

# The Washington Mills on Four Mile Run

## A Forgotten History

*By Beth DeFrancis Sun*

**W**as there a lost history waiting to be rediscovered along the Four Mile Run in South Arlington? I found myself asking this question repeatedly while researching the history of the old Arlington Mill. What started out as a graduate school project eventually turned into a quest for answers spanning more than a decade. But the more I learned, the less I understood, and the pieces didn't seem to fit together. Why

*Fig. 1: Arlington Mill after it was wrecked by Union Soldiers following the Second Battle of Bull Run. The soldiers used the wooden planks to kindle fires and create makeshift shelters. The structure in the distance may have been the site of the original Washington sawmill, built in 1807. It appears a newer addition may have been built onto the "log" first floor, which may have housed laborers and/or the sawmill itself, ca. 1863.*



Courtesy of University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus Archives

did historical maps label the area “Arlington Mills” (plural) if there was only one mill?<sup>1</sup> What was the big log structure beyond the Arlington Mill in the circa 1863 photograph (Fig. 1)?<sup>2</sup> And why did local historians believe that President George Washington once owned a mill on Four Mile Creek?<sup>3</sup>

The Arlington Mill itself has an illustrious history, as the Civil War trail marker near the original site illustrates (Fig. 2).<sup>4</sup> Built by George Washington’s step-grandson in 1836, the mill was the scene of an important Civil War skirmish—possibly the first fought on Virginia soil after Union troops crossed into the Commonwealth—while it was under the management of Confederate General Robert E. Lee (the husband of Martha Washington’s great-granddaughter).<sup>5</sup> And despite being occupied and damaged beyond repair by Union troops returning from the Second Battle of Bull Run, its legacy lived on.<sup>6</sup>

The Arlington Mill property later became part of an important legal battle that eventually wound its way up to the nation’s highest court.<sup>7</sup> In its final ruling, the Supreme Court allowed General Lee’s heirs to receive monetary compensation for Arlington House—the family’s home on the Potomac—which had been illegally confiscated and turned into a national cemetery during the Civil War. A similar ruling regarding compensation for the war-wrecked Arlington Mill—settled in the Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1874—had set the precedent for that final decision.<sup>8</sup>

*Fig. 2: This plaque was erected by Arlington County to mark the site of the original Arlington Mill.*



Courtesy of Arlington County

Over time, much of the Arlington Mill's history has been documented, and numerous South Arlington monikers pay homage to the mill's significance: The Arlington Mill Civic Association and the Arlington Mill Community Center both bear the name, as does Arlington Mill Drive, which skirts around the original mill foundation (on top of which Jim's Automotive repair shop stands).<sup>9</sup>

But whatever became of Washington's mill on Four Mile Run, believed to have belonged to the nation's first president?<sup>10</sup>

Researching Arlington's history is a particular challenge given how its government shifted over time. Prior to 1790, the region was part of Fairfax County; in 1800, it was ceded to the District of Columbia by Virginia, and it became known as Alexandria County. In 1847, it was then retroceded to the Commonwealth of Virginia and renamed Arlington County in 1920. To further complicate matters, Virginia was part of the Confederacy during the Civil War, so some of its official records reside in Richmond. As a result, locating original source material such as deeds, court records, and bills of sale is often a matter of perseverance, if not pure luck.<sup>11</sup>

One day, while scrolling through microfiche of the *Alexandria Gazette*, I came across an advertisement dated May 17, 1813, placed by George Washington's step-grandson, George Washington Parke Custis.<sup>12</sup> It read as follows:

*The subscriber is disposed to sell*

**The Washington Mills;** together with five acres of land, adjoining thereunto. The Mills are situated on the waters of Four Mile Run, which at this place, is a copious and never failing stream. The House is built of massy stone, in the best possible manner, no expense or trouble has been spared, to render these works of the very best quality, in all respects. The race is about 200 yards in length, and the command of water, 36 feet—The works are nearly as good as new, having been very little used.

