
THE ALEXANDRIA CHRONICLE



ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Spring 1997 Vol. 5, No. 1.

Recollections of the early War Between the States in Alexandria, Virginia

by A.J. Wickliffe¹

Alexandria, Virginia March 1889

In the year 1861, I was a citizen of Alexandria, Virginia; my place of residence was the Mansion House² on Cameron Street. I trust I may be pardoned for not being able to fix exact dates. My notes were destroyed in the great fire in Richmond in 1865, and I am only too happy to know that I was not burned along with them.

Early in the morning [May 24, 1861] before the citizens were out of their beds, the Union army commenced pouring in from all quarters, over bridges and by steamers. The atmosphere seemed to be full of them.

The New York Zouaves, under command of Col. Ellsworth,³ landed from a steamer at the foot of Cameron street. They marched up that street, the head of the column resting under my window. I looked down and saw Colonel Ellsworth detail a squad from the ranks, and, at the head of it, made for the Marshall House on King street, kept by a Mr. Jackson.⁴ Upon the top floated a large Confederate flag. Upon reaching the building, Col. Ellsworth, at the head of the column, made his way to the top of the building, hauling down the flag and wrapping it around his body.

In retracing his steps he had to pass Jackson's chamber door. In doing so Jackson stepped out of his room with a double barrel shot gun, and fired at the man who had his flag around him. Ellsworth fell dead instantly, and the guards fired on Jackson. He fell, rolled to the landing below, was pierced many times with bayonets, and left dead.

Jackson was a brave man. The writer knew him well. I have often heard him say that he would shoot any man who attempted to haul his flag down, and true to his word he died in the defence of the flag he loved so well. He had received repeated messages from the Union forces, that his flag would be their first capture; it could be plainly seen from the White House and was to be presented to Mr. Lincoln. This was the first blood shed in the great civil war that followed, and had its effect in intensifying and aggravating the already bitter feeling that existed. Col. Ellsworth's body was placed on a stretcher, and borne by four of his soldiers to the boat, and taken to Washington.

The excitement over these tragic events, I can never forget. The citizens felt that they had little or no security; the soldiers made open threats of sacking the city. We were now amid the "pomp and circumstance" of war; preparations were rapidly pushed forward to

organize and equip the armies for the capture of the "rebel" stronghold at Manassas. It was very generally known by the citizens--the time fixed for the advance of the armies. The constant arrival of troops, batteries of artillery innumerable, all pointed to the fact that the great conflict was near at hand. Methought I saw enough soldiers pass through and around Alexandria, to whip every soldier of every nation on earth combined.

The time for the advance had arrived, and the grand army was in motion. I felt sad, knowing that my own countrymen would soon meet in deadly conflict; I retired to my room, shut myself out from all companionship with the world, to await the result, possessed with the belief that not a rebel soldier would be left to tell the tale. Morning came, [July 22, 1861] the great conflict was over; the grand army had received a defeat only equaled by that of the French at Waterloo.⁵

In making my way to the breakfast room, I found the steps and halls full of sleeping soldiers; it was with great difficulty that I could make any headway. The streets were full of them, many of them without guns, hats or coats. A heavy rain was falling, and I felt sad to look upon those broken down soldiers, sleeping on the cellar doors, on the pavements; any place they could lay their weary heads.

One thing in this great retreat struck me forcibly--that not an officer was to be seen. At breakfast I found at the table one of Ellsworth's Zouaves, a corporal. I said to him, "What has become of all the officers?" He replied, "Well, all I can say is this, our regiment went into the fight 1,250 strong; those rebels fought like demons, and when the tide of battle turned against us, our officers said, 'Everything is going to hell, boys! Take care of yourselves. I am going to New York.' I suppose he thought all the officers had taken the same track. I do not believe 150 of us escaped."

This disorganized mass of men remained in Alexandria without officers to reform them for many days. The boats that plied between Washington and Alexandria were withdrawn; the draw in the bridge opened to prevent their escape. Many of them were fed by the citizens. The officers after taking a "rest" put in an

appearance and commenced to organize the forces. Great numbers made their escape.

