



BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH 1870 - 1954

This story is an excerpt from a booklet prepared in January 1976 by C.L. Bishop, Pastor, Franconia Baptist Church.

Franconia was an isolated community consisting of a cross roads, a railroad station and a general store in 1870. Only a few families lived here. Not all the land was cleared, but farming was the principal occupation.

The original record book has been preserved and from the minutes of business meetings we learn that The Church Covenant was adopted November 10, 1870, and for this reason we celebrate that date as the anniversary of our church.

First record of new members received was Mrs. Jane Potter, George Lykes, John Hall, William Davis, Fred Lykes, William Devers, Mrs. Bin Devere, by letter, and two for baptism on the afternoon of June 25, 1871. Rev. C. H. Ryland was moderator and A. Martin was clerk.

J. T. Talbert was elected delegate to the association to be held at Scireville on July 18, 1871. Church discipline in the early years consisted of bringing charges, having committees to investigate and report. Some wayward members were dismissed, others who expressed repentance for their misdeeds



Calvary Road Baptist sets new building cornerstone

were restored to the fellowship of the church.

The church session was paid \$1.50 for his services May 27, 1872. The pastor's collection was \$3.44. Rev. B. F. Dallas became pastor February 7, 1873. Pledges were taken for his salary and \$67.50 was subscribed, J. T. Talbert, Clerk.

Rev. W. S. Kerns became pastor December 16, 1873, to preach two Sundays in each month. Baptizing in Buckle Run was conducted November 17, 1878, with seven believers being baptized.

On August 18, 1900, "The church having been without a pastor for quite awhile" called Rev. C. K. Hobbie. A revival was held with 29 professing faith and 17 baptized.

In 1908 one-half acre of land was purchased for \$20 as a building site. Rev. W. E. Langford was called as pastor February 11, 1910. Rev. Clifton W. Steaks became pastor in 1912.

Miss Georgia Talbert, who still lives in this community, led in making an offering August 11, 1912, to complete payment on the church building. A total of \$1,361.78 had been spent for construction of the new house of worship.

Rev. Gerald Peave became pastor March 16, 1915. Rev. Willie L. Watts "was sent by the State Board" and served 12 months. He was succeeded by Rev. B. F. Hairy. Rev. O. P. Lloyd was pastor of the church

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Historic Laurel Grove Baptist Church consumed by fire.

As I drove up to the church on the day of the fire, I was struck by the amount of devastation. I guess I thought that even through this challenge, the church would be still standing. When I saw what remained I started to remember.....

I remembered the first time I came to the church. My cousin had found this little church and wanted us to go. Until that time, we were traveling to Arlington to attend a much bigger church. I remember the dear Deacons that were there. I remember the songs they used to sing and the prayers they prayed. Deacon Robinson used to sing, "This Old Building Keeps on Learning. I've gotta move to a better home". Deacon Baker used to pray and my sister and I could repeat it word for word. I remember stepping out in the aisle, giving

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Laurel Grove destroyed by fire Dec. 2004

The congregation of Laurel Grove Baptist Church would like to thank all of you for your prayers, your kindness and generosity as we work towards rebuilding our historic place of worship. God bless you with health like you. We send a personal thank you letter to all donors whose contributions were sent to the church with a return address attached. Unfortunately, we have no way of identifying individuals whose donations were made at the Wachovia Bank as they do not provide us with that information. We want to express a special thanks to Olivet Episcopal Church for giving us a place to worship since December. We invite all of you to stop by and worship with us on any Sunday morning. Again, thanks to all of you for the wonderful support you have provided the Laurel Grove church family in their time of need. Debrae Grace Frye

President's Message

Spring is a wonderful time of year! The trees are budding, daffodils are blooming and the gummies with their vivid colors are so beautiful. Franconia Museum is welcoming spring 2005 with much excitement.

We are pleased to welcome Debbie Wilson, Carl Sell and Gladys Kerating to our Board of Directors. They are committed to preserving the history of Franconia and have rolled up their sleeves to work. We also welcome Honorary Board Members Joseph Alexander, Delegate Mark Sicles, Supervisor Dana Kauffman and Congressman Jim Moran.

In October 2004 the County Board of Supervisors approved \$50,000 to renovate part of the old Franconia Tax Office into space for the Franconia Museum. Plans are underway to transform the space into a Museum Room that will showcase the History of Franconia. It will be complete with glass display cases and shelves. Design work continues this Spring and construction will be done this Summer. We anticipate a Fall Grand Opening!

If you are Spring cleaning, downsizing or just organizing, remember the Museum is looking for photos reflective of Franconia in the 30's, 40's or 50's or earlier. If you have some, we would like to copy them and put them in our collection. Also, if you have artifacts that are part of Franconia History, please let us know.

