

A History of 201 William Street

The grey brick building now standing at the corner of William and Caroline Streets with a sign advertising its occupant as a dealer in "Cards and Cones", once housed what may have been the oldest drug store in the state, if not the country. Built in 1821-22 by John B. Hall¹, it then was known as Hall's Apothecary, a business started in 1791 by his father, Dr. Elisha Hall.²

Elisha Hall, a native of Maryland, was born in 1754. He married Caroliana (Caroline) Carter, the daughter of Col. Charles Carter of Cleve on the Rappahannock River below Fredericksburg and his second wife, Anne Byrd of Westover. They settled in Fredericksburg where he practiced medicine and was listed as one of those capable of military duty in 1785. He was one of the physicians who attended Mary Washington as she lay dying of breast cancer.³

Dr. Elisha Hall came from a family of many doctors. His brother, Dr. John Hall, for one, was a man of considerable property and was said to have been a surgeon on George Washington's staff.⁴ The Hall Doctors were first cousins to the distinguished Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia through

1. Mutual Assurance Society Policy R10/V76/3049
Fredericksburg Land Tax Books

2. Ad in Fredericksburg *Virginia Herald*, Nov. 3, 1791.

3. Wyndham B. Blanton, M. D., *Medicine in Virginia in the Eighteenth Century*, (Richmond, 1931). pp. 359, 360.

4. Ibid

their mother, a sister to the mother of Dr. Rush.⁵ An eminent physician and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Rush opened in 1786 in Philadelphia the first free Dispensary, a place where medicines were prepared and dispensed, especially for poor people. Since a dispensary and an apothecary shop had much in common, it is possible that Dr. Elisha Hall was inspired by Dr. Rush's dispensary when he opened his apothecary five years later. Dr. Hall wrote him in regard to Mrs. Washington's cancer. Dr. Rush's reply dated July 6, 1789 said in part, "The respectable age and character of your venerable patient lead me to regret that it is not in my power to suggest a remedy..."⁶ Dr. Rush also was a founder of the first American antislavery society.

Dr. Elisha Hall and Caroliana had six children. The eldest was a son, Benjamin H. Hall, who became a medical doctor and practiced briefly in Fredericksburg before moving on to St. Louis⁷.

When Dr. Elisha Hall died in 1814, the business was taken over briefly by his two sons, John Byrd and Charles Rush, who ran it as a partnership. The partnership was dissolved in 1817, and John B. bought out his brother and

5. J. Hall Pleasants, "Hall Family of Tacony, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania," *William and Mary Quarterly, 1st Series*, Vol 22, pp. 134-136.

6. Blanton, *Medicine in Virginia...*, pp. 359, 360.

7. Pleasants, "Hall Family of Tacony,..."

continued the business as sole proprietor⁸ until his death in October, 1862.

At the time of Elisha Hall's death, his store was located about two doors down from present-day Hugh Mercer's Apothecary Shop.⁹ In 1820, a business at the northwest corner of William and Caroline Streets failed and the property was auctioned off to satisfy the debt. John Hall became the high bidder at a price of \$2,605.¹⁰ The property fronted 64 feet on William St. and ran back for 36 feet on Caroline. On the corner was a wooden building which Hall tore down and in its place built a substantial brick structure which became his new Apothecary shop. It fronted on William St. for 24 feet and ran back for 36 feet on Caroline St.

Dr. John B. Hall (it was customary to refer to pharmacists as Doctor in those days) insured the building in 1822. The policy described the structure as a new, two story brick building with a slate roof valued at \$2,500.¹¹ When the policy was renewed in 1829, it showed that Hall had built another building just to the west of his apothecary

8. Ad in the *Fredericksburg Virginia Herald*, April 16, 1817.

9. Mutual Assurance Society Policy R8/V61/107.

Recent research by Paula Felder and others prove that the original Hugh Mercer's Apothecary Shop was not located in the 1000 block of Caroline St. where it is today, but in the 1100 block, on the west side not far from Amelia St.

10. Deed Book G, page 89.

11. Mutual Assurance Society Policy R10/V76/3094

shop. Depicted as another two story brick edifice with a slate roof, its measurements were given (in a later policy) as 18 feet along William and with a depth of 36 feet. It was to be used as a grocery store. The two buildings were separated by a small gap of about 4 feet (by today's measurement).¹² Later policies described the smaller building as a "tinner's shop" until 1857 when it is shown as reverting to use as a grocery store.

