard Mr. McCauley and another gentleman testify there was no water in the neighborhood where there are a number of respectable white people residing?"

"I do not know where they get their water. I owned that property for I bought it to save his mother. I took pity on her and transferred it about three months afterward. They may have a well there. I am not aware but that is outside of the corporate limits, practically."

The contaminated condition of Hooff's Run was a major point in the case of the City which pled the necessity for control in the interest of the health of Alexandria inhabitants. Henry Crocker, County Engineer for the County, ascribed the Run's pollution not to Rosemont sewers (which the City Health Officer, Dr. W. M. Smith had testified emptied into Hooff's Run) but to the fact that industrial plants within the City, Board Armstrong & Co.'s vinegar plant and the Alexandria Bottling Works, "both had large water closets over the stream"—a stream which flowed into Hooff's Run.

The City contended that not only was it adequately served with a good water supply but that the system was capable of expansion to serve the new territory.

George D. Uhler, who stated that he had lived in Alexandria for 63 years and had been Secretary and Treasurer of the Alexandria Water Company (incorporated in 1851) for 17 years, testified that there were two reservoirs for the City, one with a capacity of 2½ million gallons, and the other with a capacity of 4 million gallons, and that the Company was supplying 100 gallons per capita. One of the Company mains ran down to St. Elmo through Del Ray; there were 3¼ miles of pipe in the County and 20-25 miles in the City. The Company had plans for expansion, putting a dam on Holmes Run in Barcroft and running lines from Leesburg Pike through Braddock down Washington Avenue to Park Addition and the Poor House, thence north on Mt. Vernon Avenue through Del Ray.

Other public utility services were mentioned. The Alexandria Lighting Company had a plant on the City waterfront and furnished electricity as far as Clarendon. The Arlington Lighting Company owned the lines and the Alexandria company furnished the current. According to the testimony of George Warfield, cashier of the First National Bank, the rate charged was 10 cents a kilowatt hour. On the other hand, Joseph D. Hubbard, manager of the light company, testified that the rate was 12 cents for the first kilowatt hour and 7 cents for every kwh

after that. The capacity of the plant was 1,150 kw, and according to him, could serve twice the load which it then carried.

The manager of the Capital City Telephone Co. (and president of the City Board of Aldermen, a member of the City Council since 1900, serving two terms as President) testified that there was one mile of pole in Arlington District in the County and five miles in Jefferson District. The City foreman for the Southern Bell Telephone Company, however, stated that there were $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of pole in Jefferson District carrying $16\frac{2}{3}$ miles of wire.

The loquacious Mr. Latham, Superintendent of the Gas Works, (which were owned by the City) testified that the plant was able to manufacture 100 million feet of gas a year and now was producing only 47 million. The price of gas had been reduced in 1906 and again in 1908-09. He reported that a good many appliances were being installed such as stoves and lights so that now the company had between 1,600 and 1,700 consumers.¹² The gas lines stopped at Payne and Duke Streets but did run out to Rosemont.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The ability of the County to provide adequate police protection in the area sought to be annexed was brought into question by the City. In rebuttal, the County sought to prove that the City was not doing a very good job of keeping law and order within its existing boundaries. This brought forth some rather gaudy testimony. For instance, Harry Caton, who had been a police justice for nine years, after stating that the Alexandria police were paid \$60 a month, with the Sergeants getting \$65 and the Police Chief \$75, testified that there were 57 barrooms in the City of Alexandria, five white houses of prostitution on Lee Street, and two colored disorderly houses. By contrast, it was brought out that there were no barrooms in the County.

There seems to have been a considerable concentration of saloons on King Street. Walker Roberts, a miller and seed dealer who operated a warehouse on the wharf just opposite King Street, and who was President of the Alexandria Water Company, testified that there were 13 saloons on King Street from the head of the street to Royal Street, and two more on the next square.

Charles T. Goods, Alexandria Chief of Police for the preceding seven years and for 17 years before that a member of the Department, related that the force consisted of 19 men including himself. The railroad company employed special officers at Union Station and at Potomac Yards. (Both of these were outside the City limits). This exchange took place:

"Have you made any effort to close up disorderly houses in Alexandria City?"

