



Historic Franconia Legacies

Franconia Museum Inc.
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Fall 2005

Franconia Museum Inc.

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Olivet Episcopal Church

The little white Olivet Chapel is the last remaining landmark of early Franconia and has been a meeting place for Franconia Episcopalians for over 100 years. The Chapel functions today as one of two locations for Olivet's parish, and is a favorite site for weddings. The Olivet congregation is committed to maintaining this landmark for the active use of its members and visitors.



The present Chapel is not the first Olivet church building. Its origins lie in the early 1850's under the supervision of three seminary professors, when students of the Virginia Theological Seminary, on the outskirts of nearby Alexandria, were actively evangelizing and organizing prayer and Sunday Schools in the 17 mission stations from Bailey's Crossroads, Arlington to U.S. Route 1, Groveton. Richard Marshall Scott, Jr., owner of the nearby Bush Hill plantation and member of Christ Church, Alexandria, noted in his journal on May 29, 1853, "Our family attended religious services on the outskirts of my land on Backlick Road at a place where we intend to build a small chapel." On the following day, he noted that Mr. John Parsons, a carpenter who worked for him by the year, commenced work on the little chapel, which opened for worship services on June 12, 1853.

Rev. H. H. Holcomb was the seminary student most responsible for organizing and ministering to the congregation of "Olivet Mission Station" on the Scott plantation. After three years of study, Rev. Holcomb graduated and was ordained on June 29, 1855 at St. Paul's Church in Alexandria. On July 2nd of the same year, he paid his respects to Mr. Scott and his family before returning to his home parish to prepare for his trip

In the Fall to serve as a missionary to Liberia under Bishop Payne. Shortly after his arrival in Liberia, he was stricken with a 'fever' and died one week later on June 12, 1957. The original building in which Rev. Holcomb had served the Olivet Parish so faithfully was later abandoned and replaced in 1861, at a cost of \$1,200, with a much larger and nicer building. On March 17th of the same year, it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. John Johns and renamed "Holcomb Chapel" in his honor. Mr. R. Mason of the Virginia Theological Seminary followed Rev. Holcomb and continued to preach and minister to the congregation until his graduation in 1857.

Both of the 1853 and 1861 buildings, in addition to other mission stations, schools and other wooden structures in the area, were dismantled by Federal troops during the Civil War years. This lumber, plus much virgin timber, was cut from private plantations and the Virginia Theological Seminary which was used for their personal use. Virginia Theological Seminary, located three miles to the north of Olivet Church, was mainly used as a Union hospital, bakery, a cemetery, and officer's quarters for the Federal Troops. It, too, was left in disrepair at the end of the war.

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Presidents Message ...



Fall is here, mornings are crisp and leaves have begun to fall. It has been one year since the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors allocated \$50,000.00 to renovate space at the Franconia Government Center for a permanent home for the Franconia Museum. Architects, Planners and Engineers have worked all year to create a design that will showcase the history of Franconia. Construction of the room will begin later this year and we look forward to a Ribbon Cutting in Spring 2006. Everyone will be invited!

As we head into the cooler months and prepare for the Holidays, many of us will be sitting down with families and pulling out photo albums from years past to share and reminisce. This year as you gather with family and friends, please remember that the Franconia Museum is looking for photos and artifacts that depict the history of Franconia. We are especially interested in photos you may have from the 1920's to 1960's. We would borrow your original photos, scan them in and return the originals to you. As you look through your collection and you come across something you think might interest us, please call Jac Walker at 703 971-2463 or myself at 703 502-0941.

Have a great Fall and stop by and see us at Franconia History Day, November 5, 2005.

*Sincerely,
Phyllis Walker Ford*

New 2005 Friends ...

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Paul Andrienas</i> | <i>John W. Haskins</i> | <i>Maureen Schreiner</i> |
| <i>Shaun Andrienas</i> | <i>Robert Hastings Family</i> | <i>Carl Sell</i> |
| <i>Olander Banks, Sr (Founder)</i> | <i>Shirley Hatton</i> | <i>Marlene Shaughnessy</i> |
| <i>R.B. Birdsong</i> | <i>Jane Hilder</i> | <i>Lois J. Shifflet</i> |
| <i>Christine E. Boyer</i> | <i>Carolyn S. Hite</i> | <i>Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Shupe</i> |
| <i>Therese Chaplin</i> | <i>Elnora Markle</i> | <i>Mrs. Purnell Simms</i> |
| <i>Louise Devers</i> | <i>James & Connie Miller</i> | <i>Jean Starr</i> |
| <i>Michael Devers</i> | <i>Sandra J. Mullikin</i> | <i>Bob Warwick</i> |
| <i>Peter Gentieu (Founder)</i> | <i>Bill & Cassie Parker</i> | <i>Samual Watkins</i> |
| <i>Michael C. Groeneveld</i> | <i>Michelle Quick</i> | <i>E. Patricia Wimberly</i> |
| <i>Billy Hakenson</i> | <i>Christine J. Rogers</i> | |



Fourth Annual Franconia History Day

Mark your calendar!!!!

