

**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting
15 March 2018**

Sponsor Markers - Diversity

1.) Belmont Chapel

Sponsor: St. David's Episcopal Church and School

Locality: Loudoun County

Proposed Location: 43600 Russell Branch Pkwy.

Sponsor Contact: Ken Courter, marketing@sdlife.org

Original text:

Belmont Chapel

Belmont Chapel was built in 1841 by Margaret Mercer, using profits from a cooperative farm and the proceeds of craft sales by pupils of her school. She purchased the Belmont property in 1836 with the intention of providing a broad-based education for those who could afford it, and providing the same opportunities for those who could not, including free slaves. The School at Belmont was known for high academic and religious standards, and served as a center for community worship and other social and educational activities in Ashburn, as attested to by over 250 graves which surround the Chapel ruins.

100 words/ 605 characters

Edited text:

Belmont Chapel

Margaret Mercer (1791-1846), educator and reformer, purchased Belmont plantation in 1836. Here she ran a prominent academy for young women, waiving tuition for those unable to afford it. Best known for advocating the liberation of enslaved African Americans and promoting their resettlement in Liberia, Mercer also gained recognition for her book *Popular Lectures on Ethics* (1841). She commissioned the construction of Belmont Chapel, which opened here by 1841. The chapel hosted Episcopal services and a Sunday school at which African Americans were educated alongside whites. Long an important community center, the chapel burned in the 1960s. St. David's Episcopal Church opened here in 1990.

104 words/ 695 characters

Sources:

Caspar Morris, *Memoir of Miss Margaret Mercer* (Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston, 1848).

Daily National Intelligencer, 14 Feb. 1832, 25 Sept. 1846.

Richmond Enquirer, 29 Sept. 1846, 18 June 1847.

Washington Post, 12 April 1990.

Washington Evening Star, 22 Dec. 1918.

William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, vol. 2 (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1910), 275.

Eugene Scheel, *Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corner & Crossroads*, vol. 1 (Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, 2002), 28-33.

Eugene Scheel, "A Life Devoted to Freedom and Opportunity," *Washington Post*, 17 March 2002.

<http://www.sdlife.org/>

George C. Kundahl, *Confederate Engineer: Training and Campaigning with John Morris Wampler* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000), 2-11.

2.) Megginson Rosenwald School

Sponsor: Cynthia E. Gaines

Locality: Lynchburg

Proposed Location: 136 Spinoza Circle

Sponsor Contact: Cynthia Gaines, Cynthia.Gaines@dhp.virginia.gov

Original text:

Megginson Rosenwald School

The Megginson School was built in 1922 and was a public school for African American students in the Pleasant Valley community located in what was then Campbell County. It was one of more than 5000 schools in the South funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. It features a standard two-classroom plan typical of the rural schools built by the Foundation between 1917 and 1932. The school is located on two acres of land donated by former slave Albert Megginson 1831-1923. African American resident Wiley Gaines purchased school buses that transported students to this and other local segregated schools.

100 words/ 614 characters

Edited text:**Megginson Rosenwald School**

The Megginson School was built here ca. 1923 for African American students in the Pleasant Valley community, then part of Campbell County. Albert Megginson (1831-1923), formerly enslaved, purchased land in this area after the Civil War and later donated two acres for the school. The two-classroom building was constructed with financial support from local African Americans, the county, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which helped build more than 5,000 schools and supporting structures for black students in the rural South between 1917 and 1932. African American resident Wiley Gaines purchased school buses that transported students to this and other local segregated schools.

102 words/ 680 characters**Sources:**

Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Database.

Albert Megginson death certificate, 1923.

Campbell County, Virginia, Heritage Book, 1781-2003, 38, 42-43.

Campbell County Legacy Museum

3.) Bethlehem Baptist Church

Sponsor: Gum Springs Historical Society

Locality: Fairfax County

Proposed Location: 7836 Fordson Road

Sponsor Contact: Ronald Chase, gshsfvca@gmail.com and Tina Lucas, tina.m.lucas1@gmail.com

Original text:**Bethlehem Baptist Church**

Bethlehem Baptist Church was founded in 1863 by Samuel K. Taylor, a runaway slave from Caroline County, VA. Born on the Taylor plantation in 1836, he executed his escape from slavery via the Underground Railroad during the second year of the Civil War. Traveling by day, though risking capture, he reached Gum Springs, settled there and began preaching in private homes. Taylor erected the first African-American church along the Potomac Trail in Gum

Springs in 1865 during the Reconstruction era, using dismantled lumber from Union army stables. The church was called The First Black Baptist Church of Gum Springs and was used for church services and as a school for African-Americans. The name would eventually be changed to Bethlehem Baptist Church. Four structures would be built over time. The third and fourth structures exist today. The third structure was the meeting location for organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for many years.

