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FAIRFAX COUNTY

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Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

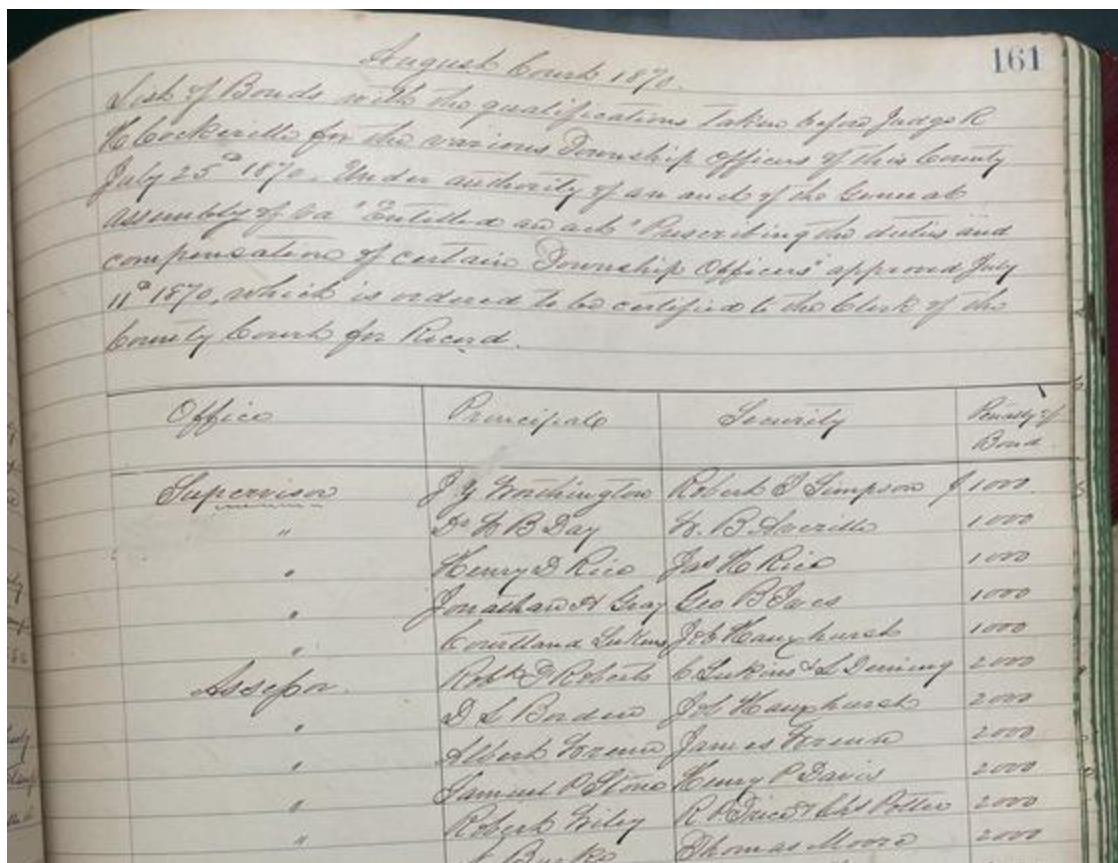


Happy April, and welcome back to Found in the Archives, a publication of The Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, 19th Judicial Circuit, who proudly serves The City of Fairfax & Fairfax County. In this month's edition, we will discuss the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and records we have at the Historic Records Center that pertain to its history.

First created in 1870, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors currently serves as the governing body for Fairfax County. Containing nine districts each with their

own supervisor and one at-large Chairman, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for government functions including local taxation, approving land use, and appointing officials to varying government authorities such as the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority and the Fairfax County Park Authority. Prior to the creation of the Board of Supervisors, many of these functions were handled by the local court. Because of this, many of our collections here at the HRC relate to these functions, including our frequently used tax records collection.

