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Figure 1: Plat of James and Lewis Marcey's Land, ca. 1866. Retrieved from Fold3. U.S., Southern Claims Commission Allowed Claims, 1871-1880 [database on-line].

“I was a Union Man:” James and Lewis Marcey’s Civil War Experience

BY JESSICA KAPLAN

On May 23, 1861, James and Lewis Marcey, Alexandria County (now Arlington) farmers, rode to Ball’s Crossroads, (Ballston), to vote on the Virginia Ordinance of Secession. The issue, whether Virginia should secede from the United States of America, divided Alexandria County and the Nation. Armed men greeted voters at the polling station threatening expulsion from the state and forfeiture of property if locals opted to remain in the Union.¹ One held a revolver to a local carpenter, Malcolm Douglass’s head and warned, ‘Mal, if you vote no, I will give you the contents of that!’² Neither Mr. Douglass nor James and Lewis Marcey flinched under intimidation. They chose to keep Virginia in the Union. A majority of Alexandria County men voted similarly. In contrast, Virginians overwhelmingly endorsed secession and the state followed suit.

Background:

I live in a farmhouse on the property once owned by James and Lewis Marcey. Intrigued by Arlington’s Civil War history, I delved into records about the family during this period and was richly rewarded. Most compelling was the first hand testimony of Southern Unionists seeking compensation for wartime losses through the Southern Claims Court (SCC). Combined with wonderful maps, diaries, and newspaper articles from the period, a rendering of the family’s story, filled with irony, complexity, and heartache, emerged. This article depicts the war through the Marcey’s eyes.

The Early Years:

Sometime between 1776 and 1800, Samuel and Jane Marcey settled in the backwoods of Alexandria County alongside roughly 1,000 other residents. Samuel and Jane worked as tenant farmers while raising seven children. In 1843, two of their sons, Lewis and James, jointly purchased the 95 acre tract of land their parents had farmed, about a mile south of Chain Bridge. Another son, William, bought a piece of property on Glebe Road and 18th Street.³ (Fig. 1, Plat of Lewis and James Marcey farm)

Over the years, the Marcey brothers married, built modest homes, and developed the farm. (Fig. 2, Photo of Marcey cabin) James and his wife Mary



Courtesy of Vienna Patch

Figure 2: Restored Marcey Cabin, ca. 1843. Moved from Arlington to 223 Walnut Street, Vienna, Virginia.

had six children. Two of their sons, James and Samuel, also lived and worked on the farm with spouses and children. Lewis and Ann Marcey had no offspring.

Like other small-scale area growers, the Marcey brothers hauled their produce in wagons to markets in Georgetown, Washington City, and Alexandria City. Despite living in the South, the Marceys did not use slave labor. In fact, slave ownership became increasingly unprofitable for small farmers in the County as the century progressed. The economic reality caused the number of free blacks to increase steadily after 1840.⁴

During the 1850s, Alexandria County demographics began to change. Prosperous families from the North began moving into the area, buying up farmland, infusing capital, and bringing modern methods of cultivation. These Yankees also brought progressive ideas and politics to this Southern Democratic leaning region. They were strongly anti-slavery and preached the merits of a strong national government. Among them were Gilbert Vanderwerken and George Herrick, whose properties bordered the Marcey farm on the north and south, respectively. (Fig. 3, LC map of farms in Marcey area)