159 words/998 characters

Edited text:

Bethlehem Baptist Church

This congregation traces its origins to services led by Samuel K. Taylor (ca. 1836-1912), an enslaved preacher who escaped from a plantation in Caroline County during the Civil War. He preached in private homes here in Gum Springs and, after the war, erected the first African American church on Fairfax County's segment of the Potomac Path, an old Indian trail and forerunner of U.S. Route 1. The sanctuary, built with lumber from dismantled Union army stables, also housed a school. The congregation erected a new sanctuary in 1884 and in 1930 built a brick church that hosted meetings of the local NAACP chapter and other organizations. The present sanctuary, built next door, opened in 1993.

112 words/ 693 characters

Sources:

Rev. William H. Triplett, untitled manuscript, ca. 1933.

Ronald L. Chase, "Bethlehem Baptist, Alive and Well," *History in Motion*, vol. 4, no. 1 (Spring 1996), 4-5.

David Corbin, "Introduction: The Land of Gum Springs" (typescript, 1980-1981).

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 18 April 1959.

Alexandria Gazette, 16 Oct. 1867.

Washington Evening Star, 30 Oct. 1912.

Debbie Robison, "Educating Freedman during Reconstruction in Fairfax County," *Northern Virginia History Notes*, Dec. 2014.

John Terry Chase, *Gum Springs: The Triumph of a Black Community* (Fairfax, VA, 1990).

Washington Afro-American, 28 Oct. 1933.

Judith Saunders Burton, "A History of Gum Springs, Virginia: A Report of A Case Study of Leadership in a Black Enclave" (Ed.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 1986).

Bethlehem Baptist Church Observes its 111th Anniversary, 1865-1976

Scott E. Casper, *Sarah Johnson's Mount Vernon: The Forgotten History of an American Shrine* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2008).

<http://www.bethlehemofalexandria.org/history/>

4.) First Baptist Church

Sponsor: First Baptist Church

Locality: Williamsburg

Proposed Location: 727 Scotland St.

Sponsor Contact: David Lewes, dwlewe@wm.edu

Original text:

First Baptist Church

Home to the earliest continuous African American congregation, organized for blacks by blacks, this church began in a plantation brush arbor and moved to a Williamsburg carriage house in 1776. The congregation built a brick church on Nassau Street in 1856. In the 1860s, a day school in the church marked a milestone in local education. From 1874 to 1877, Rev. John Dawson pastored while also serving in the Virginia Senate. The congregation moved from downtown and erected the present building in 1956. In the Civil Rights Era, Rev. David Collins protested for fair hiring practices and joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke here in 1962.

112 words/ 687 characters

Edited text:

First Baptist Church

This church, home to one of the oldest continuous congregations organized by African Americans, traces its origins to brush arbor meetings held by 1776 at a nearby plantation. The congregation moved to a Williamsburg carriage house and in 1856 completed a brick sanctuary on Nassau Street. A school for black students opened there in the 1860s. The Rev. John Dawson, longtime pastor, served in the Senate of Virginia from 1874 to 1877. First Baptist moved into its sanctuary here in 1956. During the Civil Rights era, the Rev. David Collins led demonstrations

for fair hiring practices and joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke here in 1962.

112 words/689 characters

Sources:

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 23 June 1962.

Williamsburg Weekly Gazette, 8 May 1856.

Richmond Daily Dispatch, 10 May 1856.

Linda Rowe, "Gowan Pamphlet: Baptist Preacher in Slavery and Freedom," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 120, no. 1 (2012), 3-31.

First Baptist Church, National Register of Historic Places nomination (2017).

Tommy Bogger, *Since 1776: The History of First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Virginia* (2006).

Joseph Straw, "Sustained by Faith," *Trend and Tradition*, vol. 1 (Winter 2016).

