A History of Printing in Arlington (Alexandria) County

By ROBERT NELSON ANDERSON

Although Jamestown in Virginia became in 1607 the site of the first English settlement in North America, there was no printing press of any sort in the Colony until 1682, and a permanent press was not established until 1730. In 1671 Sir William Berkeley, Virginia's royal governor, following the lead in the mother country where the press was under a strict interdict (Press Restriction Act which expired in 1693) except in London, York, and the two University towns, pointedly stated in his report to the Lords Commissioners of Foreign Plantations: "I thank God there are no free schools nor printing and I hope we shall not have these hundred years; for learning has brought disobedience, and heresy and sects into the world, and printing has divulged them * * * God keep us from both!" Eleven years later, however, Virginia was to have a printing press, and sixty years later the press was to be well established.1

In 1682, John Buckner, Gent., a merchant of Gloucester County and a large landowner, brought to the Colony William Nuthead and his press with the purpose of printing the laws of the General Assembly, which was begun at James City on June 8, 1680. A beginning was all that was made, for rumors of Buckner and Nuthead's work reached the Virginia Council, and an investigation of its extent was immediately instituted. On February 21, 1682-83, Buckner was called before Lord Culpeper (who had replaced Sir William Berkeley) and his Council for not getting his excellency's license; thereupon, he and his printer were ordered to enter into bond in the amount of £100 not to print anything thereafter "until his Majesty's pleasure should be known." However, his Majesty was not disposed to liberty of the press in the colonies and himself wrote Lord Francis Howard of Effingham, who had succeeded as Governor of Virginia, "to provide by all necessary orders and Directors that no person be permitted to use any press for printing upon any occasion whatsoever." There was, of course, no appeal from the King's order, and Buckner and Nuthead were forced to abandon any idea of continuing printing in Virginia. Buckner retired to the work of his plantations, but Nuthead left Virginia for more liberal Maryland, and by 1686 he was printing some of the official documents of that colony. Only a few sheets of the session laws mentioned in the Council records are known actually to have been printed in Virginia by Nuthead and none are known to exist today.

Conditional was substituted for absolute prohibition of the press in Virginia in 1690, when Howard was instructed that "No printers' press is to be used without the Governor's leave first obtained." But no attempt was made to reestablish the Virginia press until William Parks came from Maryland to Williamsburg in 1730. In that year he established the first permanent press.
in Virginia, two of his issues in that year, copies of which are still extant, being *A Charge to the Grand Jury* and *Typographia, an Ode, on Printing.*

Forty-four years after the beginning made by Parks at Williamsburg, or on June 9, 1774, Norfolk became the second printing point in Virginia with the establishment by William Duncan & Co. of the *Virginia Gazette or Norfolk Intelligencer.*

In 1780, the capital of Virginia was officially moved from Williamsburg to Richmond, and in the spring of the same year printing was introduced there when John Dixon and Thomas Nicholson moved their *Virginia Gazette* from Williamsburg. Richmond thus became the third place in Virginia to have a press.

In 1781 the Virginia Assembly had been forced by the British invasion to leave Richmond, and accordingly a temporary printing press was set up at Charlottesville by John Dunlap and James Hayes, Jr., lately of Philadelphia and Baltimore, respectively, in order to print the official documents of the May 1781 session. Charlottesville, therefore, became the fourth printing point in Virginia.

The fifth place in Virginia to have a printing press was the town of Alexandria. Before setting forth some of the details concerning its printers and their output, a short description of the town’s relation to and connection with the County of Alexandria would seem appropriate.

The town of Alexandria was established at Hunting Creek warehouse in Fairfax County in 1748. However, until 1779 the town had no formal government, being managed by a board of trustees. In that year the town was incorporated by the General Assembly with provision for a mayor, council, and other officials. The town of Alexandria together with additional land carved from Fairfax County composed the original area ceded by Virginia “to the United States for the permanent seat of the general government” (Ch. 32 of the Acts of Assembly of Virginia of 1789, p. 19). This area together with that ceded by Maryland equaled 10 square miles. The Acts of February 27, 1801, and March 3, 1801, U.S. Stat. at Large, Vol. 2, pp. 103, 115, by which Congress took jurisdiction over the ceded area, directed that it be known as the County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia.

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6 Hening, Statutes at Large, Vol. VI, p. 214.
8 Fairfax County was formed from Prince William County by the Act of the Assembly of Virginia of May 1742, effective December 1, 1742.
9 The charter for the town of Alexandria adopted by Congress on February 25, 1804 (see U.S. Stat. at Large, Vol. 2, p. 255) after its cession to the United States by the State of Virginia specified that its limits should be those prescribed by the Acts of Virginia. Although the charter was amended several times while Alexandria was in the District, no changes were made in the town boundaries. (See: A History of the Boundaries of Arlington County, Virginia, Office of the County Manager, 1957, pp. 14-19.)
COPY OF FRONT PAGE OF THE FIRST NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN THE TOWNS OF ALEXANDRIA AND ALEXANDRIA (OR NORTHERN VIRGINIA), ORIGINAL 9½" x 16", 4 PAGES. COURTESY OF THE "ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE."
By the Act of July 9, 1846, Congress receded the county including the town of Alexandria to Virginia. So long as the town remained such it continued to be a part of the County of Alexandria. However, in 1852 the town was chartered as a city (Ch. 358, Acts of Assembly of Virginia, 1852, p. 241), thus removing it from the County. In 1920, what remained of the original ceded area was given the name of Arlington. (See Acts of Assembly of Virginia, 1920, Ch. 241.)