I was sitting at my store door one morning (the wharf end), and I saw a soldier with his musket on his shoulder walking out on Fowle's wharf.⁶ It struck me what can he be up to; no guard was ever placed out there. I kept my eyes upon him, When he reached the end of the wharf, he sat down with his eyes overlooking that point, his musket thrown across his legs, I saw the flash of the gun; he threw the musket in the dock, sprang to his feet and beat a hasty retreat, passing me, apparently in great agony. I saw that he had shot away the thumb and index finger of his left hand, sick of war I suppose would be the verdict.



James W. Jackson
Courtesy A Seaport Saga
by Wm. Smith & T. Miller

Sitting in the same position one day, the gallant and brave General Heintzelman⁷ in company with two ladies came up, and when near me he moved out in the dusty

street. I did not see them until they had passed me, or I should have moved my chair and given them the right of way, The General said his ladies were on their way to Washington, and upon reaching the steamer, only a half square off, he called to his aid a posse of the Ellsworth Zouaves, that were lounging around, and commanded them to come over and throw me in the dock.

At this juncture Richard Randolph, Chief Engineer, Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire R.R., approached the General and asked what was the matter. He stated that in coming by those "black guards" neither had the politeness to move their chairs and let him and his ladies pass. Randolph recognized me and said, "General, that gentleman is a friend of mine; I know that no insult was intended." He immediately came to me and stated that the General had issued orders to have me thrown in the dock. My explanation was that I did not see him until he had passed me. The Zouaves were now upon us. Randolph ordered them to let us alone, that he had made it all right with the General.

The General was killed in battle. We are directed by the Good Book to pray for our enemies, but it was a severe tax upon my amiability to accord him in death: "De mortuis nil nisi bonum." [of the dead (say)

nothing but good]

I have been charged with being a rampant secessionists; this is not so. My grandfather gave his life for the independence of his country, having received a terrible wound at the Battle of Brandywine. I have often heard him relate the terrible sufferings he encountered in those days that "tried men's souls." This instilled in my youthful mind a strong love for my country. I did not think at the time that was the proper mode for the South to redress her wrongs or to maintain her rights, and I see nothing in the result to alter this opinion. When my State seceded I looked upon it as my duty to cast my lot with her.

Having concluded to make a change of base, I had an interview with Robert J. Smith, a lawyer at the Alexandria bar. He stated his desire to become one of the party. We at once set about making arrangements to effect our escape through the Union lines. A captain who ran a skipper was seen, and he stated that he would set us safely through the lines for \$15 per capita. He arranged we should be aboard promptly at high noon; at that hour we straggled aboard one at a time; after stowing ourselves away in the hold the lines were cut loose and the skipper was off to sea. The case seemed to have the confidence of the officials; he was not subjected to strict search but was permitted to

make his trips ad libitum.

A dead calm prevailed, not a ripple disturbed the placid beacon of the classic Potomac. We drifted along with the tide. Soon we were under the batteries of the Pawnee⁹ whose great "war dogs" were peeping out, looking big enough forme to crawl in and turn around and crawl out. The captain whispered down in the hold, "The boat's crew are now on their way to inspect this vessel, if you will keep quiet, I think I can manage to keep them off." I heard the splash of the oars in the water as they approached us. It is wonderful with what lightning rapidity the thoughts flash from one idea to another when we are upon the "ragged edge" of great period. "Oh, Prophetic Hope"- "Eternal Hope." The crisis was upon us. Bastille, jails, penitentiaries, flashed across my mind in rapid succession. I well knew if we were taken prisoners our fate would be a lodgment in one of these institutions. Then my thoughts flew to my Bible. The first verse that came to me was "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick;" then "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want," then "In thee, Oh Lord, have I trusted, let me never be confounded," and as I closed with "Good Lord deliver us" the captain whispered down the hold "All is well," and the boat took its departure. This brought some relief. We drifted and I drew a long breath.

Along with the tide, the gunboats were flying up and down, and we knew not what a minute would bring forth. The fear of one of them pouncing upon us and taking us captive. The sails of our craft hung as lifeless as a shoot on the end of a broomstick. The next morning at dawn we found ourselves in a cove, having made 15 miles in the same number of hours.

