

## HISTORY OF THE BARCROFT SCHOOL

At the time of the first school in Barcroft, there were approximately eighteen houses in the town. These houses extended along Columbia Pike starting up above the present ice plant, which was then a mill, and running to the top of what was then called Palmer's Hill, where now are located the Barcroft Apartments.

Along Columbia Pike lived the following families, Bridges, Payne, Scanland, Haring and Doremus, Pelham, Head and Palmer. Thence up Arlington Ave., now South Buchanan lived the Maryes, Klemroths, Fairfaxes, Martins, Garretts, Hams & Griggs. Over on two farms lived the Kolbs and Wrights and Mrs. Abigail Fox. On the railroad tracks was a family of Lovelaces and on the hill top beyond the mill was the old Dr. Barcroft home.

At that time the nearest schools to Barcroft were one at Arlington known as Columbia School, the old red brick building which for a number of years housed the Arlington library, and just recently torn down, and one at Bailey's Cross Roads, a small frame building on the Leesburg Pike, which has been torn down and replaced by a brick building on Columbia Pike at the Cross Roads.

At that time there were very few houses on the pike between Barcroft and these two schools, also, the road had many droves of cattle driven over it daily thus making it unsafe for small children to walk.

The town of Barcroft had about ten children ready for school, but too small to walk the distance to either the Arlington or Bailey's Cross Roads school and Mr. Sidney T. Marye having two children among this group, was instrumental in persuading Mrs. Amy Fairfax to start a school for these tots in her home which she did in the year 1906.

Mr. Marye then went among his neighbors and asked them to send their children as it was necessary to have an enrollment of ten children before the county would pay the teacher a salary. By enrolling one boy of four years old, they managed to get the required number.

The children attending the first school in Barcroft in Mrs. Fairfax's front room were Paul and Adaline Marye, Pauline Palmer, Carol Wright, Beulah and Damon Lovelace, Percy and Charles Tillett, Edith Fairfax and Dorothy Payne.

The Fairfax house is the one adjoining the Community House on South Buchanan Street.

During that year many new houses were build in Barcroft on the properties of Mrs. Abigail Fox by her son-in-law Mr. S. P. Wright, which brought in more people and more children thus creating a need for a larger school.

Again Mr. Marye took the lead in asking for contributions of money and labor to build the present Barcroft Community House. He was aided greatly by Reverend William Pierpoint, the Oscar Harings and Miss Virgie Doremus (now Mrs. George Pepper) who, having no children at that time, were interested in having a church in Barcroft.

Mr. Pierpoint gave his time and, with the help of William Givson Garrett and others of the town's men in their spare time, built the Barcroft Community House which was to serve as a school, church and community house.

After the erection of the building, an organization, known as the Barcroft School and Civic League, was formed by the townspeople to help pay for the building. This organization gave suppers, lawn parties, plays etc. to raise money for this purpose.

The building was rented to the school board which also helped meet expenses. School was held in this building up until the completion of the new Barcroft School in 1925, with the exception of a short time when it was held in a house at the corner of South Buchanan and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, since torn down. A bad wind storm caused the school to be moved to this house for a short period of time while the Community House could be repaired of damage caused by the storm.

(over)

The first teacher in the new Community House school was a Miss Adams from Hunters Mills, which is a small town between Herndon and Vienna, and she commuted from Hunters Mills each day via the Bluemont branch of the Southern Railway.

At that time there was no money for a janitor so one of the town's leading women went up each morning and swept the room and started the fire. No greater or more unselfish service could have been rendered.

Miss Adams was followed by a group of splendid teachers who, from then until now, have worked tirelessly to train the Barcroft children to be a credit to their nation as well as to their parents.

Among the teachers who taught at the Community House were the Misses Adams, Handy, Beattie, Crosswell, Eastlock, Jenkins, Banks, Barefort, Rawlston, Hancock, Tracy, Snyder and Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Hunter.

The land on which the new building now stands was originally part of the Abigail Fox farm. It was owned for a number of years by the school board before the present building was erected.

During the 1st world war it was farmed by three Barcroft men for the purpose of growing potatoes. It was a Victory Garden project of 1917.

The new building was opened for school in 1925 with an attendance of sixty-five children. It was named after Dr. John Woolverton Barcroft, physician, inventor, builder and one of the largest land owners of the community. He built the first flour mill in this section on the site of the present ice plant, and a number of houses. He invented a ditching and dredging machine, the principles of which are incorporated in some of the present day equipment.

The post office, the station, the town and later the school, were named in honor of Dr. Barcroft.

In the year 1927 the school asked that a picture of Dr. Barcroft be installed in the school building. The picture was presented to the school, by members of the family. In 1926 the first P.T.A. was organized in place of the Patron's League, but after a trial of about a year, the people decided they should put their entire revenue into extra equipment at the school, that could be obtained in no other way and was sorely needed by the children. So the P.T.A. was replaced by the Patron's League which carried on until 1938 when again a P.T.A. was formed.

The following things are only part of the items purchased or obtained by gift through the efforts of the Patron's League and the P.T.A. for the Barcroft School. A piano, all furnishings for the Teachers room, such as draperies, rug, sofa, book case etc., equipment for emergency room, such as bed, screen, table, rug, chairs, sheets and blankets and first aid medicines, 16 m.m. movie projector and screen; kitchen, built in and equipped with tables, benches, electric refrigerator, gas stove, hot water, dishes, cabinets and utensils; wash basins in both boys and girls basements; doors cut from basement to back playground; two radios and one electric phonograph, pictures, chairs and bookcases for class rooms; electric clock for hall, oil for floors, one hundred dollars worth of playground equipment; one hundred dollars toward grading front lawn and planting shrubery; books for library, flags for class rooms and paint.

