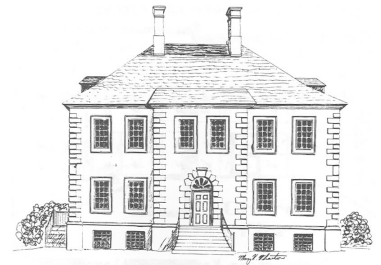


Carlyle Connection

“It’s a fine beginning.”



John Carlyle’s Dry Goods Store, Office/Accounting Room, and Dry Goods Warehouse: From Commercial Buildings to Dwelling Houses

By *Richard Klingenmaier*

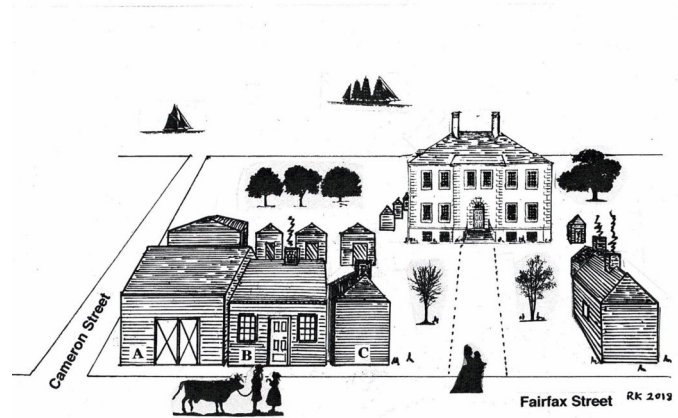
“TO BE LET THE STORE, Cellar and Accounting-room...”
William Herbert, 10 November 1785

In 1796, William Herbert, son-in-law of the late Alexandria merchant John Carlyle, insured his mansion house and several detached structures on his North Fairfax Street property. Of the structures noted on the Virginia Mutual Assurance Society policy, three faced Fairfax Street at the southeast corner of Fairfax and Cameron Streets. These one-story structures of frame construction were identified as “Three Dwelling Houses.” Prior to 1796, however, they had served far different purposes as an “Office/accounting Room,” a “Dry Goods Store,” and a “Dry Goods Warehouse,” respectively. They comprised the commercial portion of both John Carlyle’s and William Herbert’s properties. All three structures, by now “dwelling houses,” were to disappear in the early to mid-nineteenth century; the original Dry Goods Warehouse and the Dry Goods Store were replaced by the First Bank of Alexandria building in 1803. What was once the Office/Accounting Room was demolished to accommodate an extension to James Green’s Mansion House hotel in 1855.

The Dry Goods store is perhaps the most interesting of the three structures since it served as the “retail store” during at least three of Carlyle’s business partnerships: Carlyle & Dalton, Carlyle & Adam, and Carlyle, Adam & Muir. In subsequent years, though, the store was leased to several independent merchants by both Carlyle and Herbert.

Possibly the earliest of these independent merchants was Enoch Hawksworth, who was leasing the building from John Carlyle at the dawn of the American Revolution. Hawksworth’s tenure was somewhat unique because he

was forced to flee Alexandria in December of 1775 to avoid retribution by his patriotic neighbors. Hawksworth made the mistake of voicing his continued loyalty to the British Crown following hostilities at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. He eventually reached England by late 1776, and after a long and nondescript life, died there in 1805.



Conjectural Site Drawing of the Carlyle/Herbert properties: Alexandria, Virginia: 1759-1796

Dry Goods Warehouse — [A]
Dry Goods Store — [B]
Office/Accounting Room — [C]

The details of Hawksworth’s lease of the Carlyle store have not survived; we only know that he arrived in Alexandria from London in 1764 accompanied by his wife Mary Wright. Whether he started his own business after arriving in town or initially worked for another merchant is not known. His presence in Alexandria remains pretty much an enigma.

One thing we can be fairly certain of: Enoch Hawksworth operated a small neighborhood mercantile business specializing in a general line of dry goods, likely purchased directly from John Carlyle and other import merchants in town. He was not listed among the prominent merchants doing business in Alexandria in 1775. The only advertisement identifying his business appeared as a notice he had published in Baltimore in May 1775 offering goods for cash only, a likely effort to quietly sell off his merchandise in Alexandria in preparation for his December departure. He apparently was successful, as he made no subsequent claim of property loss to British authorities as many other loyalists were known to do.

The lack of surviving business records for the last decade of John Carlyle's life makes it difficult to adequately assess the extent of his mercantile business during those years and specifically, to understand the use of his dry goods store. Carlyle's poor health in the final years of his life may have contributed to a reduction in his business ventures and in turn, may explain Enoch Hawksworth's opportunity to lease the store. According to historian James Munson, John Carlyle, Robert Adam and James Muir were partners in a business arrangement that involved Carlyle's "retail store." When that partnership was dissolved in 1771, Carlyle may have decided to lease out the building to Enoch Hawksworth, thereby establishing Hawksworth's likely occupancy of the store as early as 1771.

