

# What you should know about

## Fauquier History



### Fauquier County Towns, Villages, and Communities

This Fauquier history note focuses on the settlements, towns, villages, and communities that have been so important in the development and history of this County. Many only existed for a few years and are now only a marking on a map, if that. Very little is known about some of these communities. A few were no more than a cross roads or may have only had a church or a general store. Others listed are important today. With the County growth in the early 21st Century, many more will be added, but history will generally associate these with the communities of the past at those locations. Middleburg, often thought of as being in Fauquier, is actually in Loudoun County.

#### Original Settlements

**Brent Town:** Established in 1687 with the construction of a block house to observe the movement of Iroquois Indians along the Shenandoah Hunting Path. Named for George Brent, one of the founders. The exact location is not known but it was in southeast Fauquier near Sowego. Although the settlement failed in 1691, the plan was to have settle Huguenots (French Protestants) at that location.

**Elk Run (Elk Marsh):** Established in 1715 and located just west of Brent Town when it was abandoned. Was a crossroads settlement on the site of an old Manahoac Indian village. Located in south central Fauquier at the intersection of routes 610 and 806. It is the site of the first Anglican church in Fauquier (1750's) and is the present day site preservation project involving a current archaeological dig. Ultimately a historical park will be established at the church site. In addition to the village and church there were also two copper mines.

**Germantown:** Established about 1718. Was originally located on Licking Run in southern Fauquier. As the name suggests, it was settled by German immigrants brought to Virginia by Gov. Spotswood mainly to mine silver and iron ore. The settlement thrived for many years but had failed by the American Revolution and the remnants of most of the settlement are now under Crockett Park Lake. A graveyard and surrounding farmlands, however, still exist. Most of the Germantown area is now known as Midland.

#### Present Day Towns

**Warrenton:** Previously known as the Red Store and later as Fauquier Courthouse. The Lee family donated the original plot of land for a Courthouse in 1718. The first Courthouse in town was completed in 1764. The town was initially established in 1759 as the Red Store, named Warrenton in 1810 after General Joseph Warren (Revolutionary War Hero from Massachusetts), and chartered in 1816. Is located approximately in the center of the County on a ridge line. It is by far the largest town in the County and is the County seat. Home of the Fauquier Historical Society (Old Jail Museum) and the John Singleton Mosby Museum Foundation (its Civil War Museum is expected to open in 2005). Fauquier High School is located in the town.

**Remington:** Originally known as Mill View and later Bowenville. When the railroad came through it was known as Rappahannock Station as it was on the River. Remington's charter dates back to 1890 but the town existed before 1850. Remington was named after a popular railroad conductor. Site of a battle considered the last defense of the upper Rappahannock River of the war. Is the second largest of the incorporated towns in Fauquier. The Kelly's Ford Civil War site is near Remington. Is located in southwest Fauquier on route 28 at the intersection of routes 651, 655, and 658.

**Marshall:** Established as Salem in 1796 by act of the Virginia General Assembly. Named Marshall in 1882 in honor of Chief Justice John Marshall whose estate, Oak Hill, is located nearby. It was considered as the unofficial capital of the "Free State". One of the original structures was The Upper Carter's Run Baptist Church (1771). Home of the Fauquier Heritage and Preservation Foundation. Is located at the intersection of routes 17 and 50.

#### Villages, Communities, and Other Places of Interest

**Ada:** Located about 4 miles southeast of Marshall. It was once the trading hub for Dixon's valley and for about 10 years had a post office. The name was assigned by the post office. The name possibly came from a local store.

**Airlie:** The original Airlie House was built in the early 1900's by Harry Connally Groome who lived in the house for 25 years until it was destroyed by fire. The name came from the Airlie Castle in Scotland. Presently is the location of the Airlie Conference Center that was founded in 1959. It is located just outside Warrenton on route 605.

**Ashville:** A mill was built on Ashville (Bolling) run by Thomas Marshall in 1773. The Ash (or Ashe) sisters deeded the land in 1869 to freed slaves, hence it is the site of a well preserved Afro-American community. It is located in the north central part of Fauquier at the intersection of routes 731 and 732, west of Marshall and south of Delaplane.

