

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY INVENTORY
RESEARCH TOPICS - DRAFT*

I. African American Churches

African American Church Histories in the Library of Virginia

Repository: https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/African_American_Churches.pdf

African American Churches in Virginia (1865-1900)

A description of the establishment of African American churches after the Civil War, their importance within the community, and the political activism of the church leadership.

Repository: <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/african-american-churches-in-virginia1865-1900>

Many churches have websites that include the history of the church. Examples:

Galloway United Methodist Church was founded in 1867 by George and Harriet Brice who wanted a church for the newly emancipated enslaved. Today, the church building located on Annandale Road is in Falls Church City while the adjacent church cemetery is in Fairfax County. Two people who are buried there include Charles Tinner and Isaac Peyton who served in the Home Guard, an interracial militia which protected residents and property from Confederate raiders.

Repository: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/institutions-african-americanhistory/galloway-united-methodist-church-1867/>

Second Baptist Church of Falls Church was planned and organized by Elder Hiram Reed, the pastor of the First Baptist Church, a white church. The church building was used as a school during the week.

Repository: www.sbcfallschurch.org/history

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church: 150 Years Anniversary, 1867-2017

Freedmen were given one acre of land for religious and educational purposes and a burying ground for colored people. The first church was a one-room wooden structure built by individuals using lumber provided by the Freedmen's Bureau.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

New Mount Zoar Baptist Church on Braddock Road

The church was started around 1886 by a former slave Jackson Hughes who married former slave Mariah Beckwith. Where they lived was originally called Jacksonville, then Hughesville.

Repository: www.nmzoar.org/our-history

* This early draft release was created for use by students, educators, historians and county residents prior to database release later this year.

II. Education/Schools

“African American Education in the Town/ City of Fairfax” [once part of Fairfax County] by William Page Johnson II, *The Fare Facs Gazette* Vol. 4, Issue 1, Winter 2006

The author shares the history of schools once in Fairfax County and now part of the City School system. The experiences of both teachers and students are described. The history of a Rosenwald schools is included.

Repository: <https://www.historicfairfax.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/HFCI41-2006.pdf>

Rosenwald Schools Julius Rosenwald President of Sear and Roebuck helped fund for African American students 382 schools and support buildings in 79 Virginia counties. The Fairfax Rosenwald School was built in 1925-1926 on School Street.

Repositories: *Encyclopedia Virginia* www.encyclopediavirginia.org

The Rosenwald Schools of Virginia www.rosenwaldschools.com

Negro Education in Virginia by Guy Pruden Norris (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia, 1935)

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

A history of education for black students in Fairfax County prior to 1954 by Evelyn D. Russell-Porte

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Shades of Change: The Other Side of Floris –Videotape – Frying Pan Farm Park, Sound recording with interviews about Floris Colored School and African American Children’s education

Department of Information Technology, Fairfax County Public Schools.

Repository: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ULqtS64h2c>

A History of Public Secondary Education in Fairfax County by Lonnie J. Hinkle

Published 1971 This dissertation includes information about the secondary education of African Americans prior to desegregation.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Memories of Segregated Schools

Luther Jackson High School

James Lee and Merrifield Elementary Schools

Manassas Industrial School

Interviews of alumni who share their memories of attending segregated schools.

Repository: YouTube

Luther Jackson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaTg1hlaA->

James Lee and Merrifield <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqAIH-ysi9U>

Manassas Industrial School <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWTfah7kbUY>

Desegregation- Oral History

Fairfax County Public Schools Alumni and Educators Share Memories of Desegregation

Rayfield Barber was the first Black student to integrate a FCPS public high school.

Joe and Sharon Parks integrated FCPS high schools. Joe attended Groveton High School and Sharon attended Fort Hunt High School.

Jacqueline Burruss - integrated Bucknell Elementary School.

Sheila Coates integrated the teaching staff at Floris Elementary School

Repositories: YouTube interviews <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/history/records/desegregation/oral-history>

“Honoring Sheila Coates during Women’s History Month 2018 Nevertheless, She Persisted” by Andrea Worker <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2018/mar/12/nevertheless-she-persisted/>

Desegregation: The Leaders | Fairfax County Public Schools *Who were the leaders of FCPS during desegregation?*

School Board: December 1953. School Board: January 1964

Repository: <https://www.fcps.edu> › about-fcps › history › records

Desegregation: Writings | Fairfax County Public Schools

Letters and Other Documents Relating to the Desegregation of FCPS

Repository: <https://www.fcps.edu> › about-fcps › history › records

Desegregation: In the News | Fairfax County Public Schools

Journalists chronicled the *Desegregation of FCPS* ... as recorded in the following newspapers *The Chicago Defender, The Fairfax Herald, The Northern Virginia Sun*

Repository: <https://www.fcps.edu> › about-fcps › history › records

“**Desegregation in the 1960s Judy Street Joins the March to Selma**” by Laura Olson Peebles pp 205-210. *Fairfax County Stories 1607-2007- Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement*

Describes how the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church led efforts to end segregation in Fairfax County and the nation.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

School Histories | Fairfax County Public Schools

School Histories. An A-Z list of FCPS' School History pages.

Examples: Luther Jackson High School, Louise Archer School, Drew- Smith School

Repository: <https://www.fcps.edu> › about-fcps › our-history › schools...

