

Section One: Introductions

The Bulletin of Loudoun County History

2020 – 2021 Edition

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Fig. 1. Children in Middleburg, 1920s. Courtesy of Gertrude Evans

The Bulletin of Loudoun County History, 2020-2021 Edition

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Cover Photos

Front Cover Photo is of SOLON cemetery in Middleburg. The exact address is 795 West Washington Street, Middleburg, Va. 20117.

Back Cover Photo is of a mystery stone from the Saffer Cemetery in the South Riding area. No street address. From the Settle-Dean Cabin, head west on Braddock, then right on Riding Center Drive, right on Fleming, then left on Longacre. The cemetery is on the left (west) in a stand of trees.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

**October 31, 2020
South Riding, Loudoun County, Virginia**

Dear Readers:

We are pleased to present the second issue of the revised Bulletin of Loudoun County History. We do this with excitement, humility, and love for our region, as well as respect for the editors who preceded us. Our goal is to tell stories of Loudoun County's past, as well as of its neighbors which are of special interest to our residents, regardless of race or culture. They all deserve to be told and remembered. We also are determined to apply honest scholarship and ask that you read the articles, buy our issues, and even write for us; but keep in mind that opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors, not necessarily of the periodical or DFV. We also ask for suggestions and criticism, so that we can improve. In fact, this issue's structure reflects such suggestions.

Our periodical was first formed by the Loudoun County Historical Society, created in June 1954. Over the years, many citizens have linked themselves and we invite you as well. Any topic or period of history will be considered so long as it relates to local history. As an example, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which is anticipated to continue into 2022, we make a special invitation to write stories for our next issue about residents who played a role in this struggle or in the pandemic of 1918. We do not want their efforts to be forgotten, nor those who were impacted by other natural disasters that took place in our region such as the drought of 1930, during which the Piedmont counties of Loudoun, Fauquier and Culpeper registered less than 21 inches of rain, vs an average of 42 inches.

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Figure 2 Urns by Frederick W. Shaker

We also have a deep interest in supporting local artists. In 2007, the Bulletin sponsored an extensive story on the history and creations of Frederick W. Shafer, a 19th century Leesburg potter. Continuing that tradition, next year's issue will cover the art of

contemporary Quilt makers and connect their efforts to past traditions. Meanwhile, we encourage readers to visit the Loudoun Museum, which has wonderful examples of early cloth products such as a "second-day dress" made in the 1850's or a friendship quilt composed of 35 appliqued blocks made by a group of Waterford and Clearview Quakers. These were featured in the 2010 edition of the Bulletin. However, art need not be a century old to be appreciated. Any art from any period of the past can be studied.

We also look for stories about records preservation, a legacy of great pride in Loudoun. After the British burned the White House during the War of 1812, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were saved by being stored in Leesburg. During the Civil War, Loudoun court records were moved to Rustburg in Campbell County. As a result, Blacks today can more easily trace their lineage, as can all citizens of Loudoun. Organizations like the Lovettsville Historical Society, the Balch Library and the Loudoun Museum all play important roles in document preservation, as do churches. In addition, the Edwin Washington Project manages one of the largest efforts in rural America preserving Black records from the segregated era. In other words, Loudoun is a leader in historic preservation. Please tell us what you know.

During the American Revolution, our population was only about 11,000, including about 2,000 enslaved. Today,

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nearly half a million live here, making Loudoun the third most populous county in Virginia. It also has the highest per capita income and is diverse, some residents being the descendants of the enslaved laborers who built monumental structures like Oatlands. A growing Muslim population exists, mostly anchored in the ADAMS center in Sterling, and many Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans are here, people of numerous cultures and traditions. There are also many residents who descend from the heroes who battled tyranny during the Revolution; some of whom are buried in Loudoun, which is why our county has a strong Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presence. Many descend from those who fought bravely for the Blue and the Gray, in World Wars One and Two, the war of 1812, and all other American conflicts. We also have in our county's soil the graves of the enslaved, which are in dire need of documentation and protection. Other descend from the Quakers who bravely struggled for equality for all when that was unpopular.

