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# St. Louis Dates To Late 1800s

By Eugene M. Scheel  
Times-Mirror Special Writer

When the talented and likable equestrienne Mrs. A.C. Randolph moved to Oakley, near Upperville, she was in need of a cook. A friend commented there was a good one in St. Louis. "I'll airmail a letter to her immediately," said Randolph. Only in Fauquier and Loudoun could such a comment provoke smiles, and remembrances years later.

How did St. Louis, with some 200 persons, the largest black village in the horse and hunt country of America, get its name?

The first theory, set forth by some whites, says the community was named for W.C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues." Handy's song, though, was composed in 1914, and the name St. Louis had been applied to the village nearly a quarter-century before. Theory dismissed.

Some blacks say there was a man named Louis who was highly revered and who became known as Saint Louis. A possibility, though not likely. No man named Louis or Lewis, or with the surname Lewis or Louis, appears among the deeds of earliest S. Louisians.

Another theory, told by Mary Katherine Reamer and others, bears a closer look. She recalls that years ago everyone called the huddle of houses just east of Middleburg, now known as Brown's Corner, Maryland. "We said we were going to Maryland." Indeed, "Maryland" was on the way to Maryland. Could St. Louis, on the other side of Middleburg, have been on the way to St. Louis?

I found the first mention of St. Louis in a Loudoun County deed book reference that bore the date May 26, 1891. Lot No. 4, of Emily and Bedford Glascock, in "Little

the old-line Democrats once more were in power and blacks foresaw the coming of segregation. After subtle hints they were no longer welcome at the white Baptist churches, and many, like the blacks at St. Louis, formed their own congregations.

They organized at the St. Louis one-room schoolhouse, one of the oldest still standing in Fauquier or Loudoun. Land "on which there is a new schoolhouse for public instruction according to law" was purchased by School District No. 3 (now Mercer District) on April 21, 1877. The sellers were Charles Squire, (sometimes called Esquire) and Lucy Robinson. The price was \$27.50.

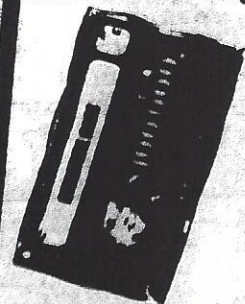
Among the early remembered teachers were Mattie McQuay Berryman, Anna Gaskins, Grace and Clarence Murray from the Bull Run Mountain, Powell Gibson, and Armistead Smith and his son, Alfonso Smith. Each day the Smiths walked eight miles back and forth along the old road that forded Goose Creek at Millville, to and from their home at Middleburg.

Terry Gaskins Colbert, who taught at St. Louis about 50 years ago, recalls that the school was so crowded she could hardly count the children. There were always at least 40 in the one room.

By the early 1940s there were sometimes 50 students, and the older children attended school in a classroom set up in Phil McQuay's store. Under the leadership of Dr. Maurice Edmead, the black physician from Middleburg who had dispelled thoughts that blacks would not go to a black doctor because "how could a black know anything about medicine?" St. Louis and Middleburg parents asked the school board to relieve overcrowding at their schools

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12 Ounce Bag of Miniatures



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**STICKS**  
peppermint,  
vanilla or

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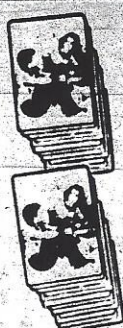
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**FILM**  
8 Exposures

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**SOFT**  
**RUB**  
**INSER**  
Ice Bottle

Regular 93¢  
SAVE 24¢

**9c**



**STP**  
**GAS**  
**TREATMENT**  
12 Ounce Bottle  
Regular 1.59-SAVE 40¢

**119**



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that bore the date May 26,  
1891. Lot No. 4, of Emily and  
Bedford Glascock, in "Little  
St. Lewis," had been sold to  
Dan M. Robinson. The  
subdivision Little St. Lewis  
had been surveyed and  
mapped prior to 1881 for  
Thomas Glascock, well-  
healed and of the gentry,  
who owned several large  
holdings in Upper Fauquier  
and Loudoun. Beginning in  
1881 he began to sell lots,  
generally one acre for \$20, to  
his ex-slaves and those of the  
Carters, Dulanys,  
Gochnauers, and other  
landed area families.

Ann Gillison bought what  
appears to be the first lot in  
1881. Charles and James  
McQuay bought lots in 1889.  
None of these deeds,  
however, call the subdivision  
St. Louis or any other name.  
Neither does Thomas  
Glascock's 1884 will which  
passes the subdivision on to  
wife Emily W. Glascock and  
son Bedford Glascock.

