

Arthur Thompson House, 12500 Thompson Road
Listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites
Still standing in 2019
(See Appendix F)

(Patricia Strat, 2018)

People and Places of the Navy Community Fairfax County, Virginia 1887-1984

Prepared for the the Fairfax County History Commission

By: Patricia Strat

February 22, 2019

“This community was not a community of ‘big ones’ it was a community of ‘little ones,’ little people. People that just lived from day to day and got along the best they could and were not on relief and tried to do the best possible for their families.”

(Cuba Grayson Curtice, March, 1979)

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Notes from the author:

The purpose of this document is to report new historical findings and document significant happenings of the People and Places of the Navy Community between

1887 (the construction of the one-room schoolhouse) and

1984 (the closing of the Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department.)

Copies of Fairfax County's earlier findings about Navy's Historic Sites have been included in the appendices:

Arthur Thompson House	Appendix F
Navy Post Office (site)	Appendix G
Navy Schoolhouse (site)	Appendix H

When appropriate, transcriptions of historic news articles obtained from the Fairfax County Public Library are included in this report. *The font of these articles has been italicized.*

Aerial photographs in this report are screenshots from Fairfax County's GIS & Mapping Service's aerial imagery collection.

Grace Karish's photographs from 1988 and Robert Ross Smith's remarks delivered at the opening of Navy Elementary School in 1956 (Appendix C) are courtesy of the Friends of Vale Schoolhouse archives and have been donated to the Fairfax County Public Library.

Finally, I wish to thank the following individuals for their contributions to this project.:

Suzanne Levy

Christopher Barbuschak, Fairfax County Public Library

Patricia Strat

Navy's Historic Places



(Base map Fairfax County aerial photography collection)

Key

- 1 — Frank & Annie Matthews' farmhouse—site
- 2 — F. Hosea & Cuba Curtice's farmhouse—site
- 3 — Paul Dove's Store—site
- 4 — Old Post Office—site (formerly listed on the Fairfax County of Historic Sites)
- 5 — Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Station (repurposed, standing 2019)
- 6 — Community House— site
- 7 — Fair Oaks Church of God (standing 2019)
- 8 — Arthur Thompson House (new location) (Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites)
- 9 — Thompson Family Cemetery (surviving 2019)
- 10—Navy Elementary School (standing 2019)
- 11—Navy Schoolhouse—site (formerly listed on the Fairfax County of Historic Sites)
- 12—Navy Home Demonstration Club Community House—approximate site

How Navy Was Named

The Dulles-Herndon Virginian, July 17, 1964, p 2/ Edward Wagstaff

The little hamlet of Navy is one of the high spots in Fairfax County. The very highest spot in the county is less than a mile away. It overlooks, at a safe distance, the new Dulles Airport, on Ox Road, route 608, the oldest road in upper Fairfax.

According to some geologists the Navy-Pender ridge was once a mountain range as high as the present day Alleghenies and may have been the first land in North America to rise above the ancient seas.

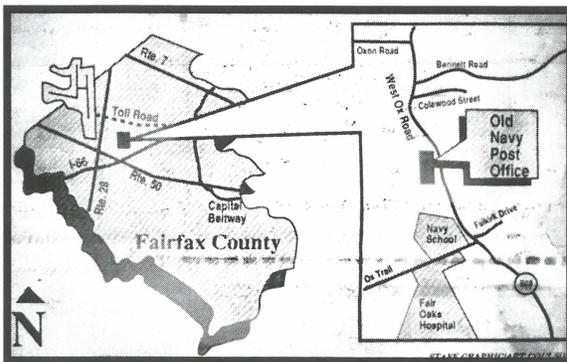
The ancient seas had nothing, however to do with its nautical name. That name came on August 8, 1892. A new post office was about to be set up at the location long known as Thompson's Corner or Thompson's Cross Roads. The citizens liked the name and wanted the post office called by that name, but unfortunately a post office had been established in Louisa County, Virginia back in December 1833 with exactly that name. The Post Office Department would not allow Thompson to be used again. The prospective patrons submitted other names but they were turned down for the same reason. Disgusted, the citizens asked, "What names will you permit us to use?" The Post Office Department obligingly sent a list of permissible names. All of the names on the list were short. Many contained only two or three letters. Navy was one of the very few four letter names. At a meeting of prospective patrons, and after debate, a name was chosen by voting. Because it was a comparatively long name, Navy was the winner.

The only other name to get any votes at all was "Ono" with very few. Strange as it may seem a village near Norfolk later selected Ono for its post office and the residents lived happily with the name for many years.

After the name was chosen the Navy post office was set up in James T. Robey's store and Robey served as the postmaster for many years. His term in office was interrupted briefly when Edward S. Dey took the office. Mr. Dey was the son of a man who fought against the South in the War Between the States and who came to this area to hold political jobs after the war. Dey was in office a short time and Robey again took over.

Navy was discontinued as a post office on August 17, 1905 . The name is still in use but the voting precinct has never been changed. It is still Thompson's Precinct today.

Where is Navy?



(Reston Times, 8/24/1988, p 03)

The boundary of the historic Navy community was the area served by the old Navy post office.

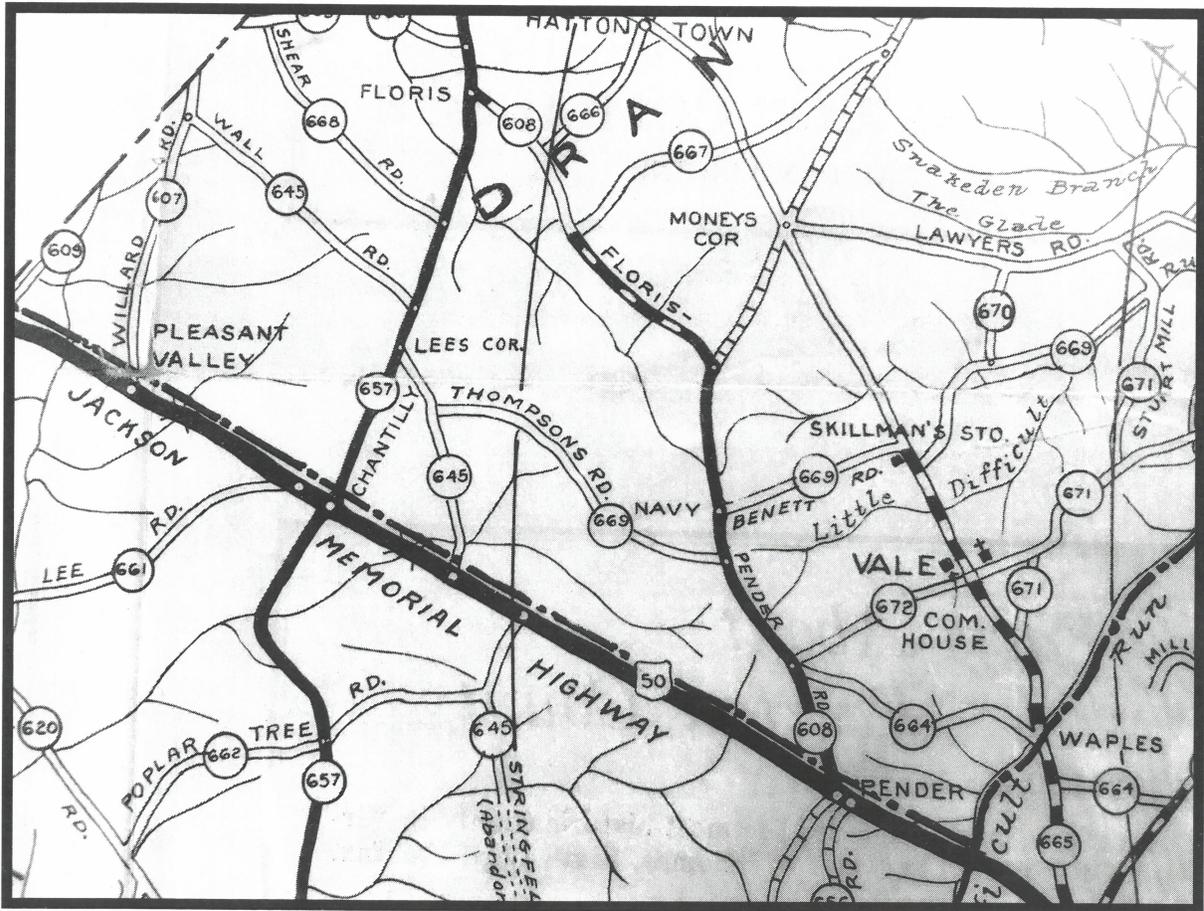
In 2018, the area of investigation was along West Ox Road (Rt 608) from Franklin Farm Road (Rt 6819) to Vale Road (Rt 672) as well as along Thompson Road (Rt 669).

Neighboring Communities

This section of the 1937 “Map of Historic Fairfax County Virginia,” published by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, depicts Navy as north of Thompsons [sic] Road and near the western terminus of Benett [sic] Road at Pender Road.

The distances from the Navy post office to the post offices of nearby communities as calculated by the Post Office Department’s Topographer’s Office in in 1898 were: [1]

Wiehle	5.5 miles north (not shown)
Vale	2.5 miles northeast
Pender	2.5 miles south
Chantilly	3.5 miles southwest
Floris	4.5 miles northwest



1937 Map of Fairfax County [2]

(Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce)

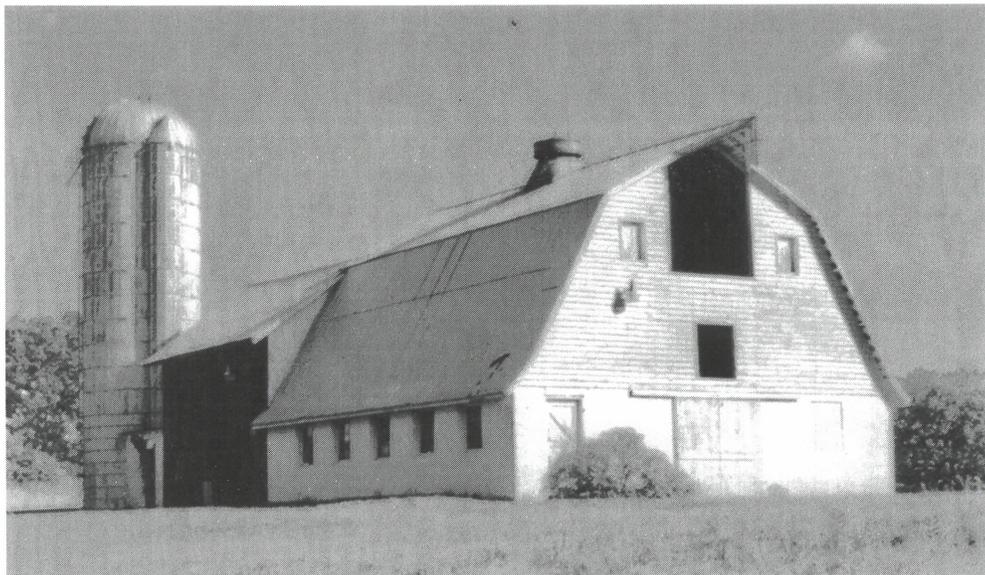
Century Oak Farm: The Grayson and Curtice Families

In the 1953 aerial image below, Thompson Road runs roughly west to east where it ends at West Ox Road. South of Thompson Road and edged by forest, is farmland known as Century Oak. Its large barn and silo, shown in the 1988 photograph below, are in the center of the aerial image.



