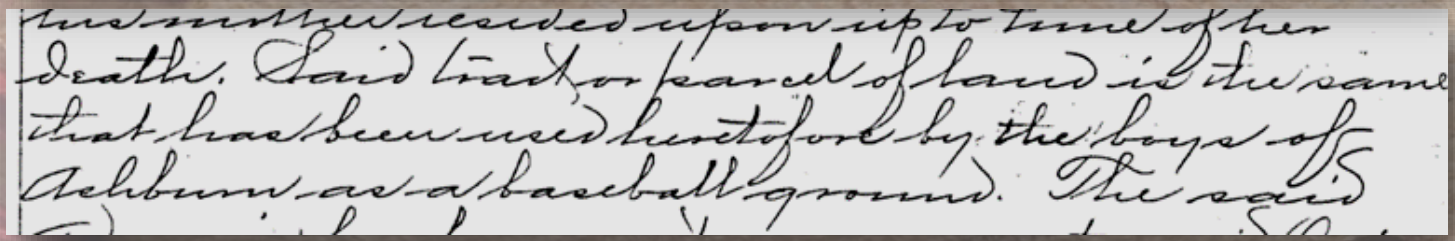
# “Little Gems”


has mother resided upon up to time of her
death. Said tract or parcel of land is the same
that has been used heretofore by the boys of
Ashburn as a baseball ground. The said

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records

Volume V Issue 2 June 2020

"Little Gems" is a quarterly newsletter published by the Historic Records Division in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. "Little Gems" refers to a binder of interesting references compiled by retired Deputy Clerk, Louisa Hutchison. Since 1757 when Loudoun County was established, former Clerks of Circuit Court and numerous former deputy clerks have have squirreled away notes which listed things to remember, interesting facts, and things that were just down right oddities. Over time these notes went from scraps of paper tucked in desks or books, to an organized binder, now called the "Book of Little Gems." The Historic Records newsletter is meant to provide you information about upcoming programs and exhibits, updated indexes, processed records, tips for research, as well as some articles on a few of the "Little Gems" we have

## 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 court records from 1757-1980's and land records from 1757-present. Research can be conducted by using both in-house and online databases as well as 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.

## Please Read -If you Visit the Archives

While our clients cannot current visit the Historic Records offices in light of the COVID-19 safety precautions enacted, the Clerk is offering remote services such as email and telephone requests for copies of records and remote access subscriptions to view and print documents. Please contact our office by email and phone (703-737-8775), and we will be happy to assist you in this manner until such time as it is safe to open our archives again.

Cover Page: Leesburg, Baseball, 1904
Winslow Williams Photograph Collection (VC-003) 1925-1980
Courtesy of Thomas Balch Library

# "Little Gems"

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:


| | |
|---|---|
| *The Manager's Order Book* | 3 |
| *Message from the Clerk of the Court* | 4 |
| *Take Me Out To The Ballfield-In Ashburn* | 5 |
| *Ode To A Courtyard Spring* | 9 |
| *Establishing a Covid19 Special Collection* | 10 |
| *Harriet Scott and the Eckman Family* | 11 |
| *Puzzle* | 12 |
| A Future "Little Gem" | 13 |
| *Events* | 14 |


**Historic Records and Deed Research Staff**

Gary M. Clemens,
Clerk of Circuit Court

Kevin Blatchley
Chief Deputy
Business Services

Eric Larson,
Historic Records Manager

Sarah Markel,
Historic Records Clerk

Alyssa Fisher,
Historic Records Clerk

Volunteer
John Fishback

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Attn: Historic Records
P.O. Box 550
Leesburg, VA 20178
703-737-8775
Email
Clerk-Archives@loudoun.gov

**THE MANAGER'S ORDER BOOK: Welcome to: Spring Edition of Little Gems**
By: Eric Larson

In early-March, the Clerk of the Circuit Court implemented new office procedures in response to COVID-19 to ensure the safety and health of his deputy clerks, our regular visitors and all Loudoun residents. To ensure the safety of our Historic Records staff and users, the clerk temporally closed the Historic Records and Deed Research Division. Historic Records is one of a few divisions in the clerk's office that does not have a glass enclosed counter, and much of our customer service is face to face and hands on with our patrons. The closure also includes the postponement of all upcoming First Friday events and programs.