There appear to have been  
no Lewises in the Glascock  
family, and the Glascocks  
were not from "big" St.  
Louis. Did they coin the  
name St. Louis, meaning 'on  
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did the freedmen who settled  
there? Or was there another  
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On Dec. 1, 1891, the name  
again appeared in a deed,  
this time spelled the way we  
know it. Ground for the "St.  
Louis New School Baptist  
Church" was bought by  
church trustees George  
Berryman, Robert McQuay  
Sr., and Jack Short, for \$30.  
The church land had been  
owned by Garner and Sarah  
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Two years later the open-  
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asked the school board to  
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their schools.

With the war's end the  
school board listened, and  
they bought 19 acres in St.  
Louis. On March 31, 1948 a  
new six-room school opened  
with 185 students from the  
two schools in St. Louis, the  
two in Middleburg, and the  
Mountville (Marble Quarry)  
School on Sam Fred Lane.  
Pupils filled five rooms.  
Augustus Lacey from  
Dinwiddie County — he had  
taught at Middleburg — was  
the first principal.

Combined PTA's from the  
old schools chose the name  
Banneker for the new school.  
Benjamin Banneker, the 18th  
Century mathematician and  
astronomer, had also helped  
survey the boundaries of the  
District of Columbia. You'd  
still be hard-pressed to find  
out anything about him in  
standard encyclopedias: His  
name does not appear in  
Americana, Britannica, or  
Collier's; World Book gives  
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St. Louis, by the turn of  
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Welbourne, Atoka, and  
Leithton. It was about the  
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St. Louis never appeared  
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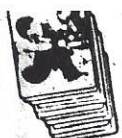
LOUDOUN TIMES MIRROR

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**SHREWS**

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the prescription stores

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**ITION**  
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HOWEVER, call the subdivision St. Louis or any other name. Neither does Thomas Glascock's 1884 will which passes the subdivision on to wife Emily W. Glascock and son Bedford Glascock.

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Two years later the open-belfried and Gothic-windowed Mt. Zion Church arose, and like so many black churches of the period, its date stone presents a capsule of the church's history: "M.Z.B.C. Built by Rev. M.B. Strother July 30, 1893. Rebuilt by Rev. T. Johnson Oct. 6, 1929." The Rev. Moses B. Strother was first pastor, and about 1920 he was followed by the Rev. Thornton Johnson. Then came the Revs. John Paul Nichols, Thomas Procter, and today's pastor, Allen Baltimore. The elders of the early 20th Century were Shelton Allen, Cedric Short, Robert McQuay Sr., and Alfred Moore.

It is not known when Mt. Zion, named for one of the hills of Jerusalem, was organized, but previously its members attended Shiloh at Middleburg, Mt Pisgah at Upperville, Mt. Olive at Rectortown, or the white Baptist churches — Ebenezer above Bloomfield, and Middleburg and Upperville.

With the election of Gov. Philip W. McKinney in 1889,

survey the boundaries of the District of Columbia. You'd still be hard-pressed to find out anything about him in standard encyclopedias: His name does not appear in Americana, Britannica, or Collier's; World Book gives him 12 lines.

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St. Louis never appeared on an official state road map; it never appeared on a county road map. Only "Phillips Corner" appeared at the crossroads of Rts. 2 and 3 (now 611 and 743) on county road maps of the 1930s.

Before 1920 or so, most of the blacks in St. Louis worked in white homes, but the growing interest in blooded horses and the building of what later became known as the Middleburg Training Track, for Katherine Elkins Hitt in the early 20s, changed that. By the Depression, more blacks were employed in the horse industry. The trend continued in the early 1950s, when Paul Mellon of nearby Rokeby bought and enlarged the track complex, aptly called by Kitty Slater, historian of the horsey set, "a combined primary, elementary, and preparatory school for Thoroughbreds before they enter the higher education of the nation's racing ovals."

Thank you Myrtle McQuay, Helen Helmick, Bernice Smith, Thelma Smith, Annie Smith, Rosa Carter, Terry Gaskins Colbert, and Cora L. Poles of St. Louis or nearby, Wallace Phillips and Mary Katherine Reamer of Middleburg, Mrs. A.C. Randolph of Oakley, Mrs. John T. Ramey of Marshall, Elizabeth H. Lemmon of Pelham.

SEPT. 25, 1980  
LOUDOUN TIMES MIRROR