1953 view of Century Oak Farm

(Fairfax County aerial imagery collection)



Century Oak Farm barn and silo

(Grace Karish, 1988)

Newlyweds in Navy

In 1917 [3], Fred Hosea (Hosie) Curtice (1891-1978) and his new wife, Cuba Evangeline Grayson Curtice (1898-1988), moved to the 107-acre farm in Navy owned by Cuba's father, Joel Grayson, Sr. [4] The land was originally part of the Chantilly Plantation. [5] It had apple orchards and had been farmed for one hundred years. [6] Hosie, Cuba, and their eldest child, Fred Hosea Curtice, Jr., [7] developed and ran a dairy and also raised beef cattle here. [Appendix A] Their farm was in operation for 52 years: 1917-1969. [8]

Hosie was active in the farming community and Cuba was involved in a number of community organizations in Navy and beyond. Both had highly successful fathers. The serendipitous manner of how they met and settled in Navy makes an interesting story, which comes alive in Cuba's three oral-history tapes that are on file at George Mason University. Where relevant, some of Cuba's commentary will be shared throughout this report. [9][10]

The Grayson Family

Joel Grayson, Sr. (1858-1927) lived on a 70-acre farm named "Bonny View" [Appendix A] located on Lawyers Road, one mile outside of the town of Vienna. Joel worked in Washington, D.C. as the Superintendent of the Document Room of the U. S. House of Representatives. [11] His wife, Anna Hanen Grayson (AKA Annie L. Grayson [12]) (1857-1944), was a teacher and ran the family farm [13]

In 1903, Joel Grayson, Sr., played a major role in establishing Vienna's Antioch Church. Intelligent, prosperous, kind and generous, [14] he was chosen to be the clerk of the newly formed church. [15]. During the winter of 1903-04, the church was built with wood hauled from the neighborhood of Navy and the building was dedicated June 12, 1904. [16]

In 1910, Joel Grayson, Jr. and his mother, Annie L. Grayson, purchased 107 acres of land in Navy. [17] In 1911, Joel, Jr., conveyed his interest in the land to Joel, Sr. [18]. In 1925, Cuba Grayson Curtice and her husband Hosea Curtice took out a farm loan [19] to purchase the 107 acres from her father. [20]

The Curtice Family

Fred Hosea Curtice (1891-1978) was the son of Dr. Frederick Cooper Curtice (1856-1939), a research veterinarian whose field of study was animal diseases caused by parasites, including the treatment, prevention and eradication of these diseases. Dr Curtice's chief contribution to the field of parasitology was his discovery of the life history of the cattle fever tick. From 1914 to 1925, Dr Curtice was in charge of the Bureau of Animal Industry's facility for the investigation of sheep parasites which was located on Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, Virginia. [22]

Sixteen-year-old Cuba Evangeline Grayson (1898-1988) was riding her horse on a snowy day when she first saw Hosea Curtice who was visiting his parents in Vienna, VA, during the 1914 Christmas holidays. The following April, Cuba met Hosea, who she called Hosie, at her 17th birthday party hosted by her friend, Mary Freeman. [23]. On Feb 23, 1916, Hosie and Cuba eloped to Rockville, MD. [24] The following year, Cuba and Hosie joined the Navy community.



Cuba and Hosea Curtice celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.
Fairfax City Times, February 25, 1966, p 9

Celebrate 50 Years

Fairfax City Times, February 25, 1966, p 9

Over 200 relatives and friends attended a reception held last Saturday evening at the Mosby Penthouse in Fairfax, to honor Mr. and Mrs. F. Hosea Curtice of Navy on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The reception was given by their five children, Fred H. Curtice Jr., Cortland, Va.; Cooper G. Curtice; Mrs. Ray Morrissey, Arlington; Mrs. L. R. Noll, Falls Church; and Mrs. F. J. Henderson, Fairfax.

Both Hosea and Cuba Curtice are well known throughout the county. They have resided on the same dairy farm in Navy since 1917. They moved to the farm a year after their elopement to Rockville, Md., in 1916.

Mrs. Curtice is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Grayson, of Vienna. She was born in Vienna in 1898. Her father was the superintendent of the document room of the U. S. House of Representatives. She is a direct descendant of Colonel William Grayson of Dumphries, who served as aide-de-camp to George Washington, and a cousin of the late Adm. Cary T. Grayson, personal physician to President Woodrow Wilson.

She has been a member of the Virginia Conservation Commission and ran as a candidate in 1955 for Centreville District County Supervisor.

She is now serving her second term as President of the Herndon Fortnightly Club and Library Association, and is a member of the Fairfax County Library Board.

Hosea is a native New Yorker, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Cooper Curtice of Moravia. He was born in 1891. He came to this area in 1914 as a student at George Washington University. He graduated as a veterinarian. Today, he is still active on the farm and milks their 25 cows daily.

One of the happiest moments is when they are with their 18 grandchildren, who all attended the reception.

A Few of the Navy Farms

Hosea and Cuba Curtice's Century Oak Farm

Cuba mused that “dairying is not a lazy person’s job.” In addition to operating a dairy, beef cattle and hogs were bred at the farm. The Curtices sold eggs [25] and cultivated alfalfa, which Cuba claimed to be “the best in Fairfax County.” [26]. There were apple trees and according to Cuba, “in the fall of the year everybody (*in Navy*) made a barrel of hard cider.” [27]



Apple trees outside the Curtice farmhouse.

(Grace Karish, 1988)

Cuba was told by her neighbor, Mr. Thompson, that the front of the house was built by the Rosses (1860 landowners) while Thompson had built the back part of the house, 10 years later. [28] When she arrived in 1917, the small house had kerosene lights and a privy. It was very different from the farmhouse of her childhood home in Vienna, which was a 3-story, 14-room Victorian with gas lights and a bathroom! [29]



The Matthews Farm on Thompson Road (Screenshot: "The Road to Happiness," 1924)

Frank B. and Annie Matthews' Farm

Frank and Annie Matthews and their dairy are memorialized in the Ford Motor Company's 1924 film, "The Road to Happiness." This silent film, shown nationwide, depicted poor road conditions and highlighted advantages for improving roads. [30]

FOR SALE.
Red, Late Ohio Potatoes
 \$1.25 per bushel, and
2 Graded Guernsey Heifers
 coming 1 and 2 years old.
FRANK B. MATTHEWS,
 3-14-24-c R. 1, Box 79, Fairfax, Va.

(Fairfax Herald 3-14-1924 p3)

FOR SALE
 Three year old MULE broke to-work.
 Two HOLSTEIN COWS, one coming
 fresh soon.
 One Pure Bred GUERNSEY BULL,
 three years, tested.
FRANK B. MATTHEWS,
 R. F. D. 1, Box 79,
 10-10-24-c Fairfax, Virginia.

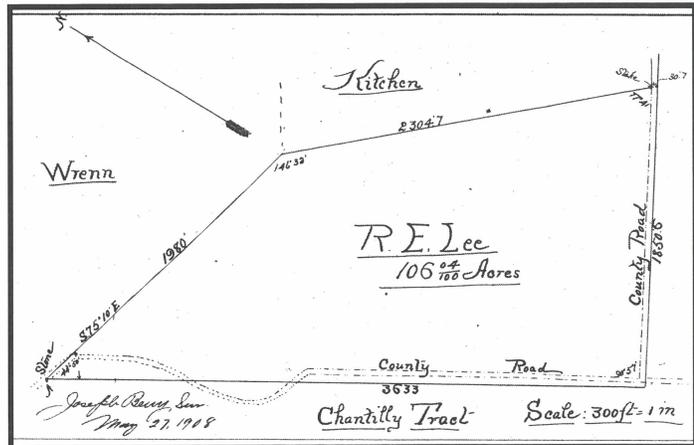
(Fairfax Herald 10-10-1924 p3)



(Screenshot: "The Road to Happiness," 1924)

To the right is a survey of the farmland made by Joseph Berry on May 27, 1908. The road on the right was later named Oxon Road and the road on the bottom was named Thompson Road.

Annie Matthews died March 7, 1960 and the farm, which still consisted of 106 acres, passed to her four children. [31]



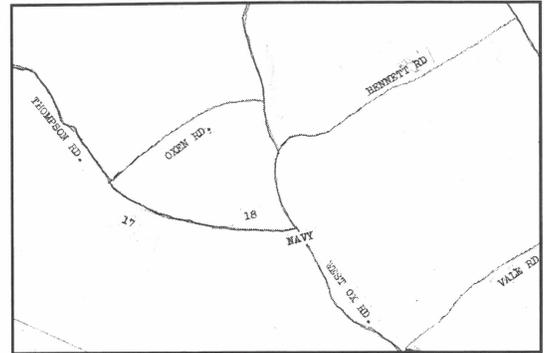
(Deed Book F8 page 513)

Jether Dove's Dairy

The Ellmores, long-time residents of Herndon, recalled two dairies in Navy. [32]

Jether Dove's (1898-1957) dairy, #18 on the map, was recognized for producing "Milk of Superior Quality" in 1935-37. [33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38]

The Curtice's Century Oak Farm is #17. Not labeled was Matthews' farm, bounded to the southwest by Thompson Rd. and to the southeast by Oxen (sic) Rd.



Navy Dairies 1920 - 1950
(Frying Pan Park archives)



Herndon News Observer, 11/12/1936 p5)

The Sealtest Laboratories of Chestnut Farms-Chevy Chase Dairy in Washington D.C. published the names of milk producers that met standards based on average bacteria count each month.

In addition to the list of honorees, the Laboratory added commentary such as:

"...we are exceedingly pleased to note that practically all of the producers whose names appeared on our 'Honor Roll' for February are back again—thus showing that their record was based upon good, solid foundation of scientific operation."

"As the season advances it becomes decidedly necessary to maintain a careful check on your cooling system. Prompt and efficient cooling is especially important in the production of milk of the required grade."

(Herndon News Observer, 4/23/1936, p5)



Dove Store (Site) 3155 West Ox, Map 0354 01 0011A (Patricia Strat, 2018)
 Dove House 3205 West Ox, Map 0354 01 0013

Dove's Store Offers Needs of Navy Area

Fairfax Herald 8/30/1935 p 3

Down through the years the general store has played a prominent part in the affairs of the community and established itself as an indispensable element in our daily life.

In keeping with the highest standards of the line of activity, Peter Dove has rendered an invaluable service to the community of Navy. He purchased the business 31 years ago from C. W. French and has added consistently to his stock and varied service schedule for the benefit of the residents.

Assisted by his wife, Annie and sons, Gether (sic) and Paul, Mr. Dove has created a demand for establishment's stock and maintained service ideals of the first order.

Choice fresh and smoked meats, fancy groceries, notions, shoes, and countless other things for the table, person and home are contained in the well-appointed enterprise.



1953 (Fairfax County aerial imagery collection)



1997 (Fairfax County aerial imagery collection)

On the left, the 1953 aerial image shows the Dove Store and Dove House on the east side of West Ox Road. Both structures are also visible in the 1997 imagery, above.

Navy Schoolhouse

3510 West Ox Road, Map 45-2((1))6

Listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites in 1996 (See Appendix H)

Demolished in 2017

“And there were two outhouses at the one-room school. There was no water there. They had to get water from the place next door and carry it in a bucket and ...we provided a basin and soap and towels because some of the children would be so dirty when they came to school that the teacher would wash them before they started classes.

