

**TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY OF ARLINGTON**  
**1900 — 1980**  
**A CHRONOLOGY**

DATE	EVENT
1900	The total population of Arlington County was 6,430 people. [62 percent of the population was white (3,963 people) and 48 percent was black.]
1900	Arlington Experimental Farm was created on 400 acres of the Arlington estate (transferred from the U.S. War Dept. to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture).
March 31, <sup>1900</sup> <del>1990</del>	The village of Clarendon was named and dedicated.
1900-1910	Between 1900 and 1910, plats for seventy new subdivisions were recorded in the county deed books.
1902	A new Virginia state constitution was adopted.
1903	The first organized volunteer fire department in Arlington was established in Cherrydale.
Jan. 1, 1904	Crandal Mackey took office as Arlington's Commonwealth's Attorney, beginning his campaign to "Clean Up" Arlington.
1906	The Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad (steam railroad) began to run through the northern portion of the county.
1906	The Long Bridge (located at the site of the 14th Street Bridge) stood until 1906, despite recurring damage over the years.
Feb. 1906	The Potomac Highway Bridge (14th Street Bridge) opened for operation.
1906	Luna Park was built by Frederick Ingersoll of Pittsburgh for \$350,000 on a forty acre site, located on the line of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway at Four Mile Run.
1908	The town of Potomac was incorporated within the boundaries of the County.
1908	The second volunteer fire department in Arlington was organized in Ballston.
Sept. 3-12, 1908	Orville Wright conducted tests of the Wright Brothers airplane at Fort Myer, breaking new records for sustained flight, finally staying in the air for one hour and fifteen minutes.
1909	The section of Wilson Boulevard between Fort Myer Drive and North Barton St. became the first road in Arlington County to be given a hard surface.
1909	The remains of Pierre L'Enfant, who had originally been buried in Prince Georges County, Maryland in 1825, were interred at the Arlington National Cemetery.

- 1910 (approx.) Migration of government workers from Washington to the Arlington area began.
- 1910 The total population of Arlington was 10,231 people.
- 1910 The Cherrydale Citizens Association was established by 1910.
- 1911 By 1911, the tracks of the Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad ran across the Aqueduct Bridge from the terminal on the Georgetown side.
- 1911 The Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad was reorganized as the Washington and Old Dominion.
- 1912 Legislation vesting the Board of Supervisors of any county with a population density in excess of 300 per square mile with the "same powers and authority as are now vested or which may hereafter become vested in the councils of cities and towns" was enacted by the Virginia General Assembly.
- 1912 The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad was converted to electricity.
- 1913 By 1913, The Alexandria County Lighting Company, with a plant on the Alexandria city waterfront, furnished electricity as far as Clarendon.
- Feb. 13, 1913 The Arlington Naval Radio Station was placed into commission.
- 1914 The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded (as recorded by C.B. Rose, Jr.) (Date usually given as 1916).
- 1914 The first motorized equipment in Arlington, a model T truck, was acquired by the Ballston Volunteer Fire Department to haul tanks of soda acid.
- 1914 The Arlington Board of Supervisors adopted a subdivision control ordinance, requiring prior approval by the county engineer to ensure coordinated layout of streets and sewers.
- June 4, 1914 A Confederate Monument, erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, was dedicated by President Wilson at Arlington National Cemetery (with the remains of 400 soldiers).
- 1915 The city of Alexandria annexed portions of Alexandria County.
- 1915 Luna Park facilities were dismantled.
- 1916 Congress authorized the dismantling of the Aqueduct Bridge and the construction of a new bridge (completed in 1923 and named the Francis Scott Key Bridge).
- 1916 The Falls Church Telephone Company was absorbed by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.
- 1916 The oldest Boy-Scout troop in the Arlington area, Troop 104, was chartered. (This troop meets at the Clarendon United Methodist Church and will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 1991.)
- 1918 By 1918, there were 555 telephones in Arlington.

- 1920 The name of the County was changed from Alexandria County to Arlington County.
- 1920 Total population of Arlington was 16,040 people.
- 1920 Citizens of Clarendon signed a petition for a town charter.
- 1920 The central C&P Telephone office for Arlington was established in Clarendon. (The Rosslyn office was discontinued when the central office was established.)
- May 1920 The Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery was dedicated.
- 1921 Arlington National Cemetery became the site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- 1921 Bus service began in Arlington.
- 1921 The first Arlington County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized by Ellen Schutt Wallis.
- 1922 The Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia denied a town charter for Clarendon, holding that Arlington County was a "continuous, contiguous, and homogeneous community" that could not be subdivided for the purposes of incorporating a portion of it. (Case of Bennett vs. Garrett)
- 1922 Virginia Highway Route #1 of the state highway system (established by an Act approved on January 31, 1918) was designated the Jefferson Davis Highway by the General Assembly.
- 1922 The United States Army Band was created at Fort Myer by order of General John L. Pershing.
- 1923 The Francis Scott Key Bridge replaced the Aqueduct Bridge.
- 1924 There were 38 churches of various denominations in Arlington.
- 1929 The city of Alexandria annexed portions of Arlington County.
- 1929 The town of Potomac ceased its corporate existence when it was annexed by the city of Alexandria.
- 1930 The total population of Arlington was 26,615 people. [87 percent of the population was white (23,278 people); 13 percent was black.]
- 1930 A special act of the Virginia Legislature permitted different forms of local government in counties with a population of over 500 per square mile (which specification only Arlington met at that time).
- April 30, 1930 The Arlington County Board of Supervisors adopted a zoning ordinance setting up limited categories of land use — the first plan for land use/zoning in the County.
- 1930 The Abingdon estate was destroyed by fire.

