

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

By

Ruth M. Ward

In May 1870, a newly adopted Virginia Constitution changed the form of local county governments, and a Board of Supervisors became the governing body of Alexandria County (now Arlington County). The county was divided into three magisterial districts -- the middle district was named "Arlington," the one to the south was called "Jefferson," and the one to the north "Washington."

The Board of Supervisors governed until 1932, when a county manager and an elected County Board began to function.

In the 1940's, some house cleaning in the Court House resulted in sorting out documents and papers, with unwanted items being sent to the county incinerator for disposal. One large bundle of papers intended for disposal fell off a truck on its way to the incinerator and was recovered by a passerby. This bundle contained records from 1908 to the 1930's of the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors. There were receipts, correspondence, petitions heard before the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors, and records of actions taken by the Board. Since "Alexandria County" appeared on most of these papers, the bundle was sent to the City Manager of Alexandria, who in turn sent them to Frank Hanrahan, County Manager of Arlington, in 1947, with a note stating that they had been found on Highway 50, near Fort Myer.

Eventually the papers came to the attention of the late Cornelia B. Rose, Jr., who worked as a research assistant in the County Manager's office in the 1950's. She realized that there was a wealth of historic information contained in the recovered papers, and saw to it that they were given to the Arlington Historical Society for its archives. These papers reflect the major concerns of citizens in the time period they cover, and the prevailing conditions in general.

Sidewalks and Roads

Since there was no public transportation system, horse-drawn vehicles and walking were relied upon for getting around the county. The lack of sidewalks, and the poor condition of the roads, brought numerous requests and petitions addressed to the Board of Supervisors. Citizens were so eager to have sidewalks that they didn't specify "concrete" sidewalks, but in some cases asked for "cinder" or "crushed stone" walks.

One such petition, signed by fifteen citizens, in December 1913, requested the Board "To build a cinder walk, similar to those being constructed under your supervision in the county, from Alexandria County Court House to Park Lane Station, on the Washington & Old Dominion Railway."

In June of 1914, the Board received a "Petition for Sidewalk" signed by twenty-two Ballston citizens, who "respectfully request the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria County, Virginia, to construct a crushed stone sidewalk on the south side of the Georgetown Pike from a point at Collins Store, leading to and from the Presbyterian Church, to the road leading to Glen Carlin, or as much of it as the Board may decide."

An undated petition to the Board of Supervisors, signed by twenty-four citizens, stated, "We, the undersigned, having places of business or residences along the Georgetown Road from Rosslyn west through Cherrydale and beyond, or operating vehicles upon said road, do hereby respectfully request that money be appropriated for the purpose of oiling said road, work to commence as soon as possible, in order to allay the dense clouds of dust which render the neighborhood well-nigh uninhabitable, and which necessarily mean the rapid disintegration of this road surface."

In June 1914, twenty-one citizens living on School Street (now North Randolph Street) signed a petition asking the "Honorable Board to build a sidewalk on the west side of the said Street, from the Ballston School House on Wilson Boulevard, to the Garrison Road." (Now Washington Boulevard)

The Cherrydale Citizens Association wrote a letter of thanks to the Board of Supervisors for the sidewalk they had previously asked for, and added, "In placing a sidewalk along the county road known as the Georgetown-Falls Church Road, above Cherrydale Station, it has eliminated one of the most dangerous foot paths in the county. This steep hill is bounded by a ditch on each side, and during the winter when covered with ice and snow, teams skid and slide, and together with the coasting of sleds at night, make it without a doubt the most dangerous piece of roadway in this vicinity for a pedestrian." (Cherrydale Station was at the northeast corner of the present Military Road and Lee Highway intersection.)

Court House

Letter of May 5, 1932, from John A. Petty, Clerk, to Mr. Roy S. Braden, County Manager:

"There are two improvements which I should like to request for the Clerk's office, and if it is not within your power to grant them, kindly advise me so that I might present the matter to the County Board at its meeting on Saturday."

