Clerk of the Circuit Court-Historic Records

“Little Gems”

The Manager’s Order Book by Eric Larson, Historic Records Manager

Historic Records longtime supporter, and Clerk of the Circuit Court Chief Deputy Clerk, Brenda Butler retired at the end of August 2016. Mrs. Butler worked twenty-eight years for the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the last sixteen years as the Chief Deputy Clerk. Brenda recently became a certified professional genealogist and plans to spend her time researching family history at other clerks’ offices in Virginia. She is also known in Loudoun’s historic community as the chief biographer and historian of Loudoun’s most famous court clerk George K. Fox Jr., who saved the county records from destruction during the Civil War. Brenda not only left her mark on the thousands of documents upon which her signature appears, but also on the many people she worked with. The Historic Records’ staff, volunteers, and all the employees in the clerk’s office would like to express their gratitude for Brenda’s twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. We wish Brenda a long and fruitful retirement discovering answers to the many questions we still have about George K. Fox Jr.!

This is our largest and most diverse edition of “Little Gems” to date! In our October edition, we have an article by Rachel Stewart, a summer intern, on what she discovered in her summer project, and our volunteer Rose Marie Walter shares information from her school records indexing project. See our list of 2017 programs and newsletter releases, and visit the links provided throughout “Little Gems” to discover more history on our articles’ topics. We hope to see you at our First Friday program on October 7, 2016 from 6:00-8:00. This open house will feature our historic criminal cases.

The Leaves are Turning, and the Nights are Growing Short by Sarah Markel

The leaves are turning, and the nights are growing short, and ghost stories are all around. As fall is upon us, I was inspired to choose a “Little Gem” that pertained to the spirit of the season.

The entry in our “Little Gem” book is humdrum at first glance: “Order Book 13 Page 361.” This entry is a Resolution from the BAR Association pertaining to Mr. Benjamin Willard Franklin. The resolution reads in part: “Whereas, since the last meeting of our Loudoun Bar, the Supreme Judge of the Universe has seen proper, in his inscrutable wisdom, to close by death the earthly career of our most useful, faithful, and well-beloved brother Officer of our Circuit Court of Loudoun County, the Honorable Benjamin Willard Franklin, Clerk of our said Court, Commissioner in Chancery thereof, Commissioner of Accounts and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of our said County...” “Benjamin Willard Franklin...was born at Hamilton...on the 22nd day of February 1874, and died suddenly at his post of duty, in the Clerks’ Office Building in Leesburg, VA April 12, 1929.” Reading through this resolution the reader is able to get a sense of how dedicated Mr. Franklin was to his office, community, and family.

The Benjamin Willard Franklin gravesite at Union Cemetery in Leesburg, VA

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THE LEAVES ARE TURNING-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The BAR Association goes into great discussion as to Mr. Franklin’s character and that he was elected twice to his office with no opposition, a testament to his popularity among the residents of Loudoun. The resolution ends with “A man of generous impulses and a kindly heart, his gentlemanly deportment, uniform courtesy, friendly manner and accommodating spirit endeared him to all with whom he came in business or social contact with and won from him a golden place in the hearts of his fellowmen.” This resolution was passed, ordered to be entered into the order book, and a copy to be presented to Mr. Franklin’s family, and to be published in the county newspapers. This was a true testament to Mr. Franklin and his impact on Loudoun County.

The story does not stop with this resolution. Approximately one year ago I was indexing a collection that contained loose papers pertaining to various aspects of the Clerk’s Office. I found documents about furniture, the price of fuel, appointments, and Oaths of Offices, just to name a few. One item that stood out was a small piece of paper with a description stating that Mr. Franklin was found deceased at his desk. As I was typing the description of the document all of the lights went out in our Archives department. Well, as you can imagine, I hurried out the door and made the Archives manager go back into the room with me. After looking around we found no reason the lights went out or why they came back on a few minutes later. Now I cannot say that I believe in ghosts, but I do say “Good Morning Mr. Franklin” every morning when I arrive at the office just in case. And, if Mr. Franklin or any of our previous Clerks still stop by to check in on the records, I am happy that they can see how much we have accomplished, and how we are paying respect to those clerks that came before us by preserving the records for future generations.

