Fairfax County, Virginia, is located in the northwestern part of the State. Its boundaries are the counties of Loudoun and Prince William and the Potomac river. It is sometimes said of Fairfax County that its citizens are still thinking of its colonial prosperity, and are not catching the spirit of progress, co-operation, and efficiency which is abroad in the land. Be that as it may, the citizens of Fairfax feel a peculiar thrill of love for its soil, which is not affected by prosperity or by a lack of it.

The spirit of adventure and exploration, which sent Elizabeth's courtiers faring across the Atlantic to colonize America, still remained alive, even after they had founded a colony. Soon after the settlement of Jamestown, in 1607, Captain John Smith led an expedition up the Chesapeake Bay to explore its unknown shores. Perhaps he, too, was searching for the "Northwest Passage," which was the dream of so many adventurous mariners. But instead of finding a passage to the seas of India, Captain Smith found only a broad river, called Potomac by the Indians. The rivers of England were tiny compared with this majestic stream, and Captain Smith was much impressed by the country, as well as by the river. He made careful exploration of the west shores of the stream, finding good harbors, splendid forests, and beautiful scenery. He ascended the river up to the falls of the Potomac, which means that he explored the territory which is now Fairfax County. When Captain Smith returned to Jamestown, he gave a most interesting account of the trip, speaking in admiring terms of the country he had explored, and predicting that it would make an admirable location for settlers.

It is not known at just what date the land which is now Fairfax County was first settled by the white people. In 1648 all the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers was organized into the county of Northumberland; so it is probable that there were settlements scattered throughout that territory. The tide of settlement proceeded up the river, and the counties of Westmoreland, Stafford, and Prince William were formed in less than a hundred years. It was from Prince William County—called "Prinche William" by all true Fairfaxians of the present—that Fairfax County was formed in 1742. The county was named for the royal proprietor, Lord Fairfax. Its territory then included what are now Loudoun and Alexandria counties, the Blue Ridge being its farthest boundary. The first inhabitants, the Indians, were loth to give such a favored spot, and it was not until 1762 that the settlers of Fairfax could feel quite safe from Indian depredations.

It is this period of its history, from the organization of the county, in 1742, to the beginning of the nineteenth century, that is of most interest to the antiquarian. The glow of colonial prosperity pervaded the atmosphere, and lavish hospitality was the custom. We should like to know just how those early pioneers kept their homes and spent their days. We are not so limited in our knowledge of the lives of the aristocratic families of the country side, but little has been handed down concerning the common people. Fairfax has had no Burns or Gray to sing "the short and simple annals of the poor." An English tutor in one family of the county has written down some of his impressions, which are very interesting. His admiration of its natural beauties even inspired him to write some verses contrasting "Morning on the Occoquan" and "Evening on the Occoquan." But it must be confessed that his opinions of the native Americans were far from complimentary. His somewhat romantic turn of mind must have been an enigma to the prosaic and practical folk of the community.

The first records we have of the government of the county are dated 1742, the year in which it was organized. At that time the seat of government was in Colchester, a town on the bank of the Occoquan river. This was one of the places designated by the General Assembly for the erection of a tobacco warehouse. The other place was at the mouth of the "Great Hunting Creek," on the Potomac river, the site of the present town of Alexandria. To these two towns led the important roads of Northern Virginia, over which were brought great stores of tobacco. It was inspected at the warehouse before shipment to foreign ports. Colchester was a thriving town long before the Revolutionary war. The "Occoquan Ferry" was located here;
so General Braddock and his staff passed through the town in the early part of the French and Indian War. The deposits of iron ore in the surrounding hills were soon discovered, and at Colchester was built one of the first furnaces in America. John Ballentyne, who owned the furnace, helped during the Revolutionary war to supply the American forces with cannon and other much-needed munitions. After Washington city was founded, the current of trade turned from Colchester; and now it is indeed a "deserted village."

The county seat of Fairfax was changed in 1742 from Colchester to a location on the Braddock road. The hostilities of the Indians made it necessary to move the court records to Alexandria, where the county court continued to hold its sessions until 1800. At this time the court was moved to the new courthouse in the central part of the county. This building, now over a hundred years old, has many associations that link it with the past. The wills of George and Martha Washington, and of George Mason, are here preserved with the greatest veneration. We read that George Washington was at one time a justice of the county, presumably while the court held its sessions in Alexandria.

Many quaint and interesting laws may be found in the old statute books of the county, which are treasured in the courthouse. In former times a monthly court was held, which custom continued till 1903. The ducking stool and the pillory had been imported from England, and were in common use in the county. We can scarcely realize that these strange customs and laws were practiced in the very place where we live.