"Both of these matters deal with facilities in the recording room, which in my opinion would tend to promote efficiency on the part of the clerks: The white glare from the unpainted walls and the lack of ventilation, both of which items will be more accentuated as the weather gets warmer. I request that the walls of this room be tinted in some suitable subdued tone, and that the permanent transoms between this room and the public record room be taken out and re-installed either on hinges or some pulley arrangement so as to permit opening and closing them as the occasion requires.

"I am also informed that the absence of awnings on these three rooms has been found a source of discomfort and inconvenience to the clerks and I respectfully request that some provision be made to relieve this situation by equipping the windows with awnings, sometime before the extreme hot weather sets in."

A letter of May 8, 1932, to Mr. John A. Petty, Clerk of Court, Arlington County Court House, Clarendon, Virginia:

"Speaking for myself alone, will say that I would oppose the painting of any rooms in this building until the entire building was painted, for there are several offices in the old part of the building that are really unfit for carrying on suitable work."

"Would suggest that you take this matter up with the Board at its regular meeting tomorrow." Signed, Roy S. Braden, County Manager.

Excerpts from April 13, 1935, report to the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, by a committee appointed by the Board "to report to the Board any feasible plan, either for repairing, replacing, or adding to the present Court House:"

"The need for additional space is most urgent. The efficiency of the offices on the lower floors of the present Court House is impaired because of the crowded conditions under which they must now operate. Three departments of the County government have their offices at the present time in the attic, in space which was never intended to be used for office purposes, which is inaccessible to the public, and which constitutes an extremely dangerous fire hazard to all persons on the third floor. Other departments are now renting office space, at a loss not only of the rental paid but of time of employees."

"It is the unanimous recommendation of the committee that the south wing should be completed at this time. Then the north wing could be completed at a future date, as the need develops, and the central unit could be replaced last, while the business of the County was conducted without interruption, in the two wings."

Quiet In The Court Room

A letter of May 12, 1932, from John A. Petty, Clerk, to Mr. Roy S. Braden, County Manager:

"It is the desire of Judge McCarthy to make some slight changes in the Circuit Court room in the interest of quiet and order, and I was directed by him to do certain things immediately after the close of the present term.

"Among the matters to be taken care of are the following:

"Furnish and install a suitable type of compression door stop on the door at the main entrance to the courtroom; oil metal parts of swivel chairs in the courtroom; adjust the wooden gates to the Bar; remove the roll top desk from the clerk's platform and furnish a 50" flat top desk to be placed for the time being on the clerk's platform where the roll top desk has stood."

In 1930, Dr. Chichester, County Health Officer, commented in a letter to Mr. C. L. Kinnier, Directing Engineer, that he was submitting a written statement of Court House items which he had already verbally discussed with Mr. Kinnier. One subject mentioned was "Screening of windows -- this is going to be inadequate unless the whole lower floor is screened, and I notice that every office is suffering in the same manner as mine from an excessive amount of flies.

"I also mentioned chairs, but I believe that matter was settled by permission to take them out of the Board Room. I am therefore taking four chairs from the Board Room to supply the needs in my office."

Requests for action in seemingly trivial matters appear in the recovered documents. One was a request made in a letter from John A. Petty, County Clerk.

to Mr. Roy S. Braden, County Manager, in May 1932: "When it is convenient I would appreciate it if you would have your carpenter attach a medicine cabinet [sic] to the wall in the laboratory just off my private office. At present this cabinet [sic] is resting on a shelf and I would like it permanently fastened."

One bill for services rendered, presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval for payment, was a charge of one dollar for grinding and adjusting a mower for use at the court house in May 1915. This service was provided by John Coleman, whose letterhead proclaims him to be a "Practical Horshoer" and "An expert on Lamé and Interfering Horses," and "Doing business out of Warehouse Alley in Georgetown, with the entrance on M Street, Between Wisconsin and Potomac Street."

