



Workgroup for College and Campus/Location Names Review

Thursday, August 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom video/audio conference*

Agenda and Meeting Notes

<p>Framework for naming decision</p> <p>Workgroup members discussed attached reference materials and recommended readings concerning principles for renaming decisions.</p> <p>Kim Blosser proposed the following ‘relevant factors to be considered’ cited in (Attachment 2) be the framework for evaluating ‘appropriateness’ of LFCC’s college and campus names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior especially deserving of honor • Centrality of the person’s offensive behavior to his or her life as a whole <p><i>Strongest case for renaming is made when honoree’s offensive behavior is inextricably connected with his/her public persona.</i> <i>Was the relevant legacy significantly contested in the time and place in which the namesake lived?</i> <i>Weaker case where honoree’s offensive behavior is not publicly known or not a central or inextricable part of his/her public persona – especially when the behavior was conventional at the time of the behavior – and – when other aspects of the person’s life and work are especially praiseworthy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship of the honoree to the College’s History (or mission and vision of the college – added by consensus of workgroup) • Harmful impact of the honoree’s behavior <p><i>Strongest case for renaming when the morally repugnant behavior of an honoree has a significant negative effect on the core mission of pursuing knowledge and receiving an education.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community identification with the honoree <p><i>Weaker case for renaming when the honoree is part of a valuable, positive tradition, or identification shared by a large number of community members and/or alumni.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength and clarity of the historical evidence • The College’s prior consideration of the issue <p>Workgroup is in agreement of the above-listed factors to be considered when determining ‘appropriateness’ of LFCC’s college and campus names. Kim Blosser will transfer factors into a rubric.</p>	<p>Kim Blosser, LFCC President</p>
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<p>Attachment 1: “George Mason University is named for a slave-owning Founding Father. Let’s talk about that.” – A letter from GMU President, Dr. Gregory Washington</p> <p>Attachment 2: <i>Principles for Renaming Decisions</i></p> <p><i>Recommended Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-14323173 https://news.stanford.edu/2018/02/23/renaming-committee-seeks-input-university-community/ https://www.mediaite.com/online/sanitizing-history-condoleezza-rice-slams-attempts-to-remove-slave-owners-monuments/ http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2016/1/19/faust-name-title-changes/ 	
<p>Lord Fairfax – Impact of the honoree’s behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas IV Lord Fairfax attended Oxford University, but achievement and time active was limited. • He was a living connection with the mother country of England and an immigrant. • Serves as a connection with independence; he was not a patriot but was a mentor of George Washington who respected Lord Fairfax’s political views, while not always agreeing with them. • Owned significant amount of land and had role in establishing largest urban center in our region. • Numerous places in Virginia named after individuals born in England who owned land in this area. • Thomas IV Lord Fairfax lived during a time of rapid expansion of slavery in the area. Possibly responsible for establishment of 30+ plantations in the region. However, he did not fight for the cause of maintaining a slave society. <p>To date, no community members have expressed inappropriateness of the Lord Fairfax college name. However, it is uncertain as to how many community members are familiar with the individual and life of Thomas IV Lord Fairfax.</p> <p>Attachment 3: “A Proprietary Place”: <i>Lord and Land in Winchester’s Beginnings</i> – Curtis F. Morgan</p> <p>Attachment 4: “Lord Fairfax” – Curtis F. Morgan</p>	<p>Blosser; Curtis Morgan, LFCC professor of history; Jonathan Noyalas, Shenandoah University professor of history</p>
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for September 2, 2020.</p>	<p>All</p>

Meeting Attendance:

Name	Attendance
Kim Blosser, LFCC president	Present
Renard Carlos, College Board member representing Fauquier County; LFCC alum	Present
Anne Davis, LFCC vice president of academic and student affairs	Present
Jay Gillispie, LFCC dean of humanities, social sciences and student development; professor of history	Present
Ashley Hansen, LFCC executive assistant to the president	Present
Judy Humbert, local author, historian and social justice advocate	Present
Pam McInnis, College Board chair representing Warren County	Present
Curtis Morgan, LFCC professor of history	Present
Jonathan Noyalas, Shenandoah University professor of history and director of the McCormick Civil War Institute	Present
John Owens, LFCC librarian	Present
Mike Wenger, College Board vice chair representing Rappahannock County	Present

*** Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/95778542525>

Meeting ID: 957 7854 2525

1-301-715-8592 – to dial in

George Mason University is named for a slave-owning Founding Father. Let's talk about that.

The man for whom my institution is named promoted individual liberties and advocated for the enslavement of humans. It's a legacy with which we must deal.

