

## ARLINGTON PROPERTY OWNED BY PRESIDENT GARFIELD

By

R. Corbin Dorsey

Many members of the Arlington Historical Society live on land once owned by the twentieth president, James Abram Garfield of Ohio. Before his assassination in 1881 at age fifty, Garfield had a brilliant career that included active service in the Civil War, membership in the U. S. House of Representatives and leadership of the Republican Party.

At the battle of Chickamauga, the Confederacy's last great victory in the Civil War, General Garfield's intrepidity nearly stopped the Confederate advance; and Garfield always believed thereafter that had his counsels prevailed Chickamauga would have been a Union victory.

Leaving the battlefield in 1863 to go into the U. S. House of Representatives, Garfield remained there until 1880 when he had become the acknowledged leader of the Republican Party. Nominated and elected president that year, Garfield was shot in July 1881 by the assassin, Giteau, and died two months later.

In the 1870s Garfield, ever an aggressive businessman as well as politician, acquired large tracts of land in what is now Arlington, Alexandria and Prince William County. His name continued in the former Washington Garfield Memorial Hospital, in the Prince William community known as Garfield, and in numerous towns, counties and mountain peaks in various parts of the country.

Deed to Dorsey house and lot:

Property at 2626 Lynn Street, Arlington, Virginia is:

"Lot numbered One-C (1-C) in Block numbered Two (2), SECTION ONE (1), of the Subdivision of "OAKCREST", as shown upon a plat of resubdivision of original Lot One (1) attached to a deed from Garfield Manor Corporation to James S. Buck, duly recorded in Deed Book 358, at Page 333, among the land records of Arlington County, Virginia."