By way of the Bulletin's history, five issues were published between 1958 and 1975. 1977 ended the first phase. The second phase began in 1995 with meetings and the reprinting of some older bulletin articles in a hard-bound volume. The then society was operating under the wing of the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation. After a pause in 2001, a further eight issues were printed from 2004 through 2012, then in 2018, the trustees turned over the periodical to Diversity Fairs of Virginia, a 501(c)(3) organization. As the new owners, we are determined to honor the wonderful work of past editors; but also expand the readership by considering the interests of our fast changing, increasingly diverse population.

The Bulletin is non-partisan and offers no political ideology or mission of its own other than to advocate for the preservation of history and the value of a diverse society. We suggest that the county government one day fund a

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comprehensive County Archive in Leesburg for all government records and important private papers.

Although we are not a membership society, we urge anyone to collaborate by attending discussion groups. Due to COVID-19, these will likely be in a zoom meeting format through 2021. Donations are also encouraged, as the Bulletin is owned by a 501(c)(3). Also consider joining our Facebook page where stories and color photos may be posted.

High School seniors are encouraged to consider publishing their first article in our periodical. High School students Katie Knipmeyer, and Sofia Conway co-authored the salary equality article in this issue with Dr. Anthony Arciero. Many high school students have assisted in other research as well sponsored by Diversity Fairs of Virginia (DFV) such as a study of historical Conklin at the Lundsford Middle School. Some were award-winning German Gymnasium seniors, sponsored by the George C. Marshall International Center of Leesburg. Gymnasium in the German education system is the most advanced of the three types of German secondary schools. Other students were from Loudoun County Public Schools or the Loudoun School for Advanced Studies (LSAS) in Ashburn.

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Readers can write to the Bulletin of Loudoun County History at 26128 Talamore Drive, South Riding, Va. 20152 or by sending an email to Larry Roeder, Editor in Chief at DFVcontact@gmail.com.

Fig. 3 Residents in Loudoun descend from people who grew up all over the world, giving us a truly diverse makeup. We encourage the preservation of old photographs and documents, so that everyone's legacy is preserved. Photo, courtesy of Larry Roeder, showing his family in Hamburg, Germany.



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DEDICATIONS



Fig. 4 Wearing a mask is a public health responsibility.

The editors dedicate this issue to everyone impacted by COVID-19, first responders, front line workers in grocery stores, etc. or those made sick or who died from this pandemic. As of this writing, over 200,000 Americans have died from the disease and millions have been infected, here and abroad, ordinary people just going about their lives. As happened with the Spanish Flu, COVID-19 has also put millions out of work. This calls for remembrance. Readers are asked to consider posting stories about COVID-19 or past disasters on our Facebook page or to submit articles for consideration for our next issue.

We also want to dedicate this issue to those who have been restoring and documenting old cemeteries. Too often, burial grounds are allowed to deteriorate, which can lead to future desecration. To that end, we set aside an entire section of the Bulletin to cemeteries and strongly commend the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), Pastor Michelle Thomas, the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition and others for their important work. Social justice events over the last few years also compel dedication of this issue to the victims of violent injustice, the topic of one article advocating for the preservation of records regarding victims of violence.

Finally, the Bulletin is owned by Diversity Fairs of Virginia (DFV), a non-profit with a focus on showing the virtues of a diverse society where anyone, regardless of religion, race or other factors can live in harmony and safety with others. It is also a member of CIVICUS, the world's largest network of civic minded people, and the Country School Association of America.

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Fig. 5 Ancient Growth on an abandoned chimney in the Dulles District. Site of Cardinal Ridge School. Courtesy, Larry Roeder.

The sign of a strong, vibrant society is one that can recognize past sins and their impact on today's people. This is not about partisan politics. Our Bulletin has no such agenda. However, only by understanding ourselves and how we are seen by others can we improve and build a great future.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Anthony Arciero: A former Air Force Officer has just finished his PhD in the field of Education from George Mason University. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of DFV (Diversity Fairs of Virginia).