With Enoch Hawksworth's sudden departure in 1775, it is unclear who served as the next proprietor of the store; Alexandria had no local newspaper prior to 1784 to record such arrangements, and city tax records were not kept until after the war. Consequently, the earliest recorded lease of the property, now owned by William Herbert, did not appear until June of 1784.

On June 17, 1784, *The Virginia Journal & Alexandria Advertiser* announced the following:

"Baldwin Dade, Merchant/Sheriff - Fairfax St. across from the Court House...has for sale European goods, West India and New England rum, Muscovado sugar..."

The location description of Dade's store most certainly describes the site of William Herbert's dry goods store, the "Court House" having been situated on the Southwest corner of the intersection of Cameron and Fairfax Streets.

Subsequent advertisements for the store were to be even more specific. Surviving documents, however, do not show when Baldwin Dade first occupied the property; it could have been any time after 1775. In any event, we also cannot rule out the possibility that during that nine year interval one or more as yet unidentified merchants may have been Dade's predecessor(s) in the store.

By May of 1785, Baldwin Dade no longer occupied the site. On May 17, *The Virginia Journal and Alexandria Gazette* carried the following advertisement:

"Randle Mitchell and Son, Merchants: Just imported in the last vessels from Europe, and to be sold by Randle Mitchell & Son, At their store on the east side of Fairfax-street, near Mr. William Herbert's dwelling-house, the following general assortment of GOODS and Merchandize, which they will sell on the very lowest terms for cash or country produce..."

An August 8th advertisement by Randle Mitchell and Son announced the sale of Jamaica spirits, Antiqua rum, ... molasses, Madeira wine of the best quality...green and bohea teas...window glass, nails, shot and gunpowder... with a general assortment of DRY GOODS."

By late October 1785, Randle Mitchell and Son had moved out of Herbert's store. The owners announced on October 27, that they "...Have removed their store from Fairfax to King street...the sixth door west of Fairfax street..." By the following July, the firm announced it was going out of business and by August the contents of their store were sold "... at the Vendue Store by P. Marsteller," an action that suggests the firm may have declared bankruptcy.

On November 10, 1785, William Herbert had advertised his Fairfax Street store for lease:

"TO BE LET THE STORE, Cellar and Counting-room, lately occupied by Messrs. Randle Mitchell and Son...it is an excellent stand for business, either in the whole sale or retail line... The whole are in good order and may be entered upon immediately..."

The advertisement revealed additional details of the property, namely, a "Cellar" presumably located below the store, and a "Counting-room." Mention of a "Counting-room" raises the intriguing, though remote, possibility that



Randle Mitchell and Son may have leased the adjacent “Office/Accounting Room” building as part of the retail store facility. However, it is more likely that the “Counting-room” was simply a space within the store itself. This arrangement is supported by surviving references to other stores that clearly contained “counting rooms.”

“Shopkeeper” John Jolly was most likely the next proprietor of Herbert’s retail store. Jolly and his wife Rachel, who operated a Milliners shop in town as early as June 1784, were long time residents of Alexandria, Virginia. John was listed as a “Bricklayer” in the Fairfax County Deed Book as early as 1775, residing at the Southwest corner of Pitt and Princess streets. Although he was identified as a “Shopkeeper,” the exact nature of his business remains unclear. He appears not to have advertised his business in the local newspaper while leasing William Herbert’s retail store, but his name does appear on numerous business related petitions between 1784 and 1787, clearly indicating a role in Alexandria’s business community. Alexandria city records for 1787 show he was licensed to retail goods in the city.

Jolly’s early business ventures included real estate. Unfortunately, he seems to have over extended himself financially and was in frequent debt, purchasing property but unable to make the prescribed yearly payments. In late 1778, for example, Jolly leased a parcel of land from William Hunter for an annual ground rent of 40 Spanish milled dollars, due each May 1st; he failed to make any payments and Hunter repossessed the property in May 1790. The earliest reference to John Jolly’s presence in Herbert’s store appeared in 1786.

On April 6, William Herbert advertised his Fairfax Street store for lease:

“To be let, and may be entered upon the 10th of this month, The Commodious Store and Counting-Room now in the tenure of Mr. John Jolly, on Fairfax-street opposite the Court-House - For terms apply to the subscriber...WILLIAM HERBERT, ALX, April 6, 1786.”

While Herbert’s advertisement places Jolly in the store as of April 6, 1786, it does not indicate when he moved in. No earlier reference to Jolly’s lease arrangement has been found. However, Randle Mitchell and Son’s known departure by October/November 1785 would imply a possible date as early as that December, or for that matter, anytime between December 1785 and March 1786.

