

Bridges Newsletter

... from the *Gott Library & Sinclair Education Center*

a publication of
The Fauquier Heritage & Preservation Foundation, Inc.
October 2021

Yes, it is true! We are pleased to announce that The Gott Library and Sinclair Education Center are officially open for visitors.

Tuesdays, 10 am to 4 pm
other days by appointment, 540-364-3440



Attention: New Website & Email Address

The FHPF has decided to make our website and email addresses more descriptive of what we are. And easier to remember!

Starting November 10, 2021 the new website address will be:

www.thegottlibrary.org

and the new email address will be:

gottlibrary@gmail.com

Please make a note of these changes so you can continue to contact us.



Would you like to spend the afternoon reading a 1925 *Fauquier Democrat*, an original 1932 edition of the *Chief Justice*

(Marshall, VA) or maybe the 1819 edition of *Pala-dium of Liberty*? You can now do just that at the Sinclair Education Center. The FHPF recently



acquired the archives of the *Fauquier Democrat* along with early editions other local newspapers. We have the *Fauquier Citizen*, *The Remington News*, *The Southern Echo*, *The Tri-County Herald*, and others. The complete list of papers and editions will be listed on our website shortly.

In addition to the newspaper archive FHPF was pleased to accept the newspaper's photo collection. An index of the photos, which includes people and places, will also be on our website. Both the newspaper and photo collections are housed in the Sinclair Education Center.

The John K. Gott Library | 4110 Winchester Road | P.O. Box 594 | Marshall, VA 20116
Phone: 540-364-3440 | Email: gottlibrary@gmail.com | Website: www.thegottlibrary.org

Library Hours: Tuesday 10:00—4:00
Education Center Hours: By Appointment

The Fauquier Heritage & Preservation Foundation, Inc.
The John K Gott Library
P.O. Box 594
Marshall, Virginia 20116

Change services requested



From the files of T. Triplett Russell

Land, Land, and More Land

In colonial times it was natural for a man to want to own land that might be passed down to his sons and grandsons. Most took up land grants with that in mind. However, some had a lust for land in quantities far beyond any amount they could conceivably cultivate or use. It is astonishing how many of these had, in fact, no one to leave it to.

The prime example was Lord Fairfax himself. The Fairfax Proprietary, between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers and extending to the Blue Ridge mountains, contained about two million acres. That would seem to have been enough for any one man, but Lord Fairfax had his heart set on five million, an area about the size of Massachusetts, and that is what he eventually got. However Lord Fairfax had no children and left what remained of his estate after his death, to a nephew he hardly even knew.

Robert “King” Carter did have sons and grandchildren, whose interest in the 300,000 acres he managed to acquire before his death was not very great. One of them, George, who owned an immense tract in Fauquier County, hardly bothered even to look at his estate. When he died childless in London, it was sold to George Washington, a man with a positive mania for acquiring land. He had no children either.

Charles Burgess almost wrecked his estate in his attempt to hold over 20,000 acres in Fauquier. He had no sons and most of his estate was sold soon after his death, to pay his debts. The rest was sold by a grandson, Colonel Burgess Ball, as soon as he could.

Then there was the Reverend Alexander Scott, Rector of Overwharton Parish. He tried to give his immense holdings to his brother-in-law, who wisely declined, pointing out that he had a half-brother in England who had a better right to it. Probably none of these men was so much interested in the land as in the fun of acquiring it. However, it would be better not to tell that to George Washington.