In agricultural pursuits tobacco seemed the most important crop of the county; in fact, this was the most important thing in the colony, if we are to base our judgment on the notice given to it in the old laws. Salaries were paid and fines imposed in pounds of tobacco. The roads (called rolling roads) of the county led to the two tobacco ports of Colchester and Alexandria, where the weed was shipped to England. The tobacco was not hauled in wagons, but was rolled along in hogsheads, by means of pins driven into the ends and attached to shafts. Oxen were the beasts of burden for the tobacco-hauling. This fact is of especial interest to the writer, since her home is on the Ox Road, one of the century-old thoroughfares which led to Colchester—now a scene of ruin.

We may not know of the poor and ignorant among Fairfax's early citizens; but if we study history at all, we must know of her wise and great men. Of course the best known of these is General George Washington, but we shall not let his greatness deprive all others of a place in our memory.

One of the most romantic figures among the men of early Fairfax is Daniel Morgan, sometimes known as the hero of five wars. When General Braddock came marching through Fairfax county, cutting straight through the forest the road which still bears his name, some of his company passed through Colchester. Daniel Morgan was then a teamster for Ballentyne's furnace at Colchester, hauling ore for a shilling a day. The sight of the red-coated soldiers thrilled the twenty-year-old boy with enthusiasm to join the expedition. He threw the ore off his wagon and followed the army with his team. Fighting in the French and Indian War, he gained the military training that later led a corps of riflemen in a "bee line for Boston."

Another Fairfax citizen of a very different type was George Mason, the neighbor of George Washington. Mason was born in Fairfax County in 1725, and throughout his lifetime was ever a loyal citizen of his county. In 1774 he was the author of the Fairfax County Resolutions, of protest against governmental tyranny. As the Fairfax County representative in the House of Burgesses, he wrote the Virginia Bill of Rights, which was passed in this same year. At a much later date he compiled the first state constitution of Virginia. It is interesting to know that Mason was more democratic than Washington and was instrumental in shaping the beliefs of Thomas Jefferson, that apostle of democracy of the succeeding generation.

George Mason was not a brilliant man, but he was blessed with great practical wisdom. He was not a seeker after public life, but preferred rather the simple pursuits of a county gentleman. His beautiful Fairfax home, Gunston Hall, was his chief delight. He spent many hours in his library, which was extensive for that time. It is at Gunston Hall that Mason is buried. His grave has no elaborate monument—merely a shaft bearing his name and followed by the words, "author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and the
First constitution of Virginia. 1725—1792.

General George Washington is the most honored of the citizens of Fairfax. When a young man, Washington often visited his brother Lawrence at his beautiful Fairfax mansion, Mount Vernon. Lawrence died in 1752, bequeathing his estate to George; but it was not until 1759 that Mount Vernon became Washington's permanent home. This was the spring of his marriage with Martha Custis; so his home-coming must have been a very happy one. He wrote to a friend, speaking of his home, "No estate in America is more pleasantly situated." Surely anyone who has visited this American shrine must realize the truth of the General's words. He seemed to think that he was retiring from public life at the time of his marriage in 1759, though now we know but little of his early public life, so overshadowed is it by his later achievements.

All the world knows Washington's name in connection with national affairs, but it is as a Fairfax citizen in the fifteen years preceding the Revolution that Fairfaxians love to remember him. In the management of his great estates he was an example to his neighbors in that he gave personal supervision to each division of the work. He was not content to follow the trodden path, but was interested in experiment and invention. Consequently the farm implements used on his lands were likely to be better than the average. He perfected a device for mechanically flailing the heads of grain, a forerunner of the modern threshing machine. He even adopted a system of crop rotation for his farm, which was an innovation for that day.

Victims of the income tax might be somewhat comforted to know that, though ordinarily a model citizen, George Washington was once found guilty of evading, or escaping, the tax assessor. His name is recorded in the county court books as delinquent in paying the tax on his "wheel-carriage," presumably the large coach which may still be seen at Mount Vernon.

Though Washington and George Mason were neighbors, they must not have always been the best of friends, because we hear of several minor differences of opinion between the two—for instance, the disagreement over building the Pohick Church. The old wooden church building of Truro Parish, called Pohick Church, became so dilapidated that a new building was needed. The vestry, of whom the leading members were Washington and Mason, were agreed that a new building was necessary, but where to put it was hotly debated. Mason felt that it should be near Gunston Hall; Washington thought it should be at a point midway between Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall. Apparently Washington's was the stronger will, for his choice of site was fixed upon, and the church was built by his own plan. This plan was one that had been used before in the Falls Church, in the upper part of the county. We are glad to know that the coldness which existed between Washington and Mason over this ecclesiastical difference was dispelled in a few years, and Mason became an attendant of the new church. Though Washington was vestryman of Pohick Church, Falls Church, and Christ Church, he was not a communicant in any church.