Printing was introduced in the town of Alexandria in 1784 just after the colonies threw off the yoke of British rule and were developing a national consciousness. It had a steady growth. The importance of the book trade thus originated may be measured by the fact that Alexandria was the only town or city in Virginia represented in the country’s first book-trade catalogue published by the Boston Booksellers in 1804.\(^{10}\)

The first printing plant in Alexandria was established by George Richards & Co. at the corner of Princess and Fairfax Streets. That was the old part of town, near the site of Belhaven and the port at the foot of Oronoco Street where the tobacco ships first tied up. The first item off this press and consequently the first printed in northern Virginia appears to be “An Act for Opening and Extending the Navigation of the Potomack River,” with the colophon “Alexandria: Printed by George Richards & Company,” the act bearing the date January 4, 1784. An original copy of this act may be seen in the George Washington Papers of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.\(^{11}\) During the next month, or on Thursday, February 5, 1784, Richards published Vol. 1, No. 1, of the first newspaper to be published in the northern Virginia area. It was known as *The Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser* and was printed on four large folio pages “equal in size to any of the Pennsylvania and Maryland papers.” The *Journal* became the precursor of the present *Alexandria Gazette* published by Charles C. Carlin, Jr., and is generally accredited as being the oldest daily newspaper in the United States. In a courtly appeal, the *Journal* solicited the patronage of the townspeople to a weekly periodical at a price of 15 shillings per annum, payable in advance. Improvements in type and format were promised. Before it was a year old the *Journal* reported the meeting at Mount Vernon when delegates from Maryland and Virginia met with General Washington to settle a dispute between these states pertaining to the Potomac River. This conference resulted in the call for the Convention, first at Annapolis, then in 1787 at Philadelphia, which drew up the Constitution of the United States. Richards continued to publish the *Journal* until his death on July 4, 1789, when it was discontinued. Richards’s obituary appeared in the *Virginia Gazette* (Richmond) of Thursday, July 16, 1789, and in the *Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* on the next day. The latter obituary, throwing light on the character and ability of Richards, reads:

\(^{10}\) Carrol Hunter Quenzel, *Samuel Snowden, a Founding Father of Printing in Alexandria*, Charlottesville, Va., 1952.

\(^{11}\) In 1786 Richards & Co. also printed a voyage agreement form for use of the Sloop Polly. See Library of Congress Broadside Collection 179, No. 7a.
Alexandria, July 9.

Last Saturday morning died, in the prime of life, Mr. George Richards, of this town, Printer and one of the Editors of the Virginia Journal, etc.—He was a man eminently distinguished for his social and benevolent disposition, respected for his probity, and beloved for his honesty of heart.—Hasty was the summons which called him from this terrestrial scene;—as the day previous to his dissolution he was walking the streets, little suspecting the King of Terros to be so near at hand!—Every mark of respect due to the memory of a worthy and lamented citizen was paid his cold remains by his Masonic brethren,* and other inhabitants of this place, who attended his funeral on Sunday evening last.

Life's little stage is a small eminence,
Inch high the grave above; that home of man,
Where dwell the multitude; we gaze around;
We read their monuments; we sigh; and while
We sigh, we sink, and are what we deplore;
Lamenting, or lamented, all our lot!

* He was buried according to the custom of Royal-Arch Masons.

Hardly had the remains of George Richards been laid away before another or second weekly paper was established at Alexandria. This was the Virginia Gazette and Alexandria Advertiser begun July 30, 1789, by Samuel Hanson and Thomas Bond. They continued the paper at their office in Prince Street next door to Colonel Hooes until November, 1793, when Hanson went to Georgetown, across the river, and established the Columbian Chronicle there.¹² Beginning with the issue for October 21, 1790, the following motto was added to the masthead—"Oh! Thou, by whose Almighty nod the scale of Empire rises, or, alternate falls, send forth the saving virtues round this land!"

In 1789 Hanson and Bond printed a broadside in reference to the permanent residence of Congress and in 1791 another in reference to the sale of the estate of William Carr. (See Library of Congress Broadside Coll. 179, No. 15, and 180, No. 5, respectively.)

Alexandria's third paper was the Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette, established on November 21, 1792, by John Smith and Ellis Price at the east end of the Market House. With the September 7, 1793, issue the partnership was dissolved and Ellis Price became sole publisher. On December 23, 1793, the paper was changed from a semiweekly to a triweekly. In the fall of 1796 Henry Gird, Jr., was admitted to partnership under the firm name of Ellis Price and Henry Gird, Jr. There were several shifts in the management of the printing office during the next four years, with first Price and then Gird, and then both of them together, publishing the paper. Finally, with the issue of September 16, 1800, the paper was sold to William Fowler, who promptly (December 9, 1800) transferred it to Samuel Snowden and Matthew Brown, who had just begun the Alexandria Advertiser. One

¹² Charles Evans, American Bibliography, Vol. 7 (1786-1789) No. 22230 and Vol. 8 (1790-1792).
of the issues of the press under Price and Gird was *The Gentleman’s Political Almanac for 1796* ornamented with a head of George Washington. No copy of the Almanac is known to exist, but it was advertised in the *Columbian Mirror* for December 19, 1795. In 1797 Price and Gird printed *The Truth of the Bible Fairly Put to the Test of Confronting Evidences of its own Facts*, by John Fowler of Fairfax County, Va. A copy of this book is in the Library of Congress and is probably the first book printed in Alexandria now extant.