We thank ALL of our SUPPORTERS for your generous contributions to date. We are an all volunteer Board and your contributions help us to put on our History Programs throughout the year. THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

We invite you to mark your calendars for upcoming events. On May 14, Volume II Franconia Remembers will be unveiled at the Kingstowne Library. In June, look for us at Lee District Nights in the Park. On November 5, we will hold our annual Franconia History Day.

See you May 14!

Sincerely, Phyllis Walker Ford

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Note: Volume I is still available

Contact Jae Walker, 701-971-2661 for more information

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Mark your Calendar!!!

Annual Story Swap/Unveiling of *Franconia Remembers Volume II* Saturday, May 14

1 P.M. - 3 P.M. Kingstowne Library 6500 Landsdowne Centre

Fourth Annual Franconia History Day Saturday, November 5

10 A.M. - 3 P.M. Franconia Elementary School, 6043 Franconia Road

Famous Franconian: Olander Banks Sr.

Olander Banks, Sr. will celebrate his 61st birthday this summer. He grew up in the City of Alexandria. As a boy, he would get up at 4 A.M. to hit the streets selling ice. In 1957, he and his wife Margaret Louise Banks purchased a 30-acre tract on Old Telegraph Road (at the corner of Old Telegraph Road and Hayfield Road) in 1957. This land was nothing more than an open gravel lot. The couple built a 77-room house to enjoy with their nine children after adding 1000 loads of fill dirt. Today this property is surrounded by the Kingstons and Hayfield Community.

This 30-acre tract was originally given or sold to Jan Carroll, a freed slave, about 1850 by the Johnson Family of West Grove Plantation. This property was the cornerstone of the eventual expansion of land ownership by the Carroll family in the present day Kingstons area until the early 1900's.

In July 2001, Mr. and Mrs. Banks sold their estate to the Fairfax County Park Authority for less than two thirds of its appraised value. This new Olander and Margaret Banks Community Park will serve the local neighborhoods and be an example of the perseverance and legacy of our African American community for over 150 years.

In 2001 Mr. Banks was presented with the Elly Doyle Park Service award for his generous service to the community. Mr. Banks is also a Founder and Business Sponsor of the Franconia Museum.

Sue Patterson



Olander Banks, Sr., receiving the Elly Doyle Park Service Award in 2001

Franconia Museum Web Page Has Moved

Our web page has a new home - franciamuseum.org. Rob Heitman (the late Bob Heitman's son) has moved our web page for us. Fairfax County changed their web page policy and the new rules and regulations made it impossible for Supervisor Kaufman to continue to host our page on his county web page. We want to thank Dana for his support of us, especially during our start up years. Debbie Wilson will continue to update the site, and will be giving it a new look in the future. In the meantime, check it often for news on events and happenings.

If we have anyone who is experienced with web pages, and would like to volunteer to assist with ours, please contact Debbie Wilson at 703-971-6262.

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

Everyone has a story to tell and we want to hear yours! Volunteers from the Franconia Museum can help you record your story in print or on tape for future generations. If you are interested in sharing your stories with us please call Joe Walker at 703-971-2463. The Franconia Museum is also looking for artifacts, photos, and maps (gifts or loans) for future exhibits. We will have copies of our book *Franconia Remembers, Volume 1*, left. Call Joe to place your order.

Whiskey and Hogs During the Civil War at the Old Fairfax Farm

Recently a historic house located in Burgundy Village area was designated for destruction by a developer who had purchased the land. The developer was planning to build 20 to 30 new expensive homes on its approximately 10 and half acres of land. Fortunately for Fairfax County and Burgundy Village the developer has changed his mind and will now build these homes in and around the dwelling in order to save this important Civil War structure. What is the history of this house and why did the developer and other historians and residents rally to save this relatively unknown, but very important landmark? Here is the Civil War story of the "Fairfax" house or "Therrow Farm" as it is known today.

John A. Fairfax claimed in the Southern Claims records that in 1861 he and his wife and children were living on the farm, which he had purchased in 1850. He stated that he had permitted sick Union officers to use a part of his house until August 1861. Union troops and infantrymen occupied some portion of his house for nearly 3 years.

The Southern Claims files further showed that in 1906, at age 71, Mr. Fairfax then living in the District of Columbia said, "General Hunter's headquarters was between my house and Alexandria, right in sight." Fairfax had three to five hundred head of hogs at Cameron Distillery, and about 400 head on his farm. Troops took 280 gallons of whiskey, and corn, oats, and grass. Lieutenant Colonel Farnum had ordered him to distill the two mashes left in the mash tubs, put it in barrels, and had it taken away for safekeeping. However, Union soldiers found the whiskey hidden in his barn and took it.

The Zouaves were on Mr. Fairfax's farm, when Colonel Orlando Bolivar Wilcox, 2nd Michigan Regiment, camped in around the farm in 1861. Colonel Wilcox would go on to obtain the

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Laurel Grove Church Cont'

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my hand to the preacher and my heart to God. I remember remarking at the fact that when I stepped out so did my sister. In this situation, it was the little sister that took the lead.