The manufacturing Mill has at present two run of stones, a pair of Burrs, and a pair of very superior Cologne, with

separate apparatus for the manufacture of flour and meal. Attached to these works is a Saw Mill on a large scale. The Mills are within a few hundred yards of the new City Turnpike, about 4 miles from Georgetown and Washington, and about 5 from Alexandria... **Geo. W. P. Custis**

Suddenly, the pieces began falling into place. Indeed, it turns out that there was an historically significant mill *complex* named in honor of President George Washington that history had forgotten.

It was around this same time that I uncovered the origin of the Washington Mills at the archives at Arlington House. They were built in 1807–1808 by George Washington’s step-grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, who had inherited the property upon the death of the step-grandfather that he had come to revere.<sup>13</sup> Custis was likely fulfilling George Washington’s expressed desire to build a mill on the copious stream.<sup>14</sup> George Washington’s business interests were apparently infectious, and Custis strove to emulate his hero.

At the archives, to my surprise, I found the book, *Old Arlington: The Story of the Robert E. Lee Memorial*, written by the former Arlington House archivist and historian, Murray H. Nelligan (inadvertently miscataloged and mis-shelved in my local branch library). It answered many of my questions while describing the fascinating history of the Washington Mills, which makes it especially surprising that the story somehow got lost.<sup>15</sup>

In need of oak and pine for the beams, rafters, and flooring to complete the new home he was building along the Potomac, G.W.P. Custis set out to build a sawmill on Four Mile Run.<sup>16</sup> He ran out of capital before the project was finished, and after selecting a site, he offered to rent out the property long term and furnish all the stone and timber for an adjoining gristmill.<sup>17</sup> But a renter couldn’t be found, and Custis ended up building both the sawmill and gristmill himself, most likely with help from the enslaved laborers he had inherited from his Custis heirs.<sup>18</sup>

The Washington Mills proved useful when it came to sawing wood and grinding corn, and the Custis cornmeal business was said to be good.<sup>19</sup> During the annual sheep shearing fairs at Arlington House—intended to promote American self-sufficiency by rewarding farmers

who bred native sheep in support of a domestic woolen industry—Custis offered “free corn and wheat grinding” to prize winners. Such awards were presented to the farmer who had “manured the most land from his own resources in the last 12 months” and to the family who had produced the largest quantity of clothing at home the prior year.<sup>20</sup>

The Four Mile Run mill investment wasn’t really paying off, and like the step-grandfather he endeavored to mirror, Custis was always looking for ways to increase productivity. After the Columbia Turnpike Company was commissioned by an Act of Congress in 1810, Custis, who served on the Board of Commissioners, asked Benjamin Henry Latrobe—the influential DC architect and designer of the Columbia Turnpike—for the road to be moved closer to his mills on Four Mile Run. But Latrobe declined the request, stating that the planned road crossed the stream at the best location possible and that the commissioners “could not find any motive strong enough to induce” them to alter the crossing.<sup>21</sup>

