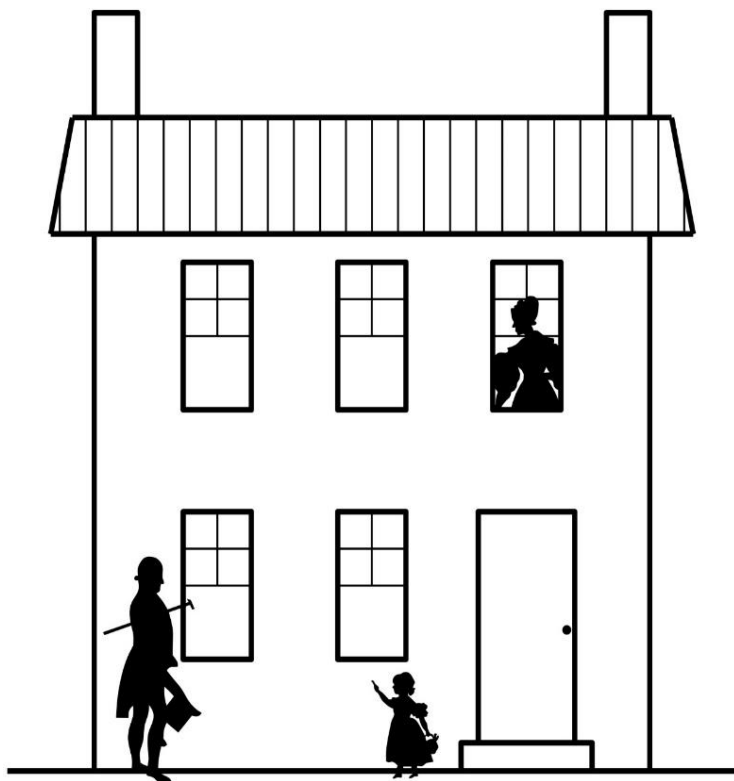


# The Many Stories of Main Street



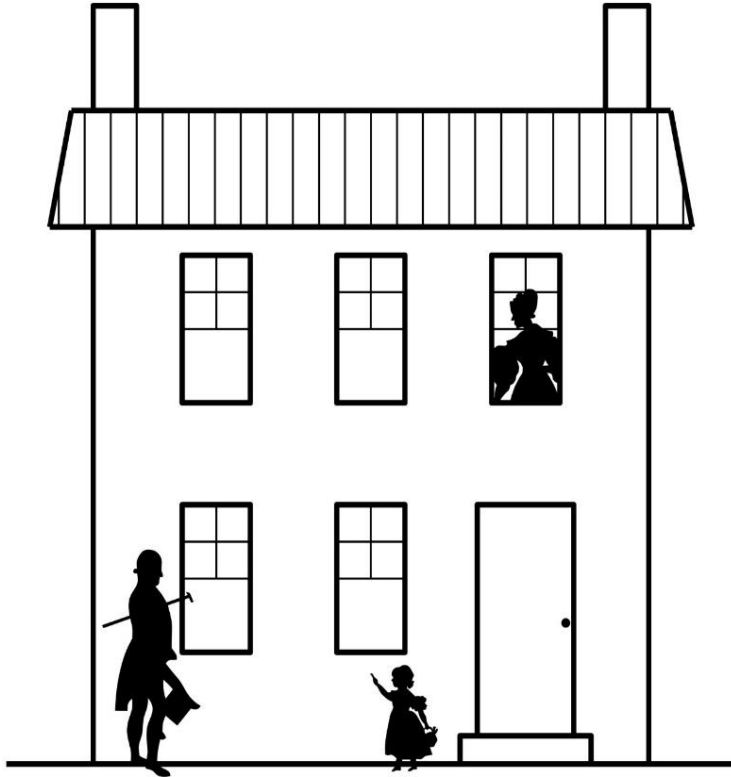
- ❖ Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- ❖ 2:00 – 4:00
- ❖ Tours starting at the Old Courthouse every half hour

Sponsored by First Baptist Church,  
Historic Lexington Foundation,  
Main Street Lexington, and  
W&L's Department of Sociology & Anthropology





# The Many Stories of Main Street



Host Trip Calihan '20

Narrative/Dramatization: Luckless in Lexington

- William Luckless: Trey Lewis '20; prop ~ rock
- John Ellis: Mark Croughan '20; prop ~ water gun
- William Bumfin (police officer): Davis Waldrop '20; prop ~ badge

On table

- Guide to stations on events (handout)
- "I Remember" cards
- Laminated newspaper notice (jail) and invitation (courthouse)
- Activities
- True or false?
- Suggested: draw a grave marker for William Luckless (on handout)

## Station One: The Jail and Old Courthouse

(south of courthouse, in public brick pavement where tables are)



## Luckless in Lexington

Summer 1866 – A group of men were standing in front of a store in Lexington when William Luckless (about 30 years old) "joined the party." A few minutes later John Ellis came "and joined the party also and remarked that he 'would like to see an old fashioned Virginia drag down fight, like such as he had seen in Norfolk.'" Luckless replied, 'he supposed he could be accommodated.' Ellis and Luckless "started down the pavement together "and turned into the alley." Ellis "had his pistol drawn around to the front on his belt & had his hand on or near it (it was not drawn)." Luckless told him "not to draw that pistol." Ellis told him "not to advance on him." Luckless then "started with his arms folded, as if he was going out at the mouth of the alley." Ellis "brandished his pistol" & continued to brandish it moving down the sidewalk, "and upon turning round, the firing commenced." Luckless stooped down and "seemed very uneasy and seemed to be trying to get a rock." Ellis shot a second time. The two were not far apart. After the second shot, "the crowd" went toward Luckless who was bleeding. Witnesses heard shouts of "catch him." He ran to the house of Miss Mary Bowlin. Ellis said "ma'am, I have shot a man and if they catch me, they will shoot me. I want you to protect me. I am a southern soldier & fought in the southern army, won't you let me go into the cellar." [Luckless had also been a soldier.] Just then a police officer William Bumfin looked through the window & saw Ellis, who sat down and said "I surrender." Bumfin said, "Ellis sang out, don't let them kill me." "The crowd, being very much incensed, several persons struck the prisoner with their fists, he remonstrated, said he was in the hands of the law, & desired to be protected," and Bumfin did his best to protect him. "All the way from the place of arrest to the court-house, he begged not to be hurt." The crowd was "incensed," but carried him to the jail. When he learned that Lawless was not yet dead, Ellis feared that "some one would come during the night and take him out [of the jail] and shoot or hang him." He begged Bumfin to stay with him, "saying that he would give him all he was worth if he would do so." Ellis said that Bumfin, being "a police officer of the town, ... would have more influence in keeping off the crowd if they came, than any one else." Bumfin told Ellis he was as safe in jail "as he would be in his mother's chamber." Bumfin agreed to stay with Ellis & watch the street that night, even though Bumfin was "well assured however that there would be no necessity for it." Luckless died of his gun shot wounds.

Rockbr. Co. Judgments, Sep 1866. Murder. \*\*\* John L. Ellis shoots William Luckless. Involuntary manslaughter. ...

Defense of self-defense & insanity.

Lexington Gazette 11/13/1867: jailed since his trial under a capias pro fine. His case carried by Gov. Letcher before Judge Sheffey on a writ of habeas corpus. The judge discharged Ellis from all further imprisonment.

# Rockbridge County Jail, 1930s Works Progress Administration



This building is not the first jail on this site

*Lexington Gazette* May 11, 1839

“Sealed proposals will be received” for materials to be used in building a new jail

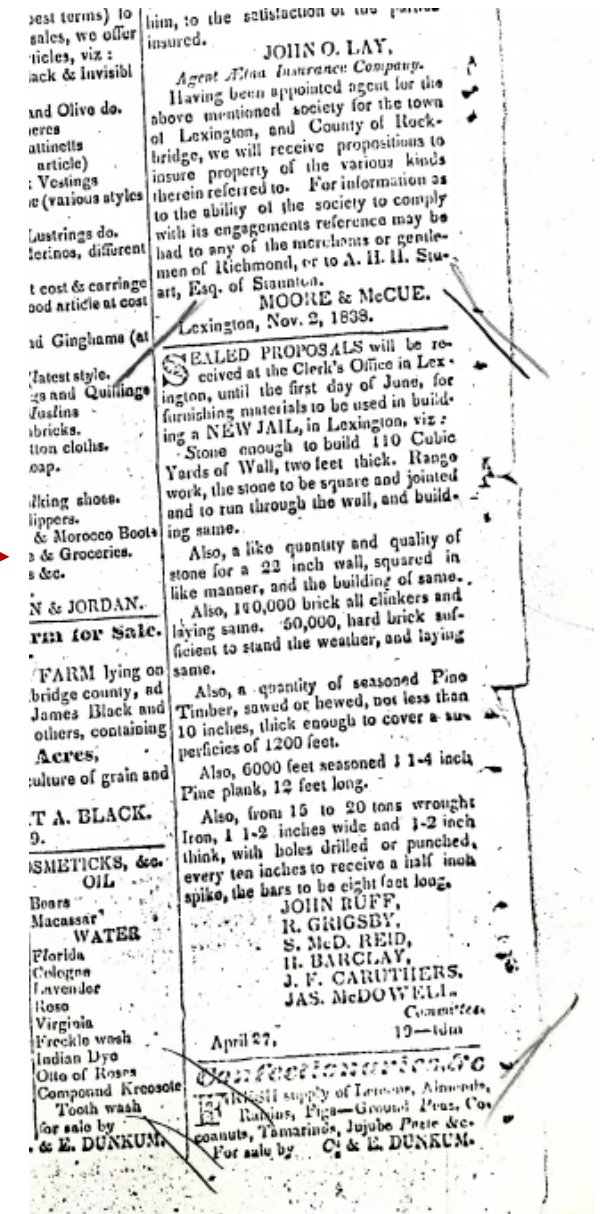
- stone enough to build walls two feet thick
- 150,000 bricks
- Pine plank
- 15-20 tons of wrought iron

*Lexington Gazette* October 14, 1841

## “Old Jail House for Sale”

All materials – brick and stone – except for the “prison doors and locks”

[Royster Lyle “Lexington Central Business District Historic Survey, 1971-72,” Lexington Planning Commission. Box 1 Folder 27 Historic Lexington County Jail, W&L Special Collections]





# Rockbridge County Courthouse

Like the jail, this is not the first building to house the Rockbridge County Court

- First court house was on southwest corner of Nelson and Randolph Streets: “well-framed” and “weather boarded,” 20x16 feet (like a small wooden house) c.1778
- By 1790 a new brick court house (current location) was complete, but six years later was the “Great Fire.” April 11, 1796: “It commenced in a stable which was set on fire” either “by the pipe of the hostler” or “as some say, from fire under a wash kettle. The stable was filled with hay, and a high wind was blowing and carried a storm of sparks toward town. All the houses on both sides of Main Street were burned, down to and including the court house”
- Brick replacement courthouse insured in 1803 (\$4,000). By the 1870s editor of newspaper complained: “We have the shabbiest Temple of Justice in the Valley ... Can't the supervisors make the court house a little more decent? Let it be whitewashed anyhow. It is filthy, dirty, and an absolute disgrace to our county.”
- Current court house completed (for about \$17,000) in 1897; supervisor said it was the “cheapest good building and the best cheap building ever erected in Rockbridge County.” Some 600 people attended the dedication and “packed every available space in the courtroom.”

[Royster Lyle, Jr. Courthouses of Rockbridge County. *Virginia Cavalcade* Winter 1976 pp. 118-125.]



