

FAIRLINGTON - (*Formerly "Hampton Farm"*)

There is no place in Virginia that does not have some historical spot or connection with the founding of our Nation, and its history.

Fairlington, in Arlington County, is no exception! Located in the south-eastern quadrant of Arlington County, between Four Mile Run, King Street (formerly Leesburg Turnpike), Quaker Lane and South Walter Reed Drive, our area lies completely within the original boundaries of the Federal City of Columbia.

Washington, D.C., as it is now known, was established by our Founding Fathers, and its location and size set forth in The Constitution. Virginia and Maryland each gave 10 square miles bordering on the Potomac River. The original Jurisdiction - boundary - stones were erected in 1791 at one-mile intervals. George Washington and Dr. Elisha Dick officiated at the placing of the first Jurisdiction Stone on April 15, 1791, in the City of Alexandria. Today these stones, or their sites, are protected by iron enclosures and are maintained by various Chapters of the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution. (See Photo #1) Two of these stones are in Fairlington - stones #4 and #5 - and we are very proud of our incorporation within the original Federal City - the Territory of Columbia.

The 270-year old story of "Fairlington" begins on January 21, 1705. With the sound of Indian tom-toms beating in the nearby Indian village on what is now part of National Airport, William Struttfield patented 543 acres of land west of what is now the City of Alexandria, and erected his "patent" house.

Eleanor Lee Templeman, in her book "Arlington Heritage" gives us

a very excellent history of this patent - best known in Colonial Days and later as "Hampton". The Struttfield patent was obtained in 1756 by Colonel John Carlyle of Alexandria, who willed it to his son George William Carlyle. When George Carlyle died in the Battle of Eutaw Springs in 1781, the land was inherited by a nephew, Carlyle Fairfax Whiting. Mr. Whiting lived on the estate and probably built the large white frame house that stood on a knoll overlooking the Alexandria-Leesburgh Turnpike. Some of the foundations were still visable prior to the recent widening of Interstate 95, and one of the magnificent spruce trees that lined the drive is still standing at the edge of North Fairlington and Leesburg Pike at South 31st Street. About 1870, Carlyle Whiting's heirs sold the property of Courtland Hawkins Smith I, a kinsman of General Robert E. Lee, who added other acreage, rebuilt the mansion house, and renamed it "Hampton".

Since this was out "in the country" from the City of Alexandria in those days, the Smith family also maintained their "town house" at 510 Wolfe Street. "Hampton" farm became one of the largest and finest stock farms in the nation, raising hunters and show horses. At the turn of the nineteenth century, Courtland Smith II, organized the Hampton Hounds, which group later merged with the Chevy Chase Hounds to form The Cameron Run Hunt Club. The Hunt Club held fox hunts, steeplechases and some of the finest horse shows in the area here at "Hampton" farm.

"Hampton" farm's era as a grand old private estate, with horses, hunts and parties drew to a close when the times changed in the mid-1920's and the Smith family sold it and moved to another area of Virginia.

On the eve of America's entry into World War II the Federal Government acquired 360 acres of the old "Hampton" Farm land to build wartime housing for government executives working in and around the capital. President

Franklin Delano Roosevelt personally called Houston architect Kenneth Franzheim to come to Washington and design and build this project. Mr. Franzheim was given almost carte blanc in design, the pick of skilled workers, first crack at scarce building materials, and the money to do a truly "first-rate" job. The completed development was a village of winding tree-shaded streets, Georgian-colonial homes, and large open grassy areas for recreation and enjoyment. (See Photo #2) This development became a model for developers and builders throughout the United States of America. Even today, when Fairlington is undergoing its first renovation since it was built, and is being remodeled and sold as condominiums, its renovation and restoration is considered one of the finest examples in the United States. The development has been awarded several citations and awards for this conversion.

Fairlington, formerly "Hampton" farm, is not content being on the boundary line of the District of Columbia, having been a colonial estate and the center of horse races and parties, because it has another claim to fame in the history of our area.

During the Civil War - or War Between The States - Fort Reynolds, one of the finest Civil War fortifications in the vicinity of Washington, was located in what is now North Fairlington and its adjoining apartment development of Park Shirlington. Fort Reynolds (see Photo #3) was built in the fall of 1861 to protect the valley of Four Mile Run, the approaches to Washington and Alexandria via Leesburg Turnpike, and several grist mills located along Four Mile Run. The outer ramparts of the Fort were 360 yards in perimeter and mounted 12 guns. This fort was named in honor of General John Fulton Reynolds, a West Point Graduate from Pennsylvania, and a veteran of the Mexican and Indian campaigns, who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg.

Near the site of the original "Hampton" manor house was located

another Civil War fortification - Battery Garesche. Built on the higher ground overlooking Fort Reynolds, and mounting 8 guns along its perimeter, it provided very excellent control of the valley of Four Mile Run and the Leesburg Turnpike. Combined with the nearby Fort Ward this protection was so effective that legend has it the fearless "Grey Ghost" John Singleton Mosby, tried his luck only once in slipping into Alexandria under the guns of these Forts.

Until 1955, when the Park Shirlington apartments were built, children playing up and down the embankments of Fort Reynolds in the wooded area between North Fairlington and the Shirlington Shopping Center, would find Civil War bullets and other artifacts.

Residents of today's modern homes and apartments in Fairlington, and persons traveling through, or up and down Leesburg Pike (now Route 7), should be aware that colonial, federal and Civil War events - political, economic, military and social - transpired on this square area of land adjacent today to Interstate 95 in the southeastern section of Arlington County near the City of Alexandria.

History is being made every day, and we in Fairlington are not content to rest on our past glory, but are contributing our share to our nation's growth and culture.

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