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FAIRFAX COUNTY

VIRGINIA

Found in the Archives no. 99 Circuit Court Clerk's Office Historic Records Center

Fairfax County 1860 Map and Biographies



You may be surprised to learn that one of the Historic Records Center's most frequented documents is not from the 18th or 19th century but rather from the 1980s. In this month's edition of Found in the Archives, we will look at the Fairfax County 1860 Map and accompanying 1860 Biographies, which were put together in the 1980s by the hard work of two historians, Beth Mitchell and Edith Sprouse.

Many researchers who come into the Historic Records Center are interested in learning about the history of their property or seek to learn more about where their family lived. One of the best ways to learn this information is to perform what is

called a chain of title. A chain of title involves using all of the deeds to a property to trace the ownership back as far as one can go. This can take a lot of work, and since historic deeds are not tied to addresses it can be difficult to make sure you are still looking at the correct property.

Beth Mitchell's 1860 Map is one of the main ways researchers here check their work or jump back in time when performing a chain of title. This map features a colored pencil outline of all the landowners of Fairfax County in 1860 over top of a 1981 map of the county. The map is sorted by Tax Map number, which all modern parcels are assigned, and each parcel includes the name of the land owner and references the court record by which they received the property (a deed, a will, or a court case). The 1860 map was inspired by an earlier 1760 map of landowners in Fairfax County, since the county had changed so drastically over the century.

The companion to this map are the 1860s Biographies, compiled by Edith Sprouse, which provides biographical information for each landowner featured on the 1860 Map. The biographies contain information taken from numerous sources all in one place. Before this project, researchers would have to spend hours looking through dozens of record types to find all this information that is now available on one single page. The biography for just one person can include birth dates and locations, marriage records, tax information, family information including relatives and their ages, voting records, and even what they did for work. Not all individuals have the same amount of information known about them, but even establishing they were a landowner can be very telling.

One person we can highlight researching with the map and biographies is Harriet Lamb. Harriet Lamb was a free black woman who owned land in the City of Fairfax. Featured on the 1860 Map, we can see that she owned a 12 ½ acre parcel that she received in Fairfax County Deed Book I-3 page 427. There is also a note that she went by the alias of Harriet Hall. By checking the referenced Deed Book on the map, we can learn Harriet purchased her land in September of 1844 for \$120. Her biography entry does not contain a vast amount of information, but a free black woman being the sole owner of a parcel of land in 1860 is still notable and unique.



Fairfax County 1860 Map, 56-2

(LAMB, HARRIET)

Free black. Part owner of 2 cattle and 2 hogs in 1861.
 Personal Property Tax Book

Age given as 58 in the Fairfax Co 1870 Census. Resident of Providence Twp, born in VA, a mulatto (p.400).

Fairfax County 1860 Biography, Harriet Lamb

An example of an individual with a large amount of information in his biography is Benjamin D Utterback. Utterback owned land in what is now the Centreville area of Fairfax County. From his biography, we can learn that he and his wife Susan, had eight children, and that Benjamin was a merchant and their eldest child William was working as a clerk at 18 years old. We can also see that Benjamin was a Justice of the County Court in August of 1860, he voted for secession from the Union in 1861, owned three slaves, and was the Postmaster at Centreville in 1865. The Biography also sites an 1893 Fairfax Herald article stating that Utterback, "Died in Centreville on Monday last, age 85. He was a native of Fauquier Co but lived in Fairfax over 50 years."

887:420

UTTERBACK, BENJAMIN D.	51	\$700/7000	VA	merchant
Susan E.	39		VA	married
William H.	18		VA	clerk
Ann E.	16		VA	
J.V.*	14		VA	in school
Benjamin*	11		VA	in school
James E.	9		VA	in school
Bushrod*	7		VA	
Robert*	6		VA	in school
Susan*	7/12		VA	

Tax Map # 54:4; 65:2

Agricultural Census 260:24 \$4800/200 150 - 90 acres

Horses	9	Rye	20 bu
Milk Cows	8	Indian Corn	300 bu

2033

BENJAMIN D. UTTERBACK

In 1855 lived in District 1; owned 2 dogs.