Greg Crawford, Local Records Program Manager, and Tracy Harter, Archivist, from the Library of Virginia recently spent a day in Historic Records reviewing the depth and condition of our court’s historic documents and books. The purpose of their visit was to assist this office and other Virginia Circuit Court Clerks to identify books and documents that need conservation and address other problems such as storage and environmental factors.

Historic Records staff and volunteers reviewed their indexing and preservation projects with Mr. Crawford and Mrs. Harter and provided a tour of our public and storage areas. They spent the rest of the day preparing condition reports on documents selected by our staff for conservation (Under the new conservation grant procedures, the Library of Virginia will send an archivist to all Circuit Court Clerks who are applying for a conservation grant). The Library staff also identified other books and documents covered by the conservation grant that are often overlooked. These included a rare 1932 county road map glued to a particle board, a mid-nineteenth century militia book, and two rough minute books from the eighteenth century (See examples on page 5).

The other purpose of their visit was to view our Free Black and Slave Papers indexing and preservation project. With private grant money, the Library started a website called Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative. This website uses records from all over the state to tell the story of African Americans in Virginia. The website also has a blog that allows users to transcribe online documents. The Library is identifying Circuit Court Clerk’s offices with Slave and Free Black Papers that can participate in the Virginia Untold project.

The Library of Virginia provides nearly 2 million dollars in grants a year to Virginia Circuit Court Clerks for historic records conservation. Historic Records will be submitting a conservation grant in November to conserve five books in its collection.

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While interning this summer with the Historic Records Department, I was given the mission of finding interesting newspapers, broadsides and more in the many chancery files. During the three months I interned, I looked through only a quarter of the files but found over a thousand documents I considered noteworthy.

Clerks were expected to post Chancery suits (cases where a plaintiff is arguing for money or property from a defendant), in the newspaper and on the front door of the courthouse. Each case that had been posted for the public included a form signed by the clerk stating that it had been done (Johnston, 1887). If it was also posted in the newspaper, a copy of the clipping was added. Whoever inserted the newspapers into the files likely didn’t think much of what happened to be on the back of the paper. Looking back 120 to 180 years the things on the back can be quite interesting. The chancery announcements list the defendant that need to testify in court and the newspaper is glued with wax onto a note saying that the court acknowledges the newspaper announcement. Case 1855-050 is a great example of the court notes. This advertisements on the back of the newspaper advertises, “SODA WATER, FRESH & COLD, at A. R. Mott’s Drug Store.”

The first newspaper to appear in America was printed in Boston in 1690. The first successful newspaper was the Boston News-Letter printed by John Campbell in 1704. American newspapers began to rise in numbers once the colonies became independent of English rule. Newspapers would mostly cover national affairs and political views of the new nation and states. Loudoun’s first newspaper in the chancery cases appears in 1810. After the invention of the “Penny Press”, newspapers could be distributed to customers for just a penny (Barber, 2015). Everyone, rich and poor, could afford to read a newspaper. Businesses quickly learned the power of advertisements in newspapers and the first advertisement in chancery was in 1812. Newspapers included poetry and (at the time) current events like state boundaries, the War of 1812, and the Jackson/Adams election along with clothing, medicines, and grocery store advertisements. Customers would read fictional stories, local news, trending fashions, new products for sale, and clerk announcements all in the same newspaper.

The rhetoric hasn’t changed compared to that found in modern newspapers, but it is doubtful that the advertisement for “Gastric Juice” in case 1856-002 really would help digest or dissolve five pounds of roast beef within two hours of taking the medicine, as the advertisement claims. It is also common to see medicine testimonials, although they were probably dreamed up by the creator of the medicine. Sometimes simple announcements were all that was needed to excite readers enough to buy a product. Two such advertisements can be found in different chancery cases in 1835 and 1856. Case 1835-028 promotes “6000 weight of BACON for sale, including a lot of fine hams” being sold by Ed. Francis and case 1856-047 advertises “50 TONS GUANO, best Peruvian guano” for sale be R. G. Allnut. Loudoun County’s 1853 county wide map made by Yardley Taylor offers some interesting insights into its maker when it’s paired with the 1853-008 chancery case which advertises Taylor’s orchard and nursery. The advertisement states that the farm is “8 miles west of Leesburg” and sure enough, on the 1853 map, Taylor labeled his farm Y. Taylor Nursery.