William Gordon, "Religious Roots of Blacks in Williamsburg," *Colonial Williamsburg* (Summer 1992), 42-48.

Thad W. Tate Jr., *The Negro in Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg* (Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1957).

Jennifer R. Loux, "John M. Dawson (1829-1913)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*.

Colonial Lot M Block 14 Historical Report; Taliaferro-Cole House Historical Report (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library Research Reports, Colonial Williamsburg Digital Library).

Robert B. Semple, *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia* (Richmond: Pitt & Dickinson, 1894).

John W. Cromwell, "The Earlier Churches and Preachers," in W.E.B. DuBois, ed., *The Negro Church* (Atlanta: Atlanta University Press, 1903).

Joseph B. Earnest Jr., "The Religious Development of the Negro in Virginia," (Ph.D. diss, University of Virginia, 1914).

Luther P. Jackson, "The Planting of Negro Churches," *Journal of Negro History*, vol. 16, no. 2 (April 1931), 181-203.

Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Virginia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, RG 105, NARA, Washington, D.C.

5.) Third Baptist Church

Sponsor: Third Baptist Church

Locality: Alexandria

Proposed Location: 917 Princess St.

Sponsor Contact: McArthur Myers, Alexslim62@comcast.net

Original text:

Third Baptist Church

In January 1864, 11 newly freed slaves organized the Third Freedmen's Baptist Church with the Rev. George Washington Parker. The Church's name was later changed to Third Baptist Church. Rev. Parker and the congregation moved to 917 Princess Street in 1865. A free man of color prior to the Civil War, Rev. Parker worked with Rev. Clement "Clem" Robinson to start several churches and schools in Alexandria. A man of many careers, Rev. Parker was a Council member, a Republican Party member, an Assistant Deputy United States Marshal for the United States Census (1870) and a hotel manager ("Empire House Hotel"). Rev. Parker was Third Baptist Church's Pastor from 1864 to 1870, with a congregation over hundred members. He died on 8 June 1873.

124 words/ 743 characters

Edited text:

Third Baptist Church

Alexandria, occupied by Union troops in 1861, attracted many African Americans escaping slavery. In Jan. 1864, a group of formerly enslaved people organized Third Freedmen's Baptist Church (later Third Baptist Church). The congregation moved to this site in 1865 and built its Romanesque Revival sanctuary in the 1890s. The church's first minister was the Rev. George Washington Parker (ca. 1832-1873), who had been free before the Civil War. He worked with the Rev. Clement Robinson to start the First Select Colored School in 1862, was a local Republican Party leader during Reconstruction, and was the first African American member of the Alexandria Common Council.

104 words/ 668 characters

Sources:

Alexandria Gazette, 8 Sept. 1864, 4 May 1865, 1 Oct. 1870, 9 June 1873, 13 July 1895, 24 June, 9 Aug., 7, 22 Sept. 1897.

Minutes of the 157th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Baptist Association (1864, 1865).

Proceedings of the Convention of the Colored People of VA., (1865).

List of All School Buildings in 6th Ed. Sub. Dist. Of Virginia, 22 April 1869.

T. Michael Miller, *Alexandria (Virginia) City Officialdom, 1749-1992* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1992).

Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District NRHP nomination, 2010.

Testimony in the Case of Chas. Whittlesey vs. Lewis McKenzine (41st Congress, 2d session, Misc. Doc. No. 46), 31 Jan. 1870.

www.thirdbaptistalexva.org

www.theotheralexandria.com

6.) Drew-Smith Elementary School

Sponsor: Gum Springs Historical Society

Locality: Fairfax County

Proposed Location: 8100 Fordson Road

Sponsor Contact: Ronald Chase, gshsfva@gmail.com

Original text:

Drew Smith Elementary School

Drew Smith Elementary School, located in Gum Springs, Fairfax County Virginia was built in the segregated 1950s. The Supreme Court ruled in 1954 to end segregated schools. Fairfax County continued segregated schools until 1965. Drew Smith was closed in 1965; with the school's closure, the Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association (named for its community activist principal, Saunders B. Moon, a community action group was created for the enhancement of the Gum Springs community) seized the opportunity to create the Gum Springs Community Center. With the creation of the center, and the Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association (S.B.M.C.A.A.) housed within the center, the (S.B.M.C.A.A.) fought for and won the efforts to improve the western border of Gum Springs (which is the Route One boundary). Gum Springs' western boundary started to be transformed, with new apartment complex, new home and stores gave the community a new dimension.

