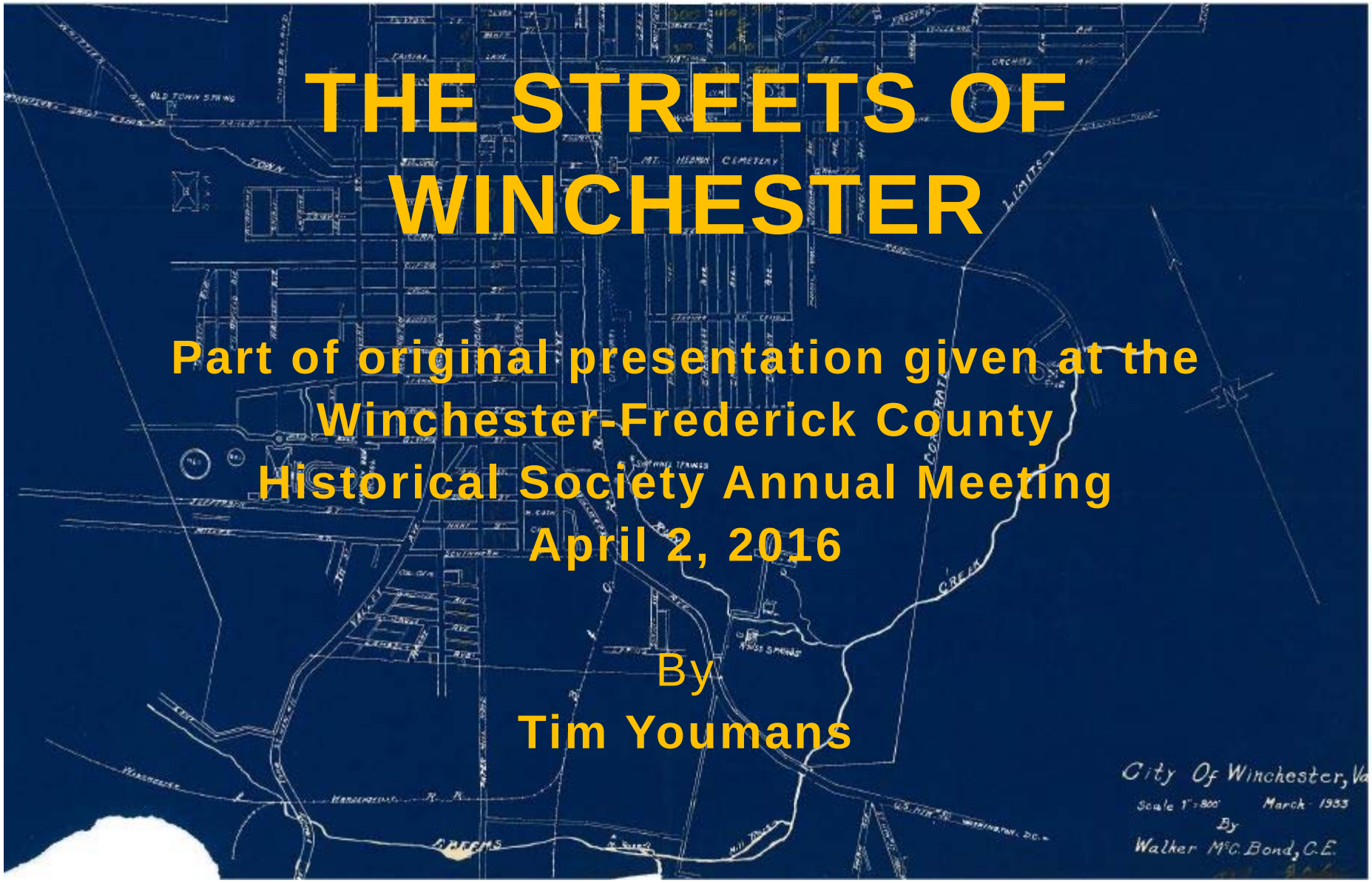


THE STREETS OF WINCHESTER

Part of original presentation given at the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Annual Meeting April 2, 2016