The seat of the government of the United States at this time was in Philadelphia. The capital of the nation was not established on the Potomac until 1800. Alexandria, however, was an important town of the Potomac Valley in 1795-96. Navigation was opened up the Potomac past Mount Vernon, and immediately the town began to grow. Jedidiah Morse reported in his *American Gazetteer* published in 1797 that Alexandria contained about 400 houses, many handsomely built, and a population of 2,748.

The fourth paper at Alexandria was the *Alexandria Times* or *The Times and Alexandria Advertiser*, a daily established in the spring of 1797 by John V. Thomas and James D. Wescott in a shop on Royal Street near the Coffee Shop (or five doors south of King Street). With the second issue Thomas retired and was replaced by John and James D. Wescott. With the issue of April 17, 1799, the title was altered to *The Times; and District of Columbia Daily Advertiser*. On May 3, 1802, the partnership of John and James was dissolved, and James continued the paper until the end of July, when he changed the title to *Columbia Advertiser*, a triweekly which did not last out the year.

Between the years 1798 to 1803, Thomas and Wescott, or John and James D. Wescott, or J. Wescott, individually, printed at least seven books or pamphlets, among which was a novel in two volumes by William Goodwin (1801) entitled *St. Leon—A Tale of the Sixteenth Century*.

As noted above, Samuel Snowden and Matthew Brown had just begun the *Alexandria Advertiser*, a daily newspaper, when William Fowler sold them the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* in 1800. The first issue of the *Advertiser* (its full title was *Alexandria Advertiser and Commercial Intelligencer*) was printed on December 8, 1800, in their office on King Street “a few doors above the Washington Tavern.” The “head” of the paper carried a likeness of George Washington because the publishers revered the “eminent virtues” and “admired the wise administration of the monu-

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15 The author of this article owns a number of imprints off the early Alexandria presses including this one.
mental patriot of Mount Vernon." Brown and Snowden had intended to publish the *Advertiser* in Washington rather than Alexandria, but after issuing one number at the capital they found adequate support lacking and went to Alexandria. With the issue of September 19, 1803, the title was changed to *Alexandria Daily Advertiser*. The paper continued with that title until July 11, 1808, when it became the *Alexandria Daily Gazette*. Brown retired in 1802, but Snowden remained as publisher. With the issue of September 21, 1812, the title was further changed to *Alexandria Gazette, Commercial and Political*, and with the issue of October 1, 1812, John Douglas Simms, a person eminently qualified for editorial work, was taken into partnership under the firm name of S. Snowden and J. D. Simms.

In the opinion of the publishers of the *Gazette* an attempt was made to burn its office on Thursday night, January 27, 1814, as the room in which a blaze was uncovered had neither candle nor fire in the fireplace. (See *Alexandria Gazette* of January 29, 1814.) Moreover, publication was suspended from August 23 to September 8, 1814, when Alexandria was attacked by the British forces.

With the issue of March 9, 1815, Samuel Snowden again became sole publisher. With the issue of May 14, 1817, the title was still further changed to *Alexandria Gazette and Daily Advertiser*. On October 1, 1819, the paper was nominally transferred to Samuel H. Davis to enable Snowden to concentrate on collecting debts owing him of five and ten years’ standing. However, on January 5, 1820, Snowden resumed his position as sole publisher and so continued the paper until after 1820. Feeling the need of new capital Snowden entered into a partnership (January 1, 1825) with Wm. Fitzhugh Thornton, Snowden’s third successive partner. By agreement the word Phenix was included in the masthead so that the title read *Alexandria Phenix Gazette*, but the word Phenix was abandoned following the termination of the partnership on July 1, 1828. Thereafter the paper had various titles such as *The Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser* and *The Alexandria Gazette*.

Samuel Snowden was born in Piscataway, N. J., in the historic year of 1776 and came to Alexandria in his youth. He remained in Alexandria, married on January 7, 1802, and reared a family. Unfortunately very little is known about his life prior to 1800. His wife was Anna Longden, daughter of John Longden who had served as a Revolutionary soldier with Lighthorse Harry Lee. Her grandfather Thomas Longden had lost his life, along with other Alexandrians serving with Washington in the Braddock campaign. Samuel Snowden himself became closely affiliated with the affairs of the city and was once an officer of the Washington Society. He rendered outstanding public service as secretary of the Committee on Health appointed by the

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17 McMurtrie, *supra*, pp. 34, 35; Brigham, *supra*, p. 63.
Common Council during the ravages of the yellow-fever epidemic in Alexandria in 1803.