147 words/ 951 characters

Edited text:

Drew-Smith Elementary School

A one-room school for African Americans in Gum Springs was organized by 1865. A segregated public elementary school later served the community. Black citizens petitioned for a new building to replace the inadequate facility, and Drew-Smith Elementary School opened here in 1953. Named for Dr. Charles R. Drew, medical researcher, and Annie M. Smith, a local educator, the school closed in 1965 when Fairfax County schools were desegregated. The Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association, named for Drew-Smith's former principal, moved into the building in 1966. With funding derived from Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, the association led many community improvement projects.

104 words/ 690 characters

Sources:

John Terry Chase, *Gum Springs: The Triumph of a Black Community* (Fairfax County History Commission, 1990).

Judith Saunders-Burton, "A History of Gum Springs, Virginia: A Report of a Case Study of Leadership in a Black Enclave" (Ed.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 1986).

Evelyn Darnell Russell-Porte, "A History of Education for Black Students in Fairfax County Prior to 1954," (Ed.D. diss., Virginia Tech, 2000).

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 14 March 1953.

Alexandria Gazette, 29 Aug. 1870, 29 Apr. 1890.

Washington Post, 6 July 1938, 23 Dec. 1951, 7 Sept. 1952, 9 Jan. 1953, 13 June 1964, 14 Feb. 1965, 1 Sept. 1972, 16 Apr. 1987.

Saunders B. Moon death certificate, 1963.

"A Guide to the Gum Springs, Virginia, Collection, 1915-1991," Fairfax County Public Library.

www.novahistory.org/FreedmenEducation

www.gumspingsmuseum.blogspot.com

Sponsor Markers

1.) The Washingtons at Pohick Church

Sponsor: Mary Elizabeth Conover Foundation, Inc.

Locality: Fairfax County

Proposed Location: 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton

Sponsor Contact: Larry Nelson, strategicaliances@conoversystems.org

Original text:

George Washington's Colonial Pohick

The first President of the United States formed his character here in a geographic region known as Pohick. The name comes from an American Indian term meaning the "water place." George Washington served on the vestry of Pohick Church, which took its name from nearby Pohick Creek. In colonial times the church served as the center of community activity and engaged in a variety of civil as well as religious functions. The church was the most effective social welfare agency of the period. Funds expended on the parish poor often accounted for more than 25 percent of the parish budget.

100 words/ 588 characters

Edited text:

The Washingtons at Pohick Church

George Washington, like his father before him, served on the vestry of Truro Parish, which the Virginia General Assembly established in 1732. Colonial vestries managed parish affairs and provided crucial services to the community, including care for widows, orphans, the poor, and the sick. Washington served several terms as church warden and is credited with leading the effort to replace the old Pohick Church, about two miles south, with a new building that opened here in 1774. He donated furnishings to the church and attended services here with his wife, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, a devout Anglican. Their home, Mount Vernon, is six miles to the east.

107 words/ 668 characters

Sources:

www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia

Tom Costa, "George Mason and Pohick Church," <http://gunstonhallblog.blogspot.com>

Edward L. Bond, "The Parish in Colonial Virginia," *Encyclopedia Virginia*

<http://www.pohick.org/history.html>

David L. Holmes, *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Mary V. Thompson, "*In the Hands of a Good Providence*": *Religion in the Life of George Washington* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008).

Dell Upton, *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).

Peter A. Lillback, *George Washington's Sacred Fire* (Providence Forum Press, 2006).

Founders Online (<https://founders.archives.gov>)

2.) James Rives Childs (1893-1987)

Sponsor: Jane Baber White

Locality: Lynchburg

Proposed Location: 911 Rivermont Ave.

Sponsor Contact: Jane Baber White, janebaberwhite@gmail.com

Original text:

James Rives Childs (1893-1987)

Diplomat and author James Rives Childs grew up here. During his 30 year foreign service career he served as Charge d'Affairs of Morocco, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ambassador to North Yemen., and Ambassador to Ethiopia. The author of 14 books, five were on Giacomo Casanova, and another on the history of the American Foreign Service. A graduate of Randolph Macon College, with an MA from Harvard, he received the Medal of Freedom for his service during World War I working as a radio intelligence liaison for the French and English. After the war, he worked in the Soviet Union with American Relief Administration.

