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1787-88

THE HISTORY  
of  
MIDDLEBURG  
and vicinity

Eugene M. Scheel  
*Eugene M. Scheel*  
December, 1987

Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Town  
1787-1987

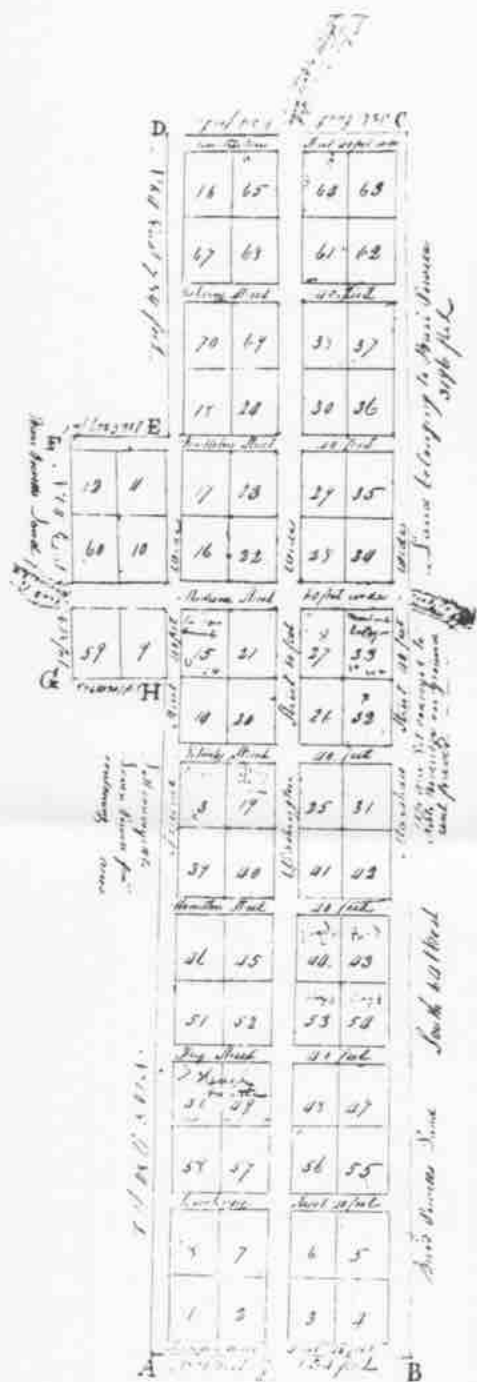
The Middleburg Bicentennial Committee  
With a Generous Grant from  
The Middleburg National Bank

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A Crayon on Paper of town founder Leven Powell, ca. 1805, by Charles Bailthazar Julien Fevret Saint-Memin, a French artist who had fled the Revolution. Courtesy of the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts.



An oil of Burr Powell's father's mantle. The 1800 miniature is courtesy of Susan King, D. C.

Burr Powell gave this plat of Middleburg to the county clerk's office in 1815. The plat may date from 1787, but the 'scraggly' roads leading to town bear later names such as Haymarket (not in use until 1799). North is to the right, East is at the bottom, with points "A" and "B" delineating never-cut-through Independence Street, and points "C" and "D" never-cut-through Constitution Street, the town's western boundary. Each block measures 247 by 352 feet. Of the seventy half-acre lots, some forty had been sold by 1822, when the population reached some 380 persons. Jonah Tavenner's 1883 *Plot of Middleburg*, hanging in the town office, shows exactly the same dimensions.

An advertisement for the first school in Middleburg, Virginia. The school was then had scribed by the son as "a of the general and recall learning of the plinarians fourteen years later became Mercer University last year."



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An oil of Burr Powell, inheritor of his father's mantle. The location of the ca. 1800 miniature is not known. Copy courtesy of Susan Frost Parrish, Washington, D. C.

An advertisement for Middleburg's first school in the *Fredericksburg Virginia Herald*—Loudoun and Fauquier then had no newspapers. Pupils described headmaster William Williamson as "a Scotch Presbyterian Divine of the genuine blue-stocking order," and recalled him as "a man of great learning and the strictest of disciplinarians." Assisting in 1808 was fourteen-year-old John L. Dagg, who later became president of Georgia's Mercer University. Middleburg Academy lasted until about 1830.

**MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY.**

THE Public are hereby respectfully informed, that in order to establish a Seminary for the Education of Youth at this place, the Subscribers have engaged the Rev. William Williamson to superintend the Institution. Wishing to make it as extensively useful as possible, it is proposed to consist of the following Schools:

*An English School,*

wherein will be taught the Rudiments of the English language, Writing and Cyphering. The School is fitted and supplied with a teacher.

*A Mathematical School,*

in this, attention to the English Language and writing will be continued; Arithmetic, in all its various branches, Book-keeping and the Mathematics generally, will be taught. Not more than twenty Scholars will be admitted. The fees of tuition shall be twenty dollars, paid quarterly in advance.

*A Grammar School,*

in which will be taught the English Grammar, the Latin and Greek Languages and the Rudiments of the French; in this will also be taught Geography and the use of the Globes; this School shall also consist of not more than twenty Scholars. The fees of tuition will be thirty dollars a year, paid also to quarterly in advance. Should the applications for admission justify it, a teacher of the Mathematics will be employed; but in the commencement of the Institution, that and the Grammar School united, will be taught by Mr. Williamson.

That this situation is remarkably healthy, those acquainted with the country well know. Boarding may be obtained in the neighborhood at 60 dollars per year. From these advantages, and the ability and experience of Mr. Williamson, who, besides teaching these branches immediately assigned to him, will superintend the Institution, and they doubt not, will be disposed to pay particular attention to the morals of his pupils, the subscribers flatter themselves that the seminary they recommend to public patronage, may prove of much general, as well as individual utility. The schools open on the 18th day of July next.

LEVEN LUCKETT.  
BURR POWELL.

Middleburg, Loudoun coun. }  
17. June 7. 1803. }



Murphrey. Israel B. Thompson was a wool-carder, Junior Wiley a stone-mason, William Grant, from England, a gardener, and Thompson Surghor, a printer. Census-taker Henry A. Hall had a poor handwriting, and was a worse speller.

L. W. Swart, the census-taker in 1860, wrote clearly, except when he had trouble spelling a name. The turnover of tradesmen from the previous census is great. The saddlers and harness-makers are John G. Baker and James F. Binen (?). Shoemakers are David G. Iden and John M. Patton. Carpenters and cabinet-makers are William Heitoffer and John Thompson (both there in 1850), Joseph G. Johnson, Amos I. Seaton, Robert J. Smith, David Hixson, James G. Noland, and George H. Hutchison (there in 1852), who may have employed Hixson and Noland. Irishman John Doyle is Mr. Thompson's apprentice. Wheelwrights are Lott Iden (there in 1850), Robert Christie, Howard R. Seaton, and Samuel Seaton. Blacksmiths are John M. Davis, Elijah Sinclair (both there in 1850), Samuel B. Baker, and son Rufus Baker, who at sixteen is the youngest tradesman and gives his occupation as "under blacksmith." Stonemasons are Marshall H. Fouch and John W. Smallwood. The tailors are a Mr. Spanard and George W. Thomson. Israel Thompson (there in 1850) is the wool-carder, and C. W. O'Bannon, a tinner.

Less-than-usual occupations are given by William Burr Noland, auctioneer; John H. Bishop, gunsmith; Henry Moran, house painter; and seven cigar-makers, evidently comprising the "tobacco factory" mentioned in Edwards' 1855 *Gazetteer*. They were Thomas R. Baker, Charles E. Baker, and five with illegible last names. But judging from their first names they were from northern European origins. Jonathan W. Nixon operated an iron foundry in the ca. 1845-1861 years, and because of the smoke from the manufactory the town council may have relegated him to the "eastern extremity," adjacent to the smelly tannery, as noted in his deed. A few women now listed their occupations, and both were the oldest 'employed' persons in town: seamstress Margaret White, sixty-five, and "mantua maker" Elizabeth French, seventy-eight.

James Smith and W. B. Weeks are the town's first known officers, named as "constables" in March, 1843. Two officers appear to have been paid in 1850, for William Noland lists his occupation as constable and Jordan Gibson appears as sheriff. In 1860, R. G. McCarty listed himself as constable, but there is no sheriff. William Noland, a stalwart of Emmanuel Church, was the first known mayor; he held that office in 1853 and until his death in 1855.<sup>43</sup>

Physicians C. L. Wright and Pembroke Smith practiced in 1850, and John G. Mount, William McVeigh, and William Bailey Cochran appeared in both censuses. Joining them in the mid-1850's were Drs. James C. Broun and Francis W. Powell, who had an apprentice, William J. Luck. Doctor Luck went out on his own at age twenty-three in 1857, and he and Dr. Cochran will reappear several times in our story. There was also a dentist in 1860, J. C. W. Crooks (?), who had two "student-dentists," Silas H. Baker and Alex Bassett. Lawyers in both censuses were Burr Powell Noland and Lorman Chancellor. Robert McGregor and Robert McGuinn were school teachers in the 1860 census, and David Thomas, the "ME preacher" that year, may be the Southern Methodists' first pastor.