History of Louise Archer School

Included in the history is information about county Rosenwald schools, Interview of William W. West who attended segregated schools and became a teacher, Vienna Colored School, Freedman’s School, and Odd Fellow Hall which was used as a school

Repository: <https://archeres.fcps.edu/about/history/1866>

Fairfax County Public School Board minutes 1922-2020, online

Search by school –

Example search Pearson School

School minutes record on December 5, 1939, that the School Board granted permission to install electricity in Pearson School with the understanding that the Board would not pay for the cost or installation.

Repository: <https://insys.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/searchmenu.cfm>

Guideline to Fairfax County School Records and Ledgers 1870-1905 [FINDING AID]

Examples –

Teacher Registers; Teacher examinations- colored and white; School census including students' names, ages, education, and race; daily operations: attendance, studies taught; financial records, teachers' pay; school expenses and repairs; Virginia School Laws, 1892.

Repository:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/sites/circuit/files/assets/documents/pdf/hrc/fairfax-countyschool-records-and-ledgers-1870-1905.pdf>

Records and Ledgers are located at the Historic Archives Center and are accessed in person.

Manassas Industrial School

The blood of the lamb: a story of the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Children told through the eyes of former students by Dennis Howard

[Manassas Industrial School began as a residential school for black children. In 1938, Fairfax, Fauquier, and Prince William counties established a regional high school on the campus. Fairfax County Black students, who wanted to attend high school were bused to Manassas until the first high school for blacks, Luther Jackson High School opened in 1954.]

Repository: City of Fairfax Regional Library Virginia Room

Earl L. Pulley, Who is Earl Pulley?

Mr. Pulley was an educator and a principal. In administration he coordinated Human Relations and was President of the Fairfax County Teachers Association. He was a member of several community and religious organizations also.

Repository: <https://pulleycenter.fcps.edu/node/2033>

Lutie Lewis Coates, What's in a Name – School History Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School

Mrs. Coates was a teacher and principal in segregated schools in Fairfax County. She encouraged her students to take vocational courses and pursue higher education.

Repository: <https://coateses.fcps.edu/about/history>

B. Oswald Robinson - Robinson was a principal at both segregated and integrated schools in Fairfax County Public Schools. He worked under four superintendents and once was accused of being too nice to his teachers.

Repository: https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty_archives/principalship/r/155robinson.html

Louise Archer - In 1922 Archer became teacher and principal for a one-room segregated school in Vienna. Devoted to her students, she worked to improve their learning experience. She organized a Parent Teacher Association to raise funds for supplies and a new building, which opened in 1939 with three rooms.

Repository: Virginia Changemakers, <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/items/show/157>

Lillian Hopkins Carey attended Hampton Institute where she received her teaching certificate. She taught at Mt. Pleasant and was also teacher and principal at Bailey's School. Carey sold a portion of the property where she grew up so that the Bailey's School could be constructed. Later, the Lillian Carey School for African American students was built and named in her honor.

Repository: www.higherhorizons.org/history

“He Ho, Come to the Fair,” The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc. *Yearbook*, Vol. 26, pp.83-85, Editors Dziobek, Ring, Sprouse. Relates the history of segregated white and black county fairs in the early 1900s. School teachers encouraged students to compete at the county fairs.

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

III. Enslaved/ Slavery

Online -Slavery Inventory Database, LLC (SID) by Maddy McCoy

Includes research that helps to establish the identities of enslaved African Americans neglected or forgotten by history. Research is focused on the early African American experience in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Example: Aaron Davis born about 1760

Listed in the estate inventory of William Fitzhugh of Ravensworth on April 16, 1810

Aaron Clarke, age 30, Blacksmith,

Sally Holly age 80

Repository: <https://slaveryinventorydatabase.com/team/>

Slavery in Braddock District

The website was created to honor Black History Month. Included are lists of the enslaved and the slave holders and descriptions of families and communities.

Repository: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddock-district-black-history-month>

“Outrage Near Spring Bank - Slave Resistance in Fairfax County” *Yearbook: Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia*, Volume 18: 1982 p. 9.

The story of the assault of a slave patrol by a group of escaped slaves.

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

The Story of Ravensworth: A history of the Ravensworth

Land-grant in Fairfax County, Virginia website and book by John Browne

Includes numbers of enslaved before 1860; Enslaved at Oak Hill 1821-1856, and persons enslaved in 1830

Repository: www.ravensworthstory.org

Buried Lives: The Enslaved People of George Washington's Mount Vernon

by Carla K. McClafferty, 2018

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries, Children's Nonfiction

Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine, by Kelley F. Deetz, 2017

This book tells the story of enslaved plantation cooks at Virginia plantations, including at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

"Two Women Researched Slavery In Their Family. They Didn't See the Same Story"

by Amy Dockser Marcus, *Wall Street Journal* April 16, 2021

Repository: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/two-women-researched-slavery-in-their-family-didnt-see-the-same-story-11618584883>

"The Day Slavery Bowled to Conscience," by Ken Ringle. July 21, 1991 *The Washington Post*. Robert Carter III, who owned 16 plantations in Virginia, freed his 500 slaves 70 years before the Civil War began.