“And she taught first grade through the sixth and seventh if she had anybody that needed the seventh grade instruction. That was long before the schools were consolidated and I might say right here that sometimes they got better instruction than they do now. But that can be argued, I’m sure.”

—Cuba Curtice oral history, March, 1979 (Appendix B)



Circa 1920

(Lee Hubbard Collection)

The Navy Schoolhouse was used as a setting in the Ford Motor Company’s 1924 silent movie: “The Road to Happiness” which provides viewers with a peek inside the one-room schoolhouse. (Information on viewing this video is provided in the Endnotes. [39])



(Patricia Strat, 2017)

Dranesville School Board closed Navy’s schoolhouse and the property was sold to Jether Dove in 1934. (Appendix H) According to Cuba Curtice, Mr. Dove moved the old schoolhouse back from the roadway. The building was used as a residence until it was demolished in 2017. [40]

Navy Home Demonstration Club (1928-1996)

What is a Home Demonstration Club?

Home Demonstration Clubs were organized by Virginia Polytechnic Institute's Cooperative Extension Service. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 mandated:

Cooperative Agricultural Extension work shall consist of giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons through field demonstrations, publications, and otherwise. [41]

In the beginning, the goals of home demonstrations were to help low- or average-income farm families raise enough food for themselves and their animals, plus have cash crops that would bring in some spending money. [42] By the end of the 1950s, Extension Agents focused on helping farm women "budget their families' money, time and energy through planning, directing, guiding, coordinating and evaluating the family resources for the purpose of attaining family goals." [43]

In April, 1928, four women from Navy; Mrs. Cuba Curtice, Mrs. Walter Beatty, Mrs. Emma Thompson, and Mrs. Jasper Thompson; along with Allene Allison, the Navy Schoolteacher, met to organize a local Home Demonstration Club. These women knew that the educational programs available from the Extension Service would help the families of Navy.

[Appendix B]

When Navy Schoolhouse was closed in the early 1930s, [Appendix H] the community lost its gathering place. Club members set out to raise money for a Club House and in May, 1939, acquired a deed to property to develop [44] at "the corner of Vale and Pender Roads [45]. At the end of November, "A number of men and women gathered at the New club house Saturday to clean the stumps and trash from the yard. The women worked inside the house making ready for its use..." [46]. The following month, the Navy HD Club met in the newly finished clubhouse. [47]

A complete transcript of Cuba Curtice's oral history highlighting the first 50 years of the Navy Home Demonstration Club is included as Appendix B.



(Fairfax County Public Library, FXCO-EX-166, 1930)

Cordelia Thompson, Edna De Haven and Cuba Curtice, of the Navy Home Demonstration Club, are dressed in costume for an original playlet, "Time Brings Changes," performed at the county-wide 1930 Achievement Day.

Navy Community House, 1939-1965

12503 Bennett Road

Map 0354 01 0050



1960

(Fairfax County aerial imagery collection)

The Navy Community House is in the center of the triangular lot south of Bennett Road. The Fire Station is across the road, to the north.

On April 7, 1939, five trustees acquired 0.849 acres of land on Bennett Road for the purpose of creating a Community House in Navy. The Trustees were:

Eula H. Hornbaker
May T. Robey
Emma B. Thompson
Cuba G. Curtice
William B. Wilkinson [48]

The property was sold June 29, 1965. At that time, Ms Hornbaker and Mrs. Curtice were the sole surviving trustees. [49]

11:20
Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., to permit construction and operation of fire house, on north side Route 669, approx. 200 feet east of Route 608, opposite Navy Community House, Centreville District.

On August 31, 1956, the Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals to request a permit to build and operate a fire house opposite the Navy Community House. [50]

Religious Groups in Navy

The local historical newspapers reveal several periods in Navy's history that the community organized local "Sunday Schools." At least one group met at Navy's Schoolhouse. Others met in a residence or the community hall while making plans to build a church. In 2019, one church building remained.

12/4/1908 **Fairfax Herald p3**

Church to be built at Navy

The protracted meeting at Navy, conducted by Rev. F.A. Strother, assisted the Rev. Geo. Oliver, was closed on Friday last. This congregation has outgrown the house in which the services are held, and a committee has been appointed to arrange for the building of a Southern Methodist church at that place.

2/19/1909 **Fairfax Herald p3**

Trustees were appointed for church property at ... and Navy. Mrs. Anne Robey has given a house and lot to be used as a church...

5/4/1923 **Fairfax Herald p3**

The people of Navy are pleased to know that service is to be held every Sabbath in the Navy school rooms. At 2 o'clock next Sunday afternoon the Sunday School will be organized, and at 3 p.m. the preaching service will take place. From the interest manifested no doubt many persons will be present at the opening session. Everyone in the vicinity of Navy is urged to attend and assist in this cause in the interest and welfare of the community.



(Patricia Strat (2018))

Fair Oaks Community Church of God

3309 West Ox; Map 0354 01 0062

Built 1952; Addition 1972

1950: Land purchased by the Trustees of Floris Presbyterian Church

1958: Purchased by the Trustees of Christ Presbyterian Church of Navy

1968: Purchased by the Trustees of Eternal Hope Church of God, whose history is contained in Appendix D.

1936-1943: Sunday School and Church stories in the news

3/12/1936 **Herndon News Observer p4**

"During the past few weeks residents of this neighborhood have gathered at the home of Mrs Annie Lersch at 10 am on each Sunday and conducted a Sunday School. Mr. Ernest Collins has acted as superintendent. Impassible roads made it impossible to attend church services outside the community. Since great interest has been manifested in these Sunday gatherings, it may develop that the children and adults in the community may enjoy the privileges and benefits of a Sunday School regularly. All are welcome.

Continued: Religious Groups in Navy

4/23/1936 Herndon News Observer p1

The Navy Sunday school held each Sunday at the home of Mrs. Anna Lersch continues to grow in interest and attendance. Evelyn Collins has been elected organist and Jimmie De Haven assists greatly with the music by his accompaniment on the violin. Mrs C. S. Curtis is teacher of the adult class; Mrs. Ernest Collins of the intermediate boys and girls; Evelyn Collins has charge of little beginners and Jimmie DeHaven has the primary class. Over thirty members are now enrolled and attend regularly. It is reported that plans are now being made to conduct regular prayer meeting services during the week very soon.

5/8/1936 Fairfax Herald p4

The Navy Church Sunday School at a meeting held last week elected Teacher of adult class, Mrs. C. H. Curtice; intermediate and girls' class, James De Haven; beginners' class, Miss Evelyn Collins; organist, Miss Collins; violinist, J.N. De Haven.

3/11/1937 Herndon News Observer p8

The Navy Community has organized an undenominational church group with Ernest Collins as leader. A Union Sunday School is held each Sunday morning at 10:30 am with a membership of fifty. Sunday night a Bible Class meeting is held at 7:30 pm, and the second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 pm., a Prayer meeting is held, all their meetings at the home of Mrs. Annie Lersch. The residents of the community have taken as their project the erection of a community hall as a place to hold their meetings and the meetings of the Navy Home Demonstration Club.

4/1/1937 Herndon News Observer p4

The Union S. S. held an Easter service on Sunday night and an egg hunt was much enjoyed by the children on Monday afternoon on the lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kidwell.

11/11/1937 Herndon News Observer p8

The new pastor, Rev. Bryant, of the Herndon M. E. Church delivered a very interesting sermon on Tuesday night, a large crowd was in attendance. A new chimney is being built at our church building.

3/10/1938 Herndon News Observer p8

Prayer meeting is held at the Navy Community House every first and third Friday at 7:30 pm. The Rev. Robert Stephens, of Herndon M.E. Church Leader every second and fourth Tuesday night the Rev. W. Boyd Bryant pastor of the Herndon Wolfe memorial M.E. South will lead the services.

4/14/1938 Herndon News Observer p4

Prayer Services are held every first and third Friday at 8 pm at the Community House. The Rev. Robert Stephens of the Herndon M.E. Church and the Rev. W. Boyd Bryant of the Herndon Wolfe Memorial M.E. Church, South, in charge of the services.

3/14/1940 Herndon News Observer p5

The Navy Sunday School has made plans for a new building on the same grounds as the old shop building, and is progressing very nicely with the frame work. Every one wishes them success with the building. They have received a large number of contributions which were greatly appreciated.

4/4/1940 Herndon News Observer p5

The Navy Sunday School wants to take this means of thanking every one that helped in any way, to make it possible to erect our new chapel. Every one is cordially invited to attend our meetings.

6/24/1943 Manassas Journal p7

Navy Sunday School wishes to announce that we hold Sunday School every Sunday at 10:30 o'clock and young peoples meeting at 8 o'clock each Sunday night now that our pastor is gone. Come out and enjoy our meetings. While we miss our pastor, we of Navy are proud to have known so noble a man that he would give up the comforts of home and family for the good of our boys.



(Patricia Strat, 2019)

Thompson Family Cemetery

Between 12510 & 12514 Thompson Road

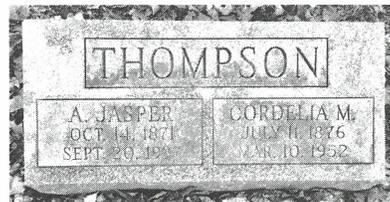
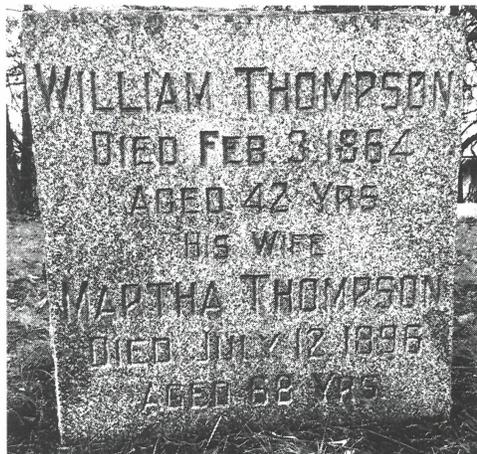
Map Number 0354 01 0074

From the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association report, January 8, 2016 [51]

Family records indicate that there are 23, including ten children, buried there. There are three commercial grave stones, but most of the graves are unmarked. There is also evidence of a few field stones which might mark graves. The fence is in very bad condition.

The 1860 census records indicate that William Thompson, his wife Martha and five children lived near by. Thompson owned six acres and was a mechanic. Also, family records relate that William Thompson was a Mosby's Ranger during the Civil War. In 1864, he was captured and imprisoned at Point Lookout Prison in Maryland where he died and was buried. Corbin Thompson, William's son, installed a gravestone for William in the cemetery. It is not clear as to whether the family moved William's remains from the prison to the family cemetery.