**Saturday, November 5, 2006
11:00 to 3:00**

**Franconia Elementary School
6043 Franconia Road
(intersection of Franconia and Beulah Street)**



The theme of Franconia Museum's 4th Annual History Day is **"Singing in the Past"** with local elementary school choral groups.

This year we will also spotlight Franconia Elementary School. We will display many of the items we have used in the past, however, we will have some new additions: New church displays; the Police Department, Wards Corner Pictures and groups from Franconia, Lane, and Rose Hill Elementary schools will be singing throughout the day.

You will be able to purchase Franconia baseball caps (see picture above) and Franconia Museum calendars. We will also have copies of Franconia Remembers, Vol. I and Vol. II for sale. You will not have to leave for lunch because we will have a concession stand and you can have lunch with us. So please join us and be a part of this festive event.

If you would like to be a sponsor or learn more about our sponsorship program, contact Steve Sherman of Sherman Properties at (703) 971-7700. Steve has been a sponsor in the past and can answer any questions you might have.

We will need volunteers for various duties. If you are willing to help us out on that day please call Jac Walker at (703) 971-2463.



Famous Franconian: Sylvia Louise Shepherd Plaughter



On February 9, 1909, a daughter, Sylvia Louise was born to Annie Elizabeth and Raymond Shepherd. Their home was located in Accotink, Virginia.

Five siblings would follow. Unfortunately, Raymond died in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918. Sylvia quit school to care for her sisters and brother. Annie went to work at the shirt factory in Alexandria.

At the age of 16, Sylvia met Ward Plaughter who was a streetcar conductor in Washington, D. C. Kate Smith was a regular passenger. (Remember her?)

They soon married and after living in S. W. Washington, D. C. they relocated to Franconia in 1935. Ward opened a small country store on Franconia Road, later to grow into Ward's Corner. Sylvia worked many long hours, as did Ward. Ward died November 6, 1958. Sylvia continued to operate the business until it burned May 18, 1959.

Sylvia still lives in Springfield, Virginia and is 96 years of age. A sister, Mildred Posey, age 95, lives on Franconia Road. They are the oldest family survivors, the younger siblings having preceded them in death.

Betty Jean Plaughter Nalls, Daughter

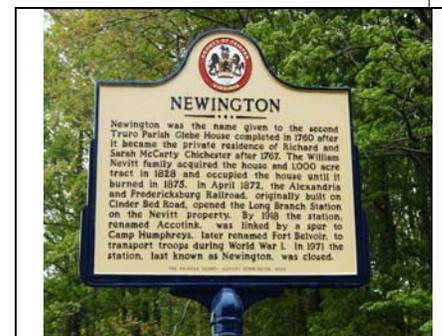
Newington History Marker Dedication

The Fairfax County History Commission and the Franconia Museum, Inc. held a Dedication Ceremony on September 17, 2005 for the 18th Fairfax County Historical Marker honoring the community of Newington. The marker was made possible due to the contribution of the Tavares Concrete Company on Cinderbed Road. The marker is located at Dupell Park, 6812 Newington Road, off Telegraph Road.

Newington was the name eventually given to the second Truro Parish Glebe House completed in 1760. Daniel McCarty of Mount Air purchased the Glebe house circa 1767. His daughter Sarah and her husband Richard Chichester lived there. Their heirs sold the "Newington Tract" containing 1,000 acres in 1828 to the William Nevitt family, who occupied the house until it burned in

April 1875. In April 1872, the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railroad, originally built on Cinderbed Road, opened the Long Branch Station on the Nevitt property. By 1918, the station, renamed Accotink, was linked by a spur to Camp Humphreys, later renamed Fort Belvoir, to transport troops during World War I. In 1971, the station, known as Newington, was closed. Today, the Chichester Family Cemetery survives undisturbed adjacent to the site of the original Truro Parish Glebe House.