It was Samuel Snowden who established the *Alexandria Gazette* firmly in the town, and he and his heirs published it for more than a century. Snowden abandoned active supervision of the paper in 1831 just before his death, and his son Edgar took over at the age of 21. Samuel Snowden's printing skill, however, was not devoted exclusively to newspapers. From 1801 to 1831 his imprint, either alone or in conjunction with his partners, appeared on approximately 43 volumes of speeches, sermons, poetry, letters, ordinances, articles of association, convention journals, and political and religious tracts. The list includes *Considerations on the Government of the Territory of Columbia* by Augustus B. Woodward, January 1802, which is of special interest because it refers to Alexandria as being in "the Territory of Columbia."

Young Edgar Snowden, a native of Alexandria and unhampered with the matter of inuring himself in a new society, quickly became an important figure in the life of his day. He served as mayor of Alexandria from 1839 to 1843, and after the town was receded to Virginia in 1846 he was elected to the Virginia legislature.18

The Snowdens finally bowed out as publishers in 1931,19 when the *Alexandria Gazette* was acquired by Congressman Charles C. Carlin. Mr. Carlin died on October 15, 1938, and was succeeded by his son Charles C. Carlin, Jr., the present publisher.

Another early Alexandria paper was the *Alexandria Expositor, and the Columbia Advertiser*, a triweekly, daily, and then semiweekly established on November 26, 1802, by Richard Dinmore and James Lyon, the latter being the most roving of early American printers. Lyon printed in an astonishing number of places, including at various times Rutland and Fairhaven, VT., New York City and Waterford, N.Y., Petersburg, Staunton, Richmond, and Alexandria, Va., Georgetown and Washington, D.C., Savannah, Ga., New Orleans, La., Carthage, Tenn., Mobile, Ala., and Camden, Cheraw, and Charleston, S.C. Lyon gave up his interest in the *Alexandria Expositor, and the Columbia Advertiser* early in 1805, but Dinmore continued it at Alexandria until 1807, when he removed it to Washington, D.C., and published it there for another two years. On March 4, 1805, the title was changed to *The Alexandria Expositor* and on November 14, 1805, it was further shortened to read *The Expositor*. In 1804 a pamphlet entitled *A Long Talk, Delivered before the Tammany Society of Alexandria, District of Columbia* at their first anniversary meeting of May 12, 1804, was printed at the *Expositor* office.

As John A. Reichmann, *Alexandria Gazette* staff writer, observed in the

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18 Quenzel, *supra.*
175th anniversary edition of that paper dated February 5, 1959, "Many newspapers not being the costly industrial establishments they are today were started, survived for a while, then died. Competition was keen; often violent. Some were started to give a man of means a place to voice his views or promote his interests. In the ensuing years great fortunes were made and sometimes lost, in journalistic ventures." In an article of this character it is not possible to elaborate upon all the newspapers that entered the Alexandria

CONSIDERATIONS
ON THE
GOVERNMENT
OF THE
TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA.

BY
AUGUSTUS B. WOODWARD.

No. VII.

"Hancque ascendebant collem, qui plurimus urbii
Iuminent, adorariaque aspectent discapre areos.
Miratur modum Amnis, mogdini quemdam;
Miratur portas, strepitumque, ac streata viarum.
Instant ardentes Tyriis; pars ducere maris,
Molivique arcem, et maxibus subvoluere saxa;
Pari aptare locum testis, et concluere sileto.
Jura, magistratique legunt, sanetumque senatum.
"O fortunatibus, quorum jam mania surgunt!"

ALEXANDRIA,
TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA:
Printed by S. Snowden & Co.—Sold by Rapine and by Stickney,
Washington, and Bishop, Alexandria, where the
previous numbers may be procured.
JANUARY,
1802.

COPY OF TITLE PAGE OF ONE OF THE EARLY BOOKS PRINTED IN THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA
(OR NORTHERN VIRGINIA). NOTE REFERENCE TO ALEXANDRIA AS BEING IN THE TERRITORY
OF COLUMBIA. PREVIOUS NUMBERS (I-IV) OF THIS WORK WERE PRINTED BY S. H. SMITH
IN "WASHINGTON, METROPOLIS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1801," AND NO. V BY GREEN &
ENGLISH IN "GEORGETOWN, TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA, 1801." ORIGINAL 5" X 8½".
town scene before it ceased, upon its incorporation as a city in 1852, to be a part of Alexandria County. Only what appears to be the more important of them have been discussed above. Nevertheless, despite what seems to be their lesser stature, the other known newspapers and periodicals that existed during the period prior to incorporation as a city should at least be listed. They are:

The Alexandria Herald, semiweekly and triweekly, 1811-1826, John Corse and N. Rounsavell, later N. Rounsavell and Henry Pittman.


Columbian Telescope and Literary Compiler, weekly, 1819-1820, Samuel H. Davis.

Republican and Alexandria Commercial and General Advertiser, triweekly, 1829, Violet and Keatings.

Signs of the Times, weekly, 1833-1839, Gilbert Beebe.

Alexandria Advocate, triweekly, 1840, James A. Payne.

The Index, semiweekly then triweekly, 1841-42, Jesse E. Dow, John M. Johnson.

One of the outstanding printing firms of the early Alexandria period was Cottom & Stewart, which carried on its activities on Royal Street. This firm differed from the other presses mentioned above in that as far as is known it did not print a newspaper. However, from 1801 to 1823 at least 31 books and pamphlets were printed or published by it or by John A. Stewart individually, apparently the first of these being Political Essays, Relative to the War of the French Revolution by James Workman, Esq. (1801). Cottom & Stewart maintained bookstores in Alexandria and Fredericksburg.