104 words/ 622 characters

Edited text:

James Rives Childs (1893-1987)

Diplomat and author J. Rives Childs lived here in his youth. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army as a code breaker in France. After working for the American Relief

Administration in the Balkans and the Soviet Union, he began a 30-year diplomatic career in 1923. During World War II, as chargé d'affaires at the American Legation in Tangier, Morocco, Childs helped 1,200 Hungarian Jews obtain entry visas for Spanish Morocco and escape the Holocaust. He received the Medal of Freedom in 1946. Childs was later U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. He wrote the textbook *American Foreign Service* (1948) and was an authority on 18th-century scholar and adventurer Giacomo Casanova.

115 words/697 characters

Sources:

James Rives Childs, *Let the Credit Go* (New York: The K.S. Giniger Company, 1983).

James Rives Childs, *Reliques of the Rives* (Lynchburg: J.P. Bell Company, 1929).

Dictionary of Virginia Biography, 3:208-209.

Lynchburg Daily Advance, 14 June 1962, 21 Jan. 1965, 14 Jan. 1976.
Lynchburg News, 14 May 1946.

Lynchburg City Directories.

Gerald Loftus, "J. Rives Childs in Wartime Tangier" *The Foreign Service Journal* (Jan./Feb. 2014).

Elmehdi Boudra, "Holocaust Remembrance and Education in Morocco," (The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme), www.un.org.

"Tangier American Diplomat Among the Righteous?" (<http://legation.ipower.com/blog/?p=337>)

"James Rives Childs," U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian (<https://history.state.gov>)

New York Times, 16 July, 1987.

Washington Post, 17 July 1987.

VMI Alumni Association questionnaires (VMI Archives).

3.) Reedy Creek Baptist Church

Sponsor: Reedy Creek Baptist Church

Locality: Brunswick County

Proposed Location: 1949 Reedy Creek Road

Sponsor Contact: Chad Patton, Chad.Patton@southside.edu

Original text:

Reedy Creek Baptist Church

Reedy Creek Baptist Church held a congregation during the colonial era and served as the only constituted church in Brunswick County until 1810. Called the “Mother of Churches” in the region, Reedy Creek members helped organize five additional churches in the county and others throughout the state. Members served critical positions in the associations and the spread of the Baptist faith in this region. The church served an inclusive congregation for many years. Remains of the original church and its cemetery exist on the property.

85 words/ 536 characters

Edited text:

Reedy Creek Baptist Church

By 1772, Zachariah Thompson, a Baptist minister based in North Carolina, had founded a church here on Reedy Creek. This is the oldest-continuing Baptist church in Brunswick County. Members later helped organize a number of other congregations in the region. Before the Civil War, many enslaved African Americans were accepted as members of Reedy Creek but worshiped from the balcony. A cemetery was established here early in the 20th century, and the present sanctuary opened in 1956. Remains of the original church exist on the property.

86 words/ 533 characters

Sources:

Lemuel Burkitt and Jesse Read, *A Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1850).

“Minutes of the Kehukee Association,” James Sprunt Historical Monograph No. 5 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1904).

John Asplund, *The Annual Register of the Baptist Denomination in North America to the First of November, 1790*

Robert Baylor Semple, *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia* (Richmond, 1810).

Cushing Biggs Hassell, *History of the Church of God from the Creation to A.D. 1885* (Middletown, NY: Gilbert Beebe’s Sons, 1885).

Darlene Herod, research notes, Virginia Baptist Historical Society, University of Richmond

Gay Neale, *Brunswick County, Virginia, 1720-1975* (Brunswick County Bicentennial Committee, 1975).

“History of Reedy Creek, Concord Association, Brunswick County, Virginia” (provided by church)

Jewel Spangler “Baptists in Colonial Virginia,” *Encyclopedia Virginia*

Garnett Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia, 1699-1926* (Richmond: Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education, 1955).