We were dumped out in the ice and water up to our hips, and the skipper left us to paddle our own canoe--or, in the words of Rev. Sam Jones "Toll our own skillets."

We made for the bushes, and after hours of tiresome rambling through brambles and briars, we came upon an imposing mansion, "Gunston," which proved to be the residence of the Masons of Virginia. It was not the time of year for "Masons," and I did not see any around. This place was between the picket lines of the contending armies, and I suppose they had gone in search of a more genial climate.

The lady in charge, true to her instincts of Virginia hospitality, soon prepared a breakfast--a regular "Confederate" one. We were not slow to avail ourselves of her kind offer. A cup of liquid of the consistency of gruel was passed to me. I sipped it, and the taste was of such a peculiar nature that I was compelled to violate the rules of

etiquette by asking what it was. When she replied that it was "genuine" rye coffee I could not realize it, but I acquired a taste for it before the war closed.

From the Baltimorean as reprinted in the Alexandria Gazette of March 12, 1889.

Contributed by T. Michael
Miller



Mansion House Hospital.

Endnotes:

- 1. A search of historical records reveals very little information about A.J. Wickliffe or his business affairs in Alexandria. He apparently did not return to Alexandria after the Civil War but chose to remain in Baltimore. The editor would appreciate any additional data on his life or career.*
- 2. The Mansion House Hotel was located on the S.E. corner of N. Fairfax and Cameron Streets. A portion of the building enveloped the old Bank of Alexandria building erected 1803-1807. After 1848, James Green, a wealthy furniture manufacturer, added on to the old Bank of Alexandria, thus transforming the building into the Green's Mansion House Hotel—one of the premier hostleries on the East Coast. When the Civil War erupted, this fine old building along with many others in Alexandria was confiscated by Union military authorities for use as a hospital.*
- 3. Elmer Ellsworth (b. 1837 d. 1861) Born in New York State, Elmer Ellsworth was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln and accompanied the newly elected U.S. President to Washington in the spring of 1861. Ellsworth, who was enamored with the military, returned to New York City where he raised the 11th New York or Fire Zouaves. This elite unit was known for their precision in performing military drills and evolutions. When the Civil War erupted, Col. Ellsworth became a military advisor to President Lincoln and was chosen to lead an amphibious assault against Alexandria on the morning of May 24, 1861. Ellsworth and his troops landed at the foot of Cameron Street, marched west to North Royal Street, proceeded south to King Street where they seized the telegraph office and subsequently marched west to the Marshall House on the S.E. corner of King & Pitt Streets. Ellsworth entered the hotel with a small retinue to retrieve a Confederate flag flying atop the building. Descending the staircase, he was met by James W. Jackson, the proprietor of the hotel who mortally wounded him with a shotgun. Jackson, in turn, was shot through the head and bayoneted by U.S. Corporal Francis Brownell. Thus, Elmer Ellsworth and James Jackson became martyrs for the North and the South. Ellsworth's body was subsequently returned to*

Washington, D.C., where it lay in state at the White House. See: Ruth Painter Randall, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth: A Biography of Lincoln's Friend and First Hero of the Civil War; also, Stewart Sifakis, Who Was Who in the Civil War (New York: Facts on File Publications, 1988), pp. 204

4. James W. Jackson (b. 1823; d. 1861) was originally from Fairfax County. He operated the Union Tavern in Fairfax before removing to Alexandria in February 1861 where he became the proprietor of the old Marshall House Hotel at the S.E. corner of Pitt and King Street. Jackson had recruited and been elected captain of a company of Fairfax Artillery which disbanded in April 1861. On April 17, 1861, Jackson permitted Charles H. Taylor to raise a large Confederate flag over the hotel. Taylor had collected money by public subscription to have the flag made by Mrs. John W. Padgett and Miss Sarah M. Graham. See: R.J. Massey, "The Thirteen Star Flag was Designed by Taylor" Atlanta Constitution, (April 2, 1905) in The Fireside Sentinel (July 1988), Vol. II, No. 7, p. 68. For a Union view of Alexandria's occupation see: "A Northern View of Alexandria during the Civil War," in The Fireside Sentinel (May, 1990), Vol. IX, No. 5, pp. 49-57.