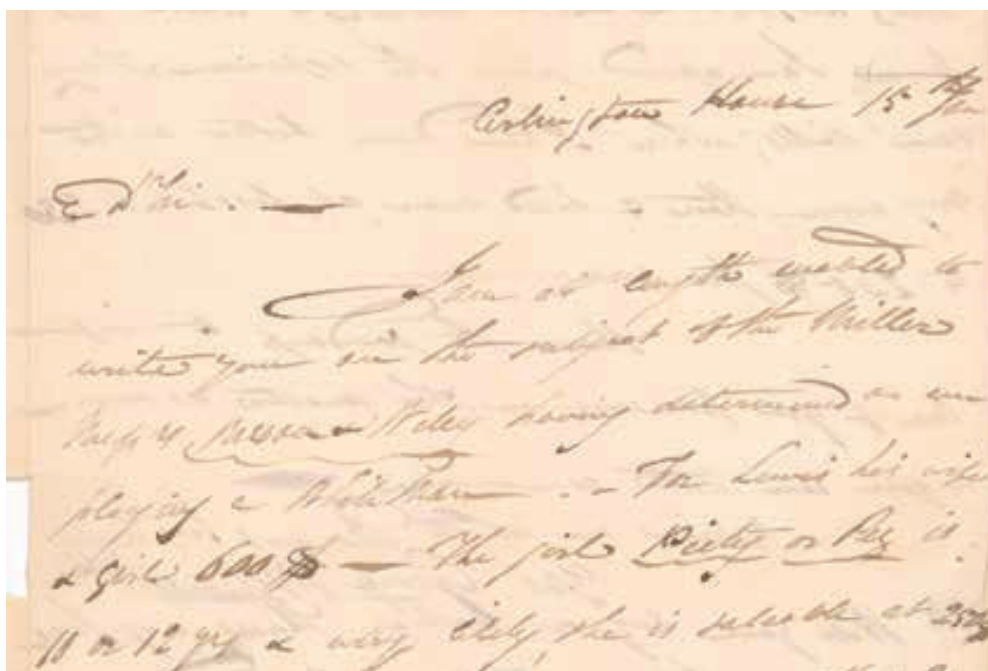
By 1809, Custis had devised a plan to add a woolen mill to his saw- and gristmill industries on the Four Mile Run. And in his efforts to raise funds to build and equip what he called “the Washington Woolen Manufactory,” he informed the public that he would be selling 150 shares of stock at \$20 per share, thereby raising \$3,000. Shares could be paid in cash, materials, or labor rendered, and he himself would contribute a site on Four Mile Run, stone and timber for the buildings, and an acre of land to each weaver or mechanic who would take a job in the mills. Custis explained that profits would be used to promote the advancement of the woolen industry and to provide a school for, among others, children employed at the mill.<sup>22</sup> During one of his customary speeches at Arlington House, Custis commented that if American mills were to employ children, then they should also provide schools “where their little hearts shall receive the benefits earned by their little hands.”<sup>23</sup>

Ultimately, there was not enough support for the woolen mills project—only \$1,000 was raised—and the effort was abandoned.<sup>24</sup> The economy was in bad shape, with international trade embargoes running rampant, which jacked up the price of raw materials and made it difficult to ship goods. The ban on the importation of English and French products—aimed at punishing Britain for stopping and searching American ships on the high seas—led to stagnation in the

American ports. During the War of 1812, prices soared while wheat and other produce spoiled on the docks. Like most planters, Custis was dependent on water transportation to take his products to markets, both domestic and foreign, and was hit hard by the blockade that the British maintained in the Chesapeake until the end of the war. These were trying times, and Custis was hard pressed for cash.<sup>25</sup>

While visiting the Arlington House archives for the second time, I came across a letter dated “Jan. 15 [1812]” written by G.W.P. Custis and addressed to James H. Hooe (then owner of Burgundy Farm).<sup>26</sup> Clearly, Custis was resorting to extreme measures since he was offering to sell Mr. Hooe the three enslaved workers at the Washington Mills because he had found a prospective renter who had “determined on employing a white man.” Custis described one of the slaves, a miller, as a “healthy slave” and “good miller” and his wife was “able to earn her living being a good spinner” (Fig. 3).<sup>27</sup> A 12-year-old girl, a dower slave that Custis

*Fig. 3: Letter to the owner of Burgundy Farm, James H. Hooe, dated January 15, [1812], G.W.P. Custis, explaining that Mason & Wiley—presumably the new lessee of the Washington Mills—had decided to hire an employee, rather than depend on the enslaved laborers who worked there. Custis asked Hooe if he was interested in purchasing the three enslaved laborers for \$600. It’s unclear whether the proposed sale went through.*