Aug. 8, 2020, 9:32 AM EDT

By Dr. Gregory Washington, president, George Mason University

With Confederate statues being torn or taken down and racist nicknames being dropped by sports teams, it is a good moment for people of conscience to consider the ways in which we commemorate America's forefathers, who both created a nation based on the Enlightenment principles of individual liberty and natural rights, and were incapable of rising above the norms of their time and thus supported and profited from the enslavement of other human beings.

In total, [12 of the first 18 U.S. presidents owned enslaved individuals at some point in their lives](#), and nine had them working at the White House. And a majority of the founders of the United States held people in enslavement, including [41 of the 56 signatories of the Declaration of Independence](#), and [25 of the 55 men who wrote the U.S. constitution](#). George Mason — of whose namesake university in Virginia I am now not only the president but its first Black president — was one of them.

I was named president of George Mason University in February, and had barely started in on the job before I was asked by a reporter: *Should George Mason University's name change?*

The question is a legitimate one — and it's worth considering. His contradictory life serves as a constant reminder of our nation's contradictions, which we must relentlessly address to close the gap between our highest aspirations and our imperfect behavior.

Many people who know of him would describe George Mason as a patriot of the first order: His authorship of the Virginia Declaration of Rights was inspiration for both Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence and, eventually, the Bill of Rights, the addendum to the U.S. Constitution that serves as the framework of our rights as Americans.

Yet George Mason also held more than 100 enslaved people when he wrote the documents codifying Americans' right to liberty — and he refused to make provisions for their care or release them from enslavement upon his death.

Should we then now continue to recognize George Mason and other founders as brilliant and devoted patriots? Or should we condemn them for ignoring the basic ideals by which they defined this country?

We should do both, because Mason is the very embodiment of the duality of America, which we celebrate for its insistence on liberty and justice for all, even though it enslaved and segregated millions of its own people for most of its history. (And the founders, who created and united this

nation, are and should be seen as fundamentally distinct from the Confederate generals who separated from this great nation and then also took up arms against it.)

We can neither run away from the atrocities committed throughout this nation's history, nor from the fact that the core principles established by founders like Mason — like fairness, equality and liberty — were also the foundational principles employed by the civil rights and other movements.

At George Mason University, by keeping Mason in our name, we keep both lessons of his life active in our own quests to form a more perfect union — and certainly a better university.

To my tremendous pride and satisfaction, this university began balancing Mason's lore with his actual life experiences years before my tenure as president began. In 2017 — when no one was looking to or expecting anything of us — our faculty and students undertook the work of revealing the full story of Mason by rediscovering the identities of those people he enslaved.

They wanted to help us all remember their names while telling their stories — and fully adding their contributions and enduring beauty to the story of this complicated Founding Father.

By holding up the reality of George Mason's experience rather than tossing it away, we can step into the complexity of the deeply uncomfortable truth he represents. As a university, we then debate, discuss, research and teach it, all to better understand George Mason as a man, a slave holder, a founder and an American.

The Enslaved Children of George Mason Memorial project is thus emblematic of the character of the university I now lead.

But don't let us off the hook just yet — because the really hard work of transforming our institution lies ahead. It lies in evaluating and restructuring areas of our university where systems of racism and social inequities quietly took and will, without care, continue to take root, such as hiring and recruitment, curriculum development and university business practices.

I [just launched a task force](#) to tackle these inequities — large and small, obvious and subtle — and offer a concrete action plan that we can use to change that which has long needed changing. The task force will develop recommendations for us to implement within the next year, including: how we recruit, educate and support students; how we hire and promote faculty and employees; how we choose the content of our curriculum, and how we teach it; and how we name buildings, plazas and other spaces on campus.

I am not interested in purely symbolic gestures; we are way past rhetoric.

It is time we complete the work begun years ago to transform George Mason University into a national exemplar of anti-racism, to honor the fundamental contributions of our founders while simultaneously denouncing their acts of inhumanity. We can only do that by eliminating current systemic racism that offends the very constitution those founders created.

We can and will transform George Mason University into the living embodiment of the ideals its namesake set forth with his pen, even as he undermined them in his actions. But focusing intently on the name of George Mason doesn't do that.

