

# A History of Printing in Arlington (Alexandria) County

By ROBERT NELSON ANDERSON

Although Jamestown in Virginia became in 1607 the site of the first English settlement in North America, there was no printing press of any sort in the Colony until 1682, and a permanent press was not established until 1730. In 1671 Sir William Berkeley, Virginia's royal governor, following the lead in the mother country where the press was under a strict interdict (Press Restriction Act which expired in 1693) except in London, York, and the two University towns, pointedly stated in his report to the Lords Commissioners of Foreign Plantations: "I thank God there are no free schools nor printing and I hope we shall not have these hundred years; for learning has brought disobedience, and heresy and sects into the world, and printing has divulged them \* \* \* God keep us from both!" Eleven years later, however, Virginia was to have a printing press, and sixty years later the press was to be well established.<sup>1</sup>

In 1682, John Buckner, Gent., a merchant of Gloucester County and a large landowner, brought to the Colony William Nuthead and his press with the purpose of printing the laws of the General Assembly, which was begun at James City on June 8, 1680. A beginning was all that was made, for rumors of Buckner and Nuthead's work reached the Virginia Council, and an investigation of its extent was immediately instituted. On February 21, 1682-83, Buckner was called before Lord Culpeper (who had replaced Sir William Berkeley) and his Council for not getting his excellency's license; thereupon, he and his printer were ordered to enter into bond in the amount of £100 not to print anything thereafter "until his Majesty's pleasure should be known." However, his Majesty was not disposed to liberty of the press in the colonies and himself wrote Lord Francis Howard of Effingham, who had succeeded as Governor of Virginia, "to provide by all necessary orders and Directors that no person be permitted to use any press for printing upon any occasion whatsoever." There was, of course, no appeal from the King's order, and Buckner and Nuthead were forced to abandon any idea of continuing printing in Virginia. Buckner retired to the work of his plantations, but Nuthead left Virginia for more liberal Maryland, and by 1686 he was printing some of the official documents of that colony. Only a few sheets of the session laws mentioned in the Council records are known actually to have been printed in Virginia by Nuthead and none are known to exist today.

<sup>1</sup> Douglas C. McMurtrie, *The Beginnings of Printing in Virginia*, Lexington, Va., 1935, p. 5.

Conditional was substituted for absolute prohibition of the press in Virginia in 1690, when Howard was instructed that "No printers' press is to be used without the Governor's leave first obtained." But no attempt was made to reestablish the Virginia press until William Parks came from Maryland to Williamsburg in 1730. In that year he established the first permanent press

*An ACT for opening and extending the Navigation of P O T O M A C K R I V E R.*

**W**HIEREAS the extension of the navigation of Potomack River, from tide-water to the highest place practicable on the North Branch, will be of great public utility, and many persons are willing to subscribe large sums of money to effect so laudable and beneficial a work, and it is just and proper that they, their heirs and assigns, should be empowered to receive reasonable tolls forever, in satisfaction for the money advanced by them in carrying the work into execution, and the risk they run; and whereas it may be necessary to cut canals and erect locks and other works on both sides of the river, and the legislatures of Maryland and Virginia, impressed with the importance of the object, are desirous of encouraging so useful an undertaking: *Therefore, be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That it shall and may be lawful for the subscribers at the city of Richmond, towns of Alexandria and Winchester, in this State, for receiving and entering subscriptions for the said undertaking, under the management of Jaquetin Ambler and John Binkley at the city of Richmond, of John Fitzgerald, and William Hartshorn at the towns of Alexandria, and of Joseph Holmes and Edward Smith at the town of Winchester, and under the management of such persons and at such places in Maryland as have been appointed by the State of Maryland, which subscriptions shall be made personally or by power of attorney, and shall be made in Spanish milled dollars, but may be paid in foreign silver or gold coin of the value; that the said books shall be opened for receiving subscriptions on the eighth day of February next, and continue open for this purpose until the tenth day of May next, inclusive; and on the seventeenth day of the said month of May there shall be a general meeting of the subscribers at the town of Alexandria, of which meeting notice shall be given by the said managers, or any four of them, in the Virginia and Maryland Gazettes, at least one month next before the said meeting, and such meeting shall and may be continued from day to day until the business is finished; and the said managers at the time and place herein aforementioned shall lay before such of the subscribers as shall meet according to the said notice, such books by them respectively kept, containing the state of the said subscriptions; and if one half the capital sum herein aforementioned, should upon examination, appear not to have been subscribed, then the said managers, are empowered to take and receive subscriptions to make up the deficiency; and a just and true list of all the subscribers, with the sums subscribed by each, shall be made out and returned by the said managers, or any four or more of them, under their hands into the General Court of each State to be there recorded; and in case more than two hundred and twenty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two dollars and two ninths of a dollar shall be subscribed, then the same shall be reduced to that sum by the said managers, or a majority of them, by beginning at and striking off a share from the largest subscription or subscriptions, and continuing to strike off a share from all subscriptions under the largest, and above one share, until the sum is reduced to the capital of two hundred and twenty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two dollars and two ninths of a dollar, or until a share is taken from all subscriptions above one share, and lots shall be drawn between the subscribers of equal sums, to determine the numbers in which such subscribers shall stand, on a list to be made for striking off as aforesaid; and if the sum subscribed still exceeds the capital aforesaid, then to strike off by the same rule until the sum subscribed is reduced to the capital aforesaid, or all the subscriptions are reduced to one share, and if there still be an excess, then lots to be drawn to determine the subscribers who are to be excluded, to reduce the subscriptions to the capital aforesaid, which striking off shall be certified in the list aforesaid, and the said capital sum shall be re-asked and divided into five hundred shares of four hundred and forty-four dollars and four ninths of a dollar each, of which every person subscribing may take and subscribe for one or more whole shares and not otherwise. *Provided*, That unless one half of the said capital shall be subscribed as aforesaid, all subscriptions made in consequence of this Act shall be void; and in case one half and less than the whole of the said capital shall be subscribed as aforesaid, then the President and Directors are hereby empowered and directed to take and receive the subscriptions which first shall be offered in whole shares as aforesaid, until the deficiency shall be made up, a certificate of which additional subscriptions shall be made under the hands of the President and Directors, or a majority of them for the time being, and returned up, and recorded in the General Courts, as aforesaid.

*AND be it enacted*, That in case one half of the said capital or a greater sum shall be subscribed as aforesaid, the said subscribers and their heirs and assigns, from the time of the said first meeting, shall be, and are hereby declared to be incorporated into a Company, by the name of the "POTOMACK COMPANY," and may sue and be sued, as such; and such of the said subscribers, as shall be present at the said meeting, or a majority of them, are hereby empowered and required to elect a President and four Directors, for conducting the said undertaking and managing all the said Company's business and concerns, for and during such time, not exceeding three years, as the said subscribers, or a majority of them, shall think fit, and in counting the votes of all general meetings of the said Company, each member shall be allowed one vote for every share, as far as ten shares, and one vote for every five shares above ten, by him or her held at the time in the said Company, and any person, by writing under his or her hand, executed before the said meeting, may be admitted to be a member or proprietor to vote and sit in private, and be elected, and these

and rules aforesaid, into tide-water or render the said river navigable in its natural course. *And it is hereby provided and enacted*, That in case the said Company shall not begin the said work within one year after the Company shall be formed, or if the navigation shall not be made and improved between the Great Falls and Fort-Cumberland, in the manner herein before mentioned, within three years after the said Company shall be formed, that then the said Company shall not be entitled to any benefit, privilege, or advantage, under this Act: And in case the said Company shall not complete the navigation through and from the Great Falls to tide-water as aforesaid, within ten years after the said Company shall be formed, then shall all interest of the said Company and all preference in their favor, as to the navigation and tolls, at through and from the Great Falls to tide-water, be forfeited and cease.

*AND be it enacted*, That all commodities of the produce of either of the said States, or of the Western Country, which may be carried or transported through the said locks, canals and river, may be landed, sold, or otherwise disposed of, free from any other duties, impositions, regulations or restrictions, of any kind, than the like commodities of the produce of the State in which the same may happen to be landed, sold, shipped, or disposed of.

*AND be it further enacted*, that the Treasurer of this Commonwealth shall be authorized and directed to subscribe to the amount of fifty shares, in behalf of the same, and the money necessary in consequence of such subscription shall be paid as the same shall be required. And the Treasurer for the time being shall have a right to vote according to such shares, in person or by proxy, appointed by him, and shall receive the proportion of the tolls aforesaid, which shall from time to time become due to this State for the shares aforesaid. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of every act and acts within the purview of this Act, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

*Passed the Senate, January 4, 1784.*

WILLIAM DREW, C. S.