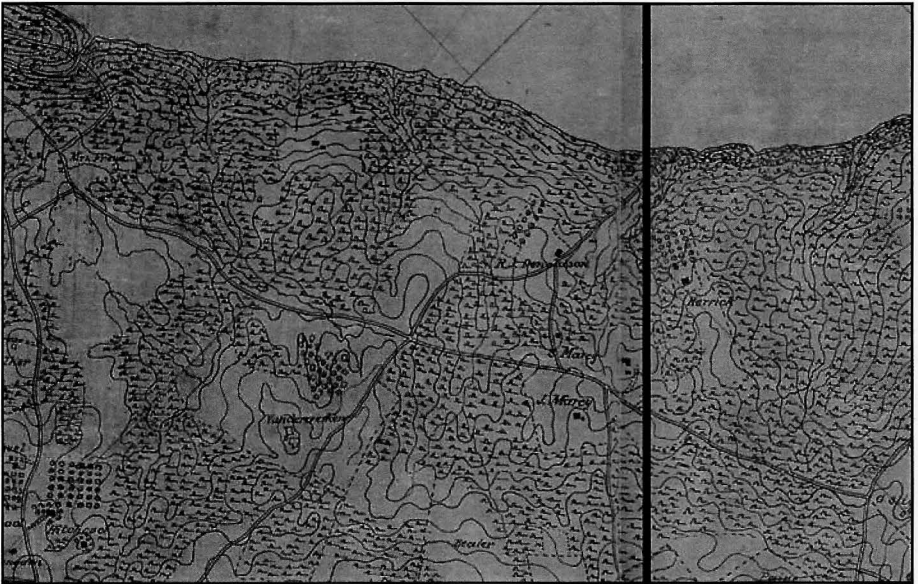
In November of 1860, the citizens of the United States selected Abraham Lincoln as their sixteenth President. Lewis and James Marcey, like most residents of rural Alexandria County, opposed Lincoln. They voted for John Bell, a strong unionist running as a third party candidate, rather than for the pro-slavery Democrats Stephen Douglas and John Breckenridge.⁵

By February of 1861, soon after Lincoln assumed the presidency, Southern states began seceding from the Union in protest. James and Lewis, like most residents of rural Alexandria County, felt more aligned with Lincoln and the forces of unity than with those of secession.

War and Occupation:

“The [army] mule road...divided our two houses.” James Marcey⁶

On May 24, 1861, Union forces crossed the Aqueduct (Key) and Long (14th St) Bridges and encamped in Alexandria City and County. Many Confederate sympathizers fled south as the army began hastily building fortifications to defend Washington. The soldiers descended upon what is now Rosslyn, Ballston, and Bailey’s Crossroads, and began building fortifications and entrenchments



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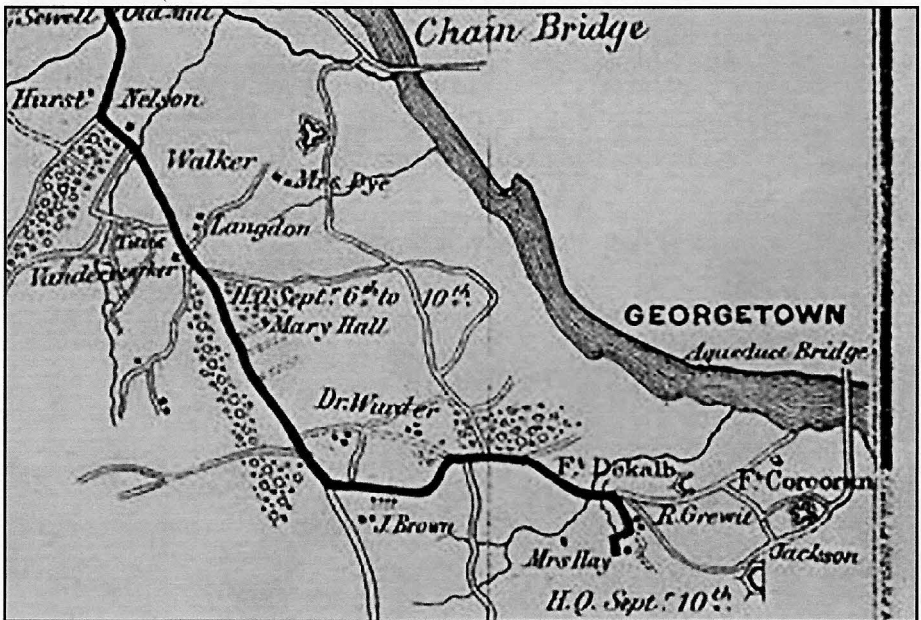
Figure 3: Map of the Marcey farm and its neighbors, ca. 1862-1863. The map incorrectly places "J Marcy" (James) west of Military Road from "S. Marcy" (Samuel). Lewis Marcey lived on the west side of Military Road and James Marcey to the east. United States Army Corp of Engineers. Detailed Map of Virginia, from Alexandria to the Potomac River above Washington, D.C.

throughout the region. In the process, they confiscated crops and supplies belonging to residents, cut their timber, and tore down homes and barns for building materials and fuel. Displaced and fearing for their lives, many residents fled to Georgetown and Washington.