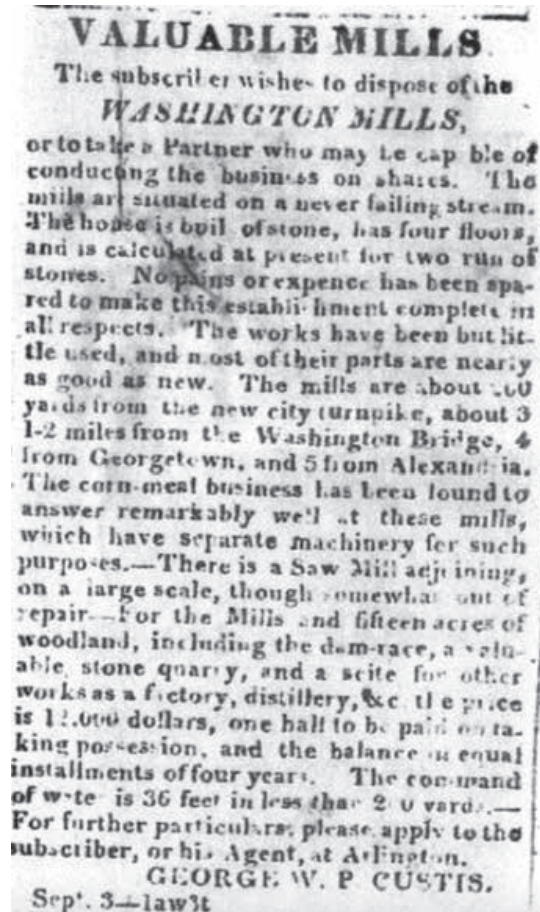


Courtesy of New York Public Library

had inherited upon the death of his grandmother, Martha Washington, was depicted as “very likely.” She may have been selected to work at the mill because she had been taught how to read, write, and do figures, and could therefore keep the books. Earlier, Mr. Custis’s wife, Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis, had established a school on the plantation for the benefit of the enslaved children. Mrs. Custis was against the institution of slavery and did what she could to prepare the enslaved laborers to make their way in the world upon receiving their freedom.<sup>28</sup>

By 1813, Custis was doing whatever he could do to remain solvent. Once again, he placed advertisements in the *Alexandria Gazette* in attempts to find buyers for his Four Mile Run mill property. In May of 1813 and January of 1814, he ran sales ads in the *Gazette* for “valuable wood land,” as well as the Washington Mills.<sup>29</sup> He also ran an advertisement for the Washington Mills in the *Federal Republican*, providing more details (Fig. 4):

...The house is built of stone, has four floors, and is calculated at present for two run of stones. No pain or expense has been spared to make this establishment complete in all respects. The works have been but little used, and most of their parts are nearly as good as new.... The corn-meal business has been found to answer remarkably well at these mills,



Federal Republican (Georgetown, DC, September 3, 1813)

Fig. 4: One of Custis’s many advertised attempts to rent or sell the Washington Mills.

which have separate machinery for such purposes. There is a saw mill adjoining on a large scale, though somewhat out of repair. For the mills and 15 acres of woodland, including the dam race, a valuable stone quarry, and a site for other works as a factory, a distillery, the price is \$12,000...<sup>30</sup>

But the mills were still available in 1814, when Custis ran yet another advertisement for “a good distillery site, to be sold or rented out.”<sup>31</sup>

Given the description of the merchant mill and the fact that “no pain or expense” had been spared on the mill house, it’s probable that the building’s inner-workings were based on the same Oliver Evans automated system that George Washington had installed in his mill at Mt. Vernon.<sup>32</sup> Washington had learned of Evans’ automated improvements in 1790, when he reviewed and signed Oliver Evans patent application submitted to the newly-established United States Patent Office. Washington then purchased a license under the patent, which enabled him to install the automated system that dramatically cut back on the number of workers needed to operate the mill.<sup>33</sup> As it turned out, Oliver Evans automated mill patent had expired in January 1805 and was not reinstated until January 22, 1808, so it’s possible that Custis hoped to take advantage of Evans’ patented technology while avoiding the licensing fees.<sup>34</sup>