Only the Historic Records public area is closed, but staff can still assist customers by phone and email. To that end, the Clerk temporarily closed the Historic Records museum areas to avoid the potential spread of COVID-19. Although online users cannot view the records, they are welcome to email Historic Records for more information and the cost for receiving copies. If you need copies, the clerk's office is now taking credit cards over the phone. The clerk's office is also offering remote access to our land records database for $20 a month. Remote access includes all the county's deeds and records dating to the county's formation in 1757.

To ensure the health and social distancing in the office, Historic Records staff is telecommuting. Working from home presented Historic Records the opportunity to create two large indexes. The first project is indexing the 1758-1786 Tithable-records. Although the Tithables are in book format (*Loudoun County Virginia Tithables 1758-1786;* by Marty Hiatt and Craig Roberts Scott) there is not a searchable online electronic index.

Constriction begins on Loudoun's new Courthouse. This lot was used for employee parking from 2007-2020. The lot before 2007 was home to the county jail.

The second project is indexing all the marriage licenses from 1969-1995. This is the most requested time period for marriages, because of the number of people filing for social security and the new Virginia Real ID driver's license.

The staff is also performing some special in-house indexing and inventory projects. This includes organizing our recently scan 1992-2004 Land Tax Records by towns and alphabetical by name. Another project is penciling in accession numbers and inventorying the number of loose papers in some of our larger collections of records.

A project that was recently finished was indexing the first female registered voters in Loudoun County in 1920-1921. 2020 was the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote. The names were indexed from one of the county's few remaining Poll Books from this time period.

Lastly, on April 6, 2020 construction of the new addition of the county's courthouse started. The structure will add another 95,000sq ft. to the existing courthouse complex.

Hopefully in the coming months we can once again get together for a Leesburg First Friday event at the courthouse. But for now stay safe and healthy, And Keep Calm and Read History!

**Dear Friends of the Clerk's Historic Records,**

This is the first time I have made an appearance in the Little Gems newsletter and hopefully it will not be the last. In light of the challenges we are all facing with COVID-19, I wanted to offer a message of hope to our readers. As I write this message, we are experiencing the highest level of known confirmed cases of COVID-19 according to the Loudoun County Health Department and the Emergency Operations Center. As of May 12, 2020 we have exceeded 1,200 confirmed cases. However, considering our current population, the rate of known cases is relatively low. Thankfully, our local hospitals have not been overrun and overwhelmed.

There is no doubt that this is a very aggressive virus and a major pandemic in Loudoun County, in our Commonwealth, in our nation and throughout the world. I believe we have been successful in containing the rapid spread of this virus in Loudoun because our local government officials, business leaders and residents have responded quickly and collaboratively to ensure we can do our best to suppress it. Regrettably and unfortunately, we have lost lives in Loudoun but the outcome could be much worse if we all had not taken the proper steps in social distancing and other protective measures to ensure our safety. Speaking of social distancing, this is certainly the term that best describes 2020 so far. Future generations will reflect on the history of 2020 and the terminology of "social distancing" will likely be the first words uttered when asked to recall something significant that occurred in 2020.

There are other numerous impacts on our lives as a result of COVID-19. We have all experienced significant impacts from this pandemic but our wonderful Loudoun community is motivated to act to offer a helping hand. The impact on our local economy has been devastating but thankfully the Loudoun County Economic Development Office, Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to provide support to our small businesses. Many of our local non-profit organizations have taken a real hit in typical donations but thankfully our local residents have found ways to support these non-profits so they can continue serving segments of our population who really need help right now. When some in our community have lost jobs and find it challenging to buy food or the next meal, some local leaders have pulled together to create a free meal pick up program in Leesburg.

I encourage our readers to continue taking proper precautions to ensure your safety and good health as well as considering the welfare of others in your community. While these are challenging times, these times also offer opportunities. Help those who are less fortunate and seek ways to safely lend a helping hand to your neighbors. Connect as best you can with your family and friends. While this era of social distancing limits our ability to connect in conventional face to face ways, there are other ways to stay connected temporarily until we can all return to some degree of normal socializing and gathering with family and friends.