"What kind do you mean?"

"Houses of ill fame, disorderly houses, houses of prostitution."

"No. We have not ever closed them up."

¹² A. R. Brown, who lived in the West End, 500 feet west of the stone bridge, had neither gas nor electricity; "we use old-fashioned lamps, the best way of all."

"You know they exist."

"Sure."

"How many?"

"About six white and I do not know how many colored. There's a couple I know of."

Chief Goods went on to explain that they were all near the fertilizer works in "the old end of town" on North Lee Street and had about 35 inmates whose photographs were required to be on file with the Police. "It is the policy to keep them down and in their proper place. If you break them up they will go all over Alexandria and get into trouble."

Theodore V. Ale, Manager of the Virginia Glass Company, a cooperative enterprise of 35 glass blowers which employed 110 men and boys, testified that the West End suffered from want of police protection, that the area was overrun with hoboes, and that "the ladies were cowed down by them on the road traveling to and from the City at night, particularly from West End to Union Station." He said that when a riot occurred in the factory between the blowers, packers, and teamsters (which he attributed to "Alexandria whiskey") there was no help from the police. According to Harry Caton, the area around the railroad (in the County) was infested with "Binghams" which he explained were negroes who had come from the South and were supposed to be heavily armed at all times. Charles E. Corgan who lived on Shooter's Hill said that there were hold-ups on the roads out there; he had been held up six times himself and the County afforded no police protection.

On the other hand, J. W. Roberts, who owned land between the railroad and the creek on the east and from the pike to the creek on the west of the lane (130 acres), was a Director of the Citizens' National Bank, and had been President of the Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Company for 15 years, testified: "I have travelled that territory all my life and I never had any cross word spoken to me in my life."

Arlington County's force of conservators of the peace at the time consisted of the Sheriff, a Deputy Sheriff, 12 special officers, three justices of the peace, and a constable or 18 in all, according to the Clerk of Courts, George H. Rucker. He acknowledged that "During the period of saloons our conditions were very deplorable. We got expensive free advertising and the people were very much worked up and it had a very bad effect on the morals and the value of property and it gave our community a very black eye at that time." But this was all in the past. "We have turned barrooms into banks in Rosslyn." In response to a statement by opposing counsel that the Commonwealth's Attorney was not very active in prosecuting gambling and "speakeasies," Mr. Rucker replied: "I know we have two papers here just as accurate as last year's almanac in such statements."¹⁸

¹⁸ The Report of the Grand Jury, filed June 26, 1912, sheds some light on this interchange: "Honorable J. B. T. Thornton: We, the Grand Jury, now in session, request that you investigate the special officers of this county and remove such of them as you find unfit for service, in your opinion. We also suggest that you appoint three uniformed mounted officers, one for each district to patrol this county.

In addition to the bank in Rosslyn, he mentioned a packing house, a brewery, storage lots, and a wholesale coal business which now took up space formerly occupied by barrooms. "With the exception of policy which is a form of lottery patronized by negroes, and the sale of liquor down at the brickyards in violation of the law" he stated that there was no vice in the County.

Counsel for the County elicited the information from George W. Keys, Solicitor for the Alexandria National Bank who had moved to Alexandria in 1874, that there had been two lynchings in the City about ten years before. This was confirmed by Charles Callahan who placed them at Lee and Cameron Streets, and at King and Fairfax Streets.

Not very much attention was devoted to the question of fire protection. Robert E. Gronan, [Gorman?] Fire Chief for the City of Alexandria and with the Department for 30 years, testified that the equipment consisted of three "steamers" and a hook and ladder. There were chemical extinguishers on the wagons and on the hook and ladder. An extra steamer and a chemical engine were needed. The fire fighting force was made up of volunteers except for a driver and an engineer. "This would be ample for the annexed territory." The County produced no evidence on this point, probably because all fire fighting in that jurisdiction was done by volunteers.