ALEXANDRIA: Printed by GEORGE RICHLARDS and COMPANY.

COPY OF WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST ITEM PRINTED IN THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA (OR NORTHERN VIRGINIA). ORIGINAL 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " X 12 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", FOUR PAGES. (SEE PAGE II.)

in Virginia, two of his issues in that year, copies of which are still extant, being *A Charge to the Grand Jury* and *Typographia, an Ode, on Printing*.

Forty-four years after the beginning made by Parks at Williamsburg, or on June 9, 1774, Norfolk became the second printing point in Virginia with the establishment by William Duncan & Co. of the *Virginia Gazette or Norfolk Intelligencer*.<sup>2</sup>

In 1780, the capital of Virginia was officially moved from Williamsburg to Richmond, and in the spring of the same year printing was introduced there when John Dixon and Thomas Nicholson moved their *Virginia Gazette* from Williamsburg.<sup>3</sup> Richmond thus became the third place in Virginia to have a press.

In 1781 the Virginia Assembly had been forced by the British invasion to leave Richmond, and accordingly a temporary printing press was set up at Charlottesville by John Dunlap and James Hayes, Jr., lately of Philadelphia and Baltimore, respectively, in order to print the official documents of the May 1781 session. Charlottesville, therefore, became the fourth printing point in Virginia.<sup>4</sup>

The fifth place in Virginia to have a printing press was the town of Alexandria.<sup>5</sup> Before setting forth some of the details concerning its printers and their output, a short description of the town's relation to and connection with the County of Alexandria would seem appropriate.

The town of Alexandria was established at Hunting Creek warehouse in Fairfax County in 1748.<sup>6</sup> However, until 1779 the town had no formal government, being managed by a board of trustees. In that year the town was incorporated by the General Assembly with provision for a mayor, council, and other officials.<sup>7</sup> The town of Alexandria together with additional land carved from Fairfax County composed the original area ceded by Virginia "to the United States for the permanent seat of the general government"<sup>8</sup> (Ch. 32 of the Acts of Assembly of Virginia of 1789, p. 19). This area together with that ceded by Maryland equaled 10 square miles. The Acts of February 27, 1801, and March 3, 1801, U.S. Stat. at Large, Vol. 2, pp. 103, 115, by which Congress took jurisdiction over the ceded area, directed that it be known as the County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 31, 32.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 33.

<sup>6</sup> Hening, Statutes at Large, Vol. VI, p. 214.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 172.

<sup>8</sup> Fairfax County was formed from Prince William County by the Act of the Assembly of Virginia of May 1742, effective December 1, 1742.

<sup>9</sup> The charter for the town of Alexandria adopted by Congress on February 25, 1804 (see U.S. Stat. at Large, Vol. 2, p. 255) after its cession to the United States by the State of Virginia specified that its limits should be those prescribed by the Acts of Virginia. Although the charter was amended several times while Alexandria was in the District, no changes were made in the town boundaries. (See: *A History of the Boundaries of Arlington County, Virginia*, Office of the County Manager, 1957, pp. 14-19.)

# The Virginia Journal

## ALEXANDRIA ADVERTISER.

HUG UNDIQUE GAZA  
CONGRITUR VIR.

(No. 1, of VOL. I.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1784.

(No. 1.)

Printing-Office, Alexandria, Feb. 5, 1784.  
TO THE PUBLIC.

ALTHOUGH the Number of Subscribers to this Paper is not yet completed, according to the Conditions of our Proposals, yet as we have great Reason to expect it will take Place in a very short Time, we have thought it expedient to begin our Paper, and in Order to give our Proposals a more extensive Circulation, we now insert them in the First Number.

To gratify the Public in this very interesting Period, we have commenced our Work, under many Disadvantages, especially in the Article of Types, an AMPLI Supply of which the War hath hitherto prevented us from procuring; but from the Generosity of the Public, we hope soon to be enabled to find about the VIRGINIA JOURNAL and ALEXANDRIA ADVERTISER, in a more elegant Dress, by substituting a beautiful Type from the most celebrated Foundry in Europe; which letter adapted to our Design, in the Place of that we are now contented to make Use of.

We have now only to add our grateful Acknowledgments to the Encouragements we have received, assuring the Public that though it is not sufficient to enable us to prosecute the laborious and expensive Undertaking in the usual extent of our Plan, which we would rather exceed than diminish, yet we are determined to proceed according to our Engagements, under a firm Confidence that the Work will receive from their Good-Will, such further Support, and also Experience, as shall appear to deserve.

We are, with the greatest Respect,

Yours most humble Servant,  
GEORGE RICHARDS, and COMPANY.

Alexandria, October 30, 1783.

TO THE PUBLIC.

WE have heretofore published that the printing of a WEEKLY NEWS-PAPER in this Town, would be attended with many and singular Advantages to the Community.—The Utility of such a Publication, we think, can be obvious to our respectable Inhabitants, when they consider the Concomitant our Situation for the Purposes of Commerce, and necessary for Exportation the valuable Produce of our extensive Area, &c. &c. &c.

A WEEKLY PAPER conducted in a proper Manner, is perhaps the most easy, as well as the most beneficial, Mode of establishing an Intercourse between Men in Business, and as with a peculiar Pleasure we now address the Public on this Subject, at a Time when the pleasing News of Peace, an Extension of Trade, and an Increase of Population, may rationally be expected. The Encouragement we have already experienced of which we have a grateful Sensibility, highly flatters us with the Idea that our future Endeavours and Exertions will be crowned with abundant Success, and meet with the Approbation of an intelligent and generous Public.

### PROPOSALS,

FOR PRINTING, BY SUBSCRIPTION,  
A NEW WEEKLY PAPER,

ENTITLED,  
THE VIRGINIA JOURNAL,  
AND  
ALEXANDRIA ADVERTISER.

CONDITIONS.

1. This JOURNAL will be printed in Four large Folio Papers, equal in Size to any of the *Presses* and *Maryland Papers*.

II. The Price will be FIFTEEN SHILLINGS, *Five-pence* Currency per Annum, to be paid as the Time of Publishing.

III. This Paper will be printed and published every THURSDAY regularly, and also punctually delivered at the Subscribers Houses in the Town; and dispatched to the County Subscribers, with all possible Care.

IV. ADVERTISEMENTS shall be accurately printed, in a conspicuous Manner, with the greatest Punctuality, at the customary Prices.

V. THE FIRST NUMBER will be published as soon as we have procured SIX HUNDRED Subscribers, who shall have paid their *Subscription Money*, which alone can enable us to defray the necessary Expenses of so arduous an Undertaking, or to execute it with a Reputation equal to our Wishes.

### PLAN of the WORK.

WHEN a sufficient Number of Subscribers shall be procured, we shall begin this Paper, which will contain a Relation of all material Occurrences, foreign and domestic, the Arrival and Departure of Ships, the current Prices of Goods, the Course of Exchange, Deaths, Marriages, Promotions, Accidents, and Events of every Kind, which may be thought interesting to the Public.

Towards the Accomplishment of our Plan, we have already opened an extensile Correspondence, not only for the Purpose of procuring all the *American News-Papers*, but also such *European* periodical Publications, as may be both useful and entertaining.

As we have now arrived to a State of political Freedom, and taken Rank, as a free and independent People, among the Nations of the Earth, and by the free and liberal Constitution of her Government, had the Foundation for so perfect Freedom as ever was enjoyed by any Community; and we having the Pleasure to observe, that our virtuous and magnanimous GOVERNOR is Chief, and other patriotic Characters, are become the Patrons and Encouragers of Liberty, in several Parts of this Continent; it affords us the most laudable Expectation, from this Establishment of Liberty, to be favourable to the Powers of the human Mind; and from this Patronage of the Arts and Sciences, that the Bonus of America will become distinguished for their literary Accomplishments: And from such a Heaven shall have been pleaded in Blessing with Genius and Ability, we most humbly solicit Assistance; hoping they will justify our Performances, when in Prose or Verse to which we shall pay a particular Regard.—As we intend to maintain, with the strictest Impartiality, that Palladium of Liberty, the Freedom of the Press, to our Ambition will be to make our JOURNAL a Vehicle of Amusement and Instruction, selected from the most liberal Communications from North to South and from East to West.