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Advertisements commonly show up on the backs of the chancery newspapers but sometimes hot topics in the news will happen to be on the back. Dueling was very popular until its ban in 1839 (Library of Congress, n.d.). President Andrew Jackson participated in 103 duels during his lifetime (Wernecke, 2012). According to the newspaper in case 1832-203, Charles Wickliffe and Geo. J. Trotter dueled over a “controversy” resulting in Wickliffe’s death. Wickliffe was the editor of the Kentucky Gazette and the challenger in the duel. In another news bulletin, a captain on a boat traveling from Liverpool to America died, of a broken heart. This newspaper from case 1856-046 has “A Doctor’s Story of a Broken Heart” on the back of it. Dr. J. K. Mitchell of Jefferson College, Philadelphia warned his students that the captain died when he learned his lover was already married. The doctor claims that the captain’s heart was literally torn in two by the news.

Likely the most unusual item in the chancery is a broadside for a merry-go-round in case 1897-423. The merry-go-round was being sold in payment of a debt. Sometimes more eye catching techniques were needed, especially when land, animals, and furniture were being sold to pay off a debt. This particular broadside is bright pink and would have stood out on the town bulletin because of that. The combination of European immigrants love for merry-go-rounds and the rise of mass production in the Industrial Revolution resulted in a rise of merry-go-rounds in America (History of the Merry Go Round, 2013). The first steam powered merry-go-round was made in 1861 and according to the broadside, the merry-go-round up for sale had a good quality steam engine with all the fixtures.

My internship this summer has allowed me to rediscover some of Loudoun’s history. There are countless odd things that just happened to be on the back of the chancery announcements, but each offer a look into everyday life in the 1800s. Plus there are thousands of more chancery cases that could contain more strange advertisements and thrilling broadsides.

References
Visit from the Library of Virginia Continued from page 2

Rough Minute Book 1764-1765

Condition summary:
Paper very brittle with cracks, tears and losses. Dark staining on some pages. Previous repairs have caused cracking next to the repairs.

Treatment Requirements:
Remove old repairs. Repair pages using full tissue backing where necessary. Deacidify, encapsulate and post bind.

Land Causes Book 1775-1773

Condition summary:
Pages have rodent damage, large losses. Old opaque repairs are obscuring text.

Treatment Requirements:
Remove old repairs. Repair pages. Fully fill in losses to make full sheets. Deacidify, encapsulate and post bind.
While the term “public show” can denote many different types of entertainment, public show licenses issued in Loudoun County in the first half of the nineteenth century included a museum, menageries, equestrian shows, and circuses. The Commonwealth of Virginia regulated the issue of licenses for public shows taxing them under the same law as licenses for peddlers and hawkers. The cost for a license to exhibit a public show increased from $5 a license in 1815, to $60 a license in 1842. Legislation stipulated fees for “every license to any exhibitor of any public show,” though by 1842 this included “every exhibition or performance for reward, (except lectures on literary and scientific subjects).” Public show licenses issued in Loudoun County identify the types of shows and displays that entertained and educated Loudoun residents, but these records also allude to broader national trends in public exhibitions in the early nineteenth century.

In 1813 John Shaw applied for a license “to exhibit any public show in the Corporation of Leesburg (meaning his Museum).” The license for the museum lasted twelve months and cost him two dollars in 1813. Early American museums often housed works of art, objects of natural history, and man-made objects of interest for the purpose of education, and entertainment. Unfortunately, it is not clear exactly what Shaw had on display, but the business must have been lucrative as he obtained licenses for the following two years, even though the price of the license had increased three dollars by 1814. Court records show that Shaw owned a lot in Leesburg on the southeastern corner of King Street and Loudoun Street as early as 1803, until he gifted the property with its brick building to his son John Shaw Jr. in 1819. If this structure did house Shaw’s collection, its central location on a main thoroughfare through town would have provided excellent exposure and access to his museum.

