

A LOOK BACK *at Braddock District Fairfax County, Virginia*

PLACE NAMES

_____ Named for one of the Indian villages first encountered by Capt. John Smith when he sailed up the Potomac River in 1608. Translated it means “at the end of the hill.” In the area, a dam was built and a **lake and recreation park** are there today.

_____ A community which was included in William Fitzhugh’s claim of nearly 23,000 acres of what is today Fairfax County. The name is derived from the river, **Annan**, in Scotland.

_____ Named after Silas **Burke** who was a prominent farmer and businessman. As an agent for the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, he laid out the route for the railway to go through his and his neighbors’ property.

_____ (Swetnam) – As the Orange and Alexandria Railroad stretched across the County, many villages sprang up next to the tracks and **stations**. This station was used for mail pick-up and delivery, product shipments and transportation. By 1895, the small village was being called Swetnam, after two brothers, Ecca R. and Charles F. Swetnam who operated a general store there. Soon, the two brothers applied to the postal department for an official change of the village’s name to Swetnam. In 1915, the name was changed back again.

_____ Named by Henry Daingerfield for the **springs** in the area, which many felt were medicinal. He owned 920 acres, which he had purchased in 1851. About 1854, the name Springfield Station was given to the Backlick Road railroad crossing (today a VRE station).

_____ was originally a military summer training camp. The Corps of Engineers established Fort A.A. Humphries, named for a Civil War engineer, in 1917. By 1935, it included 10,000 acres including Lake Accotink, which had been built as the fort’s water supply. The fort was renamed after the **Belvoir** mansion, the original home of Col. William Fairfax, which had been located on fort property.

_____ Originally named Newgate by the settlers, who were tenants and former prisoners and had been released from England’s Newgate Prison in 1742. In 1792, the town was officially created and designed with Mountain Road as Main Street. Historians believe the name came from the town residents advertising this area as the **intersection** of the existing north/south and east/west roads of that time. During the Civil War, the town was occupied by both the North and South because of its location and high ridges.

_____ This community’s first name was Ayr Hill, named after the home that John Hunter built in 1767. In the late 1850’s, the residents were requesting Dr. William Hendricks to set up his practice there. The community agreed to rename the area after his home town in **Vienna, New York**.

PLACE NAMES

_____ A farming community which was part of the large holdings of Robert “King” Carter, Jr. The railroad and post office arrived in 1857. The community encouraged residents to volunteer names for the town. The town is named for Captain Lewis **Herndon** whose heroism was famous. His ship had sunk in a hurricane off North Carolina. Over 500 women and children were rescued from life boats. Captain Herndon and 425 men died in the disaster. It is believed that one of the surviving crewmen, who manned the lifeboats, suggested the name.

_____ Originally a plantation and Indian hunting grounds. During the Civil War, the railroad station was named Devereux. The county established the town which was surveyed in 1869. It is believed that the postmaster named the town after his hometown in **Clifton Springs, New York**. Official town status was established in 1902.

_____ A muddy, wetland named after a **gum tree**. The community was founded by West Ford, who had been a slave at Mount Vernon and was freed upon the death of Martha Washington. The community became a safe place for freed and runaway slaves, where Quakers helped them get established in homes and occupations such as farming, the lumber industry, and trades.

_____ A port town on the **Occoquan River** established in 1753 for the transport of tobacco, etc. Because of silting, the ocean- going boats could no longer reach the port.

_____ Formerly a farm which a family used for training and winter headquarters for the **Barnum and Bailey Circus**.

_____ Established in 1875 and named by Postmaster Joseph Plaskett who named the community for his home town, **Lorton**, in Cumberland County, England.

_____ In the early 1900’s, a business area sprang up where the Great Falls and Old Dominion Electric Railway crossed Chain Bridge Road. **John R. McLean**, owner and editor of the *Washington Post* was one of the financiers of the trolley.

_____ Originally known as Thornton Station or Thornton Mill. Next, it was called Wiehle after Carl Wiehle, who died before he was able to establish a planned community there. In 1923, the name was changed to Sunset Hills. In the 1960’s, an investor **Robert E. Simon** developed a new town whose name was formed from his initials.

_____ Named after a family who owned the land and operated a general store in the area. Today, it is the site of **two shopping malls**.