Every well written Piece will be admitted, without Scruple, if not repugnant to our Constitution, injurious to the Cause of Liberty, or that, in any Shape, may reflect Disgrace on our *Mit* *Parents*, which we shall, uniformly, endeavour to conduct on the best and most rational Principles.

Any Scheme of Projects that may increase the Commerce of the Town, and consequently the Interest of its Inhabitants, with Improvements in ARTS, AGRICULTURE, or MANUFACTURES, pending to the Utility and Prosperity of that respectable Class of our Community, the PLAINERS, will be gratefully received, and presented to the Public, in the best Manner in our Power.

Letters from the Inhabitants of the whole NORTHERN NECK of the STATE, and also the contiguous Parts of *Maryland*, will likewise meet with our particular Attention, as we have

great Reliance on THEM for the Success of this Design.

GEORGE RICHARDS, and COMPANY,  
SUBSCRIBERS will be taken in by several Gentlemen in this and the neighbouring Towns and Counties, and at the Printing-Office, on the Corner of *Baynes and Princess Streets, Alexandria*—Also at Mr. GODDARD'S Printing-Office, *Ann* *Polis*.

ANNAPOLIS, January 16.  
By the UNITED STATES in Congress assembled.

ON Report of a committee to whom were referred the definitive treaty of peace between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, and the new letter of the said United States and his Britannic Majesty, duly and respectively authorized for that purpose, which definitive articles are in the words following:

THE UNITED STATES in Congress assembled, To all persons to whom they profess shall come, Overtly.

WHEREAS definitive articles of peace and friendship between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, were concluded and signed at Paris on the third day of September 1783, by the plenipotentiaries of the said United States and of his Britannic Majesty, duly and respectively authorized for that purpose, which definitive articles are in the words following:

NOW KNOW YE, That we the United States in Congress assembled, having read and considered the definitive articles aforesaid, have approved, ratified and confirmed, and by these presents do approve, ratify and confirm, the said articles, and every part and clause thereof, engaging and promising, that we will faithfully and justly perform and observe the same, and never suffer them to be violated by any one, as expressed in any manner, at any time, or in any manner.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed, Witness my Hand and the Seal of the said United States, this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, and in the eighth year of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America.

By the UNITED STATES in Congress assembled.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS definitive articles of peace and friendship between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, were concluded and signed at Paris on the third day of September 1783, by the plenipotentiaries of the said United States and of his Britannic Majesty, duly and respectively authorized for that purpose, which definitive articles are in the words following:

IN the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.

IT having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the hearts of the most serene and most potent Prince George the Third, by the grace of God King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch-Treasurer and Prince Elector of the holy Roman Empire, &c. and of the United States of America, to begin all good neighbourly dealings and a friendship that have unflinchingly interrupted the good correspondence and friendship which they mutually wish to restore; and to establish such a beneficial and lasting friendship between the two countries upon the ground of reciprocal advantages and mutual convenience, as may promote and secure to both perpetual peace and harmony, and bring the

COPY OF FRONT PAGE OF THE FIRST NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA (OR NORTHERN VIRGINIA). ORIGINAL 9 1/2" X 16", 4 PAGES. COURTESY OF THE "ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE."

By the Act of July 9, 1846, Congress ceded the county including the town of Alexandria to Virginia. So long as the town remained such it continued to be a part of the County of Alexandria. However, in 1852 the town was chartered as a city (Ch. 358, Acts of Assembly of Virginia, 1852, p. 241), thus removing it from the County. In 1920, what remained of the original ceded area was given the name of Arlington. (See Acts of Assembly of Virginia, 1920, Ch. 241.)

Printing was introduced in the town of Alexandria in 1784 just after the colonies threw off the yoke of British rule and were developing a national consciousness. It had a steady growth. The importance of the book trade thus originated may be measured by the fact that Alexandria was the only town or city in Virginia represented in the country's first book-trade catalogue published by the Boston Booksellers in 1804.<sup>10</sup>

The first printing plant in Alexandria was established by George Richards & Co. at the corner of Princess and Fairfax Streets. That was the old part of town, near the site of Belhaven and the port at the foot of Oronoco Street where the tobacco ships first tied up. The first item off this press and consequently the first printed in northern Virginia appears to be "An Act for Opening and Extending the Navigation of the Potomack River," with the colophon "Alexandria: Printed by George Richards & Company," the act bearing the date January 4, 1784. An original copy of this act may be seen in the George Washington Papers of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.<sup>11</sup> During the next month, or on Thursday, February 5, 1784, Richards published Vol. 1, No. 1, of the first newspaper to be published in the northern Virginia area. It was known as *The Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser* and was printed on four large folio pages "equal in size to any of the Pennsylvania and Maryland papers." The *Journal* became the precursor of the present *Alexandria Gazette* published by Charles C. Carlin, Jr., and is generally accredited as being the oldest daily newspaper in the United States. In a courtly appeal, the *Journal* solicited the patronage of the townspeople to a weekly periodical at a price of 15 shillings per annum, payable in advance. Improvements in type and format were promised. Before it was a year old the *Journal* reported the meeting at Mount Vernon when delegates from Maryland and Virginia met with General Washington to settle a dispute between these states pertaining to the Potomac River. This conference resulted in the call for the Convention, first at Annapolis, then in 1787 at Philadelphia, which drew up the Constitution of the United States. Richards continued to publish the *Journal* until his death on July 4, 1789, when it was discontinued. Richards's obituary appeared in the *Virginia Gazette* (Richmond) of Thursday, July 16, 1789, and in the *Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* on the next day. The latter obituary, throwing light on the character and ability of Richards, reads:

<sup>10</sup> Carrol Hunter Quenzel, *Samuel Snowden, a Founding Father of Printing in Alexandria*, Charlottesville, Va., 1952.

<sup>11</sup> In 1786 Richards & Co. also printed a voyage agreement form for use of the Sloop *Polly*. See Library of Congress Broadside Collection 179, No. 7a.

Alexandria, July 9.

Last Saturday morning died, in the prime of life, Mr. George Richards, of this town, Printer and one of the Editors of the Virginia Journal, etc.—He was a man eminently distinguished for his social and benevolent disposition, respected for his probity, and beloved for his honesty of heart.—Hasty was the summons which called him from this terrestrial scene;—as the day previous to his dissolution he was walking the streets, little suspecting the King of Terros to be so near at hand!—Every mark of respect due to the memory of a worthy and lamented citizen was paid his cold remains by his Masonic brethren,\* and other inhabitants of this place, who attended his funeral on Sunday evening last.

Life's little stage is a small eminence,  
Inch high the grave above; that home of man,  
Where dwell the multitude; we gaze around;  
We read their monuments; we sigh; and while  
We sigh, we sink, and are what we deplore;  
Lamenting, or lamented, all our lot!

\* He was buried according to the custom of Royal-Arch Masons.

Hardly had the remains of George Richards been laid away before another or second weekly paper was established at Alexandria. This was the *Virginia Gazette and Alexandria Advertiser* begun July 30, 1789, by Samuel Hanson and Thomas Bond. They continued the paper at their office in Prince Street next door to Colonel Hooes until November, 1793, when Hanson went to Georgetown, across the river, and established the *Columbian Chronicle* there.<sup>12</sup> Beginning with the issue for October 21, 1790, the following motto was added to the masthead—"Oh! Thou, by whose Almighty nod the scale of Empire rises, or, alternate falls, send forth the saving virtues round this land!"

In 1789 Hanson and Bond printed a broadside in reference to the permanent residence of Congress and in 1791 another in reference to the sale of the estate of William Carr. (See Library of Congress Broadside Coll. 179, No. 15, and 180, No. 5, respectively.)

Alexandria's third paper was the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette*, established on November 21, 1792, by John Smith and Ellis Price at the east end of the Market House. With the September 7, 1793, issue the partnership was dissolved and Ellis Price became sole publisher. On December 23, 1793, the paper was changed from a semiweekly to a triweekly. In the fall of 1796 Henry Gird, Jr., was admitted to partnership under the firm name of Ellis Price and Henry Gird, Jr. There were several shifts in the management of the printing office during the next four years, with first Price and then Gird, and then both of them together, publishing the paper. Finally, with the issue of September 16, 1800, the paper was sold to William Fowler, who promptly (December 9, 1800) transferred it to Samuel Snowden and Matthew Brown, who had just begun the *Alexandria Advertiser*. One

<sup>12</sup> Charles Evans, *American Bibliography*, Vol. 7 (1786-1789) No. 22230 and Vol. 8 (1790-1792).

of the issues of the press under Price and Gird was *The Gentleman's Political Almanac for 1796* ornamented with a head of George Washington. No copy of the Almanac is known to exist, but it was advertised in the *Columbian Mirror* for December 19, 1795.<sup>13</sup> In 1797 Price and Gird printed *The Truth of the Bible Fairly Put to the Test of Confronting Evidences of its own Facts*, by John Fowler of Fairfax County, Va. A copy of this book is in the Library of Congress and is probably the first book printed in Alexandria now extant.

