

# The Village Way

December 2002 - January 2003

Vol. 35. No. 3

## A Virginia Village Goes To War

After almost 140 years, there is now a published history of Falls Church throughout the years of the Civil War. *A Virginia Village Goes to War: Falls Church during the Civil War*, by local author and Village Society member Bradley E. Gernand, has just been published.

Falls Church and its adjacent and very strategic hills, was occupied by the Confederate army early in the war. From Falls Church it threatened the safety and security of Washington, and made international headlines. After the Confederates withdrew the Union army occupied the village, but never managed to secure it completely against the Confederate scouts and raiders who continued operating there through the close of the war.

*A Virginia Village Goes to War* presents the history of a people and a place. Previously unknown skirmishes, battles, raids, and disasters are brought to life here for the first time since that conflict. The book is lushly illustrated with over 300 photographs, lithographs, drawings, maps, and cartoons, but does not skimp on substance: 120,000 words of originally researched text, much of it unknown until now, is included.

Author Brad Gernand has generously donated the copyright and all proceeds from the sale of the book to the Village Society (3000 copies have been printed; we need to sell 1500 copies to break even). The book will make a wonderful addition to your library, and is a great holiday gift. You can order copies of the book from the Society using the order form found on page 5 of this newsletter. The book is also available at Greenscape, Hole in the Wall Books, Old Market Antiques, Old House Antiques, and Barnes & Noble's Seven Corners store, and on amazon.com and eBay.



### Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

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*Two Falls Church Men who  
joined Col. Mosby's raiders.*

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***President's Message***

The members of the Board of Directors and I look forward to another excellent year for the Village Society in 2003. The past year was a very successful one for the Society. We continued to sponsor the popular Concerts in the Park and Home Concert series. We also held a terrific Attic Treasures sale in May in the refurbished Community Center gym, and continued our support for the Neighborhood Tree program that helps to maintain the City's beauty and tree canopy. We had a very pleasant Progressive Dinner fundraising event last February, and look forward to the next one. We also held our annual July 4 patriotic readings, led by Lou Olom, again attended by a full house at the Council Chambers. We sent a number of memoranda to the City Council this year, providing the Society's views on City matters of significant interest to us and importance to the City. We also helped citizens preserve a historic building, Dr. Smallwood's office located at Green Gables on Lincoln Avenue. The small building was the office for the doctor who serve much of this area in the early part of the 1900s, and citizens, with our support, convinced the City to preserve the house. It will soon be placed on a permanent public site.

We also are helping to sponsor the publication of Brad Gernand's terrific new book, "*A Virginia Village Goes to War: Falls Church During The Civil War.*" This outstanding publication is a wonderful addition to the history of the City, and one in which the Society, and particularly Brad, can take enormous pride. We all need to help to publicize the book and make sure sales continue.

While we anticipate that we will continue all these activities, it is also clear that we need new ideas and new projects to sponsor. While we have been very successful in recent years in raising funds, we have been less successful in spending them, and we need our membership to help us create new projects that will beautify the City and help maintain its sense of history and community. I have no doubt that the Society can continue to be a significant, forward-looking organization in Falls Church, and the Board and I look to the membership to help the Society do so. Please contact any of the Society's Officers or Board of Directors with your ideas and suggestions, and have a wonderful new year.

Sincerely,  
Mark Gross

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society, founded in 1885, is an active nonprofit citizen volunteer organization in the City of Falls Church, Virginia. Send comments, questions or letters to the Editor at: Village Preservation and Improvement Society, P.O. Box 6824, Falls Church, VA 22040

## Celebrate Falls Church's 5th Annual Downtown New Year's Eve Watch Night

Village Society members, friends, neighbors and colleagues are invited to share in the City of Falls Church's unique, free community **New Year's Eve festivity** from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight on December 31, 2002 at the crossroads of Broad and Washington Streets. Described as a scene from "It's A Wonderful Life," citizens celebrate the holiday cheer by seeing old friends, hearing and watching local entertainers, and roaming from one gathering place to another. Musicians, magicians, actors, films, caricaturists, fortune tellers, and others provide entertainment and comradery for all. The Village Preservation and Improvement Society is a primary sponsor of this event and one of the initiators in 1998. Society members are encouraged to volunteer to help with the event, as well.