One expenditure, quite unusual for a court house-related item, was approved by the Board of Supervisors in July 1916, for the purchase of a barrel of Cidol Insecticide, at a cost of \$1.50 a gallon, or \$82.50 per barrel. (A barrel contains 31½ gallons). A letter from the supplier, West Disinfecting Company, of New York City, says:

"Gentlemen: We agree to furnish you with one barrel Cidol Insecticide at one dollar and fifty cents per gallon. You to use same for sixty days and if it does not kill all bed bugs and body lice you can return same to us at our expense and pay us nothing for what you have used. Yours very truly, H. K. Ellyson, for the West Disinfecting Company."

Since no particular office or department in the Court House claimed in any of the documents among the Board of Supervisor papers that the presence of either bed bugs or body lice was a problem to them, there is no way to determine exactly where in the Court House the insecticide was used.

The trees on the Court House grounds were discussed in a letter sent to Mr. Kinnier, County Engineer, in August 1930. The letter was from a Mr. Biller, who has engaged in commercial tree work in Ballston.

"We respectfully call to your attention the need of root feeding, pruning, and surgical work in connection with the preservation of the shade trees on the grounds of Arlington Court House.

"We have recently made an inspection of these trees and find that four of the original twenty-eight oaks are entirely dead. Three more are about dead, and several others are in poor condition and rapidly declining. This leaves approximately two-thirds of the original number of native oaks that are in fair condition. A majority of these trees will require considerable pruning and cavity treatment to put them in first-class shape: Four oaks are of 'V' crotch type and will require bracing against wind stress.

"We would recommend root feeding and general pruning of the entire grove. Pollarding and severe pruning of all declining trees. Excavating, bracing and filling of the important cavities. Installation of cables where needed; and removal of dead trees.

"Our tentative estimate on cost of the work, as outlined herein, would be four

hundred eighty-five dollars: Root feeding, \$100, Pruning, \$160, Cavity Work, \$125 to \$75, approximately, material, \$75.

"This estimate is based on our unit rate of \$1.45 per hour for tree surgeons, plus cost of material supplied; and \$2.50 per hour for pneumatic machine with equipment for cavity cutting, bracing and root feeding. The amount stated for cavity work may vary in proportion to the number and size, (extent of decay) of cavities that are treated. All cavity work will be done on a strictly time basis, plus cost of material used. If there is any further data or information requested in connection with this estimate we will be pleased to furnish same."

In May, 1931, Mr. Kinnier, Directing Engineer, sent the following letter to the Virginia Public Service Company in Clarendon:

"Gentlemen: I notice that the light in the Court House yard, immediately in front of the front door, is being struck by limbs from the tree just in back of it, causing the light to go on and off during the time of any movement of the tree. Please have this tree trimmed or the light so placed that this trouble will be corrected.

"Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, I am, Yours very truly, C. L. Kinnier, Directing Engineer."

In June 1937, Frank C. Hanrahan, County Manager and Clerk to the County Board, sent a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Morsell, 3107 Wilson Boulevard, thanking them for their gift of trees for the Court House lawn:

"The County Board of Arlington County, by resolution at its last meeting, June 7th, went on record as extending a unanimous vote of thanks to both of you for the gift of the beautiful trees which are now placed in the grounds at the Court House. May I assure you that the trees will have the best of attention and I am sure it is a source of pride to you to know that you have contributed something of lasting worth to the County."

Mr. Morsell responded with a letter of June 16, 1937:

"Dear Mr. Hanrahan: We duly received your letter of the 9th inst. informing us that the County Board of Arlington county, by resolution at its last meeting, June 7, went on record as extending a unanimous vote of thanks to us for the gift of Norway spruce trees for planting on the grounds of the Court House.

"It gives us a great deal of pleasure to know that the trees have been placed in a permanent location where they will have the best of attention and continue to grow in size and beauty.

"With thanks to you and the County Board for your kind expressions of appreciation, we beg to remain, Sincerely yours, Ernest Morsell."