Middleburg also had a druggist, hitherto a luxury encountered in Leesburg, Waterford, and Warrenton. Quigley and Company, at the southeast corner of Hamilton and Washington, was in business by 1852, and in November, 1853, advertised a range of goods that would please Drug Fair or Peoples: cutlery, pistols, jewelry, lamps, spices, paint brushes, window glass, "French pictures very cheap," and a host of drugs and patent medicines. Specifically mentioned were toothpaste, tooth instruments, razors, cologne, and toiletries.

Most merchants, tradesmen, and professionals rented their places of business. In 1860, for instance, there were thirteen exceptions: merchants Adams, Broun, Bartlett, Moran, and Rogers; shoemaker Baker; cabinet-makers Heitoffer and Hutchison; auctioneer Noland; ironmonger Nixon; physician Cochran; and lawyers Chancellor and Noland. Thirty-seven persons owned the seventy-one lots that year; Burr Powell Noland owned five. The typical half-acre lot value was \$200, twice the 1850 value. Most lots,

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John Smith, and Sal  
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the many buildings was 340,073.  
By 1857 Middleburg had street numbers; for saddler John T. Cline advertised in Leesburg's *The Democratic Mirror* that his shop was at 76 Washington Street. This address was on the south side, between Madison and Pendleton, with the numbering system beginning east of Independence Street and working its way westward.

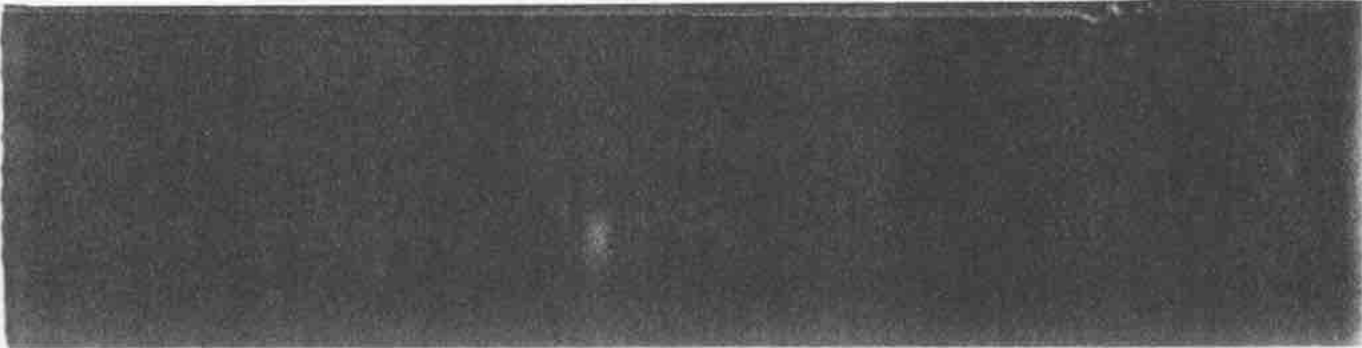
As tracks of the new Manassas Gap Railroad neared The Plains, the public spirited of that town and Middleburg wanted to improve the nine-mile stretch of road between the two places. In February, 1856, the General Assembly passed an act to incorporate The Middleburg and Plains Station Turnpike Company, with stock subscriptions to be sold at Asa Rogers' store in Middleburg. The road was to be twenty feet wide, with no summer road or "paving" required, and with a grade not to exceed four and one-half percent. Though the new turnpike would cost about \$10,000, forty percent coming from stock sales (the state paid sixty percent), the inability of the Ashby's Gap Turnpike to make a profit kept investors away, and the idea never got past the incorporation stage.<sup>44</sup>

Successors to the academies of William Williamson and Enos W. Newton were schools headmastered by James B. Dodd, a Doctor of Divinity, James Williams, Van Dyke Neill, the Rev. Traverse D. Herndon, a beloved evangelist and pastor of Long Branch Baptist Church, and mathematician William LeRoy Broun, who after the war became president of two colleges, Georgia A & M and Alabama Polytechnic (now Auburn). But of dates and details there are none. However, a July, 1854, Leesburg *Washingtonian* advertises a Middleburg Academy taught by N. Thomas Lupton and James Baker. One could take French, German, the natural sciences, chemistry, and the three R's. Tuition ran \$160 a year, half payable in advance.