The old newspaper ads help one get the feel of the store over the years. Under Dr. Elisha Hall, the business concentrated on medicines. His ads consisted of a long list of the medicines that he had imported from London. In an ad for September 9, 1791 in the *Virginia Herald*, he listed over 80 different compounds ranging from quicksilver (mercury!) to oil of wormwood. Under his son John, drugs were supplemented by a large stock of seeds in season. In an ad for February 2, 1831, he explained that he was starting to sell his annual supply of garden seeds which were raised last summer by a distinguished seedsman in Connecticut. The ad then listed over 30 different seeds. In another ad in the *Fredericksburg News* for August 30, 1847, it is seen that he has added paints, dye-stuffs, and oils.

After the start of the Civil War in 1861, Hall's Apothecary was probably patronized by soldiers from both

12. Mutual Assurance Society Policy R12/V87/6127

sides. It was twice looted by Union soldiers. A newspaper account about the store stated that a cannon ball fired from Stafford heights during the Battle of Fredericksburg was still imbedded in its wall.¹³

The effect of the War on the family was devastating. John Byrd, Jr., the seventh son, was killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville, May, 1863. Charles Landon, the fifth son and a distinguished member of Mosby's Ranger's, suffered a violent death May 28, 1867. Mary Harrison, the eldest child, married Dr. James L. Gillespie, who served as a surgeon in the Union Army. This loyalty on their part to the Union army, divided the Hall family in their allegiance north or south. Typical of many families at that time, it added to the trauma of the conflict.¹⁴

At the death of John B. Hall in September, 1862, the provisions of his will directed that his estate was to go to his wife, Harriett Hall, for her lifetime and at her death

13. Fredericksburg *Free Lance-Star*, Nov, 10, 1946 in an article on the death of W. L. Bond. When Gus Rangos purchased the property in July, 1946, he had the shell removed as a safety precaution.

14. DuVal Quinn Hicks, Jr., *The Family and Descendants of Dr. and Mrs. John Byrd Hall of Fredericksburg, Virginia*, n.p, n.d., pp. 3 and 190. This is a brochure prepared for use in the chancery case of Russell H. Roberts, Administrator of the Estate of Charles Carter Bolling vs Claude T. Parcell, Jr., et Al. pending in the Circuit Court of Fredericksburg. Based on court documents and family records, it provides a very thorough and extremely interesting record of the John Byrd Hall family. The Wallace Library has a copy.

to be equally divided between all of his then living children. The management of the business was assumed by two of her sons, Horace Byrd Hall, the eldest at age 38, and Robert Rush Hall, then age 33. Marshall Carter Hall, her youngest son then only 19, joined the firm later.¹⁵

At the death of Harriett Hall, October 6, 1888, seven of her children were dead without issue. The remaining eight (including the children of the deceased) shared in the ownership of the business.¹⁶ A truly remarkable women, Harriett had borne her husband fifteen children and then, had outlived him by 24 years to die at the age of 86.

Mainly for the convenience of those living out of town, four of the eight interests named a prominent townsman and attorney, William A. Little , to sell and convey their part of the estate On November 15, 1888, he sold the property to two of their brothers, Horace B. Hall and Marshall C. Hall.¹⁷ Robert R. Hall did not join his brothers in the purchase.

Marshall C. Hall died in March, 1903 and bequeathed the property to his wife, Lily Braxton Hall, for her lifetime and at her death to be divided between her two children.

15. Obituary of Marshall C. Hall, March 19, 1903 in the *Fredericksburg Free Lance*. Obituary of Horace B. Hall, August 30, 1913, in the *Fredericksburg Free Lance*.

16. Hicks, *The Hall Family*. p. 6

17. Deed book CC, p. 40

When Robert Rush Hall died in 1904, it left Horace Byrd as the only survivor of the Hall children who had been active in "J. B. Hall and Sons - Druggist."

In 1907, the heirs sold the business (but not the real estate) to W. L. Bond of South Carolina. Born in Marion, South Carolina, Dr. Bond was educated at South Carolina Military Academy and passed the board of pharmacy examination in Charleston, S. C. in 1889. He was associated with drug firms in South Carolina and Georgia before coming to Fredericksburg.¹⁸

Under Dr. Bond, the store became known as Bond's Drug Store, a title for that building that for the first time in 116 years did not include the name "Hall."