5. Mr. Wickliffe refers to the Battle of Manassas which was fought on July 21, 1861 on the Bull Run Creek south of Centreville, Virginia. A Confederate victory, the Southern forces drove the Federals from the field in great panic back to Washington and Alexandria.

6. Fowle's Wharf was located at the foot of Prince Street.

7. General Samuel Peter Heintzelman (b. 1805; d. 1880), was born in Manheim, Pennsylvania. He later attended West Point where he graduated in 1826. During the Civil War he was commissioned a Major General in May 1862 and served under Federal General George B. McClellan in the Virginia Peninsula Campaign. After fighting at the Battle of Second Manassas in August 1862, Heintzelman spent the "balance of the war employed successively in command of portions of the Washington defenses, The Northern Department and on court-martial duty."

Early in the war, Heintzelman served as the Federal military commander at Alexandria. Although he was wounded at the First Battle of Manassas, Mr. Wickliffe is incorrect in stating that General Heintzelman was killed during the war. Heintzelman died May 1, 1880 in Washington, D.C. and was subsequently interred in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York. [Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Blue -- Lives of the Union Commanders (Louisiana State University Press), pp. 227-228.

8. The Pawnee was a federal warship moored off Alexandria in the spring of 1861.

The Fletcher House(s) on Prince Street

by Gilman McDonald

In the early 1800's from time to time Alexandria newspapers carried notices/advertisements which referred to the Fletcher house on the 500 block of Prince Street. For the past 20 years writers and researchers have innocently assumed that all of these ads pertained to the house at the current 506 Prince Street address. They all have been misled by the deficient information Ethelyn Cox conveyed about the Fletchers in her book *Historic Alexandria, Virginia, Street by Street* (Historic Alexandria Foundation, 1976). Cox identified only one Fletcher house when, in fact, there were two --- both 504 and 506 Prince Street.

On page 130 of her book Cox correctly wrote of the house at 506: "Built by John Walter Fletcher after he bought the lot in 1795. Remained in the Fletcher family until 1882, when sold to E.S. Leadbeater." But when she wrote of the 504 house: "Brick 2½ stories, early 19th century, Victorianized," she made errors both of commission and omission. She was wrong on the date of construction; the original 2-story brick house was late 18th century. More importantly, she failed to convey the Fletcher family connection with the 504 house, although her notes on microfilm at Lloyd House show that she knew of it.

The 504 property was in the Fletcher family from 1794 until 1883, a year before and a year after the family connection with the 506 house. (The 504 house was raised to 2½ stories and Victorianized sometime between 1891 and 1896.

John Walter Fletcher's purchase of the 504 property for £604 from Patton & May (who had bought it from John McClanachan only six months earlier for the same price) was recorded in a 30 October 1794 deed. Only a small flounder house is reflected in the city tax records for 1790, but the big 2-story house is reflected in the records for 1795. (Tax records for 1791-1794 are missing.) If John McClanachan did not build the big house between 1791 and his sale of the 504 property in 1794, then Fletcher built it immediately after he bought the property in 1794. Fletcher's purchase of the vacant lot at 506 Prince was recorded in a 2 November 1795 deed. The 506 house did not appear in tax records until 1799, so the house was built in either 1798 or 1799. (See Attachment C.)

John Walter Fletcher died on an island in the Caribbean in 1799. His 23 September 1799 will was recorded for probate on 20 December 1799 at St. Pierre, Martinique. In the will he named his wife [Mary Fletcher] as sole

executrix of his affairs and assets in Virginia. (See Attachment C.) Hence, from December 1799 until mid-1837 any reference to Mrs. Fletcher's house on Prince Street could pertain to either the 504 or the 506 house. (A 1 July 1837 deed recorded the transaction whereby George Fletcher became the sole owner of the 504 property when he bought out the interests of his mother, his brothers, and his sisters. See Attachment C.)