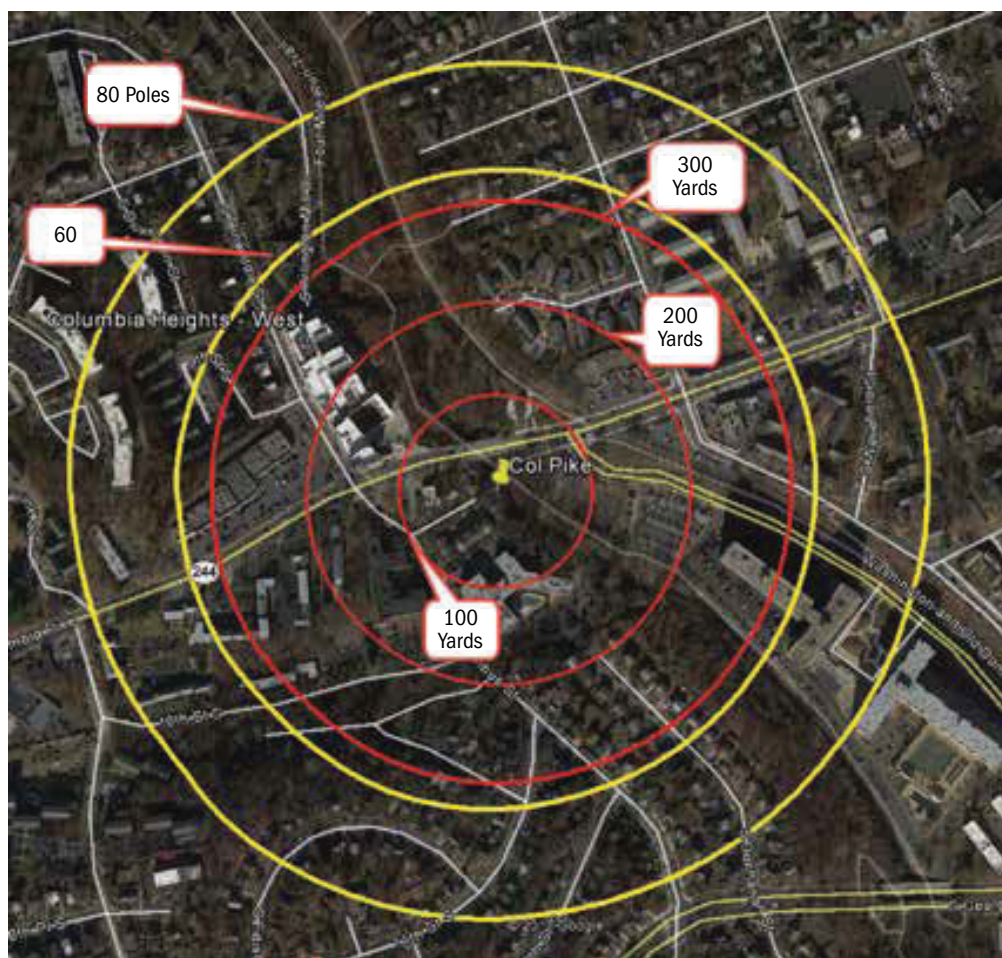
Pinpointing the precise location of the Washington Mills has proven to be a challenge given the disparate bits and pieces of information contained in various sources. We do know that it was not directly on Columbia Turnpike, since Benjamin Latrobe had denied Custis’s request to map out the proposed road closer to his mill.<sup>35</sup> And from the descriptions Custis later placed in local newspaper advertisements, we learn that the mills were “within a few hundred yards of the new City Turnpike,” that the mill race is “about 200 yards in length,” and that “the mills are situated on the waters of Four Mile Run, which at this place is a copious and never failing stream.”<sup>36</sup> George Gilpin, who surveyed the property and recommended a site for a mill seat in 1806, provided these details: “I do hereby certify that I surveyed and staked out a site for a Mill on the waters of four mile run, the estate of George Washington Parke Custis. This site has many great advantages, by digging a race sixty-poles in length and raising a dam 2½ feet, [?] falls may be



had, which is quite sufficient—if it is not, a great deal more may be had by extending the race 20 poles.”<sup>37</sup>