On July 21, the Battle of Bull Run was fought in nearby Manassas, Virginia. General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate army routed the Northern troops. The battered Union army retreated to fortifications in Alexandria and Fairfax Counties to regroup. Confederate forces nipped at their heels.

Confederate and Yankee forces huddled near the District of Columbia created pandemonium in the area. Foraging troops and patrols of armed pickets from both armies harassed locals. An unnerving skirmish broke out a mile from the Marcey farm on Hall's Hill. Gunshots riddled the sector and Rebels burned several homes and barns.

Union troops controlled the land by the Marcey farm. Their daily presence upended the Marceys' lives and livelihoods. The Thirteenth New York Infantry set up 'guard tents' on the farm. John Marcey, the grandson of James recalled



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Figure 4: Portion of a map of the route and headquarters of General Franz Sigel and his First Corps in the Fort Ethan Allen to Fort Dekalb region after the Second Battle of Manassas. Franz Kappner, Map of route and positions, First Corps, Army of Virginia, Major General Sigel coming, from July 7th to September 10th 1862.

his experience as a child with the New York men, the soldiers “were friendly with us. They used to give me coffee to drink.” In contrast, a Massachusetts regiment’s troops were a “mean” group. “They stole a lot of our chickens and . . . other things” from the family. James Jr., had his cabin “all torn up” by Union soldiers. As a result, in September, he moved his wife Elizabeth and three children to Georgetown. After a few months, they returned.⁷

Despite James Jr.’s departure, Lewis and James clung to their homes and land. James Marcey, Sr. told the SCC, that he “staid [sic] at home with my family. I had a wife and three girls and I staid [sic] at home with them.”⁸

In late September, Union forces began building Forts Ethan Allen and Marcy, less than a mile from the Marcey tract, overlooking Chain Bridge and Pimmit Run.⁹ Soldiers felled acres of trees to make abatis and to create clear expanses for guns. The U.S. Army then built a road, in just three days, to connect the new forts to Fort Corcoran and other northern fortifications in Alexandria County. Hundreds of trees were cut to make way for this corduroy through-way, now known as Military Road. The Marcey farm, directly in its path, was split in two with Lewis and James’ homes on opposite sides.¹⁰ Throughout the war, Military Road teemed with noisy supply and munitions wagons and troop transport vehicles.

On September 30, 1861, Confederate forces retreated from Alexandria County and Falls Church and Union troops dug in for what everyone realized would be a long and costly war.

Second Battle of Manassas:

“The soldiers are destroyin’ your farm.” Samuel Marcey¹¹

Historian Noel Harrison likened the war experience of residents in Fairfax and Alexandria Counties from April 1861 to April of 1862 as to being “atop an anvil.”¹² For James and Lewis Marcey, the Second Battle of Manassas or Bull Run and its aftermath in the late summer of 1862, caused another devastating upheaval. Once again, the Yankees were trounced by Rebel troops and retreated to the outskirts of Washington, DC in humiliation. Fortifications throughout Alexandria and Fairfax Counties were placed on high alert, fearful that the Confederates would attack the capitol.

Thousands of Union troops descended on Fairfax and Alexandria Counties. Major General Franz Sigel and his roughly 9,800-strong First Corps were tasked with guarding the Virginia approach to Chain Bridge and maintaining the safety of Forts Marcy and Ethan Allen. They encamped from Fort Marcy to Fort Dekalb.¹³

Sigel’s troops arrived at Fort Ethan Allen in disarray. Carl Schurz, a Brigadier General under Sigel’s command, wrote in a September 7th diary

entry, "Confused march. With Sigel in front to search for position and places for the camps. My camp on the plateau to the left of Fort Ethan Allen, before me Milroy. Sigel's headquarters in Mary Hall's (Marymount College), mine at Dr. Wunder (Lee and Glebe). Stahel in front of Sigel's headquarters."¹⁴ (Fig. 4, Map of Sigel's route)

