

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2015

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: INVENTORY OF CONFEDERATE MEMORIALS, NAMES AND SYMBOLS

As discussed in recent 1:1 meetings, the plan to handle the issue of Confederate flags, memorials and names is planned to come to Council in September. The staff plan after consulting with the Mayor is to have the docket item presented at Council's First Legislative meeting on September 8th, and then subject to public hearing and action on September 12th. In the last several weeks City staff has undertaken extensive historical and legal research with the results reported below. This memo is provided to Council ahead of the planned docket memorandum so you all have some time to contemplate the range of issues you will likely hear at the public hearing.

- 1. Flying of Confederate flags:** The City has full authority to decide whether to fly the Confederate flag or not in the public right of way, but if the Confederate flag is not going to be flown in the future then there are implications for the flying of other flags. First Amendment issues then would require also restricting other flags, which the City Attorney advises means that the flags which could be flown would only be the U.S. flag, the Commonwealth of Virginia's flag and the City's flag. This would mean that the Irish flag and the Red Cross flag which have traditionally been flown in March of every year would no longer be flown.
- 2. The Appomattox Statue at South Washington and Prince:** This statue which commemorates the Confederate dead cannot be removed without authorization from the General Assembly.
- 3. Jefferson Davis Highway:** While the General Assembly set the Jefferson Davis Highway name in 1922, this road in the City apparently had a name of River Road until City Council changed the name of that road in 1952 to Jefferson Davis Highway (this was part of the overall street name changes made by the City discussed below). The City Attorney has determined that the City has the authority under its charter to name if Council so wished. If Arlington wants to change the name as well, as they do not have charter authority, they would have to get General Assembly approval. It would be logical to jointly decide on the same new name for that stretch of Jefferson Davis Highway.

4. **Confederate Street Names:** In 1953, the City renamed many streets and renumbered many houses and businesses in the City (west of the railroad tracks) in part due to then recent annexation of part of Fairfax County, and in part to establish a more logical street naming and numbering system in the City. As part of that plan, the naming of north-south streets after Confederate military leaders was established as a naming convention. Attachment I lists some 33 streets that are clearly Confederate military related street names (nearly all Generals).

In addition there are more than 30 streets in the City (Attachment II) which may have Confederate related names, but historical documentation of City Street naming intent is not clear for these names, or the street names may be for a notable local resident who had a relationship to the Confederate cause.

5. **Marshall House plaque:** This is a plaque in the 400 block of King Street that commemorates from a Confederate point of view the fatal shooting in 1861 of a Union officer by the owner of Marshall House after the Union officer removed the Confederate States of America flag from the roof of that building. The plaque is owned by the Daughters of the Confederacy and is attached to private property. As a result this is not a public matter that Council has control over.
6. **Robert E. Lee's portrait in Council Chambers:** Its presence in Council Chambers is at Council's discretion.
7. **Maury Elementary School:** This school is apparently named after Matthew Fontaine Maury who was responsible for Confederate seacoast defenses. School names are the responsibility of the Alexandria City Public Schools.
8. **Lee Center:** The record of the history of the Lee Center name of this facility is unclear. The building which houses the Fire Training Center, administrative office of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and other functions is housed in what was the former Robert E. Lee Elementary School which closed in 1978. It is connected to the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. Ms. Lee was a notable African American teacher in the City. There is no historical record to date which has been found in staff's research which definitively determines the intent when this facility was named.

Attachment I - Inventory of Confederate Street Names in the City of Alexandria, VA

Attachment II – Inventory of Possible Confederate Street Names in the City of Alexandria, VA

cc: James Banks, City Attorney
Emily Baker, Acting Deputy City Manager
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director
Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria

INVENTORY OF CONFEDERATE STREET NAMES IN CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA

Beauregard Street — Named for General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, Gen., CSA, designer of the CSA “Battle Flag”

Bragg Street — Named for Braxton Bragg, Gen., CSA

Braxton Place — Named for General Bragg’s first name

Breckinridge Place — Named for John Cabell Breckinridge, elected Vice President of the United States in 1856, later served as Brig. Gen., CSA .

Calhoun Avenue — Named for J. Lawrence Calhoun, Major, CSA

Chambliss Street — Named for General John Chambliss, CSA

Dearing Street — Named for James Dearing. Although unconfirmed by CSA Senate, Dearing was the last Confederate General to die in battle.

Donelson Street — Named for Daniel Smith Donelson, Brig. Gen., CSA .

Early Street — Named for Jubal Early, Gen., CSA

Floyd Street — Named for John Buchanan Floyd, Brig. Gen, CSA

French Street — Named for Samuel Gibbs French, Brig. Gen, CSA

Frost Street — Named for Daniel M. Frost, Brig. Gen., CSA

Gordon Street — Named for John Brown Gordon, General, CSA

Gorgas Place — Possibly named for Josiah Gorgas, Gen., CSA

Hardee Place — Named for Confederate General William Joseph Hardee

Hume Avenue — Named for Frank Hume, a former Confederate soldier and spy who settled Alexandria.