I remember the preacher, Rev. Buggess baptized me. He was weakened, by either age or sickness (I am not sure which). I do recall questioning whether he was up to the task of baptizing me and developing a contingency plan if in the pool, his strength waned. I was determined to resurface. As I did resurface, under the strength and guidance of the Pastor, I remember hearing the jubilant shout of my grandmother.

Of all the things I loved about the church, the family atmosphere, the homecoming, the history, there were things that I chose to rebel against. I did not want to go every Sunday, I protested to the length of the services, I did not see the need to have so many services, and I did not understand why I must wear a dress and stockings. God of course did not set that dress standard. As I became older, I stopped going. I finally changed membership for a church of "my making". I felt I had outgrown Laurel Grove.

I returned years later as many prodigal children do. As in the bible, Laurel Grove treated me like royalty when I re-

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Historic Franconia Legacies

Editor, Joe Patterson, 703-903-4624

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If interested in contributing stories about Franconia call or email

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Board Member Profile

The Franconia Museum, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) private non-profit organization.

Herbert Anderson "Andy" Higham was born December 27, 1942 in the "old" Alexandria Hospital on Duke Street to Dorothy Anderson and William Herbert Higham. His Dad moved to Franconia in the Spring of 1918 in a horse and wagon over dirt roads during a late Spring snow storm from Washington DC. His Mother, raised in Linden VA, completed her education in Harrisonburg at Madison College and was hired by Fairfax County to teach at the new Franconia Elementary School. She needed a place to board and Kathy Higham accepted her to stay with their family. His Mother and Dad married in 1936 and built their home on a portion of the old farm located on Franconia Road (RFD 6, Box 248), now 6001 Franconia Road where Andy was raised and spent his childhood. He attended Franconia Elementary, Mount Vernon High School and Lee High School and graduated from Shepherd University in 1965. Andy married his High School sweetheart, Jane Devine, and has three children, Suzanne, Julie and Jennifer. Julie lives in the Roanoke area but Suzanne and Jennifer live locally. Andy and Jane make their home on part of the old farm next to his brother Bill just behind his old home place. Andy has lived and worked in Franconia his entire life. His employer is Higham Co., Inc. and he is a partner in the Jefferson Funeral Chapel and the Kingstowne Golf Center also located in Franconia.

Laurel Grove Baptist Church Cont'

(Continued from page 4)

turned. Instead of worried faces, I found open arms and a welcoming spirit. I remember the last days of my son's life and how he enjoyed everyone at the church. Hours after his death, I remember it was Deaconess Welch who was one of the first people to come to see how I was doing. When her son died, I returned the gesture. I remember the day I donated and dedicated a drain set in my late son's name and how it seemed to propel the children to new heights.

I remember the children, the Heavenly Sunshine—the class I help start at the church. I watched our children grow and take an active part in their faith and development. I saw how their testimony and praise delivered people and strengthened faith. I remember also the last night I was in the church—the children were putting on the Christmas Celebration. Due to transitions in the music ministry, I was worried about the success of the project. I found, in the end, no need to worry, because what belongs to God will always succeed. The service was more than wonderful, it was inspirational.

Lastly I remember, again, questioning my place and history at Laurel Grove with a deacon that night.

As I looked at the destruction of that building, I mourn all that has passed—all the love, the history, the traditions, the good times, the bad times. The bible says that no weapons formed against us shall prosper and what the devil meant for our destruction, God meant for our good. It says that He knows the plans he has for us and they are to prosper us and not to harm us. Ahead with that, I look forward not only to the future of Laurel Grove, but being an active part of shaping it.

Angela D. Cannon

.....
 • You can send contributions to
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 • Laurel Grove Baptist Church,
 • 6834 Beulah Rd, Franconia, Va.
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Thanks Steve for being a sponsor of our Annual Story Swap and one of our business sponsors.



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**The Franconia Museum's
 "FRANCONIA REMEMBERS: Volume II"
 (more stories & lots & lots of pictures)**

**Available for sale at the
 Annual Story Swap**

**Meet people "swapping their stories" - many stories are in the book
 (including the story of Ward's Corner)**

Free - No Reservations required - bring a Friend

SATURDAY MAY 14, 2005

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

KINGSTOWNE LIBRARY

(corner of Telegraph Road & Beulah Street)

Information Contact: Johns at 703-960-2840

Old Fairfax Farm Cont'

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rank of Brigadier General in the Union Army. Unfortunately, General Wilcox would be captured at First Manassas and would not be exchanged by the Confederacy until August 19, 1862.

Mr. Fairfax was the only one in the neighborhood who kept logs. He also leased 40 acres from the Froese family and 30 acres from Ann & Elizabeth Fredel (Ann Fredel would keep a diary that would later be published that documented the Civil War history of her house and the surrounding Alexandria & Franconia areas).