The First Corps was made up primarily of immigrant soldiers of Dutch (German), Austrian, Prussian, Polish and Hungarian heritage. Its leader, Franz Sigel had immigrated to the United States after the failed 1848 Revolution in Germany, in which he served as an officer. Several of Sigel's division and brigade commanders were also of Eastern European extraction, including Julius Stahel and Carl Schurz. (Fig. 5, Photos of Sigel, Stahel, and Shurz)

Not all of Sigel's troops were immigrants. Brigadier General Robert H. Milroy led an Independent Brigade of West Virginia soldiers within the First Corps. His men disliked their foreign born comrades. Cooperation between the units was often difficult.

The Marcey's farm was smack in the middle of Sigel's forces. The foreign born troops may have intensified the mistrust and resentment the Marceys felt as the soldier's requisitioned everything in sight. Within a space of two weeks, Sigel's men stripped the farm. Thirteen acres of corn, five acres of rye, three acres of rye straw, one hundred and ten bushels of potatoes, one hundred bushels of oats, ten acres of fodder, and eight hens were confiscated. From the garden, soldiers snatched three thousand cabbages, tomatoes, cantaloupes, watermelon, onions, and more. Around one hundred bushels of apples vanished and one hundred and seventy-five rods of fencing were destroyed.¹⁵ Practically overnight, Lewis and James had become paupers.

James Marcey described the frustrating appropriation of his potatoes during the encampment in the following exchange in 1872 with SCC lawyers:

Counsel: Tell me about those potatoes, who took them, where they were, and how they were taken?

James Marcey: ...They were taken by the army. We went to dig them, and they came in to dig them as we were...and I just gave it up, and let them take them. They carried them in bags and sacks...

Counsel: Were they encamped near [the potato patch] at that time?

James Marcey: Yes sir; all over my place...they came in such a manner, it was no use for me to dig any... They were encamped all around the patch."

Counsel: They took them all the time, day and night?

James Marcey: Yes sir, all the time.¹⁶

George Herrick's farm was also hard hit by Brigadier General Julius Stahel's troops. James Marcey's son Samuel, who oversaw the farm, wrote an urgent note to Herrick who was living in Washington:

Mr. Herrick, Sir,
The soldiers are destroyin' your farm - they have taken all the hay & corn, turned your horse out of the stable and took possession of it. I wish you would come over. They have made headquarters of your house.
Samuel Marsey [Marcey]
10 Sept. 1862

According to Herrick's SCC testimony, Stahel and his encamped cavalry and artillery took "All that was loose and consumable, including stores, fences, lumber from buildings."¹⁷

Along with any army encampment came "camp followers." Amongst their ranks were contraband, black men and women seeking freedom, and groups of women, some wives, some girlfriends, some prostitutes. General Carl Schurz, in a September 5th diary entry, wrote, "The women are arriving. Great joy." It is unclear whether these women were wives or working girls.¹⁸



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Figure 5: In order from left to right: Major General Franz Sigel, Brigadier General Carl Schurz, and Brigadier General Julius Stahel.

In her Civil War diary, Anna Frobel of Fairfax County described how chaotic life was in an encampment,

There seems to be more wagons and horses than soldiers, and more officers than men, and as many run away negroes as both, and women innumerable... There is neither peace nor comfort for us. All day and all night, all manner of confused, discordant and distasteful sounds reach us from the camp, the rumbling of heavy wagons, galloping of horses, and the never ceasing-tramp-tramp-tramp of men...¹⁹

The Marceys and their neighbors must have felt great bitterness as “friendly” Union troops dismantled the farms they had spent decades building. Without crops or proceeds from their sale, how could they possibly feed themselves in the fast approaching winter? Where would they get seed to plant anew in the spring? If they were able to plant, would the troops take their harvests? Weren’t they on the same side as the soldiers?

Unquestionably, many Union soldiers believed they were entitled to the Marcey’s crops and wood. After all, they were defending locals and the nation’s capitol from the Rebels. Many soldiers also felt contempt for local families, believing they were secessionists like most Virginians and deserved to be punished. They treated County families with open hostility. Throughout the Union occupation of Northern Virginia, this distrust between residents and Union soldiers persisted causing some families to become “quiet” Confederate sympathizers.