4.) Walnut Grove Plantation

Sponsor: Bristol Historical Association

Locality: Bristol

Proposed Location: Lee Highway (Route 11), just east of Route 5300

Sponsor Contact: Tim Buchanan, Buchanan03@bvunet.net

Original text:

Walnut Grove

Walnut Grove was the plantation home of Col. Robert Preston (1750-1833). His frame house, circa 1800, is one of the oldest in Washington County. Preston came to Botetourt County from Ireland in 1773, as Deputy Surveyor to Wm. Preston of Smithfield. He moved to Washington County in 1780, after Thomas Jefferson appointed him the first surveyor of that newly created county, a lucrative and much sought after position that he held for 51 years. During his career he surveyed thousands of acres to the west, opening that land to settlement. Preston was a frontier Indian fighter, wealthy landowner and prominent public servant. William Clark of Lewis and Clark breakfasted at Walnut Grove in 1809.

114 words/ 695 characters

Edited text:

Walnut Grove Plantation

Col. Robert Preston (1750-1833) acquired 720 acres here in the 1780s and established Walnut Grove. Preston had emigrated from Ireland in 1773 and worked as assistant surveyor under his relative William Preston, who laid out vast areas of western Virginia. During the Revolutionary War, Robert Preston joined expeditions against the Cherokee and Loyalists. Gov. Thomas

Jefferson appointed him the first surveyor of Washington County in 1779. Preston's frame house, built here ca. 1800, is among the county's oldest. By the 1830s about 30 enslaved African Americans were laboring on his land. William Clark, of Lewis and Clark, breakfasted at the home of Preston's son John at Walnut Grove in 1809.

110 words/ 696 characters

Sources:

Preston Family Papers, Virginia Historical Society.

Robert Preston surveyor appointment, 22 Dec. 1779.

Robert Preston Estate Inventory, Washington County Will Book No. 7 (20-21).

Robert Preston Will, Washington County Will Book No. 6 (362-363).

Washington County, Virginia, Minute Book 1 (Jan. 1777-Aug. 1784).

Walnut Grove, National Register of Historic Places nomination (2004).

Gibson Worsham, "Walnut Grove: The Robert Preston House," Historic Structure Report (2007).

Sarah S. Hughes, "Surveyors and Statesmen: Land Measuring in Colonial Virginia"

Albert H. Tillson Jr., *Gentry and Common Folk: Political Culture on a Virginia Frontier, 1740-1789* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky), 1991.

5.) Vint Hill Farms Station

Sponsor: Julie Broaddus

Locality: Fauquier County

Proposed Location: Farm Station Road northwest of intersection with Lineweaver Road

Sponsor Contact: Julie Broaddus, julie@oldbusthead.com

Original text:

Vint Hill Farms Station--Secret Listening Post

In 1942, the U.S. Army established a top-secret cryptanalysis post at Vint Hill Farms to intercept, decipher, and translate encoded German and Japanese radio transmissions. These barns housed the monitoring station. On November 10, 1943, Pvt. Leonard A. Mudloff intercepted a message from Oshima Hiroshi, the Japanese ambassador in Berlin. It described the German coastal fortifications in western France, the details of their construction, troop strengths and

dispositions, and contingency plans. The “Oshima intercept” was a vitally important contribution to the planning for D-Day, the Allied invasion of Europe. The post continued operations through the Cold War, closing in 1997.

100 words/ 684 characters

Edited text:

Vint Hill Farms Station

In June 1942 the U.S. Army established a top-secret post at Vint Hill Farms to intercept enemy radio transmissions. These barns housed the monitoring station. The Signal Corps’ cryptographic school, which taught personnel to encode, decode, and translate messages, was moved here. Pvt. Leonard A. Mudloff is credited with intercepting a message here from Oshima Hiroshi, the Japanese ambassador to Germany, on 10 Nov. 1943. It described German coastal fortifications in western France, troop strengths, and contingency plans. The “Oshima intercept” was a crucial contribution to the planning for D-Day, the Allied invasion of Europe. The post operated through the Cold War, closing in 1997.

105 words/ 690 characters

Sources:

James L. Gilbert and John P. Finnegan, eds., *Signals Intelligence in World War II: A Documentary History* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1993).

Carl Boyd, *Hitler’s Japanese Confidant: General Oshima Hiroshi and MAGIC Intelligence, 1941-1945* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1993).