George Auld, age 58, also testified and said that in 1863 he lived at Cloath Mill with his father. He had lived there since 1843. He further stated that the claimant's farm was "a general camping and drilling ground during nearly the whole war and everything was kept as late as concrete streets in Washington. In fact, most of the camp streets were paved."

On March 7, 1908, Mr. Fairfax testified that the distillery adjoined his grounds. It was on Cameron Run just below the Little River Turnpike. It stood between Wheat's Mill and Robert's Mill. Mr. Fairfax had purchased the distillery from Archibald McFarland and the Fairfax house was three-quarters of a mile from the distillery.

On September 24, 1906, Redwood Vandegrift, age 70 testified "When Ellsworth's Zouaves came down, we were running the distillery and separating the whiskey from the grain and there was a portion of mash that was not distilled, and they stopped us and would not allow us to distill, and that was dumped out into the slop tubs and fed to the hogs and that made them drunk."

James W. Nalls testified on July 25, 1906 stating in defense of the Fairfax claim that he had known Mr. Fairfax for 50 years. In 1863 he said that he worked on the claimant's farm and stated that when the liquor was destroyed at the distillery the whiskey ran through the hog pens, and 15 hogs died within a few minutes.

Ann Fredel writing in her diary about the depredations inflicted upon her neighbors by the occupying Yankees said, "One party went to Mr. Fairfax and ransacked the house through and through under the pretence of looking for fireworks, they went into the pantry and ran their hands all through the meal and flour barrels, forced their way into poor old Mrs. Dancy's room who was sick in bed, they turned her whole room and bed upside down, even searching under the mattress she was lying on."

Ann further wrote she seldom went out of the house to go down the road or entered the woods because the country was so filled with those horrible vagabond Union soldiers

prowl[ing] and skulking about. However, one evening she made a bold venture to go as far as Mr. Fairfax's. She found them all well and they were delighted to see her. Ann told about how the Fairfax's told her of the vile cruelties or terrible acts committed on the people by the heathly Yankees. Ann also wrote that Mr. Fairfax said the Sedgwick brigade that was camped near their house were a "most notorious gang of house thieves."

On September 26, 1863, Ann recorded that Mrs. Fairfax escaped being killed on Thursday last. She had just finished dressing and had left her room, when a ball came tearing through the walls and into her room, shattering the looking glass frame and splintering her bedstead and then dropped near the fireplace where two or three of her little children were standing. She said if she had been in bed she would have been killed.

Luckily for the entire Fairfax family they all survived the war and that beautiful house today still exists at 1301 Burgundy Road. As you have read a great deal of history makes the old Fairfax house eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places based on its Civil War history alone. Many Union officers visited and stayed at the old Fairfax house. Also, since Ann Fredel's home Wilton Hill no longer exists, the old Fairfax house will be a great place to tell the story of Ann Fredel or John Fairfax or the Civil War history of Franconia, Lee District and Fairfax County.

Don Haskins

**Contribute to the
Ecb Feitman's Memorial Fund!
Send your donation to
the Franconia Museum
and marked your check for the
Ecb Feitman's Memorial Fund.**

Over the next year, we will gradually be changing our address to our new one at the Franconia Governmental Center. You can send mail to Franconia Museum, Inc. at 6121 Franconia Road, Franconia, Va. 22310 or 7011 A Manchester Blvd #176, Franconia, Va. 22310.

Beulah Baptist Church Cont'

(Continued from page 1)

for the first time in 1920. He was to serve two other periods of time for a total of 26 years, ending with his death in 1954. Rev. Henry Nichol, who was also pastor of Woodbridge, Danbury and the mission called Smedleytown, succeeded Rev. Lloyd in 1921.

A Baptist Young Peoples Union (BYPU) was organized in June 1903, following a study course taught by Rev. C. V. Hickerson. The wife of the author of this history, Mrs. Nova McGuire Bishop, was baptized by Rev. Hickerson during his pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas.

Miss Iola Terry, sister of our Brother Nelson Terry, was the first president of the newly organized Baptist Young Peoples Union.

Mrs. Ethel Fessell, another faithful present member of the church, became church clerk in 1923. Rev. O. P. Lloyd was pastor again from February 14, 1927 until November 18, 1933. Rev. Ryland Dodge became pastor in 1924. He still lives in Alexandria.

During the year 1926, \$204.82 was given to missions. Rev. Virgil Hibbs was pastor in 1928. A church piano and organ were purchased about this time. Also, the church building was repaired and painted at a cost of \$72.

In 1931 Rev. O. P. Lloyd was called for the third time to be pastor of our church. This time he remained until his death in 1954.

July 25, 1917 entry concerning a two-week revival led by Rev. Walter Scott. "Additions by Baptism, 18 by letter B. He (Rev. Scott) knew how to keep the children quiet."

During the last few years of Rev. Lloyd's pastorate the community began to grow rapidly. The completion of Shirley Highway, Interstate 95, and the start of a new town in Springfield gave indications of the expansion of Metropolitan Washington to include the territory served by this church.