Repository: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1991/07/21/the-day-slavery-bowed-to-conscience/bcbf164c-9972-41e5-b1e4-55c47d1b62e6/>

Among His Slaves: George Mason, at Gunston Hall, and the Idealism of the American Revolution, by Terry K. Dunn

The author used primary sources to learn about those enslaved by George Mason including Mason's actions and reactions toward them.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Sully Plantation - *The Sully Slave Quarter! From the Ground Up*

online video

Repository: www.discoveryvirginia.org

Search Sully

Mount Vernon online videos about the enslaved people

William Lee, William (Billy) Lee

West Ford

People Enslaved at Mount Vernon

Biographies of slaves

Life in Slavery, Lives Bonded Together - Oral Histories of Descendants of the Enslaved

Repository: www.mountvernon.org

Search by the title

Underground Railroad

Underground by Shane W. Evans

An introduction to the Underground Railroad, narrated by a group of slaves. The Underground Railroad was a secret path to freedom used by the enslaved. Readers experience the fugitives' escape, their long nighttime journey punctuated by meetings with friends and enemies, and their final arrival in a place of freedom

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Dawn of Day: Stories from the Underground Railroad -

Repository: YouTube

Conn's Ferry - the story of the escape of enslaved Ellick, by Debbie Robison

Repository: http://www.novahistory.org/Conns_Ferry/Conns_Ferry.htm

A Sunset Escape to Freedom Along the Potomac

Fairfax County Park Authority, Our Stories and Perspectives

The story of Conn's Ferry and the escape of the enslaved man Ellick and its connection to Riverbend Park.

Repository: <https://ourstoriesandperspectives.com/2018/02/24/a-sunset-escape-to-freedom-along-thepotomac/>

IV. Life Stories

Fairfax County Oral Histories of African American Residents

Alvin Jason Brown (1897-1983) was a lifelong African American resident of the Great Falls/McLean area. In this interview conducted by C.J.S. Durham, Brown recalls the previous owners of Towlston Grange and former residents of the Towlston Road area.

Marion Dobbins, a life-long resident of Merrifield, Virginia, is a sixth-generation Fairfax County resident.

Helen Louise Marshall Haight was born in the African American community known as The Pines off of Woodburn Road. She describes her experiences of growing up near Merrifield in this summarized interview.

Edwin Bancroft Henderson II, the grandson of Dr. E.B. Henderson, is the founder and Executive Director the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation.

Aileen Wright grew up in The Pines and Merrifield area in the 1930s.

Repository: <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/local-history/oral-histories>

William A. West

Mr. West attended Vienna Colored School with over 60 children in the one room schoolhouse. He later became a teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Repository: excerpt from interview made when he was 95 years old Our History Louise Archer Elementary School <https://archeres.fcps.edu/about/history/1866> [excerpt of interview of William West]

Conversation with William A. West-a transcribed interview with Mr. William A. West December 1965

Repository: Transcribed interview

Virginia Room City of Fairfax Regional Library Rare Book Room B West

Mae Hall, a McLean resident, describes living in Odrick's Corner for seventy years. Oral history of McLean, Virginia Publisher McLean Historical Society and the Friends of the McLean Community Center

Repository: DVD videorecording can be viewed at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Virginia Room

John Jackson John Jackson was born in Woodville, Virginia and moved to Fairfax County and became a grave digger. In the 1960s, his talent as a guitar player and Blues performer was discovered. He performed in Fairfax County and became famous locally, nationally, and internationally.

Repository: Smithsonian Folkways <https://folkways.si.edu/john-jackson-piedmont-bluesman>
Some of his performances can be heard on YouTube
Example: "Steamboat Whistle" *Smithsonian* March 10, 2010

Mary Goins Roots: A Guide to the Mary Goins Roots Collection, 1915-2017

A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library Record Group Number MSS 07-26
The collection of items covers Mary Goins Roots' life and career; her family; and her ancestors including the Coffey, Goins, Jeffrey, Pearson and Wright families; the Sideburn Civic Association; Greater Little Zion Baptist Church; her career with Fairfax County Public Schools; and Charles County Public Schools.

Repository: Virginia Room City of Fairfax Regional Library

"John Sidney (Sid) Holland Sr. Doing What He Felt Best For His Community" by Dorothy Mann pp 201-204. *Fairfax County Stories 1607-2007- Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement*

Mr. Holland's life was dedicated to improving the lives of county residents, especially African Americans.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

**"The Family History of John Bell and Clarence Raymond Summers, Sr
A Baileys Crossroads Family"**

by Houston M. Summers, Jr., pp. 125-135 *Fairfax County Stories 1607-2007- Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement*

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

We're Still Here, John Miles/Mills His life and Family in Fairfax County

John Watson Mills, a Pamunkey Indian, walked from Aylett, Virginia to Fairfax County where he would settle, marry, and have a family. On their marriage certificate, John and his wife were both identified as Black.

Repository: http://www.powhatanmuseum.com/Powhatan_People.html

Quander Family History

Finding Quander: The Journey of one of America's oldest documented families

Describes an African American family who can trace its roots back 330 years, including to George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Repository: <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/maryland/finding-quander-the-journeyof-one-of-americas-oldest-documented-black-families/65-492404094>

West Ford: The Father of Gum Springs

West Ford was born a slave on the plantation in Westmoreland County owned by Bushrod Washington, George's brother. After George Washington died, Bushrod moved to Mount Vernon, bringing West Ford with him. West Ford was guaranteed freedom at the age of 21. When Bushrod Washington died, West Ford received over 100 acres from the estate. He would later sell that property and buy a larger property which became known as Gum Springs.

Repository: <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/west-ford/>

West Ford – Pencil Sketch Portrait

Repository: <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/9661hpr-3850933b64104c8/>

William “Billy” Lee

As an enslaved man, Billy served as George Washington's valet throughout the American Revolution and during the early months of Washington's presidency

Repository: <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/william-billy-lee/>

William Lee -Valley Forge National Historical Park

At around the age of 16, Billy Lee was purchased by George Washington. He worked as a valet and accompanied George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

Repository: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/historyculture/william-lee.htm>

“The Gravel and Grit of Olander and Margaret Banks”

Article by Mary Jane Dye, Editor, *Golden Gazette*,

Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Kinship Care Unit

In 1957, African American Olander Banks decided to leave Alexandria and move his family and his business to the “country” in Fairfax County.

