

Places are more than points on a map. Places are more than the farms and fields in the country or buildings, streets, and stores in the towns. They are more than the names and simple statistics of the number of people, young and old, wealthy and poor. They are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandfathers and grandmothers. They are life-long best of friends and hated enemies. Business associates and complete strangers.

Places are an amalgamation or conglomeration of all of these and evolve over time. Just as people are born, grow up, age, and die, so do places. Change is the only constant. The few things up in the air are the types of change, the rate of change, and the results of change. No one and no place is exempt. Fairfax Station, Fairfax County, Virginia, August 25, 1862 is not exempt.

What we are presented with today is a quick and narrow window into Fairfax Station on and about that time. Remember that a mere 15 months have passed since we were in the midst of deciding the Commonwealth's future through a public vote regarding the secession issue – May 23, 1861.

How things have changed in a mere 15 months. Within hours of the vote by Virginia citizens in favor of secession, federal forces occupied Alexandria without a shot being fired. Over the next 15 months, the war came to Virginia, and more specifically, Northern Virginia, upfront and personal. (continued on back)

Virginia's favorite son, Robert E. Lee, resigned his military commission in the U.S. Army to take a position in the newly formed Confederate States of America, per request by newly elected Jefferson Davis, President of the CSA. Robert E. Lee wasn't the only veteran commander to leave the U.S. Army. Many of the veteran commanders left and headed south, in support of the new CSA or, more appropriately stated, in defense of their home state.

Fairfax Station was on the edge. Since the first angry voices were raised and the first shots were fired, this area saw occupation by military forces, North and South. It saw civilians back up and leave, some to further South, some to the North, and some went to the West. Some did their best to stay in their homes and continue on. Some swore their allegiance to the United States and others threw their allegiance to the South and went so far as to form their own military units.

Some people in area weren't even residents. Many areas in the South experienced the influx of refugees, rich and poor, young and old, that were pushed out of their homes in other areas.

The people of the area weren't the only thing to feel the burdens of war. The land and homes were used and abused. By late 1862, much of the land in the area was stripped bare of its forests, with wood going to stoking the boilers of the railroads, the campfires of the soldiers, and the winter quarters of many a regiment that would pass through the area.

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*Honoring Clara Barton on the 150<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of her service during the  
Civil War at Fairfax Station*

# VOICES Of FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA 1862



## **A Few Fairfax Station Area Residents\***

### **Elizabeth Beckwith, 83, \$6,000/6,000, VA**

In 1861, Elizabeth owned 2 horses, 5 cattle, 16 hogs, and 2 slaves, but, at one time, owned 8 slaves. She owned 424 acres about 1 ½ miles from the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, with a 5 to 6 room frame house.

### **John M. Cooper**

This individual is noted as owning land in the Fairfax Station area in 1860, but no record exists in the 1860 United States Federal Census. Mr. Cooper may have lived in an adjacent county, such as Prince William Co., a nearby city, such as Alexandria or Washington, D.C., or another State, such as Maryland.

### **Patrick Cunningham**

Arriving in New York, New York, on June 20, 1848 from Newry, Ireland at 20 years of age, Patrick Cunningham moved to Fairfax County, Virginia, shortly thereafter. He voted at Fairfax Court House in 1859 and 1861; voting for secession on May 23, 1861. In 1861 had 1 slave, 2 horses, 1 vehicle, 5 cattle, and 2 hogs. He was to contribute land for the building of St. Mary of Sorrows Church by and for the Irish Railroad Workers.

### **John B. Daingerfield, 43, \$24,000/30,000, VA, merchant**

Husband to Rebecca H. and father to Mary Helen, William, and Edwin, John Bathurst Daingerfield owed his wealth to his Alexandria business, but also had a thriving agricultural business that included 2 horses, 8 milk cows, 6 cattle, and 16 hogs, equal to \$1,000, as well as wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, buckwheat, and hay. He owned 3 slaves, according to the Slave census.

### **C. Fleming Ford**

A local farmer, who's entire household, including himself, his wife, and his children, were born in Virginia.

### **W. W. Ellzey, 60, \$20,000/15,000, Loudoun Co., farmer**

A slave-owning farmer from Loudoun County, Virginia, Mr. Ellzey had served as a lieutenant in the local 60<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Militia, resigning in 1826. By 1847, he was commissioned as a Justice of the County Court and was still serving in that position in 1860. In 1859, he served as Commission of the Election at Arundells, and in 1861, he voted for secession at Fairfax Court House. According to records, he was exempted from paying taxes for 1862, for reasons unknown.

### **Charles F. Ford, 77, \$5,000/12,000, VA, farmer**

A large slave-owning landowner and farmer, Charles Ford raised horses, mules, milk cows, working oxen, cattle, sheep, and hogs, all with a work of \$1,200, as well as worth in rye, Indian corn, oats, wool, peas and beans, Irish potatoes, buckwheat, butter, and hay. He served as Captain, 60<sup>th</sup> VA Militia, in the War of 1812, being on active duty August 23 – September 17, 1814. In 1819, he was commissioned as Justice of the County Court. In 1838, he served as sheriff in 1838. Charles Ford voted at Sangsters in 1859 and 1861, voting for secession on May 23, 1861. At the time that he voted for secession, he owned 2 slaves, 10 horses, 30 cattle, 30 sheep, 35 hogs, 1 watch, and 1 clock, and had \$35 in gold and silver, and other assets of \$775, according to the Personal Property Tax Record.

### **Bernard Hammill, 44, Ireland, laborer**

A recent immigrant from Ireland, Bernard Hammill was assigned, in October 1858, to work on the road from Centreville Road to the Fairfax Station. He voted at Fairfax C.H. in 1859 and, while owning 1 horse, 6 cattle, and 5 hogs, in 1861, there is no record of his voting for or against secession. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth, also from Ireland, and a son, Thomas, 6 months, born in Virginia, as well as Patrick McKeever, 37 years of age.

### **Burdett Skinner**

A shoemaker by trade, Burdett Skinner worked for the railroad at the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census.

### **James Magner**

A native of Great Britain, he declared his intent to become a citizen on May 12, 1855 and was admitted as a U.S. citizen on May 18, 1857. He voted at Sangsters in 1859 and 1861, and on May 23, 1861, voted for secession. He came to this country from his original home, Ireland, to work on the construction of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

### **Makely, Jacob D., 65, \$18,000/2,000, NY, farmer**

A farmer from New York, who came to Fairfax County during the period of 1840s to 1850s, after the lands had been wasted by continuous tobacco and little to no conservation and fertilization. Jacob Makely was married to Mariah, of the home who did housework, and had 3 adult children living at home at the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census. Metrah and Albert farmed, and Mary C stayed at home; all were born in New York, prior to moving down to Fairfax County. Mr. Makely served as Vice President of the Constitutional Union Club of Centreville. In 1861 owned 3 slaves, 7 horses, 1 vehicle, 21 cattle, 28 sheep, 15 hogs, 1 watch and 1 clock, and had \$50 in gold or silver and other assets of \$250, according to the Personal Property Tax Book.

### **Wesley Makely**

The 23-year old son of Jacob and Mary Makely, Wesley Makely was born in Fairfax County, and worked as a railroad worker. In 1858, he married Catharine Appich, 17, daughter of Gottlieb and Catharine Appich. By 1861, he had 2 slaves, 4 horses, 10 cattle, and 13 hogs. He was to go on to form the 18<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry, later in the war.

### **George W. Slacum**

A landowner in the Fairfax Station area, according to the 1860 land records, no record is available in the 1860 United States Federal Census.

\* 1860 United States Federal Census