Sue Patterson



My Story

By Lillian Louise Simms Javins

Parents

Clarence B. Simms
(January 23, 1888 – August 8, 1955)

Lillian S. Lyles Simms
(April 2, 1890 – October 15, 1918)

My parents were blessed with two children, Lillian Louise born September 14, 1915 and a son, George Craven born February 25, 1917. We were born at home in a little farm house on Backlick Road, Garfield, Virginia which was later changed to R.F.D. #1, Springfield, Virginia. Dr. W. Caton was the family doctor who lived in Accotink, Virginia. He rode by horse and buggy to deliver babies; in fact, he served the entire community with home visits as a general practitioner. There was a midwife who was always there to take care of the babies. Dr. Sam Moore was the surgeon when needed at the Alexandria Hospital located on Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. John Brookfield delivered our mail by horse and buggy. His wife, Eugene Brookfield, was the ticket agent for the Southern Railroad at the Springfield Station. (Eugene's brother was Judge Howard W. Smith in Alexandria, Virginia.) This was the Time of the Depression when money was scarce and work was hard to find. We had a cow, hogs, chickens, and a horse and buggy. We had a nice vegetable garden which we shared with friends and neighbors.

We never remembered our mother as she died from influenza when I was three years old and my brother George was one year old. She was buried in the Beulah Cemetery. I became Grandmother Martha Ann Lyles' girl and George was my mother's sister, Aunt Martha Ann Lyles' boy. The entire family moved to an old house located in the forks of Backlick Road, Franconia Road and Keene Mill Road. We got a man by the name of Mr. Fred Knopp who lived on Valley View Drive, to wire our house so

we would have electricity. Later we got a washer and dryer which was a big deal; no more tubs and wash boards! As time went by, we got a RCA radio. We enjoyed listening to the good old songs and stories. I attended grades one through seven at the Springfield School, a one-room building on Backlick Road. Miss Virginia Smith was Principal. Mr. Milton Dulaney Hall was Superintendent of Fairfax County Schools. It took about ten minutes for me to walk to school. We had a dentist who took care of our teeth and a doctor who vaccinated us against smallpox. We had two nice outdoor "johns" for the boys and girls. They were well kept but it was some kind of cold in the winter. The school was heated by a big wood stove. We had a great well with a hand pump. It had a cement floor and a cover; also a pipe that ran underground to a water trough on the road side for the horses. It was very good cold water. We had a big library with a big window to study in and a boys and girls cloak closet to hang our clothes. We also had a big playground where baseball was played.

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My Story
By Lillian Louise Simms Javins
Continued From Page 5

We played marbles, Farmer in the Dell, London Bridge breaking down, races and most games played at school.

A big gravel pit was close to the school which was a great place to ice skate when the water froze. We had great fun there until we were restricted due to the depth of the water and danger of the ice breaking. It became "Off Limits."

My first teacher was Miss Virginia Smith. Miss Alice Smith, her sister, filled in for her. We had good teachers and neighbors after moving to Springfield. Mrs. Kassie Carter Smith was a teacher. She had two sons, Carter Lee and Claude. Her husband, Mr. Lee Smith, worked on a good job. He built a little store across from his house on Franconia Road. It became a neighborhood gathering place in the evenings.

I attended Lee Jackson High School, located on Duke Street at Quaker Lane (later annexed by the City of Alexandria.) I walked a mile in the morning and back in the evening to the Franconia Railroad Station. My dad worked for the RF&P Railroad and he got passes for my brother and me to travel to school. Mr. John Dent was the ticket agent there. A ticket to Alexandria, Virginia cost 25 cents, and it cost more to ride to Washington, D. C. We rode the train for two years until my dad's job closed out. It was then that Fairfax County provided a bus from Annandale to Backlick Road to pick us up. Mr. C. Gray was the bus driver. One scary occasion, Mr. Gray drove into a ditch which overturned the bus. We were taken to Alexandria Hospital to be checked over.

My dad worked as a carpenter and helped build a house on Valley View Drive for the Jeff Stewart family. Mr. Leonard Trumpower of Franconia hired my dad along with Shelton Terry and my brother George.

It was on June 13, 1936 when Charles Edward Javins and I were wed. On a Saturday morning, we decided to go to Rockville, Maryland to be married. I was 20 years old and Charles was 21. Reverend Herbert Cooper, a Baptist minister, said it would be an honor to marry us. His wife asked if she could be my maid of honor, to which I said "Sure." She gathered some flowers from her garden and made me a beautiful bouquet and a boutonniere for Charles. They were two lovable people. They asked us to visit with them which we did. When we said our good byes, Reverend Cooper said if we had any friends or relatives who were planning to get married, he would be glad to marry them.

