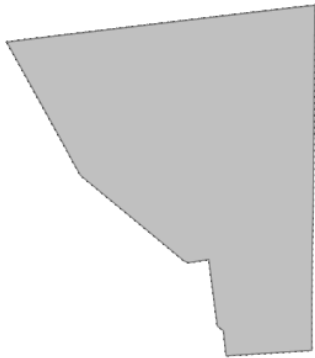


To: Redistricting Advisory Committee
Fairfax County Precinct names to be considered:

1. Ravensworth
2. Stuart
3. Van Dorn
4. Graham-Greenway
5. Oak Marr
6. Lees Corner

<http://ravensworthstory.org/land/ravensworth-landgrant/>

1. Ravensworth Land grant



Parcel 1.0 (Ravensworth landgrant)

- [Northern Neck Grant](#) – Sometime before 1685, John Matthews and unnamed partners purchased a landgrant of 21,996 acres from the proprietors of the Northern Neck Grant.

- [Parcel 1.0](#) – In 1685, [William Fitzhugh \(the Immigrant\)](#) bought the 21,996-acre landgrant that by 1715 was known as Ravensworth. A later survey in 1791 specified its size as 24,112 acres.¹

his outline of the boundaries of William Fitzhugh's 1685 landgrant, Ravensworth Plantation, shows the area included within and what is on the

ground today. **View [Parcel 1.0 \(Ravensworth Landgrant\)](#) in a larger map**

The Ravensworth land grant boundary is based on the companion map to [Beth Mitchell's Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia](#). The George Mason University Department of Geography GIS Center extracted the geographic information in developing maps for Fairfax County's A Look Back at Braddock history project and published in *Braddock's True Gold: 20th Century Life in the Heart of Fairfax County*.

<http://ravensworthstory.org/2017/09/30/anna-maria-fitzhugh-samuel-smothermon/>

Anna Maria Fitzhugh & Samuel Smothermon

September 30, 2017

"Cousin Anna" to [Robert E. Lee](#) and widowed in 1830, [Anna Maria Fitzhugh](#) was matron of Ravensworth for 44 years and its protector during the Civil War. [Samuel Smothermon](#) was transported to the Virginia colony to serve seven years as a convict laborer. In freedom, he married, raised a family, farmed 135 leased Ravensworth acres, and is retired Fairfax County librarian Karen Moore's favorite ancestor. Researching the implications for Anna Maria of her husband posthumously freeing his slaves in 1850 extended the storyline in [Free Blacks Manumitted by William Henry Fitzhugh](#). Thanks to Maddy McCoy for insights and help in researching choices that some made embarking on their new lives. Maddy is developer of the [Fairfax County, VA Slavery Inventory Database](#). Thanks also to Mary Lipsey for sharing her research and guiding development of Anna Maria Fitzhugh's story. A [Fairfax Co. History Commissioner](#), Mary keeps the memory of Anna Maria and other history subjects alive in her talks to groups and at events.

<http://ravensworthstory.org/people/enslaved-people/slaves-whfitzhugh-1830/manumissions-whfitzhugh-1850/>

Free Blacks Manumitted by William Henry Fitzhugh

In the January 1850 Fairfax County Court session, the first of 61 formerly enslaved African Americans registered as free Blacks, who were manumitted under the provisions of **William Henry Fitzhugh's will**. It had been 20 years since **William Henry Fitzhugh** died in 1830, when his will stated: "After the year 1850, I leave all my negroes unconditionally free..."

Forty-three registered in that first court session of 1850. Eighteen more registered in small groups throughout the following months, with the last person registering in February 1851. The youngest registrants at 21 would have been one year old in 1830.¹ They appear in the table below arranged alphabetically by last name so that family groups are listed together, though it's not certain that all sharing a common last name were related.