Most early references to the Fletchers on Prince Street failed to distinguish between the 504 and 506 addresses. The 1799 Alexandria census is typical. It states only: "John W. Fletcher, wife, 9 children, 2 slaves under 16 and 3 over 16, on Prince Street between Pitt and St. Asaph." Presumably, most of that large group lived at 504, with some of them perhaps living at 506. A series of advertisements for school activities also illustrates the problem of address identity.

Between 1802 and 1815, at least 10 notices/ads for academic or artistic instruction at Mrs. Fletcher's house on Prince Street appeared in Alexandria newspapers. (See Attachment A) Because of the Cox omission all writers have assumed that the instruction activities occurred at 506 Prince Street. A former exhibit at the Lyceum illustrated the problem.

One item refers to a dancing school to be held at Mrs. Fletcher's house. A photograph of the entrance of 506 Prince Street together with a notation that the dance classes were

held at that location accompany the text of the 1802 *Alexandria Daily Advertiser* notice. The source for the attribution was an article by Edith Sprouse in the December 1992 *Fireside Sentinel* publication. The Sprouse



504 (left) & 506 Prince Street. Both houses built by John Walter Fletcher in the late 18th century. 504 was originally only two stories tall.

article quotes a 16 October 1802 *Advertiser* notice from an American University masters dissertation by Larry Allen. But neither Allen nor Sprouse cites 506 Prince as the location for the dancing classes. That citation was added by the editor of the publication. In the margin of the page containing the dancing class notice, the editor added a photo of the 506 house together with a notation that the dancing classes were held there. In making that addition to the Sprouse text, the editor innocently fell into the Cox trap, as have many others who have taken the Cox book as gospel and have been unaware of the Fletcher connection with the 504 property.

As stated, none of the 10 ads or notices specifies which Fletcher house would be used for the school activities. Consequently, we must rely on the circumstantial evidence to make an educated determination. That evidence may be provided by a 28 December 1813 notice in conjunction with a 27 June 1815 notice, plus an intimate knowledge of the physical structures at 504 and 506 Prince.

The 1813 notice contains the phrase, "...at the well-known school room of Mrs. Fletcher." The 1815 notice says that "...at the school room under Mrs. Fletcher's house, Mr. William Wood ... offers his service as instructor on the *Piano Forte* and VOCAL MUSIC." The 1813 item surely implies that all school activities at Mrs. Fletcher's house since 1802 had been held in the same room. The 1815 item specifically places the room under Mrs. Fletcher's house. [underlining mine]

The author of this paper, G. McDonald, has first-hand knowledge of the houses at both 506 and 504. The basement at 506 is small and dark with a low ceiling, a small and partially obstructed window on the Prince Street wall and a similar small window in the rear wall. Access is through a narrow hall, through the dining room, and down a narrow stairway. It would be totally unsuitable for a school room, and it would not be possible to get a piano into the basement for the 1815 instruction classes.

By contrast, the basement at 504 is large, has a high ceiling, has two large windows on the north, had two

large windows on the east (one of which was blocked in 1959 when a first-floor exit and long porch were added to the east façade of the 504 house). Prior to 1959 there was one window and an outside entrance to the basement on the south. Entrance to the 504 basement is currently via a wide front door and a wide hallway leading to the basement stairway at the rear of the hall. There is no positive knowledge that the outside entrance to the basement existed in 1815, but it probably did exist in some form if a piano was to be located in the school room. It would be very difficult to get a piano into the basement via the inside stairway, but less difficult than at 506. This argument rests on the assumption that the 1815 text saying "under" literally means that the classroom is in a basement area.

If the 1815 use of "under" means something other than basement, the 1813 ad still implies that all school instruction had been conducted in the "...same well known room of Mrs. Fletcher." Another option for the location of that room is implied by the 21 June 1802 ad which says: "...in the first room of Mrs. Fletcher's house..." That could imply the ground level room at the front of the house. If that is a correct assumption, then the weight of the evidence still favors 504 over 506. The front room (parlor) of the 504 house is larger and more suitable for the various school activities than is the smaller front room of the 506 house.