Gilpin had sited two separate “mill seats,” suitable locations for building a mill, within 20 polls (110 yards) of one another, but it appears that Custis selected the site that required less labor (digging a shorter race) for the Washington Mills (Fig. 5). We can assume this to be the case since the January 1814 advertisement Custis placed for the sale of the Washington Mills mentions “an excellent *additional* seat, situated on the new Turnpike road.”<sup>38</sup> This later became the site of the Arlington

*Fig. 5: Long-time South Arlington resident Jeff Armstrong created this map using old Gilpin survey results and published newspaper measurements supplied by Custis. The concentric circles drawn around the original Columbia Pike bridge over Four Mile Run (yellow pin) indicate the general vicinity where the Washington Mills would have been located.*



Mill (Custis mill) built in 1836 and, later, the site of the Barcroft Mill.<sup>39</sup>

The mathematical measurements needed to estimate the location of the Washington Mills appear to be straightforward. But there's a "twist" here—both literally and figuratively. In an article published in the 1959 issue of the *Arlington Historical Magazine*, Mildred Handy Ritchie explains how in the past

"the road [Columbia Pike] wound through the sleepy countryside with many twists and turns and over many hills" and that the area which became Barcroft "was situated between two of these hills on the Pike, each having turns in an "S" shape to reach the top." She goes on to explain how the Custis mill [Arlington Mill] stood on the North side of the Pike and "an even earlier mill may have been built here by George Washington."<sup>40</sup> Historians in the Barcroft neighborhood confirm that "Columbia Pike had a curve that has since been taken out. It crossed Four Mile Run in those days from what is now 10th Street South, behind the 7-Eleven."<sup>41</sup> So, the distances need to be measured based on the winding course of the *original* Columbia Turnpike, *not* where the Pike crosses the stream today.

Most likely, the Washington merchant mill and adjoining sawmill were built along the western bank of Four Mile Run, in the vicinity of the Arlington Mill Community Center, Arlington Mill residences, and the 814–820 block of the Park Glen Condominiums along South Arlington Mill Drive. From the Four Mile Run trail, you can get a close-up view of the stream bed, and if you look closely, you might spot an old brick, non-native stone, or other tell-tale remnant from a bygone era.<sup>42</sup>

Today, few clues remain to hint at the Washington Mills' existence. The "massy" stones that made up the four-story dwelling are gone, and



Courtesy of Glencarlyn Citizens Association

Fig. 6: Mill wheel believed to have come from the Washington Mills on Four Mile Run.

the mill-race remnants have receded into the embankment. However, one of the original Washington mill stones is rumored to have found a resting place in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. In “Recollections of a Native-Born Glencarlynite,” Hadassah Backus explains that “Aunt Mandy would give the children bread and milk seating them on a big stone from George Washington’s mill which in former years had stood on Four Mile Run.” An image of the stone is included in her published recollections (Fig. 6).<sup>43</sup> David Backus—Hadassah’s nephew and a long-time local historian who passed away in 2016—later explained in a Glencarlyn newsletter that he and his mother, Florence, became the beneficiaries of the Washington mill stone and its stories.<sup>44</sup>

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### About the Author

Beth DeFrancis Sun is a librarian, writer, and ardent seeker of missing evidence, hidden treasure, and invisible histories. She lives in Alexandria but still owns her condo on the banks of Four Mile Run in Arlington. She spends much of her free time reading historical fiction and rambling along stream beds in search of old mill ruins.

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### Endnotes

1. During the Civil War, numerous maps (many titled *Seat of War*) include “Arlington Mills.” Examples include the United States Army Corps of Engineer’s [Detailed map of part of Virginia from Alexandria to the Potomac River above Washington, DC, 186–], Library of Congress, accessed May 19, 2021, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883a.cw0523000/?r=0.364,0.158,0.24,0.097,0>; and V.P. Corbett’s Sketch of the Seat of War in Alexandria & Fairfax Cos., by V. P. Corbett, Washington, DC, 1861, accessed May 19, 2021, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883a.cw0522000/?r=0.233,0.37,0.347,0.14,0>.
2. Arlington Mill, [Circa 1863], University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Civil War Collection, accessed May 11, 2021, <http://contentdm.ad.umbc.edu/digital/collection/civilwar/id/101>.
3. Mildred Handy Ritchie, “Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia, a Village Metamorphosis,” *Arlington Historical Magazine* no. 3 (October 1, 1959): 34; Hadassah Backus, *Recollections of a Native Born Glencarlynite—Glencarlyn*