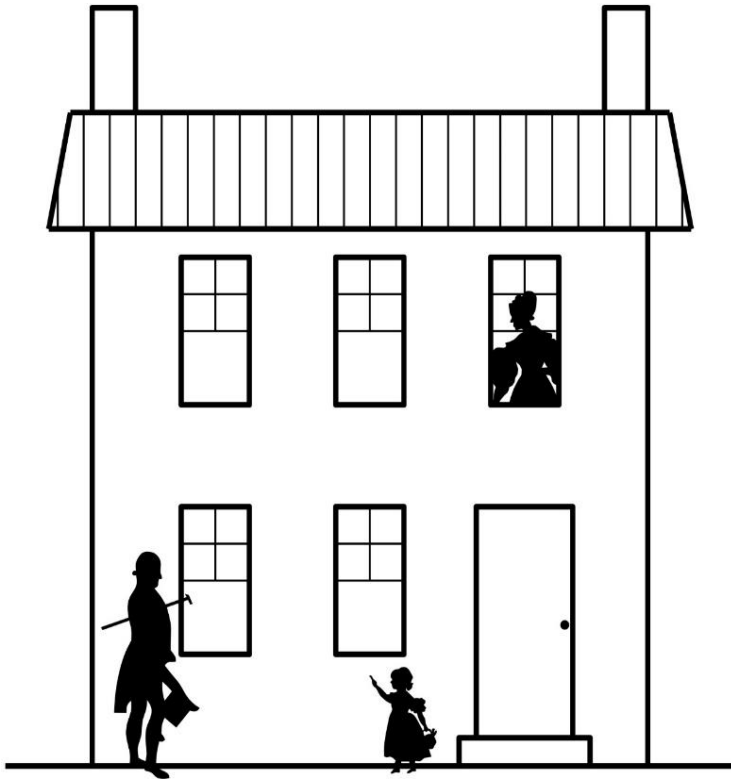
*You are cordially invited to be present and  
participate in the  
Opening Ceremonies of the New Court House,  
at  
Lexington, Virginia,  
Wednesday, June 2nd, 1897, at 10 a. m.  
Compliments of the  
Contractors, Architect, County Authorities,  
and Committee in Charge.  
Greentee D. Letcher,  
Chairman.*





Michael Miley, 1897; stone wall and railing incorporated from earlier courthouse  
[Royster Lyle, Jr. Courthouses of Rockbridge County. *Virginia Cavalcade* Winter 1976 pg. 125. ] Photograph W&L Special Collections. Note roads, cross walk, sign for N.O. Dold store, horse, dog, child, men, construction materials on sidewalk]

# The Many Stories of Main Street



- Host Don Gaylord (W&L Sociology/Anthropology)
- “Descendants” of Captain John Leyburn: Schuyler Barefoot and Lauren Shotwell; telling stories that son John remembered

## Narratives

- Capt. John Leyburn (bought/finished house; merchant; died in NY; body exhumed and brought to Lexington for reinternment; estate accounts give glimpses into household)
- Capt. George Baker – refer to ad

## On table

- Objects: “country produce” to barter for cravat, gloves, suspenders (take selfies)
- “I Remember” cards and tape
- Laminated Mutual Assurance declaration and ad for Baker’s store

## Activities

- Matching (term and pictures/definitions) ice house, smoke house, carriage house, cistern on this “miniature plantation” in the center of town
- Suggested: draw one of these buildings (on handout)

## Station Two: The Alexander-Withrow Building

(in front of courthouse, shaded area close to building)

Witness  
Attest  
Alexander  
Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Solo<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 1792

Attest  
Attest

*This Indenture* made the fifth day  
of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred  
and Ninety two Between John Bowyer William McKee  
and James Buchanan Esq<sup>r</sup> (or any two of them appointed  
by the Court of Rockbridge to convey the Lots in the  
Town of Lexington to the purchasers thereof of the one  
Part and William Alexander of the County of Rockbridge  
& State of Virginia of the other part. Witnesseth that the  
said John Bowyer William McKee & James Buchanan for  
and in consideration of the sum of ~~ten~~ ten pounds to them  
in hand paid by the said William Alexander the sum  
whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted bargained and  
sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell to the  
said William Alexander his heirs and assigns forever two Lots  
in the Town of Lexington containing half an acre each and  
known by the Numbers Nineteen and twenty five And being  
situated by the Main Street Washington Street - Jefferson Street  
and two of the said Alexander's Lots as will appear by

Rockbridge County Deed Book B pg. 372

- 5 June 1792
- John Bowyer, William McKee, and James Buchanan Esqr (or any two of them appointed by the Court of Rockbridge to convey the Lots in the town of Lexington)
- To William Alexander of the County of Rockbridge
- For Ten £
- Two lots in the Town of Lexington containing half an acre each and known by the numbers Nineteen and twenty five ...

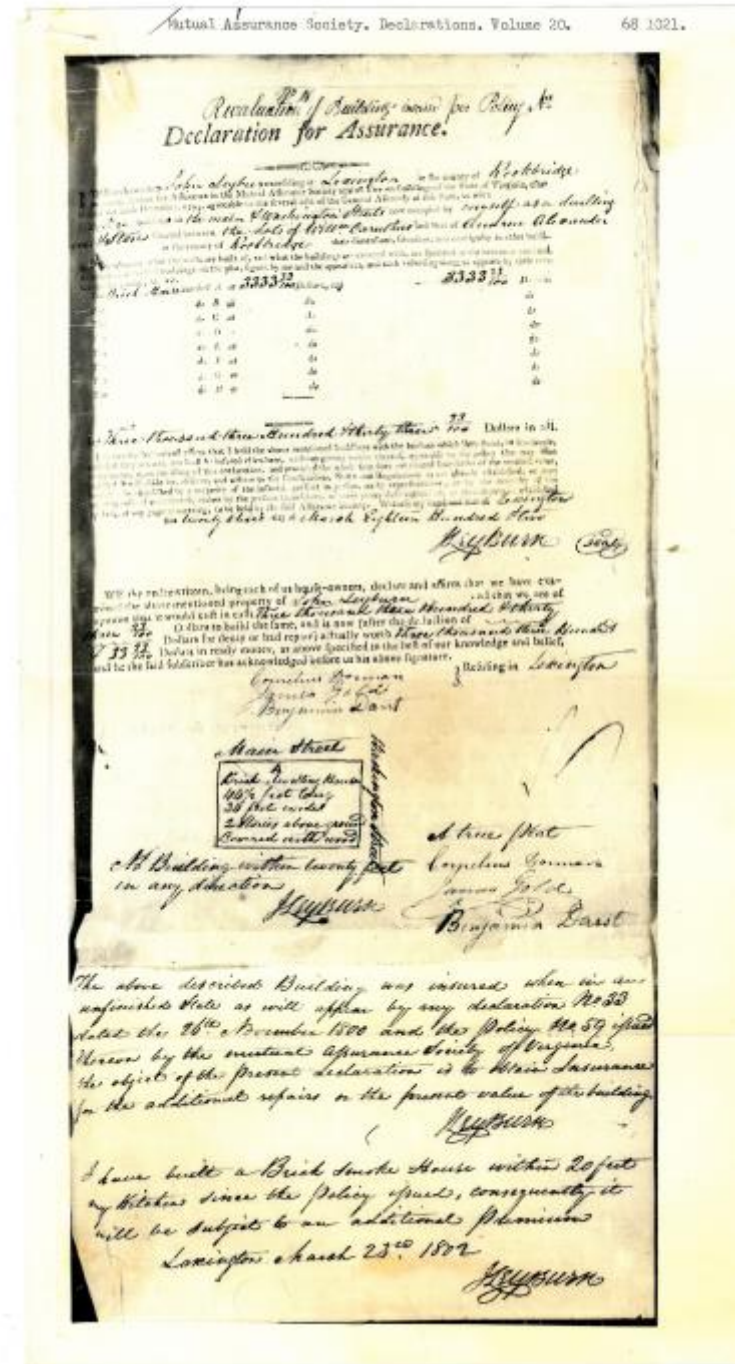


# Captain John Leyburn

Although we call this building the Alexander-Withrow House, for many decades it was the home of the Leyburn family.

- ❖ Captain John Leyburn (1770-1831 – dates from his grave marker in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery)
- ❖ Bought this property in 1800 from the estate of William Alexander (DB D:260)
- ❖ And that year insured this “brick dwelling house” “in an unfinished state” (Mutual Assurance Society); probably still damage from the Great Fire
- ❖ By 1802 Leyburn took out a new insurance policy to cover the repaired house and detached brick kitchen (MAS)
- ❖ Leyburn was a merchant and operated a store in this location; he also had a counting room, ice house, smoke house, carriage house, stable, cistern, and lumber yard on the premises (*Lexington Gazette* October 9, 1835)
- ❖ Historian characterized it as a “miniature plantation” in the center of town

[Royster Lyle, Jr. "Lexington's Alexander-Withrow Building," Roanoke Valley Historical Society 9(1). Image W&L Special Collections, RHS MS Architecture of Historic Lexington Withrow House folder]







<https://www.loc.gov/item/va0899/>

John Leyburn's youngest son, John, left a description of the house during those early years: 'Our old house occupied a conspicuous place in the village [and] ... in most respects was a pleasant abode. Its apartments, for that day, seemed spacious and airy, the prospect of the surrounding hills and majestic mountains was beautiful and grand and the great piles of blazing hickory on the capacious hearth glowed with comfort and cheerfulness, as we cozily gathered around it.'

The younger John Leyburn also wrote that the building's "elevated and isolated position left it exposed to the full blasts of the winter winds, which came rushing down from the snow-clad mountains, roaring in the chimney tops and rattling the windows, moaning like so many spirits in distress through every crevice and keyhole, and throwing a gloom over our little circle."

But "In the late summer evenings the chimney swifts in great numbers would 'assemble from nobody knew where and, after floating for a long time in a wide, revolving circle around one of the high chimneys ... would descend into its funnel and take up their lodgings for the night.'"

[James G. Leyburn, *The Leyburn Family, 1734-1960*, unpublished ms lent by the author to Royster Lyle, cited in Royster Lyle, Jr. "Lexington's Alexander-Withrow Building," *Roanoke Valley Historical Society* 9(1). Image W&L Special Collections, RHS MS Architecture of Historic Lexington Withrow House folder]



Alexander-Withrow House c. 1867,  
Rockbridge Historical Society,  
W&L Special Collections

Captain John Leyburn (c.1770-1831)



Dr. Alfred Leyburn (1803-1878)



Edward Jenner Leyburn (1829 – 1900)



Rev. Edward Ridley Leyburn (1865-1958)



Professor James Graham Leyburn (1902-1993) W&L Sociology Professor, Dean of the College; person for whom W&L library is named. So **his great-great-grandfather** and his family occupied what's now the Alexander-Withrow Building

[James G. Leyburn (1961) "Dr. Alfred Leyburn -(1803-1878) – a Lexington Whig, Legislator, and Man of Affairs," pp. 22-30 in *Rockbridge Historical Society Volume Six of the Proceedings, 1961-1965.*]

<http://www.faithinwriting.com/Tradition/Dean/>

Yesterday 6th inst. MISS ANN HAMMERSLEY in 60th yr. from house of her sister Mrs. Troup, 224 Broome St.

Wednesday morning last WILLIAM W MOTT, 40 years of 18 Cliff St. funeral from residence of his brother Robert W. Mott at Great Neck, L.I.

Saturday, January 8, 1831.

Brooklyn, this morning, ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, postmaster, ae. 70, formerly of Colchester, Conn. Funeral from residence 15 Prospect St., Brooklyn.

New Brunswick, 6th inst. HON. ANDREW KIRKPATRICK, late Chief Justice of the State of N.J. 74 years.

Haverstraw, 22nd ult. ROBERT ROGERS 2nd son of Capt. James Gill in 15th yr.

Monday, January 10, 1831.

Sunday evening LYDIA MERRITT wife of Dr. L. Merritt, ae. 48 years. Residence 38 Bayard St.

This morning J.K. Rayner, ae. 29 years, formerly a resident in Bishopsgate, St. London. Residence 19 Duane St.

In this City 8th inst. Capt. John Leyburn, of Lexington, Va.

Yesterday afternoon, ae. 71 years WILLIAM CRUIKSHANK a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, but for 38 years a resident of this City. Residence 40 Greenwich Street.

John Leyburn

## U.S., Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930

DETAIL RELATED SOURCE

Name	John Leyburn
Event	Death
Death Date	8 Jan 1831
Newspaper	New York Evening Post
Publication Date	10 Jan 1831
Publication Place	New York
Call Number	83432

## John Leyburn's Settlement Will Book 8, pp. 447-449

Remains moved from New York to Lexington; he'd died in New York City

New York Evening Post 10 January 1831

Or. By Disbursements.		220174
1831 By 5th St. Commissioners \$2053.67 1/2		10278
January 1. This sum refunded to My Linn over paid on Co. N. 100.		10 50
March 16. part of expenses to & from Kentucky N. voucher		40 00
Apr 20. paid taxes		4 22
cash paid for disintering & transporting remains of Testator from New York to Lexington and reintering same N. voucher		15 50
paid for white washing house N. 6		2 75
paid Nathaniel Pawton for repairs	7	19 20
May 31. paid Insurance on house	5	10 00
Dec 31 To balance in the hands of the Executor for distribution this date		804 31
Or		1996 93
By this sum to the credit of M. Wals & wife Dist. share		300 00
same same A. Leyburn same		300 00



Capt. John Leyburn

Will Book 8, pages 13-27 and pp. 447-449

1831-1837 Executor's account of estate of John Leyburn, deceased

Payments include funeral expenses, physician's bill, "Mary Colbert for services to the family," taxes, subscription to *Missionary Herald*, payment to Lexington Presbyterian Church, contribution to "fire company," installments to Bible Society, and "advertisement of Runaway Levi in paper"

In the 1820 census, John Leyburn's household included three slaves

Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	"	Do	Do	Quarters as Compt.	No 42	10 00
"	"	Do	Do	Instalment 2 <sup>d</sup> to Bible Socy	No 43	584 17
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	"	Do	Do	Taxes on Kentucky land & Expenses	No 44	3 13 1/2
Decr 10 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	David Vea	No 45	4 50
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	paid postage	No 46	79
5 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	sumdries omitted in Barclay & Lewis acct	No 46	2 50
"	"	Do	Do	pt for 5 yds Damastie in Spring of 1831 for Black woman	No 46	790 50
"	"	Do	Do	pt advertisement of Runaway Levi in paper	No 46	
"	"	Do	Do	amt of disbursements in the year ending 31 Decr 1832.	No 46	
1833						
Dr						
"	"	Do	Do	received of same David in part for wood let		30 00