In May 1914, a letter signed by Mrs. L. C. Fountain, Mrs. J. Deuterman, and Mrs. H. D. Moyer, Committee, was sent to "The Honorable, the Board of supervisors of Alexandria County, Virginia: Gentlemen: We have the honor to request that permission be granted for the schools of Alexandria county to use all the space that may be available on June 12, in the Alexandria County Court House, for the purpose of holding a school fair and exhibit of the work of the school children.

"It is the purpose, in addition to the exhibit, to have the several school and

Civic Leagues of the County serve refreshments during the day to those who may avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the fair.

"Also, an endeavor is being made to have the Governor of the State deliver an address in the evening of June 12."

The Clerk of the Board, George H. Rucker, replied to the Committee:

"Mesdames: In reply to your letter of May eleventh, addressed to the board of Supervisors, I am directed to say that the Board will take pleasure in turning over the Court House and Grounds to your Committee on June twelfth, next, for the purpose of holding a school fair and exhibit, and to say that the board wishes you much success in the undertaking. Yours truly, George H. Rucker, Clerk."

Paupers (Burial)

Wheatly & Son, Undertakers, in Alexandria, submitted a bid to the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors in September 1910 for burying paupers, listing a charge of \$8.00 each for large coffins, and \$5.00 each for small coffins, and a \$3.00 charged for removing the deceased to the cemetery.

In 1912, W. N. Febrey, Alexandria County Superintendent of the Poor, approved a bill submitted by William Demaine & Sons, Funeral Directors, for "Coffin, digging grave, and removing remains of Benj. Moore, colored, pauper who died on Convalescent Camp Road near Knox Station, \$11.50." ("The "Knox" Station was Demaine's spelling for "Nauk" Station.)

In February 1913, B. Wheatley, Undertaker, in Alexandria, wrote to Mr. George H. Rucker, Clerk of the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors, that "owing to advance of material and labor, in the future the price for burying paupers for the County will be as follows: Coffin, \$12.00, digging grave, \$4.00, removing remains, \$5.00, total \$21.00."

Mr. Rucker apparently considered that amount too large, and wrote "advertise for bids" at the bottom of the request.

Pauper Tickets

Paupers in Alexandria County could apply for "poor orders" for a pre-set amount, usually \$2.00 or \$5.00, and present such an order to a grocer as payment for purchases. The merchant, in turn, would present the "poor order" to George H. Rucker, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and W. N. Febrey, Superintendent of the Poor, for approval for payment to the merchant.

Itemized lists of purchases made with "poor orders" reflect grocery and sundry item prices -- it took ten trips to the East Arlington Store House, corner of Mount Vernon and Columbia Pike, for one pauper to use her \$5.00 poor order. Only two meat purchases appeared on the list of items purchased from May 18th to 29th, 1914.

The listing of "a bottle of castor oil, 10¢," and Peroxyde" [sic] purchased twice at 10¢ a bottle, indicate use of home remedies for some injury or ailment. Three loaves of bread cost 10¢, two oranges, 2¢, one-half pound butter 18¢, three eggs 7¢, bottle of milk, 5¢, one-half pound lard, 6¢.

The same pauper used another \$5.00 "poor order" in June, 1914, and the list of items she purchased included one item of "meat, 16¢, sardines, 5¢, sausage,

8¢, mackerell, [sic] 5¢, one pound breakfast bacon 22¢." Seventeen loaves of bread, three boxes Uneda Biscuits, and eight small quantities of potatoes purchased indicate that starchy foods formed the greater part of the pauper's diet. Vegetables other than canned peas and canned tomatoes do not appear on the grocery list, although "one cantaloupe, 10¢" is listed. The pauper probably relied on growing her own vegetables to augment her food supply.

Another pauper used his pauper tickets at J. W. Sutton, General Merchandise, Hay, Grain & Mill Feed, in Clarendon, and his itemized list of purchases included "two pounds beef, 30¢, one broom, 35¢, two pairs of sox, 20¢, one pair shoes, \$3.00, four bushels of coal, \$1.10, five packages of tobacco at five cents each, a box of matches, five cents." The bulk of his diet also appeared to be bread, biscuits and crackers.