When Dr. Bond bought the real estate in 1915, it was sold to him in two parcels (201 and 203 William Street). One parcel was the drug store and the second parcel was the nearby building on the west side identified in old insurance policies as the "grocery" or the "Tinner's Shop"¹⁹. Dr. Bond demolished the walls between the two parcels so as to make one large room.²⁰ He installed a soda fountain to the rear of the smaller building and made the second floor into a toy store, in season. It was also used for storage and the walls

18. Obituary of Dr. Bond, Nov. 30, 1946 in the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star.

19. Deed Book 49, p. 66.

20. Land Tax records for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916.

are lined with shelves. He was one of the few stores in town to carry toys.

The attic was used for storage exclusively. Reached by a ladder on the second floor that leads to a trap door in the ceiling, it is awkward to get to. Aware of this problem, someone (Dr. Bond most likely) had a large wooden windlass installed over the trap door. The rope apparently extended through another trap door in the second floor (it has been covered over today) to the ground floor so that freight could be raised to the upper floors. The solid wooden axle of the windlass is turned by a large wooden wheel on which is painted the words "William Berry 1909". Both components seem to be in good shape today and they turn easily.

Dr. Bond died on March 29, 1946, and, in his will, he bequeathed the store to his wife, Kate C. Bond.²¹ Some four months later, Mrs. Bond sold the property to Gus Rangos, the successful owner and operator of a local restaurant.²²

Mr Rangos made alterations to the south side of what had been 203 William Street. The front door and the two windows on either side were removed and the current display window installed in their place. He leased the building to Ralph Musselman who continued to operate a drug store there. He became affiliated with the Rexall drug chain. and the

21. Will Book L, p. 574.

22. Deed Book 83, p. 193.

store was known as "Bonds Rexall Drugs". This business continued until 1964 when it closed. A factor in its closing was apparently the new Peoples Service Drug Store which had opened in the 900 block of Caroline, just a few doors away. For the first time in 173 years, the building no longer housed a business serving the public by supplying its medicinal needs.

A men's clothing store called The Oxford Shop and run by Embrey Stephens opened on the corner in 1967. This venture closed in 1976. For the next ten years, the building was rented off and on but remained vacant most of the time. This was during the time when most of the larger businesses downtown were moving out to the Spotsylvania Mall which opened in 1980

At the death of Mr. Rangos in 1977, his widow, Ida May Rangos, was not interested in the property. Russell Roberts, executor and trustee under his will, then sold the property to her two daughters, Mary Constantine Rangos Stram and Katie Constantine Rangos.²³

In 1987, they leased the store to Bob Owens who made a go of it by selling greeting cards and items appealing to tourists. Its name, "Fine Lines Gift Shoppe" described its line of goods, except for ice cream, which he added later.

23. Deed Book 170, p. 635.

When he closed the store to move out of state in 1995, the building was rented by Debra Hicks who now runs a similar business called "Cards and Cones".

Portrait of Anne Byrd of Westover, the mother of
Carolianna Carter. Carolianna became the wife of Dr. Elisha
Hall. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol.31,
p.48



ANNE, DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM BYRD, OF WESTOVER, AND WIFE OF CHARLES CARTER
OF CLEVE.

From the original portrait in the possession of Carter Hall, Esq., Washington, D. C.

CHARLES CARTER of "CLEVE" (1707-1764)
m.

ELISHA HALL (c. 1757) of DEER COUNTY, MD.

m.

m.

(2) ANNE BYRD of "NESTOR" (1725-1757)

RUTH HALL (c. 1727-1794) NOT KIN TO ELISHA

8 CHILDREN, THE YOUNGEST WAS

6 CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM WAS

ELISHA HALL (1754-1814)

CHARLOTTA (1756-1799)

→ CAROLINA CARTER (1756-1799)

6 CHILDREN

BENJAMIN
HARRISON
(1731-1781)

JOHN
BYRD
(1782-1862)

SOPHIA
PLEASANTS

MARIA
CARTER

CHARLES
RUSH
(1793-)

ELIZABETH
ANNE

HARRIETT
STRINGFELLOW
(1801-1888)

15 CHILDREN

MARY
HARRISON
(1818-1907)

CHARLOTTE
CARTER
(1820-1909)

JULIA
ANNE
(1832-)

HORACE
BYRD
(1834-1913)

ALBERT
BESARD
(1836-1837)

HARRIETT
RUSH
(1827-1828)

ROBERT
RUSH
(1829-1904)

HARRISON
MARIA
(1831-1861)

MARIA HARRI
SOPHIA ELIZABETH
(1833-1864) (c. 1833-1834)

JAMES L.
SIDESPIE
m.