June 20 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	S. Vea Liner		12 75
"	"	Do	Do	Mr Vea Butler		22 00
"	"	Do	Do	D. Hoffman part price for Steers		112 75
Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	E. White Tobacco sold		7 00
Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Mr Vea for Butler		1 25
"	"	Do	Do	S. Vea for Liner sold		43 00
"	"	Do	Do	D. Hoffman hat for Steers		2 25
"	"	Do	Do	Ditto 1 Seal		7 50
"	"	Do	Do	S. Vea 12 Bus Corn		5 00
28 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Mr Comstock part for Horse		5 00
"	"	Do	Do	Mr Vea for Butler		3 00
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	S. Vea sundries sold		1 50
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Mr Vea 1 Bus Corn		4 00
Decr 1 <sup>st</sup>	"	Do	Do	Sarah Elizer 1 Bl flour		4 00
"	"	Do	Do	Mr Vea for Butler		4 00
1831						53 75
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	By Cash paid Testator's servant in N York	No 1	5 00
"	"	Do	Do	Do hand Doff receipt	No 2	50 10
"	"	Do	Do	Do funeral expenses	No 3	31 25
"	"	Do	Do	Recording Clerk's bill	No 4	10 25
"	"	Do	Do	Do Physicians bill	No 5	100 00
"	"	Do	Do	Do Dr. L. L. L. expenses to N York	No 6	100 00
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	S. Vea 2 Bales cotton wool 2 doz Spring faces	No 7	15 00
6 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Expenses of the family	No 8	6 13
23 <sup>rd</sup>	"	Do	Do	Tax on Taxes	No 9	5 90
"	"	Do	Do	Expense of Drunk from N York	No 10	5 00
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	John Leyburn's Duction	No 11	18 00
"	"	Do	Do	By the same Duction from acct	No 12	20 75
"	"	Do	Do	Barclay & Lewis	No 13	31 75
"	"	Do	Do	Mary Colbert for services to family	No 14	7 50
"	"	Do	Do	Postage	No 15	12 65
"	"	Do	Do	Ditto	No 16	3 00
29 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Ditto	No 17	24
30 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Ditto	No 18	100
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Do	No 19	30 00
"	"	Do	Do	Mr Logan	No 20	28 50
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Do David Vea	No 21	2 00
20 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Mr Vea's account of N York	No 22	10 00
"	"	Do	Do	Do David Clarke's account	No 23	1 00
"	"	Do	Do	Do Mr Vea's contribution to fire comp	No 24	10 00
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Do Doct. Vea 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment to Bible Socy	No 25	27 50
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Do Taxes 1831	No 26	10 00
20 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Do Burial & White Tobacco	No 27	23 25
"	"	Do	Do	Do Capt. D. M. Clarke's account	No 28	1 00
"	"	Do	Do	Do Insurance of Tobacco	No 29	2 50
24 <sup>th</sup>	"	Do	Do	Do Mr Vea's account	No 30	10 75



Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery  
<http://library2.wlu.edu/SJCemetery/>



In the spring of 1840, [Dr. Alfred] Leyburn began renting to Captain George A. Baker, a prominent Lexington businessman who opened a haberdashery in the building. In one advertisement in the local paper, Baker said that he was keeping 'constantly on hand the best and the most elegant assortment of CLOTHES, CASSIMERS & VESTINGS, the market can produce, also SHIRTS, SOCKS, CRAVATS, [pg. 8] TIES, COLLARS, UNDERSHIRTS, GLOVES, of all kinds, SUSPENDERS, DRAWERS, HANKERCHIEFS, COAT-LINKS & INDIA-RUBBER BOOTS.'

[1850 ad Baker] "Give me a call before you purchase elsewhere and I am sure to make a sale to you.' He concluded with: 'All kinds of country produce taken in exchange for work, except Cabbage.'

[1851] Captain Baker bought [the property from Dr. Leyburn]

"To this Scotch-Irish community of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, saving money was next to Godliness ... [Lexington Savings Institute used Capt. Baker's store as the "place of deposit" since he was the treasurer], and the Savings Institute was a popular place. At one point the local paper admonished its readers: 'If all who are addicted to the vice of intemperance and to moderate drinking would pay their morning visit to Captain Baker, the Treasurer of the Lexington Savings Institute, and get a certificate of deposit instead of a glass of whiskey, 10 years hence would exhibit fewer poor and helpless families amongst us. Will not all make this experiment?'"

[Royster Lyle, Jr. "Lexington's Alexander-Withrow Building," Roanoke Valley Historical Society 9(1). Image W&L Special Collections, RHS MS Architecture of Historic Lexington Withrow House folder]

**Gentlemen's Furnishing Store.**  
**Spring & Summer Goods.**

**J**UST received and now opening a handsome and well selected assortment of French, English, and American Cloths, Cassimeres and Vestings. Among which are Black, Blue, Brown, Green, Olive, Mulberry, and Citron Olive Broad Cloths from \$3 to \$10 per yard. Also Black Doe Skin and fancy Colored Cassimeres, 50 variety shades of color & stye, Vestings of Silk and Marseilles which cannot be surpassed in this market for beauty and quality.

Give me a Call before you purchase elsewhere and I am sure to make a sale to you.

All who purchase material from me for little Boy's clothing, can, if desired, have them Cut out *free of charge*. Keep constantly on hand a supply of

**READY MADE CLOTHING;**  
of good quality and well made  
**Tailoring**

in all its various branches, executed with dispatch and in the most **Fashionable Manner**.

All kinds of country produce taken in exchange for work *except Cabbage*. All work warranted to please.

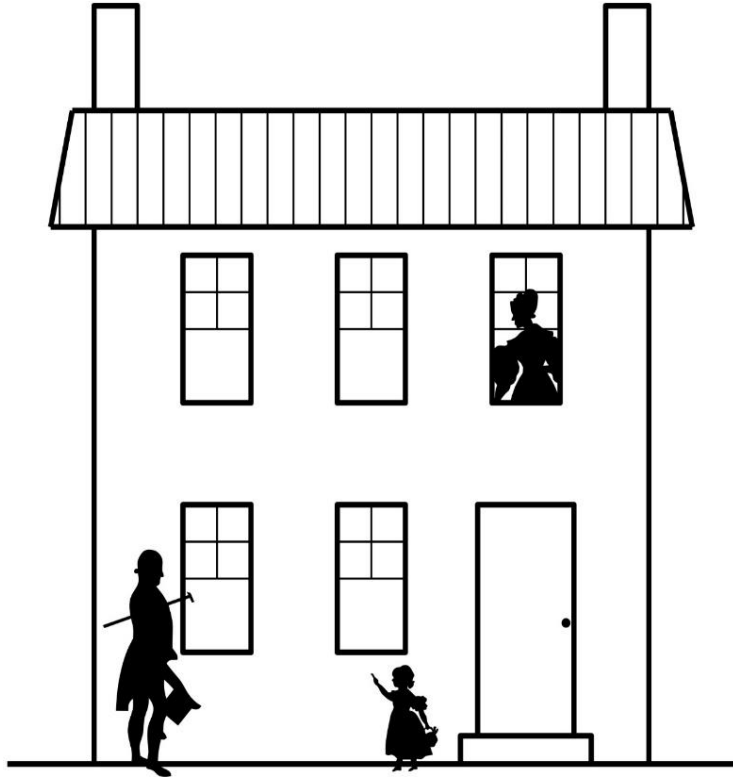
Two or three Journeymen wanted immediately.

G. A. BAKER.

April 4, 1850.

**LOT OF LADIE'S NICE DRESS GOODS**

# The Many Stories of Main Street



Hosts Hannah Austin '17 and Joe Gagnon '20

## Narratives

- Daniel McGuire Reilly (Riley) – left Ireland during famine, CSA (1<sup>st</sup> Manassas), long time Lexington jeweler, silversmith in this building
- Central Hotel, Liquid Lunch, HLF and renovation

## On Table

- “I Remember” cards
- Laminated map of Virginia (Reilly’s story); before and after renovation pictures

## Activities

- Where’s D.M. Reilly? (map of Virginia)
- Match before and after pictures (renovation)
- Suggested: draw the outline of Virginia (on handout)

Station Three: The McCampbell Inn  
(in front of antique store at 16 N. Main)





EXHIBIT 2

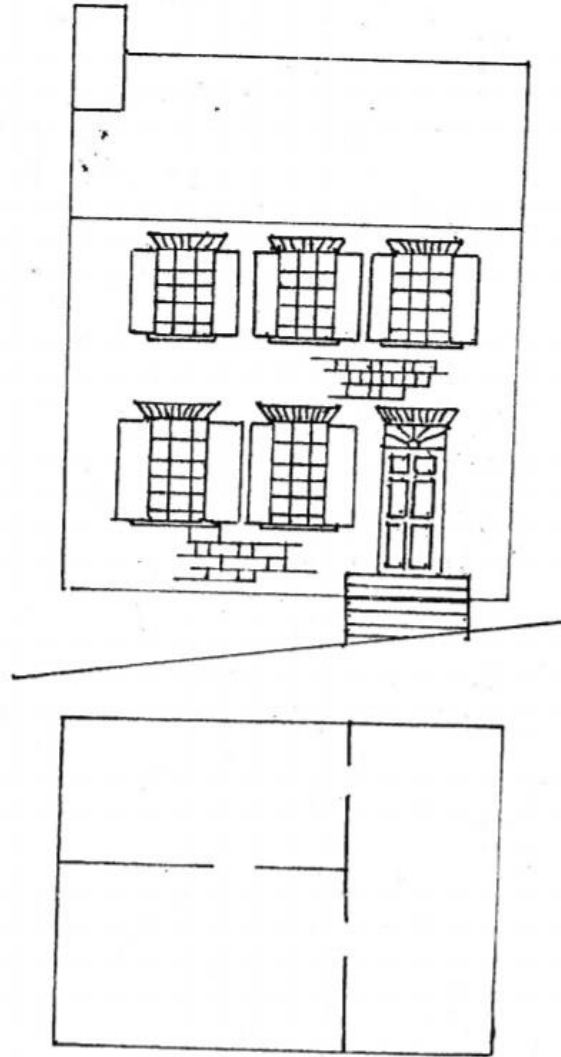


EXHIBIT A 1809

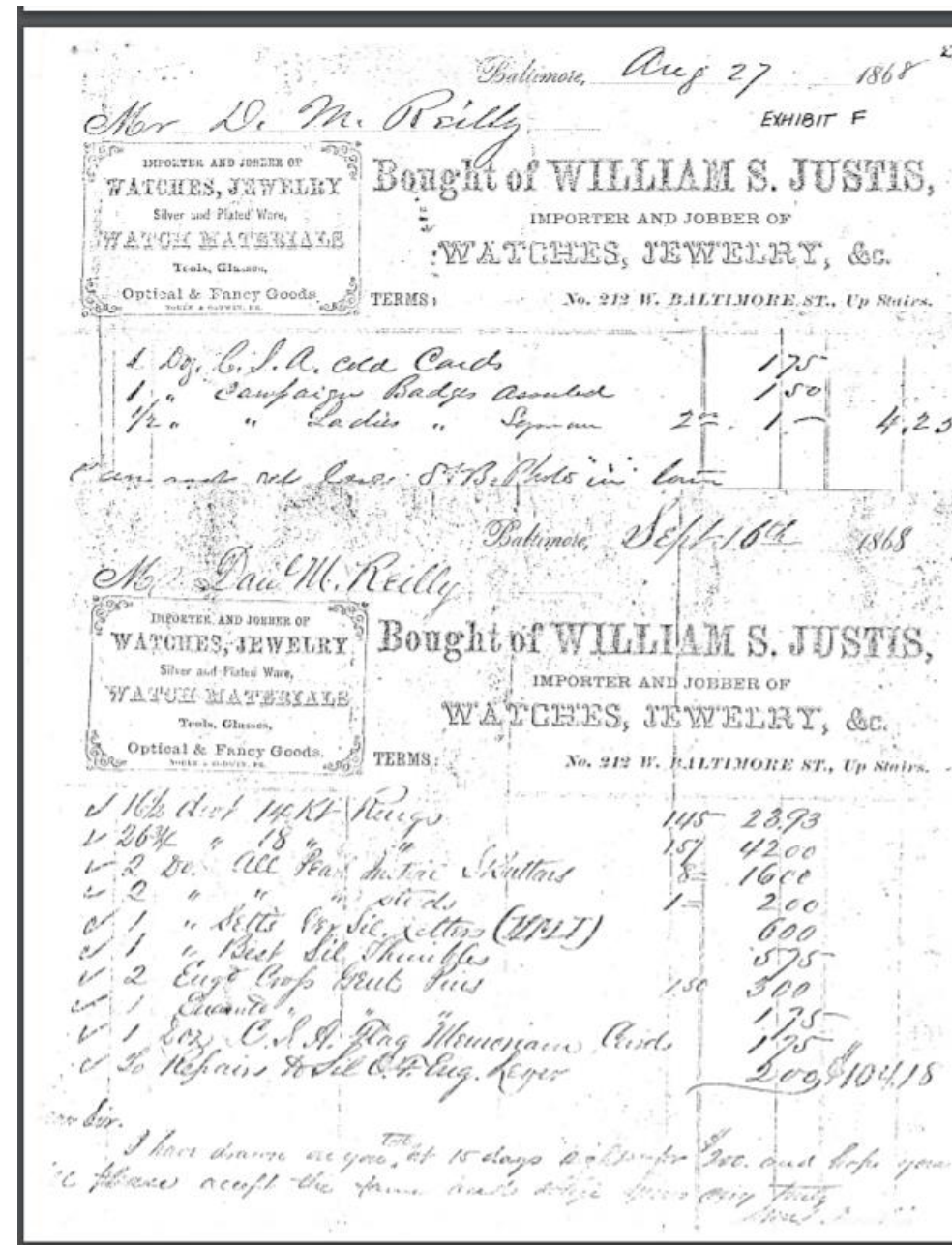
John and Mary McCampbell's 1809 house likely looked like the drawing on the right; after the street was lowered in 1856-57, the house had a three-story façade.