Thus, despite the lack of any primary source that places the 1802 through 1815 school activities at a

specific house of Mrs. Fletcher, the circumstantial evidence is very strong that they were all held at the 504 house. Hence, the marginal notation in the 1992 *Fireside Sentinel* article is probably wrong. The citation was innocently based on the faulty information in Ethelyn Cox's book Alexandria Street by Street.



Attachments:

- A. Texts of school notices/advertisements
- C. Early land records for 504 and 506 Prince

Attachment A

Date Order of Schools at Mrs. Fletcher's from Alexandria Newspapers

1802, June 21

TUITION

"Tis education forms the common mind

"Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

The subscriber purposes opening a Seminary for Young Ladies, on Monday of 28th of this month, in the first room of Mrs. Fletcher's house, on the south side of Prince-street between Pitt and St. Asaph-street, where will be taught *Reading, Penmanship, English Grammar, Geography, &c.*

JOHN WHITEHEAD

N.B. The terms will be *Four Dollars* pe quarter, and *One Dollar* entrance; the entrance money to be paid when the pupil commences.

June 21

Alexandria Advertiser, 21 June 1802, p. 1.

Oct 16

Dancing School

MR. GENERES has the honor to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Alexandria, that he will begin his DANCING SCHOOL on Wednesday next the 21st, inst, at Mrs. Fletcher's, Prince street. The days of Tuition will be on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, the Ladies at 10 o'clock in the morning, and the Gentlemen at 5 in the evening. Parents, whose children shall be trusted to his care; may depend on his most particular attention, as dancing and good manners are the principal basis of his school. Grown persons will be taught privately in the most fashionable style either in his academy or at their own houses.

Terms of tuition may be known on application to Mr. Generes at Mrs. Heifkill's.

October 16

Alexandria Advertiser, 16 October 1802, p. 3.

1805, May 10

EDUCATION

The subscriber respectfully informs the citizens of Alexandria that he has opened a SCHOOL, at the dwelling house of Mrs. Fletcher, on Prince street; where he teaches Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and English Grammar at the moderate price of Four Dollars per quarter --- Likewise, History, Geography, Surveying and navigation, at a reasonable price.

Persons, wishing to be acquainted with Surveying or Navigation, will meet with due attendance either in school hours, or any other time they may think proper.

William Slade

Alexandria Advertiser, 10 Nat 1805 p. 2.

Sept 13

EDUCATION

The subscriber returns his sincere thanks to his Friends and Employers, for their patronage and past favors; and respectfully begs leave (sic) to inform them and the inhabitants of Alexandria, that he will commence an *Evening School* on Monday the 16th of September. Those who are disposed to favor him with their scholars, are desired to make speedy application, as he will take but a small number. Particular attention will be paid to English

Grammar, Surveying, theoretical (sic) and practical part (?), if requested --- Navigation, the use of the Globes, or any of the difference branches of the Mathematics.

William Slade

Prince-street Academy

Alexandria Advertiser, 13 Sept 1805, p. 1.

1806, Sept 24

NIGHT SCHOOL

The subscriber returns his grateful thanks to his friends and patrons, for their past favors and liberality towards him; and begs leave respectfully to inform them, and the inhabitants of Alexandria generally, that he will commence his NIGHT SCHOOL on *Monday* the 29th instant, at his Academy in Prince street.

Young gentlemen desirous of becoming acquainted with the arts of Surveying, Navigation, use of the Globes, or any of the different branches of the Mathematics, will meet with due attention from

William Slade

Alexandria Advertiser, 24 Sept 1806, p. 1.

1807, Jan 1

(Advertisement identical to above from William Slade.)

1812, Sept 21

EDUCATION

The inhabitants of Alexandria are respectfully informed, that on Monday the 28th instant, a School will be opened in Prince Street, at Mrs. Fletcher's house, in which will be taught the Greek and Latin Classics, English Grammar, Geography, Geometry, Navigation, and the other branches of Education usually taught in Schools or Academies. The terms of tuition will be very moderate; and parents wishing to have their children instructed are assured that no exertion shall be wanting on the part of the subscriber to render general satisfaction to all those who may confide their children to his care. For terms &c, please apply at this office.