EDUCATION

The schools in Alexandria came in for a good deal of discussion. Dr. W. M. Smith, Chairman of the Alexandria City School Board and President of the State Board of Health, testified that the high school [Jefferson School, still standing] on the north side of Cameron Street and the west side of West Street (actually partly out of the City) would cost \$10,000. Dr. Edward E. Gorman, President of the Alexandria Board of Health, testified that they expected to get the high school built in the next twelve months. Presently there was a 16-room building for a girls' school and a 12-room building for a boys' school on South Washington Street, and that the "Washington" building had been used for the last time the previous year. The system had 28 white and 10 colored teachers, and there were two buildings for colored children.

The highest salary that a teacher got in Alexandria was \$1,200 a year; generally the salaries were \$45 a month for colored teachers and \$55 a month for white. There were 1,500 white children and 450 colored children in school. The first grade teacher had 120 children!

The children in Alexandria needed a permit to go to school and its issuance depended upon whether or not the parents had paid their city capitation taxes.

"Referring to our report condemning the Commonwealth's attorney for not breaking up the policy playing and speak-easies of the county, finding that Mr. Mackey is not supposed to perform these duties himself and not desiring to censure Mr. Mackey unnecessarily, we request in the future that the Commonwealth's attorney please let the proper officer break up the above nuisance.

"The Jury wish to express their appreciation of the work done by Mr. Mackey in the past. The above report is concurred in by every member of this Grand Jury.

Thomas J. DeLashmutt, Foreman"

Thus, although there were 3,675 children of school age in the City, it was claimed that only about 50 per cent went to school. The per pupil cost was placed at \$11 a year. This was the fourth year that Alexandria had had a high school program.

The Superintendent of Schools for the County, William Thomas Hodges, stated that he had held that post since July 1, 1909. School "kept" ten months each year. There were 16 school buildings in the County, 11 for white children and 5 for colored, and there were 50 teachers, 41 white and 9 colored. Three schools had been built in the three years since he came to the County, at a cost of \$46,000. The average salary of a teacher, white and colored, was \$514.63 a year with the colored teachers getting \$250-\$300 a year. Of the 41 white teachers, 31 had normal school educations. He stated that "The majority of children of high school age are exempt from high school tuition in the city of Washington and they go there and until this year anybody could go there free of tuition." It was for this reason that the County had no high school program. There were four schools in Jefferson Magisterial District, two white and two colored. In his opinion the Mt. Vernon School in the "village" of Del Ray was probably the most expensive building in the County and cost something like \$30,000. Another witness, Mr. Trimyer, explained that the Mt. Vernon School had an auditorium with a capacity of 350, a stage and dressing rooms, and facility in the balcony for "stereopticon shows."

Superintendent Hodges flatly declared: "I think we have the best county school system in the State; also a better school system than most of the smaller cities." He produced the previous year's expenditures; totaling \$46,687.42, and cited comparative figures for an earlier period.

Expenditures 1908-1909

	<i>Alexandria City</i>	<i>Jefferson District</i>	<i>County</i>
Children	3,910	540	1,862
Expenditures:			
Buildings	\$34,879.51		\$14,671.67
Instruction & Maintenance	23,333.91		36,077.95
Total	\$58,113.42	\$17,487.90	\$40,641.62
Per Pupil Cost	\$14.08	\$32.36	\$21.82

Although only 45 per cent of the City school age population was actually enrolled in the schools, in the County, 70 per cent of the school age children attended. The teacher-pupil ratio which was considered desirable was "not over 45 children with one teacher for each class."

Mr. Hodges quoted the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. D. Eggleston, as saying that "poultry farmers allow more space in their hen houses for chickens than Alexandria allows in the schools for their children."

FINANCIAL CONDITION

Part of the County case was that a large portion of the existing indebtedness of the City had been incurred for the purpose of constructing and aiding public service corporations and that the benefits had become non-existent and in no event would be of benefit to the inhabitants of the area proposed to be annexed. Nevertheless, since this indebtedness constituted a "quasi-lien" on all the resources of the City, the residents of that area would be burdened without ever having had an opportunity to express their views.