<http://ravensworthstory.org/people/owners/stuart-david/>

2. David Stuart (1763-1814)

Role in Ravensworth: owner **Parcel 1.1.2**

David Stuart was born in Scotland where he studied medicine before emigrating to Virginia and setting up a medical practice in Alexandria. He joined **George Washington's** extended family in 1783 when he married Eleanor Calvert Custis (1757/1758-1811), widowed daughter-in-law of Martha Washington.¹ They raised two of four children from Eleanor's marriage to Martha Washington's son John Parke Custis: Eliza Parke and Martha Parke Custis. The Washingtons adopted the two younger children: Eleanor Parke and **George Washington Parke Custis (1781-1857)**.² David and Eleanor had 16 children together, including:³

- Ann Calvert Stuart
- Sarah Stuart (born 1786), married Obed Waite (1766-1845), lawyer and mayor of Winchester, VA from 1824 to 1831⁴
- Ariana Calvert Stuart (born 1789)
- William Sholto Stuart (1792-1822), unmarried
- Eleanor Custis Stuart (born 1796), unmarried
- Charles Calvert Stuart (1794–1846), married Cornelia Lee Tuberville
- Rosalie Eugenia Stuart (1801–1886), married William Greenleaf Webster

*L'Enfant's Plan of the City of Washington, March 1792*⁵

Creating the Capital

David Stuart is probably best known for his four years (1791-1794) as a Commissioner of the District of Columbia. He was one of the original three, and the sole commissioner from Virginia, appointed by President George Washington to oversee the creation of the new U.S. Capital. They supervised the survey and acquisition of land, sale of lots and construction of public buildings, including the work of Pierre Charles L'Enfant in implementing his design for layout and construction of the city. Early on, the commissioners chose "Washington" for the city's name. During Stuart's tenure, difficulties with L'Enfant led to his dismissal by President Washington in 1792.⁶

State and Local Positions

Stuart for several years represented Fairfax County in the Virginia House of Delegates, along with George Mason. He was a member from 1786 to 1789 and perhaps even earlier, and represented the county in the Virginia convention of 1788 that ratified the U.S. Constitution – Stuart voted to ratify. He

was an elector in the 1789 presidential election that chose George Washington the first President of the United States.⁷

In local offices, he served as a justice of the Fairfax County Court in 1784 and 1808. In May 1798 he was appointed Commissioner with Colonel William Payne, Charles Little, James Wren, and Charles Minor to select the site for and manage building a new courthouse.⁸

Advisor to George Washington

George Washington's correspondence reveals that enlisting Stuart in guiding creation of the new capital city was not the first time Washington had relied on him in important matters. Three examples:

1. During the public debate between the Federalists, who favored ratification of the proposed United States Constitution, and the opposing Anti-federalists, Washington called on Stuart. Sending him copies of anonymous Federalist essays that were being published in New York – part of what became known as *The Federalist Papers* – Washington asked Stuart to have them also published in Richmond, Virginia.

*He swore Stuart to secrecy: "Altho' I am acquainted with some of the writers...I am not at liberty to disclose their names, nor would I have it known that they are sent by me to you for promulgation." Stuart passed the essays to Augustine Davis, who printed them in the Virginia Independent Chronicle in December 1787.*⁹