WILLIAM
ELMER
of ST LOUIS

ALVERNAE
STUART

(1) LUCY
BASKERVILLE
(2) MARIA
NORMLEY

CHARLES
LANDON
(1837-1867)

FRANKLIN
STRINGFELLOW
(1839-1903)

JOHN
BYRD, JR.
(1841-1863)

MARSHALL
CARTER
1848-1903

CAROLINE
CARTER
(1845-1868)

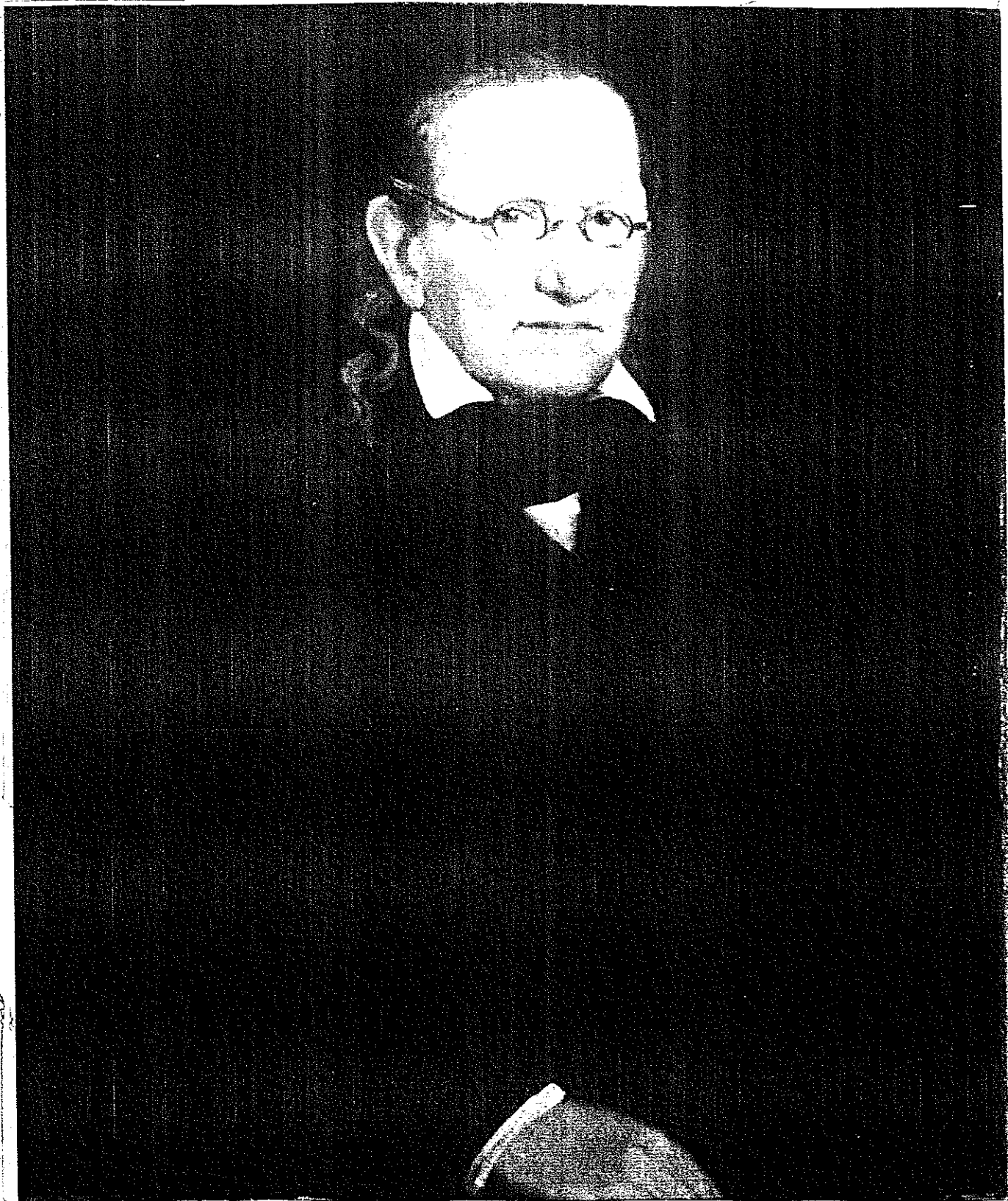
BESSIE
SLAUGHTER
of CHILDEPER

KILLED AT
CHANCELLORSVILLE
MAY 7, 1863

LILLY
BRAXTON
(1860-1904)

VIRGIL
GREEN
WARD

John Byrd Hall in a portrait by William G. Brown, 1844.
Courtesy of the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural
Center



27

List of the heirs of Dr. and Mrs. John Byrd Hall.
Courtesy of Mr. DuVal Quinn Hicks, *The Family and*
Descendants of Dr. and Mrs. John Byrd Hall...

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, to-wit:

I, Dianna Hurlock, a Notary Public, for the Commonwealth of Virginia, certify that on May 20, 1985, Mary Lewis Hall Carey read to me over long distance telephone certain information from "The Family Records" written by her father, Marshall Carter Hall (Jr.) and bearing date of 1910, as follows:

The children of John Byrd and Harriet Stringfellow Hall:

- (1) Mary Harrison born in 1818
- (2) Charlotte Carter born in June 1820
- (3) Julia Ann born April 18, 1822
- (4) Horace Byrd born March 7, 1824
- (5) Albert Beyard born January 11, 1826
- (6) Harriet born June 1827
- (7) Robert Rush born April 3, 1829
- (8) Harrison born June 11, 1831
- (9) Maria Sophia born June 7, 1833
- (10) Harriet Eliza born _____, died 1835
- (11) Charles Landon born March 15, 1837
- (12) Franklin Stringfellow born June 11, 1839
- (13) John Byrd, Jr. born Feb. 15, 1841
- (14) Marshall Carter born Jan. 13, 1843.
- (15) Caroline Carter born Sept. 4, 1845.