The evidence on this point was fragmentary but does cast some sidelights on the financial conditions of the County and the City at that time.

M. B. Harlow, member of the City Council, City Treasurer for 24 years from 1876-1900, Vice President of the First National Bank and a Director of the Bank for 30 years, testified that the City debt came from its investments in the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, the Manassas Gap Railroad, the Canal, and the Turnpike. This amounted to about \$1,600,000 at the end of the Civil War and at the time he was on the stand, about \$800,000. Nonetheless, in his opinion, "this has the greatest future of any city in the State."

Gardiner L. Boothe, President of the First National Bank, member of the City Council and City Attorney for several years, testified that the City owned the market building, the fish wharf, and the gas works, all of which he cited as evidence of its fiscal soundness.

E. F. (Sam) Price, who had been City Auditor for 27 years, testified that the gross receipts for the year ending May 31, 1912, had been \$178,850 of which \$25,000 was a temporary loan. Appropriations for the year had amounted to \$145,715. The tax rate was \$1.71 (\$1.90 with 10 per cent off). In 1895, the rate had been \$2 with 10 per cent off. According to him, a compromise had been reached on the City's bonds in 1879 under which the 6% bonds had been turned in and exchanged for bonds paying 3% for the next 15 years and 3.65% for the following years; \$860,000 had been exchanged under this arrangement which would not have been possible had not investors had confidence in the City. His figures on the debt varied slightly from Mr. Harlow's: in 1879 the outstanding debt, according to him, had been \$1,044,000.16 and in 1912 it had been reduced to \$750,000. The gas plant was valued at \$250,000, and the market house at \$25-30,000.

Charles H. Callahan, Commissioner of the Revenue for Alexandria City for 15 years, testified that the assessed valuation in 1911 was \$5,084,960. John H. Trimyer, who had been a member of the Alexandria City Council in 1896, testified that the assessment ratio in the County was 20 per cent and in the City 60 per cent.

George H. Rucker testified that the County revenue in 1911 had amounted to \$75,000 from all sources. Of this amount, \$46,000 had been spent on schools, and \$27,000 on roads. (It must be remembered that many of the officers of the County were then compensated on a fee basis, and that the activities of local

government were far less extensive than at present.)

So far as the County was concerned, Dr. David N. Rust, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, stated that the County was free from debt, "the last bond of the County had been burned 3 years before."

* * * * *

The nearly 1,000 printed pages of testimony taken in this case not only highlight interesting aspects of the two communities, but cast a long shadow before. A. D. Brockett, a member of the City Council of Alexandria for 20 years, was opposed to the proposed annexation on the ground that it did not go far enough. He stated that if it included territory up to Four Mile Run thereby taking Potomac Yards, he would vote for it. In 1927, the Alexandria City Council made just such a move, on grounds identical to those which it had put forward in 1911, and despite the contention of the County that none of the conditions in the City of which it had complained at the time of the earlier suit had been mended, the City again won its case and its boundaries were extended to Four Mile Run by Court order effective December 31, 1929.

List of witnesses in the case of the *City Council of Alexandria v. Alexandria County, et als.* The spellings of the names are as given in the printed record, together with the information on occupation and residence introduced as a qualification. They are given in the order of appearance.

C. E. Dunn, City Engineer of Alexandria City

Dr. W. M. Smith, Chairman of the Alexandria City School Board, President of the State Board of Health

Dr. Edward E. Gorman, President of the Alexandria City Board of Health, Health Officer

Harrie White, real estate; Justice of the Peace

M. B. Harlow, Member of the City Council; City Treasurer 1876-1900; Vice President of First National Bank; Director for 30 years; first Treasurer of the electric railroad; wholesale grocer when young

Nebel Greenway, Clerk of Corporation and Circuit Court since 1906

Alexander J. Wedderburn, publisher of the *Alexandria Times*; in business in Alexandria since 1868; organizer of the Washington Monument Association