I want to acknowledge and thank my very dedicated and committed team of deputy clerks. They are on the front lines of service to our Loudoun citizens and residents have been here with me each day during this pandemic crisis to ensure we continue serving our Loudoun residents faithfully according to the best of our ability. So, I dedicate this edition of the Little Gems to my very loyal and dedicated deputy clerks who are some of the best public servants in Loudoun County and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and thank you for being a faithful supporter of my efforts to preserve, protect and display our valuable historic records. Please be safe and support each other. We will indeed get through this pandemic together.

Honorable Gary M. Clemens, Clerk of the Circuit Court

**Take me out to the ballfield-In Ashburn** by Eric Larson

Ballfield in Lovettsville, Virginia , 1957

With many of us waiting in anticipation to watch the Nats go for two, and opening day being pushed back to July, I have included an 1898 Ashburn deed that mentions a baseball field on the property. The deed from John M. and Mary Adrain to W.W. Orrison dated August 8, 1898 *"... to contain fifteen to sixteen acres more or less"..."Said tract or parcel of land is the same that has been used...by the boys of Ashburn as a baseball ground."*

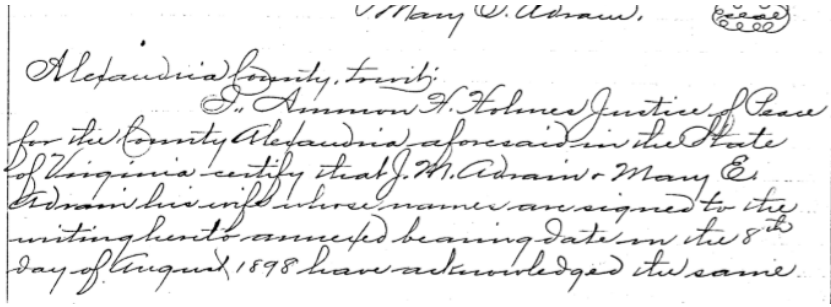
When the field was established and who used it cannot be determined by this deed. However, in 1886 the Farmwell (Ashburn) Eagles Baseball Club held a game between the Wellingtons of Prince William County and a team from Hamilton. When the teams arrived by train in Ashburn, they walked the railroad tracks from Ashburn Village to the baseball field a mile and half away. Wellington won 32-23! Both teams complained of the "unevenness of the grounds" which made it difficult to field balls.

Another documented game in Ashburn was in August 1888, when Lenah defeated the Farmwell Eagles 27-17. In the middle of the game, players from the Eagles disputed the umpire's calls. This must have been a heated exchange because the umpire refused to call the rest of game. Luckily another person stepped in to finish the contest.

Aldie High School Baseball Team, 1916 Loudoun County Baseball champions, Winslow Williams Photograph Collection (VC-003) 1925-1980
Courtesy of Thomas Balch Library

The first documented baseball game in Loudoun appears in the August 1869 newspaper, the Washingtonian. The game was played on August 21, 1869 between the Tuscarora team from Leesburg and the Magnolia team from Hamilton. The game was played in Hamilton and Tuscarora beat Magnolia 37-24! One of the players was shortstop John E. Benedum a Confederate veteran who was a drummer in the 8th Virginia regiment. The game became poplar during the Civil War, and it is possible that Benedum was introduce to the sport during his war time service.