For the fiscal year 1909 the Superintendent of the Poor showed a total of \$638.60 spent on pauper tickets, with a list of names of paupers.

Dogs

Matters concerning dogs in Alexandria County appeared to have occupied a great deal of the attention of the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors, as reflected in some of the records now available. The death of one dog in Rosslyn brought about the following correspondence:

"I authorize Henry W. Reynolds of Rosslyn, Alexandria County, Va. to bury a dead dog which has become a nuisance from smell in our vicinity. Given under my hand this 7th day of August 1910. Joseph Bell Amiss, Justice of the Peace."

Under date of August 11, 1910, "To Geo. H. Rucker, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Alexandria:

"Dear Sir: I have to report that on Saturday evening August 6th, 1910, a report made to me, William W. Moody, a Justice of said County, that at Rosslyn in Said county there was found a Dead Dog which had been lying there dead for several days and which had also been reported to me as having been mad and that the Said Mad Dog had bitten several other Dogs running at large and are still running at large to the great danger of the lives of the public Passing and Repassing through the county, and the said dead Dog was ordered to be buried by order of Joseph Bess Amiss Justice of the Peace for Alexandria County, and the Said dead dog was buried by Henry W. Reynolds.

William W. Moody, J. P." Seal.

"To the Board of Supervisors for Alexandria County, Va.:

"Gentlemen: On Saturday evening August 6th 1910 it was reported to me that a dog that had been mad and had been killed in Rosslyn and was still lying there on Sunday August the 7th in a Rotten condition and I went to Justice Amiss and he and I tried to get some one to bury it and finally got H. W. Reynolds to bury the dog which he did and I claim that the said H. W. Reynolds is entitled to Sum of \$4.00 (Four Dollars) for the Burial of Said Dog and it was allso [sic] reported to me by Mrs. Reynolds that Said mad dog had bitten several other dogs in and around Rosslyn and I would most Respectfully Recommend that the Commonwealths Attorney and the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria County

take action in the matter Soon as Possible. [sic] See Sec. 3197 as amended by acts 1904 - Page 367. But it appears that the Board of Supervisors must have adopted it before it become a Proporate [sic] law.

"I am Gentlemen Respectfully yours William W. Moody, J. P. Seal

"P.S. I make no charges for my Services in the above case I only want to have Mr. Reynolds Paid for he has done a good job for the Benfit [sic] of the county. W. W. M., J. P."

"NOTICE AN ORDINANCE OF ALEXANDRIA COUNTY, VA."

"The owner of every dog shall annually, between the first day of June and the first day of July, pay to the Treasurer of the County the sum of \$1.00 on all male dogs and \$2.00 on all female dogs over 3 months old and such owner shall receive from the County Treasurer a metal tag for each dog, upon which said tax is paid, which tag shall be worn at all times by the dog so taxed, and all dogs found at large not wearing such tag shall be seized and killed or sold at the Court House at \$2.00 each after 48 hours from said seizure, the owner to be allowed 48 hours from said seizure to pay the tax on such dogs;

"The owner of every dog not found running at large but upon which no tax is paid shall be liable to a fine of \$2.00 and costs for harboring an unlicensed dog and a person upon whose land such dog is habitually found shall be deemed the owner and subject to the penalty herein imposed and offenses under this ordinance shall be tried as misdemeanors and tried and fines so collected shall be turned into the County Treasury to be disposed of as money from dog licenses is disposed of;

"Provided that this ordinance in relation to dogs shall not become effective until June 1, 1913. Published by order of the Board of Supervisors, Geo. H. Rucker, Clerk."

Another ordinance regarding dogs, enacted by the Board of Supervisors, stated:

"When the owner of any dog impounded under the provisions of an ordinance of the Board of Supervisors which became effective on June 1, 1913, shall apply to redeem his dog he shall in addition to the payment of the tax due on such dog, pay to the County Treasurer, to be put into the County Fund, the sum of one dollar for each dog redeemed, and no dog shall be delivered to the owner thereof unless and until said dog tax and the dollar in addition thereto shall first be paid."