**Atoka:** Originally known as Rector's Crossroads. Named Atoka in the 1890's after an Indian territory in Oklahoma. Col. Mosby organized his Rangers at the Rector House in 1863. Present home of the John S. Mosby Heritage Area and the Atoka Preservation Society. Located on Route 50 near the Loudoun County border, near Rectortown.

**Auburn:** Was once known as Barnett's Tavern. Located on what was originally an Indian trail. George Neville's ordinary (tavern) was built here in the 1740's. A grist mill was built here in 1722. George Washington and George William Fairfax stayed at the tavern in March 1748. It is located on Cedar Run, about 7 miles east of Warrenton, at the intersection of routes 670 and 602.

**Bealeton:** Established as Spring Hill in 1814. Named for the Beale family (specifically John G. Beale Senior) who gave the land to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad in 1850. Today is the home of the Flying Circus Air show. Located in the south central portion of the county near the intersection of routes 17 and 28.

**Belvior:** Once know as Swamp. Located between The Plains and Marshall on Route 55. A stop on the Manassas Railroad

**Bethel:** The Taylors Church near Bethel was completed in 1772. It was the location of the Bethel Military Academy that was established in 1867. It is located off route 17, northeast of Warrenton

**Botha:** Was named after a South African leader in the Anglo-Boar War. Located about midway between Fauquier Springs and Remington.

**Bristersburg:** Village built around the Tulloss Brothers store that was built in 1838. Was considered the main trading center of southern Fauquier. Post office opened in 1841. The Zoar Church was used as a Civil War hospital. Is located in the southeastern part of the County on routes 806, 616, and 639, near the Quantico Military Reserve.

**Broad Run:** Originally a track of land on Broad Run in northern Fauquier and Prince William counties. Today located where Routes 628 and 624 meet near Route 66 between The Plains and New Baltimore.

**Calverton:** Previously known as Owl Run and then Warrenton Junction. The name came from a family that moved to the area from Calvert, Maryland. Is located south and east of Warrenton, off route 28 at route 616.

**Carolandville:** Was started in 1785 at a place known as Norman's Ford. The town failed. Was located in southern Fauquier County.

**Casanova:** Established in the 1850's and originally known as Three Mile Switch (the railroad name). Later known as Melrose (Murray Castle). Located in south central Fauquier, where routes 602 and 616 meet.

**Catlett:** Originally named Catlett Station after Col. John Catlett who lead the first party of white men into southern Fauquier in 1670. Its main growth was in the 1860's. Site of a Jeb Stuart cavalry victory in the Civil War. It is located south and east of Warrenton, off route 28.

**Clever's Oak:** An Afro-American community, near Goldvain. It is said that slaves in colonial times worshiped at a church in Clever's Oak.

**Conde:** Once known as Rome. Ashby's was the main store. Located near Orlean.

**Delaplane:** Previously known as Piedmont Station, an 1852 railroad station, and before that Ash's Store and Oak Hill. Is the location of a Stonewall Jackson encampment during the second battle of Manassas. Was named Delaplane in 1874 after a local store owner and postmaster, Washington Delaplane. It is located in the northern part of the county, just north of route 66 on routes 710 and 713, not far from Sky Meadows State Park.

**Dudie:** Located between Conde and Warrenton. Once had a water-powered mill on Carter's Run, and Tom Parr's store with post office.

**Goldvein:** Formally known as Grove's Church. There were about 19 gold mines in this area in the southern tip of the county. Gold production at one mine, the Franklin Mine, began in 1825 and continued up to 1936. These mines were important suppliers of gold to the Confederate states. A Goldminers Museum today is located in Monroe Park in Goldvein. The village is located off route 17 heading toward Fredericksburg.

**Good Hope:** Afro-American village settled by free slaves. In south Fauquier near Bristersburg.

**Great Meadows Field Events Center:** Location of the Virginia Gold Cup, the International Gold Cup, and other equestrian and field events, including polo matches. It is located near The Plains at the intersection of route 17 and route 245, across from the Old Tavern, presently a store..