The seat of the government of the United States at this time was in Philadelphia. The capital of the nation was not established on the Potomac until 1880. Alexandria, however, was an important town of the Potomac Valley in 1795-96. Navigation was opened up the Potomac past Mount Vernon, and immediately the town began to grow. Jediah Morse reported in his *American Gazetteer* published in 1797 that Alexandria contained about 400 houses, many handsomely built, and a population of 2,748.

The fourth paper at Alexandria was the *Alexandria Times* or *The Times and Alexandria Advertiser*, a daily established in the spring of 1797 by John V. Thomas and James D. Wescott in a shop on Royal Street near the Coffee Shop (or five doors south of King Street). With the second issue Thomas retired and was replaced by John and James D. Wescott. With the issue of April 17, 1799, the title was altered to *The Times; and District of Columbia Daily Advertiser*. On May 3, 1802, the partnership of John and James was dissolved, and James continued the paper until the end of July, when he changed the title to *Columbia Advertiser*, a triweekly which did not last out the year.<sup>14</sup>

Between the years 1798 to 1803, Thomas and Wescott, or John and James D. Wescott, or J. Wescott, individually, printed at least seven books or pamphlets, among which was a novel in two volumes by William Goodwin (1801) entitled *St. Leon—A Tale of the Sixteenth Century*.<sup>15</sup>

As noted above, Samuel Snowden and Matthew Brown had just begun the *Alexandria Advertiser*, a daily newspaper, when William Fowler sold them the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* in 1800. The first issue of the *Advertiser* (its full title was *Alexandria Advertiser and Commercial Intelligencer*) was printed on December 8, 1800, in their office on King Street "a few doors above the Washington Tavern." The "head" of the paper carried a likeness of George Washington because the publishers revered the "eminent virtues" and "admired the wise administration of the monu-

<sup>13</sup> L. Nelson Nichols, *An Early Newspaper of Alexandria, Va.*, Bulletin New York Public Library, Vol. 25, No. 10 (Oct. 1921), pp. 663-669; Charles Evans, *American Bibliography*, Vol. 8, No. 24205.

<sup>14</sup> Douglas C. McMurtrie, *The Beginnings of Printing in Virginia*, Lexington, Va., 1935, p. 34; Clarence S. Brigham, *Bibliography of American Newspapers 1690-1820*, Proceedings American Antiquarian Society, Vol. 37 (1927), pp. 63-155.

<sup>15</sup> The author of this article owns a number of imprints off the early Alexandria presses including this one.

mental patriot of Mount Vernon.”<sup>16</sup> Brown and Snowden had intended to publish the *Advertiser* in Washington rather than Alexandria, but after issuing one number at the capital they found adequate support lacking and went to Alexandria. With the issue of September 19, 1803, the title was changed to *Alexandria Daily Advertiser*. The paper continued with that title until July 11, 1808, when it became the *Alexandria Daily Gazette*. Brown retired in 1802, but Snowden remained as publisher.<sup>17</sup> With the issue of September 21, 1812, the title was further changed to *Alexandria Gazette, Commercial and Political*, and with the issue of October 1, 1812, John Douglas Simms, a person eminently qualified for editorial work, was taken into partnership under the firm name of S. Snowden and J. D. Simms.

In the opinion of the publishers of the *Gazette* an attempt was made to burn its office on Thursday night, January 27, 1814, as the room in which a blaze was uncovered had neither candle nor fire in the fireplace. (See *Alexandria Gazette* of January 29, 1814.) Moreover, publication was suspended from August 23 to September 8, 1814, when Alexandria was attacked by the British forces.

With the issue of March 9, 1815, Samuel Snowden again became sole publisher. With the issue of May 14, 1817, the title was still further changed to *Alexandria Gazette and Daily Advertiser*. On October 1, 1819, the paper was nominally transferred to Samuel H. Davis to enable Snowden to concentrate on collecting debts owing him of five and ten years' standing. However, on January 5, 1820, Snowden resumed his position as sole publisher and so continued the paper until after 1820. Feeling the need of new capital Snowden entered into a partnership (January 1, 1825) with Wm. Fitzhugh Thornton, Snowden's third successive partner. By agreement the word *Phenix* was included in the masthead so that the title read *Alexandria Phenix Gazette*, but the word *Phenix* was abandoned following the termination of the partnership on July 1, 1828. Thereafter the paper had various titles such as *The Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser* and *The Alexandria Gazette*.

Samuel Snowden was born in Piscataway, N. J., in the historic year of 1776 and came to Alexandria in his youth. He remained in Alexandria, married on January 7, 1802, and reared a family. Unfortunately very little is known about his life prior to 1800. His wife was Anna Longden, daughter of John Longden who had served as a Revolutionary soldier with Lighthorse Harry Lee. Her grandfather Thomas Longden had lost his life, along with other Alexandrians serving with Washington in the Braddock campaign. Samuel Snowden himself became closely affiliated with the affairs of the city and was once an officer of the Washington Society. He rendered outstanding public service as secretary of the Committee on Health appointed by the

<sup>16</sup> Carrol Hunter Quenzel, *Samuel Snowden, A Founding Father of Printing in Alexandria*, Charlottesville, Va., 1952, pp. 5, 7.

<sup>17</sup> McMurtrie, *supra*, pp. 34, 35; Brigham, *supra*, p. 63.



Common Council during the ravages of the yellow-fever epidemic in Alexandria in 1803.

It was Samuel Snowden who established the *Alexandria Gazette* firmly in the town, and he and his heirs published it for more than a century. Snowden abandoned active supervision of the paper in 1831 just before his death, and his son Edgar took over at the age of 21. Samuel Snowden's printing skill, however, was not devoted exclusively to newspapers. From 1801 to 1831 his imprint, either alone or in conjunction with his partners, appeared on approximately 43 volumes of speeches, sermons, poetry, letters, ordinances, articles of association, convention journals, and political and religious tracts. The list includes *Considerations on the Government of the Territory of Columbia* by Augustus B. Woodward, January 1802, which is of special interest because it refers to Alexandria as being in "the Territory of Columbia."

Young Edgar Snowden, a native of Alexandria and unhampered with the matter of inuring himself in a new society, quickly became an important figure in the life of his day. He served as mayor of Alexandria from 1839 to 1843, and after the town was receded to Virginia in 1846 he was elected to the Virginia legislature.<sup>18</sup>

The Snowdens finally bowed out as publishers in 1911,<sup>19</sup> when the *Alexandria Gazette* was acquired by Congressman Charles C. Carlin. Mr. Carlin died on October 15, 1938, and was succeeded by his son Charles C. Carlin, Jr., the present publisher.

Another early Alexandria paper was the *Alexandria Expositor, and the Columbia Advertiser*, a triweekly, daily, and then semiweekly established on November 26, 1802, by Richard Dinmore and James Lyon, the latter being the most roving of early American printers. Lyon printed in an astonishing number of places, including at various times Rutland and Fairhaven, Vt., New York City and Waterford, N.Y., Petersburg, Staunton, Richmond, and Alexandria, Va., Georgetown and Washington, D.C., Savannah, Ga., New Orleans, La., Carthage, Tenn., Mobile, Ala., and Camden, Cheraw, and Charleston, S.C. Lyon gave up his interest in the *Alexandria Expositor, and the Columbia Advertiser* early in 1805, but Dinmore continued it at Alexandria until 1807, when he removed it to Washington, D.C., and published it there for another two years. On March 4, 1805, the title was changed to *The Alexandria Expositor* and on November 14, 1805, it was further shortened to read *The Expositor*. In 1804 a pamphlet entitled *A Long Talk, Delivered before the Tammany Society of Alexandria, District of Columbia* at their first anniversary meeting of May 12, 1804, was printed at the *Expositor* office.

As John A. Reichmann, *Alexandria Gazette* staff writer, observed in the

<sup>18</sup> Quenzel, *supra*.

<sup>19</sup> Lester J. Cappon, *Virginia Newspapers 1821-1935, A Bibliography*, New York, 1936, p. 43.