[David W. Jones (1983). "An Architectural Study of the McCampbell Inn." Central Hotel papers, Box 1, Folder 21, W&L Special Collections]



- ❖ Daniel McGuire Riley born 1840 in Ireland
- ❖ Emigrated to US in early 1850s (depth of the Irish Famine)
- ❖ 1861 enlisted in Confederate Army – 5<sup>th</sup> then 27<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry – First Manassas (wounded)
- ❖ 1866 married Margaret Jane Wats
- ❖ c.1861-1902 had a store on the second floor of the central section; these statements were found in the floorboards of the southern section – perhaps where Margaret and Daniel lived with their children (Katie, Annie, Julia, Della, William)
- ❖ Census returns list him as “jeweler” (1880) and “watch maker” (1900)
- ❖ Died 1916 in Lexington

[census, cemetery, and military records; also David W. Jones (1983). “An Architectural Study of the McCampbell Inn.” Central Hotel papers, Box 1, Folder 21, W&L Special Collections]







Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery <http://library2.wlu.edu/SJCemetery/>



## Soldier History

### Daniel McGuire Reilly

Residence was not listed;  
Enlisted on 4/18/1861 at Lexington as a Private.

On 4/18/1861 he mustered into "B" Co. [VA 5th Infantry](#)  
He was transferred out on 6/15/1861  
(Estimated day of transfer)

On 6/15/1861 he transferred into "H" Co. VA 27th Infantry  
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:  
\* Lost gun 7/2/1861 Hainesville (Lost gun in retreat)  
\* Wounded 7/21/1861 Manassas, VA

Promotions:  
\* Corpl 10/1/1862

Intra Regimental Company Transfers:  
\* from company H to company G

Other Information:  
born 3/17/1832 in Drougheda, Ireland  
died 12/4/1915  
Buried: Stonewall Jackson Cemetery, Winchester, VA

(Postwar jeweler & watchmaker. Member Lee-Jackson Camp,  
Lexington.)

Sources used by Historical Data Systems, Inc.:

# The Diary of Michael Reid Hanger

## Rockbridge Rifles, Company H, 4th and 5th Virginia Infantry

April 18th-October 30th, 1861

This diary was edited by Robert Driver, and made available to this project by the Augusta County Historical Society. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are Mr. Drivers.

We are indebted to Ray and Cindy Ledgerwood of Pullman, Washington for making this diary available. Harold Howard of Lynchburg, realizing it would be of local interest, sent me a copy of this valuable manuscript.

Michael Reid Hanger was born in Staunton, Virginia on May 10, 1840. He was working as a carpenter in Lexington in 1860. he enlisted in the "Rockbridge Rifles" in Lexington on April 18, 1861, in response to Governor John Letcher's call for volunteers to defend Virginia. The "rockbridge Rifles" had been organized as part of the militia in 1859, following John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry. Captain Samuel Houston Letcher, brother of the governor, was captain of the company from its origin and led it into Virginai service in 1861.

The "Rifles," 103 strong, assembled in front of the courthouse in Lexington on April 18th to be sworn in. The new soldiers had drawn their arms and equipment from the state arsenal at the V.M.I.

A reporter for the *Lexington Gazette* described the ceremony:

"When all was ready, after bidding adieu to friends and relatives, the Rifles were formed in front of the Court House, where Rev. Mr. Tebbs<sup>[2]</sup> stood prepared to call upon the Lords of Hosts for his protecting care under the trying circumstances in which they were soon to be placed. All heads were uncovered while the men of God appealed to the God of battle, to bless those who had left their wives and children, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, to go forth in defense of rights bestowed upon us by our fathers of the revolution, and to protect and defend them from those who instigated by folly and wickedness, would deprive us of our dearly prized institutions. All hearts were softened, all eyes were moistened by the tear of sorrow for the necessitation of the case. Every soldier was determined, if need be, to stand to the last, and die in a cause so just and a service so honorable."

Another added: "The pomp and circumstances of glorious war were present when on that bright spring morning [this] company, with colors flying and martial music, took up the line of march from Lexington to Harpers Ferry. His [Elisha F. Paxton's]<sup>[3]</sup> young wife with sad forebodings, wept until her handkerchief was wet with tears. In their last fond embrace he took this from her hand and as a reminder of her love carried it on many a bloody battlefield.

Cadet A. C. S. Greenwood wrote: ". . . the Rifle Company started today at one o'clock they passed the institute and [we] saluted them. . . ."

Young Hanger begins his diary:

### the April 18 1861

We left Lexington at 1 oclock PM in stages [sic] - hacks - Waggons We got to Fairfield at sunset I took supper at Mr. McCormicks<sup>[5]</sup>[.] Marston <sup>[7]</sup> & myself eat at Mr Dr Hameltons

### the April 19

[we got to Staunton this morning put up at the Va House got breakfast and Asbury McCluerer<sup>\[10\]</sup>](#) Samuel Charlton<sup>[12]</sup> went back to the Hotel and in A few moments we started out was Escorted out of town with the band of musick & we all got aboard of stages hacks and prseeded to Mt Sidney got there at dark. Sargent Campbell<sup>[14]</sup> & John Edmondson

### the April 20th

[We left Mt Sidney this morning for Harrisonburg had quite a nice time of it all day got to Mount Crawford at 12 AM the Rockbridge Cavalry<sup>\[17\]</sup>](#) & many others that U knew--we went on got to Harrisonburg at 4pm marched into the Court House & then we devided our for different places for to stay all night Mr. Varner Bailey<sup>[19]</sup> & my self went to Mr Effingers<sup>[21]</sup> and Misses Smith<sup>[23]</sup> came in and we had A good time generally.

# Daniel Reilly

## in the American Civil War Soldiers



Name: Daniel Reilly

Residence: Ireland, Virginia

Occupation: Silversmith

Enlistment Date: 18 Apr 1861

Enlistment Place: Lexington, Virginia

Side Served: Confederacy

State Served: Virginia

Birth Date: 23 Mar 1840

Death Date: 14 Dec 1916

Death Place: Lexington, Virginia

Sources: 21

### Source Citation

Side served: *Confederacy*; State served: *Virginia*; Enlistment date: *18 Apr 1861*

### Source Information

### Suggested Records ?

- U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865  
Daniel McGuire Reilly
- 1880 United States Federal Census  
Daniel M. Reilly
- 1900 United States Federal Census  
Daniel M Riley
- 1910 United States Federal Census  
Daviel M Reilly
- Web: Virginia, Find A Grave Index, 1607-2012  
Daniel Mcguire Reilly
- Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940  
D. M. Reilly

Show More ▼



# Daniel McGuire Reilly

## in the U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865



Name:	Daniel McGuire Reilly
Residence:	Lexington, Virginia
Occupation:	Silversmith
Age at Enlistment:	21
Enlistment Date:	18 Apr 1861
Rank at enlistment:	Private
Enlistment Place:	Lexington, Virginia
State Served:	Virginia
Survived the War?:	Yes
Service Record:	Enlisted in Company H, Virginia 27th Infantry Regiment on 18 Apr 1861.Promoted to Full Corporal on 01 Oct 1862.
Birth Date:	23 Mar 1840
Death Date:	14 Dec 1916
Death Place:	Lexington, Virginia
Sources:	The Virginia Regimental Histories Series

### Suggested Records ?

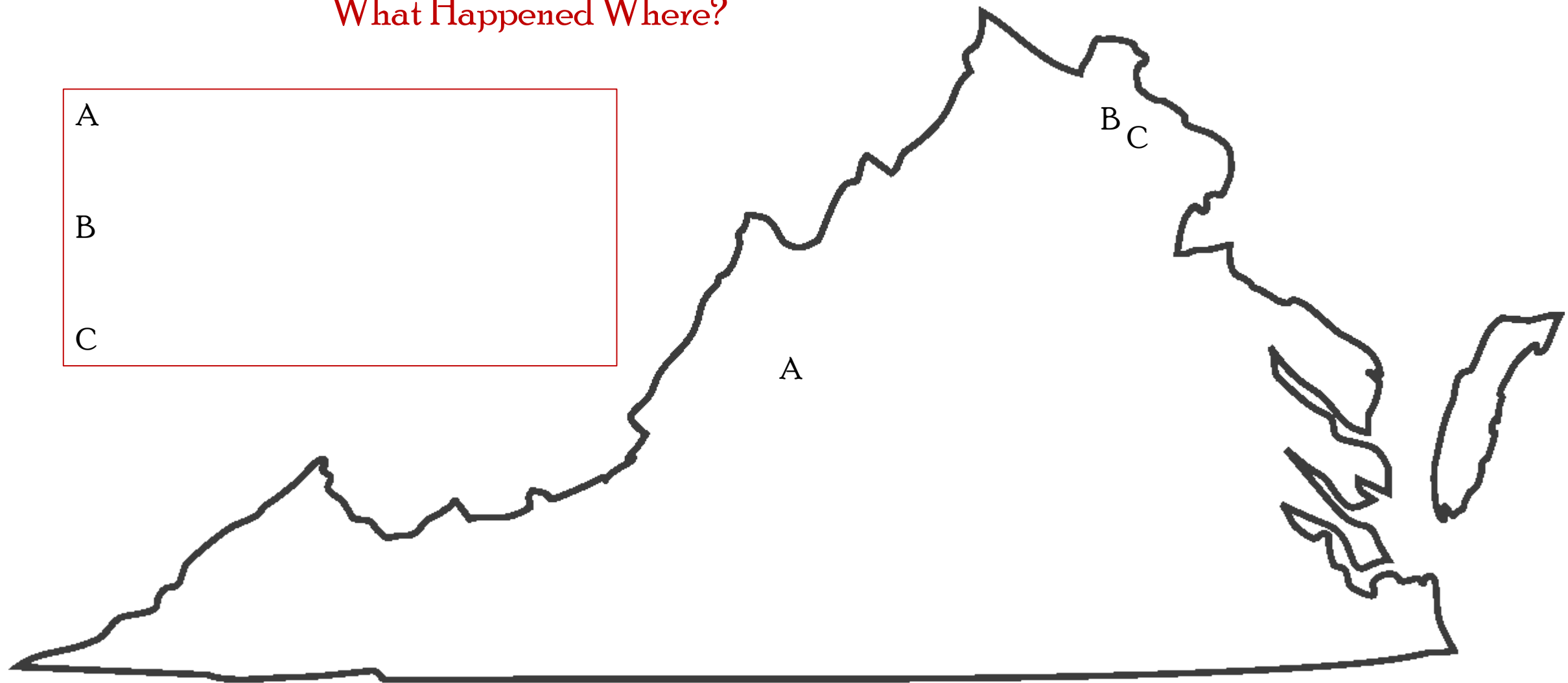
- [U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current](#)  
Daniel McGuire Reilly
- [Virginia, Death Records, 1912-2014](#)  
Daniel Mogueire Reilly
- [U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865](#)  
Daniel McGuire Reilly
- [American Civil War Soldiers](#)  
Daniel Reilly
- [1880 United States Federal Census](#)  
Daniel M. Reilly
- [1900 United States Federal Census](#)  
Daniel M Riley

[Show More](#) ▼

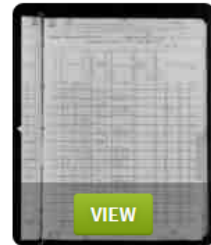
### Send Your Find Home!

Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery

# Daniel McGuire Reilly In the Civil War: What Happened Where?



## in the 1880 United States Federal Census



 [View blank form](#)

Name:	Daniel M. Reilly
Age:	40
Birth Year:	abt 1840
Birthplace:	Ireland
Home in 1880:	Lexington, Rockbridge, Virginia
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Relation to Head of House:	Self (Head)
Marital Status:	Married
Spouse's Name:	Margaret J. Reilly
Father's Birthplace:	Ireland
Mother's Birthplace:	Ireland
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>
Occupation:	Jeweler
Cannot read/write:	} <a href="#">View image</a>
Blind:	
Deaf and dumb:	
Otherwise disabled:	
Idiotic or insane:	
Household Members:	

Name	Age
Daniel M. Reilly	40
Margaret J. Reilly	36
Katie M. Reilly	13
Annie J. Reilly	10
William P. Reilly	6
Julia D. Reilly	3
Della M. Reilly	1m

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Dr. John H. Freeman (1861-1900) moved to Lexington from Washington, D.C. c. 1859 [obituary] -- and took up practice in the northern part of the building [Jones].