Sofia Conway: Graduate of the Loudoun School for the Gifted, now called Loudoun School for Advanced Studies (LSAS). is a private facility in Ashburn, Virginia designed to inspire and challenge advanced students in grades: 6-12. Ms. Knipmeyer assisted Dr. Anthony Arciero writing the article "Campaign for Salary Equality."

Pricilla Godfrey: Has lived in western Loudoun County since 1979. She served as the Blue Ridge District representative on the Loudoun County School Board from 2004 to 2012. She is past President of the League of Women Voters Loudoun County. She is also a charter member of the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges and has been quilting for 40 years.

Lori Hinterleiter Kimball: Historical researcher whose projects cover various topics in Loudoun's history. She

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was on the boards of several local non-profits, is a member of the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, and serves on the county's Heritage Commission. Lori was the Director of Programming and Education at Oatlands and is now the Executive Director at the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum.

Katie Knipmeyer: Graduate of the Loudoun School for the Gifted, now called Loudoun School for Advanced Studies (LSAS). is a private facility in Ashburn, Virginia designed to inspire and challenge advanced students in grades: 6-12. Ms. Knipmeyer assisted Dr. Anthony Arciero writing the article "Campaign for Salary Equality."

Carlos Lawson: Pastor of the Prosperity Baptist Church and the Edwin Washington Project. In 2020, he was elected to the Board of Directors of DFV.

Larry Roeder: Former U.S. soldier and diplomat, an executive for a British non-profit, an editor for Springer Science+Business, former Chair for Research of the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library, an artist and a consultant/author on civil rights and foreign affairs. Also the Director of the Edwin Washington Project and President of DFV, as well as Editor in Chief of the Bulletin.

Wynne C. Saffer: Known as an indigenous Loudoun resident who has conducted numerous local research projects, including mapping the county's land ownership in 1860, extensive cemetery research and helping the Edwin Washington Project map the White and Colored Willard schools. He has written several books about Loudoun's history, including *Loudoun Votes 1867- 1966: A Civil War Legacy*, and *Mount Zion Cemetery, Aldie, Virginia*. Saffer is a recipient of the Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award.

Edward Spannaus: Retired journalist who got his start in

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social and political activism as a student volunteer in the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1965, he obtained a M.S. from the Columbia University School of Social Work, concentrating in Community Organization. He served as an At-Large Commissioner on the Loudoun County Heritage Commission in 2018-2019, and is active in the Lovettsville Historical Society, and several other civic organizations.

Nancy Bradeen Spannaus: Retired journalist and editor who has been studying American history, with an emphasis on its economic development in general, and Alexander Hamilton in particular, since the 1970s. In 1977 she co-authored a book of writings called the "Political Economy of the American Revolution." In 2019 she followed up that effort with the book *Hamilton Versus Wall Street: The Core Principles of the American System of Economics*. In 2017 she established the blog <https://americansystemnow.com>.

ABOUT THE MAIN ARTICLES

The People Enslaved by President James Monroe is the second in a series about the properties and people of the Goose Creek Tract, an 11,375-acre parcel acquired by Robert Carter Jr. in 1727. Over the years, Carter descendants divided the land into large tracts and sold them. President James Monroe eventually owned one of them. In 1830, 66 men, women and children were enslaved at Monroe's Oak Hill plantation in Loudoun. He was the largest enslaver in the county by that time.

Loudoun County: Federalist Stronghold presents the story of Loudoun's support for Washington-Hamilton economic policies, including internal improvements and national banking. Specially featured are Middleburg-founder Leven Powell and Aldie-founder Charles Fenton Mercer, who both played significant political roles in

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Virginia and the nation.

Incident at Oak Haven Station uses an assault and attempted lynching from the 1930's to illustrate why records of historical events must be preserved. In this case, though the incident went to trial, the race of the main victim was never revealed by the media or the courts.

Loudoun County Poorhouse Farm tells the story for the first time of this institution which was closed in 1946, then known as the "Alms House" farm consisting of 421 acres about one and a half miles east of Bloomfield in Mercer district. ¹The county farm for the poor was acquired by the Overseers of the Poor through five deeds between 1822 and 1831 and contained 261.5 acres.