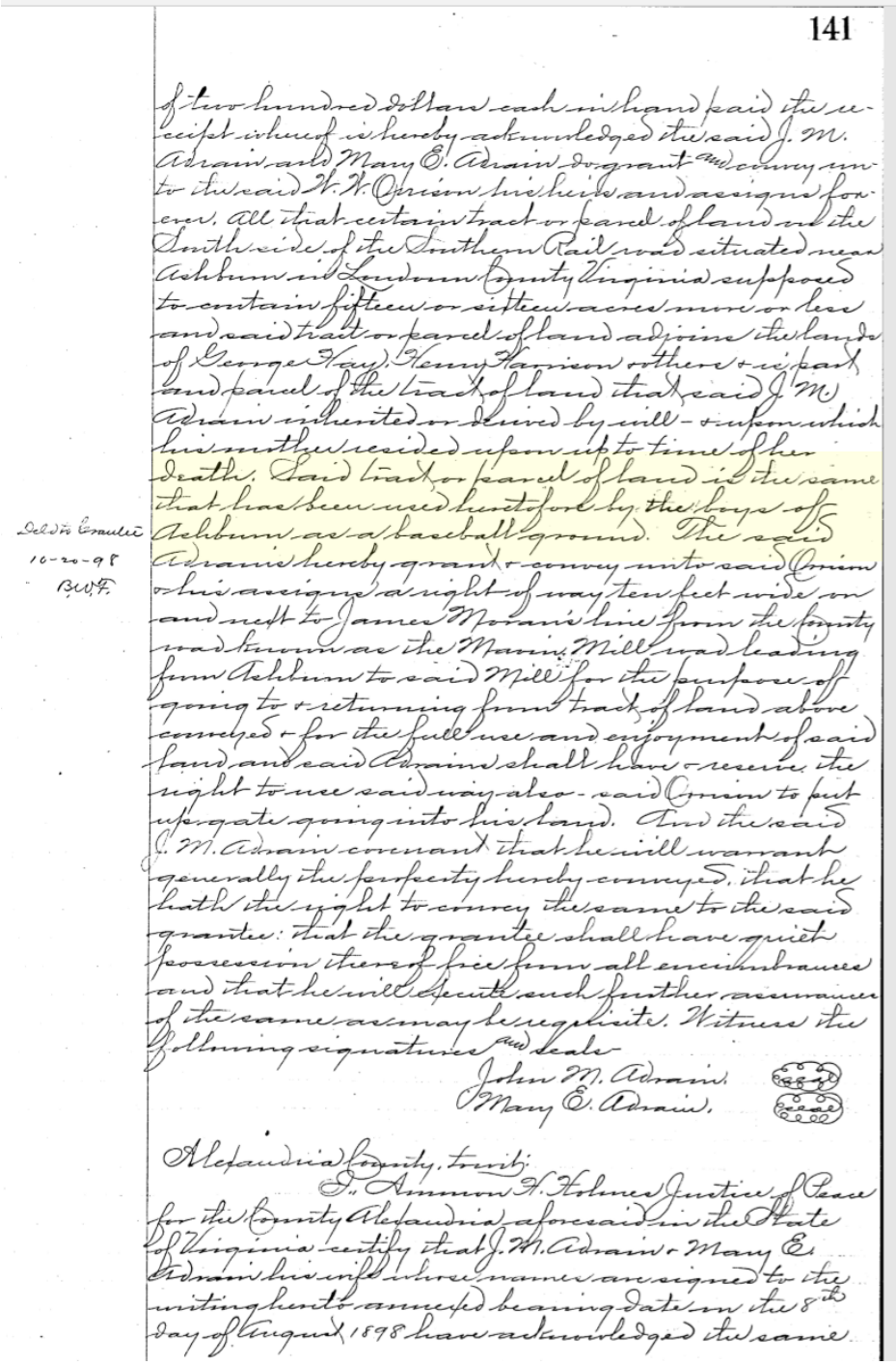
The history of baseball in Loudoun goes back to the Civil War, and by the 1900s Loudoun fielded teams and formed baseball clubs all-round the county. To learn more, read *A History of Loudon County Baseball 1869-1987*; by John Kelly Barrett. Besides learning about the teams and players, Mr. Barrett provides a wonderful history of the evolving baseball rules and equipment. His book also includes over 100 pictures and 200 box scores. For now, we can't watch baseball, but we can certainly read about it.