Loudoun had its fair share of itinerant menageries, equestrian shows, and circuses that provided entertainment for its citizens. Early public shows often took place in more permanent structures within larger cities, but increases in competition, and the improvement of roads promoted the use of tents and wagons for traveling shows. Menageries, a display of exotic animals, typically consisted of at least three different species of animals, though the number of species increased exponentially by the 1830s as popularity of the shows increased. Howe & Co. obtained a license for “a show composed of elephants and other animals.” Birchard & Company applied for a license in 1832 for a “show (composed of an elephant, African lion [sic], royal tiger, spotted tiger, white bear, leopards, hyena, and some minor animals).” Menageries declined in the mid-1830s due to a failed monopoly attempt by the Zoological Institute from 1835 to 1837, but the displays of animals served as the basis for larger circus acts in years to come.

Equestrian shows existed in the eighteenth century, and continued to be popular into the early nineteenth century. Loudoun’s residents saw several equestrian acts including Milton Garrett’s show “composed of flying horses,” and Joseph Palmer’s “equestrian and theatrical performance.” Over time the old menageries, and equestrian shows combined with additional acts to become early circuses. Frost, Husted & Co. obtained a license for a show composed of “wild beasts and an equestrian show.” J.B. Green & Co. had an “exhibition of animals and circus performance,” and Raymond, Ogden & Co. exhibited a show “composed of natural and artificial curiosities.” June, Titus, Angevine & Co., one of the largest companies of the 1830s, came to Loudoun in 1841. The company disbanded in 1842, but in its prime the show boasted a total of three tents crewed by fifty men, sixty animals on display, twenty-nine wagons with sixty-four horses for transportation, and one of the first bandwagons with a fourteen-piece band.
Public show licenses provide a glimpse of the forms of entertainment that amused and educated Loudoun’s citizens in the early nineteenth century. John Shaw’s continued application for public show licenses suggests Loudoun residents and visitors frequented his museum enough to make the business viable for a few years. Popular menagerie, circus, and equestrian shows traveled circuits up and down the east coast. Their appearance in Loudoun provides evidence of larger national trends including improvements in infrastructure, and increased competition amongst travelling shows. Better travel routes linked Loudoun to larger cities which allowed traveling shows improved access to the area. The increase in the number of traveling shows created more competition which made it necessary for circus companies to expand their audience and obtain licenses to show in smaller towns and localities such as Loudoun. Loudoun’s sample of public show licenses identify Loudoun County as an active participant in broader national trends and a network of public exhibitions.

1 “An Act, Imposing Taxes for the support of Government,” Acts Passed at a General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Tenth Day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourteen, and of the Commonwealth the Thirty-Ninth, (Thomas Ritchie, Richmond, 1815), 7; “An Act imposing taxes for the support of Government,” Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, Passed at the Session Commencing 6th December 1841, and Ending 26th March 1842, in the Sixty-Sixth Year of the Commonwealth (Samuel Shepherd, Richmond, 1842), 5.
2 Shaw, John, 1813, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, Deed Book 2E, 6-11; Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, Deed Book 2Y, 4.
4 Garrett, Milton, 1832, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Palmer, Joseph, 1833, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Frost, Husted & Co., 1835, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Green, J.B. & Co., 1833, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Raymond, Ogden & Co., 1833, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; June, Titus, Angevine & Co., 1841, Retail License, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Thayer and Slout, 1-25; Huey, 1-12.

FOR THE EDUCATION OF POOR CHILDREN BY ROSE MARIE WALTER

“For the education of poor children” is not a phrase that would have much use in the twenty-first century, but in 1829 it was used to identify the funds given to School Commissioners in Loudoun County for distribution to families needing assistance in educating their children. The Historic Records/Deed Research Department has records for the distribution of these funds that cover the years 1822-1860 and they hold a wealth of information for those interested in research related to genealogy, educational history, medical events, to name just a few subjects. In general, each year’s record contains the name of the commissioner, the name of the student and the amount of money given to the family for education. Entries for certain years also include information about the amount of money given for books, paper/slate and pencil/chalk.

In 1829, information was given about the parent to whom the money was given, the age of the student, when the student began school, the number of days the student was absent, the reason for any absence, the student’s conduct and a record of progress for the school year. For example, we learn that the Widow Newton was given $2.50 for Robert Newton, age 12 or 14, who entered school on 1 March, 1829 and was absent 8 or 10 days. Robert’s conduct was ‘Pretty Good’ and his progress is recorded as ‘very tolerable.’ Robert left school the last part of April.