George Warfield, cashier at the First National Bank

Gardiner L. Boothe, President of the First National Bank; City Attorney for several years; member of the City Council

Franklin T. Evans, Bull Moose candidate for Congress

M. R. O'Sullivan, owner of grocer store at the northeast corner of Franklin and Patrick Streets since 1888

Joseph D. Hubbard, Manager of the light company

Francis A. Marbury, Manager of the Capital City Telephone Co.; President of the Alexandria City Board of Aldermen; member of the City Council since 1900; President for two terms

Harry Caton, Police Justice for nine years

John D. Normoyle, ten years Deputy Sheriff; in real estate for the last 15 years

Robert E. Gorman, Fire Chief for Alexandria City; member of the Fire Department for 30 years

Charles T. Goods, Chief of Police for Alexandria City last 7 years; member of the Police Department for an additional 17 years

Howard W. Smith, member of the City Council for over four years

James Bayne, 217 North Alfred Street, bookkeeper

Frank W. Latham, Superintendent of the City Gas Works

Theodore V. Ale, Manager of the Virginia Glass Company

R. L. Arms, City Foreman for the Southern Bell Telephone Co.

Charles E. Corgan, resident of Shooter's Hill

George D. Uhler, Secretary and Treasurer of the Alexandria Water Company for 17 years; lived in Alexandria for 63 years

John F. Minor, line foreman of the Postal Telegraph Company in Washington

Dr. Samuel H. Lunt, real estate broker for 25 years in Alexandria City

Frank L. Slaymaker, lived in Rosemont; in real estate and insurance business
 Thomas C. Smith, lived in Rosemont; Vice President and Cashier of the Alexandria National Bank
 Gilbert J. Cox, employee of Southern Railway
 E. F. (Sam) Price, 118 North Alfred Street, City Auditor for 27 years
 Henry K. Field, Lumber dealer in Alexandria; member of the City Council; Vice President of the Board of Aldermen
 David R. Stansbury, Clerk of the City Council
 Percy E. Clift, Superintendent of the Mt. Vernon Division of the Washington-Virginia Railroad
 Charles H. Callahan, Commissioner of Revenue of Alexandria City for 15 years
 Henry Crocker, County Engineer of Alexandria County
 William Thomas Hodges, Superintendent of Schools of Alexandria County since July 1, 1909
 John H. Trimyer, salesman for W. A. Smoot & Co.; member of the Alexandria City Council in 1896; school trustee for Jefferson District
 Robert Elliott, real estate business
 George W. Zachary, custodian of Masonic Temple and school trustee in Jefferson District; clerk of County School Board since January 27, 1905
 George W. Keys, Solicitor for Alexandria National Bank; former locomotive engineer
 William H. Hellmuth, butcher in Alexandria City
 Frederick L. Ludwig, steel worker; lived in Braddock Heights
 Capt. Robert F. Knox, in real estate business in Alexandria for over 50 years
 Edward Leadbetter, druggist
 Robert D. Woolf, dairyman farmer with 63 acres in Braddock Heights
 Benjamin F. Baggott, farmer with 35 acres of good farming land on King Street, Extended; fence on the corporation line
 F. B. Fitzgerald, member of the Board of Aldermen for three years; property assessor for the State in 1910
 Robert M. Graham, wholesale grocer; member of the lower board of the City Council for a year
 J. H. Morriss, Manager of Armour & Co. Alexandria plant
 Fielding Alexander Coapley, Confederate veteran who came to Alexandria from Fredericksburg in 1866
 Dr. H. C. Corbett, "of Arlington, Alexandria County"; Secretary of the Board of Health; Health Officer for the County for ten years
 John E. Marshler, Deputy Sheriff
 George M. Reynolds, sheet metal worker, lived in Braddock Heights
 Stephen J. McCauley, grocery and liquor business
 A. D. Brockett, merchandise broker and member of the City Council for 20 years
 David N. Rust, Jr., real estate business
 Clyde C. Lamond, manufacturer of sewer pipe and terra cotta
 Joseph Berry, County Surveyor for Fairfax County
 M. D. Hall, Superintendent of Schools for Fairfax County since 1876
 Julian Y. Williams, 206 North Royal St.; Manager of the Havenner Baking Co.; member of the City Council for six years
 L. E. Uhler, Clerk of the First National Bank; member of the City Council for 23 years
 R. B. Adams, train dispatcher for the Southern Railway
 Dr. David Newton Rust, dentist now in Washington but practised in Alexandria for 33 years; owns 135 acres; former Chairman of County Board of Supervisors
 J. L. Perry, Teller of Alexandria National Bank
 D. M. Nivens, Examiner in the Land Department; lived in Braddock Heights
 G. A. Kaus, bartender
 George Auld, Member Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 16-18 years; Chairman until January 1, 1912
 Robert F. Green, lived in Braddock Heights
 Thomas A. Hulfish, airbrake inspector, lived in Rosemont two years
 James H. Patterson, expressman
 Thomas J. Fannon, merchant in Alexandria City; came to Alexandria in 1860
 James Burkett, lived in Braddock Heights; farmed four miles south of Alexandria
 James J. Green, Assistant Cashier, First National Bank
 E. J. Roberts, Overseer of Roads of Jefferson District for 20 years; came from New York in 1861 and lived there ever since
 George H. Burke, member of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors 8-10 years
 Franklin Williams, member of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors 20 years
 J. F. Chauncey, lived in Fairfax all his life (50 years)
 A. R. Brown, lived on Duke Street, Extended
 James W. Gaines, 2509 Duke Street
 George H. Rucker, Clerk of Circuit Court since July 1, 1899; Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria County