**Greenville:** Previously known as the Red Gate. Is located east of Warrenton on route 603, just south of Vint Hill farms.

**Halfway:** Is located in the north east section of Fauquier on route 626. Is halfway between Delaplane and Middleburg. Is located near Mosby's Lookout.

**Hardscrabble:** A village on the Fauquier Blue Ridge slopes.

**Hearts Delight:** Afro-American village near Bristersburg. Settled by freed slaves.

**Hume/Leeds:** It was originally Leeds Manor Post Office and once known as Barbee's Crossroads. The name Manor of Leeds resulted from Lord Fairfax naming the area after Leeds Castle, the family home in Kent, England. Area was also known as Leeds Manor. Today the Marriott Ranch Resort is located nearby. Is in the northwest area of the County, intersection of Routes 688 and 635.

**Kelly's Ford:** Was the site of the Civil War's St Patrick's day battle where "the gallant" Pelham (Major John Pelham) was killed in 1863. Is located on the Rappahannock River where reanactments are held each year. The Kelly's Ford Inn and Equestrian Center are located there today. The site borders Culpeper and Fauquier Counties near Remington.

**Kerfoot:** Was more of a mail delivery than a village. Named after the local Kerfoot family. Located in the north central Fauquier, near Paris, Upperville and Delaplane, where routes 710 & 712 meet

**Liberty:** Also known previously as Atwell. It is the location of Liberty High School. Is located next to Bealeton, off routes 17 and 28.

**Linden:** Is located on the border of Fauquier and Warren Counties, just off route 66, at Manassas Gap. Is about 6 miles from Front Royal.

**Little Georgetown:** A small crossroads community. The Upper Broad Run Church was established there in about 1836. Located in the eastern part of the County on route 628, just below route 66.

**Lois:** Once known as Baine's Corner. Located on route 17, where it intersects route 668, near Bealeton and Morrisville.

**Markham:** Thomas Marshall's home, "The Hollow", was located nearby. Was originally known as Farrowville and before that, North Point (at one point it was the most northern part of a important stage line). Was named Markham in 1874 after James Markham Marshall. Was the home of the Turner Ashby family and many Mosby rangers. Was a railroad village on Goose Creek, Turner Ashby's birthplace and the home of several Mosby Rangers. Located in northwest Fauquier, just off route 66.