Two Arthur Thompsons, father and son, are buried at the cemetery. A home belonging to Arthur Thompson still stands today and is listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

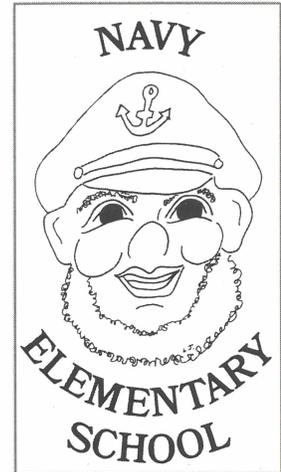


Navy Elementary School

3500 West Ox Road
Map 0354 01 0086

Navy Elementary School was dedicated on March 18, 1956. Three of the women at the ceremony had been teachers in the adjacent one-room Navy Schoolhouse: Mrs. Harrison, the principal of the new Navy School; Mrs. Fleming, the treasurer of the Navy P.T.A.; and Mrs Allison, a distinguished guest. [Appendix C]

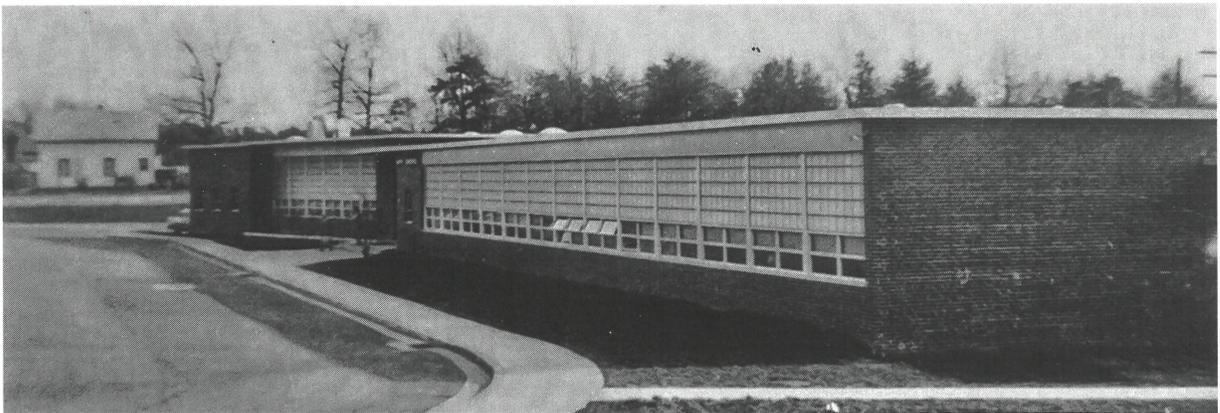
Robert Ross Smith, the president of the Navy Community League, spoke at the ceremony. In his remarks, which are included as Appendix C, Mr Smith stated that the "Navy Community League... played a large share in the establishment of our new school."



When it opened, Navy Elementary had nine rooms, a cafeteria and a library. The school mascot was a sea captain, which the students named Captain Ness: **Navy Elementary School Students**. In 1958, six additional classrooms were added. [52]

During the 1978-79 school term, the older part of the school was renovated and a new addition was built which added a gymnasium, music room, library and special education rooms. [53]

In 1985 students selected the dolphin as the school's mascot. [54] In 1986, a new wing was built, adding ten classrooms. The cafeteria was expanded, the building was connected to the public sewer and a bus loop was incorporated into the site plan. [Appendix E] Another addition was made in 2004. [55]



(Fairfax County Public Library Photographic Archive)

1958 - Navy Elementary School in the foreground; Navy Schoolhouse in the background



1969

(Fairfax County Public Library Photographic Archives)

Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department

12504 Bennett Road
Map 0354 01 0037A

On August 31, 1956, the Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals to request a permit to build and operate a fire house opposite the Navy Community House. [56]

By October, 1961, the fire department had a membership of about 80 men. Training included practicing with the pumpers by filling and emptying their tanks at the pond on the Curtice Farm. [57] Plans for additional training included instruction from the fire department at Dulles Airport on fighting air plane fires using two of the biggest foam trucks in the world. [58] The firemen and the women of the Ladies Auxiliary were also taking a first aid course.



The fire department had become a welcome addition to the Navy community and residents made generous contributions to the department during fundraising campaigns. Turkey and Ham Shoots were held at the fire house and the Ladies Auxiliary hosted activities for children in the community. [59]

In February, 1962, Capt. J. S. O'Rourke, captain of the Navy-Vale rescue squad, spoke at the dedication ceremony of the VFD's first ambulance: "It is a true community spirit, as the monies needed for starting this tremendous project and keeping it going, have come from community groups and individuals. We must rely on private funds for survival." [60]

In 1969, Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department had 7 full-time paid firemen who were supplemented by volunteers. The Department had two pieces of structural equipment, two brush-fire fighting units and one ambulance. [61]

In 1984, the Navy-Vale Volunteer Fire Department relocated to a modern facility at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. The new facility provided a larger area to house vehicles, sleeping quarters for both paid and volunteer firemen, refueling capability and better access to the area served by the department. While the station kept its number, 21, its name was changed to the Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company. [62]

In 2019, the old fire station on Bennett Road is owned by Fairfax County and leased as a storage facility. [63]



1969

(Fairfax County Public Library Photographic Archives)



Mike Sanders Collection

Mike Sanders, Old Dominion Historical Fire Society, 10/30/2016)

1966 American LaFrance 900 1000/300 purchased from Annandale Station 23 May, 1978. Engine 21 was in service at Navy-Vale through December, 1983. It was subsequently sold to Carlisle, PA Friendship VFC in 1984, where it was extensively modified.

Plans for Large-Scale Housing Development in Navy Dropped
The Reston Times, Sep 13, 1979, pA01/ Elise Burroughs

Prominent developer John T. Hazel has dropped plans to build a housing development similar to Burke Center in the Navy-Vale area between West Ox Road and Centreville Road.

Instead of an 800-acre planned development with a mix of housing types and higher population density, Hazel has applied for rezoning to build single family detached homes, Centreville District Supervisor Martha Pennino said Tuesday. The development is tentatively called Franklin Farms. Pennino said she opposed Hazel's plans announced last year, for clustered housing at a higher density than that normally granted for housing developments.

"There are areas of the county that would benefit from a mixed, planned community type of development, but the Navy area is not one of them," Pennino said.

(continued on next page)



(Fairfax County aerial imagery collection)

1980 aerial photo of the Navy-Vale Community showing its forest and farm lands. The white star is Century Oak Farm, with Thompson Road to its north. The yellow dot is Navy Elementary School, on West Ox Road. Route 50 cuts diagonally across the left corner.

Continued: Plans for Large-Scale Housing Development in Navy Dropped:

"It is too close to Reston," Pennino said. "Reston was originally supposed to be buffered by a circle of low-density areas. Unfortunately, what we're seeing now is development right smack up against the boundaries of Reston. I can't stop that, but I can try to keep the density down."

Pennino said that she would not oppose Hazel's proposal to build a shopping center in the development because citizens of Navy-Vale told her they would welcome the convenience of nearby stores.

"I'm not going to push for the shopping center, but I won't oppose it," Pennino said.

Of more interest to her, Pennino said, is the suggestion she made to Hazel to put the Dranesville Road extended through the proposed Franklin Farms and other Hazel land south of that tract near Route 50.

"I have written a letter to the Virginia Department of Highways asking them if they would supply the gravel and asphalt for building the road. Mr. Hazel has indicated he might be willing to build part of the road through his land if he could get the highway department to foot part of the bill," she said.

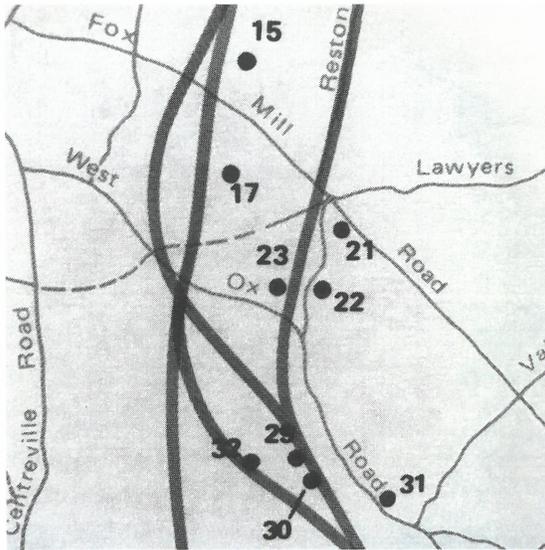
Building the road through Hazel's property would avoid existing homes in the Navy-Vale area that would be affected by some road alignments currently under study by the highway department.

Hazel proposed in a rezoning earlier in the summer that the road be built to Route 50 through another tract he owns. The intersection with Route 50 is considered critical in deciding which path the cross-county road follows to the south. The board of supervisors refused Hazel's offer to re-route the road, it said, because the highway department will have the final say on where the road will go.

Hazel was unavailable for comment on Tuesday.

Springfield Bypass and Extension Planning

The Springfield Bypass, later known as the Fairfax County Parkway, was placed on the County's priority planning in April, 1977. [64] Proposed routes bisected or skirted the Navy Community. The route ultimately bisected Century Oak Farm and Thompson Road.



Maps from:
Final Environmental Impact Statement
Springfield Bypass and Extension
(Signed 5/18/84) [65]

Existing Communities

- 15 Stratton Woods
- 17 Fox Mill Estates
- 21 Money's Corner
- 22 Myterra
- 23 Glenbrook Woods
- 29 Ray Crest Estates
- 30 Vestavia Woods
- 31 Navy-Vale
- 32 Navy Park

"The woodlands and many trails between U.S. Route 50 and West Ox Road are highly valued by residents of Navy-Vale, although the area is undergoing rapid development." [66]



LEGEND

- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- High Density Residential
- Commercial and Retail
- Industrial and Office
- Public Facilities*, Institutional and Governmental
- Public Parks
- Private Parks, Recreation and Golf Courses
- Agriculture
- Open Areas and Undeveloped Land

Fairfax County Parkway Bisects Navy

Fairfax County aerial photographs show the change in Navy's landscape resulting from the construction of the new highway.



(Fairfax County aerial photography collection)



(Fairfax County aerial photography collection)

1980: Before

Century Oak Farm is south of Thompson Road and east of the golf course property. The farm's footprint is the same as depicted in the map of 1860 landowners of Fairfax County. [67]

The Curtice homesite is visible on the eastern part of their property. Cuba Curtice resided here from 1917 until her death, in 1988.

1990: After

The new divided highway, now called the Fairfax County Parkway, bisects the former Century Oak Farm. The old homesite and barn, surrounded by green space, are still visible.

North of the farm, the Parkway parallels the southwestern side of Thompson Road, before eventually bisecting the historic road further north.



(Grace Karish, 1988)

Navy Post Office

Formerly: 3208 West Ox Road
Map 35-4((1))10 (demolished 2002)



2002 (Fairfax County aerial photography collection)

The old Post Office is indicated by the arrow.

The property, which was listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites in 1996, was demolished in 2002. The site is now underneath the widened West Ox Road.

The Historic Site Report is included in Appendix G.

Old Navy Post Office—Apple of Local Man’s Eye

Reston Times, 8/24/1988, p A03

It was love from the moment Shambhu Chapekar saw her. She was not beautiful. She was not young. But her understated dignity and rustic charm drew the 63-year-old, retired postmaster to her. When he got to know her, her rich heritage, filled to the rim with century-old memories, only made him care for her more. Now, he fears she will be destroyed.

The object of Chapekar’s affections is a 19th-century post office at 3208 West Ox Rd., near Fair Oaks Mall: A weather-worn-gray, two-story “house” that sits inches from a hairpin curve on a traffic-congested road.

Once the official post office of the now-forgotten town of Navy, Va., she now serves only as a storage shed. Her windows are broken and boarded up. “No trespassing” signs are plastered all over her faded, cracked walls. Weeds and rusty auto parts are strewn across her lawn.

Like many old buildings built on once-quiet county roads, she is in the way of progress—bound to fall prey to road widenings, highway interchanges and office parks.