In late September, the majority of encamped soldiers left Alexandria County. In a letter home, Levi Jewitt, a Fourteenth Connecticut Infantryman, listed the debris that remained when regiments left the Fort Ethan Allen vicinity: “tin cups, plates, knives & forks, cooking utensils, books, bottles, cartridges, boots, blankets, furniture, shoe-brushes, cigar boxes, candle sticks, musical instruments, straps, equipments, provisions, tent-poles, belt-plates, broken weapons, bullet molds, packs of cards, bibles, corkscrews, boot-jacks &c &c.”²⁰ The Marcey’s farm was in shambles. The remains were the only compensation for a month of terror and loss.

No-man’s Land:

“It was fine timber.” James Haselock, Fourth New York Heavy Artillery²¹

As hostilities continued and the Union war machine grew, the need for manpower - laborers, carpenters, teamsters, laundresses, etc. - increased. Locals willing to work could earn good pay from the Army or federal government. The Marceys did not partake of these opportunities. Instead, they labored for

“men throughout the neighborhood – Union men” such as George Herrick and R.A. Phillips.²² Why wouldn’t the family want to take advantage of the plentiful well-paid opportunities? Was this a sign that the Marceys were neutral or becoming Confederate sympathizers? Regardless, it contributed to the family’s increasing poverty.

In October 1862, Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the reinforcement of fortifications around Washington, DC. Most forts had been hastily constructed at the outset of the war and needed repairs and strengthening. The Chief Engineer also ordered three new forts to be built, Whipple, Berry, and C.F. Smith. The latter, overlooking Spout Run, was a little more than a mile from the Marcey’s farm.²³ Construction began in the winter of 1863. To outfit these new projects, Union engineers turned their sights to the forests between Fort Ethan Allen and C.F. Smith, land owned by the Marceys and close neighbors.

Soon after Sigel’s troops left Alexandria County, Union lumbermen began cutting the woodlands on George Herrick’s property. All told, they razed sixty acres of “very valuable” standing timber from his land. Also hard hit was R.A. Phillips, who had recently bought property south of Herrick.²⁴

After months of watching his woodlands decimated by Army woodcutters, Phillips began cutting, cording, and selling his own wood to the Army for profit. Gilbert Vanderwerken also sold his cut timber to the Army. Both men understood the Army’s insatiable appetite for wood, whether for fuel or building projects, and had the business savvy and contacts to make deals with Army procurement officers.²⁵

In the winter of 1864, the Army turned its sights on the Marcey’s woodlands. Colonel John C. Tidball of the Fourth New York Heavy Artillery ordered thirty-five acres of first growth pine, oak, and chestnut cut from their forests to build stockades, cookhouses, stables, and horse pens at Fort Ethan Allen. William Haselock, a teamster for the Fourth New York, testified that it took a week for eight to nine teams of lumbermen to fell the heavy timber. “I...swear, and kiss 10,000 bibles...it was fine timber...it was long stuff, from twenty to thirty feet long.” They also took down two outbuildings. The Marceys did not receive any compensation.²⁶

James Marcey, Sr. asked R.A. Phillips, his employer and a wealthy Northerner, to persuade Colonel Tidball, the commanding officer at Fort Ethan Allen, to stop the deforestation. On February 15, 1864, Phillips wrote a letter to Tidball about James.

He is a poor man, a native of Va. [who] has always lived near the Potomac and near Fort Ethan Allen. He has a small farm there, and a very little timber out of which soldiers from your

114 Bridge St.,

Georgetown D. C. Feb 1st /64

Col J. C. Tidball.

Sir

The bearer James Kearcy has been in my employ for a long time, and I believe him to be a true and Loyal Union man. he is a poor man, a native of Va. has always lived near the Potomac & near Fort Ethan Allen. he has a small farm there, and a very little timber, out of which soldiers from your regiment are frequently ~~are~~ cutting and taking timber for stockading &c. if he is not paid for said timber, (which I hope he will be) I assured him that you would grant him a letter of protection for the future and you will very much oblige him and

Yours most respectfully

R. A. Phillips,
A New Yorker.

Mr. Kearcy says he voted against the Secession - Inducement.