With the passing of Samuel Snowden & Co. and Cottom & Stewart the period of the printing of large numbers of books and pamphlets in Alexandria seems to have come to an end. For example, the known book and pamphlet printers, other than those mentioned above, which plied their trade in the town of Alexandria before the incorporation date of 1852, and the approximate number of books and pamphlets with which each are credited, are as follows: Duane & Son, 1805 (one); John Winter, 1813 (one); Benj. L. Bogan, 1816-1818 (three); J. Corse and N. Rounsavell, and Henry Pittman, 1815-1826 (four); John B. Bell, 1823 (one); Samuel H. Davis, 1819-1820 (seven); John Shaw, Jr., 1822 (one); Wm. Greer, 1834 (one); and Southern Churchman Office, 1843-1845 (two).

As the century unfolded and the nation expanded and prospered a ferment was working in the land. Inventions such as the cotton gin changed regional needs. New England industry and the agricultural lands in the South no longer saw eye to eye. Abolitionism spearheaded by such men as John Brown became a frenzied cause in the North and created many political problems. America’s great travail was at hand.

In 1861 Alexandria County comprised that part of the old District of Columbia which derived from Virginia and which in 1846 was receded to

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20 Cappon, supra; Union List of Newspapers, Library of Congress.
Virginia, less, however, the town of Alexandria, which in the interim had become a city and accordingly was no longer a part of the County. The population of both the City and the County was about 13,000, more than one-fifth Negro. Of this total only 2,000 persons lived in the County. Because the County had such a small population it is not surprising that as far as is known no printing press was established therein until long after the war years—as a matter of fact until almost the turn of the new century.

While, as indicated above, Alexandria City was no longer a part of Alexandria County, nevertheless, because of its importance and close proximity to the County, the war press of the City will be briefly referred to.

On May 23, 1861, the people of Virginia voted on secession. On the evening of the very same day orders were given for the Federal troops in Washington to enter upon the “sacred soil of the Old Dominion.” Entrance was effected along four lines—by steamer down the Potomac to Alexandria, by Long Bridge, by the Aqueduct in Georgetown, and by Chain Bridge. By evening of May 24, 1861, all the Confederate troops had been withdrawn from Alexandria City and the adjacent territory.

In the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the war R. M. Smith and J. W. Finks published the Virginia Sentinel (1853-1861) first as a tri-weekly and then as a daily. In their first issue they announced that “on all sectional questions we are Southern,” and they maintained a strong state-rights attitude thereafter. Being “too fully committed to the cause of Virginia independence” the editors upon the occupation of Alexandria by the Federal troops escaped on June 6, 1861, to Warrenton, Va.

With the flight of the Sentinel’s editors, The Alexandria Gazette was the only voice of the South remaining in the area, and the Snowdens (Edgar and his sons, one of whom was Edgar, Jr.) sounded it. They continued under the bayonets and gibes of the occupation forces to report hostilities. However, telegraph communications were denied the publishers and Alexandria had become stagnated economically, which added further to the difficulties of getting out a paper. In the summer of 1861, the Gazette was suppressed by the Federal authorities.

Beginning with October 7, 1861, however, Edgar Snowden, Jr., ran a one-sheet paper, The Local News, at the Gazette plant on Prince Street opposite the present No. 1 firehouse in a building now devoted to apartments. But on February 10, 1862, the office was burned by the Federal soldiers in retaliation for Edgar, Jr.’s alleged hostile account of the ejectment of Rev. K. J. Stewart from St. Paul’s Church by the military.

On May 13, 1862, Edgar, Jr., revived the Alexandria Gazette, establishing its office at 104 King Street over Stone’s (formerly French’s) Bookstores.

22 Paullin, ibid.
23 Cappon, supra.
24 Cappon, ibid.
But in July 1863, he was ordered by the military authorities to leave the City. This order, however, was quickly revoked and he was permitted to return to "the small establishment which alone is left to us, out of all we once possessed." (Alexandria Gazette of July 8, 1863.) Edgar, Jr.'s father resumed the editorship in 1865.

There were several more or less short-lived newspapers including one of two published by soldiers which also appeared in Alexandria during the War period. There were:

The Soldiers Journal, published February 1864-May 1865, at the Rendezvous of Distribution for Alexandria; R. A. Cassidy, editor and publisher, and Amy M. Bradley, proprietor; published at Augur General Hospital, June 1865—July 1865; Thos. V. Cooper and William P. Griffith, editors.

Cripple (U. S. General Hospital), weekly, October 8, 1864—April 15, 1865.
The admission of West Virginia to separate statehood in April, 1863, left in existence the so-called Restored Government of Virginia which attempted to exercise jurisdiction over such portion of the remaining territory of Virginia as came under the permanent control of the Union armies and was not “ruled” by Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. Francis H. Pierpont was Governor. From first to last the area thus administered by him was small. At no time did it comprise more than the City and County of Alexandria, the counties of Fairfax and Loudoun, the Eastern Shore, and the region in and about Norfolk. Alexandria City, again under Federal jurisdiction, became the capital of this area which had refused to secede with the Richmond government.