Charles W. Nichols, carpenter; lived in West End
 F. L. Nichols
 C. B. Bruin, 1621 Duke Street
 Frank L. Ballenger, lived in West End 18 years; merchant in a store which has been there for over 100 years
 Walker Roberts, miller and seed dealer; President of the Alexandria Water Co.
 J. W. Roberts, farmer; 130 acres on Robert's Lane; Resident Manager of Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Co. for 15 years; Director of Citizens National Bank
 J. Louis Loose, operated greenhouses on Patrick Street, Extended
 David Grillbortzer, florist
 Thomas A. Williams, member of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
 George K. Pickett, Commissioner of the Revenue for Mt. Vernon Magisterial District in Fairfax County
 E. W. Ball, County Treasurer (Arlington County); Deputy Treasurer for seven years before
 Frank T. King, wholesaler of general merchandise on North Lee Street
 W. F. P. Reid, Member of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
 William H. Duncan, Commissioner of the Revenue for Alexandria County
 Edward Duncan, Chairman of Board of Supervisors for Alexandria County
 W. C. Wibert, County Treasurer for 26 years and 6 months prior to Ball; member of Board of Supervisors
 John M. Johnson, born 1847; lawyer for Alexandria City
 Dr. W. P. Moncure, Commissioner of Accounts for Fairfax; son of Judge R. C. L. Moncure
 A. J. Pohl, Superintendent of Hydraulic Press Brick Co.
 R. Gordon Finney, Trial Justice since June 17, 1912

Richard Arell, His Times, Tavern, and Neighbors

(Continued from page 21.)

Virginia Gazette

Library of Congress microfilm at Library of Congress

Williamsburg microfilm at the Alexandria Library

Printed Materials

Brockett, F. L. The Lodge of Washington, Lodge No. 22. Alexandria

George E. French, Publ., 1876

Hening, William Waller, The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619. New York, 1823

Jefferson, Thomas, Papers of, edited by Julian P. Boyd. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1950

Our Town, 1749 to 1865, Catalogue. Alexandria Association, 1956

Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine

Washington, George, Diaries of George Washington, 1748-1799. Edited by John C. Fitzpatrick. Published for the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association of the Union. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1925

—Writings of Washington, Prepared under the Direction of the U. S. George Washington Bicentennial Commission. Edited by John C. Fitzpatrick. Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1931