- Remembers: The First 100 Years*. (Arlington: Glencarlyn Citizens Association, 1994), 13.
4. Virginia Civil War Trails marker, “Skirmish at Arlington Mill,” accessed May 19, 2021, <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2017/06/Skirmish-at-Arlington-Mill.pdf>. The physical marker is located at the intersection of Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run, next to the Arlington Mill Community Center Plaza.
  5. The *National Republican* (June 3, 1861) and the *New York Times* (June 2, 1861) both reported that the skirmish broke out before midnight on Friday, May 31, killing one and wounding another. If this is true, the Skirmish at Arlington Mills would have begun *prior to* the Battle at Fairfax Courthouse on June 1, which is reported in multiple sources to be the first land engagement during the American Civil War that resulted in casualties. However, in the *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. 2 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880), both encounters are reported as taking place on Saturday, June 1, 1861.
  6. Multiple sources, including the ca. 1863 photograph of the Arlington Mill in ruins are found in the Civil War Collection at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, accessed May 11, 2021, <http://contentdm.ad.umbc.edu/digital/collection/civilwar/id/101>.
  7. Anthony J. Gaughan, *The Last Battle of the Civil War: United States Vs. Lee 1861–1883* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011).
  8. *Ibid.*, 65–66.
  9. Multiple sources confirm the location of the old Arlington Mill (currently Jim’s Automotive) on the Payne Parcel (RPC 28031002) in Arlington County. You can view this parcel using the Arlington County real estate assessment “view map” feature. According to Wikimapia, the GPS coordinates are 38°51’21”N 77°6’39”W, accessed May 20, 2021, <http://wikimapia.org/5626229/Site-of-Arlington-Mill-Barcroft-Mill-and-Ice-House>. (Note that the Wikimapia website incorrectly states that the Arlington Mill was built in 1808, rather than 1836.)
  10. Backus, *Recollections*, 13.
  11. C. B. Rose, Jr., *Arlington County, Virginia, A History* (Baltimore, MD: Port City Press, Inc., 1976), 3–8, 82–86. Arlington Historical Society.
  12. *Alexandria Gazette* (May 17, 1813).
  13. Murray H. Nelligan, *Arlington House, The Story of the Robert E. Lee Memorial*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., rev. (Burke, Virginia: Chatelaine Press, 2005), 75; The Last Will and Testament of General George Washington, printed from the record of the County Court of

- Fairfax, Signed July 9, 1799 (Alexandria, VA): "...I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of my wife, and my ward, and to his heirs, the tract I hold on four mile run in the vicinity of Alexandria, containing one thousand two hundred acres more or less..."
14. Charles W. Stetson, "Washington's Woods on Four Mile Run," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, 35/36, Washington, DC (1935): 178; "Washington intended to build a mill on Four Mile Run land but never did."
  15. Nelligan, *Arlington House*.
  16. *Ibid.*, 60.
  17. *Ibid.*, 75.
  18. Nelligan, *Arlington House*, 75; *Records of Alexandria County, DC, Deed Book Q*, 235. As was customary and required by law, Custis summoned 12 county residents to assess whether the building of a mill and dam would damage any adjoining property, and if that was determined to be the case, then compensation was due to the property owner(s). According to the DC Deed Book, 12 county "freeholders" met at the Custis sawmill on January 25, 1808, and determined that the building of a dam would overflow two acres onto the property of Jesse Taylor, and they assessed damages of \$75.00 to be paid to Taylor's representatives.
  19. *Federal Republican*, Georgetown, DC (September 3, 1813); "Valuable Mills. The subscriber wishes to dispose of the Washington Mills."
  20. Nelligan, *Arlington House*, 93.
  21. Lee W. Formwalt, "Benjamin Henry Latrobe and the development of transportation in the District of Columbia, 1802–1817," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, Washington, DC, Vol. 50 (1980): 44; John Paul Liebertz, "Columbia Pike: The History of an Early Turnpike" (Arlington, VA: Arlington County Historic Preservation Office, April 1, 2010), 12.
  22. Nelligan, *Arlington House*, 83–84.
  23. *Ibid.*, 101.
  24. *Ibid.*, 92.
  25. *Ibid.*, 108–109.
  26. G.W.P. Custis to James H. Hooe, Burgundy near Alexandria, in G.W.P. Custis Mss., New York Public Library.
  27. George Washington's Slave List [June 1799], "Negroes belonging to George Washington in his own right and by marriage," accessed June 14, 2021, <https://www.mountvernon.org/education/primary-sources-2/article/george-washington-s-list-of-enslaved-people-1799/>. The list includes 8-month-old "Peg"—daughter of a 30-year-old dower slave (also named Peg) working on