Herbert’s April 6, 1786 notice suggests Jolly could have occupied the store for only five months at most and that his lease likely was cancelled. As noted previously, he was in arrears in his yearly payments to William Hunter and perhaps other creditors as well.

William Herbert’s April 6 advertisement also implies Jolly’s imminent departure, i.e., the store “... may be entered upon the 10th of this month...” However, City Land tax records identify John Jolly as “occupant” of Herbert’s Fairfax street store as late as 1787, indicating he was able to negotiate a last minute extension of his lease to possibly as late as 1788 or even 1789. Perhaps William Herbert had no responses to his April advertisement and simply allowed Jolly to stay on as proprietor at a renegotiated fee rather than have an empty store. In any event, surviving records do not reveal a subsequent proprietor of the retail store until at least 1790.

The *City of Alexandria Directory* for 1791 lists two individuals as tenants on William Herbert’s Fairfax Street property - R. B. Jamieson and Edmond Edmunds. In 1787, Robert B. Jamieson was granted a city license to retail goods from his shop then located at King and Fairfax Streets. He probably moved his business to Herbert’s dry goods store as early as 1790 when land tax records place him there on “N. Fairfax” as “Occupant.” He was listed similarly for 1795, thereby indicating he was likely the last proprietor to lease William Herbert’s store prior to its conversion to a “dwelling house” by 1796.

Of the three structures in the northwest corner of the Herbert property, the “Office/Accounting Room” was likely the first to be converted to a “dwelling house,” possibly as early as 1786, when as part of the leasing advertisement for his “Commodious Store” on April 6, William Herbert also refers to a “Dwelling-House to let...which would answer a small family.” Whether this was in fact the adjacent “Office/Accounting Room” structure or a different dwelling located elsewhere in town, is of course speculation. A more reliable date for its conversion to a dwelling house would be 1789 with the documented arrival of “Schoolmaster” Edmond Edmunds.

According to the *Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser* of June 2, 1785, Edmond Edmunds, originally from Philadelphia, was operating a private school on Prince Street in Alexandria while residing at William McKnight’s Tavern on the corner of King and Royal Streets. Between 1789 and 1795, he was residing in “...a small dwelling house on William Herbert’s lot...” on Fairfax Street. This “small dwelling” was most certainly the “Office/Accounting Room” since no other detached structures on the site, with the exception of the dry goods store and dry goods warehouse, were subsequently identified as “dwelling houses.” Whether Edmunds utilized this small building for both his residence and his school house cannot be confirmed. The size of the one-story frame structure, measuring only 17’ X 26’, however, appears to have been inadequate for both functions simultaneously. Edmunds was likely already married with a wife, possibly a child to two and probably also housed a servant as well. By 1799, the City Census confirms that Edmunds, then residing on South Water Street, shared a dwelling with his wife Sarah, three children, 2 house servants, and two boarders. Therefore, he probably continued to operate his school on Prince Street while residing in Herbert’s dwelling house.

The remaining structure on the corner of Fairfax and Cameron streets, the “Dry Goods Warehouse,” apparently was not leased out by either John Carlyle or William Herbert as a separate rental. However, the *City of Alexandria Directory* for 1791 recorded rental fees paid by Robert Jamieson and Edmund Edmonds to William Herbert that seem to suggest, at first glance, that Jamieson may have leased both the store and warehouse as one. Jamieson’s annual rental fee was 30 pounds, whereas Edmunds paid only 10 pounds for his dwelling house lease. Did Jamieson’s additional 20 pounds per annum perhaps

include use of the adjoining warehouse as well? While it may seem logical from a business perspective, unfortunately, no existing documentation confirms this theory, including any mention of the “Dry Goods Warehouse” in existing newspaper accounts. In the final analysis, this three-fold disparity in rental fees may simply reflect the recognized value of a potentially profitable retail enterprise over that of a “small dwelling house.”

News from the Educator

Since May we have hosted 3 group tours and 253 students on school programs.

Throughout July we hosted our annual reading program again with Alexandria Public Library, featuring four books with a historical focus to be paired with a craft. Even with the bump in ages for the program, we had 50 children attend overall. For this year’s Hands on History Tent, we’ll be pairing with three other groups to bring the theme of Colonial Plants to life for children. Green Spring Gardens will be providing plant samples and discussing native plants, Sweet Virginia will be demonstrating beekeeping and the various uses of wax, and Stone House History will be providing colonial games for children to play. We’ll once again be hosting our Crafts at Carlyle program to coincide with the King Street Art Festival in September, where children can design and paint their very own floor cloth to take home.

~Allie Kelley



Allison Kelley (left) and Diana Prince read to local children at “Read, See, Do.”