Imboden Street — Named for Gen. John D. Imboden, CSA

Iverson Street — Named for Gen Alfred Iverson, Jr., CSA

Jackson Place — Named for James W. Jackson, CSA defender who killed Union Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth at the Marshall House on May 24, 1861.

Janney's Lane — Named for Major Eli Hamilton Janney, Major, CSA, Alexandria, owned property along the roadway.

Jefferson Davis Highway — Named for Jefferson Davis – first President of the Confederacy. (formerly River Road along Potomac Yards)

Jordan Street — Named for Thomas Jordan, Brig. General, CSA

Jubal Avenue — Named for Jubal Early, Gen., CSA

Kirkland Place — Possibly named for Sergeant Kirkland, a Confederate soldier who was called the “angel” of the Battle of Fredericksburg, who cared for wounded Federal soldiers.

Lee Street — Named for the Lee Family of Virginia, first surveyed in 1749 as Water Street until it was changed to Lee Street upon the death of Mrs. Robert E. Lee in 1874.

Longstreet Lane — Named for James Longstreet, Lt. Gen., CSA

Maury Lane — Named for Matthew Fontaine Maury, Chief of Sea Coast, River and Harbor Defenses for the Confederacy, in 1850's attempted to eradicate slavery from the United States entirely by re-settling Southern slaves in South America.

Pegram Street — Named for John Pegram, Brig. Gen, CSA

Reynolds Street — Named for Alexander Welch or Daniel H, Brig. Gens., CSA

Quantrell Avenue— Named for William Clark Quantrell, Gen., CSA

Rosser Street — Named for Thomas L. Rosser.

Van Dorn Street — Named for Earl Van Dorn, Brig. Gen., CSA

Wheeler Avenue — Named for Joseph Wheeler, General, CSA

*Source: Office of Historic Alexandria
August 2015*

**INVENTORY OF POSSIBLE CONFEDERATE STREET
NAMES IN CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA**

Armistead Street — Possibly named for Louis Addison Armistead, Gen, CSA
Armistead was married at Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

Cockrell Street — Named for either Francis Cockrell, Brig. Gen., CSA, or Cockrell family,
property-owners in Alexandria.

Courtney Avenue- Possibly named for A.R. Courtney's Battalion, CSA

Davis Avenue — Possibly named for Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederacy.

Frazier Street — Possibly named for Col. James Frazier, CSA

Gorgas Place — Possibly named for Josiah Gorgas, Gen., CSA

Hampton Drive — Possibly named for Wade Hampton, a Confederate Cavalry
Officer.

Herbert Street — Possibly named for Colonel Arthur Herbert, commander
of the 17th Virginia Regiment, CSA.

Johnston Place — Possibly named for Joseph Eggleton Johnston, Gen. CSA

Jordan Court — Possibly named for Thomas Jordan, Brig. General, CSA

Kirkland Place — Possibly named for Sergeant Kirkland, a Confederate
soldier who was called the "angel" of the Battle of Fredericksburg, who cared
for wounded Federal soldiers.

Lee Court — Possibly named for Robert E. Lee, Gen, CSA

Mosby Street — Possibly named for John Singleton Mosby, also known by his nickname, the
"Gray Ghost", a Confederate army cavalry battalion commander.

Palmer Place — Possibly named for Joseph Palmer, Gen, CSA

Paxton Street — Possibly named for Elisha Franklin Paxton, Gen., CSA

Pelham Street — Possibly named for John Pelham, Lt. Col., CSA

Pickett Street — Possibly named for George E. Pickett, Brig. General, CSA

Pierpont Street — Possibly named for James Lord Pierpont, Musical Composer of *Strike for the South*, and CSA hero

Preston Road — Possibly named for John Smith Preston or William Preston, Gens., CSA

Pryor Street — Possibly named for Roger Atkinson Pryor, Gen., CSA

Rhoades Place— Possibly named for Robert G. Rhoades, Gen., CSA

Ripley Street— Possibly named for Roswell Ripley, Gen. CSA

Scott Street — Possibly named for Thomas Scott, Gen., CSA

Shelley Street — Possibly named for Charles Miller Shelley, Gen., CSA

Sibley Street — Possibly named for Henry Hopkins Sibley, Gen., CSA

Sterling Avenue — Possibly named for Sterling Price, Gen., CSA

Stevens Street — Possibly named for Clement Hoffman **Stevens**, Brig. Gen., CSA

Stevenson Avenue — Possibly named for Carter L. Stevenson, Major. Gen., CSA

Stewart Street — Possibly named for Alexander P. Stewart, Gen., CSA

Stonewall Road — Possibly named for Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Gen, CSA

Stevenson Avenue — Possibly named for Walter Husted Stevenson, CSA

Thomas Street — Possibly named for Allen Thomas, Gen. CSA

Tyler Place — Possibly named for Grayson Tyler, field officer, 17th VA Regiment, CSA, or Robert Tyler, Gen. CSA

*Source: Office of Historic Alexandria
August 2015*