(continued on next page)

Continued: Old Navy Post Office—Apple of Local Man's Eye

The county's limited preservation funds can do little to prevent her inevitable demise, as well as the demise of many buildings like her, according to County Historian Liz David. "The history commission is aware of it," David said. "We just don't have the money to save it.

County transportation officials have begun widening West Ox Road where it meets Rte.50. Plans don't involve the post office, which is at least 5 miles north of the Rte, 50 intersection, a department spokesman said. "But that building is awfully close to the road," the spokesman said. "I don't now what will happen in the future."

"There are three things the county can do when a historical building is in the way of progress: Save it, relocate it, or document it if it must be destroyed, David said. If buildings are moved, they are often used as shops or small office buildings. Moving a building can cost about \$50,000, depending on the shape and size, she said. "It's just too expensive to move every building that is threatened," she added.

Chapekar, who lives in Herndon on an immigration visa, says if people know the post office's history, they will say it is worth saving. "It has been here for 95 years," he said. "If we lose it, we'll be losing a very important landmark."

Chapekar spent nearly a year researching the building's heritage. He contacted everyone from the Smithsonian to the Herndon Historical Society. He thinks he has only scratched the surface of the post office's past. He longs to know more.

The post office was erected in the late 19th century, James Robey, the first postmaster, was appointed in 1892, according to Smithsonian statistics. Five postmasters followed, before service was discontinued in 1907. The county library system doesn't have detailed information on the old building because such records are only kept on buildings built in the 20th century, a librarian said.

Katherine Dove Rusk, 74, the last postmaster's former daughter-in-law, still lives across the street from the old facility. Rusk watched the building transform from a newly closed post office to a well-cared-for house to a run-down rental property to a boarded-up storage shed.

She said it was condemned about six years ago, when a car speeding around the West Ox Road curve hit its front porch. "With about 25,000 cars coming around that turn every day, something like that was bound to happen," she said.

After its condemnation, Louise Cross, of Centreville and Millard Wyatt of Arlington, bought it to store old furniture and appliances. Like Chapekar, Cross and Wyatt have researched the building's past and have a list of all former postmasters. Cross got her list from the National Archives and the Washington Historical Society. They, like Chapekar, fear transportation officials will tear the old building down.

Rusk said county surveyors come around often and inform neighbors the county is considering widening the road north of the Navy schoolhouse, which is down the street. That would mean almost certain death for the old post office. "They've been talking about that for 40 years now," Rusk said, "And the road is the same width now it was then."

Endnotes

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PAGE 9 A Few of the Navy Farms, Hosea and Cuba Curtice's Century Oak Farm

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27. Oral History, Jul 11, 1985, #1, Side 2 14:40
28. Oral History, Jul 11, 1985, #1, Side 1 9:15
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NORTHERN VIRGINIA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BIOGRAPHY FORM (c.1985)

Collection #C0030, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

Name (including maiden name if applicable) Cuba Evangeline Grayson
No. of years in residence / own or rent? 68 years / own

Occupations: Post office clerk, Substitute teacher

Religion/church membership / Dates of membership
 Antioch Christian / all of life (baptized in Wolf Trap Run)

Membership in clubs/organizations (community, religious, political, professional, social, etc; include dates of membership and offices held or duties performed)

Democratic Party (formerly) Weavers' Guild
 Fortnightly Club, Herndon Navy Home Demonstration Club
 Salvation Army Board (life member)

Previous residences "Bonny View" Lawyers Rd

<u>Spouse's name</u>	<u>Date and Place of Birth</u>	<u>Date and Place of Marriage</u>
F. Hosea Curtice	Sept 7, 1891, Monrovia, NY	Rockville, MD

Spouse's Occupation / Years in Occupation
 Dairy & beef cattle farmer / 61 years

Names of children / Date of birth/date of death

Fred Hosea Curtice, Jr	Nov 9, 1918
Anna (D. Morrissey)	Oct 15, 1920
Cooper Curtice	Mar 8, 1922
Barbara Lucille (Noll)	July 29, 1926
Susan Cooper (Ensall)	Oct 28, 1931

<u>Parents</u> (m 1882)	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Father</u>
Name	Anna Hanen	Joel Grayson
Date of birth	1857	1858
Place of birth	Washington, PA	Luray, VA
Occupation(s)	School teacher mother	Storekeeper Special Clerk, House Document Room

Brothers and Sisters / Dates of birth

Joel Grayson, Jr.	c. 1888	Ralph	c. 1892 (twin)
Beatrice	c. 1883	Raymond	c. 1892 (twin)
Stewart	c. 1885	Laurance	c. 1895
Gladys	c. 1890	Cuba	April 16, 1898

Name and place of birth of:

Maternal grandmother	Van Der Voort	b. Pennsylvania
Maternal grandfather	John Hanen	b. Pennsylvania
Paternal grandmother	Seibert	b. Virginia
Paternal grandfather	Benjamin Franklin Grayson	b. Luray(?) Virginia

Beginnings of the Navy Home Demonstration Club

Transcription of an audio recording made by
Mrs. Cuba Grayson Curtice
March, 1979

George Mason University Libraries
Northern Virginia oral history project C0030, Series 2, Box 6
Home Demonstration History, undated (1 sound cassette.)
Donated by Cuba Curtice

(Begins at 2:56)

Some of the ladies of the Home Demonstration Club have asked me to give a resume of the early formation of the Club due to the fact that the early minutes were lost or destroyed unintentionally. And I'm the only charter member left, so I guess its up to me to try to do what I can.

The Club was organized 50 years ago last April. In 1928. Four of us met in the old Navy schoolroom, which is now occupied by Mrs. Scott's family. And we organized a club. The charter members were Mrs. Walter Beatty, who lived over on the...in the big tile house over at Money's Corner. It was the biggest house in the neighborhood at that time. They had come here from somewhere else, I believe Leesburg. And Mrs. Emma Thompson, from the neighborhood here and Mrs. Jasper Thompson. Mrs. Curtice, Mrs. Cuba Curtice, and Allene Allison, who was the schoolteacher at that time.

(4:24)

We decided that we needed something in this community; there was absolutely nothing here, not even any church services. And we felt that there was a great nutritional need, some knowledge of nutrition. And so we decided we'd do the best we could on it. We had some help from C.C. Carr, who owned the Chantilly Farm. (He) had come up from here from Grayson County in southwest Virginia. He'd been active in 4-H Club work and Farmers Clubs and so forth. And he was a teacher, and a very intelligent man. And he had also worked out of the tax assessors office here and was familiar with the mode of life and the income of most of the people in the area, which was a community of marginal families.

There were a few families in the immediate area that were pretty well fixed but the rest of them worked on the farms in the area and in the woods because at the time that, I'm talking about where Reston is now, was a forest. And there was pulp wood and lumber cut out of there all the time. And also there were a lot of chestnut trees at that time and they used the chestnut trees for railroad ties. And its very difficult, I think, for anyone to realize conditions then because so much of history is...all this stuff is glossed over and its only about the "big ones." And this community was not a community of "big ones" it was a community of "little ones," little people. People that just lived from day to day and got along the best they could and were not on relief and tried to do the best possible for their families.

And it was these people that I was primarily interested in because I felt they needed help. And I had talked to Mr. Carr and he thought that 4-H Club would be a good way but we had to make some impression before we could get the children in this thing because its unbelievable how ignorant some of the people were and how suspicious they were of anything new. For instance, when Hosie (*note: Cuba's husband*) and I came here, we were not related to anybody and we were almost treated like foreigners because most of them were kin through marriage or long association. And it took quite some doing to make them realize that we were people just like they were. But we made it.

(7:12)

And this Club was started primarily for that reason, because of the great need in this community for help, not financially, but for help... help them to grasp the things as they existed and to use what they had to the best advantage.

Of course there was no electricity at that time in the community and there was not any bathrooms in the community that I know of at that time. We had one much later on but in the earlier years here we had an outhouse like everybody else. And there were two outhouses at the one-room school. There was no water there. They had to get water from the place next door and carry it in a bucket and ...we provided a basin and soap and towels because some of the children would be so dirty when they came to school that the teacher would wash them before they started classes. And she taught first grade through the sixth and seventh if she had anybody that needed the seventh grade instruction. That was long before the schools were consolidated and I might say right here that sometimes they got better instruction than they do now. But that can be argued, I'm sure.

But at this time I'm speaking of, its awfully hard to make anyone now understand how little people had to go on. And yet they had that indomitable spirit to keep on anyway. And that was what made the Club grow, I think, well because people are curious anyway and we met in the different houses. They met here sometimes and Mrs. Beatty's sometimes and of course there was a bathroom in the Beatty house which functioned part of the time and sometimes it didn't, but we met there. We met at Mrs. Jasper Thompson's, even though it was a little bit of a house, it was filled with love and warmth because she did a lot of handwork and she had crocheted articles on the walls in lieu of pictures which is quite fashionable now. And she had twelve children, some of them died in infancy, but she did the best she could, too. And I never, in all the years that I knew Mrs. Jasper, I never heard her say anything critical of anyone else. And it takes a lot of courage to put up with poverty, with that many children and not enough money to go on, for anyone to still maintain a fairness in judging other people but she did it. And after we got established, Mrs. Robey; the Robeys were the best fixed of any people in the neighborhood.

(10:47)

As I said before, the majority of the people in this area were related to each other. And Mrs. Robey was a sister-in-law of Mrs. Jasper Thompson. And the word went to her. And Mrs. McCauley was related to a good many people in the neighborhood, too. She joined, and I'll say this much, she made the best cake I ever tasted and I've tried and tried. And she died with the recipe. Nobody ever got it from her. It was a pound cake and it was really good. And I've tried everything, every way, to make one but I've never been able to make it like she did. Unless its because I'm older now and my taste is the same, I don't know. In any rate she really made good cake. If she promised you something for a dinner, you could depend on it being there and on time because she never let you down. Then Mrs. Balkman joined. And we had some of the daughters: Elsie Thompson, who was Mrs. Emma's daughter, and then later on Mildred Thompson, who was Mrs Emma's daughter-in-law, who was Everett's wife; he has the vegetable stand down here on West Ox. ...

There was a hard core of people in this community, and by that I don't mean they were hard, but you know what I mean—its just that they were just determined that they would not be in anything. They were not joiners. And we tried our best and some of those people were the most ignorant about nutrition and education and what children need and getting teeth looked after and eyes tested and all that. We had a terrific time with some of them. But we never could get those women in the Club. We tried every way we could. It seems basically the problem was men. Their husbands were afraid of something they didn't understand. And they had a fear that perhaps that (13:02) well maybe they didn't want their wives to go anywhere, I don't know, men are peculiar anyway. We never did get them in and honestly, I can't name names on this because it wouldn't be fair. But I've gone over these things privately to myself many times and written some of it down, but these families that we couldn't reach have not done as well; their children have not done as well as the ones that we did reach.

(13:35)

So I take some measure of comfort in that that all the miles I put in with an old Model T, and on horseback and all the work that a lot of we older women put in in this Club it has really paid off in the long run. And I think the proof of that is that the Club is still in existence because there must have

been some reason for it staying on as it has and I hope it will continue that way. And I think this may bring the minutes up.