Members from Beulah Baptist Church participated in the start of the Springfield Baptist Church. First pastor for this work was Rev. Henry Martin, later a missionary to Africa. The church was organized in a rented residence Sunday, July 4, 1954.

Miss O. P. Lloyd, who was dearly loved by the people in the

church, preceded her husband in death by one year. With his passing in 1954 the church was without a pastor until my coming in September.

We owe much to the pioneers of the work in this community. They were a sturdy lot, people with deep convictions and loyalties. Without them, our church would not be as strong as it is today.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF CALVARY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH (FORMERLY BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH)

Church Covenant of Beulah Baptist Church was adopted November 20, 1870.

Land was purchased on Beulah Road in 1888 to build Beulah Baptist Church. Final payment on the church building was made in 1912.

In 1957, land was purchased on Franconia Road, and a new church building was erected (Franconia Baptist Church.) Part of the congregation of Beulah Baptist Church went to the new building, and the rest of the congregation remained in the existing Beulah Baptist Church on Beulah Road.

The original church building on Beulah Road was destroyed by fire in November 1965.

Beulah Baptist Church was rebuilt, and the new building was dedicated August 6, 1967.

The church name was changed from Beulah Baptist Church to Calvary Road Baptist Church on November 23, 1973, under Rev. Samuel Edwards, Jr.

Calvary Road Baptist Church and New Life Ministries merged on June 10, 1978, with David Rhoadsman as the new Pastor.

Calvary Road Baptist Church is located at 6811 Beulah Street in Franconia.

submitted by Judy Hutchinson, Administrative Secretary at Calvary Road Baptist Church

✧ Not on our newsletter mailing list? Contact Jim Cox at 703-
✧ 971-7943 to find how out you can become a friend or business
✧ sponsor of the museum.

A Passenger's view of the Franconia Museum Fall Civil War Historic Tour

On Saturday, 21 October, 2004, my husband Harry and I took a historical tour around the Franconia area by bus. The guides were Don Halerson and Gregg Dudding, both Civil War enthusiasts and both quite knowledgeable of the history around Franconia. Mr. Halerson has written a book titled *This Forgotten Land: A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexandria, Virginia*. I was eager to learn as much as I could. Harry took pictures and I took notes. Perhaps twenty-five people availed themselves of this opportunity.

The bus turned west from the Franconia Governmental Center onto Franconia Road. During Civil War times, this road was called the Old Fairfax Road. Nobody seemed to know just when the name changed. It was still called that when Hopkins put out a map of the area in the 1890s. The train once stopped at Franconia. Apparently, the station was just to the north of the current "new" bridge. Franconia Station existed until the early 1950s.

Past the train bridge, on the right, is Key Middle School behind which was the Oplen Farms. During WWII it was an AAA Nike site. Mr. Halerson said that an historian wrote an article about Nike sites in Fairfax County some time around 1999 and did not mention any Nike site in Franconia. Then he did not believe Don when he said he had seen one there. To validate Don, I personally remember a quester hut with an identification sign in that lot when we first arrived in this area in 1974 although I don't remember any artillery. Don said Lykes Farm was once where Lee High School is now. It is interesting to notice these familiar names as we later viewed cemeteries.

Turning left at Fereisdale School and parking in their lot, we visited the Brothers (pronounced Broadhus) Cemetery. This private cemetery, behind both a fence and a cinderblock wall at the south end of the school, had belonged to the Oak Grove property where the Sunrise Assisted Living Home now exists. We were told that the Oak Grove house was built in 1830 and destroyed in 1995 to make room for Sun-

rise. Apparently a Mosby's raid occurred there in July 1864. Rangers were known to have bedded down for a night in a cemetery where the ground is smoother and softer, so it made sense that they may have spent the night in that same cemetery. The family story of the Mosby's raid at that area remained unconfirmed for years. However, before the recent development began, someone with a metal detector had found enough appropriate spent bullets in the area to confirm at least the essence of the story. While we were trespassing on the cemetery, we were "arrested" by a Confederate soldier in full uniform! It turned out to be no other than our co-host, Gregg Dudding.

Mr. Halerson regaled us with an intriguing story. A daughter of Oak Grove, Laura, fell in love with a "mystery" man, a Mr. Harrison. She married him in 1863, and had two daughters. Apparently he was a spy or agent, hence, the great secrecy about who he was or what he did. Nobody professed to really know. After the war he went to Montana to seek gold. When several years had passed without any word from him, the "widow" remarried assuming he was dead, and had more children. He reappeared in 1900, much to everyone's chagrin, and his family would have nothing to do with him. After all, no one had heard from him all of that time. So once again, he vanished and went west... to Kentucky, I think they said. The mystery man's name was later confirmed to be Henry Harrison. Mr. Mathert, who was also on our trip, said he was some kind of ancient relative of his.

William Moore, also buried in that cemetery plot, once was post master of Franconia. I wonder what the connection was that he should be buried in the family plot.