175th anniversary edition of that paper dated February 5, 1959, "Many newspapers not being the costly industrial establishments they are today were started, survived for a while, then died. Competition was keen; often violent. Some were started to give a man of means a place to voice his views or promote his interests. In the ensuing years great fortunes were made and sometimes lost, in journalistic ventures." In an article of this character it is not possible to elaborate upon all the newspapers that entered the Alexandria

CONSIDERATIONS  
ON THE  
GOVERNMENT  
OF THE  
TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA.

BY  
AUGUSTUS B. WOODWARD.

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NO. VII.

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*Jamque ascendebant collem, qui plurimus urbi  
Imminet, adversasque aspectat desuper arces.  
Miratur molem Æneas, magnalia quondam;  
Miratur portas, strepitumque, ac strata viarum.  
Instant ardentes Tyrii: pars ducere muros,  
Molirique arcem, et manibus subvolvère saxa;  
Pars aptare locum tectis, et concludere sulco.  
Jura, magistratusque legunt, sanctorumque senatum.  
"O fortunati, quorum jam mœnia surgunt!"*

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ALEXANDRIA,  
TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA:  
Printed by S. SNOWDEN & Co.—Sold by Rapine and by Stickney,  
Washington, and Bishop, Alexandria, where the  
previous numbers may be procured,  
JANUARY,  
1802.

COPY OF TITLE PAGE OF ONE OF THE EARLY BOOKS PRINTED IN THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA (OR NORTHERN VIRGINIA). NOTE REFERENCE TO ALEXANDRIA AS BEING IN THE TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA. PREVIOUS NUMBERS (I-IV) OF THIS WORK WERE PRINTED BY S. H. SMITH IN "WASHINGTON, METROPOLIS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1801," AND NO. V BY GREEN & ENGLISH IN "GEORGETOWN, TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA, 1801." ORIGINAL 5" X 8½".

town scene before it ceased, upon its incorporation as a city in 1852, to be a part of Alexandria County. Only what appears to be the more important of them have been discussed above. Nevertheless, despite what seems to be their lesser stature, the other known newspapers and periodicals that existed during the period prior to incorporation as a city should at least be listed. They are:<sup>20</sup>

*The Alexandria Herald*, semiweekly and triweekly, 1811-1826, John Corse and N. Rounsavell, later N. Rounsavell and Henry Pittman.

*The Alexandrian: A Commercial, Agricultural and Literary Journal*, triweekly, 1820-1821, Henry Pittman and Douglas Thomson.

*Columbian Telescope and Literary Compiler*, weekly, 1819-1820, Samuel H. Davis.

*Republican and Alexandria Commercial and General Advertiser*, triweekly, 1829, Violett and Keatings.

*Signs of the Times*, weekly, 1833-1839, Gilbert Beebe.

*Alexandria Advocate*, triweekly, 1840, James A. Payne.

*The Index*, semiweekly then triweekly, 1841-42, Jesse E. Dow, John M. Johnson.

One of the outstanding printing firms of the early Alexandria period was Cottom & Stewart, which carried on its activities on Royal Street. This firm differed from the other presses mentioned above in that as far as is known it did not print a newspaper. However, from 1801 to 1823 at least 31 books and pamphlets were printed or published by it or by John A. Stewart individually, apparently the first of these being *Political Essays, Relative to the War of the French Revolution* by James Workman, Esq. (1801). Cottom & Stewart maintained bookstores in Alexandria and Fredericksburg.

With the passing of Samuel Snowden & Co. and Cottom & Stewart the period of the printing of large numbers of books and pamphlets in Alexandria seems to have come to an end. For example, the known book and pamphlet printers, other than those mentioned above, which plied their trade in the town of Alexandria before the incorporation date of 1852, and the approximate number of books and pamphlets with which each are credited, are as follows: Duane & Son, 1805 (one); John Winter, 1813 (one); Benj. L. Bogan, 1816-1818 (three); J. Corse and N. Rounsavell, and Henry Pittman, 1815-1826 (four); John B. Bell, 1823 (one); Samuel H. Davis, 1819-1820 (seven); John Shaw, Jr., 1822 (one); Wm. Greer, 1834 (one); and Southern Churchman Office, 1843-1845 (two).

As the century unfolded and the nation expanded and prospered a ferment was working in the land. Inventions such as the cotton gin changed regional needs. New England industry and the agricultural lands in the South no longer saw eye to eye. Abolitionism spearheaded by such men as John Brown became a frenzied cause in the North and created many political problems. America's great travail was at hand.

In 1861 Alexandria County comprised that part of the old District of Columbia which derived from Virginia and which in 1846 was receded to

<sup>20</sup> Cappon, *supra*; Union List of Newspapers, Library of Congress.

Virginia, less, however, the town of Alexandria, which in the interim had become a city and accordingly was no longer a part of the County. The population of both the City and the County was about 13,000, more than one-fifth Negro. Of this total only 2,000 persons lived in the County.<sup>21</sup> Because the County had such a small population it is not surprising that as far as is known no printing press was established therein until long after the war years—as a matter of fact until almost the turn of the new century.

While, as indicated above, Alexandria City was no longer a part of Alexandria County, nevertheless, because of its importance and close proximity to the County, the war press of the City will be briefly referred to.

On May 23, 1861, the people of Virginia voted on secession. On the evening of the very same day orders were given for the Federal troops in Washington to enter upon the "sacred soil of the Old Dominion." Entrance was effected along four lines—by steamer down the Potomac to Alexandria, by Long Bridge, by the Aqueduct in Georgetown, and by Chain Bridge. By evening of May 24, 1861, all the Confederate troops had been withdrawn from Alexandria City and the adjacent territory.<sup>22</sup>

In the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the war R. M. Smith and J. W. Finks published the *Virginia Sentinel* (1853-1861) first as a tri-weekly and then as a daily. In their first issue they announced that "on all sectional questions we are Southern," and they maintained a strong states-rights attitude thereafter. Being "too fully committed to the cause of Virginia independence" the editors upon the occupation of Alexandria by the Federal troops escaped on June 6, 1861, to Warrenton, Va.<sup>23</sup>

With the flight of the *Sentinel's* editors, *The Alexandria Gazette* was the only voice of the South remaining in the area, and the Snowdens (Edgar and his sons, one of whom was Edgar, Jr.) sounded it. They continued under the bayonets and gibes of the occupation forces to report hostilities. However, telegraph communications were denied the publishers and Alexandria had become stagnated economically, which added further to the difficulties of getting out a paper. In the summer of 1861, the *Gazette* was suppressed by the Federal authorities.

Beginning with October 7, 1861, however, Edgar Snowden, Jr., ran a one-sheet paper, *The Local News*, at the *Gazette* plant on Prince Street opposite the present No. 1 firehouse in a building now devoted to apartments. But on February 10, 1862, the office was burned by the Federal soldiers in retaliation for Edgar, Jr.'s alleged hostile account of the ejection of Rev. K. J. Stewart from St. Paul's Church by the military.<sup>24</sup>

On May 13, 1862, Edgar, Jr., revived the *Alexandria Gazette*, establishing its office at 104 King Street over Stone's (formerly French's) Bookstores.

<sup>21</sup> Charles O. Paullin, *Alexandria County in 1861*, Records Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 28 (1926).

<sup>22</sup> Paullin, *ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> Cappon, *supra*.

<sup>24</sup> Cappon, *ibid.*

But in July 1863, he was ordered by the military authorities to leave the City. This order, however, was quickly revoked and he was permitted to return to "the small establishment which alone is left to us, out of all we once possessed." (*Alexandria Gazette* of July 8, 10, 1863.) Edgar, Jr.'s father resumed the editorship in 1865.

There were several more or less short lived newspapers including one of two published by soldiers which also appeared in Alexandria during the War period. There were:

- The Pennsylvania Fifth*, published occasionally at Camp McDowell, Alexandria.
- Daily Virginia Chronicle*, January (?) 1862, Boyle and Waite.
- Virginia State Journal*, October 1862-68, title changed 1868 to *Daily State Journal*, published by D. Turner & Co; W. J. Cowing and B. W. Gillis, editors.
- Alexandria Beobachter* (German), spring of 1863, weekly, no copy known, see *Alexandria Gazette* of June 5, 1863.
- The Soldiers Journal*, published February 1864-May 1865, at the Rendezvous of Distribution for Alexandria; R. A. Cassidy, editor and publisher, and Amy M. Bradley, proprietor; published at Augur General Hospital, June 1865-July 1865; Thos. V. Cooper and William P. Griffith, editors.
- Cripple* (U. S. General Hospital), weekly, October 8, 1864-April 15, 1865.