Repository: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/golden-gazette/202102-the-gravel-and-grit-of-olander-and-margaret-banks> (Posted 2021 February)

Gentleman Jim Robinson, by Mary Robinson Ewell, page 71. *Fairfax County Stories 1607-2007 Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement*

James Robinson was well known, successful, and very respected in Fairfax County. At birth, he was freed and granted nine acres of land. The chapter describes the life of Gentleman Jim and the Robinson family. During the Civil War, the Robinson home was used as a field hospital by the Union Army.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

The following summaries of Oral History interviews are included in two Books: *100 Recollections of McLean and Great Falls, Virginia* and *Additional Recollections of McLean and Great Falls, Virginia*, written by Carole Herrick. The citations are labeled either *100* or *Additional*. The description of each person's biographical interview will include major topics mentioned in the interview.

- Ailene V. Borgus –100 grew up on Ash Grove Farm, attended Odrick's School and Manassas Industrial School and was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church
- Archie Henry Borgus, Jr. -Additional grew up on Ash Grove Farm, attended Odrick's School and Armstrong High School [an all-Black school Armstrong Manual Training School in DC], described what Tyson's Corner looked like prior to the shopping center being built
- Harold Carter –100 Attended Odrick's School and Manassas Industrial School described Tyson's Corner
- Leon C. Gamble – Additional Described discrimination and how parents intervened to get him admitted as only Black student at Longfellow Intermediate
- Robert Hall –100 Cottonwood Street community and the family of Christopher Columbus Hall
- Susie I. Hall –100 Cottonwood Street community, attended Chesterbrook one room schoolhouse, was a member of World War II nurse's unit
- Gladys Harper – Additional McLean resident
- Sonja Duffin Hurlbutt – Additional Resident of Great Falls and Forestville, Springvale Farm
- Ora Lawson –100 Teacher at Old Cub Run School, lived in Blakely Manor built by developer African America Blakely F. Weaver, described discrimination by businesses in neighborhoods
- Susie Boston Miles – Additional Grew up on a small farm, grandmother had escaped slavery, attended Chesterbrook School and Gunnell's Chapel - described growing up
- Nancy A. Sampson – Additional – lived in McLean starting 1958 member of Shiloh Baptist Church for over 40 years
- Virese Hall Thornton –100 Described her ancestor Christopher Columbus Hall and the Black community on Cottonwood Street
- Barbara Lee Carter Wilks - 100 Described Barnes Family and Stoney Hill [today's Tyson's Corner], attended Odrick's School, Louise Archer School, and Luther Jackson High School

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

The following McLean residents are included in *Legendary Locals of McLean* by Carole Herrick. Each person's contribution to the McLean Community is described and a photo is included.

- Bernie Boston; Page 104, Mable Coates - Page 108, Myra Coates - Page 108
- Otrich Sharper Jackson Costley - Page 19, Eric Hall Dorsey - Page 116
- Dingwall Fleary - Page 102- Martina Hall - Page 59
- Wanda Hill - Page 107- Sonja Duffin Hurlbutt - Page 111
- Mary Emma Sharper Kenney -Page 26, Rufus Kenney - Page 26
- Florence E. Smith - Page 19- Michelle Spady - Page 118

- Virese Hall Thornton - Page 59-Lucy Turner – Images of America, McLean; Page 64
- John Watson Mills –Page 16

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Northern Virginia Civil Rights Archive

Interviews of Fairfax County residents were collected by Marion Dobbins to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The interviewees described their personal involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. Each interview is approximately 12 minutes long.

- Bernard Ames
- Joann Bagnerise
- Sallie Baker
- William Ewell
- Marion Dobbins
- Fannie Fitzgerald
- Glorine Gholson
- Winifred Gilmore
- John Harper
- Marguerite Harris and
- Joyce Webster
- Edwin and
- Nikki Henderson
- Alice Howard
- Lillie Jessie
- Alice Lightfoot
- Velma Massenberg
- Ervinia (Venus) Miller
- Curtis Porter
- Viola Richardson
- Robert Simon
- Bruce Smith 111
- Herman Smith
- Juanita Smith
- Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith
- Reverend Dr. Mary Smith
- Ralph Smith
- William Smith
- Etta Richards Stozier
- Norman Sultan
- Alice Taylor
- Inez Wells

Repository: <https://ethnography.gmu.edu/collections/the-northern-virginia-civil-rights-archive>

Edwin Bancroft Henderson II, the grandson of Dr. E.B. Henderson, is the founder and Executive Director the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation.

Edwin and Mary Ellen (Miss Nellie) lived for over fifty years in Falls Church.

Edwin was an educator, author, a Civil Rights activist, and nicknamed “Father of Black Basketball.” Edwin was the author of *History of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP* and *The Negro in Sports*

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Miss Nellie was a teacher and principal for thirty-two years for FCPS at the two room “Colored School.” In 1936, she created a study comparing county white schools to black schools. The study revealed that ninety percent of the county’s school budget went to white schools. After the study was made public, supporters began to demand improvements for black schools.