The official documents of the Restored Government were apparently printed by two separate presses which had been set up in Alexandria. For instance, in 1864, D. Turner, termed “Printer to the State,” printed the Constitution of the State of Virginia and The Ordinances adopted by the Convention which Assembled at Alexandria on the 13th day of Feb. 1864, while in 1865, he printed the Journal of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia for the Session of 1864-65. In 1864, the “State Journal” Print, No. 12 Royal Street, turned out the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, passed at the Regular Session commencing December 7, [1863] in the 88th year of the Commonwealth, and in 1865 the same print shop printed the Acts passed at the Regular Session commencing December 5, 1864.

As indicated above, the first printing press in what is now known as Arlington County (name changed in 1920 from Alexandria County) apparently was not established therein until almost the turn of the twentieth century. In 1907 the principal towns in this area were Falls Church (which lay in both Alexandria and Fairfax Counties), Ballston, Fort Myer Heights, Clarendon, Rosslyn, Addison Heights, Braddock, Del Ray, and St. Elmo. Falls Church was chartered as a town by the General Assembly on March 30, 1875, and its territory extended into the northwest corner of the then Alexandria County. After Arlington had adopted the county manager form of government, the residents of so much of the town of Falls Church as lay within the boundaries of the County filed a petition in the Circuit Court (July 7, 1932) seeking to have the town’s charter amended to reduce its limits to that portion which lay in Fairfax. This petition was granted July 17,
1935, but the decree did not become final because of an appeal until April 30, 1936.

The town of Falls Church had a press at least as early as 1885, and it produced the *Virginia Register*, a weekly independent newspaper established by William Taylor of Alexandria County ancestry who also served as editor. This newspaper was printed in a building to the rear of the Star Tavern, which was on the site of the Falls Church Bank of today. The prominent clergyman and historian Rev. Melvin Steadman of Fairfax County has a copy of the issue of Saturday, December 5, 1885 (Vol. I, No. 26), said to be the only one extant. In 1886 Mr. Taylor was succeeded by I. N. C. Cole as publisher. The name of the paper was then changed to *Home and Farm*
Register. Sometime between 1887 and 1900 its publication was terminated.\textsuperscript{30}

In 1895 Edwin F. Rorebeck, a well-known Alexandria and Fairfax County real-estate operator, established \textit{The Falls Church News}, which was edited and published by C. J. Ziegler and Rorebeck, 1895-97; by Rorebeck, 1897-98. Mr. Steadman has a copy of the June 25, 1898, issue.\textsuperscript{31}

Just about this time (1897-1901 (?)) James W. Yates published at Fort Myer Heights what is believed to be the first newspaper printed in what is now Arlington County. It was known as the \textit{Pantagraph}, a weekly independent. Senator Frank L. Ball, a former President of the Arlington Historical Society, recalls seeing copies of this paper. Also Mr. Yates is supposed to have published in the town of Clarendon the \textit{Alexandria County Journal}, also a weekly independent, during the years 1897-1902, but no copy of this paper has been located.\textsuperscript{32}

While the \textit{Pantagraph} was being published in Fort Myer Heights and the \textit{Alexandria County Journal} supposedly in Clarendon, the \textit{Falls Church News} referred to above was sold by its owners and it became the \textit{Falls Church Monitor}. The new \textit{Monitor} was published as a Republican weekly from 1898 to 1903 under the editorship of Merton E. Church (1859-1932), a native of Vermont, who came to Virginia about 1877. Mr. Church was a druggist and realtor. From 1903 to 1905 the \textit{Falls Church Monitor} was edited (probably as a Democratic paper) by R. C. L. Moncure, a prominent attorney and realtor who died in November 1918.\textsuperscript{33} Part of the edition during these years was printed under the name \textit{Alexandria County Monitor}, East End and Overlook. In about 1906 the plant was moved to the town of Rosslyn. Here it was issued (1906-09) as \textit{The Alexandria County Monitor} (Democratic) by Frank Lyon, also an outstanding lawyer and realtor, who came to the County in 1889;\textsuperscript{34} by W. E. Weaver, 1909-1913; by John Lyon, 1913-16; by Frank Lyon 1916-18, proprietor, who leased it to Weaver. During the years 1918-1928, the paper was edited by Weaver under the title \textit{The Monitor}. In about April of the latter year it was sold by Lyon to C. H. Greathouse, owner of the Rosslyn \textit{Commonwealth} who in turn sold both papers in September 1928 to William Harrison Lamb, who consolidated them to form \textit{The Commonwealth Monitor}.\textsuperscript{35}

\textsuperscript{30}Cappon, \textit{supra}, Item 462; Cappon also lists two earlier newspapers in Falls Church (Items 461 and 466). These are \textit{The Advertiser}, 1878, weekly, edited by D. W. Whiting, and the \textit{Morning Sun}, 1884-1885 (?), weekly, published by Morning Sun Co. in Falls Church and Washington, D.C. However, no copies of these asserted printings have been presently located.\textsuperscript{31}Cappon, \textit{supra}, Item 464.

\textsuperscript{32}Cappon, \textit{supra}, Items 301 and 502.

\textsuperscript{33}On March 1, 1902, Oliver H. Davis and Burruss E. Williams owned the Monitor Printing Co.

\textsuperscript{34}In G. G. Boteler et al., \textit{A Brief History of Alexandria County}, Falls Church, Va., 1907, p. 46, \textit{The Alexandria County Monitor} is referred to as the only paper then being published in Alexandria County and as covering all the County and the lower part of Fairfax, circulation 1,000.