2. In July 1789, three months after assuming the presidency, Washington wrote Stuart, in part:
*...your communications without any reserve will be exceedingly grateful and pleasing to me. While the eyes of America, and perhaps of the world, are turned to this government, and many are watching the movements of all those, who are concerned in its administration, I should like to be informed, through so good a medium, of the public opinion of both men and measures, and of none more than myself; not so much of what may be thought commendable parts, if any, of my conduct, as of those which are conceived to be of a different complexion.*¹⁰
3. An exchange of letters in June 1790 mixed family business with a report on public opinion like the president had encouraged from Stuart.
 - a. On June 2nd, Stuart first reports on a legal case with a Mr. Alexander – probably the long standing dispute over terms for land that John Parke Custis had purchased before his death. The letter then reports on a "Catalogue of Public discontents" in Virginia regarding: a perceived effort in Congress to constrain slavery; whether the new federal government should assume state war debt from the Revolution; closed-door sessions of the U.S. Senate; "The slowness with which the business is carried on...Congress it is said, sit only four hours a day, and like School boys observe every Saturday as a Holyday."¹¹
 - b. Responding on June 15, Washington begins: "Your description of the public Mind, in Virginia, gives me pain. It seems to be more irritable, sour and discontented than (from the information received) it is in any other State in the Union, except Massachusetts, which, from the same causes, but on quite different principles, is tempered like it." He then responds to each of the complaints, first defending Congress' work schedule and slow pace: "The fact is, by the established rules of the House of Representatives, no Committee can sit whilst the House is sitting; and this is, and has been for a considerable time, from ten o'clock in the forenoon until three, often later, in the afternoon; before and after which the business is going on in Committees." Washington's thorough arguments in countering this complaint and objections to debt assumption perhaps were directed to more than just David Stuart, as though he expected that Stuart would pass the arguments on. He closes with a complaint of his own, explaining steps taken to control his schedule and protect his time from:

“Gentlemen, consulting their own convenience rather than mine, were calling from the time I rose from breakfast, often before, until I sat down to dinner.”¹²

Ossian Hall Plantation

David Stuart bought **Parcel 1.1.2**, which he named **Ossian Hall**, from **Nicholas Fitzhugh** in 1804. That same year, his stepson **George Washington Park Custis** married Mary Lee Fitzhugh, daughter of **William Fitzhugh (of Chatham)** of closeby Ravensworth. The short walking distance between the **Ossian Hall and Ravensworth manor houses** likely facilitated the already close relationship between these members of the Fitzhugh and Washington families. (The Stuart family moved to Ossian Hall from the 1250-acre **Hope Park plantation**, which Stuart bought in 1785 from **Edward Payne**.)

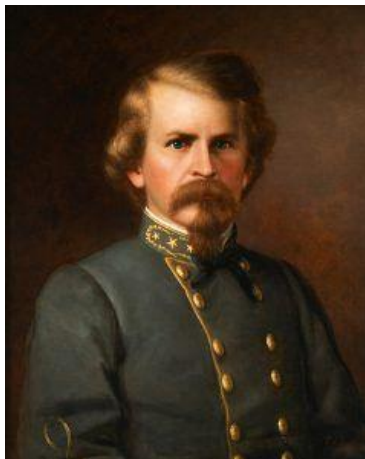
On David Stuart’s death in 1814, **Parcel 1.1.2** passed to his son William Sholto Stuart, and on William’s death in 1822, to his sisters Sarah, Arianna, Eleanor and Rosalie. They sold the property in 1833.

National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Volumes 7-9 (National Genealogical Society, 1922), 47 ([Google ebook](#)).