The Widow Jones received $3.50 for Ann Jones, 10 or 12, who also entered school on 1 March. Ann was absent for 4 weeks, her conduct was ‘Pretty Good’ and her progress was ‘very tolerable.’ Of special interest is the information that Ann ‘lost her time partly by the Meazels (sic) and attending to her Mother who had them (Measles) very bad.’ Three other students lost time that year because of measles, giving researchers information that measles was prevalent in Loudoun County during the spring of 1829.

Loudoun’s education system changed in 1869 with the establishment of free public education in Virginia. In 1870, the responsibility of funding and managing county schools shifted from the court justices to the newly formed Board of Supervisors. From 1870 to present information on Loudoun’s Public Schools can be found in the Board of Supervisor’s minute books.
It was a calm and clear day in Leesburg, 1872. People were walking about King and Market Streets shopping and visiting with neighbors. Children were running laughing and playing. Most people were discussing the weather and the crops. But something was in the air. Conversations were changing to a new topic. It started as whispers, and then into full blown accusations of murder. Who could be accused of murder in the small town of Leesburg you might ask? Well it is none other than Mrs. Emily Lloyd. How did Mrs. Lloyd end up being the talk of the town? Well the story goes like this:

Mr. Charles E. Lloyd and Mrs. Emily E. Lloyd lived in Leesburg in a house that was located behind the old jail lot on what is now Edwards Ferry Road. To the outsider this would look like a happy couple with their whole lives ahead of them. Mr. Lloyd ran a successful Ordinary in Leesburg and Mrs. Lloyd stayed home with her 4 children: George, Henry, Annie and Maud. By all accounts from newspapers at the time Mrs. Lloyd was a loving and nurturing mother with her children’s best interest at heart. 

This picture of a happy family quickly came to an end. Mr. Lloyd was a man of “high temper, and said to have been unkind to his family, but by no means a bad citizen otherwise.” So, it would have been of no surprise or alarm to the citizens of Leesburg when Mr. Lloyd was taken ill for a week. While Mr. Lloyd was recovering and appeared to be through the worst of his illness, he drank a beverage given to him by Mrs. Lloyd and then died suddenly. The doctor determined it was of a heart illness. Mr. Lloyd was interred at Union Cemetery on December 23, 1868. Upon Mr. Lloyd’s death an accounting of Mr. Lloyd’s estate was taken. Court records show that E.E. Lloyd’s dower payment was $1,113.33. The children were left $2,226.67 this being $556.67 to each of the four children.

Mrs. Lloyd found herself alone to raise four small children, but had the great fortune of having her Aunt Mrs. Hammerly, of Washington, come to visit the children and offer assistance. Mrs. Hammerly died suddenly just a few weeks after her arrival in Leesburg. In the 1860 census Mrs. Hammerly is listed as being 58. This would put her at 66 years of age at her death in 1868. By all accounts this did not raise suspicion in the people of Leesburg, as Ms. Hammerly was a women of advanced years for the time period. The people of Leesburg looked at this as another sadness for the Lloyd family to endure.

Mrs. Lloyd devoted herself wholeheartedly to her children, tending to their every need. The 1870 Census lists Mrs. Lloyd as being 33, and the children’s ages as George 8, Henry 6, Annie 4, and Maud 1. The Census also lists a 17-year-old house servant. Tending to this many children under the age of ten must have been a hand full for Mrs. Lloyd. On the morning of July 24, 1870 George and Henry went out unsupervised to pick berries. When the boys returned home they were taken ill almost immediately. Reports show that the boys had an outbreak of sores on their mouths and throats. Dr. Mott was called to tend to the boys and it was his assumption that the boys must have eaten poisoned berries or oak leaves. Henry died July 24th and George hung on a few hours longer departing this life on July 25th. At the time of their deaths a post-mortem examination was done by Dr. Mott. The stomachs of the boys were examined, but no one made the accusation that the boys had been poisoned by anything other than berries. It is reported that when the boys were interred, Mrs. Lloyd tended to the graves each day and left fresh flowers on their graves. People in the town seeing the grief of this poor mother could not imagine that she could have ever devised a plan so bold as to have killed her own children.

