

HAYMARKET

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HISTORY OF HAYMARKET, Va.

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REFERENCE

Haymarket was started in the early 17th Century under the name of Red House. The exact date is unknown but the first recorded history is of the Carolina Road, an old Indian Trail, which runs North and South through the town. Colonel Abraham Woods reported in 1662 of the trades the Susquehannocks had then established with Carolina Indians.

The first record of Red House as such was during the Revolutionary War when General Wayne camped overnight on his way to join LaFayette on June 4, 1781. It was later mentioned as a stop for British prisoners as they were being moved from Yorktown to the prison camps in Winchester and Frederick, Maryland.

Since there were two Red Houses in Virginia, it is supposed that after the U.S. Postal System came into being that Red House was changed to Haymarket. The town, under the name of Haymarket, was first mentioned in the October 1, 1787 edition of the Virginia Gazette, advertising the Haymarket Inn.

Haymarket was chartered as a town in 1799. A District Court was established in Haymarket for the Counties of Fauquier, Loudon, Fairfax and Prince William the town flourished until the Legislature disbanded these District Courts in 1807. The Court House was sold and used as a school for a few years, it was then resold and turned into a church for which purpose it is still being used.

In 1825, on his last visit to America, LaFayette passed through Haymarket while travelling from Warrenton to Leesburg. People came from miles around and lined the roads to see him.

In 1850, the railroad came to Haymarket and gave the town a much needed boost to the economy, though since the Civil War, the town has struggled hard to exist.

After the Civil War started in 1861, many events took place. First the enlisting of a company of soldiers from this locality and soon the big guns were booming at First Manassas. Johnson's and Jackson's Army came through the town by train on their way to the battle front. During this battle many wounded men were brought here for treatment and all available places were used for hospitals, including the Episcopal Church.

The next summer, Jackson moved his army through on his way to capture Manassas Junction - followed by Longstreet and Lee - and the battle of Second Manassas took place four miles away. The town was again used as a hospital. Many soldiers died and they were buried in trenches behind the Episcopal Church.

After the Southern Army moved south of the Rappahannock, the town was soon overrun by Yankee Troops, it was looted and burned on November 4, 1862 by mercenaries encamped near to where the Thoroughfare is now located. All the buildings in the town were burned with the exception of the church and three small log houses. The church was burned at a later date. Only one of the three remaining houses still stand. It was used as a Clerk's Office during Court days, it is presently the home of Miss Elizabeth S. Cobb.

In the early days, the town was noted for its horse race track - this was a straight away - starting in front of where the Tyler School now stands with the finish line in the field behind the Baptist Church.