the Dogue Run farm. A hand-drafted list of the dowry slaves that G.W. Parke Custis inherited from Martha Washington includes “Peggy,” valued at \$15, accessed June 14, 2021, <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/slavery/a-community-divided/>.

28. Nelligan, *Arlington House*, 75.
29. *Alexandria Gazette* (May 17, 1813, and January 11, 1814).
30. *Federal Republican* (September 3, 1813).
31. *Alexandria Gazette* (November 8, 1814).
32. Most merchant mills had at least two pair of millstones, including a French set for grinding and producing white flour that could be sold in the marketplace. The merchant mill machinery was more intricate than that of a “custom mill” that tended to grind corn and wheat for local farmers, and in the latter case the miller extracted payment by taking a “toll,” or a portion of the product. Custom mills were typically only one or two stories. Angelfire, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration/elements.html>; Dennis J. Pogue and Esther C. White, *George Washington’s Gristmill at Mount Vernon*, (Mount Vernon, Virginia: Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, 2005); *Alexandria Gazette* (January 11, 1814).
33. “Overview of the Gristmill,” Washington Library, Mount Vernon, accessed May 25, 2021, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/overview-of-the-gristmill/>.
34. “Act for the Relief of Oliver Evans,” accessed May 25, 2021, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.1510150b/?sp=1>; *The Young Mill-Wright and Miller’s Guide*, written and published by Oliver Evans, became a staple manual for millers, undergoing several revisions and 15 printed editions between 1795 and 1860.
35. Formwalt, “Benjamin Henry Latrobe,” 44.
36. *Alexandria Gazette* (May 17, 1813).
37. *Alexandria Gazette* (February 24, 1806); *Ibid.*
38. *Alexandria Gazette* (January 11, 1814).
39. Multiple sources confirm the location of the Arlington Mill, on which the Barcroft Mill was later built, including The Barcroft School and Civic League’s “Barcroft History,” accessed June 6, 2021, <https://www.bscl.org/history>, and “Barcroft Geography: Past and Present,” accessed May 29, 2021, <https://www.bscl.org/geography>.
40. Ritchie, “Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia: A Village Metamorphosis,” 24.
41. Barcroft School and Civic League, accessed May 29, 2021, <https://www.bscl.org/geography>.

42. Artifacts found in the immediate vicinity include broken pieces of hand-carved red sandstone, most likely from the Seneca Quarry owned by Custis's brother-in-law, John Peter. Seneca stone was used to build the Smithsonian Castle building, as well as hundreds of other structures in the area. It was described as "lilac grey" when quarried, but turned a rust-red color over time due to its high iron-oxide content. Accessed June 26, 2021, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca\\_Quarry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca_Quarry).
43. Hadassah, *Recollections*, 18.
44. David Backus, "Memories for The Village View: Mills," *Village View*, (May 2009): 87–88, accessed June 15, 2021, [http://glencarlyn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Backus\\_Memories-for-Village-View-9-1-11to4-24-14.pdf](http://glencarlyn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Backus_Memories-for-Village-View-9-1-11to4-24-14.pdf).