

HISTORICAL STATEMENT RELATIVE TO THE TOWN OF WINCHESTER

The Town of Winchester was established by an Act of the General Assembly entitled "An Act for establishing the Town of Winchester, and appointing Fairs therein," passed February 1752, and in the 25th year of the reign of George II. (Hening's Stats., Vol. 6, p. 268)

Lord Fairfax was authorized by this to lay off additional lots adjacent to the site of the original town, which had been laid out by Colonel James Wood certainly as early as March, 1743. (Deed Book No. 1, p. 72, of the County Clerk's Office.) The limits of the original town as extended by the said addition were declared by the Act to be the corporate limits of the Town of Winchester. "The original plat of the Town of Winchester and of the Commons, surveyed by John Baylis December 10, 1752," is of record in the Clerk's office of the County Court of Frederick in Deed Book No. (2) 24, page 91.

By an Act of the General Assembly passed in September, 1758, the town was enlarged on the petition of Colonel Wood, and the following trustees were appointed for the towns of Stephensburg and Winchester, viz: Lord Fairfax, Thomas Bryan Martin, James Wood, Lewis Stephens, Gabriel Jones, John Hite, John Dooe, Isaac Perkins, Robert Rutherford, and Philip Bush, with powers to fill all vacancies in their number. (Hening's Stats., Vol. 7, p. 235)

By an act of the General Assembly passed February, 1759, the town was again enlarged, upon the petition of Lord Fairfax. (Hening's Stats., Vol. 7, p. 315)

In October, 1779, and the fourth year of the Commonwealth, the General Assembly passed "An Act for incorporating the Town of Alexandria in the County of Fairfax and the Town of Winchester in the County of Frederick," (Hening's Stats., Vol. 10, p. 172), by which the offices of mayor, recorder, alderman, sergeant and councilman were established and their duties and powers ascertained and defined. The corporation court, composed of the mayor, recorder and aldermen, was also established, and its jurisdiction and that of the corporate authorities was extended "to and over the outlots belonging to said Town of Winchester." This Act may be regarded as the first charter of the town and remained in force, with certain minor amendments, until the passage of the Act of April 2, 1874, which created the City of Winchester.