Although he seems to have been a "prominent and successful physician" in Lexington, not everyone was fond of him. Editorials in the Lexington Gazette (1870s) were scathing in their critic of his politics and regular reappointment as postmaster:

"Dr. J.H. Freeman has been reappointed postmaster at Lexington by President Hayes. It was a foregone conclusion. The Dr. was smart enough to have 'all things fixed up' beforehand. Republican enough, with good conservative backing he held all the trump cards." (April 5, 1878)

[RHS MSS Architecture of Historic Lexington, Central Hotel, Box 1, Folder 18]

#### DEATH OF DR. J. H. FREEMAN.

Died, at Lexington, Va., at 11:10 p. m., Monday, November 12th, 1900, in the 84th year of his age, Dr. John H. Freeman, for many years a prominent and successful physician of this town and county.

Dr. Freeman was born November 16, 1816, at Jeffersonton, Culpeper county, Virginia, where he resided till his graduation from the University of Virginia and the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. At the age of 20 he married Adeline, the eldest daughter of the late Charles Howard Flinn, of Luray, Va., where he afterwards located in the practice of his profession. In 1856 he removed with his family to Washington, D. C., where he successfully practiced till 1859, when he removed to Lexington where he established himself and practiced till within a month previous to his death. His wife preceded him in death three years and four months and is buried in the family lot in the cemetery at Luray.





Central Hotel, Brower Post Card Collection, W&L Special Collections





Central Hotel, WPA photo, W&L Special Collections



# College-town watering hole goes legitimate

By **BILL CANDLER**  
Special to The Daily Break

**M**ENTION THE McCAMPBELL Inn to a Washington and Lee or Virginia Military Institute alumnus and you won't get much of a reaction. But tell them it's the same place they knew as the Central Hotel, the home of the old Liquid Lunch, and the reaction is swift.

Peter Meredith Jr. of Norfolk, himself a VMI grad and part owner of the hotel, has banded with some of his relatives to tackle the restoration job in historic Lexington. It is not a popular move in some camps, extremely popular in others.

When he casually mentioned his plans to a friend — a W&L man — the so-called friend became "incensed," Meredith said, that anyone would even consider closing "The Liquid."

The place had become an institution as revered as the schools it serviced, although it has been described as little more than a sleazy bar, where for years an uneasy truce was shared by W&L students ("Minks" to VMI cadets), VMI boys ("Veemies" to Minks) and a rather rowdy assortment of locals ("townies" to Veemies and Minks).

The guy was only kidding — he said. But there are plenty of others who remember the Liquid with that strange lingering affection that one can have only for a college haunt, however disreputable.

The man most responsible for the nearly-completed hotel restoration, Peter Meredith Sr., president of Norfolk's Meredith Construction Co., acknowledged, "Its history was not good. In the 1930s, W&L boys used to keep girls there that they didn't tell their mothers about. A call to the Liquid got a case of beer delivered to the back of the VMI barracks."

Peter Jr., 30, like his father and brother Richard, another VMI graduate, remembers the spot as a popular place with cadets because of a back room where they could loosen their military blouses and relax with fellow cadets over beer and burgers. "I never took a date in there," he said. "It was a pretty

rough crowd."

Peter Meredith recalled that shortly after the family took over the hotel he went into the Liquid and was surprised at how little it had changed. "There were pictures of the same players on the wall that had been there 10 years before when I was a cadet. The place had been closed for three years when we bought it, but it still smelled like french-fried potatoes."

In recent years, the old four-story brick hotel on Lexington's Main Street had gone to seed, populated only by bums and pigeons. It had become an unwelcome eyesore in the middle of the town's most historic district, yet the Historic Lexington Foundation found it deserving of preservation.

As with many old buildings in the South, the Central Hotel began as a single structure, the earliest dating to 1809. Two additions came later, one in 1816 and another in 1857. It wasn't until 1912 that it became a hotel, but it remained open until the foundation purchased it in 1971.

Then it sat for several years while all around it, on a block that includes the likes of Stonewall Jackson's home, renovation went on. Finally, though, the hotel is getting the face lift it deserves. And, according to Royster Lyle, curator of the George C. Marshall Research Library at VMI and co-author of "The Architecture of Historic Lexington," the restoration will be the "capstone" of the foundation's efforts to restore

☐ Please see Inn, Page B2



## From Crumbling Derelict . . . . .



**BEFORE.** . . Here's how the rear of the Central Hotel looked at the time the old landmark on North Main Street was purchased by Historic Lexington Foundation last year. Foundation officials view the cluttered verandas, sagging roof and boarded windows amidst a jungle of weeds. Lyle photo

## To Civic Adornment . . . . .



**AFTER.** . . Restoration of the exterior of the Central Hotel has been completed, except for landscaping, by Historic Lexington Foundation. The spacious verandas give the rear facade a unique attractiveness. A gravelled off street parking area has been developed at the rear of the building. Architect for the restoration has been Thomas W. S. Craven of Charlottesville and contractor has been W. W. Coffey and Son of Lexington. staff photo

## Central Hotel Interior Photo W&L Special Collections



Central Hotel Interior Photo, W&L Special Collections







<https://www.hotels.com/ho571082/the-georges-lexington-united-states-of-america/>

Central Hotel Interior Photo, W&L Special Collections



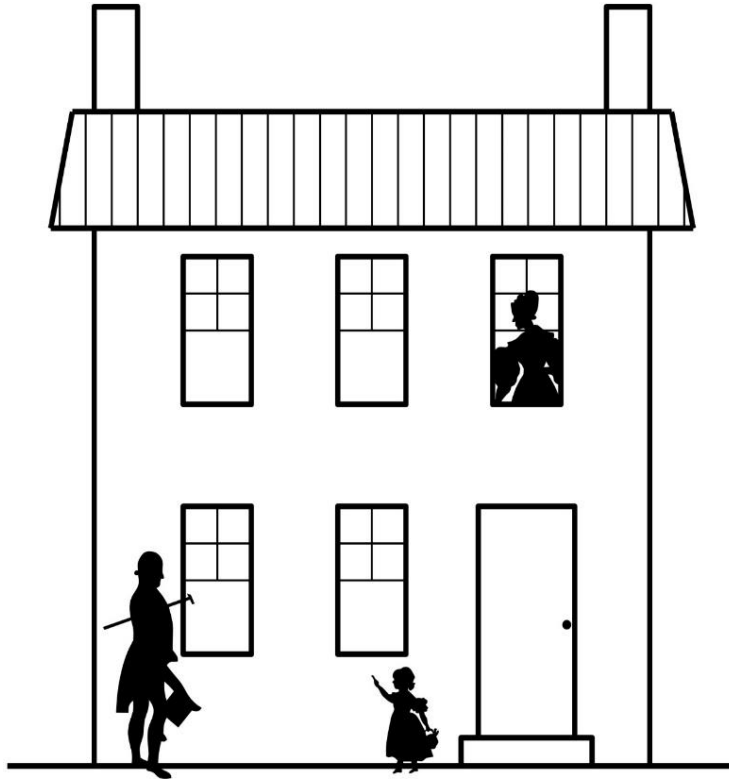


<https://www.hotels.com/ho571082/the-georges-lexington-united-states-of-america/>



# The Many Stories of Main Street

Hosts Kassie Scott '18 and Braxton Wall '20



## Narratives

- John M. Ruff and son Jacob Ruff; hat manufacturers; John (“plain spoken and hot headed man”) moved to the county and got mad at Cyrus McCormick in a less-than-successful early exhibition of the mechanical reaper
- These two buildings became part of thriving African-American community; memories of social events and community organizations

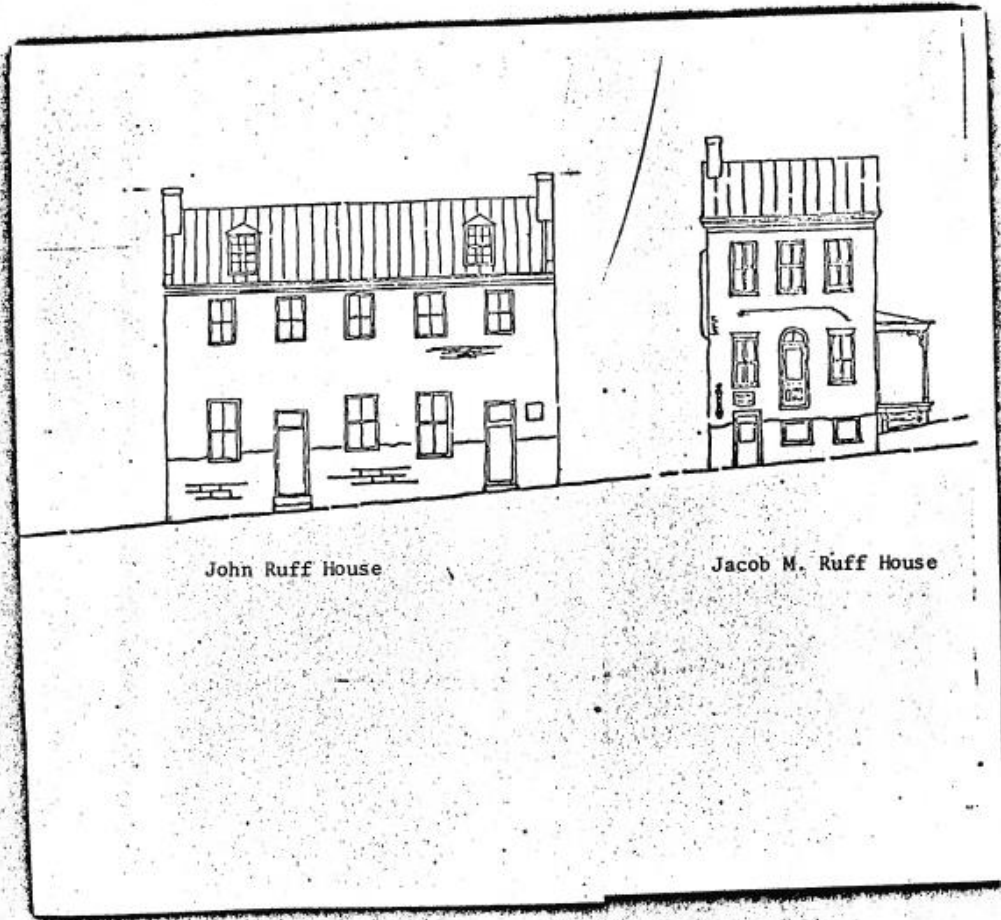
## On Table

- “I Remember” cards
- Laminated pictures of wheat threshing, and Jacob Ruff house showing barbershop and girls walking
- Paper, paper cutter, hole punch, tape, pins to make a cockade

## Activities

- Make a cockade (Ruff hat accoutrement); take a selfie in a hat
- Identify symbols of Odd Fellows, Order of the Eastern Star, Masons and learn what values they embraced
- Suggested: draw a hat (on handout)

**Station Four: The Ruff Houses**  
(in front of Napa Thai)



[John Ruff House, W&L Special  
Collections, Box 2, Folder 96B]

## John M. Ruff

1811

Began building large brick townhouses at 23 North Main St., Lexington ("John Ruff House")  
Served as the family residence and hat factory for the next 70 years the hat shop on the ground floor and the residence above

1829

Built townhouse at 21 North Main St. ("Jacob Ruff House")  
(Lyle and Simpson 1977:56)

**John M. Ruff** (1783-1858)

Wife Martha Wallace (1782-1827)

Wife Henrietta Cathran [?] (1787-1870)

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery

<http://library2.wlu.edu/SJCemetery/index.php>





## John M. Ruff

1808-1815

His Ledger Book for his hat business records the sale of various types of hats: wool hats, \$1.50; beaver, or Black Castor hats, \$6.00; silk, or stove pipe, hats, \$8.00; Roram hats, military hats made to order, militia hats, cockades; Salling hats, \$14.75, the most expensive.

Customers paid in cash or barter, and received credit for raw materials provided. Items received in trade included, besides pelts and furs and food, lottery tickets and whiskey.

His mother, Barbara, received a page of credits for her work in making hats. He charged his son Jacob room and board while he was an apprentice, taken out of his credits for making hats.

[Ledger in RHS W&L Special Collections, cited in <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=tsmith&id=I151471>]

ed for wagons from  
through Chinatown,  
a of that name, since  
part of the Gulf of  
is pioneering, expedi-  
ed to be merely the  
extensive operations  
contemplation to take  
a fifty thousand dol-  
ls; and as there will  
and fifty men in the  
med and equipped, it  
that the caravan will  
lation without mole-  
s, hardship, &c.  
be Maj. A. Le Grand,  
s extensively known  
country to be traversed  
It is calculated that  
be gone till about the  
next summer.

moth steamer Illinois,  
accommodates 1,000

#### THE ISLANDS.

Star has received a  
Island papers to a late  
es the following items:  
ers.—No less than 43  
ships, having oil on  
million and a half of  
at Man during the fol-  
lowing does this speak  
aterprise, and in how  
tude does it place this

in the tides took place  
and Marquesas groups,  
the *zarans* of Oahu to  
quake on the coast of

ergyman was shortly ex-  
American. Great joy is  
announcement.