Leaving the cemetery, we turned back east onto Franconia Road and passed over the "new" bridge, turning right onto Fleet Drive. We then took an immediate left onto the Old Franconia Road and into the parking lot of the office complex. On that plot of ground, in my memory, there

was a "farm" house that Don informed us was the old Franconia School opened around 1863. He said he had tried to buy the building during the 1970s when the road was straightened. He had wanted to renovate it to live in it, but was told he could not do so because it was now designated commercial property. So another historic house was torn down in order to erect business buildings.

Mr. Halerson had an interesting story about the school. On August 8, 1864, Robert Whaley, whom Mosby had sent out to scout, reported back that he had found two Union picket posts on Bread-dock Road. So Mosby sent Joseph Nelson and twenty Rangers to capture those picket posts and get their horses. Nelson failed. In an effort to rectify that failure, he tried to capture some from the outpost at Franconia Elementary School instead. In that encounter, the Union officers fired down Old Fairfax Road towards Alexandria, which was a usual response to such an outnumbered skirmish in such a sparsely occupied area. Protect what you have. Nelson finally captured several men and horses some distance further down the road. Then he had to find his way back to Confederate lines with the prisoners and horses in tow. Don related another amusing story about the guide that night, in strange woods in pitch dark, wandering around searching for a familiar landmark called Bone Mill, muttering something under his breath like, "Where's Bone Mill? If I could just find Bone Mill." Thereafter his men called him "Bone Mill." Bone Mill was actually a couple of miles further west on Keene Mill Road. To hear Don tell it was almost as good as being there! There is more to this story in Don's book.

Our next stop was the cemetery behind Laurel Grove Church on Beulah Street. A black Union soldier is buried there, from the 28th Pa. Vols. Georgetown and William Walker, who are also buried in that cemetery, built a school there in 1863. The ground was donated in 1864. Phyllis Walker Ford, of the Franconia Museum, is

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Historic Tour Cont'

(Continued from page 8)

a descendant of that couple. Fried Properties bought the Walker farm and removed the graveyard. The school has also recently been restored. Mr. Nails, of the Nails Produce on Beulah Street, who was also on the trip, had once converted the school into a home. He said he had been in the area since 1928 when this area was the family's summer place. Obviously he has seen many changes.

Even further behind the school/church location is the Tyler/Deavers Cemetery (the spelling varies from marker to marker). Alfred Deavers, Co. A, 7th Va. Cavalry who served under Turner Abby is buried there. He survived war service only to die of disease shortly thereafter at Ravenworth. A Clarence Deavers from this family is still living at 81 years of age in this area, reported a person on this trip who is related to him. Somewhere this cemetery is also connected to the Arrington family who once ran a furniture store located across the street between Blockbuster's Video and Daman's Restaurant. I noticed the street just before those businesses is called Charles Arrington Drive. Same family? I would like to believe we preserve some of these historic connections.

Returning to Beulah Street going south, and turning left onto Miller Drive, the big old house on the left was the home of the Talbot's. It was said that the Union army confiscated the Talbot horses. Mr. Talbot complained and the horses were returned. This area is called Lincoln Heights.

We turned back onto Beulah Street and proceeded almost to the end of public access at Telegraph turning left again onto the Old Beulah Street. We then traveled one block to the Hilltop Sand and Gravel Company. Two old houses are there. The one on the left, as they say, has the old log timbers inside. One of the tourers said that within his memory somebody wanted to tear down the house and rebuild a home on that spot, which permission was denied because it is now industrial property. So the owner did a great deal of remodeling on the old house and made it into the office for the sand and gravel operation. Gallot is the name I think I heard for it.

Mr. Hakenson told us a tale about something that happened near that old house. Wade Hampton, who went on to be a general in the Confederate Army, and after the war to be the Governor of South Carolina, led his unit up from the Occoquan area, past Polick church on the way to Alexandria via Telegraph Road. Near this house he encountered Union soldiers who fled down the side of Potters Hill, toward the creek at the bottom. Since it was not an unusual act to flee in such an encounter because they were usually not well backed-up, of course Maj. Hampton followed them. But near that house was someone who, knowing it was a trap, ran out and grabbed the reins preventing Maj. Hampton's horse from carrying him.

(Continued on page 10)

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Historic Tour Cont'

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down the hill. The one man who was cut front was the only one in the party who did not stop. He was shot and wounded in the forehead. The man who warned him was John Burke, also known as "the spy with the glass eye." He had been a Texas Ranger.

Across Old Beulah Street, on the Telegraph Road side is another house. Nobody knew much about that house. Someone thought it was a recruitment center in WWII. In my years here it has been nicely refurbished.

Long time residents of the area pointed out that Potter's school was somewhere in this immediate area, built between 1880 to 1890 and burned in 1920. The exact location seems not to be locatable. On the old Hopkins Map it seems to have been on the SW corner of old Beulah and Telegraph Roads. The Potter's cemetery is just inside Ft. Bellevue property on the south of Telegraph Road almost across from the new Firehouse. The Potter and Arrington families are buried there. Because of recent security measures, we could not now go see it.