For adults there was also a YMCA (and one in Leesburg) which sponsored speakers, and in October, 1859, met in the "Lecture Room." That year the Middleburg "Y" president was Burr P. Noland, with the other officers Dr. James C. Broun, John H. McGuinn, William H. Adams, and John T. Cline.

Church-building ushered in this era. On June 25th 1842 trustees of the "Protestant-Episcopal Church of Middleburg": Asa Rogers, William B. Cochran, Francis W. Powell, and George Cuthbert Powell, bought a quarter-acre of Lot 19 for seventy-five dollars. Next year "a very neat and convenient brick church by the name of Immanuel" — Hebrew for 'God with us' — was built, wrote Virginia Bishop John Johns, who consecrated the building. Culpeper County's the Rev. Philip Slaughter, later to achieve a measure of fame as historian of the Piedmont Episcopal Church, was the first minister. In 1927, when workmen built a rear addition to house a pipe organ given by Thomas Davis of New York (his daughter worshiped there while a Foxcroft student), they uncovered a brick with the etched date 1842. Bricks from the 1639 Lawn's Creek Church, Surry County, and the old Falls Church, Fairfax County, where George Washington was vestryman, were also placed in the walls. Emmanuel's design is remarkably close to two other area Episcopal churches, Saint Thomas Chapel at Middletown, Frederick County (1836), and Leeds Church near Hume in Fauquier (1842).

In 1853, Emmanuel Church and an Episcopal congregation meeting at Aldie, formerly in Meade Parish, became a new parish. Johns, named for the bishop, and pastored through 1870 by the Rev. O. A. Kinsolving. In early 1856, when Johns Parish vestrymen bought Lots 51 and 52 "with the brick dwelling thereon situated" for \$1,200, they stipulated that this parsonage tract could also be used "as a place for public worship or as a burial place." Two years later the vestry presented builder William Benton with a resolution of appreciation, and noted that the \$1,600 it took to buy and build the parsonage came from sixty-six subscribers, each giving between five and one hundred dollars.<sup>45</sup>



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Virginia, and from Middleburg, Col. George W. Geary's 132nd, commanded by Col. George W. Geary's 2nd Division, headed by Col. George W. Geary were required to be in the

three dollars for the privilege of voting: William N. Berkeley's 1st Regiment of the Rectortown Company or Col. George W. Geary's Loudoun Dragons, was line on July 13th.<sup>49</sup>

Mary Cochran, remembered that she—"fingers that had never going away laboriously upon upside down."<sup>50</sup>

time, Loudoun and Fauquier counties' April 17th decision to not to cast any opposing votes 1862-726, the Quakers voting

heavily for townsmen Burr and he re-elected in 1863, and campaign literature read: "I ability—small though it be—od his word.

mark area climbed Bull Run is plains. Next day wounded church. Five there lay dead, e wagons a "mournful train," nes Baker, who had joined

rawal from the Bull Run line old of patriotism, shortages, victory at Bull Run, they also Noland had been appointed without rank or pay. He had the Confederacy. Leesburg know of many heavy crops & ble and patriotic example of

ldiers, and the blockade that told a shortage that would ugustus Smith's and Edwin South," "received from New manufacture." A month after ng sacks sold for \$37 (prewar 15¢ prewar for white sugar), en, it was two days before

On February 27th, 1862, Col. John W. Geary's 132nd Virginia Infantry crossed from Harper's Ferry into Loudoun County. Countered only by small sorties of Confederate cavalry, the Key Staters occupied Leesburg on March 8th, and finding the Goose Creek bridge at Oatlands burned they turned west. On March 9th Catherine Broun wrote: "It is very distressing to us to see our own southern soldiers giving up this country."

Geary's men marauded about the base of the Blue Ridge between Snickersville and the Manassas Gap Railroad. They reached Upperville on the 15th, and next morning rode east on the pike to Middleburg. Mrs. Broun recorded their entrance: "We went to church today while we were there the Yanks came . . . They rushed through town looking to the right and left very much frightened as though they expected to be shot at every moment." Servants peering through windows said 'why they're people'; they had heard they were Yanks.