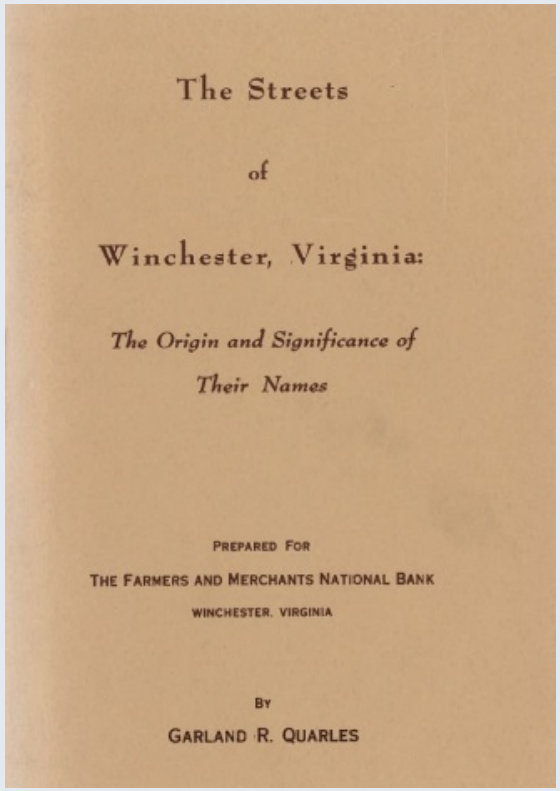
By

Tim Youmans

No portion of this presentation to be reproduced without written permission of the Winchester-Frederick Co Historical Society

DR. GARLAND QUARLES- PRIOR STUDY OF ORIGIN OF CITY STREET NAMES

- 1958 Monograph: *"The Streets of Winchester, Virginia: The Origin and Significance of Their Names"*
- 1996 Book *"Winchester, Virginia, Streets-Churches-Schools"*
- Four steps to platting out original streets (1744, 1752, 1758, & 1759)
- Listed 108 Streets existing in 1957 and 1 former street (Abchurch)
- 5 streets since eliminated or renamed (Baker-Knight, Greenwalt, Haddox, Kerr, and Perry)
- Referenced 21 former or alternative street names (e.g. Market, Water, Main, Drury, and Duffield)

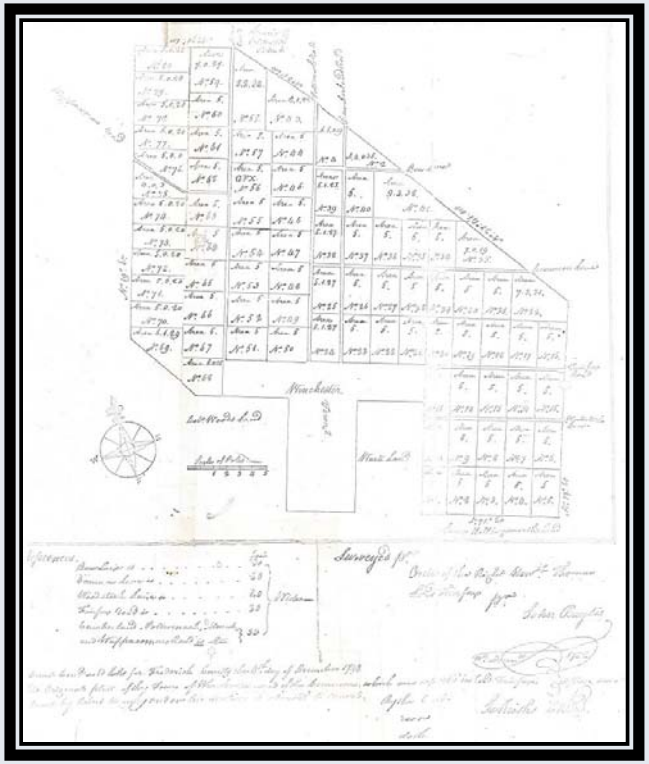


UPDATED DATABASE & INVENTORY SUMMARY

- 509 Total Named Street/Alley entries in updated listing (compared to 129 in Quarles)
  - ➢ 387 Current Named Streets/Alleys (some unbuilt or unpaved)
  - ➢ 122 Former or Alternately Named Streets/Alley entries

Note: 33 Streets with directional prefixes counted only once

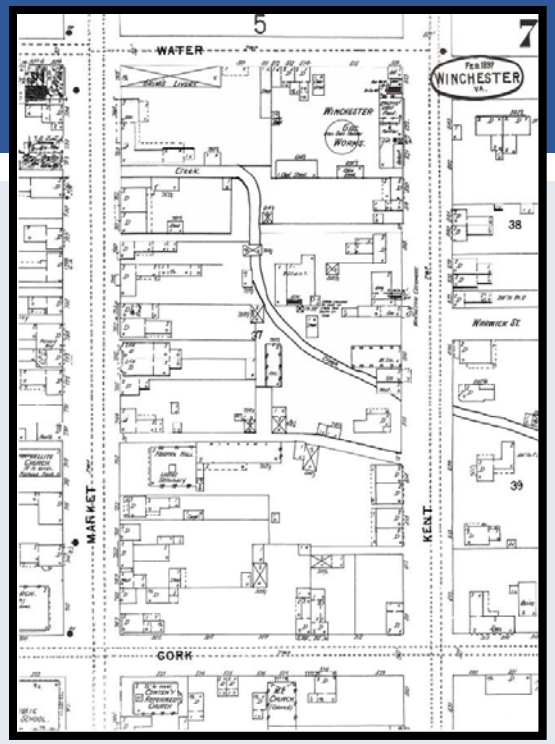
Hillman Toll- Valley Pike at Cedar Creek Grade