- 1930s The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad line to Great Falls was discontinued and the right-of-way from Lee Highway west became Old Dominion Drive.
- 1931 Mason's Island was acquired by the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, which transferred title to the National Park Service as a living memorial to Roosevelt, a great conservationist.
- 1931 The County Council of PTAs was formed.
- 1932 The first County Manager for Arlington County, Roy S. Braden, was hired.
- 1934 The superstructure of the Aqueduct Bridge was torn down, but the piers remained visible in the Potomac River.
- 1936 The boundaries of the town of Falls Church were redrawn to exclude the portion in Arlington County (East Falls Church).
- 1936 A central post office for Arlington was established.
- 1937 The *Northern Virginia Sun* started publication (six days a week).
- Feb. 27, 1937 The Memorial Gate of Arlington National Cemetery opened (at the end of the Arlington Memorial Bridge drive).
- 1938 The present steel cantilever girder superstructure was built for Chain Bridge (at a cost of \$393,000), making use of masonry piers that are over 100 years old.
- 1938 An act passed by the Virginia General Assembly made it impossible for further annexation of Arlington land area by other counties or cities.
- 1940 Total population of Arlington was 57,040 people. [91 percent of the population was white (51,998); 9 percent was non-white (5,042 people)]
- 1940 The Buckingham community was completed
- 1941 The federal government bought the site of the old Hoover Airport for \$1 million.
- 1941 The radio towers for the Arlington Naval Radio Station were dismantled as a menace to aircraft approaching the new Washington National Airport.
- Sept. 1941 Ground was broken for the Pentagon as headquarters for the Nation's Armed Forces.
- 1941-1943 The construction of the Pentagon continued.
- March 20, 1942 Virginia's first limited access highway was named to honor Henry G. Shirley, chairman of the State Highway Department from July 1922 to July 1941, by official resolution of the State Highway Commission.
- 1943 The Fairlington community was developed under the charter of the Defense Homes Corporation with funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. (At the time, with 3,439 units, Fairlington was the largest housing development in the U.S.)

- 1943                   Glencarlyn Park was acquired by Arlington County.
- 1944                   Total population of Arlington was 120,00 people.
- 1944                   The Northern Virginia Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission was authorized by Act of the Virginia General Assembly.
- 1946                   Legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly would permit Arlington County to become a city if Arlington voters approved.
- 1946                   The main right-of-way line of the electric railroad through Ballston and Clarendon was condemned by Arlington County (since the railroad had ceased operation) to be merged with the existing Fairfax Drive and developed as a major thoroughfare.
- 1946                   The Citizens Committee for School Improvement was formed.
- 1949-1951            The Parkington Shopping Center was constructed.
- 1950                   The total population in Arlington was 135,000 people.
- 1950                   The Rochambeau Memorial Bridge (14th Street Bridge) was built.
- 1950                   Marymount College began as a two-year college for girls with a strong emphasis on liberal arts.
- 1952                   An Act of the Virginia General Assembly changed the name of Lee Boulevard to Arlington Boulevard to end confusion with Lee Highway.
- Nov. 10, 1954        The Iwo Jima statue was dedicated by President Eisenhower.
- 1955                   The Kenmore Junior High School was built.
- 1956                   Arlingtonians for a Better County was established.
- Sept. 1956           The Arlington Historical Society was founded at the Glebe House.
- Dec. 3, 1956         The last classes were held at the Hume School.
- April 1957            The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) formed, with a general membership of 220 and a board of directors of 24 members.
- 1958                   The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority was established.
- May 30, 1958        The "Unknown Soldier" from World War II and the Korean War were buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
- May 1958             The Consumer Brewing Company building in Rosslyn was demolished to prepare site for motel.
- 1960                   The total population of Arlington was 163,401 people. [94 percent of the population was white (154,172 people); 6 percent was non-white (9,229 people).]
- 1960                   Public kindergartens were opened for the first time in Arlington County schools.
- 1962                   The George Mason Bridge (14th Street Bridge) was built.

- 1964 The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was established.
- 1964 The Theodore Roosevelt Bridge was built.
- 1965 Rectification of the boundary lines between Arlington County and the City of Alexandria was approved
- 1966 The Northern Virginia Community College Board was established.
- Sept. 1, 1966 Virginia state and local (Arlington) sales taxes went into effect.
- Feb. 20, 1967 The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) was created under an interstate compact that became effective on Feb. 20, 1967.
- 1970 Total population of Arlington was 174,284 people.
- 1970 George Mason College was separated from the University of Virginia and became an independent university (George Mason University).
- 1974 An oral history project to record the reminiscences of Arlington citizens about earlier life and history of the County began, supported by the Arlington County Public Library and the Zonta Club of Arlington.
- 1975 The Ball-Sellers House was donated to the Arlington Historical Society.
- 1976 The Center for Urban Education, Inc. was organized in Arlington County as a non-profit corporation to promote the development of an environmentally sound community and thus to avoid community deterioration.
- 1977 The International School of Law relocated to Arlington from Washington.
- 1979 The Virginia General Assembly authorized the establishment of the George Mason University Law School (originally founded as a private institution — the International School of Law — in the District of Columbia in 1972).
- 1980 Total population of Arlington was 152,599 people, a net change of 21,685 people from the 1970 census. [83 percent of the population was white (126,120 people); 17 percent was non-white (26,478).]



**WHY DO WE CALL IT?**

**Lorcom Lane**

In 1907, Dr. Joseph Taber Johnson bought land north of what is now Lee Highway. He named his property Lorcom Farm after his two sons, LORen and BasCOM, and the road leading to his place became known as Lorcom Lane. This name was retained when the county streets were renamed in 1935.