Charles was the youngest of seven children whose parents were George R. Javins and Lola Virginia Lyles Javins, natives of the area. His siblings; Mabel S., Marvin M., Oneta V. (married to Hallie Lyles), George M., Lillian S. Sullivan and Sara M. (Sally) are all deceased. Charles worked on the farm, raising hogs all of his life. I worked for a ten year period in a Dry Cleaners Plant.

We did our shopping in Alexandria at J. C. Penney, Lerner's Dress Shop and Murphy's Five & Dime Store. My friend, Hazel Lyles, and I would often shop at a hat shop on 7th Street in Washington, D. C. We bought our groceries at the A&P in Alexandria

We moved in with Charles' mother and family on a farm off Hooes Road in Springfield. They were so nice to me. The government took the farm so we had to move. The family owned a farm on Franconia Road which they rented to Mr. John Dent, the ticket agent at the Franconia Railroad Station. He had to move so we could move into this home place. Mr. George Javins had given his daughter, Lillian Sullivan, five acres to build a house but she decided to move to Manassas. My Aunt Martha bought the property and built a house. Charles' father passed away and soon after, his mother passed away. His sister, Sallie, went to live

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My Story
By Lillian Louise Simms Javins
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with her sister in Manassas. Then Fairfax County bought the farm and built Lee High School. When Aunt Martha passed away, she had left her property equally divided to my brother George and me. Charles and I bought out my brother's part. Then Fairfax County wanted the property to add on to Lee High School so we sold out and moved to Lorton, Virginia.

We found an old farm with four fenced-in dog pens. Charles had four Beagles and he loved to hunt rabbits. We moved to 9202 Ox Road, Lorton Virginia where I still live. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary at the Best Western on Loisdale Court in Springfield, Virginia. The party was given for us by Charles' nephew, Walter and Martha Sullivan and his nieces, Joyce and Gail Swank. We almost made it to our 65th anniversary.

Down on Franconia Road by the RF&P Railroad was a store owned by Mr. Will Broders. He lived across from the store with his wife, Nellie and daughters, Evelyn and Dorothy. They sold most everything and it was also the precinct where everyone had to go to vote. We voted on paper and dropped it into a box. It closed at 6:00 p.m. and it was always a very busy day. Evelyn married a neighborhood boy, Woodrow Smith, and they had one daughter, Mary Evelyn. Mary Evelyn remembers the store being torn down.

When I was eight days old, I was put on the cradle roll of Beulah Baptist Church. I was baptized on January 16, 1929. I taught the four year-olds there for over forty some years. Mrs. Freda Clate and Viola Cook were my helpers. Our church was destroyed by fire on November 3, 1965. Services were continued in Franconia School until it was rebuilt. Reverend Herbert Reamy was our pastor. The new building was dedicated on

August 6, 1967. Reverend Samuel Edwards was the pastor when the name of the church was changed from Beulah Baptist to Calvary Road Baptist. We walked from Springfield to the church on Beulah Street in Franconia which was about three miles. Everybody walked but now with all of the cars on the road, we come and go in a hurry.

Back to Reverend Herbert Cooper, we did ride back to Rockville, Maryland with James Deavers and Jessie Javins where Charles and I stood with them as they were married. They had seven children, but James and Jessie went home to be with the Lord. We also rode back with Harold Cook and Viola Edwards and stood with them as they were married. They had two children, Harold, Jr. and Fay. Harold has gone home to be with the Lord

My husband, Charles Edward Javins, went home to be with the Lord on September 13, 1999. I still live in Lorton, Virginia and my church is Calvary Road Baptist on Beulah Street in Franconia, Virginia. My pastor is Dr. David Rhodenhizer. I still drive myself to church and other short errands. I celebrated my 90th birthday on September 14, 2005. God Bless All.

Note: Lillian set us straight where we mistakenly identified her in the picture of Old Franconia School. Those of you who have viewed this in our Franconia Remembers Volume II, please note that we do not know the name of the girl in the picture we thought to be Lillian Simms. We would like to hear from anyone who can identify all unnamed students. As written in Lillian's story, she attended Springfield School on Backlick Road, not Old Franconia School.

Lillian is well known as a well dressed put together lady. She and her friend, Hazel Lyles, enjoyed shopping together to sometimes wear matching outfits. It would be interesting to know just how many hat boxes she has with her wide selection of hats to match each outfit. In fact, she said she just bought a lovely lavender hat to match her new lavender outfit.

May 2005

Olivet Episcopal Church

Continued From Cover Page ...