Miss Nellie wrote *Our Disgrace and Shame: School Facilities for Negro Children in Fairfax County*. The study was brought before the school board and was published in the **Fairfax Herald newspaper on October 26, 1945.**

Repository: Edwin Henderson, Educator, 93, Dies

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1977/02/05/edwin-henderson-educator-93dies/1b2ba2d6-bbf5-446b-b426-8886da98e425/>

Transcripts of interviews of Dr. Edwin Henderson and Mary Ellen Henderson are available at the Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

William McKinley Carter lived in Vienna and was a member of the NAACP, the Elks, and the Free and Accepted Masons. He was President of the Citizen Progressive Association of Vienna. He was one of the leaders of the Friends of the Vienna Library who worked to obtain library access for blacks.

Repository: William Carter, Vienna Civic Leader Washington Post December 21, 1977

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1977/12/21/william-carter-vienna-civic-leader>

Clifton Living magazines: articles about Clifton residents written by Lynne Garvey Hodge

“Cowboy James Beckwourth” – September 2020, page 10 explorer of western United States

“Happy 187th Birthday, Warner Melvin! Meet One of Clifton’s Oldest Neighbors” – October 2020, page 10

“The Jeremiah ‘Mannie’ Jackson Family” – November 2020, page 14

“What is Watch Night?” – January 2021, page 12 African Americans gathered to pray on the eve of January 1, 1863, when the Emancipation Proclamation was to go into effect.

“Watchnight” celebrations continue today.

“Minnie Beckwith Hughes – Clifton’s Grand Lady Educator” – February 2021, page 13

“Meet Clifton Founding Families’ Descendant – Linneall Naylor” – March 2021, page 15

“The Conversation Continues with Linneall Naylor” – April 2021, page 15

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, VREF 975.529 Clifton.

West Springfield High School Applied History Class Oral History Interviews

Academic Year 2020-2021, By Nia Maronda and Solene Montgomery

The course involves examining and learning about history from a different perspective from what is taught in a typical history class. There also is a heavy emphasis on examining local history, going as small as your neighborhood potentially. The goal of the second semester

internship was to interview various African American residents who are native to Fairfax County to begin documenting the African American experience in the county.

Interview Summaries

Camille Brown lived in Bailey's Crossroads. She started high school at Luther Jackson High that was then the only high school for all black students in Fairfax County. When schools were desegregated, she attended JEB Stuart High School, where she had to sit in the back of the school bus and eat by herself at lunch.

Dee Dee Carter grew up in Vienna. Her family includes descendants of Native Americans of the Powhatan Confederacy. She opposed a fundraising activity at her high school where students acted as slaves and others paid money to free the "slaves."

Chrystal Gaskins grew up in Northern Virginia. The interracial marriage of her parents was considered taboo. In high school, she had to fight to take the automotive class, because a woman had never done that before.

Phyllis Walker- Ford grew up in Franconia where her father was born. She attended segregated schools in Fairfax County and participated in sit-ins at college administration buildings.

Bobby Whitmore grew up in the house his father built in Merrifield. His father was the first African American mail carrier in the area. Because of the light color of his skin, Bobby was harassed by both black and white classmates.

Repository: <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/local-history/oral-histories>

V. Federal Government Agencies

Contraband camps

"Contraband" was a description used to describe what was once enemy property. Thousands of escaped slaves were known as contraband. Two camps, Wadsworth and Beckwith, were established in Fairfax County where the contrabands were housed and paid to farm to feed the Union Army. Charitable organizations established schools at the camps.

Contraband Camps of Northern Virginia by Mark Jones April 7, 2015 video and text

Repository: <https://boundarystones.weta.org/2015/04/07/contraband-camps-northern-virginia>

The Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-1942: Roosevelt Tree Army by Mary Buckingham Lipsey, pp 89-110 *Yearbook The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia* Vol. 32 2017 Includes the history of the segregated CCC camp Army – 3- VA 2399 -C that was stationed at Fort Belvoir. The African American young men at the camp completed conservation projects, built fire trails, and helped fight forest fires in Fairfax County.

Repository: City of Fairfax Regional Library Virginia Room

VI. African American Military records

The United States Colored Troops – Encyclopedia Virginia - Virginia Humanities

Includes history of the formation of United States Troops and specific information about units from Virginia and battles fought. Describes segregation and unequal treatment of the soldiers.

Repository: <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/united-states-colored-troops-the/>

Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association includes database, biographies of County veterans, military records, and African American cemeteries in the county

List databases Two databases identify soldiers by Race – Civil War [United States Colored Troops USCT] and World War I Examples:

Temple Cheeks

Military service: United States Colored Troops

Military rank: Private

Unit: Co H., 22nd United States Colored Infantry

Served October 3, 1864 – April 1865

Cain Duncan

Military Service: United States Union Army

Military rank held: Sergeant

Unit: Company A, 23rd United States Colored Infantry

Battles/engagements: Appomattox Campaign

Served November 1863-November 1865

Daniel Webster Williams

Date of Birth: March 30, 1897

Date of Death: October 31, 1918, Residence: Herndon VA

Military Rank: Private US Army

Pvt. Daniel Webster Williams died in France from disease

Repository: www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org

VII. Post - Civil War

The Freedmen's Bureau - a federal government agency established by the War Department in 1865 to assist the formerly enslaved by providing relief, land, jobs, and education.

Reconstruction - The period (1865-1877) during which the states that had seceded to the Confederacy were controlled by the federal government before being readmitted to the Union.

Jim Crow Era - In 1877 the US Supreme Court interpreted that it was lawful for states to instigate segregation on public transportation. In 1883 the US Supreme Court made it lawful for states to institute "separate but equal" accommodations such as schools, churches, parks, etc. "Jim Crow" Laws existed until the middle of the Twentieth Century.