John Baylis Map of Outlots- 1752

RESEARCH- SOURCE INFORMATION

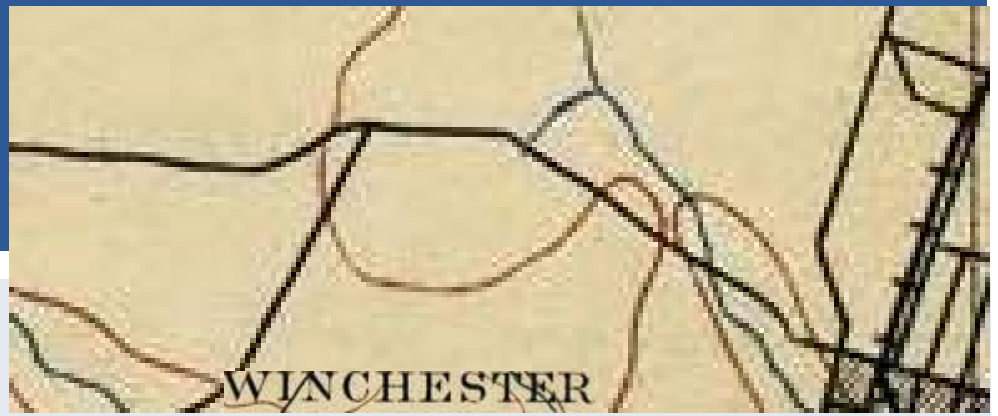
- **Council/City Records:**
  - Minutes
  - Ordinances
  - Resolutions
  - Surveys/Plats
- **Quarles Book**
- **Historical Maps**
- **Obituaries**
- **Interviews**



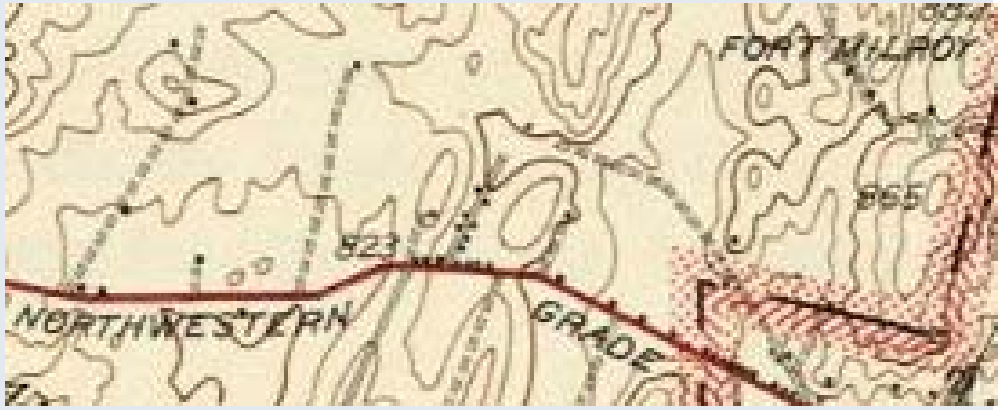
RESOLUTIONS				
First Date	Description	Last Date	Book	Page
10/19/1899	Assigning name "Fairfax Square" to Public Square.		G	2
10/2/1923	Against heckling non-resident motorists who inadvertently go wrong way on one-way streets.		K	27
3/2/1926	Restoring the original names of Cameron Street, Loudoun Street, and Boscawen Street to Market Street, Main Street, and Water Street respectively		K	253
5/6/1941	Accepting contract for development Handley Ave., with provisions.		M	253
12/2/1941	Approving contract with W. E. Bridgeforth, cancelling former contract, substituting development Gray Ave.		M	270
12/2/1941	Approving C. H. Himelright plat, south side Miller St.,; land set aside for widening St.		M	271
2/12/1952	Opposing relocation or discontinuance of Route 340 into City.		N	48
11/9/1954	Changing name of Shryock Ave. to Greystone Terrace.		N	159
5/14/1957	Planning Commission recommends extending Smithfield Ave.		N	250
11/12/1963	Resolution renaming: Haddox Row to Haddox St; Chase Alley to Chase St; West Alley to West Lane; Kern Row to Kern Lane		N	493
12/10/1963	Resolution renaming Kent Street to Kent Circle between Whitlock Ave and Commerce St		N	497

RESEARCH-
USGS TOPO MAPS

Top: 1885



Middle: 1938



Bottom: 1966
(with 1971
photo revision)

DATABASE/INVENTORY STRUCTURE

- Microsoft Office Excel workbook format for ease of sorting
- Base Spreadsheet lists all streets and alleys in alphabetical order
- Former and alternate street names highlighted
- Name origin and significance