# The Local News.

SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 26, 1861.

## ALEXANDRIA, VA.

**LATEST ARRIVAL FROM THE LOWER POTOMAC.**—The Potomac trade schooner *Constitution* arrived here last night, from Matra woman, in Charles county, Md.

When nearing the Confederate batteries, she was hailed and boarded by the Confederate Steamer *George Page*. An officer came on board, examined her papers, and learning that she was from Charles county bound to Alexandria, permitted her to proceed.

At the time the *Constitution* passed the batteries, all was quiet in the neighborhood. The vessel brings Wood, Furniture, and Potatoes, and is discharging her cargo at Fowler's Wharf.

**A LARGE SHED.**—Workmen are busily engaged at the American Owl Company's Wharf, foot of Overwood street, in erecting a commodious shed, covering about half an acre. The wharf is now used by the U. S. Government, and the shed is intended for the storage of provisions, &c.

**ELECTION.**—An election for a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, from this district, was held on Thursday. The polls were opened at the Court House in this place. J. F. Underman the vote stood as follows:—*W. & J. Beale*, 129; for *C. B. Shibley* 10.

**CHANGE OF MANAGER.**—Workmen in employ of the United States are now changing their...

## GENERAL NEWS.

The United States Marshal of New York has received sealed orders from the Department of State, for the release of more prisoners from Fort Mifflin. The names of the parties had not been returned.

The Commissioner of Patents has refused to grant a patent to a citizen of Richmond, Va., who remonstrates there and seeks a patent in Washington through his attorney.

The Confederate steamer *George Page* harbors in Quantico Creek. She occasionally runs out into the Potomac, but keeps under cover of the batteries. Their guns occasionally throw a few shells on the Maryland side.

The Ice Boat, *Union* and *Satellite*, which were between shipping Point and Mathias' Point in the early part of this week, received orders, as soon as the additional batteries at the latter point opened, to retire below Aquia Creek.

Mr. John Oelton, of Onondia county, New York, says that dealers in butter are reaping a rich harvest by selling it to shippers for Germany and England. He says that farmers, owing to the fact that the Southern market is closed against their manufacture, are disposing of it at an extremely low price, while shippers are realizing a profit of from 40 to 50 per cent.

The trial of the privateersmen captured in June by the brig *Perry*, on board a pilot-boat, commenced on Wednesday, in the United States Court, before J.

By request, and for the general information of our readers, we publish below an order, just issued, forbidding the circulation of Confederate money in this city:

HEADQUARTERS, ALEXANDRIA, VA., }  
October 26, 1861.

Special Order, No. 40.  
The General commanding this post having learned that bills purporting to have been issued by the so-called Southern Confederacy have been circulated in this city, hereby gives notice, that, from this time forth, either the paying or receiving of any such currency, by any citizen or soldier of this city, will be regarded as a misdemeanor, and punished accordingly.

By order of Brig. Gen. Montgomery, R. FRESE, Asst. Adj. Gen.

The Northern papers, the *N. York World*, and *Tribune*, the *Philadelphia Journal*, and others, publish statements of the recent battle at Edward's Ferry, representing that it was a most disastrous one, and the loss of life among the Federal troops very great, and the carnage dreadful, in attempting to get back from the Virginia shore. They give many details. All the cannon brought over by the Federal troops were lost on the spot.

Every thing is reported quiet along the Potomac line. Gen. Hancock is at Vienna, with a large force, reconnoitering, and reports no Confederate forces to be seen.

It is asserted by the friends of the late Col. Baker, that he acted in strict conformity with orders, which he showed to several persons, and which were found in his hat. It is also stated that Col. Baker, at the moment of his death, was in the act of writing a letter to the Secretary of War.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

THIS is to give notice that we have this day sold out our STOCK OF GOODS and entire business in Alexandria to M. Treuman & Co. Thankful to our friends and customers for past favors, we will be pleased to hear that the same has been bestowed upon our successors, who will endeavor to do the best with the best of facilities to please our numerous friends and customers.

SCHOOLBERR & BRO.  
Alexandria, October 26, 1861—31\*

THE UNDERSIGNED, having purchased of A. Hears Schoollers & Bro., their entire stock of goods, earnestly solicited a continuance of the patronage as liberally bestowed upon them, having determined to do all in our power to merit the same.  
M. TREUMAN & CO.  
Oct 26 31\*

**PUBLIC AUCTION.**  
WILL be sold, at the U. S. Subaltern Store House, in Alexandria, Va., at 3 o'clock, p. m., on Tuesday next, a lot of condemned RIFLE AND PISTOL STOCKS, consisting of *Wm. Wolf's* *Barred Breech*, *Beacon*, *Shannon*, *Port*, *Chatham*, &c., &c. Alexandria, Va., October 26th, 1861—31\*

**NOTICE.**—The subscribers has been appointed Administrator of the estate of George W. Mansfield, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate, are requested to come in immediately with their claims, and to present the same duly authenticated.  
ALVINA V. MANSFIELD,  
Oct 24—41  
Administrator.

**NOTICE.**—A meeting of the Stockholders of the Fire Insurance Company of Alexandria, will be held at the office of the Company, on Monday, the 28th day of November next, for the purpose of holding an election for trustees. Directors to serve the ensuing year. Hours from 10 A. M. to 12 M. By order: T. M. MCCORMICK,  
Oct. 16—41  
Secretary pro tem.

**JOHN H. BRYANTON'S**  
**AMEROTYPE GALLERY,**  
No. 111, King Street,  
OPPOSITE THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE.  
Oct 11—41  
I. LOUIS F. TTON

COPY OF PORTION OF FRONT PAGE OF ONE-SHEET PAPER ISSUED IN SUBSTITUTION OF THE "ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE" FOR SHORT PERIOD DURING OCCUPANCY OF ALEXANDRIA BY FEDERAL TROOPS. ORIGINAL 12" X 18 1/2".

The admission of West Virginia to separate statehood in April, 1863, left in existence the so-called Restored Government of Virginia<sup>25</sup> which attempted to exercise jurisdiction over such portion of the remaining territory of Virginia as came under the permanent control of the Union armies and was not "ruled" by Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. Francis H. Pierpont was Governor. From first to last the area thus administered by him was small. At no time did it comprise more than the City and County of Alexandria, the counties of Fairfax and Loudoun, the Eastern Shore, and the region in and about Norfolk. Alexandria City, again under Federal jurisdiction, became the capital of this area which had refused to secede with the Richmond government.<sup>26</sup>

The official documents of the Restored Government were apparently printed by two separate presses which had been set up in Alexandria. For instance, in 1864, D. Turner, termed "Printer to the State," printed the *Constitution of the State of Virginia and The Ordinances adopted by the Convention which Assembled at Alexandria on the 13th day of Feb. 1864*, while in 1865, he printed the *Journal of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia for the Session of 1864-65*. In 1864, the "State Journal" Print, No. 12 Royal Street, turned out the *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, passed at the Regular Session commencing December 7, [1863] in the 88th year of the Commonwealth*, and in 1865 the same print shop printed the Acts passed at the Regular Session commencing December 5, 1864.<sup>27</sup>

As indicated above, the first printing press in what is now known as Arlington County (name changed in 1920 from Alexandria County) apparently was not established therein until almost the turn of the twentieth century. In 1907 the principal towns in this area were Falls Church (which lay in both Alexandria and Fairfax Counties), Ballston, Fort Myer Heights, Clarendon, Rosslyn, Addison Heights, Braddock, Del Ray, and St. Elmo.<sup>28</sup> Falls Church was chartered as a town by the General Assembly on March 30, 1875,<sup>29</sup> and its territory extended into the northwest corner of the then Alexandria County. After Arlington had adopted the county manager form of government, the residents of so much of the town of Falls Church as lay within the boundaries of the County filed a petition in the Circuit Court (July 7, 1932) seeking to have the town's charter amended to reduce its limits to that portion which lay in Fairfax. This petition was granted July 17,

<sup>25</sup> The Restored Government of Virginia was set up pursuant to an Ordinance adopted June 19, 1861, by the second Wheeling (Va.) Convention, which purported to reorganize the government of Virginia on a loyalty basis.