Mary Cochran added her recollections of March 16th: "8 impatient Yankees ride up & down the street as if the town belonged to them. Made my blood boil. . . . They were elaborately polite to him [Maj. Gen. Asa Rogers] & left without interfering with any one . . . the ladies coming from church wouldn't look toward them but went into their houses & closed the doors. The boys followed them with jeers & taunts."

Geary's reconnoitering continued, and while at Snickersville they were ordered south to repair the railroad. Via Philomont, Mountville, and Pot House, his men again reached Middleburg late morning on the 25th. Confederate pickets guarding town fled, but three hundred of Jeb Stuart's and Elijah V. White's cavalry rode down from Mount Defiance. Geary's dispatch said he pursued the cavalry, "who fled precipitately to a woods 2 miles distant. . . . They at first evinced a design to make a stand just beyond the town. . . . We threw a few well-directed shells among them in the woods, when they again fled [on the pike toward Upperville]."<sup>51</sup>

Middleburgers were initially hospitable to the thousand visitors. Catherine Broun noted that "Every one in town gave them something to eat but they were evidently not at all pleased with their receptions not a lady made her appearance some shut up their houses and one of them said they had not seen a gentleman smile since they came into town." She observed they were "Comfortably dressed but not a cent of money—their ladies with them, the major's wife dressed in man's clothes. They always wanted cold food fearing warm food would be poisoned. . . . The Union flag floats between Dr. Powells and Mr. Adams store so long it nearly touches the ground."

Geary's account mentioned a "violent secession feeling manifested in the town . . . we enlisted some of the leading men of the place in our wishes to preserve order. Among others who gave their parole were Generals Rogers and [Robert L.] Wright, and Colonel [Lorman A.] Chancellor, the latter of the One hundred and thirty-second Virginia Militia. A revulsion of feeling took place."

In rain and sleet Geary's troops left for The Plains at 7 a.m. on the 29th, Catherine Broun noting "they stole [from] every good house in the whole country meat, corn etc. etc. anything they wanted they just took."

The *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* did not mention an April 10th skirmish in town, but the diarists did. Mrs. Broun wrote: "The substance of the whole of the 'Middleburg fight' is this, Capt. White had two hundred men, Col. Geary two thousand. Capt. White's advance guard, fifteen men, drove forty Yanks at full speed through town and all the screaming that was heard was sneering at them and rejoicing at seeing our men approach." Mary Cochran remembered that Lige White encountered "40 Michiganers" some miles west on the pike and chased them into town. Later she read in Northern newspapers that Geary reported seven hundred men led by Jeb Stuart had driven them off. She added, "Geary had the happy knack of never getting to the Scene of action until the emergency was over."

"The next day was Easter Sunday," wrote Mrs. Cochran, "& was passed by them in sending out foraging parties to collect corn flour & every thing they could lay hands on." On April 12th Union soldiers again occupied town, but left for The Plains on the 14th.



a short-skirmish he lost three men and captured one. Mrs. Broun wrote that "200 Yanks were in town and 12 Confederates dashed after them."

A few days later Wyndham tried again. "He set a very nice trap to catch me in," wrote Mosby. "I went into it, but, contrary to the colonel's expectations, brought the trap off with me, killing 1, capturing 12, the balance running. The extent of the annoyance I have been to the Yankees may be judged . . . baffled in their attempts to capture me, they threaten to retaliate on citizens for my acts."<sup>54</sup>

Wyndham had evidently sent a warning to the town council. Quickly it drafted a petition to Mosby, asking him to stop his raids. On February 4th Mosby replied, addressing his letter to Francis W. Powell, Lorman A. Chancellor, I. G. Gray, and William Burr Noland: "I have just read your petition requesting me to discontinue my warfare on the Yankees, because they have threatened to burn your town & destroy your property in retaliation for my acts. Not being yet prepared for any such degrading compromises with the Yankees, I unhesitatingly refuse to comply. My attacks on scouts, patrols & pickets—which have provoked this threat, are sanctioned both by the custom of war & the practice of the enemy; & you are at liberty to inform them that no such clamor shall deter me from employing whatever legitimate weapons I can most efficiently use for their annoyance. I will say this much to you, however, that it was through a misunderstanding of my orders that the prisoners were brought through your town to be paroled—I was myself several miles behind the guard that had them—As my men have never occupied your town I can not see what possible complicity there can be between my acts & you."<sup>55</sup>

From winter to summer, periodic Union commands searched for Mosby's men. Catherine Broun wrote of a February 11th raiding party that searched homes and took cattle, horses, ten wagons, and "Arrested a number of citizens, took them down with them."