_____ An Algonquin Indian name for “water place.” Today, its bay is a **regional park on the Potomac River. An historic church on Route 1 has the same name.**

**Use the clues to correctly identify the places
in Fairfax County.**

Accotink

Pohick

Springfield

Fairfax Station

Reston

Fort Belvoir

Vienna

Centreville

Clifton

Annandale

Gum Springs

Colchester

Bailey's Crossroads

Lorton

McLean

Tysons

Herndon

Burke

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ACCOTINK Named for one of the Indian villages first encountered by Capt. John Smith when he sailed up the Potomac River in 1608. Translated it means “at the end of the hill.” In the area, a dam was built and a **lake and recreation park** are there today.

ANNANDALE A community which was included in William Fitzhugh’s claim of nearly 23,000 acres of what is today Fairfax County. The name is derived from the river, **Annan**, in Scotland.

BURKE Named after Silas **Burke** who was a prominent farmer and businessman. As an agent for the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, he laid out the route for the railway to go through his and his neighbors’ property.

FAIRFAX STATION (Swetnam) - As the Orange and Alexandria Railroad stretched across the County, many villages sprang up next to the tracks and **stations**. This station was used for mail pick-up and delivery, product shipments and transportation. By 1895, the small village was being called Swetnam, after two brothers, Ecce R. and Charles F. Swetnam who operated a general store there. Soon, the two brothers applied to the postal department for an official change of the village’s name to Swetnam. In 1915, the name was changed back again.

SPRINGFIELD Named by Henry Daingerfield for the **springs** in the area, which many felt were medicinal. He owned 920 acres, which he had purchased in 1851. About 1854, the name Springfield Station was given to the Backlick Road railroad crossing (today a VRE station).

FORT BELVOIR Was originally a military summer training camp. The Corps of Engineers established Fort A.A. Humphries, named for a Civil War engineer, in 1917. By 1935, it included 10,000 acres including Lake Accotink, which had been built as the fort’s water supply. The fort was renamed after the **Belvoir** mansion, the original home of Col. William Fairfax, which had been located on fort property.

CENTREVILLE Originally named Newgate by the settlers, who were tenants and former prisoners and had been released from England’s Newgate Prison in 1742. In 1792, the town was officially created and designed with Mountain Road as Main Street. Historians believe the name came from the town residents advertising this area as the **intersection** of the existing north/south and east/west roads of that time. During the Civil War, the town was occupied by both the North and South because of its location and high ridges.

VIENNA This community’s first name was Ayr Hill, named after the home that John Hunter built in 1767. In the late 1850’s, the residents were requesting Dr. William Hendricks to set up his practice there. The community agreed to rename the area after his home town in **Vienna, New York**.

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CLIFTON Originally a plantation and Indian hunting grounds. During the Civil War, the railroad station was named Devereux. The county established the town which was surveyed in 1869. It is believed that the postmaster named the town after his hometown in **Clifton Springs, New York**. Official town status was established in 1902.

GUM SPRINGS A muddy, wetland named after a **gum tree**. The community was founded by West Ford, who had been a slave at Mount Vernon and was freed upon the death of Martha Washington. The community became a safe place for freed and runaway slaves, where Quakers helped them get established in homes and occupations such as farming, the lumber industry, and trades.

COLCHESTER A port town on the **Occoquan River** established in 1753 for the transport of tobacco, etc. Because of silting, the ocean- going boats could no longer reach the port.

BAILEY’S CROSSROADS Formerly a farm which a family used for training and winter headquarters for the **Barnum and Bailey Circus**.

LORTON Established in 1875 and named by Postmaster Joseph Plaskett who named the community for his home town, **Lorton**, in Cumberland County, England.

McLEAN In the early 1900’s, a business area sprang up where the Great Falls and Old Dominion Electric Railway crossed Chain Bridge Road. **John R. McLean**, owner and editor of the *Washington Post* was one of the financiers of the trolley.

RESTON Originally known as Thornton Station or Thornton Mill. Next, it was called Wiehle after Carl Wiehle, who died before he was able to establish a planned community there. In 1923, the name was changed to Sunset Hills. In the 1960’s, an investor **Robert E. Simon** developed a new town whose name was formed from his initials.

TYSONS Named after a family who owned the land and operated a general store in the area. Today, it is the site of **two shopping malls**.

POHICK An Algonquin Indian name for “water place.” Today, its bay is a **regional park on the Potomac River**. **An historic church on Route 1 has the same name**.