Dr. Gregory Washington

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/george-mason-university-named-slave-owning-founding-father-let-s-ncna1236054>

Principles for Renaming Decisions^{i ii}

Initial considerations related to people's names:

- Attitudes about people can change over time
- People's reputations are constantly being reassessed
- Names and addresses are an everyday reminder of people's history
- What is the harm caused by retaining the name?
 - Does the honoree's behavior compromise the college mission, including the commitment to intellectual integrity and diversity and inclusion of all members of our LFCC community)
 - Answer will depend on the following:
 - Nature of the conduct at issue
 - Prominence and role of the named feature in daily life at the college
 - Degree to which the name interferes with teaching, learning, working, or living in the community
- What are potential harms of renaming?
 - Should not be based on particular beliefs or opinions
 - Should not inhibit free inquiry and discussion
 - Names may have a positive value for employees or students or alumni; renaming could be seen as disrespectful of their views

Relevant Factors to be considered:

- Behavior especially deserving of honor
- Centrality of the person's offensive behavior to his or her life as a whole
 - Strongest case for renaming is made when honoree's offensive behavior is inextricably connected with his/her public persona
 - Was the relevant legacy significantly contested in the time and place in which the namesake lived?
 - Weaker case where honoree's offensive behavior is:
 - Not publicly known
 - Not a central or inextricable part of his/her public persona – especially when the behavior was conventional at the time of the behavior – and – when other aspects of the person's life and work are especially praiseworthy
- Relationship of the honoree to the College's History
- Harmful impact of the honoree's behavior
 - Strongest case for renaming when the morally repugnant behavior of an honoree has a significant negative effect on the core mission of pursuing knowledge and receiving an education

- Community identification with the honoree
 - Weaker case for renaming when the honoree is part of a valuable, positive tradition, or identification shared by a large number of community members and/or alumni
- Strength and clarity of the historical evidence
- The College’s prior consideration of the issue

Concepts of History (included in the Yale report)

Robin Winks, the former master of Berkeley College, who served on the Yale faculty from 1957 to 1999, wrote that there are “two different concepts of history.”

- History is a record of things from the past that should not be forgotten
 - Removing an item from the historical record is like lying
 - Removals are akin to the infamous “Great Soviet Encyclopedia”, in which history became whatever the leaders wanted it to be at any moment in time
- History is a commemoration and memorialization of the past
 - Commemoration conveys honor and pride and can also convey mourning and loss
 - Commemoration expresses values, such as a change in the way a community memorializes its past offers a way to recognize important changes in the community’s values
- Winks argues both conceptions matter:
 - A college should not erase the historical record
 - A college should decide what to commemorate and what to honor, subject always to the obligation not to efface the history that informs the world in which we live

ⁱ Factors and considerations adapted from Yale University’s Report of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming: https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/CEPR_FINAL_12-2-16.pdf, as well as the Yale News articles written about the committee’s work: <https://news.yale.edu/2016/12/02/report-outlines-principles-renaming-campus-buildings>.

ⁱⁱ Factors and Considerations also adapted from Stanford University’s Advisory Committee on Renaming Principles: <https://news.stanford.edu/2018/02/23/renaming-committee-seeks-input-university-community/> and the

“A Proprietary Place”: Lord and Land in Winchester’s Beginnings”

By:

Curtis F. Morgan

This fellow might be in's time a great buyer of land, with his statutes, his recognizances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoveries. Is this the fine of his fines, and the recovery of his recoveries, to his fine pate full of fine dirt?

-- *Hamlet*, Act V, Scene 1

The noble prince of Denmark’s lament over Yorick’s skull could have been uttered over that of Thomas, Baron Cameron, 6th Lord Fairfax (1693-1781), whose lands, known as the “Northern Neck,” passed silently into the hands of the Commonwealth of Virginia on his death, there being no “heirs of his body” (he remained a lifelong bachelor), and his only relatives having fled the rebellious United States. Winchester sprouted from land originally owned by Lord Fairfax. His proof of ownership (and his rights to rent or otherwise dispose of this land) derived from legal documents like these, specimens of “the hidden weapon of private property, paper.”¹

Pictured here are two examples of “land patents,” legal documents drawn up by Lord Fairfax to permit settlers to occupy and farm land that continued to belong to him, paying for this privilege a “quit-rent” in “one shilling sterling money for every fifty acres of land,” payable annually “on the feast day of St. Mich[ae]l the Archangel” (September 29). Note that the rent was payable in “cash” not “kind.” The tenant would have to sell his produce to generate the money (hence the due date, timed for harvest). Fairfax’s right to collect these fees, and his ownership of the Northern Neck, derived from King Charles I’s grant to his maternal grandfather Alexander, Lord Culpeper, whose daughter Catherine married the 5th Lord Fairfax. Thomas’s father died so deeply in debt that Catherine insisted he sell off the Virginia lands to settle accounts; he instead did the opposite, selling the more valuable Fairfax lands in England and retaining the Virginia grant for himself, to which he removed permanently in 1747, once his rights to ownership were legally established by an Order in Council signed by King George II in 1745.²