We turned south/west onto Telegraph Road and right onto Newington Road where we peered at the Hard Chichester/McCarty family cemetery. Turning left again at Accotink Road, re-crossing Telegraph Road and continuing straight until the road turns sharply into a brand new community. We headed for Mt. Air. The original road straight ahead was closed off when the Fairfax Parkway was built through the area several years ago. It never was much more than a dirt road that went down to the town of Accotink, on Route 1. The bus parked and we went by foot into some parkland that once was the Mt. Air estate. The old overseer's house still exists on the left just before where the road turned so sharply. It was built somewhere around 1810-1830, as was the main house which was burned around 1981-86, by arson. Only the footings remain now behind a protective fence. Here McCarty once owned thousands of acres. Even Davidson Field was once a part of the McCarty holdings. Richard Chichester,

Landstreet and Ensch were successive owners of Mt. Air. We were told an intriguing story about how difficult a person Richard Chichester was such that he was nicknamed "Hard" Chichester by his slaves. In later years, lightning struck the family burial plot splitting his gravestone so that it now really reads "Hard Chichester."

Another story related to us was that "under those two old ash trees over there" Mrs. Landstreet served buttermilk and bread to General R.E. Lee. My husband Harry took a picture of those two old trees because they look as if they won't last too much longer. Mr. Landstreet served in the 6th Va. Cavalry. One son served in the Union Army and another in the 1st Va. Cavalry. That must have been more than unusual to have their family so divided. We just don't appreciate that today. Mrs. Landstreet pleaded with JEB Stuart to release her 16-year old son from duty because he was so young. In vain Gen. Stuart tried to talk the boy into returning home so he wrote the mother a letter promising to watch over him as if he were his own son. The letter is still in the family's possession. Another legend was that "John Burke with the glass eye" came to this house to spy for the Confed states because the Union army was camped out on the property. On his way in, he had tipped over sleeping soldiers. Mrs. Landstreet pleaded with him to go away but he he caught there and they he treated as spies themselves, so he quietly picked his way back out over the sleeping soldiers again and departed undetected. Mr. Hakenson has other stories in his book. The late Edith Sproun has also written a book about Mt. Air.

Other sites of interest along that section of Telegraph Road:

The Tripbet family once lived near where Leaf Road turns into an entrance to Fort Belvoir, across from Hayfield High School. It was called Round Hill. We were told there is a family cemetery inside the Fort Belvoir property.

Hayfield Farm was a George Washington holding sold to the man who was the war-

time caretaker of his holdings. The somewhat unique old round barn was burned sometime during the 1960s.

Bellevue was built around 1780. It is on the south side of Telegraph Road. It, too, is supposed to have old log support timbers in it. It was owned by someone named George Johnson.

To see the Millan Cemetery, go up Deveraux Circle road to the far side.

On the right along this stretch of Telegraph Road was an ordinary. An ordinary is an ordinary place to stop, with ordinary food and drink at ordinary prices, suited to serve ordinary people. No trace remains today.

We turned onto Rose Hill Drive which was the driveway to the old Rose Hill Farm. We turned again sharply onto Appletree Drive, so named in modern times because the driveway was lined with apple trees at this point. At the end of that road a barn building is still used as a school. The old manor house no longer exists. It had a magnificent view of the valley where the golf course is now. The story we hear is that Mosby was on a raid with the purpose of capturing Francis Pierpont the "bogus" governor of Virginia so designated by the Union President Lincoln. But Pierpont had been called to Washington to see Lincoln and was not found. So Mosby decided to do the next best thing and go to Rose Hill and capture Col. Daniel Dalaney of the Union Army, who was living there. Dalaney's son Frederick was in the Confederate army. Ann Probel of Wilson Hill, wrote of this raid in her diary that the son was in the raiding party and awakened his sleeping father. The father was not too happy to see his son on this occasion. Col. Dalaney was captured and imprisoned in Richmond, and was ultimately buried at Falk Church. The son died a year later in another battle and nobody knows where he is buried.

Leaving that area we passed a marker by the John Marshall Library telling of that exploit. This marker was placed through the efforts of our guide Don Hakenson.

Interesting facts about the section of Franconia Road from Rose Hill to Telegraph Road

(Continued on page 10)

Historic Tour Cont'

Continued from page 10

We turned back out onto Franconia Road, and into the Mark Twain parking lot. A new historical marker (E 121) citing the birthplace of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee is at Clermont. Fitzhugh was a nephew of R. E. Lee. This marker was put there through the efforts of Gregg Dudding.

Across the street is the Reid Farm. One of the descendants said that a son of the family named William Reid, placed a confederate flag on the house, and the father was arrested and imprisoned.

Sherman's army camped on the Reid grounds in the celebrations following the end of the war.