A couple of expenditures authorized by the Board of Supervisors in 1913 were not documented further, but hinted at bad news for impounded dogs in Alexandria County. One was to "H. C. Ball, For building one box for the purpose of asphixiation [sic] of dogs at Alexandria County Jail, \$17.00," and was O.K.ed by J. Harry Johnson, the Pound Master. Another was O.K.ed by Crandal Mackey, Commonwealth Attorney, "To. J. D. Hird, For analysis of sample of wine for poisons, \$5.00."

In October 1912, William Duncan, Commissioner of Revenue, reported to the Board of Supervisors on dogs assessed so far that year. He stated, "For year of 1912 have assessed 877 male dogs, 176 female dogs. Total 1053 @ 5¢ each. Kindly compensate me for same. \$52.65. Yours truly, W. H. Duncan."

In 1913, a document of the Board of Supervisors stated, "Resolved, that the

Sheriff be and he is hereby directed to cause to be constructed at the southwest corner of the courthouse reservation a wooden covered shed not exceeding twenty feet square to be used for impounding dogs to be kept for 48 hours unless sooner redeemed by the owner, and that the Sheriff purchase a one-horse covered wagon to be paid for out of the County fund, and also two poles and nets for use in catching dogs to be likewise paid for, and that the jailor with such prisoners as he may select shall be least once a week make a tour of the County for the purpose of catching and impounding all dogs found running at large upon which no tax has been paid."

Another document reads, "Resolved, that the Sheriff be and he is hereby directed to purchase two thoroughbred, pedigreed and trained bloodhounds to be kept at the County jail, said dogs to be an unrelated male and female not more than two years of age and to cost not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, and the Sheriff is hereby directed to proceed to the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of trying out and purchasing said dogs, to be paid for out of the County levy."

The records included a bill submitted to the Board of Supervisors from Charles Nelson for \$4.00 for serving on the dog wagon for four days in January 1914, at \$1.00 a day.

A letter dated May 6, 1914, to the Board of Supervisors, said:

"Gentlemen: I would like to call your attention to a bill lately passed by the State Legislature respecting dogs. I hope that this matter will be taken up by your Board at the earliest possible time. It is now getting near the 'mad dog' season and there now being an exceptionally large number of dogs running loose in Cherrydale and vicinity, the dogs have become a nuisance and a menace to the children. Yours very truly, E. C. Hooper, Dominion Heights, Va."

Miscellaneous

In 1914, a letter was sent from George N. Saegmuller to Mr. W. C. Wibert, Board of Supervisors, Alexandria county Court House:

"My Dear Mr. Wibert - I had hoped to see you personally concerning that small iron bridge over Pimmett Run on the Chain Bridge Road, but as I am only here on a quick business trip I will not have time to do so.

"I am informed that it is rumored that this bridge is unsafe, and that a number of persons have declined to run their automobiles over it for that reason. As you know, the bridge is constantly used by a large number of persons, and the President (Woodrow Wilson) often passes over it in his heavy machine on his way to the Washington Country Club. Now, in view of these facts, and especially in view of the fact that this bridge was not designed for the heavy traffic that now passes over it, I want to suggest that it should be thoroughly inspected and put in such condition as to be safe beyond all doubt. It would be a great calamity if it should collapse while a vehicle was crossing it. And if, as might happen, it gave way while being used by the President it would be appalling, and would subject the Board of Supervisors to national condemnation. I hope, therefore, that you will give this matter your early personal attention and see to it that the bridge is made safe beyond all question, and properly painted.

"It seems to me that provision should be made for expert inspection of the bridge at frequent intervals so that its safety may at all time be assured. Yours very truly, Geo. N. Saegmuller."

A note at the bottom of the letter indicated that the matter had been referred to the County Engineer for inspection.