John M.Adrian to W.W.. Orrison,
August 8, 1898
Deed Book 7Q, 140-141

Mary E. Adrain. (seal)

Alexandria County, to wit:
I, Ammon H. Holmes Justice of Peace for the County Alexandria aforesaid in the State of Virginia certify that J. M. Adrain & Mary E. Adrain his wife whose names are signed to the writing hereto annexed bearing date on the 8th day of August 1898 have acknowledged the same



141

of two hundred dollars cash in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged the said J. M. Adrain and Mary E. Adrain do grant and convey unto the said W. W. Orrison his heirs and assigns forever. All that certain tract or parcel of land on the South side of the Southern Rail road situated near Ashburn in Loudoun County Virginia supposed to contain fifteen or sixteen acres more or less and said tract or parcel of land adjoins the lands of George Hay, Henry Harrison & others & is part and parcel of the tract of land that said J. M. Adrain inherited or derived by will - & upon which his mother resided upon up to time of her death. Said tract or parcel of land is the same that has been used heretofore by the boys of Ashburn as a baseball ground. The said Adrain's hereby grant & convey unto said Orrison & his assigns a right of way ten feet wide on and next to James Moran's line from the County road known as the Marvin Mill road leading from Ashburn to said Mill for the purpose of going to & returning from tract of land above conveyed & for the full use and enjoyment of said land and said Adrains shall have & reserve the right to use said way also - said Orrison to put up gate going into his land. And the said J. M. Adrain covenant that he will warrant generally the property hereby conveyed, that he hath the right to convey the same to the said grantee: that the grantee shall have quiet possession thereof free from all encumbrances and that he will execute such further assurances of the same as may be requisite. Witness the following signatures and seals -

Deld to Grantee
10-20-98
B.W.F.

John M. Adrain. (seal)
Mary E. Adrain. (seal)

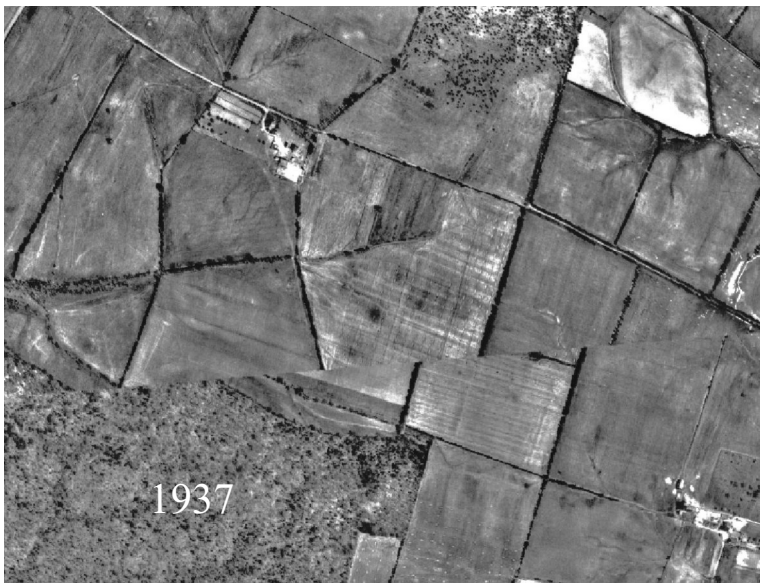
Alexandria County, to wit:
I, Ammon H. Holmes Justice of Peace for the County Alexandria aforesaid in the State of Virginia certify that J. M. Adrain & Mary E. Adrain his wife whose names are signed to the writing hereto annexed bearing date on the 8th day of August 1898 have acknowledged the same

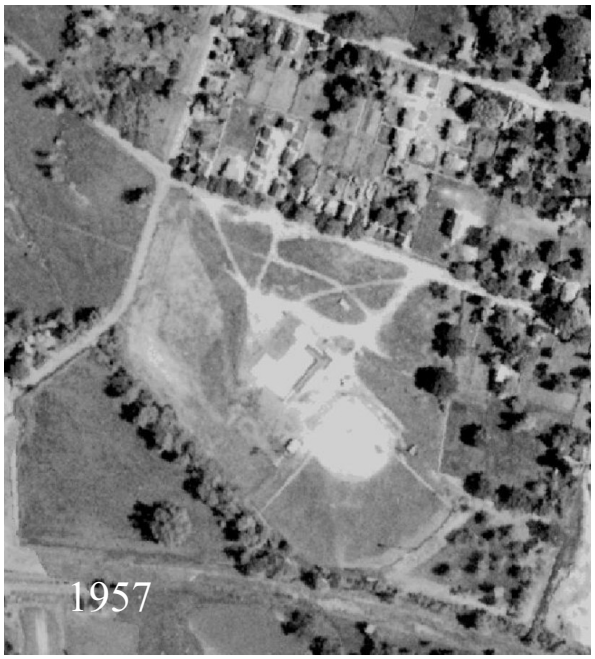
*"Said tract or parcel of land is the same that has been used…by the boys of Ashburn as a base-ball ground."*