One block of West Broad Street will be closed to traffic, providing celebrants the only annual opportunity to walk down the middle of Broad Street. A Moon Bounce will be set up on the street, along with an outdoor stage that will be available as a public mike for would be singers, actors, or comedians. Indoors are the following venues:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 2 Swing Dance Bands -<br/>Northern Lights Band and the<br/>Falls Church Swing Ensemble</li> <li>* 2 Blues Dance Bands - King Bee plus<br/>Danny Blew and the Blues Crew</li> <li>* Rockabilly Dance Band - '52 Pickup</li> <li>* Bluegrass Band - Randy Barrett &amp;<br/>The Barretones</li> <li>* African drummers/musicians -<br/>Fritete Drummers of Ghana</li> <li>* Mariachis Los Amigos</li> <li>* Classika Children's Theater</li> <li>* Magician - Captain Token</li> <li>* Moon Bounce for Kids and Adults!</li> <li>* Showmobile - Open Mike/Kareoke</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Caricature artists and K.H. Art &amp; Framing</li> <li>* Victorian Renactment at Falls Realty</li> <li>* Authentic Gypsy Fortune tellers</li> <li>* City of Falls Church Public Schools<br/>Art Show Premiere</li> <li>* Teddy Wiant Film Festival</li> <li>* Film shorts by Bob Burnett and<br/>Dave Eckert</li> <li>* Free bus service (with pass)</li> <li>* 7 Restaurants open for business</li> <li>* Free soup outside of Ireland's<br/>Four Provinces Restaurant</li> <li>* Free snacks at other venues</li> <li>* <b>Countdown to Midnight!</b></li> </ul> |
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(Schedule and locations of entertainment will be listed in the *Falls Church News-Press*.)

With plenty of warm indoor venues, free bus service (GEORGE), free snacks and no admission charge, everyone would benefit by spending one, two, three, or all four hours of New Year's Eve in downtown Falls Church. For further information or to volunteer, call (703) 532-0884.

### Neighborhood Tree Program Plants a Record Number in 2002

Ever since the Village Society was founded in 1885, tree-planting has been one of our primary missions, and the Neighborhood Tree Program (NTP) is a part of that legacy. Thanks to a corps of dedicated volunteers and generous donors, the NTP made significant progress this past year toward our twin goals of increasing the number of street trees in the City

of Falls Church, and educating our citizens on the benefits of trees.

A total of 87 street trees were planted in the City in 2002 through the NTP. Fifteen were planted on East Columbia Street during the Spring planting party, 22 in the Parker Avenue area at the Fall planting party, and 50

at various locations throughout the Falls Church in the City right-of-way.

Over 100 citizen volunteers helped with tree-planting and tree education last year. Falls Church resident Seth Heminway deserves special recognition for conceiving and organizing the Tree Squad. While NTP planting parties focus on single neighborhoods for a concentrated tree planting effort, it is the Tree Squad that goes out on Saturday mornings in the spring and fall to plant street trees all over the city where individual requests for trees have been made.

The NTP was founded by the Village Society in the Spring of 2000 and is operated under the guidance of the City Manager, with tremendous support from the Recreation and Parks Director, Arborist, and Landscaping Crew. Since its inception, the program has resulted in the planting of 180 native Virginia trees in Falls Church. If you would like to volunteer, please call NTP Steering Committee Chair Annette Mills at 703-532-0884.

### Thanks to our Volunteers and Supporters!

The NTP would not be what it is without the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and the steadfast patronage of our supporters. VPIS is very fortunate to have so many members and friends who are both generous and community-spirited. Many thanks to the following individuals who gave of their time, energy, or money (and in some cases, all three!) to ensure the NTP's success this past year:

Jessie Anderson &  
Tom Sabanosh  
Bentley Andrews  
Carolyn Appleby  
Anne Armstrong  
Kay Bachman  
Martha Behr  
Bill Bent  
Laura Bishop  
Don & Jane Blumenthal  
Paul Bourget  
Frank Brady  
Les Brorsen  
Grace Brown  
Marilyn & Paul Bugg  
Mary Bumgarner  
The Bunker Family  
Barry Buschow  
Dan Chadwick  
Cindy & David Chojnacky  
Rachel, Rosser &  
Robin Clark  
Tom Clinton  
Steve & Kestrel Coffee  
Bob Cohen  
John & Mike Coleman  
Anne Conant  
Paul Cough &  
Maya Cough-Schulze  
Randall Curtis  
Geraldine Davies  
Nancy DeLew  
Carol DeLong