It is of interest to note that, in the statement of accounts of Henry, it is listed that of the $484.00 left from his portion of his father’s estate $121.00 each was left to his mother, brother, and two sisters. In the statement of accounts for George, it is listed that of the $609.00 from his portion of his father’s estate $203.00 each was left to his mother, and two sisters.

One can imagine the sorrow that Mrs. Lloyd must have felt living in a house where her Husband, Aunt, and two sons had died. It comes as no surprise then that in 1871 this house was sold pursuant to a court order in the Chancery Case of Lloyd vs. Lloyd. The house was sold on Monday April 3, 1871 to Thomas W. Edward and Samuel Orrison for $644.00. Mrs. Lloyd had at this time secured a house for her and her two daughters “in a neat little story-and-a-half stone house, situated on the western end of Loudoun Street, fronting immediately on the street.”
Things seemed to be going well for the Lloyd family in their new house. Mrs. Lloyd devoted all of her energy to her two remaining children and saw to their every need. While everything seemed to finally be going well for the Lloyds, tragedy struck on February 11, 1872. Again Dr. Mott was summoned to tend to the eldest girl Annie being 6 years of age. Annie had eaten oysters earlier in the day, then fell ill. Dr. Mott indicated that he thought this was a case of Cholera Morbus. The Doctor administered the normal treatment but it provided no relief. On February 16th young Annie was pronounced dead and laid to rest beside her brothers and father. At this point the town was abuzz with allegations of misdoings. Everyone was talking about the death of the little girl and about what all of the deaths had in common, but no one was willing to petition for an inquiry.

With speculation at a fever pitch, the grim reaper visited the Lloyd family yet again. Little 3 year old Maud, Emily Lloyd’s only surviving child, was taken ill on March 23rd and died March 25th, 1872. At this point the accusations were made and a coroner’s inquest was ordered to find out what had happened to Maud. The Coroner, R.M. Bently, called twelve men to appear at the house of Mrs. Lloyd to view the body and hear statements made by witnesses to the death of Maud Lloyd.

Mrs. Emily Lloyd was questioned first as to what happened to the child. She stated that Maud had taken ill on Saturday around noon, and was sick for 48 hours before her death. Mrs. Lloyd indicated that she had called Dr. Mott to attend to the child and that he had prescribed lime-water and milk. She gave what the Dr. had left and had given the child no other medicine. Maud was placed in a warm bath as the sick spells came on her. Mrs. Lloyd stated that Maud “died easily and calm.”

Mrs. Charles Newton, a friend of the family, was interviewed next, stating that she had not been in the house very much and had not visited in some time. Mrs. Newton indicated that she arrived one-half hour before Maud died and found Dr. Cross and Dr. Mott both in attendance to the child. Dr. A.R. Mott was interviewed about his treatment of the young patient. Dr. Mott stated that he was called on Saturday to attend to the child who was suffering from nausea. He prescribed medicine and saw no signs of danger. He was called again on Saturday night at which time he gave the child Bismuth Powder to treat congestion of the stomach. Dr. Mott thought that this case looked almost exactly like the death of Annie, and called for Dr. Cross to give a second opinion. Dr. Cross stated that he gave the child a little morphine and Oxalate of Cerium. Both Doctors were in agreeance that the child died of intense congestion, and that there was no reason to think that this was like the case of the two children who died of berry-poisoning. Dr. Cross added that he thought the child “was in the jaws of death when I first saw it.”

At this point the theory was going about town that the children may have been poisoned with Arsenic. Dr. R.H. Edwards testified that he had never sold any medicine to Mrs. Lloyd but that she had bought one-half ounce of Arsenic to kill rats a year or more ago. He also indicated that Arsenic poisoning could present in a patient with pain in the stomach, and the vomiting of blood. None of these were present in Maud. But, he also indicated that he had never seen a case of Arsenic poisoning in person.