## Aerial shots of Loudoun Baseball Fields: Past & Present

Fireman's Field, Purcellville, Virginia

Claude Moore Sports Complex, Sterling, Virginia






Baseball Field
215 South Loudoun Street Leesburg, Virginia

Leesburg Volunteer Fire Dept.,
215 South Loudoun Street Leesburg, Virginia

Baseball Field at Lucketts, Virginia

All aerial photographs are from the office of Loudoun Mapping and Geographic Information

*Ode to a Courtyard Spring*

*Owe how nice to see the courtyard so green*

*and all the buds and flowers bursting from their seams*

*Smell the blossoms and here to the birds sing*

*this is nature's gift of another courtyard spring*

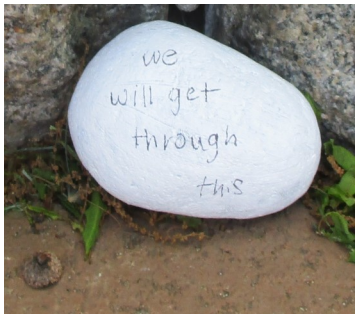
**For Future Generations: Establishing a Covid19 Special Collection in the Court's Historic Records**

On April 4, 2020, Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary M. Clemens directed the Historic Records and Deed Research Division to start maintaining a special record collection detailing the activities and operational modifications the clerk's office was undertaking in response to COVID-19 in Loudoun County.

This collection will include digital and paper documentation that reflects internal communications to/from Clerk Clemens and his management team as the office prepares, reviews and implements unique office procedures intended to protect the safety of employees and citizens during the COVID-19 outbreak in Loudoun County. This collection will also include various communications to/from Clerk Clemens and the Chief Judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit, other county agencies, other clerks of circuit court in Virginia and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Virginia Supreme Court. This special COVID-19 collection will include some of the following items:

- Photographs and short videos
- Emergency Orders from the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court
- Emergency Orders from the Chief Judge of the 20th Judicial Circuit
- COVID-19 Reports from the Loudoun County Emergency Operations Center
- Internal Clerk's Office Management Correspondence
- Minutes of COVID-19 Emergency Preparation Meetings
- Special Signage and Directional Information
- Information Technology Reports that describe new technology innovations
- Press Releases and Newspaper Articles

This special COVID-19 collection will offer future Loudoun residents a narrative of the challenges presented by COVID-19, how the Clerk and the management team fulfilled the Office's statutory obligations, and how the Office continued offering essential services to Loudoun's residents in unique and non-traditional ways. It is conceivable that a future Clerk of Circuit Court and the future Historic Records team will host a program on a First Friday in the historic Old Courthouse that displays these artifacts and records that tell the story of how the Office responded to a significant pandemic in 2020.




Above is one of the first artifacts in the Historic Records Covid-19 special collection. This painted rock was placed at the base of the Confederate statute. These painted rocks with a positive message are part of a poplar social media response to the pandemic. Many more of these rocks can be found on the courthouse grounds and throughout the Town of Leesburg.

**Harriet Scott and the Eckman Family**
By Alyssa Fisher

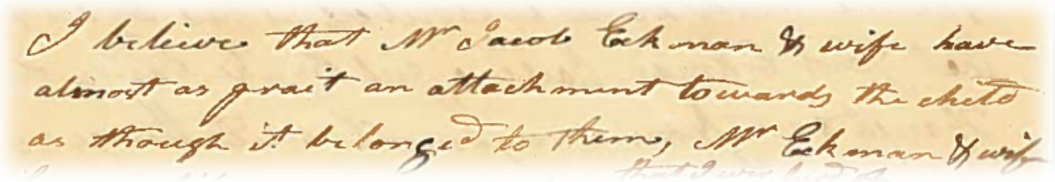
On May 12, 1834, John Earnest, Nelson Chamblin, William Grubb Jr., Amos Harvey, and William Clendening Sr. submitted a document to the Loudoun County court attesting to the good character of their neighbor Jacob Eckman. The purpose for their document involved the welfare of a child. While most documents binding out impoverished children read like a contract, Eckman's paperwork read more like an adoption.[1]