Top: Market House on Market St
Bottom: Cameron St Market on N. Cameron St

DATABASE/INVENTORY STRUCTURE

Other Information included:

- **Development/Developer**
- **Ownership** (public, private)
- **Listed in Quarles Book** (Y/N)
- **Category of naming**: (e.g. Native American, Valley Settler, F&I War, Rev War, Civil War, Local family, Local Business, Developer, Geography, Nature, External Place)
- **Additional comments** (e.g. Council resolutions and ordinances, map references, plat dates)

600 block of S. Braddock St
Circa 1925

FINDINGS AS OF APRIL 2016

- 429 Public Streets/Alleys (named)
- 80 Private Streets/Alleys (named)

- 112 named for local developer/family members
- 69 named for natural things
- 56 named for Civil War persons/places
- 39 named for persons/places in England

- 50+ streets for which name origin is uncertain

SOME WINCHESTER STREETS WITH UNKNOWN/UNCERTAIN NAME ORIGINS

- Allison Avenue
- Featherbed Lane
- Fox Drive
- Fremont Street
- Liberty Street
- Rudbar Avenue
- Tower Avenue
- Wyck Street
- Germain St/German St

Early sketch of Amherst St near Old Town Springs (bet. Whittier & Hawthorne)

STREET NAME SIGNS

On a motion of Mr. Faulkner - Leave is given him to introduce a bill entitle "An Ordinance placing boards, with the name of the streets painted thereon, at the corner of each street."

Council minutes, March 3, 1874

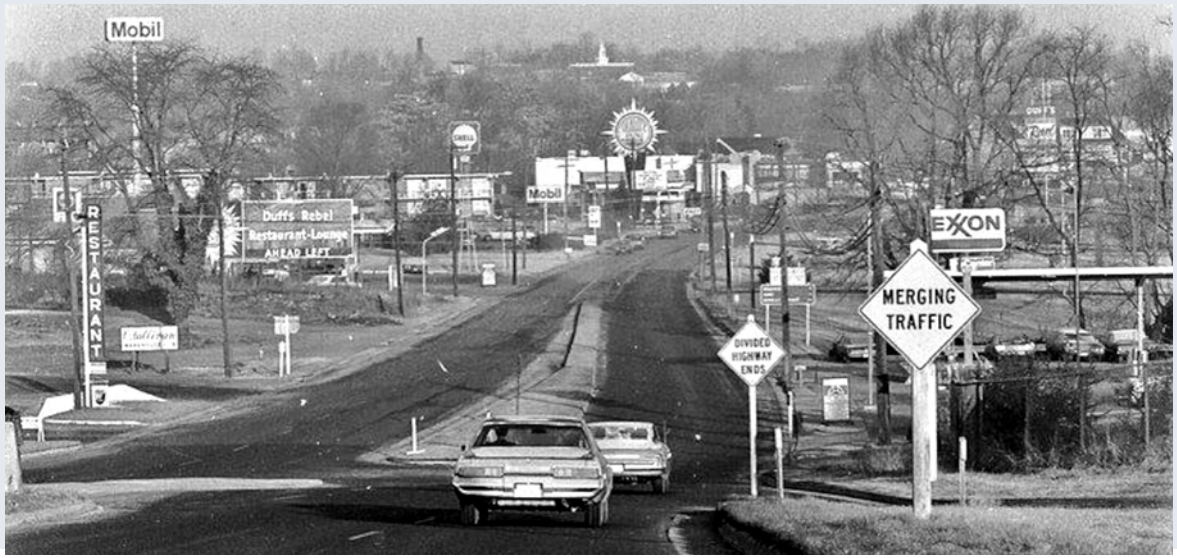
SOME FORMER WINCHESTER STREET NAMES

- Abchurch Street
- Drury Lane
- Common Lane
- Monument Ave
- Old Coons Lane
- Pluck Alley
- Rope Walk
- Savage Alley
- Vilwig Street
- Water Street

Possibly Jefferson St construction during excavation for Handley High School- June 1921

SOME RENAMED STREETS

- **Rouss Ave-** Houff, Courthouse, Railroad
- **Jubal Early Dr-** Southern Loop, Apple Blossom Dr, Meadow Branch Ave
- **Millwood Ave-** Millwood Pike, Millwood Ave, College Dr, Apple Blossom Dr, E. Jubal Early Dr, Millwood Ave



Millwood Ave looking west from I-81 interchange

FURTHER RESEARCH/PRODUCTS

- Continued Research into street name origins and significance
- Periodic updating of Electronic Inventory to Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives
- WFCHS Journal Article or Book?
- Speaking Engagements

Dr. Whitlock stone arch on Valley Ave

Water St between Indian Alley & Main St