In 1916 it became evident that some previous annual financial statements published by the Board of Supervisors did not meet with the approval of all citizens. The members of the Alexandria County Civic Federation sent a letter to the "Honorable Supervisors," and stated that at their last meeting they had passed a resolution, "The following resolution was unanimously carried: resolved, that the Supervisors be requested to make their annual financial statement in such form that the cost of each large piece of work done in the County might be shown, and whether by contract or day labor, as required by State law. And, further, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Supervisors and to the Commonwealth's Attorney."

A letter from the Barcroft School and Civil League in June 1916 was sent to the Board of Supervisors, stating that they endorsed the action of the Alexandria County Civic Federation, "That the Board of Supervisors be required to publish the annual statement of expenditures in Alexandria County according to law and in itemized form that can be easily understood."

Citizens with complaints came to the Board of Supervisors for relief from unwanted conditions. One matter in 1916 was brought to the attention of the Board as follows: "The free-holders and residents of Jefferson District, residing near what is known as the old canal basin, near Alexandria, respectfully state to the Board, that standing water ten or sixteen inches deep in the old canal bed has become stagnant and slimy, and that the drainage is so arranged that the water is left at this point to either evaporate or settle, and is always in a stinking condition, and the complainants would like to have an early investigation.

"Please do not neglect this matter, but have it looked into and find a remedy for the nuisance without delay. We ask in good faith that the matter be attended to immediately. Very respectfully, The Residents."

Among miscellaneous actions taken by the Board of Supervisors was the formation of a committee appointed by the Board to report on an advertising campaign for the County of Alexandria. The committee consisted of Frank G. Campbell and Frank L. Ball. In June 1916, they reported to the Board:

"We believe that it will be of great public benefit to advertise the commercial and residential advantages of manufacturing sites along the Potomac River, and the other to bring to the attention of the home owners and real estate men of Washington, and prospective suburbanites within our reach, the advantages of

the residential sections of the county for homes. We are of the opinion that it would be wise for this Board to expend the maximum amount allowed by law for the above purposes. We therefore respectfully recommend:

"First: That this Board enter into a contract for 5000 lines of advertising in the Saturday Real Estate Edition of the *Evening Star* of Washington, D. C., the same to be proportionately divided between ten issues of said newspaper. This will cost the sum of \$550.00.

"Second: That the commercial and manufacturing advantages of the county be advertised through *The Manufacturer's Record* of Baltimore, Maryland. This magazine reaches all of the business men of the East and its object is to develop the industries of the South. It is published weekly, together with a daily bulletin. One-eighth page of advertising for one year will cost \$405.60.

"Third: That a pamphlet showing both the residential and commercial advantages of the county be prepared under the supervision of this Board and distributed through the City of Washington and adjacent territory. The cost of this will be small and doubtless some of the realty operators in the county will help out with the original cost, and aid in the distribution.

"We recommend that the advertising campaign begin at once so that the Summer and Autumn trade can be attracted in this direction. Respectfully submitted, Frank G. Campbell, Frank L. Ball, Committee."

Dealing With A "Lunatic"

The final item we have gleaned from the Board of Supervisor documents concerns a charge sent to the Board in 1912, by W. H. Johnson, Jailor, "To board and care of Samuel Riley, lunatic, by order of the Board of Supervisors from Nov. 15th to Dec. 10, 1912, inclusive," of \$8.63. This bill was approved by W. N. Febrey, County Superintendent of the Poor.

A letter from the superintendent of the Central State Hospital in Petersburg, Virginia, written to Mr. William H. Palmer, Sheriff of Alexandria County, dated November 13, 1912, says, "Some time ago I wrote you in regard to a patient whom we have in this hospital by the name of Samuel Riley. After constant examinations and observation, I find that Samuel is not insane, but is simply an imbecile, and under the law we cannot care for him in this institution, and we are herewith returning him to the County authorities from which he was sent. I would advise that you have him either cared for at home, or send him to the County Alms-House.

Very respectfully, W. F. Drewry, Superintendent.

"P.S. Of course, Samuel will be returned at the expense of the county. W. F. D."