Given under my hand this May 20th, 1985.

Dianna Hurlock
Notary Public

My Commission expires May 24, 1986.

Will of John Byrd Hall who died in September, 1962.
Courtesy of Mr. DuVal Quinn Hicks, The Family and
Descendants of Dr. and Mrs. John Byrd Hall...

A COPY

In the name of God, I John B. Hall of the town of Fredg and the State of Virginia do make and ordain this my last will and testament. I give and bequeath to my Wife all my Estate both real and personal to be enjoyed by her during her natural life or widowhood and at her death or marriage to be equally divided between all my then living children and the representatives of such as may be dead such representatives receiving the portion to which their father or mother would have been entitled if living. It is my will and desire and I hereby authorize my wife whenever she may think proper to do so, to advance to any of my children such sums from time to time as she may be able to spare, to be accounted for by them in the general distribution of my Estate but this is not to be considered as imposing upon her any obligation to make an advancement-

I hereby appoint my Wife Harriett Hall sole Executrix to this my Will and desire that no security shall be demanded for the faithful performance of her trust-

In testimony of which I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 13th day of May 1839.

John B. Hall (Seal)

Ad in the Virginia Herald,
September 3, 1791 for Elisha
Hall's store

Elisha Hall,
*Has imported from LONDON, and has
for SALE, at his shop now done below
the Federal Store, an Assortment of*

MEDICINES,
*Which he will sell low for CASH. The
assortment consists principally of*