<sup>26</sup> Gay Montague Moore, *Seaport in Virginia*, Richmond, 1949, p. 48; Chas. H. Ambler, *Francis H. Pierpont, Union War Governor of Virginia and Father of West Virginia*, Chapel Hill, 1937, p. 213.

<sup>27</sup> The author of this article has copies of these imprints.

<sup>28</sup> G. G. Boteler, et al., *A Brief History of Alexandria County, Va.*, Falls Church, Va., 1907.

<sup>29</sup> Chap. 316, Acts of Assembly of Virginia 1874-75.

1935, but the decree did not become final because of an appeal until April 30, 1936.

The town of Falls Church had a press at least as early as 1885, and it produced the *Virginia Register*, a weekly independent newspaper established by William Taylor of Alexandria County ancestry who also served as editor. This newspaper was printed in a building to the rear of the Star Tavern, which was on the site of the Falls Church Bank of today. The prominent clergyman and historian Rev. Melvin Steadman of Fairfax County has a copy of the issue of Saturday, December 5, 1885 (Vol. I, No. 26), said to be the only one extant. In 1886 Mr. Taylor was succeeded by I. N. C. Cole as publisher. The name of the paper was then changed to *Home and Farm*

<h1>The Barcroft News.</h1>	
VOL. I.	BARCROFT, VA., JULY 5, 1903. No. 3.
<b>PERSONAL.</b>	
Miss Kate Roberson is spending this week with Miss Edith Corbett at Bethesda, Md.	Mr. Barbour will preach at the chapel every Sunday at 3:30 p. m. until further notice.
Misses Alice and Ethel Smith left last week to spend several weeks in Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson.	Misses Mary and Emma Pelham, of Georgia, nieces of Judge Pelham, are spending a part of the heated term at Miles Away.
Mr. Ben Smith and Mr. C. E. Lightfoot are both quite ill with malaria.	Mr. Richard Wirt, of Alexandria, paid Barcroft a visit yesterday, and took some of our young ladies to town in the evening to see the fireworks.
Miss Lou Loeb, of Washington, is visiting Miss Kate Munson.	Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and their daughters, Dorothy and Nan, have taken up their summer residence at the White house.
Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury have returned from a trip to Lexington, Va.	Miss M. E. Girdner, of Thomasville, Ga., on her way to Boston, stopped over yesterday to call on Miss Mary Pelham.
Judge John Pelham left last week for his home in Alabama.	Capt. Merrifield "pulled off" a typical New England village Fourth of July at Falls Church, a small town up the road, between Barcroft and Herndon.
Capt. Bales and his charming daughter, Miss Inez, were the guests of Miss Johnston at Miles Away last Sunday.	The captain is a "down Easter" who makes railroad trains, elections, festivals, and all else with which he has to do Merry. Here's to the captain and to the flag that "sot us free"—from England.
Mrs. Chamberlain is quite puffed up. This is due rather to poison oak, however, than to pride.	o o o
Mrs. B. R. Dewey and Stuart, her son, are the guests of Mrs. Schick.	There is some talk of the property owners hereabouts getting out an injunction restraining electric road surveyors. So many have been about these diggings lately that they are trampling the crops.
Major and Mrs. John D. Russell, of Washington, are spending the day with the Marves.	
Capt. L. L. Bridges, of Hyattsville, Md., who has been "under the weather" for "quite a spell," is very much better.	
Mrs. J. R. Sprigman and her daughter, Miss Mary, are visiting Mrs. Schick.	

COPY OF FRONT PAGE OF FOUR-PAGE NEWSPAPER SAID TO BE ONE OF THE EARLIEST ITEMS TO BE PRINTED IN WHAT IS NOW ARLINGTON COUNTY. ORIGINAL OWNED BY MRS. MILTON B. PAYNE OF BARCROFT; 4" X 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". (SEE PAGE 24.)

*Register*. Sometime between 1887 and 1900 its publication was terminated.<sup>30</sup>

In 1895 Edwin F. Rorebeck, a well-known Alexandria and Fairfax County real-estate operator, established *The Falls Church News*, which was edited and published by C. J. Ziegler and Rorebeck, 1895-97; by Rorebeck, 1897-98. Mr. Steadman has a copy of the June 25, 1898, issue.<sup>31</sup>

Just about this time (1897-1901 (?)) James W. Yates published at Fort Myer Heights what is believed to be the first newspaper printed in what is now Arlington County. It was known as the *Pantagraph*, a weekly independent. Senator Frank L. Ball, a former President of the Arlington Historical Society, recalls seeing copies of this paper. Also Mr. Yates is supposed to have published in the town of Clarendon the *Alexandria County Journal*, also a weekly independent, during the years 1897-1902, but no copy of this paper has been located.<sup>32</sup>

While the *Pantagraph* was being published in Fort Myer Heights and the *Alexandria County Journal* supposedly in Clarendon, the *Falls Church News* referred to above was sold by its owners and it became the *Falls Church Monitor*. The new *Monitor* was published as a Republican weekly from 1898 to 1903 under the editorship of Merton E. Church (1859-1932), a native of Vermont, who came to Virginia about 1877. Mr. Church was a druggist and realtor. From 1903 to 1905 the *Falls Church Monitor* was edited (probably as a Democratic paper) by R. C. L. Moncure, a prominent attorney and realtor who died in November 1918.<sup>33</sup> Part of the edition during these years was printed under the name *Alexandria County Monitor*, East End and Overlook. In about 1906 the plant was moved to the town of Rosslyn. Here it was issued (1906-09) as *The Alexandria County Monitor* (Democratic) by Frank Lyon, also an outstanding lawyer and realtor, who came to the County in 1889;<sup>34</sup> by W. E. Weaver, 1909-1913; by John Lyon, 1913-16; by Frank Lyon 1916-18, proprietor, who leased it to Weaver. During the years 1918-1928, the paper was edited by Weaver under the title *The Monitor*. In about April of the latter year it was sold by Lyon to C. H. Greathouse, owner of the Rosslyn *Commonwealth* who in turn sold both papers in September 1928 to William Harrison Lamb, who consolidated them to form *The Commonwealth Monitor*.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Item 462; Cappon also lists two earlier newspapers in Falls Church (Items 461 and 466). These are *The Advertiser*, 1878, weekly, edited by D. W. Whiting, and the *Morning Sun*, 1884-1885 (?), weekly, published by Morning Sun Co. in Falls Church and Washington, D.C. However, no copies of these asserted printings have been presently located.

<sup>31</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Item 464.

<sup>32</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Items 301 and 502.

<sup>33</sup> On March 1, 1902, Oliver H. Davis and Burrell E. Williams owned the Monitor Printing Co.

<sup>34</sup> In G. G. Boteler et al., *A Brief History of Alexandria County*, Falls Church, Va., 1907, p. 46, *The Alexandria County Monitor* is referred to as the only paper then being published in Alexandria County and as covering all the County and the lower part of Fairfax, circulation 1,000.

<sup>35</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Item 1462.





Simultaneous with the printing of the *Alexandria County Monitor*, East End and Overlook in Falls Church, O. Edw. Haring, then 18 years old and son of Oscar Haring, who operated a general store in the village of Barcroft, was editing and publishing "occasionally" *The Barcroft News*. The first number of the *News*, a little four-page affair with the comings, goings, doings, and ailments of the small Barcroft community, was probably issued in June 1903, and its publication continued for about a year. Edward was assisted by Milton B. Payne, also of Barcroft and a very small boy at the time.<sup>36</sup> Thus it appears that the *News* was the third news item printed in what is now Arlington County.

A few years later, or in 1908, S. B. Shaw established and edited in East Falls Church (Arlington County) a newspaper with the name *The Press*. A copy of Vol. II, No. 21, dated November 26, 1909, is owned by Mr. Steadman. Mr. Shaw apparently ceased publishing *The Press* sometime in 1910.