Civil Rights Movement - The national effort made by Blacks and their supporters in the 1950s and 1960s to eliminate segregation and gain equal rights.

RECONSTRUCTION

Black Settlement in Fairfax County, During Reconstruction by Andrew M.D Wolf

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Northern Virginia History Note, Online By Debbie Robison

Educating Freedman During Reconstruction in Fairfax County

Repository: <http://www.novahistory.org/> research articles about local history

A union of church and state: The Freedmen's Bureau and the education of African Americans in Virginia from 1865–1871 by Aaron Jason Butler (2013). Dissertations, Theses, and Master's Projects. Paper 1539618383.

Repository: <https://dx.doi.org/doi:10.25774/w4-0k2t-pw52>

“The Freedmen’s Bureau and School at Fairfax Courthouse” by William Page Johnson II
The Fare Facts Gazette The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. Vol. 13 Issue 4 Fall 2016
The article describes the establishment of schools by the Bureau after the Civil War. Interviews of teachers and students are included, including Minnie Beckwith Hughes who taught in county schools for 30 years.

Repository: <https://www.historicfairfax.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/HFCI1304-2016.pdf>

“The First Black Voting in Virginia” by Brent Tartar
Richmond Times Dispatch October 21, 2017

Repository: <https://richmond.com/opinion/columnists/brent-tarter-column-the-first-blackvoting-in-Fairfax-County>

JIM CROW LAWS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Virginia Museum of History and Culture - The World of Jim Crow

Examples of topics – Massive Resistance- School Busing- Voting Rights- The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

Repository: www.virginiahistory.org/learn/historical-book/chapter/world-jim-crow

Civil Rights Movement Timeline, Key Events and Leaders

Repository: www.history.com

Search Civil Rights Movement

For Young Readers About Jim Crow Laws

Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Tonya Bolden. Real life narratives share the experiences of African Americans during periods of discrimination and segregation.

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

The Rise of the Jim Crow Era edited by Maria Hussey

The book examines the impact of the Jim Crow Laws and the challenges that faced African Americans because of the laws.

Unequal Access: The Desegregation of Public Libraries in Northern Virginia, by Barbuschak and LaPierre

The story of the desegregation of Fairfax County libraries and libraries in neighboring jurisdictions is chronicled. The struggle by Vienna residents like William McKinley Carter is described as black residents seek equal access to libraries. Included are the stories of the library system’s first black employee, first black library professional, and first black library trustee.

Repository: https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/ld.php?content_id=63134201

Fairfax County Public Library Black History Resources

Repository: <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/local-history/black-history>

Black Civic Organizations

[History of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP](#) by E.B. Henderson

Call Number: VRARE 305.896 H

Publication Date: 1965

This booklet describes the growth of the local NAACP branch from 1915, when it was organized in response to a segregation ordinance of the Falls Church Town Council, until the 1960s when racial barriers began to fall.

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

Neighbors for a Better Community by Mary S. Gardiner

Call Number: VRARE 307.76 G

Publication Date: 1980

This book describes the origins and operations of this Dranesville organization founded “to foster harmony and cooperation” between Black and White residents. The organization sought to identify and correct problems in such areas as housing, employment and political rights.

Colored Citizens Association Fairfax County, VA. 30th Anniversary 1928-1941 Booklet, original found in the [Mary Goins Roots Collection, MSS 07-26](#)

Publication Date: 1941

This booklet commemorates the Fairfax County Colored Citizens Association's 30th anniversary history and provides a fascinating timeline of their accomplishments.

Repository: https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/ld.php?content_id=64981619

VIII. African American communities

The Quilt Project: Celebration of the African American Experience

In 1991, the Black Women United for Action organization created a quilt and a video based on African American experiences. The video includes oral histories, pictures of schools, teachers, and communities through the years. With each story introduced, the accompanying square from the quilt is shown also.

Repository: <https://youtube/WpxNtl10akw>

“Black Settlement in Forestville, Vienna and Lewinsville,” *Yearbook: Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia*, Volume 18, 1982, p. 9

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

“The ‘Willing Workers’ A Black Community on Mason Neck,” by Paula Elsey. *The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc. Yearbook*, Vol. 26, 99-100.

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

On the Brink of Change: The Historical Geography of Fairfax County 1960, by Shelley Mastrans. Includes descriptions and map of African American communities and enclaves.

Repository: Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library

“Soil Tilled by Free Men: The Formation of a Free Black Community in Fairfax County, Virginia” by Maddy McCoy. *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 125, No. 1 (2017): 38-67.

Repository: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/i26322274>

Dulles Airport Has Its Roots in Rural Black Community of Willard by Eugene Scheel.

The Willard community was a black and white community that stretched between Fairfax and Loudoun counties. In September 1958, the federal government sent condemnation notifications to 87 landowners to purchase the property for what would become Dulles Airport. The Black community of Willard was displaced.

Repository: <https://www.loudounhistory.org/history/dulles-airport-history/>

“Dulles Airport was originally supposed to be in Burke, but neighbors successfully stopped it.” by Mike Grinnell, August 2, 2017

The article describes how the Burke community fought to keep Dulles Airport out of Burke and won. The Willard community lost the fight and their community.

Repository: Greater Greater Washington <https://ggwash.org/view/64277/how-burke-battled-congress-and-the-president-to-turn-away-dullesairport>

Gum Springs: The Triumph of a Black Community by John Terry Chase

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

Gum Springs - Virginia Collection 1915-1991

The collection includes correspondence, newspapers clippings etc. Subjects cover freedmen. African American community life, etc.