Jacob Eckman and his wife Ann married in Frederick, Maryland in 1821. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Loudoun where they took in a little girl about the age of two years old named Harriet Scott. According to an account written by William Clendening Sr., "the child's father was a strainger [sic] in this part of the country and was very poor and lost his wife, and since died himself." The Eckmans "took the child when about two years old," and raised her "very affectionately." Clendening stated that Jacob Eckman and his wife "have almost as grait [sic] an attachment towards the child as though it belonged to them." Clendening also noted that the Eckmans did not have any children of their own.[2]

By 1834, Harriet Scott had resided with the Eckmans for a span of eight years. The document submitted to the court, and a note about the case in the court order books, show that the court officially bound Harriet Scott to the Eckmans. In most cases, overseers of the poor, placed orphaned or impoverished children with families who could teach them a skill enabling the child to live on their own after a certain age. This particular case proved different, as the Eckmans became and remained more like parents to Harriet throughout her life.[3]

In 1844 Jacob Eckman proved the age of both Harriet Scott, and the man she chose to marry, Joseph Underwood. Joseph Underwood purchased four acres of land on the east side of the Short Hill about a mile south of Hillsboro. By 1850, Harriet and Joseph had four children, and both Jacob and his wife lived with them. By 1860, the household became a bit crowded. Harriet and Joseph had a total of 10 children including a set of twins. Jacob and Ann Eckman moved out of the home, but still lived in the Hillsboro area. Census records show they also had another child living with them named Thomas Bell. In 1870, Harriet and Joseph's household included an additional three younger children, though a few of the older children had married and moved out of the home. Ann Eckman died sometime in the 1860s, and Jacob Eckman remained in Hillsboro with two new people living with him; a lady named Bridgett Baine, who kept house, and John Baine who worked as a laborer, both originally from Ireland.[4]

As far as records show, Jacob Eckman remained in the Hillsboro area near Harriet and her family until he died sometime in the 1870s. Joseph Underwood died in 1899, while Harriet lived until 1902, both of whom can be found buried in the Hillsboro Cemetery. For Jacob and Ann Eckman, the paperwork to establish Harriet Scott as a "bound out child" in 1834 appeared as a mere formality. In their minds, Harriet Scott was already a part of their family.[5]


I believe that Mr Jacob Eckman & wife have
almost as grait an attachment towards the child
as though it belonged to them, Mr Eckman & wife

1 Scott, Harriet, 1834, Loudoun County Indentures & Bound Out Children, Loudoun County Clerks Office.
2 Marriage Record Jacob Eckman to Ann Bageant, Frederick County, MD, December 18, 1821, Maryland, Compiled Marriages, 1655-1850, Online Database, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); 1830 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p. 64, Jacob Ekeman, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); Scott, Harriet, 1834, Loudoun County Indentures & Bound Out Children, Loudoun County Clerks Office.
3 Scott, Harriet, 1834, Loudoun County Indentures & Bound Out Children, Loudoun County Clerks Office.
4 Joseph Underwood to Harriet Scott Marriage, 1844, Loudoun County Marriage Bond, Loudoun County Clerks Office; White, etc. to Underwood, Deed Book 4X p. 132, Loudoun County Clerks Office; 1850 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p. 506, Joseph Underwood, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); 1860 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p. 112, Joseph Underwood, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); 1860 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p. 106, Jacob Eckman, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); 1870 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p. 227 Jacob Eckman, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); 1870 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p.163, Joseph Underwood, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019).
5 1880 U.S. Census, Loudoun, Population Schedule, p. 15, Joseph Underwood, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed December 31, 2019); Joseph Underwood Will, Will Book 3P p. 44, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Harriet Underwood Inventory & Sale Bill, Will Book 3R p. 107-108, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | R | S | S | E | I | R | E | S | D | L | R | O | W | I | P |
| U | E | B | D | T | N | U | O | C | L | L | U | F | N | I | H |
| R | D | A | R | E | H | C | T | A | C | S | E | N | N | O | Z |
| V | N | S | B | S | S | A | B | B | O | S | I | C | M | L | O |
| E | U | B | S | D | S | E | E | A | A | N | H | S | L | B | E |
| B | O | S | A | A | L | B | D | B | G | H | L | A | I | L | B |
| A | R | D | B | K | O | L | T | N | I | L | B | L | B | I | S |
| L | G | D | C | E | P | U | A | T | O | Y | L | U | G | T | H |
| L | L | U | O | F | S | E | T | B | L | M | O | B | R | N | O |
| F | N | G | A | E | I | E | N | F | T | D | A | I | A | E | R |
| K | S | O | L | H | R | E | R | N | I | S | K | I | N | P | T |
| G | T | U | M | O | E | I | L | T | A | E | A | D | D | L | S |
| N | E | T | E | M | V | B | P | D | T | N | L | F | S | L | T |
| W | A | Z | O | T | L | E | B | M | N | T | T | D | L | U | O |
| B | L | H | P | I | T | C | H | T | U | R | E | B | A | B | P |
| M | B | E | R | O | C | S | X | O | B | S | R | A | M | V | X |