'protracted meeting' are  
Honolulu, Ewa, Waiolu,  
eight days each, during  
is suspended, including  
dior discourses loudly u-

'Banishing the Catholic'  
Kaine-ban-ban III, in his  
h Dec. 1837, published in  
dies and English) reflect  
Catholics and their reli-  
gious their admission into  
religions are too much  
among the people.

#### Notice.

THE Partnership of John Ruff and  
Son, is this day dissolved by mutual  
consent. All persons having claims a-  
gainst them are requested to present  
them for settlement, those indebted will  
please call and make payment. Should  
any neglect this notice, they may es-  
pect their notes or accounts (after the  
first day of January) to be placed in  
the hands of an officer for collection.  
In the absence of either of the parties,  
John Ruff & M. & M. Sehorn, will at-  
tend to the settlement of accounts and  
the receipts of money.

JOHN RUFF & SON.

20th Oct. 1838.—Gt

John Ruff & M. & M. Sehorn

Having purchased the stock of  
**BEA'S, & Co.**  
of John Ruff & Son, will con-  
tinue the manufacture and sale  
of Hats,

Wholesale & Retail.

at the store formerly occupied by them  
in Lexington, Va. The subscribers  
promise that every laudable exertion  
shall be made on their part to render  
their manufacture equal in quality and  
variety to any demand that may be re-  
quired; they have determined to sell low  
for Cash, or country produce at cash  
prices, and will credit such persons  
only as are known to be punctual.  
They invite a continuance of the pa-  
tronage heretofore extended to John  
Ruff & Son, and the support of a gen-  
erous public.

JOHN RUFF & M. & M. SEHORN.

Oct. 26, 1838.—Gt

#### For Rent.

THE subscriber intending to remove  
to his farm, will rent for one or more  
years, his house and lot in Lexington.  
The house is large and in good repair.  
On the lot is a large stable and every  
house necessary for the comfortable  
residence of a large family, tavern, or  
boarding house.—The garden is large  
with an abundance of shrubbery, and  
fruit trees, and is remarkable for its fer-  
tility.—Terms will be accommodating.

JOHN RUFF.

The claims of  
dec'd. are hereby  
their claims before  
Lexington, duly and  
Monday the 12th  
next, or they may be  
decreed. And the pa-  
cense are hereby in-  
dorsed, commissi-  
said Monday the 12  
ber next, for the con-  
tiff's Administration.  
Matthew Patton, dec

Comma

Oct. 19.—41

John Alexander, J  
vs.

Sidney S. Baxter, ad-  
viving, dec'd. Sein-  
lina R. Irvine, J.  
Jordan, and Ira F.  
At Rockbridge

Court of Law and E-  
ber 23, 1837, in ac-

accounts between de-  
fendant Sidney S.  
under the late firm  
Irvine; and also the  
the defendant's inte-  
fendants John Jan-  
and Ira F. Jordan,  
of Jordans and Ir-  
Master Commission-  
lina examined, stat-  
to the Court repor-  
ters thought pertine  
quired by the pa-  
commissioner to re-  
the real estate of J-  
dans and Irvine, in  
rents and profits sin-  
Irvine.

The parties to be  
notified to appear  
free in the town of  
day the 5th day of  
with all the books  
documents belong-  
Alexander and Ir-  
Irvine, in order to  
fect the order of  
cause on the 22d  
1838.

John Ruff and Son dissolved  
their partnership; John  
advertised to rent his house  
because he "intended to  
remove to his farm"

October 26, 1838

[John Ruff House, W&L Special Collections, Box 2, Folder 96B]

1830's: His primary occupation was farming. He bought real estate with partner John Jordan, a Lexington builder. Invested in the James River and Kanawha Canal.

1832: Cyrus McCormick made a test of his reaper on John 's farm at John's invitation before a crowd of 75. The ground was uneven and the reaper's revolving wheel shelled considerable grain and crushed the straw. John was angry and ordered Cyrus to remove the machine from his property. William Taylor, owner of the adjacent farm, invited McCormick to continue the test in his field where the ground was more even, and it performed more satisfactorily.

1833: After Cyrus McCormick spent the winter making improvements to his reaper, John signed a testimonial as to its value.

Having invented what he believed to be a successful reaper, Cyrus's next task was to convince the farmers that it was a practical device and to persuade them to buy it. As a means to this end the field test was introduced. After the trial on the Steele farm the next public exhibition, the date of which is uncertain was given near Lexington, and this time the whole countryside turned out to witness it. The machine was first taken to the farm of John Ruff, but as the wheat to be cut was on a hill-side, the machine did poor work and scattered the grain. Ruff, who is described as a plain-spoken, hot-headed man, interrupted the performance by declaring in a loud voice that he did not want his wheat cut and threshed at the same time, and "with considerable indignation, ordered the machine out of his field." Fortunately for young McCormick there were some men of greater vision present. Colonel William Taylor, who represented the district in Congress, promptly stepped forward and, according to the statement of J. W. Houghawout, many years afterwards mayor of Lexington, "offered to give Mr. McCormick all the opportunity he needed to continue his operations on his land. The machine was then taken into Colonel Taylor's field, only a little ways off, and here it worked much better, and part of the time did good work. I well remember how closely Mr. McCormick walked with the machine, watching it and doing whatever was necessary when anything went wrong. He was calm and quiet, indeed, said little, while most everyone had something to say, such as, 'Oh, it will do, perhaps,' 'It will have to work better than that,' 'It is

[https://archive.org/stream/historyofrockbri00mortrich/historyofrockbri00mortrich\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/historyofrockbri00mortrich/historyofrockbri00mortrich_djvu.txt)

"John M. Ruff, A Memoir of an Early 19th Century Citizen", by Samuel O. Ruff (unpublished, 1987) cited in <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=tsmith&id=I151471>





<http://keywordsuggest.org/gallery/1087336.html>

Will Book 15, page  
270  
Division of Slaves,  
John Ruff estate

270	In pursuance of the last will and testament of John Ruff dec'd the undersigned executor thereof, proceeding on this day to divide the slaves of the said decedent into shares as nearly equal in value as practicable, the value being ascertained by the appraisers of the said estate and to apportion the same by lot to the several distributees as follows, viz:		
Lot No. 1	Hetty Andy	\$500.00 500.00	\$1000.00 to Susan P. Martineau
Lot No. 2	Mortimere Georgiana	\$1000.00 350.00	\$1350.00 to John A. Ruff
Lot No. 3	Norris Hanny	\$1000.00 350.00	\$1350.00 to Sarah Jane Schuch
Lot No. 4	Morrison Charlotte Himes	\$900.00 450.00	\$1350.00 to Jacob W. Ruff
Lot No. 5	Susan Charlotte Ruff John Helen Charlotte	\$500.00 175.00 550.00 75.00	\$1300.00 to William A. Ruff
Lot No. 6	Sack Hannah Patsy	\$450.00 600.00 450.00	\$1500.00 to Rebecca A. Imboden
Lot No. 7	Mamie Amy Etter	\$300.00 150.00 850.00	1300.00 to Magdalen C. Sprigg
Total appraised value of slaves directed by will to be divided			\$9000.00
Lot No. 1	to Susan P. Martineau	\$1000.00	
No. 2	to John A. Ruff	1350.00	
No. 3	to Sarah Jane Schuch	1350.00	
No. 4	to Jacob W. Ruff	1350.00	
No. 5	to William A. Ruff	1300.00	
No. 6	to Rebecca A. Imboden	1500.00	
No. 7	to Magdalen C. Sprigg	1300.00	\$9000.00
Given under our hands this 20th day of November 1855			
Wm. A. Ruff			
William M. Langley			

Henrietta Ruff -- 1861 (court)

Abraham Doubt, slave of Mrs. Henrietta Ruff, cleared of the charge of inciting servile insurrection, but not of that of making seditious speeches. Ordered that he be given thirty-nine lashes on the bare back at the whipping post.

[https://archive.org/stream/historyofrockbri00mortrich/historyofrockbri00mortrich\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/historyofrockbri00mortrich/historyofrockbri00mortrich_djvu.txt)



Jacob Ruff House, RHS Architecture of Historic Lexington,  
Box 2, folder 96. W&L Special Collections







Jacob Ruff House, RHS  
Architecture of Historic  
Lexington, W&L Special  
Collections



Jacob Ruff House, RHS Architecture of Historic Lexington,  
W&L Special Collections

Post bellum transition of this area (North  
Main Street) to a thriving African American  
community

At 23 North Main Street, where Pappagallo and Cindy's Salon are now [the old John Ruff House] was a pool hall where dances were often held (upstairs). The Odd Fellows, Order of the Eastern Star, Masons and other groups met in the pool hall building.

One long-time resident remembered, as a fourteen-year-old girl, attending a birthday party upstairs in this building, and how Edna Washington adjusted an evening dress for her to wear.

- Oral histories at First Baptist Church, 4 March 2017



## Odd Fellows' Values



- To improve and elevate the character of mankind by promoting the principles of friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity and universal justice.
- To help make the world a better place to live by aiding each other, the community, the less fortunate, the youth, the elderly, the environment and the community in every way possible.
- To promote good will and harmony amongst peoples and nations through the principle of universal fraternity, holding the belief that all men and women regardless of race, nationality, religion, social status, gender, rank and station are brothers and sisters.

“Our Mission.” *The Sovereign Grand Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows*. Last modified 2013.  
[http://www.ioof.org/IOOF/About Us/Mission/IOOF/AboutUS/Mission.aspx?hkey=836e4547-847f-466f-a9f1-0b67deb0b125](http://www.ioof.org/IOOF/About%20Us/Mission/IOOF/AboutUS/Mission.aspx?hkey=836e4547-847f-466f-a9f1-0b67deb0b125).



*Eastern Star strives to take good people, through uplifting and elevating associations of love and service as well as through precept and example, to build an Order which is truly dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness.*

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



*The Masonic experience encourages members to become better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better citizens. The Freemasons of North America contribute over two million dollars a day to charitable causes. The Shrine Masons (Shriners) operate the largest network of hospitals for burned and orthopedically impaired children in the country, and there is never a fee for treatment. Many other Masonic organizations sponsor a variety of philanthropies, including scholarship programs for children, and perform public service activities in their communities.*

<https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/joining/who-are-the-masons#faqnoanchor>

I roomed there from September, 1911, to June, 1912, with Zack Justice. A law student by the name of Botrough (or something like it) occupied the rear room up stairs. Justice and I had the front room. I recall seeing some student stunts from those front windows, escapades that were scandalous in those days but exceedingly tame in comparison to the one we see and read about in the press in these days of enlightenment.

It was then the home of a Captain Pearson, Confederate army officer who rode with Early to the gates of Washington. His wife was an invalid. I think they had two daughters, one was Minnie at home and the other had married a Washington and Lee law student and lived in Martinsburg, W. Va., as I recall. So, I referred to the house as "The Pearson Home".

George West Diehl to Royster Lyle, May 16, 1972

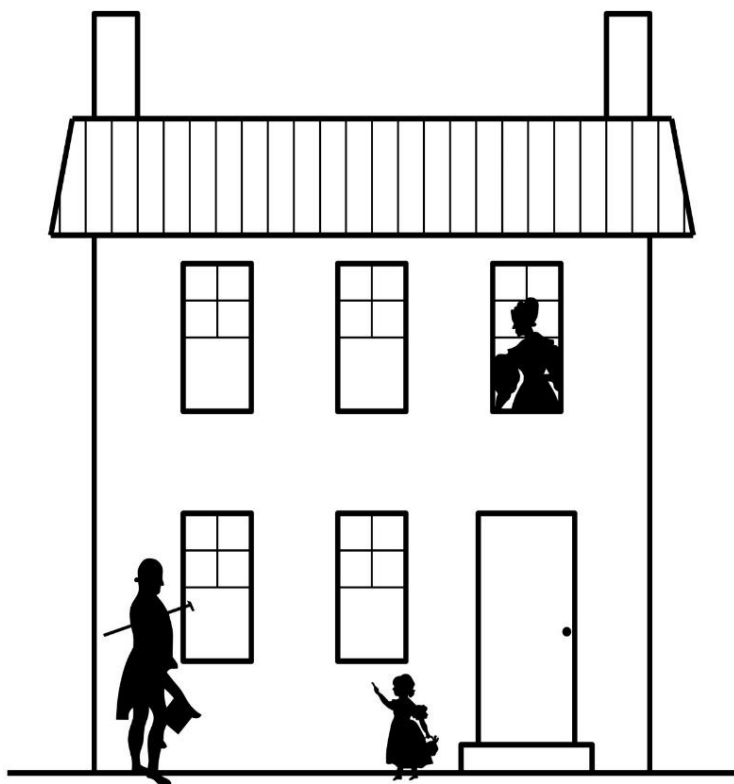
[John Ruff House, W&L Special Collections, Box 2, Folder 96B]

Referring to the Jacob Ruff House; see Central Hotel folder letter from Diehl to Lyle that indicates he lived in the building just north of the Central Hotel



# The Many Stories of Main Street

Hosts Stephanie Chung '18 and Lewis Johnston '20



## Narratives

- Capt. William Willson – letter (archive s)
- Harry Lee Walker – adoption and “bank” (oral history)
- Eliza Bannister Walker – cultural and civic leader (Bodie book)