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Figure 6: A copy of a letter to Colonel John C. Tidball from R.A. Phillips.

regiment are frequently cutting and taking timber for stockading, &c. If he is not paid for said timber, (which I hope he will be) I assured him that you would grant him a letter of protection for the future, and you will very much oblige him.

Phillips signed his name to the letter and below it wrote, "A New Yorker." (Fig. 6, Copy of letter to Tidball)

Tidball replied, "Hereafter no more timber will be cut from the premises of James Marcey by any of the troops from this regiment."²⁷

Deforestation threatened the Marcey's way of life. It compromised their ability to hunt, gather, and farm. It caused loss of wildlife habitat and natural food sources and exposed the soil to loss of moisture and erosion. Without the shelter of woodlands, damaging winds could harm whatever crops could be grown. Without lumber, rebuilding their damaged outbuildings, cabins, and fences would be impossible.

The destruction wrought by the Army turned the area near the Marcey and Phillip's tracts into a no-man's land. Phillips described the wreckage to the SCC.

Forts Corcoran, Smith, Strong, Woodbury, Morton, Bennett and Whipple were all near me, and the whole locality was a camp, making it impossible to carry on farming. The locality was also used as a target practice for heavy artillery. I know nobody but the Masseys [Marceys] who stuck to their places in that vicinity.²⁸

Lewis and James Marcey, tenaciously kept to their farm despite the war-torn countryside and inability to defend their property. According to historian Steven Ash this was a common reaction of men and women living in a no-man's land. An unprotected homestead could be more easily "plundered."²⁹

Aftermath:

"For years the County bore the scars of war." *Cloud of Witness*³⁰

In the fall of 1862, the Alexandria Gazette posed a question that must have been on the minds of the Marcey's and other Alexandria County residents throughout the war, "How many years, even if peace should be proclaimed tomorrow, would it take before the land could be cultivated, or affairs restored to their late condition?"³¹

Stubbornly fixed to their damaged farm, Lewis and James rode out the remainder of the war, which ended in the East on April 9, 1865. When peace finally came, the value of land in Alexandria County had plummeted. The loss of woodlands made it especially hard for families to re-build their homes, barns, and other outbuildings. Wealthy speculators swooped in and bought out troubled

farms. R.A. Phillips purchased George Herrick's land in 1865 for about half of what it was worth before the war. Gilbert Vanderwerken bought several small farms bordering his property. All told, between 1860 and 1870, the number of farms like the Marcey's dropped from forty to twelve.³²

In 1871, Congress created the Southern Claims Commission to investigate the wartime claims of Southern Unionists. Lewis and James were finally able to petition for their Civil War losses. They filed Claim #18287 for \$5,272.50. They were awarded \$1047.00, just 20% of their request.³³

The SCC papers document the great hardship to residents of Alexandria County during the Civil War. Increasing impoverishment took hold as residents tiptoed through the minefield of marauding armies, long-term occupation, and environmental devastation. For some Unionists, such as R.A. Phillips, the occupation eventually became a source of opportunity and advancement. For the Marceys and other less entrepreneurial residents, hoping to preserve their property and way of life, it may have affected their loyalties.

Lewis and James Marcey's Civil War experience was not unique. It mirrors that of many others in the County and throughout Northern Virginia. Call it brave or foolhardy, they persisted in the face of great adversity, providing a livelihood for subsequent generations. My living in a Marcey family farmhouse built 40 years after the war near Marcy Road testifies to their staying power.

Endnotes

¹ Fold3, *U.S. Southern Claims Commission Allowed Claims, 1871-1880*, <https://www.fold3.com>, Accessed April 11, 2011. Original: *Southern Claims Commission Approved Claims, 1871-1880: Virginia*, Microfilm Publication M2094, 45 rolls, Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 217; National Archives and Records Administration, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, 1872, p. 17.

² Fold3, File #20720, Malcolm Douglass, 1875, p. 25.

