



Save Old Sterling (SOS)

SAVEOLDSTERLING.ORG

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Our Mission:

“Recognizing the value of preservation of Sterling’s heritage, SOS will work to identify and preserve these historic and architectural assets for future generations.”

“The remaining assemblage of historic buildings could become an authentic and historic oasis within a heavily-developed area of Loudoun County.” --Sonja Ingram, *Preservation Virginia*

Why is Sterling Named After a Scottish Castle?

--Helena Syska

It's believed by historians that our area was named after Stirling Castle -- an ancient castle that dates back to the 11th century and which today is a very huge and popular tourist attraction in Scotland and one known all over the world.

The enormous castle sits on a hill which emerged from a volcanic eruption and is bordered by very steep cliffs, making it a strong fortress for centuries. It has been the home to kings, queens and royal courts. But, how is our corner of the world connected to this ancient, notable, enduring and grand place of palaces, chapels, great halls, grand kitchens, formal gardens and Scottish royalty?



In 1649 King Charles II of England conveyed very large parcels of land to noblemen here in Virginia which were then divided into counties, Fairfax being one of them. Eventually Fairfax was divided and Loudoun County was established. Loudoun was named after James Campbell, the 4th Earl of Scotland, who was dubbed Lord Loudoun when his father died. Lord Loudoun never made it to Loudoun in Virginia but he was named its governor. Sometime in history the part of the County where we now live, work and play and enjoy SterlingFest was named after Lord Loudoun's grand castle. If you are interested in learning about this magnificent place in Scotland, simply Google “Stirling Castle.” The British spelling is a little different from our modern American one. We have no such large castle in Sterling, VA but our Sterling homes are certainly our castles!

How To Volunteer

Help make a difference by volunteering today! Whether you enjoy history or are just looking to add value to the community, the SOS needs what you have to offer. It's easy and you can start by giving back right now. We welcome new participants. Send an email to: info@SaveOldSterling.org or call (703) 992-3508

Trivia:

How did Church Road get its name?

(See back for answer.)

Good Old Days

--Jackie Anderson

When you think of places you've visited and remember well, they often involve our history -- Leesburg, Waterford, Purcellville, Alexandria, Georgetown, etc.. Here in Sterling, we have our own history. Some of it is hidden away and almost forgotten because of all the new development going on. Actually, we have the first Sterling two-room schoolhouse, the Baptist and Methodist churches for which Church Road was named, several old houses that date from the second half of the 1800's, a Southern States Depot on what used to be the W&OD train tracks (now the bike path), and an old building on the trail we think was “Taverner's Wheel House”.

Sterling started out as Guilford, a stop on the rail line that appeared on the scene around 1850 coming from Washington, D.C. If you close your eyes, you can imagine the train conductor calling out “Guilford Station” as the train approached the stop. It was a thriving little town with lots of activity and a view of the Blue Ridge mountains. President Buchanan used to take the train out on hot summer weekends to spend some quiet time at the Summers Hotel. That is gone, along with other wonderful examples of the era, but we, SaveOldSterling would like to help save what is left.

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Church Road, which extends from Sterling Boulevard to Route 28 goes back centuries. It was a main road through Old Sterling which used to be called Guilford.

Churches were the main gathering places for the community, places where they could worship and give thanks for God's blessings. A few of these churches can still be seen along Church Road. Guilford Baptist Church,



originally known as Lebanon Grove Baptist Church, was built in 1857, before the Civil War. It is now the home

of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church community. The old Sterling Methodist Church, built in the Reconstruction Era, was deconsecrated in 1983 and has been

largely idle ever since. It is slated to be torn down to make room for a self-storage center.



Did You Know?

Union troops -- the 16th Maine volunteer Infantry -- camped out in "Guildford Station" in June 25, 1863 -- 295 men and 32 officers. The sun was hot, water was scarce; the march long, fast and exhausting.

Sterling's History and Heritage Is Being Recorded

Do you have a piece of Sterling history that you can share? We're putting the story of Sterling together from as far back as we can discover! Do you have any photos, documents, antiques and heirlooms related to Sterling's past?

Contact us if you do, please.

"Study the past if you would define the future."

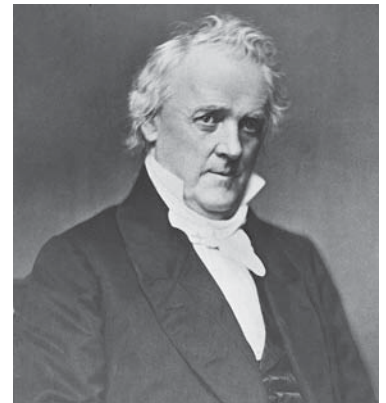
--Confucius

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."

--Winston S. Churchill

History Quiz!

This gentleman was 15th President of the United States of America from 1857-1861. Back then, there was no air conditioning and he spent summers in a Sterling hotel just to escape the heat! The hotel burned down about 30 years ago. His name is below but you need a mirror to



read it! (Rhymes with "Frames Lou Tannen")
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Ways To Give

SaveOldSterling is an organization of concerned citizens and serves the entire community. Give back to your community by joining our team of dedicated volunteers or making a donation to support the efforts of the SOS. Your valuable contribution helps SOS maintain our history.

On Line: Visit SaveOldSterling.org/donate

By Phone: Call **703-615-9629** Monday – Friday 8am to 5 pm

By Mail: SOS, 1006 Ruritan Circle, Sterling, VA 20164

Is Sterling's history important to you and your children? Let us know:

Take the online survey at SaveOldSterling.org/survey