## **Fauquier Town, Villages, and Communities (Continued)**

- Meetze:** Near Warrenton, the village was once a whistle stop on the Warrenton branch of the Southern Railway. Name came from a local Confederate officer, George Meetze.
- Midland:** (also see Germantown). The name resulted from the fact that it is located on the railroad mid-way between Alexandria and Orange. Chief Justice John Marshall was born in a cabin near Midland in 1755. The village's early growth was in the 1870's. Is located south of Warrenton on route 28.
- Morgantown:** A small reconstruction African American community that was organized in the 1870's. Located off Free State road in central Fauquier, north of Warrenton near Ashville and Marshall.
- Morrisville:** Location of the first Fauquier court in 1759. Later the court moved to what is now known as Warrenton. It is probably the oldest village in the County. It is located in southern Fauquier where route 17 meets route 634, not far from Elk Marsh/Elk Run. Was the location of the Embrey gold mines and is near Lake Coventry.
- Mosby:** Was established about 1900 in honor of John Mosby and located near the Warren County Line on the edge of the Blue Ridge.
- New Baltimore:** Previously known as Ball's Store. Was noted for Ball's Tavern and a boys academy. Incorporated by the General Assembly in 1822. It includes Vint Hill Station and Broad Run. Is located east of Warrenton on route 29 towards Gainesville.
- Orlean:** Historically was part of the "Free State" and the Manor of Leeds. In 1772 the Thumb Run Baptist Church was founded. Town developed in the early 1800's and post office established in 1817. Is located northwest of Warrenton on route 688.
- Opal:** Previously known as Fayetteville and New Brighton Post Office. Established in 1798. Is located south of Warrenton, off route 29 at route 17.
- Paris:** Established as Pun'kinville in early 1800's. Became Paris in 1819 in honor of General Lafayette. Was part of the Manor of Leeds and the last stop that many pioneers passed through heading west. Is located at the foot of Ashby's Gap in the most upper part of the County near Sky Meadows State Park where routes 50 and 17 meet.
- Pilgrim's Rest:** Was settled by free slaves. Located between New Baltimore and Thoroughfare Gap.
- Rectortown:** Previously known as Maidstone, after Lord Fairfax's English estate. Was chartered in 1772 and considered Fauquier's "first town". The village was named after the Rector family. Unofficially known as the Capital of Mosby's Confederacy. Mosby used what is now a farm equipment warehouse as his headquarters. Nearby was one of the early mills (1764) on Goose Creek. Was on the Manassas Gap Railroad. Is located in the northern part of the County at the intersection of routes 710 and 713.
- Scuffleburg:** Located in the Blue Ridge foothills, near Delaplane on Crooked Run. Originally known as Mechanicsville. Town located between 2 steep hills with one road leading to it, hence the term you shuffle in and out of town.
- Shipmadilly:** A community of freed slaves on the edges of Warrenton.
- Skinkertown:** A community started in about 1930, between Middleburg and The Plains.
- Sky Meadows State Park:** A well known park located in northwest Fauquier off Route 17 near Paris.
- Somerville:** Originally Somerville was at Ensor's Shop but presently is nearby at what was once called White Ridge. Is in the far southern part of the County at the intersection of routes 610 and 616, not far from Quantico.
- Sowego:** A community with a Post Office in south east Fauquier near Bristersburg and Elk Run.
- Sumerduck:** The village was originally spelled with a double "m". Village developed in the early 1880's. The name came from the hundreds of ducks which visited the area each summer. It is the location of the Chester A. Phelps Wildlife Management Area. Located in the southern part of the County, at routes 632 and 651, not far from Goldvein.
- The Plains:** Previously known as White Plains because of the white quartz found in the area. Established in 1725 and became The Plains in 1749. The historic Southern Railway Depot was built in 1914. Considered in the heart of horse country and is near the Great Meadow Field Events Center. Location of the first Union camp in Fauquier in 1862 and where Confederates hanged Union spy, Jack Sterry. Home of the Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier and its museum. Is located in the northern part of the County, just above route 66, at the crossroads of routes 601, 626, and 245.
- Thoroughfare Gap:** Was more of a location than a town. Location of the famous 5 story Beverly Mill site. Also where Civil War skirmishes to attack and defend the gap took place. Located just off Route 66, southeast of The Plains.
- Turnbull:** Located near Fauquier Springs on Route 802.
- Upperville:** Previously known as Carr Town and established in 1819. Was founded by Joseph Carr. Was an early stage coach mail stop between Winchester and Alexandria. Site of a major Civil War battle involving 10,000 troops. Goose Creek Church near Upperville was organized in 1772. Upperville is located in hunt country at the northern part of Fauquier County, off route 50 at route 712. Its Colt and Horse Show has been held for over 150 years.
- Waterloo:** A community west of Warrenton where Carter's Run meets the Rappahannock River. Part of the town was on the Fauquier side of the river and the rest on the Culpeper side. Was known as a canal village. Because of its location on the river, run and canal it was the home of a grist mill, saw mill, woolen mill, etc. The Waterloo bridge, which often was washed out by floods, connected the two sides.
- Zulla:** Once known a Cotland. Was a village between Belvior and the Loudoun County line, not far from Middleburg.

**There are many sources of information on the many towns, villages, communities in Fauquier County. Although we have tried to be as complete as possible, over the years there has no doubt been more such communities than that covered in this history note. Particularly important sources of such information are the maps and research by Eugene Scheel, a well known historian and mapmaker. Some of his maps are available from the Fauquier Historical Society and the Fauquier Bank.**