Loudoun County’s second Courthouse was built in 1811.
Delphy, the Lloyd’s housekeeper, was questioned next. She stated that the milk that the child drank before she became sick was consumed by all members of the household and only Maud got sick. She testified that Maud had not eaten much with the exception of toast and milk since she took ill. Delphy then indicated that she had never seen any rats in the house, but did see mice. She also stated that she had never seen any Arsenic in the house and had never purchased any. Mr. J. Hutchison then testified that he had sold Mrs. Lloyd but “one item in his life” and it was one ounce of Arsenic the summer the boys passed away.\textsuperscript{18}

When asked about the prior testimonies, Mrs. Lloyd responded that she had never purchased any medicine except from Dr. Mott. She stated that it was true that she had purchased Arsenic from Dr. Edwards to kill rats. (Although she stated that she lost it on the way home.) Mrs. Lloyd then stated that the Arsenic she purchased from Dr. Mott to kill rats was never used. She indicated that she was afraid the children would get into it and so she burned it. Mrs. Lloyd restated that all of the Arsenic she purchased was not used but either lost in the street or burnt. The coroner’s inquest adjourned for the night and the next day Mrs. Lloyd testified that she remembered purchasing Arsenic three times. The first time she bought it she went to Dr. Edwards while living in her house by the Jail lot, and used it to kill rats. She purchased Arsenic from Dr. Edwards a second time and lost it on the way home. The third time she purchased the poison (March 18, 1872) it was from Dr. Mott and she burned it, not the same day she got it, but a day or so after.\textsuperscript{19}

These pictures are of Littlejohn’s drugstore. The same building where Mrs. Lloyd purchased Arsenic from Dr. Mott.

Ethel Littlejohn Adams Collection (M 091), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.
At this point Maud’s stomach was sealed in a glass bottle and sent to Professor Toury in Baltimore to be examined. When the stomach was examined it was reported that one and one-half grains of Arsenic were found. Both Dr. Cross and Dr. Mott were called and testified that this was a sufficient amount of the poison to kill the child. At this point the Coroner’s Inquest sent their report on to the court. Quickly an indictment for Emily Lloyd was drawn up and the defendant arrested. Mrs. Emily Lloyd was officially charged with the murder of Maud Lloyd.20

Jurors were called, witnesses summoned, and the town was on the edge of their seats with anticipation. While in jail, the summer heat must have gotten to Mrs. Lloyd. As shown by an entry in the datebook of Dr. Mott listing a visit to Mrs. Lloyd in Jail.21

As the trial started Mrs. Lloyd was seen to be dressed in black and to have mood swings from collapsing in a chair crying to turning her back to the jury pretending to read as to ignore her surroundings. The prosecution called several witnesses. Several clerks said that they had sold Mrs. Lloyd Arsenic over the past few years. This is including purchases from Mott & Metzger’s Drugstore, located at 7 North King Street, and is now today the same building that houses the Downtown saloon.22

In May, Maud’s body was exhumed and the child’s stomach was taken from the body and sealed in a glass jar. It was then given by the Doctor to Mr. Bentley to be taken to Professor Toury to be examined for chemical compounds. The chain of custody was then called into question by the defense. The court decided that unless it could be proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Maud’s stomach and other organs had been kept safe from tampering by Mr. Bentley, then the evidence found there could not be used in court. Unfortunately for the prosecution Mr. Bentley had since passed away and no evidence or testimony could be provided as to the chain of custody and measure for security used, making this key evidence inadmissible in court. The prosecution then called Professor Tiffany to the stand to describe the procedure and analysis on the other organs. It is said that his description was so vivid that one juror was taken ill and court was adjourned until the juror could collect himself. Many other specialists from as far as Maryland and the University of Virginia were called to validate the techniques used in analysis of the body. The prosecution then presented that with the death of her husband Mrs. Lloyd inherited $2,300 and with the death of her children she inherited $1,500.23

The defense then presented their witnesses. Dr. Pierce B Wilson was called and testified that lime that was sprinkled on the body when it was exhumed may have caused a misreading in the amount of Arsenic found in Maud’s body. He also testified that the knives used for the autopsy were not shown to be new, and therefore may have been contaminated. The defense went on to show that it was possible that the medicine given to Maud by Dr. Mott may have been tampered with at his store and could have been contaminated. After several more witnesses the defense rested their case.24