E. Maltby

From Yale College, Connecticut

Alexandria Gazette, 21 Sept 1812, p. 3.

1813, March 11

A LATIN SCHOOL

The subscriber has opened a New School in Prince street, at the house of Mrs. Fletcher, for instructing in the Latin and Greek Languages. Gentlemen who choose to place their sons under his instruction, may make enquirey (sic) at the Indian Queen Tavern, or at the School Room.

D. Hewett

Alexandria Gazette, 11 March 1813, p. 3.

Dec 28

EDUCATION

The subscriber, intending to establish a school in this City, solicits the patronage of parents and guardians. Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic with the higher branches of Mathematics, the Latin and Greek languages will be correctly and assiduously taught. The school will commence the 3rd of January next, at the well known school room of Mrs. Fletcher. Price of Tuition 5 dollars per quarter, exclusive of fuel.

I. Spencer

Alexandria Gazette, 28 Dec 1813, p. 3.

1815, June 27

A CARD

William Wood, from Newburyport, offers his services as instructor on the *Piano Forte*, and in VOCAL MUSIC, to the inhabitants of Alexandria. His Vocal School will commence on Tuesday Evening, at the school room under Mrs. *Fletcher's* house --- and he is prepared to commence immediately on the piano. Reference may be had to the Rev. Mr. Wilmer.

Alexandria Gazette, 27 June 1815, p. 4

Attachment C

Early Land Records for 504 and 506 Prince

1790 City Land Book [Lloyd House microfilm reel 026]

John McClanachan occupies a house on Prince Street. Rent £12.

This is a house that McClanachan built on the 24' x 100' lot at 504 Prince after he acquired the lot from Charles Lee in 1786 subject to annual ground rent of \$56 silver and a provision that he

build a house within 2 years. This figure of £12 indicates that the house is a small one, presumably the flounder at 504 Prince/207 S. Pitt. The term "rent" is a puzzler. As owner and occupier, McClanachan would not pay rent (in our current meaning) to himself. Nor does the term pertain to the \$56 annual ground rent payable to Charles Lee by McClanachan and subsequent owners.

1794, 30 October DB H: p. 247.

John Walter Fletcher bought the 24' x 100' 504 Prince Street property for £604.

1795, 2 November DB G: p. 437.

John Walter Fletcher bought the 24' x 100' vacant lot at 506 Prince Street for £110.

1795 City Land Book [Lloyd House microfilm reel 026]

John Walter Fletcher on Prince Street. Rent £60, tax £10.

The increase in the "rent" figure from £12 to £60 shows that the big 504 house has been built sometime since 1790. Again, "rent" is ambiguous, since Fletcher is now the owner and resident and is subject to the \$56 annual ground rent payable to Charles Lee.

1799 City Land Book [Lloyd House microfilm reel 027]

John Walter Fletcher on Prince Street. Rent £70. John Walter Fletcher on Prince Street. Rent £50. Fletcher is owner and occupier of both houses. Tax £17.6.

The 506 house has now been built, as indicated by the £50 rent figure. This is the first appearance of a second rent figure for Fletcher on Prince Street. It does not appear in the records for 1796, 1797, or 1798.

Again, the meaning of "rent" is ambiguous. The Fletchers own and occupy both properties. The 504 property is subject to the \$56/year ground rent payable to Charles Lee, but Fletcher owns the 506 property in fee simple, so he pays no ground rent to anyone on that property.

1799, 20 Dec Corporation Council WB 2, 1891-1895, pp. 86-88

On 20 Dec 1799, J.W. Fletcher's 23 September 1799 will was recorded for probate at St. Pierre, Martinique. A copy of the will and the 20 December 1799 probate record were entered in Alexandria, Virginia, on 16 May 1894.

1837, 1 July DB X-2: p. 456.

George Fletcher bought out the interests of his mother, his sisters and his brothers to become the sole owner of the 24' x 100' property at 504 Prince Street.

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