Jeannette & John Domm  
Connie Donnelly &  
Stephen Donnelly, Jr.  
Adam Dzierwa  
David Eckert & Annette  
Mills  
Michael Edson  
Randy Elliott  
Louisa Enright  
Karl, Lisa, Seth,  
Aleeya, &  
Shayne Ensign  
Signe Eskildsen  
Elaine Finein  
Virginia Fowler  
Julie Fresne  
Doug Fridrich  
Dan Gardner  
Alan Garner  
Paige Gartner  
Brad Gernand  
Gloria Gibson  
Ellen Gilmore  
Tom Gittins  
Kathleen Glover  
Melanie Griffiths  
Lynn Grimm  
Adam Gruen  
Jay & Sarah Grusin  
Mary Clare Gubbins  
Pallavi Guniganti  
Joanne Harris  
Joe Hasankulizade &

Susan Paynter  
Charles Hedetniemi  
Seth Heminway  
Ann Herington  
Robert & Naomi Herndon  
Brian & Peter Highnam  
Bruce & Rachel Horovitz  
Jon Hundley  
Don Hunt  
Ross & Sheila Johnson  
Marilyn Jones  
Charlotte & Steve Kaplow  
Tom Kaye  
Clare Kearney  
Nancy Kent  
Maryll Kliebrink  
Bruce Kulpan  
Diane Landry  
Janice Langholz  
Judith Lemke  
Allison Leopold  
Jane Lundy  
Susan Matchett  
Anne Maynard  
Elizabeth & Rich Meade  
Meredith Morrison  
Margaretha Netherton  
Timothy O'Connell  
Beth Parks  
Ron Parson  
June Pataky  
John Pitas  
Leah Porzel

Gerald Pressman  
Richard & Stacey  
Redick  
Barbara & Mike Roche  
Ruth Rodgers  
Cliff & Noah Rohde  
Lee Scharff  
Danny & Daniel Schlitt  
Jeremy Schneider  
Jane & Malcolm Scully  
Harry & Margarette  
Shovlin  
Thomas Shreve  
Michael Slonim  
Lisa Smith & Haywood  
Madeleine Smith &  
Alex Peterson  
David Snyder  
Tim Stevens  
Bob Storck  
Rachel Taylor  
Keith Thurston  
Betty & Ethel Tiberg  
Claire Waters  
Curt Westergard  
Cay & Jon Wiant  
Tina Wilkinson  
Deb, Ralph, & Ellie  
Yatsko  
Steve Zullo & family

**THE LATEST WAR NEWS**

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**A ROUT AT VIENNA!!!**

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**U.S. TROOPS OCCUPY  
FALLS CHURCH**

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**CITIZENS REQUIRED TO TAKE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Read more about these and other events that took place in Northern Virginia  
during the CIVIL WAR in

**“A VIRGINIA VILLAGE GOES TO WAR  
FALLS CHURCH DURING THE CIVIL WAR”**

**A NEW BOOK BY BRADLEY E. GERNAND**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Books \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost of Each Book \$35.00 plus \$1.58 Tax. Shipping \$3.95 Extra**

Please make check out to VPIS Book Fund.

Send to Village Preservation and Improvement Society, P.O. Box 6824, Falls Church, VA 22040

Also available at Greenscape, Hole in the Wall Books, Old Market Antiques, Old House Antiques, and Barnes & Noble's Seven Corners Store.

## Support the Neighborhood Tree Program with a Gift T-shirt

This holiday season, consider giving the gift of a T-shirt that “gives” in three ways: the Neighborhood Tree Program T-shirt is an eye-catching piece of clothing, supports a valuable community-based program, and helps spread an important message. NTP T-shirts are \$10 each and come in three adult sizes (M, L, XL). The shirts are white (50% cotton, 50% polyester) and display the bright green NTP logo above the words, “Plant one right here.” The supply is limited, so place your order today! Call 703-532-0884 to reserve your shirt and arrange for pickup or delivery.

## ***Upcoming Schedule of Events and Activities***

### **December**

31 - Watch Night. Downtown Falls Church, 8 to Midnight

### **January**

9 - Board of Directors Meeting - Location to be announced.



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and Improvement Society  
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