The Judge reminded the jury of their duty and dismissed them to the jury room. The masses in the court room and surrounding the court house waited anxiously to hear the verdict. The jury was gone just a few minutes and returned a verdict of “Not Guilty.” With this the defendant was free to go, and the jury dismissed.24

Ethel Littlejohn Adams Collection (M 091), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.
So the evidence has been presented and the verdict rendered. The question is now yours, do you think that Mrs. Lloyd killed her family? Or, do you think the Jury verdict was correct? Do you think the Prosecutions motive of money was true? When the trial was over it was reported that Mrs. Lloyd left the court house and moved as it was uncomfortable to remain in Leesburg. A careful examination of the census records does not show where she went. So, we are left to wonder, did she kill her family? And, where did she go after her trial? Who knows if you are walking around Union Cemetery you may just catch a glimpse of her tending to her children’s graves…

8. Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser
9. Loudoun County Fiduciary Papers- Estate Account- Lloyd, Henry 1871
10. Loudoun County Fiduciary Papers- Estate Account- Lloyd, George 1871
12.-13. Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser
20. Loudoun County-Misc. Papers-Criminal Lloyed, Emily E. 872-030- Indictment
21. Ethel Littlejohn Adams Collection (M 091), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.
*Photos of Headstone images are taken from Find A Grave.com

Do you agree with the outcome of the case? Is there evidence that was overlooked? Come to the 1st Friday Open House. October 7th 6-8 p.m. Court House Complex. Look over the original documents and talk the case over with our staff. Who knows Emily Lloyd may even be there!
**By the Numbers January-August 2016**

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* Includes 160 for June First Friday Event
** June 156 Hrs worked by 2 summer interns
** July Includes 136 Hrs worked by 2 summer interns
** August Includes 110 hrs worked by 2 summer interns

**In the News:**

Links to Articles About the Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records

The artifacts and stories that brought the African American museum to life

A humble skirt worn by an enslaved child finds a place in history

Historic Loudoun County court seal discovered in archives

Loudoun courthouse staff preserves the past for future generations

Loudoun’s Hidden Treasure No More

Tell us about Your “Little Gems” of Loudoun County History. Go to [www.loudoun.gov/Clerk/LittleGems](http://www.loudoun.gov/Clerk/LittleGems) and complete the “Little Gems” Form. Future editions of our newsletter will highlight a “Little Gem” submitted by our readers. So get researching, the next spotlight may be your discovery!
Land Records & Deed Research

Loudoun is one of only a few counties in the Commonwealth that has records dating from its formation in 1757 when it split from Fairfax County. The Historic Records and Deed Research division includes all historic court records 1757-1980s and land records from 1757-present. Research can be conducted by using both in-house and online databases and paper indexes. Our staff can provide guidance and suggestions to start your research but cannot provide research services or legal advice. To prepare for your visit please review our online links to indexes and county databases which provide a starting point in your records research.

If you Visit the Archives

There is a court order that establishes court security protocols that serve the best interests of all visitors to the various courts and court-related offices in the Courts Complex. Therefore, electronic mobile devices such as cellphones with cameras, laptop computers, and electronic tablets are currently not permitted in the Courts Complex. To assist the patrons of the Historic Records/Archives research room, the Clerk’s Office provides computer workstations with internet access so our patrons can review the websites of other historic records museums and historic records research organizations to assist with research needs in the Clerk’s Office.

2017 PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS

Black History Month February 2017-Program TBD

First Friday April 7, 2017-Over There: The Great War in Loudoun’s Memory (Joint Program with the Loudoun WWI committee) April is the 100th anniversary of the United States entry in in WWI. This exhibition will explore Loudoun’s role in the War to end all wars.

First Friday June 2, 2017 – Preservation Act II
Our June 2016 Open House on the conservation of the court’s historic documents was such a hit we brought it back for a second act!

First Friday October 6, 2017-Program TBD

Newsletters
Winter-January 2017-Feature Article Black History Month
Spring-April 2017-Feature Article WWI in the Court Records
Summer-July 2017-Feature Article TBD
Fall-October 2017-Feature Article TBD

More events and exhibits will be added throughout the year. Please check our website for more details.

All Open Houses will be held at: Court Complex 18 E. Market St. Leesburg Virginia