Besides these things, materials and fixtures for draperies and upholstering materials have been furnished throughout the years when needed. Also rubber balls, bats, song books, library books, victrola records, piano tuning, and first aid material have been furnished almost yearly.

Contributions to worthy causes, such as the T. B. Association, Red Cross, Kiwanis Club, Xmas Party, Anti Diphtheria, Camp Fire Girls and the National Symphony have been made many years.

During the depression the Patron's League cared for numerous children

furnishing lunches each day, necessary clothing and food for children and their families at Thanksgiving and Christmas time as well as any other time when it was needed.

Money for these numerous activities was raised through candy sales, dinners, card parties, programs and plays by the school children, plays by the faculty and community, and more recently by paper sales.

For the last five years most of the revenue has been raised through paper sales alone which has meant a great return in money and very little work. This seems to be the easiest and best method so far for raising funds.

The Presidents of the Patron's League and P.T.A. have been Mrs. Anthony Krauth, Mrs. Caroline Wessels, Mrs. Rachel Koch, Mr. Matthew Culbert, Mrs. Charles O'Hara, Mrs. Mary West, Mrs. E. O. Pollock, Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell, and the present incumbent, Mrs. C. A. Cotten.

The teachers in the new school have been Miss Emma McGuggan, Pauline Shrooe, Annie Goodman (Hazel), Mrs. Teresa White, Miss Anna Scott, Jessie Doughtie, Mrs. Grace Damer, Dicie Fishback Armstrong, Miss Pattie, Janie Howell, Virgie Warner, Elnore King, Miss Stoutenburgh, and Marlin Pence.

In conclusion, the Barcroft School which started out with ten children in a home front room has developed into a splendid modern building with five acre playground and a student enrollment of one hundred and seventy five. The building and equipment have an approximate value of fifty-five thousand dollars. It was built with ample playgrounds and planned so that many more rooms may be added when needed.

The children and people of Barcroft are justly proud of their fine school, and have cooperated magnificiently with the school authorities in maintaining the high standard of their school.

Compiled in 1940 by (Mrs. Milton Barcroft) Louise Bridges Payne  
133 South Pershing Drive

P.S. The following is being added in 1958 by Mrs. Pauline Pascoe, present President of the Barcroft P.T.A. In 1953 a new addition was added to Barcroft of 6 classrooms, all with bath, a multi-purpose room with fold away tables and a completely modern kitchen and equipment. In 1956-57 the teachers room was moved to a larger room, painted and modernized. In 1958 the grounds were landscaped and \$175 put into new planting. All candy sales, paper collections, and small affairs for raising money have been abolished and taking the place is a yearly fair, held on Halloween night. The whole school, parents and children help to make this a great event funwise as well as money wise. The membership of the P.T.A. runs around 300 members, and the school now teaches between 350 and 450 children each year. Barcroft is also a reading center with a special teacher for remedial reading.

P.P.S. The following is being added in 1971 by Mrs. Carla Schutte a present primary teacher who has accepted the responsibility for commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of public education in Arlington.

The school now has an enrollment of 365 and offers instruction from Kindergarten through grade 6. The staff is organized into four teams in addition to the kindergarten. Our P.T.A. has been very active in support of the school. Recent gifts have included: TV sets and stands, classroom fans, a public address system, a mimeograph machine, outdoor physical education apparatus, and the air conditioning of the library. The primary method of fund raising has been an annual Fun Fair which has been netting over \$1,000 yearly.

The school is no longer considered a reading center for the county; however, there is a full-time reading teacher on the staff. In 1970 the building was modified by removing two walls in the primary wing, creating two large classrooms.

(Barcroft History, cont.)

The most exciting event in the school's recent history is the current decision of the School Board and the County Board to completely renovate Barcroft at a cost of \$730,000. All aspects of our building are involved: air conditioning, electricity, plumbing, parking, adequate space for instruction and storage, etc. The decision on how to finance these improvements has not yet been made. You will be kept informed. Your efforts in behalf of the school's renovation will be needed.

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TEAM ARRANGEMENTS

The staff has had considerable experience in working in team arrangements, going back for a half dozen years. We see several significant advantages which make continued, and even expanded, use of team teaching likely: teachers can regroup children into more teachable groups, we have more options when placing a child in a class so as to avoid conflicts, the child is exposed to several adults on a regular basis--not just one, with several teachers planning instruction together more ideas are available to each teacher, teachers strengths supplement each other, and we have more perspective on the behavior and learning patterns of each child.

This way of working with children recognizes the range of ability and achievement which exists in any group of children and enables us to work more effectively with it. We do not hold textbooks, concepts, or materials to grade level, but do attempt to work with the individual child at his level.

Faculty

- Kindergarten      Reybitz (113), (Aides: Lykes and Haftorson)
- Team I (1, 2)      Gibson (110), Morris (2),  
                         Jones (112), Evanson (114)
- Team II (3)        Berghoefer (109), Browder, Morris (111)
- Team III (4, 5)    Foster (104), Day (102),  
                         Lincoln (101), Strauss (103)
- Team IV (6)        Storosh (105), Loutzenheiser (107)
- Librarian          Mack
- P.E.                Hockman
- Reading            Shapiro
- C.D.C.              Taylor