I don't know the nitty gritty of those lost minutes. I do know that we had ice cream festivals and we went around to the different storekeepers in Herndon, Vienna and where over there used to be Wrenn's store, Huck Down's store now and run by someone else and we Syd Rand used to give us coffee, ice for the... he'd get the ice from Manassas, ice for the ice cream. All we had to do is to haul it. And they were all very good about giving to these things because they saw the need also. And we didn't have to buy very much stuff. Hornbakers could always be depended on for milk. And Curtices couldn't be always depended on for milk because we had a dairy farm and milk was our living. But we always gave eggs and sugar. And that wasn't sugar that was donated by the stores, that was sugar we gave ourselves because that was to make up for the difference in the milk. We made ice cream and we used to have these things at the schoolhouse. Because at that time we didn't have any Club House. And it was too much to go in on anybody at home to have something like that. so we would make up the custard for the ice cream in our homes and take it up there

(15:44)

We used freezers; before we bought our own, we used whatever we could get. We had one and several other people had them.....

And we had pie socials, we used to make pies, and we had box suppers to raise money. Believe it or not there wasn't any—when the schools were first consolidated and the kids started to Floris—the County didn't even supply toilet paper. That's unthinkable now. There was no such thing as the PTA in those early days, but some of us got busy and we had these different things to raise money to buy toilet paper and things of that sort.

And before we were consolidated we used these pie socials and box suppers to provide playground equipment up here at the little elementary school, the little one-room school. And we had baseball, but not basketball because it wasn't very popular then, but baseball and softball. And I never cared for either one but I helped to see that they didn't kill each other and get in fights over it when they had the games, because there was a lot of violence in this community.

For some of the members in the community here, the weekend pastime was getting drunk. And it was particularly bad in the fall of the year when everybody made a barrel of hard cider. You really had a time with a few of the people that never did get over it; they just kept right on up until it killed them. So we had to watch out for that sort of thing, too. That coupled with the fact that men, so many men, and ignorant people don't think women know anything.

Of course there are still some like that. (17:32) They were opposed to anything that women were doing; if they did it independent of men, well that just couldn't be good. And of course I think that phase of our society is over now. It's hopeful that it is, but I hope they don't go to the other extreme and make all the men into housewives. I don't approve of that either. There's a happy medium to be reached. But I believe that this information I've given you, for what its worth, I think it just about fills that gap. I don't know who the officers were. I do know that Mrs. Beatty was president and I was vice president and Alleen Allison was the secretary. And the first minutes were kept in just a plain school composition book and when that was turned over to some of the other members. The minutes were very badly treated by some Club members apparently they...well...they may have been careless of their own things, too, but I think even if you are inclined to be careless of your own things I think anything that is of public record should be taken care of and I felt very badly that the minutes were so badly mouse eaten and chewed up when I got them back in my possession. And I'm sure a thing like that will never happen again to them. At some time (19:03) perhaps if I could get the minutes ...I could give you some highlights on anything you have question about. It's rather difficult for me to sit here and go back over all those years that's been a long time.

Remarks delivered by Mr. Robert Ross Smith, President of the Navy Community League, at the dedication of the New Navy School, on the snowy afternoon of March 18th, 1956.

Principal Harrison, President Scott, Teachers, members of the Navy School P.T.A., Distinguished Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with some temerity that I, a newcomer of but five years' residence in this area address you on the subject of the proud heritage and rich traditions of our section of Fairfax County. But all of us, old residents or new, can and should share in this heritage—a heritage which is brought home to us as we gather to dedicate this new public school.

To illustrate how far back this school's heritage goes, we need only to note that the very road in front of us antedates English colonization of this region. The road was once an Indian trail, and along this trail, in the year 1729, Robert "King" Carter—an ancestor of Robert E. Lee—constructed Ox Road. Carter's purpose was to transport to Occoquan ore from copper mines he opened along Frying Pan Run, near the present day Floris. His copper project failed, but Carter, who acquired huge grants of land in this area from Lord Fairfax, was largely responsible for opening local lands for settlement. Carter and his sons turned to farming, and our new school stands on what was once a Carter plantation. The ancestors of some of you in our group today lived on Carter land, and there are children attending the new Navy school who share direct descent in the history of Ox Road, now over 225 years old as a path of western civilization.

Another landmark in our heritage here is the rainy afternoon of 1 September 1862, one of but many dark days in the War Between the States. With apologies to guests who may come from Chantilly, I claim for this area the so-called Battle of Chantilly, a bloody affair that took place on that September day. The battle was not fought near Chantilly at all, but rather on the south side of Route 50 at Pender, then known as Ox Hill. I'm sure that all of you know where the monument to General Philip Kearney is located. Kearney, who had earlier won fame as an explorer in the west, was a Union general who was killed at the Battle of Ox Hill, as the Battle of Chantilly was named by the Confederate forces.

With mention of just these few high points of our heritage, let us pass to the educational traditions of the Navy area.

It didn't take long for the people of our section to recover from the ravages of civil war, and in the fall of 1866 the residents here opened a public school less than a mile from this spot. That school, the earliest in the immediate Navy area as far as indicated by available records, stood at the intersection of the Ox Road and Waples Mill Road. There were still earlier schools in the vicinity. There was a school at Vale, for example at least as early as 1852.

About 1885 the Ox Road Junction school burnt down, and for a year or two the children of our area were educated at Vale, Pender, or Floris. This dispersion soon proved unsatisfactory, and in 1888 a new Navy School was opened. The building that housed this 1888 school still stands right next door to where we are now meeting, and there are many in this audience who will remember attending classes there. Three people here today, Mrs. Harrison, our principal; Mrs. Fleming, the treasurer of our P.T.A.; and Mrs. Allison, one of our distinguished guests, were teachers in that building. I leave it to them to compare for you the old with the new.

In 1930 the rural school consolidation program caught up with the old Navy School, and the local children began to attend classes at Floris in a building that had once been a vocational high

school. For a long time we at Navy have been without a school, but today, after nearly 30 years, our own has come back to us, bringing with it our local heritage and our local educational traditions.

Let us not belittle—let us not forget—our heritage and our traditions. Rather, let the help us on our way to the fuller life, rich in those things that blossom from the learning and education that—our local history shows—the people of the Navy area have sought for generations.

And now, in the name of the Navy Community League, which played a large share in the establishment of our new school, I want to wish the Navy school, its principal, and its teachers, good luck, good learning, and good children.

Robert Ross Smith
18 March 56

The Author

Robert Ross Smith received a B.A. and M.A. in American History from Duke University. A graduate of the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1943, he served on the staff and faculty of the Special Services School at Washington and Lee University and then, for two years, was a member of the G-3 Historical Division at General Douglas MacArthur's General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area. He presently holds a reserve commission as a lieutenant colonel of Infantry.

Mr. Smith has been with the Office of the Chief of Military History, either as an officer on active duty or as a civilian, since January 1947. His first book in the series THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN WORLD WAR II, *The Approach to the Philippines*, was published in 1953. He is currently working on his third volume for the series, *The Riviera to the Rhine*. Mr. Smith's other works include an essay in *Command Decisions* (New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1959, and Washington: Office of the Chief of Military History, 1960); an article on tactical supply problems in *Military Review*; the article on the Pacific phase of World War II in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; and an account of the Battle of Ox Hill (1 September 1862) in *Fairfax County and the War Between the States*, a publication of the Fairfax County (Va.) Civil War Centennial Commission.

(William Ross Smith, "Triumph in the Phillipines," 1963, p viii)



(Patricia Strat, 2018)

Fair Oaks Community Church of God, Eternal Hope Church of God, and Washington, DC Church of God

3309 West Ox Road
Map Number 0354 01 0062

In 1968, the Washington DC Church of God, later known as the Fair Oaks Community Church of God, purchased this building from the local Presbyterian Church which had constructed a new facility on US Route 50.

Church history from the website of the Fair Oaks Community Church of God

The Early Days

This is the early history of the Washington, D.C., Church of God group through 1956, as remembered by Sister Ella Boyer, edited by WR Helenburg. Ella Boyer and her brother J. Marcellus were from Maurertown and first cousins of Sam Boyer of Fort Valley. She lived in Washington, DC, for several years and was a member of the local church during that time. Additional information was provided from the minutes of the Dorcas Society and from the book Clifton: Brigadoon in Virginia by Nan Neatherton.

In the 1920s, the James Kincheloe and the Charles Compton families met in their homes on Sundays for Bible Study. Sister Virginia (Ritenour) Kincheloe was their leader. "Virgie" Ritenour had moved to Clifton, VA, from the Shenandoah County in 1910 to be the Principal of Clifton HS. She later married James U. Kincheloe of Clifton. Several individuals from Washington, DC, would travel to Fairfax and Manassas to study with them in their homes. In 1925, Brother Harry Sheets came to Virginia to Pastor the Fort Valley and Maurertown Churches. During the period between 1926 and 1928, he would occasionally travel to Fairfax to the Kincheloe home to lead church services for them and others of the group.

Circa 1938, J.R. LeCrone, came to Virginia and would travel to Arlington, VA, to conduct Sunday night services at the Fire Hall. In the early 1940s, about 1942 or 1943, John Mercer regularly held services which continued for about a two year period. In that same time frame, Sister Verna Thayer (a Church of God evangelist to children) arranged to hold a tent meeting for Bible School study. However, the tent never arrived. Sister Thayer remained there during the weekend, conducting a Bible study as best as the conditions would allow. At a later time, her husband Earl was the Pastor of the Fort Valley and Maurertown churches.

On October 29, 1941, a Dorcas Society was organized and it became a very active group that met monthly on Saturdays at the homes of the active members. The Society held its last formal meeting on April 24, 1958. Concurrently, the families met on Sundays, normally twice each month for church services. The ladies were Bible scholars and they set up a fund to purchase books to share and from which to increase their biblical knowledge.

Dorcas societies within the COG in those days were usually women's groups set up for good works such as providing quilts, layettes, etc. for the less fortunate families in the community. For example, in the 1960s, the Maurertown, VA, women used to make layettes and take several at time to the Winchester hospital for mothers who didn't have clothing to take their babies home. They also made cancer pads, etc. for the local hospital. The Washington Society ladies made quilts and presented

them to residents of the retirement home in Oregon, Illinois, which was operated by the General Conference. The ladies also provided needed bedding and other items to the Virginia Conference dormitory at Maurertown, VA. The meetings would begin with devotions, proceed to the handwork and end a short business meeting over a lunch provided by the host.

At a later time, Brother Clyde Randall visited the D.C. area from Fonthill, Ontario, Canada to assist with a Bible School program. This was held at the Community House on Irving Street, near Lyon Park in Arlington, VA. Bible study classes were held during the day and preaching services were held each night.

Other pastors that served in that era included Daniel Judy who preached one summer in 1947 at the Pythian Temple in Washington, D.C.; Dean Moore of the Baltimore group for 2-3 years; Curtis Simpson of the Baltimore Group that preached for four years at the old YMCA building at 1736 G Streets, near the White House in Washington, D.C.

In 1950, Brother Alva Huffer, who had accepted the pastor position at the Fort Valley and Maurertown Churches, reorganized the Washington group and would come to preach and offer communion services several times each year. The services during each meeting included Sunday school study.

Members and Families

Some of the families and individuals that attended those later days of the early church included; Ella Boyer, the William Hicks, Mack and Ada Updike, Eldridge and Marie Cooper, Charles and Mary Compton, James and Virginia Kincheloe, Dan and Isabel O'Flaherty, William Thut family, Fay Carroll and family, John Andrews family, Philena Davis, Ruth Blankenbaker, Leroy Frichard, Helen and Orville Thompson, Mary Ellen and Fern Bell, and Nina Pulliam. Later, Sam Carroll was baptized and became an active member of the church.