After the Civil War, Virginia Theological Seminary resumed operations in the fall of 1866 and soon had its mission stations back in operation. Messrs. Hullihen and Lewis, students at the seminary, are credited with organizing the building of Olivet's third chapel. In 1866, this chapel was built on a new and better site donated by the widow of Richard Scott, who had died in 1856. The exact location of the building on Bush Hill plantation is uncertain, but Mr. Bruce Gunnell, the great-nephew of the Widow Scott, stated that as a boy he remembers the Chapel being located between present day Bush Hill Drive and Westchester Street and about 150 yards north of Franconia Road in the present-day Bush Hill subdivision. This was about two miles to the east of the present Olivet Episcopal Church. This chapel was named "Mount Olivet Chapel" and was built at a cost of \$600. This neat weather-boarded chapel was capable of accommodating 100 persons. However, it was not consecrated until June 23, 1872 because of unpaid debt of \$250. The aftermath of the war not only devastated the country but the poor, jobless farmers that made up the parishes were hit the hardest. During these economically depressed times, tobacco was used in trade for needs and to pay salaries. Money was just not available, as Confederate currency was useless and caused the retirement of the debt to take several years.

The chapel now in use was consecrated April 4, 1893 by the Rt. Rev. Francis M. Whittle on its present site but the history is silent regarding the reasons for the parish relocation from Bush Hill. The new site was on a corner lot of then Rolling and Windsor Roads (now Franconia Road and Beulah Street) and was sold to the church by the widow of South Carolina congressman William W. Boyce for a token price of \$5.00.

The Rev. Samuel A. Wallis graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 1881 and on June 1882 became the Rector of Pohick Church. In December that year, he was appointed the part-time Rector of Olivet Chapel where he remained for 12 years. However, in his several stations for the rest of his ministry, he continued to be involved in Olivet's ministry until his retirement in 1934. It is interesting to note that it took Olivet exactly 100 years to emerge as a parish with its own rector

1853-1953). In 1953, the Rev. Charles Karsten became the first full time clergyman until 1957 when he answered a call from another church. He was succeeded by the Rev. Stuart West, who became the second rector of Olivet Church. During his tenure (1958-1969) Olivet achieved parish status (1962). When he answered a call to another church, Rev. Berry B. Simpson, Jr. (1969-1981) came, followed by the Rev. Donald P. Roberts (1982-1990). The Rev. Rick Wright came in May 1992 and stayed until June 2000. The Rev. Robert Tedesco, who received his training as a Deacon at Olivet, also served as a Supply Priest off and on from 1990 to 2002. The Rev. Dr. David S. Harper joined us in August 2002 as the sixth full-time rector of Olivet.

There were drastic industrial changes made in the Springfield and Franconia areas in the 1950's that changed the lives of the farmers and their country style of living to an unexpected hustle-bustle city life. The Orange and Alexandria Railroad, completed around 1854, did little to stimulate growth. When Shirley Highway (now Route 95) opened in the fall of 1949, it opened the floodgates for travel, new homes, and buildings and it brought Washington, D.C. residents within 15 minutes of the quiet little town of Franconia. The population explosion from a few hundred people to thousands of new residents was unbelievably rapid.

During this building boom, Olivet's new brick Church building was consecrated in 1957. The new facility, with a larger seating capacity, included a Sunday School with individual rooms and an Undercroft with a fully equipped kitchen and parish hall for social activities. The new building became very popular. Olivet had taken a giant step to accommodate the surrounding growing community, and found themselves heavily in debt; however, the debt was retired in 1975. That same year, Olivet's new building was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Robert B. Hall. Today the brick Church building, as well as the 1893 wooden Chapel, is used to support outside community activities and services, in addition to the normal scheduled events of the parish.

In summary, Olivet cannot lay claim to any ties with our country's prominent statesmen, but from its founding in 1853 to the present day, Olivet has consistently provided a training ground for seminary students doing their field work; a Church where several newly ordained priests have gotten their start; and a family parish environment for lay persons to be loved, hear the Gospel, and use their God-given talent to make a difference in our community.

Sharon Chapel During The War Between The States by Don Hakenson

Anne S. Frobel wrote in her memoirs about the condition of Sharon Chapel shortly after the Yankees entered Alexandria. She penned "Then we turned our steps toward "Sharon," our poor little chapel, and found it a complete wreck, not a window or a seat, not a lamp, chancel rail, chancel furniture, bibles, prayer books, Sunday school liturg's--all every thing gone-gone. The only vestiges remaining were the torn up books and papers scattered about, and flying with the wind all over the graveyard. But what touched me most was to see my dear old parents lying there amidst the veryest scurf and off scouring of the earth, and to think of their filling up our graveyard with such. The first time I went to town I told a friend and relative of it. It could not help screaming and crying while I talked to her about it."