For example, in our 1869 Minute Book, we can see the entry for the bonds given for the first supervisors. On July 25th 1870, the day of their first meeting, we see J. G. Worthington, Dr H. B. Day, Henry D. Rice, Jonathan H Gray, and Courtland Lukins putting up \$1000 bonds for being Supervisors.



Fairfax County Minute Book 1869, page 161

Today, the Board of Supervisors looks quite different from its inception in 1870. Fairfax County was originally divided into sections that were called "townships": Centreville, Lee, Mount Vernon, Falls Church, Providence, and Dranesville. As the county's population has grown over time, the original six townships have been divided into the districts that exist today. One of our smaller collections contains a group of documents from 1873 that describe the boundaries of each township.

These boundaries can also be seen in the 1879 Hopkins Atlas, which highlights landowners and landmarks within the districts of Fairfax County.

Boundaries of Centreville
Township
Beginning at the Loudon line
and running with the little river
turnpike to Difficult ^{Run} bridge
thence with the head waters of
said run to Braddocks old
place - thence at ^{the south side of} Redwells old
place - thence with said road to
~~the crossing of the~~ ^{The Court House} ~~at Fairs Crossings~~ ^{Paynes church road}
~~at Fairs Crossings~~ thence with ^{the} west
side of said road to Langsters Cross Road
thence to the head of Wolf Run - down
said run to Occoquan Creek thence
up said creek to Bull Run to Loudon
line and with said line to the
beginning - Lee

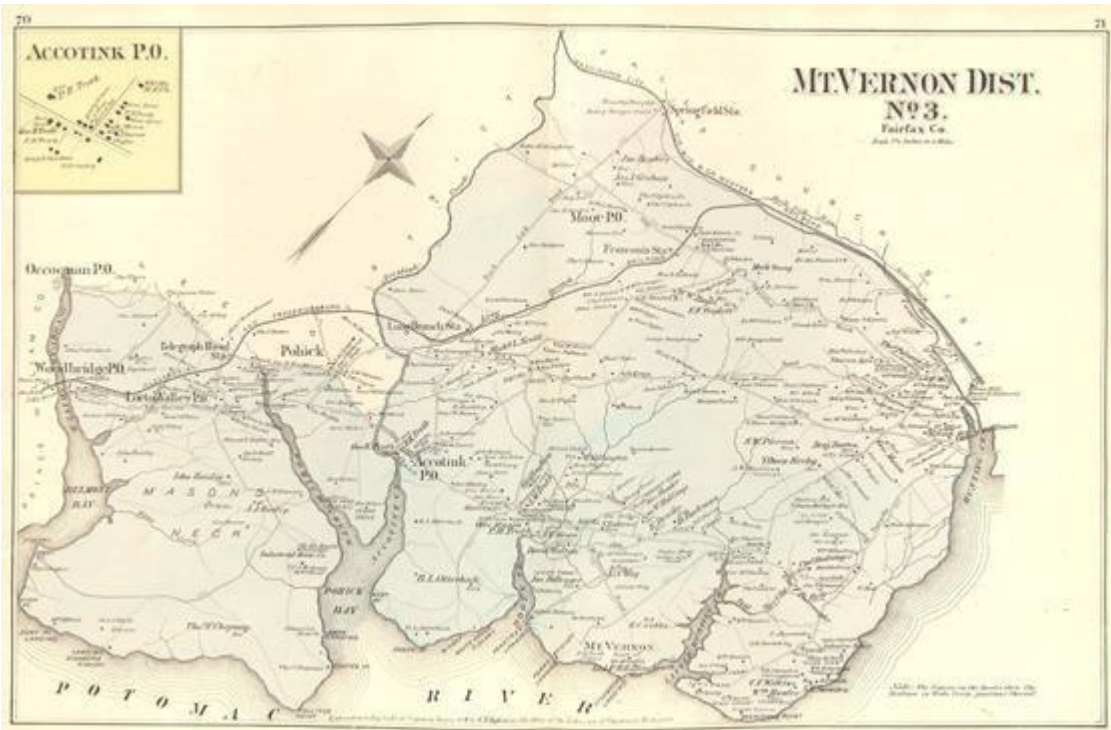
Boundaries for Centreville Township, from Drawer X Subject Files, Townships 1873