“Selected Examples of Commendations and Related Correspondence Highlighting the Achievements and Value of U.S. Signals Intelligence During World War II” (National Cryptologic Museum Library).

Louis Kruh, “Vint Hill Farms Station,” *Cryptologia* 23 (1999): 259.

John Salmon, “Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Significance Statement” (2013).

John Salmon, “Leonard Mudloff and the Oshima Intercept” (2013).

U.S. Congressman Frank R. Wolf, Virginia, *Congressional Record*, vol. 140, no. 53, 5 May 1994, Extensions of Remarks, page E, from Congressional Record Online through the Government Printing Office, www.gpo.gov

Dave Mailler, “Out of the Past,” www.citizensforfauquier.org (Winter 2014).

6.) Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing

Sponsor: Christopher Pieczynski

Locality: Virginia Beach

Proposed Location: corner of South Witchduck Road and Singleton Way

Sponsor Contact: Chris Pieczynski; Christopher.Pieczynski@gmail.com

Original text:

Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing

On 16 Nov. 1775, Lord Dunmore, colonial Governor of Virginia, landed an armed force along the Elizabeth River to disrupt Princess Anne Militia forces gathering at Kemp’s Landing. Waiting in the woods to ambush the British, the inexperienced militia fired too early. Heavy return fire from the British scattered the militia and killed five including John Ackiss, the Revolution’s first death in Virginia. The British took 15 prisoners including militia commanders Joseph Hutchins and Anthony Lawson. From the home of George Logan, Dunmore issued his proclamation of martial law and freedom to slaves willing to fight for the king. This was Dunmore’s only victory in Virginia.

106 words/ 674 characters

Edited text:

Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing

Lord Dunmore, royal governor of Virginia, led a detachment of the British 14th Regiment to this area on 15 Nov. 1775 to disrupt militiamen forming in resistance to royal authority. The Princess Anne militia, waiting in a thicket, fired on the British advance guard. Heavy return fire scattered the militia and killed several men. Dunmore’s force, augmented by African American volunteers who had escaped from slavery, took a number of prisoners, including Col. Joseph Hutchings. The emboldened Dunmore issued a proclamation declaring martial law and offering freedom to slaves willing to fight for the king. Many militiamen and others subsequently signed oaths of loyalty to the Crown.

107 words /685 characters

Sources:

Virginia Gazette (Purdie), 17 Nov. 1775.

D.R. Anderson, ed., "The Letters of Col. William Woodford, Col. Robert Howe, and Gen. Charles Lee to Edmund Pendleton, President of the Virginia Convention," *Richmond College Historical Papers*, vol. 1, no. 1 (June 1915), 96-106.

Lord Dunmore to Lord Dartmouth, 6 Dec. 1775, in William Bell Clark, ed., *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, vol. 2 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1966).

H. W. R. Curle, "Intercepted Letters of Virginian Tories, 1775," *The American Historical Review* (Jan. 1907), 341-346.

Peter Force, ed., *American Archives*, ser. 4, vols. 3 and 4 (Washington, D.C., 1837-1846.)

"Virginia Legislative Papers," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 14, 1907.

Robert L. Scribner and Brent Tarter, *Revolutionary Virginia: The Road to Independence*, vol. 4 (University Press of Virginia, 1978).

John E. Selby, *The Revolution in Virginia, 1775-1783* (Williamsburg; Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1988).

Woody Holton, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

James Corbett David, *Dunmore's New World* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2013).

Replacement Marker (Sponsored)

1.) Alfred D. "A. D." Price (ca. 1860-1921)

Sponsor: Descendants of A. D. Price

Locality: Richmond City

Proposed Location: intersection of E. Leigh St. and N. Second St.

Original Text:

Alfred D. "A. D." Price

Born into slavery in Hanover County in 1860, Alfred D. "A. D." Price moved to Richmond in the late 1870s. Soon after coming to Richmond, he set up a blacksmith shop, which expanded into a livery stable and the funeral home that stands here, now known as A. D. Price Funeral Establishment. In August 1894, Price became one of the first funeral directors in Virginia to receive a state embalming license. He served on the board of directors of a number of businesses and organizations, including the Southern Aid Society, a prominent insurance company. Price served as its president from 1905 until his death on 9 April 1921.