Repository: City of Fairfax Regional Library, Virginia Room, MSS3-10

Gum Springs, with Ron Chase

Repository: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmm6mQnxIDY>

Black History In #FXVA: The Story of Gum Springs by Marissa Daily February 15, 2021

Once enslaved West Ford received property upon his freedom. The property he owned became a safe haven for freed and emancipated slaves. Today, many of their descendants live in Gum Springs:

Repository: www.fxva.com/blog/post/gumspings

Odrick and the Community He Built -videotape

A film documentary completed by Anne Woo May 31,2021 as a senior project as a student at BASIS Independent School in Fairfax County

In 1872 Alfred Odrick, a former slave and carpenter, purchased land and built a house on the south side of Lewinsville Road. He donated land for a schoolhouse. A vibrant African American community would develop in the area.

Repository: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01TmuHCqapw>

The Pines: Pine Ridge Park on Woodburn Road

In 1905 William Collins Sr., a descendant of freed slaves, bought 22 acres there with money he saved from serving with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish American War. The Johnson, Robinson, and Sprigg families soon purchased lots, too. They operated small truck farms, selling their produce in Washington, DC, set up a sawmill, and worshipped at First Baptist Church of Merrifield.

When Fairfax County decided it needed to build another high school it forced the residents of The Pines to sell their land. After years of litigation, the residents were given 60 days to vacate the homes that had been in their families for generations. A school was never built.

Repository: <https://annandaleva.blogspot.com/2016/10/new-historic-markercommemorates-pines.html>

Kin: Two African American Families Build a Community for the Future.

Subjects: James Edward Lee and William H. Collins

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

“A Virginia Village Goes to War - Falls Church during the Civil War;” pages 234-235, by Bradley E. Gernard. The author described in specific detail four communities of freedmen:

1. Baptist Hill
2. Tinner hill –
3. Southgate subdivision
4. Gravel Bank

Repository: Fairfax County Public Libraries

African American community list

Some of those included below are from Fairfax County Public Schools Records from 1870-1945

1. Accotink (near Pohick Church)
2. Bailey's Crossroads
3. Bull Run/ Cub Run area near Centreville
4. Burke (Pearson)
5. Cartersville
6. Carrolltown
7. Chesterbrook
8. Clifton
9. Cottonwood Street (McLean)
10. Cooktown
11. Cub Run (Rock Hill)
12. Dunn Loring (East Woodford)
13. Fairfax
14. Falls Church (near James Lee Elementary School)
15. Floris

16. Forestville (Great Falls)
17. Franconia
18. Freedom Hill
19. Gravel Bank (along Railroad Avenue near Shreve Road)
20. Gum Springs
21. Gunston
22. Hughesville (Jacksonville)
23. Ilda
24. Lane's Mill (near Centreville)
25. Laurel Grove
26. Lewinsville
27. Lebanon (Lincolnia)
28. Merrifield
29. Mount Pleasant
30. Oak Grove
31. Odrick's Corner
32. Ox Road (Painters)
33. The Pines (displaced by county athletic fields at Pine Ridge Park)
34. Ravensworth
35. Seminary (Fort Ward)
36. Seneca Road
37. Sideburn
38. Spring Bank
39. Tinner Hill
40. Union Town
41. Vienna
42. Willard (displaced by Dulles Airport)
43. Williamstown
44. Woodentown
45. Woodlawn

IX. Cemeteries: Family and Community

Because the cemetery surveys were started in the 1980s, the street names and numbers may have changed. Check Google maps for more information. Supervisory districts are listed in BOLD.

1. Cub Run Memorial Gardens in Centreville: end of Naylor Road, **Sully**
2. Sons and Daughters of Liberty at The Pine Ridge Park 3401 Woodburn Road Annandale, **Mason**
3. Sons and Daughters of Liberty Orchard Street Vienna, Hunter **Mill**
4. Ford, Ellis, Simms Cemetery 1011 Seneca Road in Great Falls, Dranesville
5. African American cemetery by Guinea Road at intersection with Little River Turnpike-Ilda community, **Braddock**
6. Pleasant Valley Memorial Park 8420 Little River Turnpike Annandale, **Mason** [see Guinea Road/ Ilda community reburials]

7. Jackson Family Cemetery on Burke Presbyterian Church property 5690 Leather Way Burke **Braddock**
8. Parker/ Green family cemetery (Blue Topaz Lane - west side of Hope Park in Centreville) Sully
9. Robinson, Pearson, Hicks family cemetery 8100 Wolftrap Rd Vienna (near Joyce Kilmer Intermediate) Providence
10. West End Cemetery 500 Lewis Street Vienna **Hunter Mill**
11. Peake Family 815 Fordson Road Gum Spring **Mount Vernon**
12. Neal family cemetery Sutton Road Vienna behind townhouses under development **Providence**
13. Williams Family Cemetery 8327 Wolf Trap Road Vienna **Hunter Mill**
14. Harris Family 7700 Bull Run Drive Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville, southeast of soccer fields **Sully**
15. Jermantown Cemetery south side of route 50 in **Fairfax City**
16. Pearson Family Cemetery entrance is beside 6424 Lake Meadow Drive Burke **Springfield** pathway next to house leads to cemetery in back
17. Snowden and Bethlehem Cemetery 7836 Fordson Road **Mount Vernon**
18. Coleman Cemetery Collingwood Road near Bethlehem Baptist Church **Providence**
19. Robinson on Robinson Lane Centreville **Sully**
20. Clifton Union 7348 Clifton Road **Springfield**
21. Old "Colored" Graveyard 11401 Lee Highway (WPA report 1937) **Sully**
22. Grayson Family cemetery formerly near Huntington Metro Station **Mount Vernon**
23. Grayson Family Cemetery Blunt Ln. Alexandria
24. Enoch Grayson (Colored) purchased a 9-acre parcel near the current Huntington Metro Station in 1870 (Db L4:274). His family remained on the land until his son, Shirley Grayson, sold the property in 1925 (Db M9:534). Death Certificates and Disinterment Permits on file with the District of Columbia Dept. of Health state that the remains of thirteen people were removed from this site in 1947 and reburied in Woodlawn Cemetery (Washington, DC)