Anne went on to say, "All that is left of Sharon is scribbled over with names and drawing(s) interspersed with blasphemous oaths and all manners of horrid writings. I took out my pencil and wrote in one place. "He who defileth the temple of God, him will God destroy." Some time after I went there again and found my text scribbled all around the room and more horrid pictures drawn-and a few days after this Charles came in to let us know that a whole gang of Contrabands had taken possession of Sharon and

were now unloading their wagons and we had better see about it. We took him with us and hurried off down there. We found men, women and children. We told them that the building was a church, it was on our land and they could not and should not stay there. They were very impudent and insulting, said it was government property and they had more right there than we had, and they went on perfectly regardless of what we said unloading and toting in their plunder. Charles said there was a picket station near and we had better see what they would do, but they would not interfere. Then we went to the next station, fortunately the officer of the day was there and we made known to him our grievance, he walked back to Sharon with us and told them they could not stay there, a place was provided for Contrabands at Ft. Lyon and they must go there. He gave them a note and we stayed and saw them well off the place before coming home."

Anne later wrote that "...every tree in "Sharon('s)" yard had been cut and carried off, we hurried down there to find it was a fact." So the chapel was now located in a desolate place and in a dilapidated condition.

In 1864, Sharon Chapel was accidentally burned to the ground by Union soldiers from Fort Lyon. Later it was rebuilt from lumber from the barracks of that same fort.

Behind the chapel, in the cemetery, is an obelisk monument that records the deaths of Samuel and Thomas Pulman, ages 9 and 13, who were killed when a cannon ball they were playing with exploded on August 6, 1864. An article in the Alexandria Gazette gives a slightly different account "A shell fired from one of the forts... struck the house of Mr. Samuel Pulman across Hunting Creek and exploded, killing two of his children instantly and breaking the arm of the third. The mother and father were in town at the time and upon hearing of the catastrophe their agony was intense, and the shrieks of the mother heartrending."

The Pulman children's tombstone is the oldest in the cemetery. The inscription on their tombstone is as follows:

*"They have gone to their home
in the morning of life*

*From the world where the
rough billow rolls*

*And though sudden the
summons that called them
away*

*In heaven with God rest
their souls."*

If you ever get a chance to go to Sharon Chapel make sure that you visit the large cemetery in back and read the inscription on the Pulman obelisk.

In Memoriam ...

We wish to express our condolences to family and friends of four persons who passed away in 2005 who are featured in our collection of stories, *Franconia Remembers, Volumes I or II*. We are very grateful to them for sharing their Franconia memories.

OLGA B. OLESEN on September 3rd, 2005, wife of the late Hilbert Olesen, mother of Michael and Scott Boyce, and six grandchildren.

Olga and her granddaughter, Christine Boyce, shared memories of the historical house known as Ashland at the unveiling of Volume II held at Kingstown Library on May 14, 2005. Ashland is the featured cover story. They expressed love and joy in the renovation to make this a home for 26 years (1965 – 1990.). Hilbert was a master craftsman in wood-working. Michael recently has offered to share more memories. His mother had the history of the house researched which produced a notarized document dating back to the early 1800's.

ERNEST STAPLES on April 28, 2005 (age 84), husband of Frances, five children; Gail, Ernest Jr. (Lanny), Daryl, Mark and Cara; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ernest was a master auto mechanic. Their story is featured in Volume I and *is the very first story of the Franconia Museum's collection*. Ernie was a native Franconian as is Frances. Their story of struggles and successes is expressed in a very warm love story. Frances still lives in the house that Ernie built which was an ongoing project beginning in 1945. There has never been a mortgage payment-- every board was paid for in advance.

ALVIN E. DENNIS, SR. on August 1, 2005 (age 84). His wife, Irene, and son Alvin, Jr. preceded him in death. Survivors are a daughter, Lynda McCord (Keith), two grandsons and two great-grandchildren, a sister; Elizabeth Fenimore (Charles) in Florida.

Alvin was a resident of the Greenspring Village in Springfield for the past few years. His story about Franconia Elementary School is featured in Volume I. Alvin's father, Wilbert J. Dennis, Sr., moved to Alexandria from Georgia (via New York) and was the building contractor of Franconia School which was completed in 1931. He liked the area so he moved his family to Franconia on Valley View Drive in 1932, where they lived out their lives. He was also the contractor for Burke Elementary School.