\textsuperscript{35}Cappon, \textit{supra}, Item 1462.
COPY OF PORTION OF FRONT PAGE OF FIRST EDITION OF THE FOUR-PAGE "COMMONWEALTH," ONE OF THE EARLIEST COUNTY-WIDE NEWSPAPERS PRINTED IN WHAT IS NOW ARLINGTON COUNTY. ORIGINAL OWNED BY THE REV. MELVIN STEADMAN OF FAIRFAX COUNTY; 18" X 25". (SEE PAGE 24.)
Simultaneous with the printing of the Alexandria County Monitor, East End and Overlook in Falls Church, O. Edw. Haring, then 18 years old and son of Oscar Haring, who operated a general store in the village of Barcroft, was editing and publishing “occasionally” The Barcroft News. The first number of the News, a little four-page affair with the comings, goings, doings, and ailments of the small Barcroft community, was probably issued in June 1903, and its publication continued for about a year. Edward was assisted by Milton B. Payne, also of Barcroft and a very small boy at the time.\textsuperscript{36} Thus it appears that the News was the third news item printed in what is now Arlington County.

A few years later, or in 1908, S. B. Shaw established and edited in East Falls Church (Arlington County) a newspaper with the name The Press. A copy of Vol. II, No. 21, dated November 26, 1909, is owned by Mr. Steadman. Mr. Shaw apparently ceased publishing The Press sometime in 1910.

On Friday, January 21, 1910, Vol. I, No. 1, of The Commonwealth was issued in East Falls Church.\textsuperscript{37} It was to be printed every Friday by the newly formed Rule-Weir Printing Co., which had just purchased the excellent printing plant of the Newell Printing Co. owned by George M. Newell, hereinafter referred to. The Rule-Weir Co.'s office was located in a building on the south side of the railroad tracks on Washington Street in East Falls Church, which also housed the real-estate office of A. H. Barbour. A. D. Torreyson of the Falls Church (later Rosslyn) Milling Corporation was named president; Golden Rule, vice president and general manager; George M. Newell, secretary; and Tasker M. Weir, treasurer. Mr. Newell was also to serve as editor. On April 22, 1910, The Commonwealth was published by the Commonwealth Company, Inc., of Alexandria County instead of the Rule-Weir Printing Co. By October 8, 1910, The Commonwealth had moved to Rosslyn, where Vol. I, No. 37, was issued with William H. Gaines, attorney at law of Rosslyn, as editor. Mr. Gaines was followed in the editorship by Tasker M. Weir. In 1914 C. H. Greathouse bought a half interest in the paper, and he became sole owner in 1917. From 1917 to 1920 The Commonwealth was edited and published every Saturday by Mary C. Greathouse. Its masthead called it the “leading paper of Alexandria County.” (See Vol. XI, No. 30, of Saturday, July 24, 1920.) By October 20, 1923, the editor and publisher was Minnie Kendall Lowther. In September 1928, as noted above, it was sold, along with the Rosslyn Monitor, to William Harrison Lamb, who consolidated them to form The Commonwealth Monitor. The editors of the consolidated papers were Roger D. Wharton and Mr. Lamb.\textsuperscript{38}

\textsuperscript{36} Mr. Haring now runs the Chrysler Auto Agency at New Orleans, La.

\textsuperscript{37} However, Lester J. Cappon in his Virginia Newspapers, 1821-1935 shows under Item 1460—The Commonwealth (1908-1928) as having been established and published in 1908 in Falls Church, Va., as a semi-weekly by R. C. L. Moncure and Tasker M. Weir, and that it was edited by William H. Gaines until about 1912, when Weir moved the paper to Rosslyn and changed the issue to weekly. No copies of these asserted printings, however, have been located.

\textsuperscript{38} Cappon, supra, Items 1460 and 1461.
The issue of Saturday, February 2, 1935, Vol. XXXVII, No. 10, showed the paper’s office as being at No. 5 Rucker Building, Clarendon, and stated in its masthead that it was “the oldest newspaper in Arlington County.”

During September 1920, The Chronicle was established as a weekly Republican paper by Thomas D. Bailie of Rosslyn (The Chronicle Publishing and Printing Co.), who served as editor until 1923 when the paper became independent. The Chronicle was then edited by Mr. Bailie and John G. Dudley until 1926 and by Mr. Bailie alone from 1926 to 1927 (?). During this period (ca. 1924-1926) the paper was managed by John Warner and James R. Roberson. In the meantime The Chronicle once more supported the Republicans. From February 1928 (or earlier) to March 1929 the paper was published by Harry N. Douthitt and was edited by Capt. Crandal Mackey beginning with June 1929. Robert I. Black served as published from December 9, 1932, to December 1933. The issue of Friday, September 22, 1933 (Vol. 15, No. 49), published at Clarendon, shows Crandal Mackey as president and editor, Robert I. Black as publisher, and William B. Everts as manager. The masthead stated that The Chronicle was “the only newspaper” then being “printed, published and edited in Arlington County—A growing city of more than 35,000 population” and further it was “The Home Newspaper of Arlington County, Virginia—overlooking the Potomac River and the Nation’s Capital.”