On March 2nd Mrs. Broun noted 2,000 "Yanks charged on Middleburg and such yelling I never heard . . . They searched the houses, took some citizens and horses continue to say if Capt. Mosby was not stopped they will burn the houses down." Vividly recalling the incident in his 1887 *War Reminiscences*, Mosby wrote of the "tears and lamentations of the daughters. . . . Their beauty had won the hearts of many of my men. To avenge the wrongs of distressed damsels is one of the vows of knighthood; so we [seventeen men] spurred on to overtake the federal cavalry." The rear guard of sixty, who were escorting the hostages, were ridden down at the Aldie Mill, and to escape some jumped into the wheat bins "and buried themselves like rats." Others jumped into the hoppers "and came near being ground up into flour." Mosby returned the freed hostages to Middleburg, and "with song and dance, we celebrated the events."

The burning threat came true April 9th. For three days, noted Mary Cochran, the Yankees had been combing the Bull Run Mountain and Landmark area, "arresting men stealing horses & pilfering generally." On reaching Middleburg, "Every horse in town that was considered able to reach Fairfax C H was taken. Every citizen on the street arrested. Every woman who appeared was jeered at and insulted." By late afternoon 2,000 of Brig. Gen. Joseph Tarr Copeland's marauders were raising further havoc, and some set fire to Edwin Broun's store. An officer "stood on style" and gave orders to put out the fire, but the men cursed: "Let the damn scrap burn." General Copeland was mounting his horse: "He looked for a few moments at the fire & then rode off with his guard without a word." Mrs. Broun added that had it not been for a Pennsylvania sergeant, standing amidst the wind-blown flames, while ladies and servants passed him buckets of water, much of the town would have been destroyed.

Major General Julius Stahel's dispatch gave the date as April 4th, noting that the only resistance came from pickets east of town, with one death and one wounded on each side. He wrote that on returning to Fairfax Court House, Copeland's expedition had netted 61 prisoners—"citizens soldiers"—53 horses, three wagons, a quantity of wheat, and other booty.

Fredericksburg; their Rappahannock, at Clifton. Singleton Mosby met Company A, 43rd B. The four then rode a waiting group. Mosby the four would be their

To screen the movement in the Valley, Maj. Gen. Jeb Magruder kept the enemy away from troop movements. Cavalry to the Blue Ridge and the 22nd, the opponent's successive cavalry engagements.

On June 17th Cavalry pike. They were to Loudoun and Fauquier force veered north at Mountville. Other Cavalry Middleburg and moved

After brushing a reconnoissance severe the village. Both sides

reconnaissance toward Also on the 17th northwest from Aldie of Bunker Hill. A hill in, and then met his

The Confederates and were soon reinforced by Dover and Cobb Hill mounted attacks tried After the charges M. Staters down the hill Munford to withdraw had the field, but dec

Brigadier General 305 casualties, 50 killed. In his 1882 recollections horses in the same spot Gen. David M. Gregg's regiments, rather than called the engagement reported eight killed force.<sup>57</sup>

In the late 1880s ground and were well road and stone wall. Mr. Furr a Boston Loudoun, features a centered on a horse the 1st Massachusetts



A Crayon on Paper of town founder Leven Powell, ca. 1805, by Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret Saint-Memin, a French artist who had fled the Revolution. Courtesy of the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts.

Burr Powell gave this plat of Middleburg to the county clerk's office in 1815. The plat may date from 1787, but the 'scraggly' roads leading to town bear later names such as Haymarket (not in use until 1799). North is to the right, East is at the bottom, with points "A" and "B" delineating never-cut-through Independence Street, and points "C" and "D" never-cut-through Constitution Street, the town's western boundary. Each block measures 247 by 352 feet. Of the seventy half-acre lots, some forty had been sold by 1822, when the population reached some 380 persons. Jonah Tavenner's 1883 *Plot of Middleburg*, hanging in the town office, shows exactly the same dimensions.



An oil of Burr Powell, inheritor of his father's mantle. The location of the ca. 1800 miniature is not known. Copy courtesy of Susan Frost Parrish, Washington, D. C.

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17. June 7. 1801.