**Can you find these words in the puzzle above?**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BABE RUTH | DIAMOND | GLOVE | PENNANT |
| BASE | DOUBLE | GRAND SLAM | PINCH HITTER |
| BAT | DUGOUT | GROUNDER | PITCH |
| BOX SCORE | FAST BALL | HOME | SHORTSTOP |
| BULLPEN | FIELD | INNING | STEAL |
| BUNT | FLY BALL | KNUCKLEBALL | STRIKE |
| CATCHER | FOUL | OUT | UMPIRE |
| CURVEBALL | FULL COUNT | OUTFIELD | WORLD SERIES |

## A Future "Little Gem"

Gary Clemens administering the oaths of office to 25 fire and rescue graduates.

For the first time in Loudoun County's history, Gary Clemens, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, administered the oaths of office to 25 fire and rescue graduates from the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Training Academy. Recruit class 39 completed the program and the Loudoun Fire and Rescue Management conducted a graduation ceremony on April 24, 2020.

With social distancing still being implemented, no family and friends were able to attend the graduation program but family and friends were able to observe remotely via virtual online meeting programs. The fire and rescue graduates and all command staff with Loudoun Fire and Rescue Management Services were spaced at least 6 feet apart and each individual wore a face mask during the ceremony unless the speaker addressing the graduates was speaking or when a graduate was appearing for a quick photo during the ceremony while family watched from afar.

## 2020 PROGRAMS

We were hoping to offer some new and very unique programs in 2020 but COVID-19 has required us to modify our plans. Regrettably, the following programs will not be offered this year:

Courthouse and Grounds: 263 Years of Loudoun's Court Complex
Clerk's Office Tour of the Historic Records
An Evening on the Courthouse Grounds

**Courthouse and Grounds: 263 Years of Loudoun's Court Complex**
The upcoming expansion is just one of many additions to the courthouse complex in the last 263 years. Historic Records will exhibit court documents and artifacts exploring the history of the courthouse and grounds from 1757-present.

**Clerk's Office Tour of Historic Records**
208 W Market St Leesburg, Virginia 20176
Eric S. Larson, Historic Records Manager for the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office. He will discuss the extent of Loudoun County's records holdings, where to look for records of births, deaths, marriages, and deeds, and how to use these records in research. Attendees will need to pass through court security so the group will leave the library promptly at 1:45PM. Please contact the Thomas Balch Library to sign up for the tour.

**An Evening on the Courthouse Grounds**
Come join Historic Records' staff to tour the 1894 courthouse and historic grounds. Stations will be setup in the courthouse and grounds for visitors to learn about the history of Loudoun's three courthouses, memorials, events, markets and famous people to Loudoun's court complex since 1757.

**75th Anniversary of the end of WWII**
This is a partnership with the Loudoun's WWII Committee for an exhibition on Loudoun's contribution to the war effort. Details to follow in future editions.