Boundary lines of Dranesville
Township

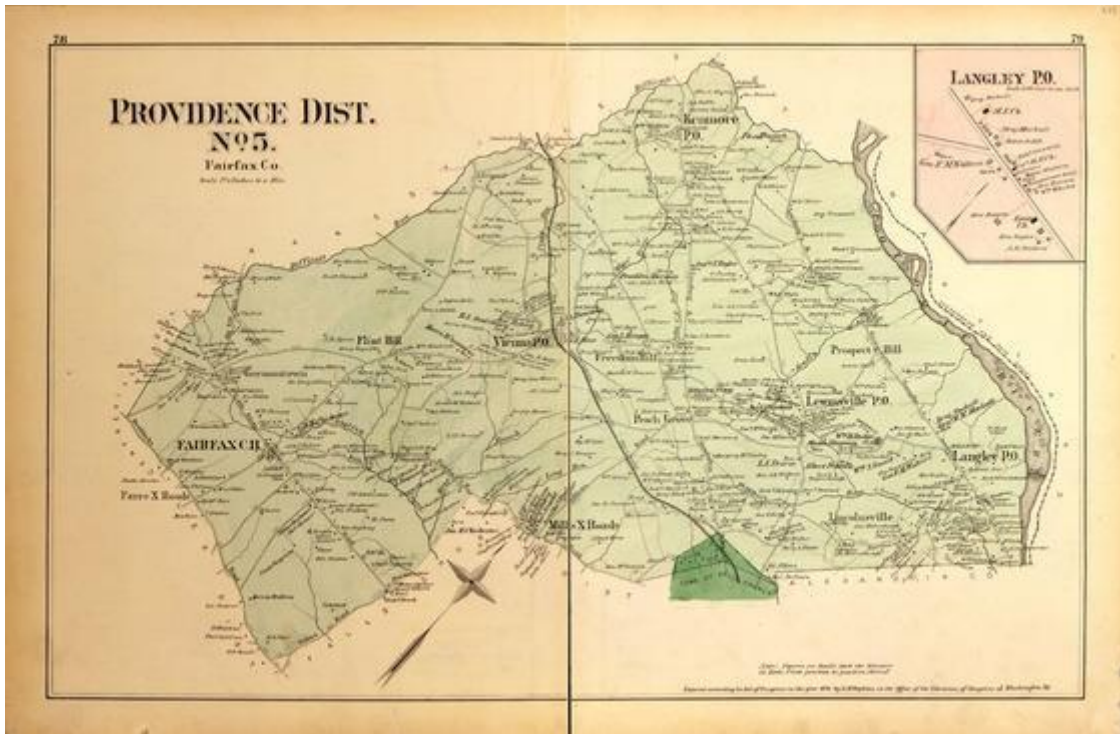
Beginning at Difficult bridge on L. R.
Turnpike down Difficult run of Potomac
river, thence up said river to the Loudoun
line, thence with the County line of Loudoun
and Fairfax, to the L. R. Turnpike and
down S. Turnpike to Difficult Bridge
& the beginning

P.S. The various Roads named as bound-
aries are assigned to the Townships in which
they are located respectively