On Friday, January 21, 1910, Vol. I, No. 1, of *The Commonwealth* was issued in East Falls Church.<sup>37</sup> It was to be printed every Friday by the newly formed Rule-Weir Printing Co., which had just purchased the excellent printing plant of the Newell Printing Co. owned by George M. Newell, hereinafter referred to. The Rule-Weir Co.'s office was located in a building on the south side of the railroad tracks on Washington Street in East Falls Church, which also housed the real-estate office of A. H. Barbour. A. D. Torreyson of the Falls Church (later Rosslyn) Milling Corporation was named president; Golden Rule, vice president and general manager; George M. Newell, secretary; and Tasker M. Weir, treasurer. Mr. Newell was also to serve as editor. On April 22, 1910, *The Commonwealth* was published by the Commonwealth Company, Inc., of Alexandria County instead of the Rule-Weir Printing Co. By October 8, 1910, *The Commonwealth* had moved to Rosslyn, where Vol. I, No. 37, was issued with William H. Gaines, attorney at law of Rosslyn, as editor. Mr. Gaines was followed in the editorship by Tasker M. Weir. In 1914 C. H. Greathouse bought a half interest in the paper, and he became sole owner in 1917. From 1917 to 1920 *The Commonwealth* was edited and published every Saturday by Mary C. Greathouse. Its masthead called it the "leading paper of Alexandria County." (See Vol. XI, No. 30, of Saturday, July 24, 1920.) By October 29, 1923, the editor and publisher was Minnie Kendall Lowther. In September 1928, as noted above, it was sold, along with the *Rosslyn Monitor*, to William Harrison Lamb, who consolidated them to form *The Commonwealth Monitor*. The editors of the consolidated papers were Roger D. Wharton and Mr. Lamb.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Mr. Haring now runs the Chrysler Auto Agency at New Orleans, La.

<sup>37</sup> However, Lester J. Cappon in his *Virginia Newspapers, 1821-1935* shows under Item 1460—*The Commonwealth* (1908-1928) as having been established and published in 1908 in Falls Church, Va., as a semi-weekly by R. C. L. Moncure and Tasker M. Weir, and that it was edited by William H. Gaines until about 1912, when Weir moved the paper to Rosslyn and changed the issue to weekly. No copies of these asserted printings, however, have been located.

<sup>38</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Items 1460 and 1461.

The issue of Saturday, February 2, 1935, Vol. XXXVII, No. 10, showed the paper's office as being at No. 5 Rucker Building, Clarendon, and stated in its masthead that it was "the oldest newspaper in Arlington County."

During September 1920, *The Chronicle* was established as a weekly Republican paper by Thomas D. Bailie of Rosslyn (The Chronicle Publishing and Printing Co.), who served as editor until 1923 when the paper became independent. *The Chronicle* was then edited by Mr. Bailie and John G. Dudley until 1926 and by Mr. Bailie alone from 1926 to 1927 (?). During this period (ca. 1924-1926) the paper was managed by John Warner and James R. Roberson. In the meantime *The Chronicle* once more supported the Republicans. From February 1928 (or earlier) to March 1929 the paper was published by Harry N. Douthitt and was edited by Capt. Crandal Mackey beginning with June 1929.<sup>39</sup> Robert I. Black served as published from December 9, 1932, to December 1933.<sup>40</sup> The issue of Friday, September 22, 1933 (Vol. 15, No. 49), published at Clarendon, shows Crandal Mackey as president and editor, Robert I. Black as publisher, and William B. Everts as manager. The masthead stated that *The Chronicle* was "the only newspaper" then being "printed, published and edited in Arlington County—A growing city of more than 35,000 population" and further it was "The Home Newspaper of Arlington County, Virginia—overlooking the Potomac River and the Nation's Capital."

During the nineteen twenties and thirties several other newspapers were published in Arlington County. These, however, for the most part were short lived. For instance, *The Observer* (no copy known) is said to have been issued for approximately one year at Rosslyn as the continuation of the Herndon *Observer* (est. 1903), which became the *News Observer* in 1924. The Rosslyn *Observer* was edited by Minnie Kendall Lowther.<sup>41</sup>

In May 1929, Arthur Orr, a prominent and courageous civic leader of the County, established and published for about a year *The Arlington Times*, a weekly newspaper.<sup>42</sup> Also, on Friday, April 10, 1931, Vol. I, No. 8, of *The Virginia Tribune* was issued, but the publisher, editor, and extent of publication of this newspaper are not presently known.<sup>43</sup>

On July 29, 1932, *The Arlington County Record*, a weekly independent, was initiated. It was edited by E. R. Laney until June 23, 1933, when it was merged with *The Independent Record of Fairfax*. Complete copies of *The Independent Record* are said to be available at the Fairfax County Court House.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Captain Mackey came to Alexandria County in 1896, having been born in Shreveport, La., and raised in Chester, S.C. As a 32-year-old lawyer he succeeded in cleaning up Alexandria County by wiping out the gaming houses, saloons, and race tracks located therein. This was after he had been elected Commonwealth's Attorney by a margin of two votes.

<sup>40</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Items 304, 1459.

<sup>41</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Items 642 and 1463.

<sup>42</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Item 303.

<sup>43</sup> The author's collection of Alexandria and Arlington County newspapers includes the first page of this issue.

<sup>44</sup> Cappon, *supra*, Item 302.

*The Sun* apparently was first issued at East Falls Church in December 1935 (Vol. I, No. 13, is dated March 5, 1936). It was published by the Sun Press Corporation every Thursday "as a newspaper for Arlington and Fairfax Counties." Paul W. Ferris was publisher, Thomas A. Deffron, Jr., editor, and Loren B. Pope associate editor. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., bought control of *The Sun* in April 1936. In the fall of that year he built a printing plant on Wilson Boulevard where *The Sun* was published beginning in November 1936.<sup>45</sup> In June 1951 Mr. Bloomer sold the paper to Charles Carlin, Jr., of the *Alexandria Gazette*. Thereafter, it was published every afternoon except Sunday as *The Daily Sun*, printed in Alexandria at the *Gazette* plant, but maintaining a business office at 1224 North Hartford Street across from the Baptist Church. The masthead of the issue of Friday, April 15, 1955 (Vol. XIX, No. 225), stated that it was Arlington County's only daily, and it also carried the familiar quotation from John 8: 32—"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make ye free." In April 1957 Mr. Carlin sold *The Daily Sun*, and its name was changed by the new proprietors to *Northern Virginia Sun*. On April 15, 1957, the first issue of the latter paper (Vol. XXI, No. 222) was printed in a new plant located at 3409 Wilson Boulevard. This issue promised that the readers "will benefit at once from the change for the new plant will make it possible to provide a more complete and up-to-the-minute news report." Those interested in the publication of the new *Sun*, an independent daily, were listed as Philip M. Stern, Arnold Sagalyn, and Clayton Fritchey.

As noted previously the production of books and pamphlets in the area of old Alexandria County fell off considerably with the passing of Samuel Snowden and the firm of Cottom & Stewart many years before the town of Alexandria was incorporated as a city. Actually the only noteworthy book publishing that took place before the present decade in what is now Arlington seems to be a three-volume work entitled *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia* compiled by Lyman Chalkley, published by Mary S. Lockwood and printed about 1912 at Rosslyn by the Commonwealth Co.

However, another item printed just over the border from what is now Arlington should be mentioned because of its importance. It is one of the few histories of the County and is entitled *A Brief History of Alexandria County, Virginia. Its wealth and resources, great and growing industries, educational and social advantages*. This little book was published under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors by G. G. Boteler, Crandal Mackey, M. E. Church, W. S. Hoge, Jr., C. B. Haller, Committee, and was printed by the Newell Printing Co. (previously referred to), which was owned by George M. Newell and his son Joseph H. Newell. The actual

<sup>45</sup> Under date of August 30, 1946, Mr. Bloomer included a "Centennial Magazine Section" in his *The Sun* of that date to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Proclamation of President James Polk whereby, pursuant to an Act of Congress, Alexandria was reeded to Virginia. This magazine section contains invaluable historical material pertaining to Arlington County.

printing took place in the senior Newell's garage attached to his home place located across the street from the Crossman Methodist Church in Falls Church. Later the press was moved to East Falls Church, i.e., to the north side of Lee Highway near the railroad tracks and in the same block as the present Brown's Meat Market. George Newell was also editor of the *Village Press* published in Falls Church (1904-1906). His son currently operates the Newell-Cole Co., Inc., a successful printing firm of Alexandria City.

Thus ends the history of printing in Arlington (Alexandria) County, ferreted from the sometimes dim and not too reliable evidences of the past. Space has not permitted a treatment of the County's commercial printers of the present decade (some of whom have had distinguished careers) or a listing of the books or pamphlets they may have produced. This must be left to a future chronicler.



“It is to be hoped that local groups in other parts of the country who are interested in sponsoring constructive projects in connection with the forthcoming Civil War Centennial will take note of this exemplary contribution of General Patch and his associates in the Loudoun County Historical Society.”

From a review by Bell I. Wiley of  
“The Battle of Ball's Bluff,” by Joseph  
Dorst Patch, in *The Virginia Magazine  
of History and Biography*.