Settled at his Greenway Court manor home (near present-day White Post), Fairfax began collecting the quit-rents owed to him. Not a farmer himself, the “bachelor baron” simply lived off of the income he collected from his tenants. His right to do this came from medieval English law, based on the principle of *nulla terre sans seigneur* (“no land without a lord”), which meant that “every acre of land was held of a lord, either the King himself, or some landed proprietor” who had a grant from the King. In exchange for this land, the holder was expected to yield “fealty and fixed rent” in produce as well as labor services. By the 18th century, this system had evolved into a simple payment of a “quit-rent,” which meant “the tenant was quit, i.e. free from all other annual feudal charges.” Thus the patent agreements: each tenant could hold a portion of the lord’s lands and use it as long as he paid the quit-rent to his (land-)Lord Fairfax.³

The Fairfax Proprietary stretched from the Atlantic coast to the Appalachians, enclosed by the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers. This land was sparsely populated and largely unexplored in the 1750s. The baron employed a number of surveyors, among them young George Washington, who was a frequent visitor to Greenway Court, befriended George William Fairfax (the son of the

Lord's cousin and agent, William Fairfax), and became familiar with the northern Shenandoah Valley, living in Winchester and receiving a commission in and command of the Virginia Regiment. Washington also held land near Mount Vernon from Lord Fairfax, to whom he wrote from camp in December 1778 regarding a fraudulent land claim by a neighbor: "These Lands are included within ancient marked bounds by which I purchased them, and have regularly, & I trust satisfactorily paid your Lordship the quit rent these fifteen or twenty years."⁴

Until swept away by the American Revolution, "quit-rents" and land patents like these were "coins of the realm" in and around Winchester, Virginia.

Notes

¹ In February 1752, the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill requested by Lord Fairfax and Col. James Wood establishing the town of Winchester (renamed from Fredericktown). Stuart E. Brown, Jr., *Virginia Baron: The Story of Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax*, (Berryville, VA: Chesapeake Book Co., 1965), 123. However, "Fairfax was in no true sense a founder of Winchester. James Wood created an opportunity, and Fairfax took advantage of it to exact additional revenue." Frederic Morton, *The Story of Winchester in Virginia: The Oldest Town in the Shenandoah Valley*, rpt. 1925, (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 31; "Hidden Weapon," Andro Linklater, *Owning the Earth: The Transforming History of Land Ownership*, (New York: Bloomsbury, 2013), 34.

² For details, see Fairfax Harrison, *Virginia Land Grants: A Study of Conveyancing in Relation to Colonial Politics*, (Richmond, VA: Old Dominion Press, 1925), 105-109, 111-113. See also Josiah Look Dickinson, *The Fairfax Proprietary: The Northern Neck, the Fairfax Manors and the Beginnings of Warren County in Virginia* (Front Royal, VA: Warren Press, 1959.) On the Fairfax/Culpeper grants, dating back to 1649, see "Appendix I: The Northern Neck Proprietary to 1745," Douglas Southall Freeman, *George Washington, Vol. I: Young Washington 1732-1754*, (New York: Scribners, 1948), 447-513.

³ Charles M. Andrews, Intro. to Beverley W. Bond, Jr., *The Quit-Rent System in the American Colonies*, (New Haven, CT.: Yale University Press, 1919), 14-19.

⁴ General George Washington to Thomas, Lord Fairfax, December 17, 1778, Edward G. Lengel, ed., *The Papers of George Washington: Revolutionary War Series* vol. 18, 1 November 1778 – 14 January 1779, (Charlottesville: Univ. of Virginia Press, 2008), 429-430. For more on the Fairfax-Washington relationship, see Curtis F. Morgan, "Lord Fairfax," In *George Washington Digital Encyclopedia*, ed. Joseph F. Stoltz III. (Mount Vernon Estate, 2012).
<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/lord-fairfax/>

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Lord Fairfax

Thomas, Baron Cameron, sixth Lord Fairfax, was George Washington's mentor, neighbor, employer, and friend. The relationship between the two stretched from Washington's teenage years until the end of the baron's life. The effect of this relationship on Washington's development was significant.

Fairfax was the man young Washington aspired to be; socially prominent, well-connected, and involved in important affairs. Ultimately, Washington's failure to achieve Fairfax's landed wealth and status, together with the Crown's refusal to grant Washington a royal officer's commission, hastened him into rebellion against Britain in the 1770s. However, even through the tensions of the revolutionary era, Washington remained respectful, even affectionate toward the aging aristocrat (the only English titled nobleman ever to reside permanently in the American colonies) until Fairfax's death in December 1781.