Boundaries for Dranesville Township, from Drawer X Subject Files, Townships 1873

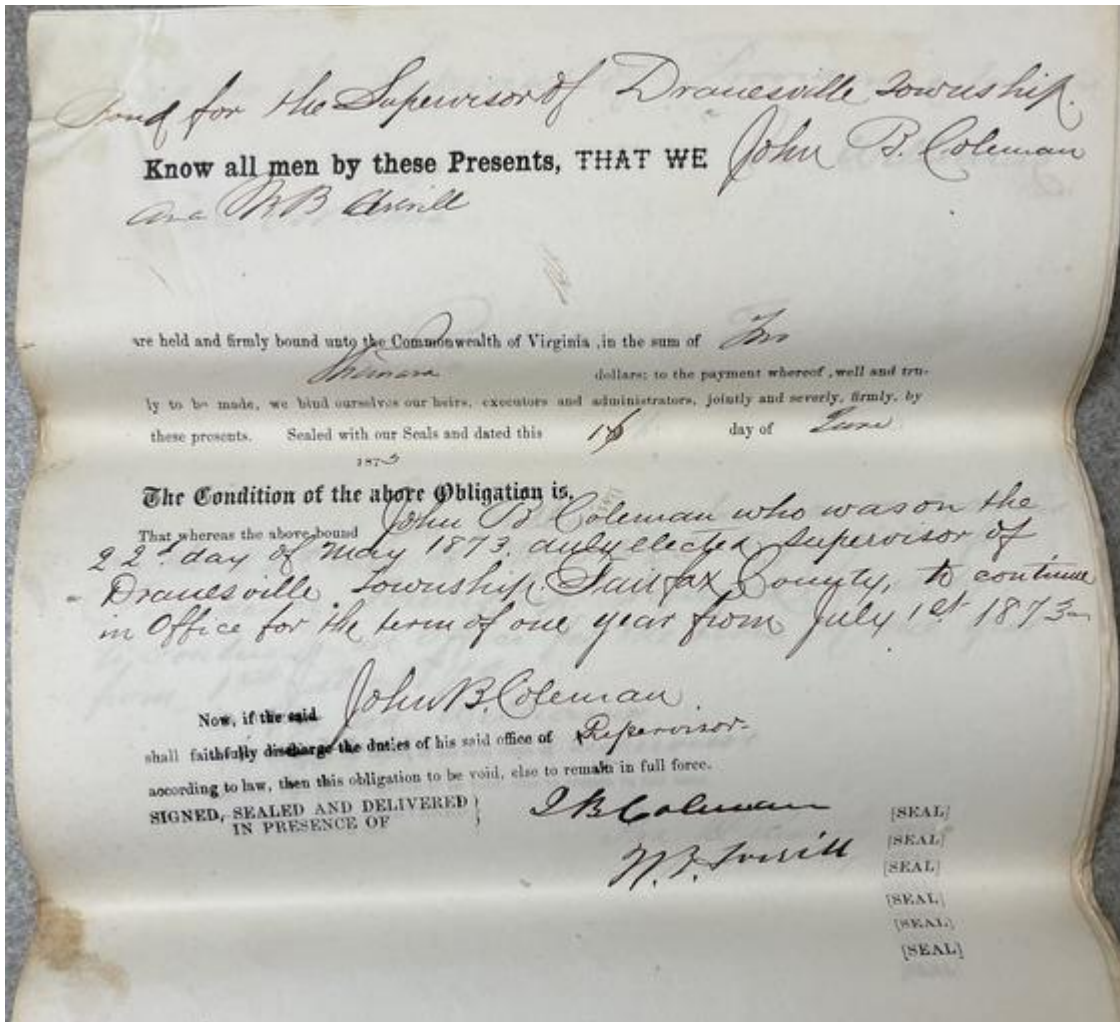


Mt Vernon District, Hopkins Atlas 1879



Providence District, Hopkins Atlas 1879

We can also see the members of the Board of Supervisors in our Term Papers collection. Just like in the 1869 Minute Book, in 1873, we see Supervisors putting up bonds after being elected to their positions. These records can be used to confirm who served as Supervisors and when they were elected.



Bond for John B. Coleman, Dranesville Township Supervisor, Fairfax Term Papers 1873-111

Today, the Board of Supervisors has its own clerk responsible for their record keeping. While most of the records the Board of Supervisors has generated throughout its history are not court records stored here at the HRC, there are still valuable documents and resources located here that can help tell the story of the Board and those who have been elected to serve on it.

For more information on these and other records held at the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center, please call 703-246-4168 or email CCRHistoricRecords@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

Historic Records Center is open to both walk-ins and appointments.