In the 1950s and 60s, other families included Given Cleek, Garland Temple, Kenneth Mulligan, Robert and Eunice Costello (Keyes), Orville and Helen Thompson and their children Debbie and Greg. Robert Costello is fondly remembered by the children because he would hide hard candy in his clothing and, after church, would be mobbed by the children to find it. Even the young adults would enjoy a piece of candy as well.

Several individuals from Pennsylvania attended from time to time including John and Debbie Kugler, Howdy and Lorraine Mower and their children Valerie and Dennis. Clarence Poland of Baltimore, Maryland, and family, including Eva G. Sheets, attended regularly and one of his sons, Earl, was baptized and became a Church of God Pastor. Also from Baltimore were Keith and Lorraine Baird and a Mr. Pack who is remembered for his long prayers. Jim and Barbara (Baird) Scott and children also attended.

In the 70s, 80s and 90s, additional members and attendees included Carolyn Chapman, Carol DeWilde, Carolyn (Pryor) Kohn, Joan Pryor, AB Britt, Wayne Carroll and daughter Beth, Rob and Nedra Helenburg and Doris Frances, who was a long time friend of John and Debbie Kugler.

The last 50 Years

The current history is a compilation of the memories of Joseph Fletcher, Helen Thompson, Eunice Costello Keyes, Jan Stilson, Wayne Carroll and others, as reported to Rob Helenburg and from the minutes of the Dorcas Society and the Church organizations.

On February 14, 1953, the current local church was formally organized by adopting a constitution and elected officers in a meeting chaired by Alva Huffer. It was named the Washington, D.C., Church of

God. This was the official start of the local congregation now in Northern Virginia. In a follow-up meeting, the new Board acted to offer the position of Pastor to Joseph Fletcher.

By 1953, the congregation was comprised of Baltimore and D.C. area members and met twice per month in the old YMCA building at 1736 "G" Street, Washington, D.C. Joseph Fletcher, a newly graduated minister of Oregon Bible College, moved to this area with his bride, Shirley, to be the first full time Pastor. Joseph was originally from the Church in Fonthill, Ontario, Canada. From 1956 to 1959, Joe took a sabbatical to further his education. During his absence, the congregation was pastored by Curtis Simpson who had been actively involved with the growing congregation in Baltimore and Pennsylvania. Soon after pastor Fletcher and his growing family returned to the D.C. area, the congregation looked into building or moving their church.

In 1960, the congregation moved the worship services to Falls Church, Virginia. They rented space in the cafeteria of the old Culmore Elementary School. It was during this time that Joseph Fletcher began teaching in the Fairfax County School System.

In 1968, the church purchased the building at their present location on West Ox Road from the local Presbyterian Church. They had just constructed a new facility nearby on US Route 50. The availability of the building was discovered by Robert Costello as he was driving by one day. Helen and Orville Thompson co-signed the Deed of Trust and for the first time, our church had a permanent home. Around this time, the local congregation changed its name to the Eternal Hope Church of God, Abrahamic Faith. This name had been suggested by Eunice Costello. Three of the Fletcher children attended Oregon Bible College. Cheryl the oldest, is married to Pastor Dale Swartz. Jeffrey Fletcher graduated from OBC and still actively serves as a COG Pastor. Deborah Buckman graduated from OBC and actively supports youth ministry.

In 1972, Pastor Joe Fletcher received a promotion to Assistant School Principal and resigned as the full time minister. He and his family remained in the area and continued to support and play an active role in the church to include being our Church Elder. The church then hired Ron Macy, a nephew of COG pastor Emory Macy, who along with his wife Terry, led the congregation for the next four years. Ron and Terry developed a youth ministry program to reach out to local (Reston) minority children to transport them to the church.

In 1976, upon the resignation of Pastor Macy, the church hired Dale Ward as the new Pastor, who along with his wife Marie, led our congregation. At an earlier time, Dale had served as the Pastor of the old Maurertown Church of God near Woodstock and Toms Brook, VA. Their daughter Dolena (Ward) Shaw was a school mate and lifelong friend of Carolyn (Morrison) Chapman. In 1981, Pastor Ward retired and the local church was without a Pastor for about nine months.

In June 1982, Gary Burnham, a newly graduated minister from Oregon Bible College, moved to the area with his wife, Janice (Knapp), and became the new pastor. In 1986, the congregation chose to rename the church as the Fair Oaks Community Church due to confusion that developed regarding other denominations which are active in Virginia and operate under the general Church of God name. To more accurately reflect its location, the congregation changed its name again in 2006 to Oak Hill Community Church of God - Abrahamic Faith.

In February 1989, an unknown arsonist set fire to the church building and succeeded in destroying the facility although the basic structure was not completely consumed. Subsequently the building was completely rebuilt, refurbished and brought up to the then current building codes and rededicated in 1990. By 1996, the loans were paid off and the building title was once again held free and clear. In 1994, an unknown arsonist again tried to burn the building. The damage was limited to a custodial closet and mop sink. The arsonist put clothing items in the cast iron mop sink, set them on fire and closed the door. Closing the door starved the fire of oxygen and kept it from spreading to the rest of

the building. But, it was so hot that it damaged the brass faucet and the porcelain finish requiring replacement of both.

In 1995, Pastor Burnham resigned from our local church to accept the position of Comptroller of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College, in Morrow, GA. For about ten years the church continued on without the services of a fulltime Pastor. Pastor Dennis Baldwin of our sister church in Front Royal, Virginia, served as our interim Pastor driving from Front Royal on the first Sunday of each month to hold afternoon services and Communion. This, after holding morning services at his church. Oak Hill Community Church is deeply grateful for the many years of faithful service of Pastor Dennis and his wife Rachel. For the remaining Sundays, we have been blessed with a variety of lay speakers.

In June of 2005, we hired Thomas J. Fischhaber, Jr., as our new Pastor. Tom decided, late in the summer of 2006, to withdraw from active pastoral ministry to contemplate his future role in the Church of God. Pastor Dennis Baldwin agreed to once again serve as our spiritual leader.

In 2010, the church decided to return to the name Fair Oaks Church of God- Abrahamic Faith. And, after 15 years of declining membership, the congregation has started to grow again with the addition of new members Suzanna Heidrich, Dan and Jennifer Siderius, and other regular attendees.

Pianists through the later years included Eunice Costello Keyes, Carol Dewilde, Shirley Fletcher, Janice Burnham and Nedra Helenburg. Carolyn Chapman would fill in from time to time when the regular pianist was absent and also stepped in as song leader. Three who grew up in the Church went on to Pastoral Ministry: Jeffery Fletcher, Cheryl (Fletcher) Swartz and Earl Poland. At least five members, past and present have served on the Board of Directors of the Oregon/Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference, including Joseph Fletcher, Gary Burnham, Jeffery Fletcher, Rob Helenburg and Dan Siderius.

It should be noted that this congregation has enjoyed strong female leadership and participation from the very beginning. The church functioned under the Dorcas Society umbrella from October 1941 to February 1953. Detailed Bible study and lessons were a mainstay of the meetings; to include the building of a small library of pertinent books that were shared by the members. Also prevalent in the activities have been benevolent work providing funds and goods to the General Conference, Virginia State Conference, National Bible Society, Missions and charitable gifts to individuals as well as other church congregations. We are glad that we can say that these traditions continue to this day.

-- Revised July 14, 2011

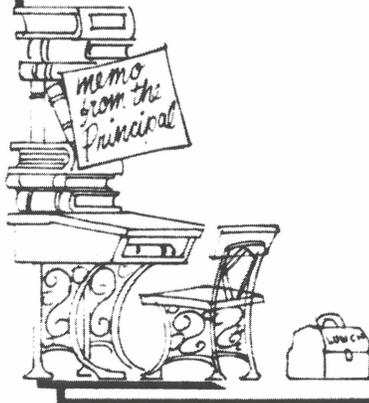
Description of the construction projects undertaken during Navy Elementary School's first 50 years.
 (Source: School Office files)

ABOUT CONSTRUCTION AT NAVY SCHOOL

1955-56	Original building constructed - 9 classrooms	22,500 sq. ft.	\$312,000
1958	Six Classrooms added	6,000 sq. ft.	\$50,500
1978	Library, gymnasium and music room added	8,500 sq. ft.	\$531,500
1986	New wing added - 10 classrooms, cafeteria expansion, sewer connection, complete revision of site for bus loop	19,600 sq. ft.	\$1,728,000

This information was provided by the Office of Design and Construction
 February 25, 1986.

Barbara Fry, Principal



Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

Thompson, Arthur, House

Location and Existing Information

Tax Map Numbers :35-4((1))73

Street Address 3418 WEST OX RD (property location).
 / General Location: Mailing address is 12500 Thompson Road.

Acreage 1.49
 Existing Use Residence
 Zoning R-1
 Comprehensive Plan NA
 Supervisor District SULLY
 Planning District Upper Potomac



Photo: S. Hellman, 2006.

Preservation Status

REGISTRATION	EASEMENT	OWNERSHIP	ACCESSIBILITY
National Register	Open Space	X Private	Accessible, Unrestricted
Virginia Register	X Preservation	Public	X Accessible, Restricted
County Historic District	Conservation	Both	Inaccessible
Standing Structure	Other		
X County Inventory	No easements		
029-0394. Listed on Inventory between May 1998 and 2000.	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust easement protecting the exterior of the house.		

Historic Information

Original Use dwelling
 Original Owner Arthur Thompson
 Date Constructed 1898(Approximate)

Historic Significance

By 1857 Martha Thompson was in possession of 5 acres along Ox Road. William Thompson had purchased an acre from James Townsend's estate for his wife Martha (see Z-3, 310). Martha acquired 4 more adjacent acres from Henry and Catherine Ross (Z-3, 311). The Thompsons built a dwelling here. William Thompson, who served with Confederate commander John Singleton Mosby, died at Point Lookout as a prisoner of war in 1864. Martha Thompson died in 1896, and the property descended to her children, who each received a 1/6 interest. William and Martha's son Arthur bought out his siblings and came into sole possession of the property (F-6, 14). However, in 1901 there was a chancery case (1901-52) involving the property. It seems that one of the heirs was hoping to get more money from Arthur Thompson. Arthur testified that he had "... made improvements on said land consisting of a dwelling house, outbuildings, etc at an expense of several thousand dollars." His parents' dwelling had deteriorated, and it was described as a shell of a house. Jasper Thompson, Arthur's son, testified that his father had built a new house on the property. Thomas Keith, Special Commissioner in this case, officially conveyed the land to Arthur Thompson in G-6, 524, March 28, 1901.

Arthur Thompson was a well-known local master carpenter. He designed, built, or was involved in building several private homes in the area, including Walney. He also was involved in the construction of the Fairfax Bank, Fairfax Masonic Hall, the Fairfax Old Town Hall, the Occoquan Church, and many others. (See DPZ file for a more complete list.) According to

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

Thompson, Arthur, House

descendants, he liked to play the fiddle, and hosted square dances in his parlor on many Saturday nights. Local people began calling the area Fiddler's Forks or Thompsons Forks. The Thompson family also provided firewood for the nearby Navy School.