WOODROW WISE, SR. on December 28, 2004 (age 89), survived by his wife, Helen Peverill Wise and four sons, Woodrow, Jr. (Sonny), John, Bob and Ron, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Woodrow owned a Mechanical Engraving business; one of his projects was making grape sizers. His family's story is featured in *Franconia Remembers Volume I*. Woodrow's marriage to Helen brought a multitude of relatives. She is the youngest and the only survivor of fourteen children. Her parents owned a 100 acre farm known as Rose Hill. The present day Rose Hill Drive was originally the tree-lined lane to their farm home.

Date: November 5, 2005

Time: 11 A.M.— 3.P.M.

**Franconia Museum's
4th annual Fall History Day
6 Singing in the Past
with
local Elementary Schools
Choral Groups**

Will be held at the
Franconia Elementary School
6043 Franconia Rd
(corner of Franconia Road and Beulah Street)

Saturday November 5, 2005
11 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Contact person:
Delores at 703-360-3129
Franconia Museum, Inc.
6121 Franconia Road
Franconia, Va. 22310
www.franconiamuseum.org
Email:franconiamuseum@yahoo.com

FOOD, FUN, OLD, & NEW FRIENDS

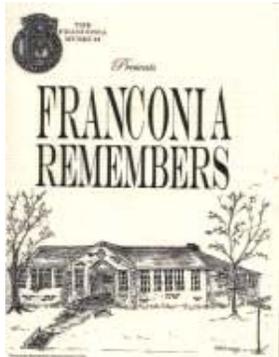
DISPLAYS including:

- > Local Churches
- > Police with McGruff the Crime Dog
- > Vintage Fire Truck
- > Early Franconia Elementary School
- > Former Franconian sites display

ITEMS FOR SALE:

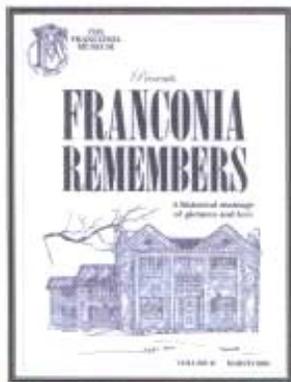
"Franconia Remembers" Vol 1 and 2;
Hats with Franconia logo &
2006 Unique Franconia 's Calendars

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Franconia Remembers Volume I

Includes pictures and stories about:
Franconia Elementary School

Families Mentioned in this book:
Apperson, Cooke, Cooper, Facchina,
Glover, Lee, Nalls, Peverill, Staples,
Sullenburger, Weller, and Wise

Franconia Remembers Volume II

Includes pictures and stories about:
Ashland
Old Franconia School
Ward's Corner

Families Mentioned in this book:
Broders, Fitzgerald, Goodheart,
Higham, Schurtz, Smith, Starry
and Tharpe

Save the Date!!
You are cordially invited to
Fairfax County's First Annual
History Conference
"People, Places & Preservation"



Featuring: * **Ron Maxwell**, Feature Film
Maker of epic Civil War motion pictures,
"Gettysburg" & "Gods & Generals"
* Panel of Presenters: Jean Federico, Director,
Historic Alexandria, and others TBA;
* Group Discussions to address current issues

***Hear of history groups' plans for 2005-2006!* **
***Network and learn of more historical places in
the county!* **
***Address preservation issues with a collective
voice!* **

When: **Saturday, November 12, 2005**
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Ellmore Farm Center
Frying Pan Park, 2739 West Ox Rd., Herndon,
VA

Price: \$10.00 *includes catered lunch;*
all tax-deductible proceeds go to the FCHC for
this & future conferences
(payable in advance-attendance limited to first
100)

please make checks payable to:
"FCPA, History Conference"

Send check(s) to:
Michael C. Rierson, Resource Mgmt. Division,
FCPA,
12055 Gov't. Ctr. Pkwy., Suite 936, Fairfax, VA
22035-1118

Historical groups are invited to bring displays,
For details call Yvonne Johnson, FCPA
(703) 437-9101

RSVP: **By October 15, 2005 to:**
Lynne Garvey Wark, lghassoc@erols.com or
(703) 322-1811

Sponsored by the Fairfax County History
Commission & Architectural Review Board,
Fairfax County Park Authority,
Fairfax City Museum & Visitor Center



Board Member Profile - Jim Cox

I was born on July 4, 1953 at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, and have lived most of my 52 years within about 15 miles of my birthplace. I lived in Alexandria until shortly before my eighth birthday (1961), when my parents bought a house at 6313 Villa Lane, across from Franconia Baptist Church. I began 3rd grade at Franconia School where I was fortunate enough to have Mrs. Jewel Swaim as my teacher, which resulted in a lifetime love of Virginia history and reading. I eventually attended Mark Twain Intermediate and Edison High School. I became interested in coaching sports during my senior year of high school, and began my coaching career as an assistant football coach with the Franconia Youth Association. During the next 5 years I helped found the Lee District Football Association and the Southwestern Youth Association, in Clifton, Virginia. I also attended the Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. After college I coached football and soccer at Thomas Jefferson High School in Annandale, Virginia. I left high school coaching in 1986, and began coaching my own four children in the Springfield Youth Club, finally retiring from 30 years of coaching in the spring of 2001.