The Clermont property, was owned by Cook, French Furrier who was the third highest ranking naval officer in the CSA. He died in 1866. Clermont was used as a smallpox hospital by Union forces and was burned afterward. Its exact location, near the bottom of the hill, is not now known.

We turned left down Cannon Lane, to see Evergreen which had been the home of Fitzhugh Lee when he was running for Governor of Virginia. Lee became the first governor of this state who was born in northern Virginia, maybe still the only one. Somewhere around 1970, Rufus Cooley had the old house moved to near the end of Cannon Lane to preserve it from demolition prior to development of the Gladden Tract. He repaired and renovated it by removing massive Victorian porches to pare it down to fit the new acreage. Formerly, it was located down a long narrow driveway that runs beside the ball fields on Franconia Road. Now it sits about 100 yards SE of its original location, in a different directional orientation, which caused a harmonious problem. Apparently some bees had nested inside the beams over the front door. With the face of the house now to the west instead of north, the heat from the evening sun melted the remaining honey and beeswax. What a mess! A driveway used to be there that has not been used in at least fifty years. It went down the north

side of the property ended just east of the end of the present day Burgandy community, by a creek. Fitzhugh's wife was the daughter of the Fowles, of nearby Burgandy.

The next stop was at Sharon Chapel Episcopal Church cemetery. In that cemetery a monument exist for two sons of the Polman family, Thomas and Samuel, who were killed when a piece of ordnance they were playing with exploded in 1861. Another son was seriously injured. It seems to have been an accident rather than warfare. The Polman family were connected with the development of the Polman train car.

Across the street, in the parking lot of Cameron Methodist Church, we tried to imagine the bare hillside while Mr. Hakerson explained how and where many Union soldiers had encamped in this area and stated that relics had been recovered all around there.

The bus turned left back onto Franconia Road, then left again at Telegraph. At that intersection, straight ahead, is Ballenger Hill. The farmer who owned it, Ballenger, was a staunch Confederate, yet his farm was confiscated by Gen. Heintzelman and used as a Union headquarters between late 1861 to early 1862. I personally remember the house that was there in the 50s. It was up on the knoll, on the far side of Pike's Creek which runs along one side or the other of Telegraph Road from Rose Hill Drive to where it intersects with Cameron Run/Hunting Creek at Burgandy. It disappeared in the 60s when a park was made out of the property.

We turned left again at Burgandy Road. Mr. Hakerson told us about how some 13-16 Confederates were scouting towards Alexandria and encountered Union soldiers near the bridge crossing Hunting Creek. Eight to sixteen Yankees were killed right there. We were just then driving across Pike's Creek, where the power lines clearing is. I had never heard of this before. What sacred ground we so often cross without a thought of the sacrifices it took to secure it for us.

As we continued up Burgandy Road, Don

pointed toward the top of the hill on the left saying the Fairfax House is still up there but he had not been able to get permission to visit today. I knew it as the Myers house, the home of three sisters, when I was trying to find historical information years ago. At the intersection of Burgandy Road with Norton Road, straight ahead is the Burgandy Farm School. We learned that the bride of Fitzhugh Lee, Nellie Fowle, lived on the Burgandy farm, and was younger by half than Lee. We were told a story about Lee weighing some 300+ pounds. Imagine being a Cavalry officer and weighing that much! I think you reach the actual Burgandy house through the community across the road from Wilson Woods rather than from this direction near the school. I may be mistaken. One of our sons had a schoolmate from the family that lived in that house, and I think we reached her home from the other side. But that was thirty years ago. Memories fade fast.

We turned left onto Norton Road, and then right onto Franconia Road again. As we passed the road into what was once the Bush Hill estate, we learned that immediately after First Manassas, July 1861, Col. Oliver Howard used Bush Hill as his headquarters. He went on to become a Maj. Gen. in the Union army and later to establish Howard University and Freedmen's Hospital specifically for black people. We were also told that Maj. Beverly Mason, grandson of George Mason, had lived in the Bush Hill area and was buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery, in Alexandria.

Mr. Hakerson pointed out that across from Rose Hill shopping center during the Civil War, a small wooden chapel had burned. Mrs. Scott (of Bush Hill) then donated land on the corner of Franconia and Beulah for the new chapel to be rebuilt. That "new" chapel building is still located on the very corner of Beulah, with a more modern building erected next to it.

And as we returned to the Governmental Center. It had been a very nice day. I am truly glad we went and we both look forward to the next such tour. Our guides have inspired us to read more diligently about where we live and to appreciate the heritage so many have given us much for.

Christine Gibson

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
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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.

VIPS are needed for the **May 14 Annual Story Swap** and
the **4th Annual History Day November 5.**

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

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

To volunteer or to get more information, contact Julia at 703-960-7840

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Memorials of
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Lee's Relatives along with Dana Kauffman and others

**Pictures
of
Dedica-
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of
Fitzhugh
Lee
Marker
On
November
20, 2004**