In 1998, VDOT purchased the property with the intention to demolish the house for the widening of West Ox Road. However, local citizens lobbied to save the house. In 2002 the Commonwealth of Virginia deeded the house and 1.516 acres to the Martin family, who moved it a few hundred yards northwest of its original location. It therefore sits on its original parcel, but in a different location. The outbuildings were demolished. [Archival research by Susan Hellman, Historian, DPZ, 2006]

Significant People:

Significant Dates /Events:

- 1898 : Arthur Thompson rebuilt house on his father's property
- 3/28/1901 : Arthur Thompson given land from a ruling in a court case
- 1998 : VDOT purchased house for demolition; sparked effort to save and move house

Site / Structure Information

Condition	Excellent	Site Features
Integrity	Restored	1 Standing Structures
Building Style	late Victorian	0 Landscape Features
Architect/Builder	Arthur Thompson	0 Archaeological Features
		0 Other Site Features

Site Description:

The site is flat, and the house is surrounded by lawn. There are a few young shrubs and trees planted adjacent to the house, but other than that there is no vegetation other than grass. A gravel drive accesses the house from Thompson Road to the south. There is a tall stockade fence along the eastern edge of the property, buffering it from West Ox Road and the house's original site.

Architectural Description:

The Thompson house is a two-and-a-half story, frame dwelling with a cross-gable roof clad in composition shingle. It is L shaped. The house now has vinyl siding, but was originally clad in weatherboard. It is unclear whether or not the original weatherboard remains under the siding. Windows are two-over-two double-hung sash. There are two interior brick chimneys. One is at the intersection of the L, the other is at the eastern end of the house, in the side-gabled wing. The current primary elevation of the Thompson house faces south. This is the inside of the L. The recessed portion of this L, the easternmost side-gabled wing, is two-bay, with doors in the westernmost bay and roof dormers with curvilinear gables. A two-story porch spans the area. Four or five wood steps access the door. The gable end westernmost wing is also two-bay, with one window within the attic-level gable. The west elevation may have originally been the primary elevation. I seem to remember this elevation as the primary elevation at the house's original site. This elevation is four-bay, with a central large dormer. A one-story shed roofed vestibule extends from the center of the elevation, and contains the most elaborate door on the house. The upper 2/3 of the door is glazed, and the door is flanked by four-light side lights. It is topped by a segmental fanlight. This door is well above ground level, but there are no stairs to access it. HVAC equipment is at the northwest intersection of the vestibule and the main body of the house, so it is doubtful that this will ever be the primary entrance.

According to a 1989 survey, the house had exposed rafter ends; there is no evidence of that in 2006. The vestibule led to two front formal rooms, and the ell had a cross passage. There was decorative plaster cornice on the interior and two-panel-high wainscoting in the stair passage. The stair banister was made of a complete length of oak, over 16 feet long, supported by hand carved spindles. The bottom newel post was intricately carved by Arthur Thompson personally. The house retained its plaster walls and woodwork from Arthur Thompson's construction. It is unclear if any of the original interior remains.

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

Navy Post Office (Site) (Removed from Inventory Jan 2, 2008)

Location and Existing Information

Tax Map Numbers :35-4((1))10

Street Address 3208 WEST OX RD
/ General Location:



Acreage 0.60

Existing Use Demolished

Zoning R-1

Comprehensive Plan NA

Supervisor District SULLY

Planning District Upper Potomac

Preservation Status

REGISTRATION	EASEMENT	OWNERSHIP	ACCESSIBILITY
National Register	Open Space	Private	Accessible, Unrestricted
Virginia Register	Preservation	Public	Accessible, Restricted
County Historic District	Conservation	X Both	X Inaccessible
Standing Structure	Other	House site now under West Ox Road, and therefore owned by VDOT. Rest of lot in private ownership.	Demolished 2002.
X County Inventory	X No easements		

Listed on Inventory Feb 7, 1996.

Historic Information

Original Use dwelling

Original Owner James T. Robey

Date Constructed 1892(Approximate)

Historic Significance

This building served as the Navy Post Office from that office's creation in August 1892 until discontinuation of the station in 1907, with the exception of a three month period from September to November 1905 when mail normally handled by the Navy Post Office was handled from the Fairfax Post Office. The Navy Post Office closed permanently on April 30, 1907 and its mail route was transferred to the Vienna Post Office. Postmasters were James T. Robey, Edward S. Dey, James T. Robey (again), Richard A. Fritter, Welby J. French, and Peter Dove. It appears that the building served as both the Robeys' dwelling and the post office simultaneously. Robey purchased the one acre parcel from J. Thomas Beavers in December of 1891 (Y-5, 534), and probably built the dwelling soon after. In August of 1892 he was appointed postmaster. He purchased 11 more acres from the Thompson family in 1897 (Y-5, 394). After James T. Robey's death, his wife Annie inherited the building. Robey's will was probated January 1906 (see 5836, 726; R-7, 197). See DPZ file for full chain of title.

In the late twentieth century, the northeast corner of the Navy Post Office was located approximately three inches from the edge of West Ox road. The building was threatened by road widening projects and realignments of the portion of West Ox Road running through Navy. The site was covered with scrub brush and mature trees. Trash was piled around the rear addition, the sheds, and the privy. The building was ultimately demolished in 2002. The house site is now [2007] underneath the newly widened West Ox Road; the remainder of the lot remains in private ownership. [Archival research by Susan Hellman, DPZ,

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

Navy Post Office

2007]

Significant People:

Significant Dates /Events:

1892 : to 1907; served as Navy Post Office
 1905 : From Sept. to Nov. mail was handled from Fairfax Post Office
 4/30/1907 : Navy Post Office Closed; mail routed through Vienna Post Office

Site / Structure Information

Condition	Unsalvageable	Site Features
Integrity	Demolished	0 Standing Structures
Building Style	vernacular	0 Landscape Features
Architect/Builder	Unknown	0 Archaeological Features
		0 Other Site Features*

Site Description:

Also included on the property were two "modern" sheds and a wood frame privy. All structures are now gone. The actual site of the post office is now under the widened West Ox Road. Part of the parcel remains on the west side of the road.

Architectural Description:

The Navy Post Office was a two story, wood frame, gable roofed structure with a one story shed roof addition at the rear (west) of the building. The east gable end faced West Ox Road. The main entry to the building was in the center of its front (east) façade. The wood panel door with screen door was placed in a plain surround topped with a transom light. The east façade also was pierced by two windows on the first floor and two windows on the second floor. Additional entrances were located in the south wall of the addition and in the north wall of the main block. The north entrance was approached by a set of concrete steps with pipe railings. The secondary doors were covered with plywood panels. All remaining windows were six over six double hung sash. One window had louvered wood shutters. A window in the east gable end at the second floor level was missing. One interior brick stovepipe chimney located in the center of the main block; a second interior brick chimney was located near the south wall of the addition. A one story shed roof porch that once spanned the east façade had been removed. The same fate befell a similar porch that once was attached to the south façade of the main block. Photos of the building dated November 1985 show the south porch, supported by failing square post, partially attached to the building. Ghost marks of the porch-house junctures had remained. All roofs were covered with standing seam metal. The entire structure was covered with roll siding in a grey brick pattern.

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

Navy School

Location and Existing Information

Tax Map Numbers :45-2((1))6

Street Address 3510 WEST OX RD
/ General Location:

Acreage 0.35
Existing Use Residence
Zoning R-1
Comprehensive Plan NA
Supervisor District SULLY
Planning District Upper Potomac



Photo: S. Hellman, 2006.

Preservation Status

REGISTRATION	EASEMENT	OWNERSHIP	ACCESSIBILITY
National Register	Open Space	X Private	Accessible, Unrestricted
Virginia Register	Preservation	Public	X Accessible, Restricted
County Historic District	Conservation	Both	Inaccessible
Standing Structure	Other		
X County Inventory	X No easements		

Listed on Inventory Feb 7, 1996.

Historic Information

Original Use School
Original Owner Trustees of the Public Schools of Dranesville District
Date Constructed 1888(Approximate)

Historic Significance

On February 28, 1888, George F. and Ida Harrison sold one acre of their land to the Trustees of the Public Schools of the Dranesville District (Ffx Coutny DB G5, p. 477). Morris D. Berry, the lowest bidder, began construction of the school in 1887 and completed it in 1888. F.D. Bicksler apparently helped him. In 1889 William Keefe was appointed to teach at school No. 10 (i.e. the Ox Road School) at a rate of \$22.50 per month. The school was known as the Ox Road School from its inception until 1904 or 1905. L.E. Thompson often furnished wood for the school's use. [See Dranesville School Board Minutes 1886-1922 for more information.] On August 30, 1922 the School Board of Dranesville District #4 sold the property and building to the School Board of Fairfax County, Va (Z-8, 80). The school activity in the building ceased sometime before 1934 as by June 28th of that year the property was sold to Jether Dove for \$150 (N-11, 529). The deed notes: "Navy School lot, having been heretofore abandoned for school operation." The old one-room school house is now a private home. [Archival research by Susan Hellman, Historian, DPZ, 2007.]

Significant People:

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

Navy School

Significant Dates /Events:

Site / Structure Information

Condition	Good	Site Features
Integrity	Significant Changes	1 Standing Structures
Building Style	vernacular	0 Landscape Features
Architect/Builder	Morris D. Berry	0 Archaeological Features
		0 Other Site Features

Site Description:

The old Navy School sits at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Ox Road and Ox Trail. The current Navy Elementary is just across Ox Trail, at the northwest corner of this intersection. The old Navy School sits above the road level. There are mature trees to the rear of the house, on the west side. Fair Oaks Hospital is beyond the trees. To the south is another one-story older house. A gravel driveway runs between these two houses.

Architectural Description:

The structure is one-and-a-half story, frame, with a standing seam metal gable roof. The exterior is clad in German siding. Plain cornice boards adorn the eaves. Their returns ornament the primary, east, elevation. The building also has corner boards. A brick interior chimney protrudes from the peak of the gable towards the rear, west end, of the house. The primary elevation faces West Ox Road to the east. It is gable front, with a slightly off-center door, a single window to the right (north) of the door and a double window on the door's other side. There is also a window within the gable peak. These windows are six-over-one double-hung sash. Side elevations have irregularly spaced and sized openings. The north elevation has three windows - two in what appears to be the original school building, and a third smaller window in an apparent rear addition. The south elevation contains two single windows, one at the southeast corner, the other at the southwest corner, and a double window between them. According to the current (2006) owner, the building has been changed significantly since its construction.

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About the Author

Patricia “Trish” Strat lives in Oakton, Virginia, in the historic Vale neighborhood of Sully District. She was asked to undertake this research project by Debbie Robison, Sully District History Commissioner, because of her knowledge of the local area’s history.

Trish’s foray into historic research began with curiosity about a long-forgotten pond in Oakton. Discovering that it was on land previously owned by internationally acclaimed conservationist Dr. Ira Gabrielson, she decided to honor his memory with a Virginia state historical highway marker. A true novice at historic research, she was guided through the process by History Commissioner Jack Hiller.

Two highway markers followed: a Fairfax County marker for the Vale School/Vale Community House and a Virginia state marker for Florence Jodzies, who founded the Vale Home Demonstration Club and promoted neighborhood libraries throughout the Virginia.

Wanting to preserve her research, Trish compiled a book, “75 Years in Vale: Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of Vale Club, Oakton, Virginia” which is now in the Fairfax County Public Library, the Virginia Tech Library and the Library of Congress.

Trish’s connection to the Vale Club and Friends of Vale Schoolhouse (FVS) provided access to key historic photographs which unlocked the connections of the Curtice and Grayson families to the Navy community. The FVS archives also contained a copy of the speech given by Robert Ross Smith on the opening of the new Navy Elementary School. These artifacts will be transferred to the Fairfax County Public Library.