Son born in Oct., 1857 to Benjamin D. and Susan E. Utterback.
Birth Register

Serving as Justice of the County Court in Aug., 1860.
COB 1858:351

Voted in Centreville for secession in 1861.

Then owned 3 slaves, 9 horses, 1 vehicle, 6 cattle, 8 sheep,
and 30 hogs. Personal Property Tax Book

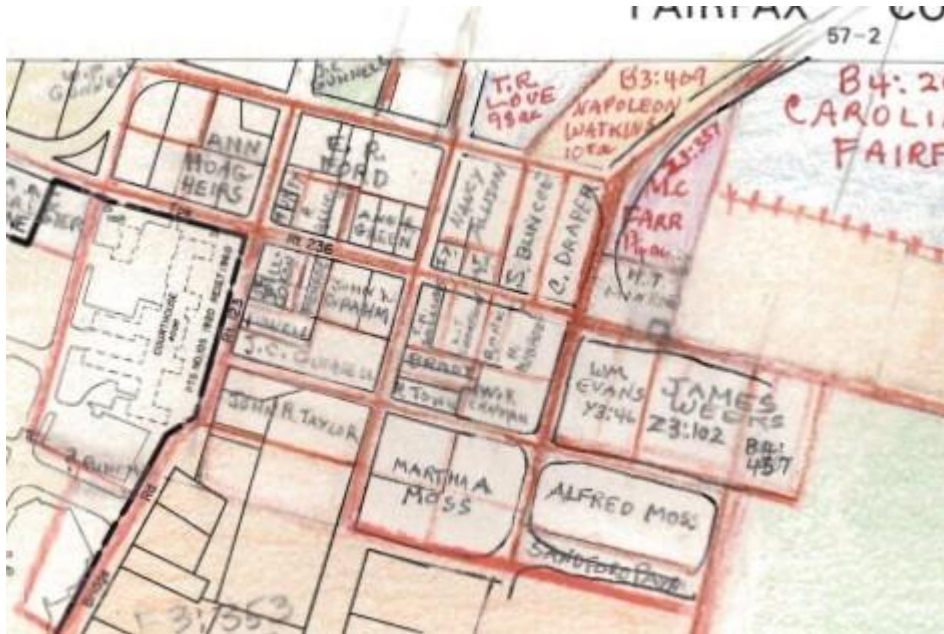
Was appointed Postmaster at Centreville on Nov. 22, 1865.
HSFC XIV:28

Son of Elias Utterback. In 1866 conveyed all of his property,
in trust, to his son William. The home tract, 240 acres, was
on the Fauquier Tpk. Also had land in Culpeper Co.
Miller, Cloud & Miller v Utterback CFF 66V (1868)

Named in a bill submitted to the Senate for the removal of
political disabilities. Alex. Gaz. June 9, 1870

Benjamin D. Utterback died in Centreville on Monday last, age
85. He was a native of Fauquier Co but lived in Fairfax over
50 years. Fx. Herald Dec. 1, 1893 (Friday)

The 1860 Map can also be used to look at the ownership of notable locations in Fairfax County. Below, you can see the landowners of Downton Fairfax City, as well as John A. Washington owning the Mount Vernon Estate.



Fairfax County 1860 Map, 57-4



Fairfax County 1860 Map, 110-4

Here at the Historic Records Center, we are thankful for the countless hours of work these women put into creating the 1860 Map and the 1860 Biographies. We utilize these resources on a weekly basis, and they provide invaluable information that can be easily accessed in one place. The 1860 Map is available for in person viewing and research at the Historic Records Center, as well as at the Virginia Room in the City of Fairfax Library. Fairfax County has also made it available digitally, and can be viewed below.

[1860 Map](#)

Found in the Archives is a monthly publication of the Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, 19th Judicial Circuit, who proudly serves The City of Fairfax and Fairfax County. The Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center (HRC) holds the early county and court records including deeds, wills, court minutes, chancery and law papers, marriage licenses, birth, death, and tax records dating from 1742 through the early 1900s housed in approximately 2300 books and roughly 750 boxes of loose paper files. HRC is open Monday – Friday 8 am to 4 pm. and offers tours at 3pm on Friday. Click below to plan your next visit or to contact us