Church cemeteries

1. Laurel Grove Baptist Church 6834 Beulah Street Franconia **Lee**
2. Cartersville Baptist 1727 Hunter Mill Rd Centreville **Hunter Mill**
3. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church 6477 Lincolnia Road Alexandria **Mason**
4. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church 13614 Coppermine Rd Herndon **Dranesville**
5. Clark's Chapel 7520 Rolling Road Springfield **Mount Vernon**
6. First Baptist Church Chesterbrook, 1740 Kirby Road McLean **Dranesville**
7. Shiloh Baptist Church 10226 Gunston Road, Lorton **Mount Vernon**
8. Shiloh Baptist Church, 1331 Spring Hill Road McLean Old and New Section **Dranesville**
9. Frying Pan Meeting House and Burial Grounds 2615 Centreville Rd Herndon **Hunter Mill**
10. Little Zion Baptist Church - Pearson Cemetery 10018 Burke Lake Road Burke **Braddock**

11. Second Baptist Church on 6626 Costner Road and Annandale Rd. **Providence**
12. Pleasant Grove Church and Cemetery on 8741 Lewinsville Road McLean **Dranesville**
13. Clifton Primitive Baptist Church 7200 Main Street Clifton **Springfield**
14. Little Bethel Church Cemetery 10255 Zion Drive Burke **Braddock**
15. Pleasant Grove Church, 8741 Lewinsville Road McLean **Dranesville**
16. Woodlawn United Methodist Church 7730 Fordson Rd. Alexandria **Mount Vernon**
17. Galloway United Methodist Church 2750 Annandale Road Falls Church **Providence**
18. Mt. Moriah Baptist Church terminus of Milstead Rd. Great Falls **Dranesville**
19. Bethlehem Baptist Church Collingwood and Riverside Drives Alexandria **Mount Vernon**
20. Chantilly Baptist Church 14312 Chantilly Baptist Lane Chantilly **Sully**
21. Ilda Methodist Church 8717 Little River Turnpike Annandale **Mason**
22. A 1937 deed mentions burials on the church property.
23. Cub Run Primitive Baptist Church 15602 Compton Rd. Centreville **Sully**

SEARCHING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL GROUNDS OF THE ENSLAVED

While some had a documented and/or a physical presence at the time a survey was completed decades ago, the site's location may be without a current correct address, often due to development. The physical remains such as gravestones, fences, physical environs may no longer exist. There are also sites that simply are identified through oral history accounts or family tradition, but are without any recorded documents, references to actual location, or known archaeological evidence.

Online research of county cemeteries is available on the Fairfax County Library website.
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library_cemeteries/

Examples:

1. Orrison Slave Cemetery is reported in a backyard of a home on Permit Ct., Kingston Chase Subdivision, about 200 ft west of the Orrison Family Cemetery in Herndon. **Dranesville District.**

2. In the Annandale area, there are reported to be slave cemeteries associated with Ossian Hall and Oak Hill. The slave cemeteries are Robertson Family on Glen Park Road, Stuart, Custis Family on Royston Road and Unknown Name on Hogan Lake Place. **Braddock District**

3. A cemetery for the enslaved was established on the Ravensworth plantation. When the development of the industrial park on Port Royal Road began, a Ravensworth Farm resident retrieved a portion of the iron fence that had surrounded the slave cemetery. It was unknown as to whether the human remains had been removed.
Braddock District

Researching cemeteries/burial grounds

When researching for burial grounds of the enslaved in Fairfax County, one may use this website. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library_cemeteries/ One can search by a person's name or name of a cemetery. One may add a search filter by type: slave, Black, unmarked, unnamed, "colored, or "Negro."

There are challenges when trying to locate the burial grounds: In doing research of land deeds, one finds that there are no descriptions of burial grounds included in the deed. Also, when persons visit the property, they find no visible physical evidence of a burial ground.

In the past when surveys were completed by visiting each cemetery/burial ground, the location of the cemetery had no address, so the address of the home nearest to the cemetery/burial ground might be included with the description.

Sources: Fairfax County Public Library, cemetery survey online:

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library_cemeteries/

Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org

X. African American Enclaves

"Enclave" definition by Oxford: A portion of territory surrounded by a larger territory whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct.

After the Civil War, enclaves of freed slaves were established in Fairfax County.

- Gum Springs (south of Alexandria)
- Williamstown (Merrifield)
- Odrick's Corner (Spring Hill Road & Lewinsville Road)
- Cooktown (Herndon)
- Lincolnville (Chesterbrook in McLean)
- Bailey's Crossroads
- Clifton
- Burke
- Quander/ Spring Bank (south of Alexandria)
- Oak Grove (Herndon)
- Gunston
- Lincolnia (near Alexandria)
- Ilda (near Annandale)
- Tinner Hill – South Falls Church (once part of Fairfax County)
- Carrolltown (near Franconia)
- Woodlawn (near Fort Belvoir)
- Vienna