³ James and Lewis' property was located in what is now the Donaldson Run area, between Overlook Regional Park and Taylor Elementary. William's home was next to what is now Glebe Elementary School.

⁴ C.B. Rose, Jr., *Arlington County, Virginia: A History*, (Arlington, VA: Arlington Historical Society), 1976, p. 87.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 96-97.

⁶ Fold3, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, pp. 17-18.

⁷ Bob Sandin, *Arlington Daily Sun*, "John Marcey Knew Both Sides of the Civil War in Arlington," 1956.

⁸ Fold3, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, p. 14.

⁹ Fort Ethan Allen was located next to what is now the Madison Center. Fort Marcey was not named for Marcey family. It was named after Randolph B. Marcey, the father-in-law of General George B. McClellan.

¹⁰ Fold3, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, pp. 17-18.

¹¹ Fold3, File #20752, George Herrick, 1879, p. 47.

¹² Noel G. Harrison, "Atop an Anvil: The Civilians' War in Fairfax and Alexandria Counties, April

1861-April 1862,” in *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 106, No. 2 (Spring 1998).

¹³ Fort Dekalb was located by what is today Lee and N Adams Streets. It was later renamed Fort Strong. United States (1880) *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. (Washington: GPO), Series 1, Vol. 51, pp. 791, 793.

¹⁴ Carl Shurz, Diary, Carl Shurz Papers, Reel #88, p. 39, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Special thanks to my neighbors Denise Caldwell and Manfred Krause for translating Shurz’s diary entries for the period from German to English.

¹⁵ Fold3, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, Cover Page.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 21-22.

¹⁷ Fold3, File #20752, George Herrick, p. 47.

¹⁸ Carl Shurz, p. 40.

¹⁹ Mary Holland and Dallas M. Lancaster, eds., *Civil War Diary of Anne S Frobel*. (McLean, VA: EPM Publication, 1992), p. 77.

²⁰ Connecticut Historical Society, Levi Jewitt, Levi Jewitt to Mary J. Taylor Jewitt, September 21, 1862, Letter. https://chs.org/finding_aides/kcwmp/exams/JewettL.html, Accessed June 8, 2016.

²¹ Fold3, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, p. 43.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 15.

²³ Fort C.F. Smith was located in today’s Woodmont area. The fort site is currently an Arlington Park with preserved earthworks.

²⁴ Fold3, File #20752, George Herrick, pp. 99-100.

²⁵ Fold3, File #20378, R.A. Phillips, 1877, pp. 54-55 and File #13314, Gilbert Vanderwerken, 1875, p. 59.

²⁶ Fold3, File #18287, James and Lewis Marcey, p. 43. The loss of outbuildings appears in Kathryn Holt, *Cherries, Characters, and Characteristics: A History of Cherrydale*. (New York: Sterling Press, 1986). It does not appear on Fold3. Ms. Holt found the information on one of the reverse pages of Haselock’s testimony. Fold3 did not scan this page.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 1, 3. Robert H. Donaldson’s farm bordered the Marcey farm on the east where Overlook Regional Park is now located. Secondary sources claim the Donaldson’s also remained on their farm during the war. The Robert H. Donaldson SCC claim, #8854, is not available at the National Archives or on Fold3, so I could not verify this.

²⁸ Fold3, File #20378, R. A. Phillips, p. 53.

²⁹ Steven V. Ash, *When the Yankees Came: Conflict and Chaos in the Occupied South, 1861-1865*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press), 1995, p. 104.

³⁰ Kirk Mariner, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Methodists of Mt. Olivet in Arlington*, (New Church, VA: Miona Publications), 2004, p. 40.

³¹ Alexandria Gazette, September 12, 1862.

³² Rose, p. 120.

³³ *Consolidated Index of Claims Reported by the Commissioners of Claims to the House of Representatives, from 1871-1890*. (Washington, D.C.: GPO), 1892.

About the Author

Jessica Kaplan is a lapsed archivist and 25-year resident of Arlington. She lives in a farmhouse built by Will Marcey in 1904, located near Marcey Lane. A Marcey graveyard sits behind her next-door neighbor’s house.