## On Table

- “I Remember” cards
- Large photo of grocery
- White apron
- Brown paper, finger paints, wet wipes
- Laminated Willson letter and photos of Walkers

## Activities

- Try reading Willson’s letter
- Sign your name like William Willson? (imitate 19<sup>th</sup>-c. handwriting)
- Suggested: draw something you see in the store (on handout)

Station Five: The Willson-Walker House  
(in front of or just north of house)

To the President & Trustees of Washington College  
Gentlemen  
Having been appointed treasurer to your corporation  
in March 1803 I have since that time continued to perform  
the duties of my office without having received any  
compensation for my services; for a few years after my  
first appointment I considered the profits I received  
from having paid the workmen & others employed about  
the buildings a part of their accounts in goods to have  
been a sufficient compensation. but for the last seven or  
eight years I have not had any advantage from it  
for any money which was received has generally been paid  
out in a short time after its receipt & scarce any part  
of it having been paid in goods. The trouble of keeping  
the accounts being considerable. particularly the moneys  
received for Tuition & Deposits for which receipts have to be  
given & accounts kept of each separately. I therefore  
submit to your body whether it is not reasonable  
that I should charge in my acc<sup>t</sup>s for the last six  
years services either a certain per centum on the money  
received or an annual compensation I leave it entirely  
to the board to say what compensation would be  
adequate for past services & also to fix on a compensation  
for future services which I can charge annually in  
my account all which is respectfully submitted  
by yr obt svt  
Lexington 29<sup>th</sup> July 1814  
Wm Willson

To the President & Trustees of Washington College

Gentlemen

Having been appointed treasurer to your corporation in March 1803  
I have since that time continued to perform the duties of my office  
without having received any compensation for my services; for a few  
years after my first appointment, I considered the profits I received  
from having paid the workmen & others employed about the  
buildings a part of their accounts in goods to have been a sufficient  
compensation, but for the last seven or eight years I have not had any  
advantage from it for any money which was received has generally  
been paid out in a short time after its receipt & scarce any part of it  
having been paid in goods. The trouble of keeping the accounts  
being considerable, particularly the moneys received for Tuition &  
Deposits for which receipts have to be given & accounts kept of each  
separately. I therefore submit to your body whether it is not  
reasonable that I should charge in my accounts for the last six years  
services either a certain percentum on the money received or an  
annual compensation. I leave it entirely to the board to say what  
compensation would be adequate for past services & also to fix on a  
compensation for future services which I can charge annually in my  
accounts – all which is respectfully submitted

by yr obt svt Wm Willson

Lexington 29<sup>th</sup> July 1814



William Willson c.1768 – 1840 Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery <http://library2.wlu.edu/SJCemetery/>





April 11, 1874 – December 14, 1939



Born on the Fourth of July, 1875  
Died March 4, 1841





lies further gathered for music and drama. Eliza Walker founded a singing group called the Chaucer Nightingales that performed around the town. The First Baptist Church scheduled dramatic cantatas. One of them, at the Lyric Theatre, benefited the Stonewall Jackson Hospital.<sup>48</sup>

Harry and Eliza Bannerizer Walker were a remarkable couple in Lexington. With their related families, they cut a wide swath. Harry was born perhaps near the Augusta-Rockbridge boundary in 1875. After reaching only the fourth grade, he dropped out of school, became a cattle driver at the age of eleven and then a meat cutter in a local market. After his marriage to Eliza, he raised \$500 and teamed up with Clarence and Joseph Wood. In 1911, they bought one of Lexington's historic buildings on Main Street. Built in 1820, it had been the residence of William Willson, a local merchant and treasurer of Washington College. After renovating the remnant Wilsons-Walker House, Walker opened it as the Lexington Meat Market, supplying both meat and groceries to the town as well as to the schools on the Hill. He also managed two other stores, one on Main Street and the other on Washington Street. From 1920 to 1941, his business was known as the Walker and Wood Brothers Market. East of town, along the Old Buena Vista Road, he also managed a livestock yard, a fourteen-acre tract known as Walker Meadows. The Walkers' only surviving child, Nancy, married Clarence M. Wood in 1919.<sup>49</sup>

Walker served both black and white clients and followed prudent business practices and investments. The purchase of the Meadows was a major step forward. Along with pasturage, it contained a stockade and slaughterhouse that processed cattle from suppliers in Fairfield and Buena Vista. The year 1919 brought new opportunities. In March, he sold a vacant lot on Jefferson Street, co-owned with Nannie Jordan, to Washington and Lee at an amount not to exceed \$1,500. In April, he signed a contract with VMI to supply meat to the mess hall, an arrangement that apparently continued for sev-

eral years. In 1924, Walker was to supply the institution with 1,500 pounds of pork loins, 4,000 pounds of sirloin butts, and 150 crates of eggs. He widened his market further. Between 1920 and 1941, he sold hickory-smoke-cured hams, sending them by rail to customers out of town. Until the Great Depression hit, he had a flourishing enterprise.<sup>50</sup>

Eliza Walker was also active. Born in Murat in 1874, she attended five years of grade school and later trained as a nurse and midwife in Washington, D. C. At the First Baptist Church, Eliza developed its music program, while Harry served as a deacon. Their residence, an Italianate structure known as Blandome, built in the late 1850s, sat on Tucker Street on a hill overlooking the town. It was a gathering place for neighbors and guests, even more so when Eliza opened a bed and breakfast for black travelers and for black musicians who performed at Washington and Lee.<sup>51</sup>

With little patience for the notion of second-class citizenship, she turned into a vocal activist, hammering at the old ways of Lexington. One of her early campaigns was to raise funds for a Lexington Old Folks Home and Orphanage, which had the support of "leading white businessmen of the town." It was granted a charter prepared by William Anderson and won biracial support. Eliza tried selling bricks for the new structure, but whether it ever opened remains a mystery. She also worked to reduce black joblessness and improve wages. She chaired a committee on the unemployed and urged white residents to hire more people of color. Eliza also took time to write poetry and print and arranged meetings of black Democrats at Blandome. She was a tireless woman, moving in countless directions. She also joined others to improve Lexington's substandard black school.<sup>52</sup>

#### SCHOOLS ON A SUNDAYMORNING

In most local classrooms, standards were not very high. Rockbridge school superintendent George W. Effinger painted a dreary picture of 1905. He had authority over 125 schools, many of them still

Charles A. Bodie (2011). *Remarkable Rockbridge: The Story of Rockbridge County, Virginia*. Rockbridge Historical Society, pg. 261.

Edwin T. Walker Jr.'s grandfather, Harry Lee Walker, and grandmother Eliza Walker had adopted his father, Edwin Walker. They had a number of foster children. They'd gone to Washington to a home [orphanage] and asked for all the bad boys to step forward, and his father stepped forward. He was probably 10-12 years old at the time. Others recalled seeing Harry Lee Walker usually wearing a white apron [as a butcher], and that he "was practically a bank for black people." He was a go-between, between black people and the bank. The bank would loan him money because he was white [?]. People in the community rarely paid for haircuts or other services; they would charge them, and Walker kept a tally on brown butcher paper.

Oral Histories, First Baptist Church



**Blandome** [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Lexington/Blandome\\_photo.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Lexington/Blandome_photo.htm)



1900 United States Feder

search.ancestrylibrary.com.ezproxy.wlu.edu/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1900usfedcen&h=72315263&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&rhSource=60525

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NYT

Reuters

BBC News

CNN


MSNBC

NPR

Resistance

Harry L Walker

in the 1900 United States Federal Census



VIEW

View blank form

Name: Harry L Walker  
[Clary L Walker]

Age: 24

Birth Date: Jul 1875

Birthplace: Virginia

Home in 1900: Lexington, Rockbridge, Virginia

Sheet Number: 18B

Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation: 361

Family Number: 387

Race: Black

Gender: Male

Relation to Head of House: Head

Marital Status: Married

Spouse's Name: Elya A Walker

Marriage Year: 1895

Years Married: 5

Father's Birthplace: Virginia

Mother's Birthplace: Virginia

Occupation: Meet Cutter

Can Read: No

Can Write: Yes

Can Speak English: Yes

House Owned or Rented: O

Home Free or Mortgaged: F

Farm or House: H

Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members:

Name	Age
Harry L Walker	24
Elya A Walker	26
Harey T Walker	3
Hanna E Walker	0
Jule Banister	12

Send Your Find Home!

Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery Page where you can view and download all of the great finds you make while here.

SEND DOCUMENT

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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Suggested Records

1920 United States Federal Census

Harry L Walker

1910 United States Federal Census

Harry S Walker

1930 United States Federal Census

Harry L Walker

Virginia, Death Records, 1912-2014

Harry Lee Walker

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

Harry Lee Walker

U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Harry L Walker

Search the web and Windows

Chrome

Excel

PowerPoint

Outlook

File Explorer

Word

Edge

Paint

Photos

12:18 PM

4/23/2017



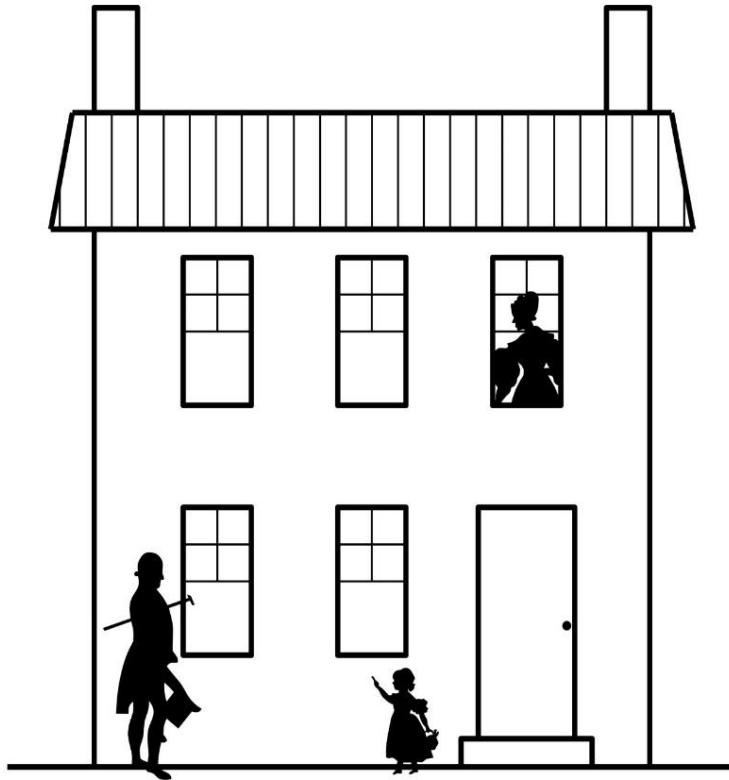








# The Many Stories of Main Street



Hosts Members of First Baptist Church

Laminated historic images of church

Music

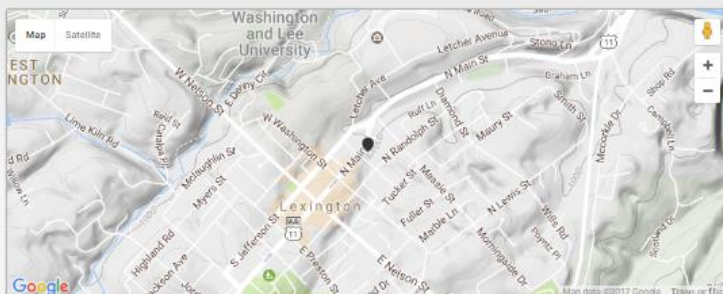
Station Six: First Baptist Church





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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LEXINGTON

By VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

### Historical Significance

A number of African Americans worshiped in three of Lexington's white churches: Manley Memorial Church, the Episcopal Church, and the Presbyterian Church. On September 22, 1867, these members were permitted to withdraw and organize as the Lexington African Baptist Church. Meetings were held in many locations, led by the Rev. Milton Smith, who was reared in the community and baptized in the Manley Baptist Church in 1841. About 25 years later, the membership purchased the lot next to their church, with the intention of erecting a new building. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1894. Friends and laborers gathered after working all day to dig the foundation. The women held lanterns to provide light as there was no electricity in Lexington. Masons from the Moore family of Amherst, Virginia came later, and local residents helped with the carpentry. On April 16, 1886, the local weekly newspaper, the Rockbridge County News, published this account: "On last Sunday, about 75 converts of the First Baptist Church (colored) were baptized in the North River. It took one hour and was witnessed by at least 1000 people."

On September 29, 1905 the record states that 1400 persons attended services. The mortgage was paid and the bonds were burned by the bondsmen and by Sadie Lewis, while former pastors and local town leaders discussed race relations in Lexington. First Baptist Church remains an active congregation.

### Physical Description

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### Physical Description

The church is a two-story brick structure. All windows in the sanctuary are stained glass, and the interior features a cathedral ceiling, chandeliers, and the original pews.

### Geographical and Contact Information

103 N Main St  
Lexington, Virginia  
24450  
Phone: 540-463-4854  
Fax: 540-464-4445

CITE THIS PAGE: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, "First Baptist Church, Lexington," *African American Historic Sites Database*, accessed May 12, 2017, <http://www.aahistoricsitesva.org/items/show/139>.