During the nineteen twenties and thirties several other newspapers were published in Arlington County. These, however, for the most part were short lived. For instance, The Observer (no copy known) is said to have been issued for approximately one year at Rosslyn as the continuation of the Herndon Observer (est. 1903), which became the News Observer in 1924. The Rosslyn Observer was edited by Minnie Kendall Lowther.

In May 1929, Arthur Orr, a prominent and courageous civic leader of the County, established and published for about a year The Arlington Times, a weekly newspaper. Also, on Friday, April 10, 1931, Vol. I, No. 8, of The Virginia Tribune was issued, but the publisher, editor, and extent of publication of this newspaper are not presently known.

On July 29, 1932, The Arlington County Record, a weekly independent, was initiated. It was edited by E. R. Laney until June 23, 1933, when it was merged with The Independent Record of Fairfax. Complete copies of The Independent Record are said to be available at the Fairfax County Court House.

39 Captain Mackey came to Alexandria County in 1896, having been born in Shreveport, La., and raised in Chester, S.C. As a 32-year-old lawyer he succeeded in cleaning up Alexandria County by wiping out the gaming houses, saloons, and race tracks located therein. This was after he had been elected Commonwealth’s Attorney by a margin of two votes.

40 Cappon, supra, Items 304, 1459.

41 Cappon, supra, Items 642 and 1463.

42 Cappon, supra, Item 303.

43 The author’s collection of Alexandria and Arlington County newspapers includes the first page of this issue.

44 Cappon, supra, Item 302.
The Sun apparently was first issued at East Falls Church in December 1935 (Vol. I, No. 13, is dated March 5, 1936). It was published by the Sun Press Corporation every Thursday "as a newspaper for Arlington and Fairfax Counties." Paul W. Ferris was publisher, Thomas A. Deffron, Jr., editor, and Loren B. Pope associate editor. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., bought control of The Sun in April 1936. In the fall of that year he built a printing plant on Wilson Boulevard where The Sun was published beginning in November 1936.45 In June 1951 Mr. Bloomer sold the paper to Charles Carlin, Jr., of the Alexandria Gazette. Thereafter, it was published every afternoon except Sunday as The Daily Sun, printed in Alexandria at the Gazette plant, but maintaining a business office at 1224 North Hartford Street across from the Baptist Church. The masthead of the issue of Friday, April 15, 1955 (Vol. XIX, No. 225), stated that it was Arlington County's only daily, and it also carried the familiar quotation from John 8: 32—"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make ye free." In April 1957 Mr. Carlin sold The Daily Sun, and its name was changed by the new proprietors to Northern Virginia Sun. On April 15, 1957, the first issue of the latter paper (Vol. XXI, No. 222) was printed in a new plant located at 3409 Wilson Boulevard. This issue promised that the readers "will benefit at once from the change for the new plant will make it possible to provide a more complete and up-to-the-minute news report." Those interested in the publication of the new Sun, an independent daily, were listed as Philip M. Stern, Arnold Sagalyn, and Clayton Fritchey.

As noted previously the production of books and pamphlets in the area of old Alexandria County fell off considerably with the passing of Samuel Snowden and the firm of Cottom & Stewart many years before the town of Alexandria was incorporated as a city. Actually the only noteworthy book publishing that took place before the present decade in what is now Arlington seems to be a three-volume work entitled Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia compiled by Lyman Chalkley, published by Mary S. Lockwood and printed about 1912 at Rosslyn by the Commonwealth Co. However, another item printed just over the border from what is now Arlington should be mentioned because of its importance. It is one of the few histories of the County and is entitled A Brief History of Alexandria County, Virginia. Its wealth and resources, great and growing industries, educational and social advantages. This little book was published under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors by G. G. Boteler, Crandal Mackey, M. E. Church, W. S. Hoge, Jr., C. B. Haller, Committee, and was printed by the Newell Printing Co. (previously referred to), which was owned by George M. Newell and his son Joseph H. Newell. The actual

45 Under date of August 30, 1946, Mr. Bloomer included a "Centennial Magazine Section" in his The Sun of that date to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Proclamation of President James Polk whereby, pursuant to an Act of Congress, Alexandria was reeded to Virginia. This magazine section contains invaluable historical material pertaining to Arlington County.
printing took place in the senior Newell’s garage attached to his home place located across the street from the Crossman Methodist Church in Falls Church. Later the press was moved to East Falls Church, i.e., to the north side of Lee Highway near the railroad tracks and in the same block as the present Brown’s Meat Market. George Newell was also editor of the *Village Press* published in Falls Church (1904-1906). His son currently operates the Newell-Cole Co., Inc., a successful printing firm of Alexandria City.

Thus ends the history of printing in Arlington (Alexandria) County, ferreted from the sometimes dim and not too reliable evidences of the past. Space has not permitted a treatment of the County’s commercial printers of the present decade (some of whom have had distinguished careers) or a listing of the books or pamphlets they may have produced. This must be left to a future chronicler.

“...It is to be hoped that local groups in other parts of the country who are interested in sponsoring constructive projects in connection with the forthcoming Civil War Centennial will take note of this exemplary contribution of General Patch and his associates in the Loudoun County Historical Society.”

From a review by Bell I. Wiley of “The Battle of Ball’s Bluff,” by Joseph Dorst Patch, in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.*