108 words/623 characters

Replacement Text:

Alfred D. "A. D." Price (ca. 1860-1921)

Alfred D. "A. D." Price, African American entrepreneur, spent his youth in Hanover County. After settling in Richmond in the 1870s, he opened a blacksmith shop ca. 1881 that expanded into a livery stable and undertaking business. He moved the enterprise to this site in 1898. In Aug. 1894, Price became one of the first funeral directors in Virginia to receive a state embalming license. That year he married Georgia A. Gibbons, a former contralto for the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Price invested in real estate and was a board member for banks and other institutions. He was president of the Southern Aid Society of Virginia, a prominent insurance company, from 1905 until his death on 9 Apr. 1921.

118 words / 695 characters

Replacement Markers (VDOT project)

For each of the three markers, I have included the VDOT district, county, original text, proposed replacement text, and word/character count.

1.) *Culpeper VDOT District; Fauquier County*

Colonial Road C-29

This crossroad is the ancient Dumfries-Winchester highway. Over it William Fairfax accompanied George Washington, then a lad of sixteen, on his first visit to Lord Fairfax at Greenway Court. It was on this occasion that Washington assisted in surveying the Fairfax grant.

Colonial Road C-29

This crossroad is a branch of the old Dumfries-Winchester highway, a colonial route connecting Quantico Creek and the Potomac River to the Shenandoah Valley. Dumfries, about 26 miles southeast of here, emerged as a busy tobacco port by the mid-18th century and became the seat of Prince William County in 1759. This road carried crops to the port and supplies to the backcountry. In March 1748, 16-year-old George Washington traveled this road as part of a surveying party that crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains and laid out portions of the vast land grant controlled by Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax.

100/597

2.) *Richmond VDOT District; Henrico County*

First Successful Colonial Tobacco Crop V-25

In 1611 John Rolfe became the first Englishman to cultivate tobacco nearby at Varina Farm, on the James River. Rolfe planted seeds bred in Varinas, Spain, and experimented with curing methods to produce a tobacco milder than the native variety. The success of tobacco as a cash crop encouraged the Virginia Company of London and renewed the spirit of confidence among the colonists. It supported a wealthy planter class and enriched shippers and merchants. Tobacco thereby contributed to the economic security and survival of the Virginia colony, and thus the nation.

Commercial Tobacco Production V-25

John Rolfe arrived in Virginia in 1610 and began experimenting with tobacco cultivation by 1612. His seeds, acquired from Spanish colonies, yielded a milder plant than the native variety. Tobacco's success as a cash crop transformed Virginia. Planters, shippers, and merchants grew wealthy and met their growing demand for labor with indentured servants and with Africans forcibly brought to the colony, many of whom were experienced tobacco cultivators. A legal framework for the enslavement of Africans evolved as the 17th century wore on. Plantations spread into Indian land, causing conflict. By 1632 this area was known as Verinas (later Varina), likely named after a popular strain of tobacco.

108/699

3.) *Hampton Roads VDOT District; Greensville County*

Site of Homestead UM-41

Near here stood Homestead, the plantation of James Mason (1744-1784), a captain in the 15th Virginia Regiment from 1776 to 1778 and a colonel in the Brunswick County militia during the Revolutionary War. It was also the home of his son Edmunds Mason (1770-1849), member of the Virginia General Assembly (1802-1805) and county clerk (1807-1834), and birthplace of his grandchildren John Y. Mason (1799-1859), member of Congress (1831-1837) and U.S. attorney general (1845-1846), and Dr. George Mason (1809-1895). Before the Civil War, Dr. Mason and

his mother-in-law, Mary A. Jones, operated a school at Homestead that had opened at nearby West View about 1840.

Site of Homestead UM-41

Near here stood Homestead, the plantation of James Mason (1744-1784), who served in the Revolutionary War first as a captain in the 15th Virginia Regiment and then as a colonel in the Brunswick County militia. It was also the home of his son Edmunds Mason (1770-1849), member of the Virginia General Assembly and county clerk, and birthplace of his grandchildren John Y. Mason (1799-1859), member of Congress and U.S. attorney general, and Dr. George Mason (1809-1895). About 90 enslaved African Americans labored here in 1860. Before the Civil War, Dr. Mason and his mother-in-law, Mary A. Jones, operated a school at Homestead that had opened at nearby West View about 1840.

111/676