Thomas Fairfax was the eldest son and heir of the fifth Lord Fairfax and his wife Catherine, granddaughter of John Culpeper, Charles I's Chancellor of the Exchequer. Fairfax was born at Leeds Castle in Kent (in southeast England) on October 22, 1693. The Castle along with other lands in England, as well as a proprietary grant of land in Virginia between the headwaters of the Rappahannock and the Potomac (known as the "Northern Neck") were Fairfax's inheritance by 1719.

After a brief stint at Oriel College, Oxford, an officer's commission in the British army, and a youth spent largely partying in London and hunting in the countryside, Fairfax was brought to earth by his mother's insistence that he sell much of the Fairfax estates in England to liquidate his father's debts. However, Fairfax refused to part with the Northern Neck. In 1664 and 1681 King Charles II had granted the Northern Neck to Fairfax's maternal grandfather, Lord Culpeper.

Fairfax first visited his Virginia lands in 1735, and was immediately attracted to the rustic beauty of the Blue Ridge. After a stint in Britain to establish legally where the "headwaters" of the Rappahannock and the Potomac were (the Privy Council in 1745 secured the northern Shenandoah Valley to Fairfax, as well as other lands that are now part of West Virginia), Fairfax returned permanently to Virginia in 1742, built an estate (known as Greenway Court) in what is now Clarke County, and in 1748 hired, among others, the sixteen-year old Washington to survey the Northern Neck.

The next decade (1748-58) was a formative time in Washington's life. He was a frequent visitor to Greenway Court, befriended George William Fairfax (the son of the Lord's cousin and agent, William Fairfax), and became familiar with the northern Shenandoah Valley, living in Winchester and receiving a commission in and command of the Virginia Regiment. Washington's friendship with and sponsorship by Lord Fairfax was instrumental in the young man's rise to political and social prominence. The two frequently went foxhunting at **Belvoir** on the Potomac. Fairfax supported Washington's successful bid for election to the House of Burgesses in 1758, writing that "I fear Coll. Washington will be very hard pushed," in the three-way race.¹ The Lord also tried unsuccessfully to get Washington a seat on the Governor's Council in the early 1770s.

Lord Fairfax, a Loyalist at heart for personal, ideological and monetary reasons, managed to avoid expropriation of his lands by the Patriot Virginia government, possibly because of Washington's protection. By the time the Americans achieved independence, the baron was in his eighties and was careful to express no open opposition to the Revolution or its leader. Washington kept tabs on the old man, writing from Valley Forge in March 1778 that "Lord Fairfax (as I have been told) after having bowed down to the grave, & in an manner shaken hands with death, is perfectly restored, & enjoys his usual good health, and as much vigour as falls to the lot of Ninety."

In December 1778, Washington wrote to Fairfax from camp in Middlebrook, New Jersey to complain of the encroachment onto his Fairfax County lands of a neighbor, Thomasin Ellzey. Washington explained, "I am persuaded that I need do nothing more than to bring your Lordship acquainted with these facts. . . . I neither hold, nor claim lands that have not been paid for . . . to your Lordship by quit rent. . . . I repose too much confidence in your known justice to harbor a moment's doubt" that Fairfax would stop Ellzey's claim. The matter was apparently resolved soon after.²

The bachelor baron of the Northern Neck died December 7, 1781 at Greenway Court, having lived to see the achievement of American independence made possible by his young protégé, George Washington.³

Curtis F. Morgan Jr., Ph.D.
Lord Fairfax Community College

Notes:

1. "Thomas, Lord Fairfax to George William Fairfax, July 5, 1758," Edward D. Neill, *The Fairfaxes of England and America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: including letters from and to Hon. William Fairfax, president of Council of Virginia, and his sons Col. George William Fairfax and Rev. Bryan, eighth Lord Fairfax, the neighbors and friends of George Washington*. (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell, 1868), 98.

2. "George Washington to George William Fairfax, 11 March 1778," *The Writings of George Washington*, Vol. 11, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office); "George Washington to Lord Fairfax, 17 December 1778," *The Writings of George Washington*, Vol. 13.

3. "His Lordship died December the 7th." "Bryan Martin (nephew and heir) to Brian Fairfax, December 1781," quoted in "My Lord Fairfax, of Virginia", *Scribner's Magazine*(1879), 716.

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Thomas, Lord Fairfax Collection, 57 THL, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA, USA.

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