



# The Virginia Genealogical Society

## NEWSLETTER

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*The following remarks are taken from the presentation on research in Fairfax County delivered by Eric G. Grundset of Burke, Va., at the Conference held by the Virginia Genealogical Society, March 10, 1984. They and the accompanying map are printed here with Mr. Grundset's kind permission.*

### FAIRFAX COUNTY GENEALOGY

Fairfax Co., formed from Prince William in 1742, has since undergone several boundary relocations. The first occurred when approximately half its territory was taken to form Loudoun in 1757. Later, in 1798, a part of the lower end of Loudoun was returned to Fairfax (see accompanying map). Previously, in 1791, Fairfax had ceded part of its territory on the Potomac River to the Federal Government to be used in creating the District of Columbia. This ceded territory, by 1801 called Alexandria Co., was jurisdictionally part of the District and remained so until 1846 when it was retroceded to Virginia. Alexandria Co., Va., existed from 1846 to 1920 when it was renamed Arlington. Alexandria City, not to be confused with the extinct county of that name, has been in existence as an incorporated town since 1779 and as an independent city since 1852.

Fairfax Co. has suffered losses in several of its major record groups. Deeds survive only for the years 1742-1763, 1765-1768, 1772-1777, 1783-1800, and 1800 to the present, with many missing pages in pre-Civil War volumes. Wills however are reasonably complete from 1742 to date. Recent publications in this group are June W. Johnson's Fairfax Co., Va., Will Book A, 1742-1752 and Will Book B, 1752-1767. Order and Minute Books survive for 1749-1765, 1768-1774, 1783-1793, 1799-1800, 1807-1808, 1822-1827, 1829-1831, and 1835 to date. These books have been indexed up to the year 1859. There are few known marriage records prior to 1853, but they appear to be complete subsequent to that date. Researchers should remember that the marriage records for the District and for the city of Alexandria will include some Fairfax residents. The personal property and land tax records for Fairfax begin in 1782 and continue to the present, with some losses known in both series.

The city of Fairfax, administratively independent since 1961, is also the county seat. The records enumerated above are to be found in the Archives of the County Record Center (the old Court House) and in the adjacent Fairfax County Judicial Center (the new Court