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JULY 12-18, 2018 ♦ 3

Read, See, Do featured in *The Alexandria Gazette*

News from the Site Specialist

Our first ever chocolate and wine tasting, featuring locally-made Potomac Chocolate, sold out and was attended by many new Carlyle House visitors; we plan on repeating that program next spring. Thank you again, sponsors: Charles Aldrich, Mr. John Dumsick & Ms. Susannah Rast, Jack & Tanya Pitzer, and Ken & Shelly Miller.

In mid-May, Sumpter Priddy obtained a pontypool tray which was on our wish list of things to buy from John Carlyle's inventory. The Friends bought it and it is currently displayed in the dining room.

We've partnered with Lee-Fendall House this summer for Trivia Nights at Historic Sites every other Friday. So far we've sold out every session; tickets are still available for the August 10th and August 24th nights.

This fall is shaping up to be a busy one. We will be hosting an Outlandish Fashion Show and Tea featuring the Appins Living History Group and the NOVA Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Group on September 9th. Our 3rd Annual Mansion House Whiskey Tasting will be September 29th. Thank you to Oxford Finance for being a sponsor of this event! We still have sponsor spaces open. Each sponsorship costs \$200 and includes a ticket to the tasting and inclusion in all marketing. Please email me if you are interested. We're excited to offer a Young Professionals price this year in hopes that we can entice newcomers to our event. Tickets for both events are on sale now.

October will be busy with our Halloween events. Back by popular demand, we'll be having our Zombie Escape ; plus, we've added an Escape the Sanderson Witches event in honor of the movie Hocus Pocus' 25th anniversary. We will also partner with Footsteps to the Past again for a night of Ghostly Tales. Tickets for our October events go on sale September 1st.

~Kerry Mitchell

Pontypool tray to right



Upcoming Events



Outlandish Fashion Show & Tea

Sunday, September 9; 2:00 pm

Come join us for an Outlander-themed tea and a special fashion show on the Magnolia Terrace! Fee

Crafts at Carlyle

Saturday, September 15, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sunday, September 16, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

To coincide with the King Street Art Festival, children will paint a version of an 18th century floorcloth. Free

Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace

Tuesdays, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm; select Saturdays 10 am to 11 am through October 2

Join yoga instructors Barbara Douglass or Becky Super for an hour long Vinyasa Flow Yoga. Fee.

Whiskey Tasting

Saturday, September 29; 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Join us as we taste extraordinary whiskeys paired with delectable food. Fee.

Zombie Escape

Friday, October 26; 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Your group must make a supply run to survive the Zombie Apocalypse. Navigate your way through zombie infested territory to get supplies. Fee.

Ghostly Tales

Friday, October 26; 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Join storytellers from Footsteps to the Past on the lawn of Carlyle House for ghostly tales of Alexandria's past. Fee.

Escape from the Sanderson Sisters

Saturday, October 27; 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Hocus Pocus in our garden escape course inspired by this classic movie. Fee.

Trick-or Treat

Wednesday, October 31; 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

See our website for more details.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

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*Carlyle House Historic Park is accredited by
the American Alliance of Museums.*



News from the Site Manager

As those of you who attended already know, we enjoyed another wonderful annual meeting on June 2. We were fortunate to have both the Mayor of Alexandria, Allison Silberberg, and NOVA Parks Board Chair Mike Nardolilli in attendance. Both addressed the crowd, and noted how much they appreciate the Friends of Carlyle House.



Mayor Silberberg addressing the Annual Meeting

We have our new timeline exhibit fully installed in the cellar, with interpretive panels describing the entire history of the house, from construction to the restoration. Our slavery interpretation in the servants hall is a bit behind schedule, but we do have an interpretive panel listing Carlyle's known enslaved, apprenticed, indentured, and convict population. We also have a four-inch thick binder with documentation for each and every one of those individuals. We will have that information available online shortly.

After all these years, we finally have membership online. You may continue to renew your membership via the U.S. Mail, but you may also do so online. Go to our website: <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park> and scroll down to the Friends section. Click on the appropriate button to choose your level of membership, and off you go.

Finally, as many of you may recall, Bob Madison wrote and published the wonderful book *Walking w/ Washington: Walking Tours of Alexandria, Virginia Featuring Over 100 Sites Associated with George Washington*. He generously designated all proceeds to come to Carlyle House. We sell them in our gift shop, and other local museums purchase them from us to sell in their gift shops. We are running very low in supply, and I was able to find a publisher who will republish it. Bob gave us the rights and his draft (thank you, Bob!), making the job that much easier. Your Friends Board agreed to fund this printing, so expect to see new copies out soon, possibly with a new cover.

Thank you all for everything you do to support Carlyle House!
~Susan Hellman