A Campaign for Equality tells a story about how African Americans were faced with a horrible dilemma – fight the organized system of racial injustice and be labelled a criminal and possibly even be killed or live a life of second class status. A small group took a strategic approach and built a campaign to fight a battle both for survival and for equality under the law to acquire equal salaries.

Women's Rights and Loudoun County introduces the story of women's suffrage in Loudoun and is a call for more articles on the achievements of women in the county's history.

Loudoun Ranger Reunions 1890-2012 discusses all the known reunions of the Rangers, the only Federal cavalry unit raised in Confederate Virginia, and their descendants. We also recommend a three-part series of articles in the *Bulletin* on Captain Samuel Cornelius Means. Please read the 2010, 2011 and 2012 editions of the Bulletin.,

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PURCHASING COPIES

Readers can buy copies direct from Amazon or from the Bulletin. The price covers our expenses and supports our research. Copies are also for sale at the Balch Library, the Lovettsville Museum, PhotoWorks of Leesburg, and the Philomont General Store, as well as through the Mosby Heritage Area Association. Copies are also found in Loudoun Public Libraries and Public High Schools. The Prosperity Baptist Church is also advertising the Bulletin.

Donors wanting to make a separate tax-deductible contribution to support research should mail a check to Diversity Fairs of Virginia at 26128 Talamore Drive, South Riding, Va. 20152.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors should submit unpublished manuscripts only in Word for Windows format on a person, place or historical event having to do with Loudoun County or its neighbors, when that event would be of interest to Loudoun residents. Portions of early diaries and letters are encouraged, especially articles on topics not covered before, or which advocate for the preservation of buildings, cemeteries, documents, and artifacts. All images must be accompanied by copyright/permission information.

Authors are responsible for accuracy, and should offer full source citations for key facts, quotations, findings, or conclusions. When using photographs, figures, and other illustrations, they will need captions and source citations. Articles should also be accompanied by a short abstract, as well as a bio on the author(s).

The Thomas Balch Library, local churches, the Archives of the Circuit Court in Leesburg, the Prosperity Baptist Church, the Loudoun Museum, the Edwin Washington Project, the Lovettsville Historical Society, and other Loudoun-based history clubs or associations are excellent

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sources of material.

Please send submissions to Editor in Chief, Larry Roeder at dfvcontact@gmail.com, or write to the Bulletin of Loudoun County History, 26128 Talamore Drive, South Riding, Va. 20152.

STYLE MANUAL

- Articles should be of modest length, though longer pieces are considered, sometimes as serials.
- Documents must be submitted in word for windows, not pdf.
- Use Arial 11 for text. We will resize for the final print.
- We generally use the Chicago Style Manual; but are flexible.
- Photographs should be in .jpg or .tiff format and in as high a resolution as possible. They will be converted to Black and White. Each must be credited.
- We use endnotes for bibliographic and informational notes. . For example

Text: African Americans wanting formal secondary schooling had to raise tuition funds and travel to private schools, which were often associated with churches, such as the Manassas Industrial Institute in Prince William County, or a pair of public high schools in Washington, D.C.: Dunbar and Armstrong Technical High School.

Endnote: Geneva Brown graduated from Dunbar and instructed at Guinea Colored in Lovettsville during AY 1920/1921. See EWP Archives: Term report for Guinea Colored in 3.3.3: Yr. 1920-1921.

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SPECIAL PROJECTS



Tony Arciero and Henry Plaster find the ruins of a lost schoolhouse in a forest near Bluemont. Courtesy Edwin Washington Project.

In addition to producing the Bulletin, the majority of DfV's work involves expeditions to find lost properties or sponsoring academic research into Loudoun's History and discussion. Purchase of this issue and donations go directly into supporting those important volunteer efforts. All donations are tax deductible. All volunteers work for free, but travel to academic centers, visit local sites and conduct interviews. DfV also rents space for discussions. All this costs money. We need your help.