1. William Spohn Baker, *Washington After The Revolution: MDCCCLXXXIV-MDCCXCIX* (J.B. Lippincott Co., 1898), 23 ([Google ebook](#)).
2. Robert Winder Johnson. *The Ancestry of Rosalie Morris Johnson: Daughter of George Calvert Morris and Elizabeth Kuhn, His Wife* (Printed for private circulation only by Ferris & Leach, 1905, 28 ([Google ebook](#)); “David Stuart (Virginia Politician).” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Stuart_\(Virginia_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Stuart_(Virginia_politician)). In cases of conflict between these two sources, Johnson is followed. Some information about dates is from personal research, primarily in land deeds.
3. Greene, Katherine Glass. *Winchester, Virginia and Its Beginnings, 1743-1814*. Heritage Books, 2009, 126. They married about 1830, a second marriage for him.
4. *Plan of the City of Washington, March 1792* by Andrew Ellicott, revised from Pierre (Peter) Charles L’Enfant; Thackara & Vallance sc., Philadelphia 1792 (Library of Congress) From [Wikimedia Commons](#), Public domain
5. “Commissioners for the District of Columbia,” accessed November 3, 2014, <http://mallhistory.org/items/show/308>; “Pierre Charles L’Enfant,” accessed November 5, 2014, <http://mallhistory.org/items/show/82>.
6. “David Stuart (Virginia Politician).” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Stuart_\(Virginia_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Stuart_(Virginia_politician)). For a record of Stuart’s years in the House of Delegates, see Virginia General Assembly House of Delegates, *Journal VA House of Delegates 1786 – 1790, 1828* ([Google ebook](#)).
7. “The Fairfax County Courthouse by Ross De Witt Netherton and Ruby Waldeck – Free Ebook,” 12 and 110-111, accessed July 26, 2013, <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/28750>.
8. Leibiger, Stuart. *Founding Friendship: George Washington, James Madison, and the Creation of the American Republic*. University of Virginia Press, 2001, 118.
9. Washington, George, and Jared Sparks. *The Writings of George Washington: Pt. IV. Letters Official and Private, from the Beginning of His Presidency to the End of His Life: (v. 10) May, 1789-November, 1794. (v. 11) November, 1794-December, 1799, 1839, 17* ([Google ebook](#)).
10. “Founders Online: To George Washington from David Stuart, 2 June 1790.” Accessed November 4, 2014. <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-05-02-0288>.
11. “Letter to David Stuart | Teaching American History.” Accessed November 4, 2014. <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/letter-to-david-stuart-3/>.

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/earl-van-dorn/>

3. Earl Van Dorn – A Casualty of the Civil War



Earl Van Dorn was a West Point graduate and career U.S. Army officer, who fought with distinction in the [Mexican-American War](#), but, resigned his commission in 1861 to join with his native state of [Mississippi](#), in the [Confederate](#) cause. He would make the ultimate sacrifice for his beliefs.

Earl was born in Claiborne County, Mississippi on September 17, 1820, to Peter Aaron Van Dorn, a lawyer and judge and Sophia Donelson Caffery, a niece of Andrew Jackson.

When he grew up his family relations to Andrew Jackson secured him an appointment at the United States Military Academy at West Point and he enrolled in 1838. In July 1842 he was appointed a brevet second lieutenant in the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment and began his army service in the Southern United States.

In December 1843, Van Dorn married Caroline Godbold, and the couple would eventually have two children. After fighting in the Mexican-American War, he saw action in [Indian Wars](#) with the [Seminole](#) in [Florida](#) and the [Comanche](#) in [Texas](#). However, when the [Civil War](#) erupted, he resigned his commission in 1861 to join the [Confederacy](#). After serving briefly as commander of the Mississippi Militia, Van Dorn received a commission in the regular Confederate army as a colonel of infantry in March 1861.

Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, by Kurz & Allison



In January 1862, Van Dorn, now a major general, was given command of the newly-formed Trans-Mississippi Military District. Van Dorn immediately faced a [Union](#) invasion of [Arkansas](#). He personally took charge of his two Confederate armies and devised a complex flanking maneuver designed not only to defeat the smaller Union force but also to advance north through [Missouri](#), capture [St. Louis](#) and threaten [Ulysses S. Grant's](#) armies. Despite his numerical advantage, Van Dorn's two-pronged attack on entrenched Federal positions at [Pea Ridge](#), Arkansas, failed due to

delays, lack of supplies, and the loss of his top two army commanders. The Union forces counterattacked and drove Van Dorn's armies from the field.