#### RELATED TOURS:

Church

#### SUBJECTS:

Church

#### RELATED SOURCES:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

ENCYCLOPEDIA VIRGINIA: RELIGION DURING THE CIVIL WAR

ENCYCLOPEDIA VIRGINIA: COLORED SHILOH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

First Baptist Church, Lexington, originally known as Lexington African Baptist Church, was organized in 1867. In 1894-96 the present church building was erected by black masons and carpenters according to a design by architect E. N. Bogher. The Gothic Revival brick and stone church is one of the most visible historic buildings in downtown Lexington, and its two towers are defining features of the town's skyline. Historically First Baptist played a central role in the life of Lexington's African American community. ...

In 1867 the black membership of Lexington Baptist Church (the present Manly Memorial Baptist Church) petitioned for "letters of dismission" in order to form a separate congregation in Lexington. Blacks had been among the earliest members of Lexington Baptist Church. When the church was founded in 1841 its first convert was Milton Smith, a black man who later served as one of two deacons for the congregation's black members. Washington and Lee University historian Theodore C. DeLaney Jr. writes that the choice of Smith as the first convert symbolized a desire for inclusiveness on the part of the Lexington Baptist Church congregation's founders. "If the Baptists had any notion about catching up with the Methodists in evangelization of slaves, that is exactly what happened," Delaney comments on Lexington's white Baptists and the Baptists of Virginia in general. He writes:

"The Baptist church attracted large numbers of black converts for several reasons. Mainly, the church identified with the masses of underprivileged people in the United States. Highly democratic in its governance, the local church did not answer to higher church authorities. The local, democratic nature of the church permitted its black membership to mold its own forms of worship to conform [to] the community's needs and culture. The requirement of seminary training prevented newly emancipated blacks from becoming Presbyterian ministers, but no such barrier prevented entry into the Baptist clergy."

~ Dan Pezzoni

[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Lexington/117-0027-0063\\_FirstBaptistChurch\\_2006\\_NRfinal.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Lexington/117-0027-0063_FirstBaptistChurch_2006_NRfinal.pdf)

The black members organized Lexington African Baptist Church on September 22, 1867 with the Reverend Milton Smith as the first pastor. The infant congregation was permitted use of the lecture room of Lexington Baptist Church as a place of worship “until they can secure one of their own.” The first church is said to have been a log chapel, followed in 1871 by a frame church (no longer extant) that stood on the northeast side of the present building. In 1888 the trustees purchased a lot next to the 1871 church and on July 4, 1894 the congregation laid the cornerstone of the present building. Historian Kurt E. Schick writes, “Twenty-five dollar bonds were raised by the congregation to begin financing the \$25,000 costs, and some of the church deacons mortgaged their homes to pay for construction. Men of the congregation, friends, and paid laborers worked nights while women held lanterns and brought baskets of food.” ...

By 1905 the construction debt had been paid. The Rockbridge County News reported on the mortgage burning, a “notable [occasion] in the history of the First Baptist church, colored, of Lexington.” The paper observed that “an immense congregation filled the building ...” According to other accounts the crowd in attendance numbered 1,400 people. Such large gatherings were not uncommon in the history of the church; in 1886 an estimated thousand people attended a First Baptist-organized baptism in the Maury River that converted seventy-five individuals.

~ Dan Pezzoni

[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Lexington/117-0027-0063\\_FirstBaptistChurch\\_2006\\_NRfinal.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Lexington/117-0027-0063_FirstBaptistChurch_2006_NRfinal.pdf)





## First Baptist Church of Lexington, VA

@FirstBaptistLexingtonVA

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Street parking

Founded on September 22, 1867

### Mission

Our Mission - Given the history and heritage of First Baptist Church, it shall be our mission to be immersed in spiritual leadership, service and education to the youth and young adults that will result in a greater understanding of Christ Jesus and an acceptance of Him as Lord and Savior.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO

✉ firstbaptistlex@centurylink.net

### MORE INFO

#### About

The organization of the First Baptist Church of Lexington, Virginia, was the bringing to life, of a beautiful dream, charged with prayer, hope, faith and an all consuming desire to carry out the very commandments of God Himself.

#### General Information

Heritage Sites & Organizations

General Info

First Baptist Church, Lexington

Site Type: Church

Historical Significance:

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Physical Description:

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Alison

Home



## First Baptist Church of Lexington, VA

@FirstBaptistLexingtonVA

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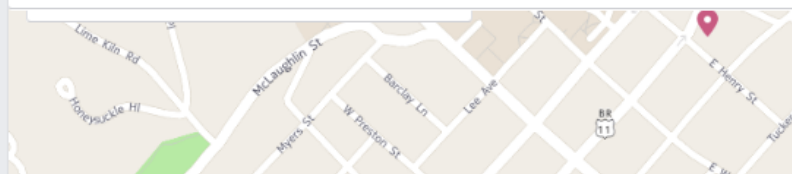
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### HOURS

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### BUSINESS INFO

#### Business Details

Parking

Street parking

Founded on September 22, 1867

### Mission

Our Mission - Given the history and heritage of First Baptist Church, it shall be our mission to be immersed in spiritual leadership, service and education to t... See More

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO

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#### General Information

Heritage Sites & Organizations

General Info... See More

#### Awards

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark

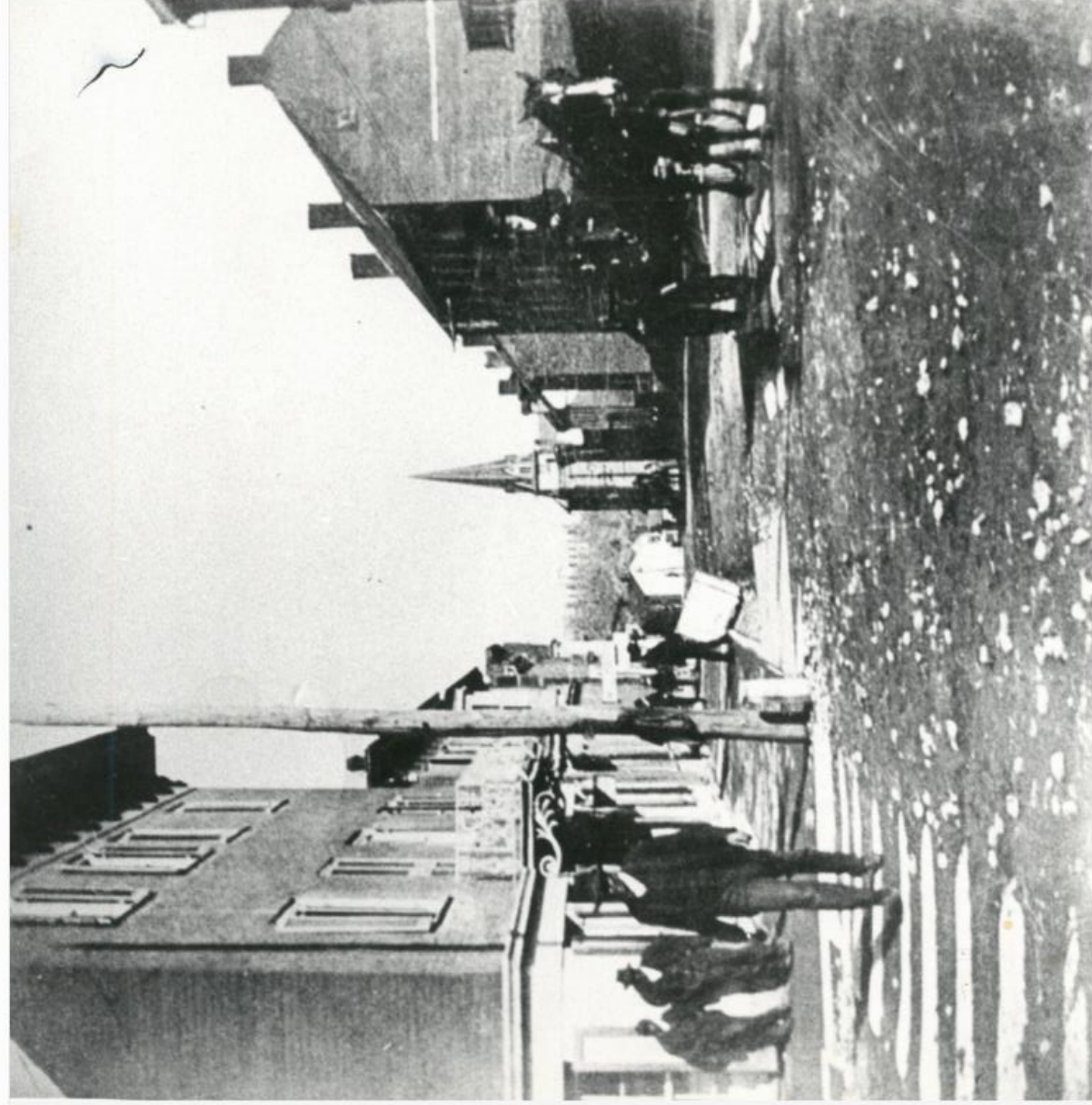
#### Products

Our Values - Given the history and heritage of First Baptist Church, we value:  
Worship ~ Education ~ Service

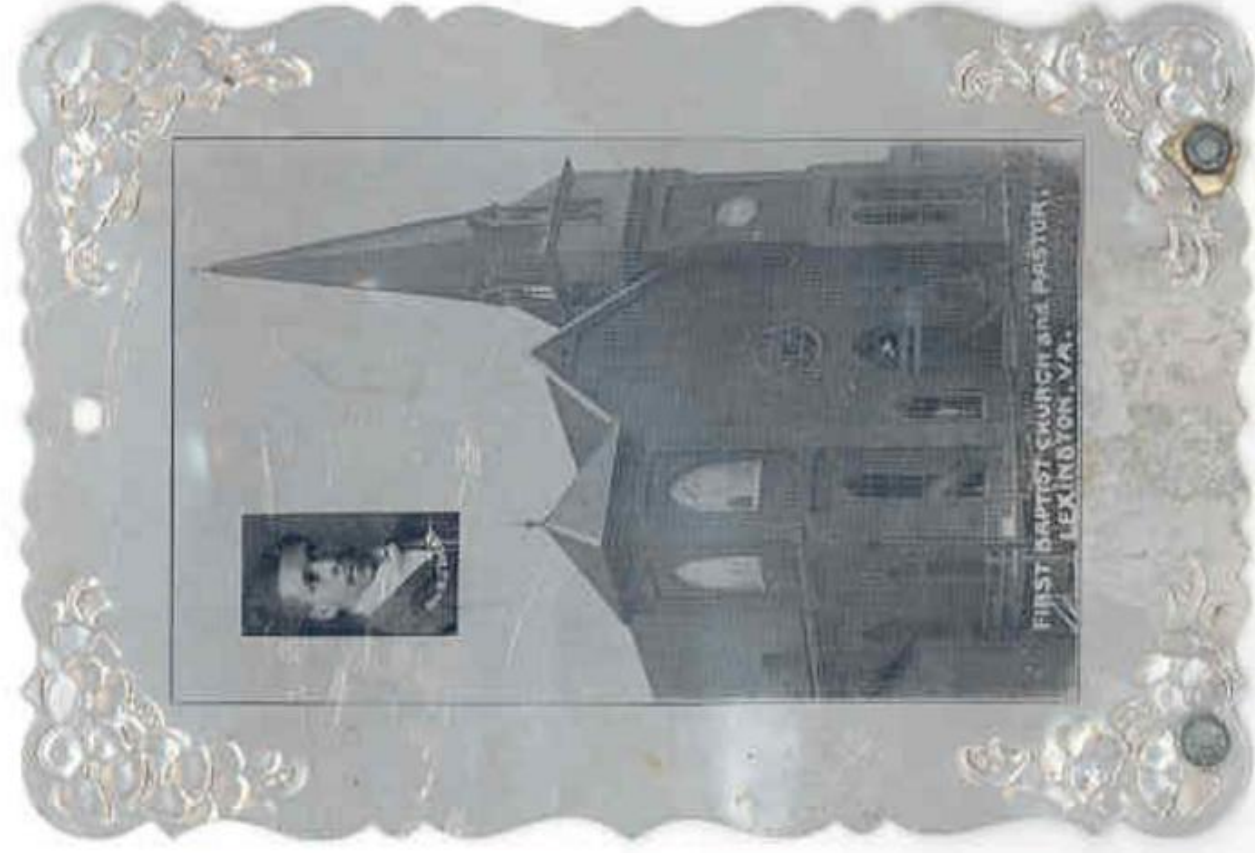
Our Vision - The vision of First Baptist Church shall be to evangelize for the purpose of discipleship in order to serve the City of Lexington, Virginia in particular and Rockbridge County in general and ultimately, the world!!!

🏛 Baptist Church · Region · Religious Organization

North\_Main\_Street\_ca1890\_RHS\_ArchofHistLex\_box2,f92.tif ▼



First Baptist Church Photo Ornament.jpg ▾









“Remember, we’re only here for a moment.”  
Oral Histories, First Baptist Church, 4 March 2017