Much of his time during this period of retirement was spent in the rural sports and amusements of the country side. Whether fishing, duck shooting, or fox hunting was planned, Washington was a member of the party. After the day's chase the hospitable doors of Mount Vernon would open to receive the hunters, and a merry feast would follow.

Here in this rural home Washington lived for about fifteen years in quiet—a good citizen, pleasant neighbor, and kindly husband and foster-father.

We cannot help wondering with what sensations he received the news that on him rested the responsibility of the defense of the colonies against the mother country. We know that before he left Virginia to take command of his army he made the fifty-mile trip from Mount Vernon to Fredericksburg, to bid farewell to his aged mother and ask her blessing on his mission. After the conclusion of the Revolution, Washington returned to his home in Fairfax, and there spent the remainder of his days—except when the cares of state called him to the cities.

His death in 1799 marked the beginning of the end of the early prosperity and importance of Fairfax County, and the beginning of a new era. The old figures had been removed, and there seemed no others to fill their places.

During the Civil War Fairfax remained loyal to the Confederacy, though adjoining
the very capital of the opposing forces. Though no great battles were fought in her territory, Fairfax was the scene of much skirmishing and desultory fighting throughout the four years of conflict. The first soldier to be killed in actual battle fell in Fairfax, on the court green.

Being overrun by soldiers of both sides, Fairfax county became much demoralized during the conflict. What little beginnings had been made at public education were utterly lost; Pohick Church itself became a stable for cavalry horses; farming and all industries were neglected. All the institutions of Fairfax were so broken by the great conflict that the citizens of the generation following were irreparably handicapped for their lives. Schools were few and primitive in type. The schools which our parents attended were but little more modern than those of the Puritans in early Massachusetts, and not so well taught.

But out of the turmoil of the reconstruction period there has arisen a new citizenship of Fairfax, which is looking into the future rather than dwelling on the memories of a glorious past. None of our present-day citizens are so famous as those of colonial days, but we believe that their loyalty to state and county is as unswerving as that of their distinguished forbears. The Masons of Mount Vernon district are still loyal members of Pohick Church, (now restored to resemble its appearance in Washington's time); the Lees of Lee district do honor to their noble name.

Colonel Robert Edward Lee, grandson of the great Southerner, is one of the best-loved of our citizens. He lives with his mother at "Ravensworth," which was the home of his father, General W. H. F. Lee. One of the trustees of Washington and Lee University, Colonel Lee is keenly interested in the educational and religious progress of the county. His commanding figure may be seen towering among his neighbors at any meeting of which is to promote better churches, schools, or Sunday schools.

Another of the later sons of Fairfax, Joseph E. Willard, has been in public life some years. At one time Lieutenant-Governor of the state, he is now United States Ambassador to Spain. His beautiful home near Fairfax Courthouse is one of the most imposing residences in the county.

Under the leadership of Mr. Milton D. Hall, Superintendent of Schools, great progress has been made in the educational system of the county. He has endeavored to obtain better salaries for teachers, more commodious schoolhouses, and a unified course of study.

Another of the men that have done most toward the improvement of Fairfax is R. Walton Moore, one of the best-known lawyers of the state. Though he has refused many requests to hold public office, he is intensely interested in the welfare of his county. In every public movement Mr. R. Walton Moore is the leading spirit. Through his tireless efforts Fairfax oversubscribed heavily to every liberty bond issue and Red Cross drive during the war. Mr. Moore is a student of the social and economic conditions of his county; he is one of the far-sighted men who can see for Fairfax a splendid future only through a better system of education, for the great handicap of the county is blind ignorance.

The lover of present-day Fairfax cannot help believing that some of the glory of her colonial days has been carried over into the now; that some of the greatness of her early citizens has been imbied into the spirits of their successors; and that before Fairfax is a future as fair as her past.

Hazel Davis.

THE TRAINING SCHOOL

(a) COMMUNITY LIFE, HISTORY, AND CIVICS IN PRIMARY GRADES

When a child of six enters school, his experiences have been chiefly bound up with home activities. Life to him is not complex but simple—chiefly made up of his own doings and of those with whom he comes into daily contact. He does not realize his own personal needs in the problems he meets in every-day life as does the child in the intermediate grades, but accepts them through suggestion from the teacher. Consequently, a teacher in primary grades should study the interests, present needs, and future needs of the children under her care, so as to choose and develop her topics to serve as a necessary