Van Dorn suffered a similar fate at the [Second Battle of Corinth](#), Mississippi. Again failing to properly reconnoiter the defensive position of his opponent, Van Dorn's attack on [General Rosecrans's](#) Federal troops fell short and was eventually repulsed, forcing the Confederates to retreat. Following the battle, Van Dorn was relieved of his army command and reassigned to command [General John C.](#)

[Pemberton's](#) cavalry. As a cavalry commander Van Dorn would achieve his greatest success in a raid on Grant's supply depot at Holly Springs, Mississippi, on December 20, 1862. Van Dorn's raid thwarted Grant's initial plan to attack Vicksburg and cut the Confederacy in half. On May 7, 1863, Van Dorn was shot dead at his headquarters by a husband jealous of the attentions Van Dorn paid his wife. He was buried at the Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson, Mississippi.



The struggle over Corinth and its railroad crossroads would go on for some six months.

By Kathy Weiser-Alexander, updated February 2020.

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=graham+civil+war&cvid=b64dabacfc8c4da4a77f9d320806b11b&aqs=dge.0.0l8j69i64.15852j0j1&pglt=43&FORM=ANSPA1&PC=TBTS>

4. Graham-Greenway

Charles Kinnaird Graham (June 3, 1824 – April 15, 1889) was a sailor in the antebellum United States Navy, attorney, and later a brigadier general in the Union Army during the American Civil War. **Charles**

Kinnaird Graham (June 3, 1824 – April 15, 1889)^[1] was a sailor in the [antebellum United States Navy](#), attorney, and later a [brigadier general](#) in the [Union Army](#) during the [American Civil War](#). As a [civil engineer](#), he helped plan and lay out [Central Park](#) in [New York City](#).

Place of burial: [Woodlawn Cemetery](#), [The Bronx](#), New York

Rank: [Midshipman](#) (Navy), [Brigadier General](#) (Army), [BrevetMajor General](#)

Service/branch: [United States Navy](#), [United States Army](#), [Union Army](#)

Years of service: 1841–1848 (Navy), 1861–1865 (Army)

<http://www.fairfaxrifles.org/marr.html>

4. Oak Marr

Skirmish at Fairfax Court House, June 1, 1861

John Quincy Marr b. Warrenton, Va. 5/27/25. Graduated V. M. I. 1846; Asst. Professor of Math, V. M. I. 1846 - 47; practiced law at Warrenton; Fauquier Co. Sheriff, 1854; elected Capt., Warrenton Rifles, 11/26/59. Delegate to 1861 State Convention. Enlisted 4/22/61 at Warrenton; Capt., Warrenton Rifles. Apptd. Lt. Col. of Va. Vols., 5/2/61. Killed 6/1/61, Fairfax C. H. His body was found the next day by "Uncle" Jack Rowe. Buried at Warrenton Cemetery. His uniform shako cap, jacket, epaulets, overcoat and sword are in the collection of the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Va. Capt. John Quincy Marr of the 17th Va. Infantry, Co. K (Warrenton Rifles) died by enemy fire at Fairfax Court House, Virginia on June 1, 1861. He was the first Confederate officer killed in the war.

For fun.....

<http://ravensworthstory.org/people/notables/>

Several well known historical figures had connections with Ravensworth and/or its owners.

Robert "King" Carter, Portrait attributed to Marietta Andrews¹

Robert "King" Carter

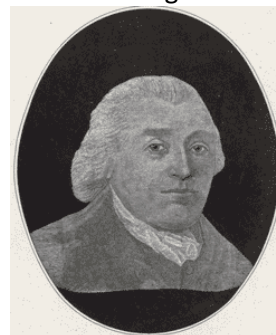
Father-in-Law of **Henry Fitzhugh (of Eagle's Nest)**. Succeeded **William Fitzhugh (the Immigrant)** as land agent for the proprietors of the **Northern Neck Grant**. — *Leading colonial Virginia politician and landowner*



For more information, see **biography and transcription of Robert Carter's papers** by Edmund Berkeley, Jr.

Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax

Inheritor and last owner of the **Northern Neck Grant**. Only British nobleman to live permanently in colonial America. Mentor of George Washington and his first employer as a land surveyor. *County, Virginia is named for him.*



— *Fairfax*