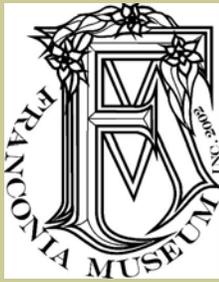
Most of my working career has been spent working for the Department Of Defense as an archivist, researcher, management analyst, and information technology specialist. For eight years I worked on researching the Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II records collections in support of scientific studies, veteran requests, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder case work. During this period I conducted research at the Institute for Military History, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the Center for Military History in D.C., the National Archives and Records Administration in Suitland, Maryland, and the Combat Data Information Center in Dayton, Ohio. I also assisted with writing and editing Conference Presentations, and Congressional Testimony. For the past 16 years I have worked at the Defense Technical Information Center, at Ft. Belvoir. My wife Kris and I currently live in Monticello Woods just across the railroad tracks from Franconia proper.

Genealogy is currently my favorite hobby, and I have been actively researching my ancestors for the past seven years. I have found that my family on my Mother's side goes back 10 generations in the City of Alexandria, almost to the founding of the town. I have also identified three direct Confederate ancestors, all serving in Virginia units, including one individual originally from Massachusetts. During my research of old newspapers and other records from the area I have found many references about Franconia events and people. In the fall of 2003 I was invited to become a member of the Franconia Museum Board of Directors. Over the past two years I have served as the Friend and Sponsor Coordinator, newsletter/book editor, exhibit developer, and cash register carrier. I have enjoyed this work very much (except for carrying Lynn Fitzgerald's cash register) and look forward to new challenges in the future.

As far as my involvement in local history goes I can remember the days when Franconia Road was blocked off for hours at a time for the Labor Day Parade, followed by the carnival behind the old firehouse. For about five years in the late 1970's my mother, Frances Cox, managed Franconia Hardware (where Paradiso Restaurant is today) for Joe Alexander, and I worked part time at the store. I remember Franconia when it still had a small community "Mayberry" type feel, when everybody knew everybody else. I feel preserving that heritage for future Franconia residents is an important task.

Not on our newsletter mailing list?

Contact Jim Cox at 703-971-7943 to find out how you can become a friend or business sponsor of the museum.



We're on the Web!
www.franconiamuseum.org

2005 Board of Directors:

President:

Phyllis Walker-Ford

VP for Administration:

Steve Sherman

VP for Education:

Gregg Dudding

Secretary:

Delores Comer-Frye

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- Johna Gagnon
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- Delegate Mark Sickles*
- Supervisor Dana Kauffman*
- Honorable Joe Alexander*

Newsletter Editor:

Debbi Wilson

Franconia Museum Inc.
6121 Franconia Road

CALLING ALL VIPS!

The Franconia Museum is organizing its
Volunteer Integration Program (VIP)



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

NO LONG TERM COMMITMENTS REQUIRED

A VIP IS:

- Retired from a career and wants to provide some meaningful community service
- Actively employed, but want to share some time and talent serving a worthwhile community effort
- Working as a full-time parent and looking for a flexible community service opportunity
- Working for community service credits at school or other organization

VIP's help the Franconia Museum fulfill its mission to identify and protect the history of the Franconia area and to provide educational opportunities for students and the greater community.

2005 VIPS are needed for the:

November 5, 2005 - 4th Annual History Day

Other events are on the drawing board and will include the Annual Donor Appreciation event and relocating to the new Franconia Museum next year.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

**To volunteer or to get more information, contact
Johna at 703-960-2840**

We're looking for your articles, pictures, and stories ...

Everyone has a story to tell and we want to hear yours! If you are interested in sharing your stories with us please call Jacqueline "Jac" Walker at 703-971-2463. The Franconia Museum is also looking for artifacts, photo's, and maps (gifts or loans) for future exhibits.

Franconia Museum, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) private community based not-for-profit organization.

We still have copies of our books "Franconia Remembers" Volumes I and II left for sale. Call Debbi Wilson at 703-971-6262 to place and get your copy!