Two important research efforts are (1) the John Rust Papers and (2) the Edwin Washington Project. The John Rust Papers, which will be discussed more fully in the 2021/22 Edition are also part of the **Lost Letters Program**, developed to protect, and describe forgotten documents found in attics and chests. For example, we preserved a 1928 letter found in a desk in a store written by a new teacher. We also studied a blood-stained ledger of Mortimer Virts, who made coffins for Loudoun's African American and white residents. The ledger was discovered in an attic by Louis Jett, a local historian. We have also scanned and documented many church records for the

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Prosperity Baptist Church, started by Black evangelist Jennie Dean in Conklin, near South Riding.

THE JOHN RUST PAPERS – a special project



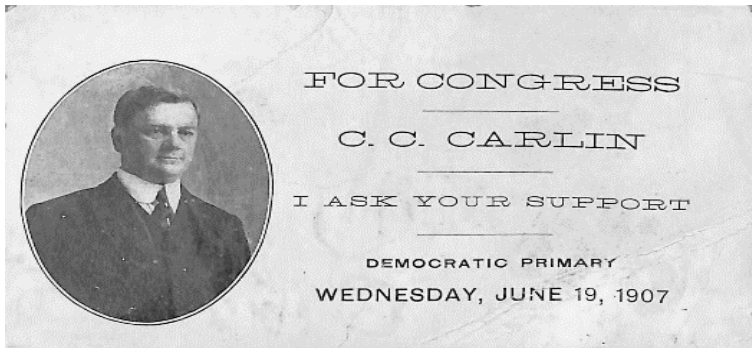
Possibly John Rust, found in the Papers.

In 2017, DFV was given a moldy chest containing over a thousand pages dating back to an 1832 deed. The material belonged to John Clay Rust, born in 1852, a 19th Century, early 20th Century Justice of the Peace, politician, and packrat.

The first task was fumigation, because insects were inside. The team also killed off mold

and fungus, which took three months. The papers are extremely fragile, so each is handled carefully to prevent turning to dust. Each is also scanned, placed in protective mylar envelopes, and catalogued. Images are then distributed to research volunteers.

The papers are certain to generate many interesting research articles covering early public schools, the management of county roads, results of local elections and estate management. There are also arrest warrants and



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position papers by local politicians, as well as ordinary receipts and personal letters. This is truly a local treasure and is being treated with the greatest professional care, especially because of its unique lens on Loudoun.

THE EDWIN WASHINGTON PROJECT – a special project



At the request of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), DfV studies experiences of Blacks in Loudoun's schools from the Civil War's close to 1968, when segregation ended. Experts at the Country School Association of America have described the effort as the largest of its kind in the United States. Volunteers study thousands of papers, some so fragile that face masks must be worn.

The Washington Post featured the project on their front page on February 23, 2020. The article was written by Hannah Natanson who has a focus on education and was formerly the Managing Editor of the Harvard Crimson.

The project interviews segregation survivors, studies old school houses, and visits archives such as at VSU near Richmond, the Founders Library at Howard University and philanthropic fund reports kept at Atlanta University. The project also partners with local groups like the Lovettsville Historical Society. So that the research is balanced, the project also examines both Black and white schools. Honest comparison is essential. In addition, a peer review process is used for publications.

Some volunteers have advanced degrees, others are simply neighbors wanting to help. All are trained by project staff. The moral imperative is to be professional and honor the heroic struggle by Loudoun's Blacks for a proper education. The project is also named after the first African-American youth documented as having negotiated the right

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to go to school and keep his job, Edwin Washington. He worked where the Circuit Court Archives now sits in Leesburg.

We are very grateful for the support of the Black community of Loudoun County in particular for their support, as well as LCPS Records Office, Superintendent Dr Eric Williams, Public Information Officer Wayde Byard, Pastor Carlos Lawson of the Prosperity Baptist Church and elected officials: Delegates John Bell and David Reid, Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk, town councilman Neil Steinberg (our official photographer), as well as Supervisors Koran Saines, Kristen Umstattd, and other elected leaders.

See www.edwinwashingtonproject.org.

¹ Loudoun County, Virginia deed book 121, page 350.