B EST pale bark.	Croak Antimony.
Red powder's diss.	Glass of time.
Powdered rhubarb.	White Arsenic.
Jalap.	Rare.
Ipocatanha.	Sagandy Peach.
Gum Ar. Sic.	Cake.
Opium.	China Root.
Alkagida.	Cinnamon.
Campor.	Oil of time.
Camomile Root.	Spirits of time.
Gamboge.	Japanese Cambr.
Gualicum.	Orange Peel.
Sugar of Lead.	Shavings of Hard-
White Vitriol.	wood.
Roman dicto.	Mach.
Corrosive Subli-	Myrrh.
mate.	Nutmeg.
Oil Anisid.	Oil Mint.
Tincture Rancie.	Silicious Powder.
Span. & Elix.	Mercurial Oint-
Glauber Salts.	ment.
Magnesia.	Pearl Barley.
Cream Tartar.	Extract of Bark.
Red Menna.	Strengthening.
Pulvis Capivi.	Mercurial, and
Salt Tartar.	Duchylon Plo-
Quicksilver.	tern.
Red Precipitate.	Red Root Leaves.
Liquorish root.	Sage.
Salt Nitre.	Salt Ammoniac.
Squills.	Salt of Hardwood.
Gestrian.	Polychord.
Cordial confedion.	Salt of Steel.
Cinnamon.	Ditto Wormwood.
Spirits Sal Ammo-	Carburetted.
niac.	Scentific Vitriol.
Spirits Lavender.	Tanacet.
Ditto Nitre.	Valerian Root.
Chamomile Flow-	Vitriolated Tartar.
ers.	Flavour of Zink.
Venice Treacle.	Gum Kino.
S.C. Peppermint.	Vitriolic Ether.
Oil Vitriol.	Long Pepper.
Vinegar of Squills.	Sassa Parrot.
Sulphur.	Iron and powder.
Croak Eyes.	Syringes, &c.

*He has also for SALE, for CASH,
A very elegant Philadelphia made*

Coachee.
Fredericksburg, November 18, 1791.

Ad in the Virginia Herald
February 2, 1831 for John B.
Hall & Sons

Fresh Garden Seeds.

JOHN B. HALL

IS now opening his Annual Supply of GARDEN SEEDS, which were raised the last Summer, by a distinguished Seedman in the State of Connecticut, and are known to be of a superior quality—

They consist of the following kinds :

R EARLY Washing-	Extra Double Parsley.
ton or 6 weeks Peas	Long smooth Parsnip, ve-
Fine large Marrowfat Do.	ry fine.
Real Early York Cabbage.	Early and long green Cu-
Early Salisbury Do. ear-	cumber.
lier than Early York.	Round and New Zealand
Early Sugarloaf Do	Spinach.
Early Lond. Battersea Do	Deep Orange Altringham
Large Drumhead Do	Carrot. 2 feet long.
Large Green Globe and	Blood Red Do.
Yellow Savoy Do.	Ice Cream Lettuce.
Red Dutch Do.	Fine Brown Dutch Do.
Scarlet Short Top Radish.	Large Blood Beet,
Salmon & Red Turnip Do.	Blood Turnip Do.
Salsify or Vegetable Oys-	Scotch Kale & Early Cas-
ter,	hiflower.
White Solid Celery.	Giant Asparagus, and Le-
Curled & Winter Cross,	cern Seed.

Feb. 2, 1831.

Ad in the Virginia Herald April 16, 1817 which refers to the partnership of John B. Hall and his brother, Charles Rush Hall.

Ad in the Virginia Herald feb. 3, 1804 which refers to the partnership of Elisha Hall and his son Benjamin Harrison Hall. (The initials for B. H. Hall are reversed in the ad).

Dissolution of Copartnership.

OUR commercial connexion terminated on the 5th instant by mutual consent. All persons having claims against, or who are indebted to the late firm, will be pleased to apply to **JOHN B. HALL**, by whom the Druggist's business will be continued.

John B. Hall.

Charles R. Hall.

Fred'g, April 15. 1817.

2

JOHN B. HALL,

Druggist,

At the Sign of the Golden Mortar,

Offers for sale, remarkably low, a most extensive assortment of

DRUGS, MEDICINES & PAINTS.

Also, a handsome assortment of

English Glass Ware,

Suitable for Physicians.—Orders from practitioners of Physick, and country merchants, will be executed upon the most satisfactory terms.

Fred'g, April 15

ON the 12th of January, the Partnership of **HALL & SON**, was dissolved by mutual consent.

E. Hall.

H. B. Hall.

—❖—

The Subscriber,

Has now for Sale, a very large and complete

Assortment of Medicines,

Which he is determined to sell lower than any ever have been sold in this place, particularly Patent Medicines—and those who buy to sell again, may be supplied very low for **CASH**.

E. Hall.

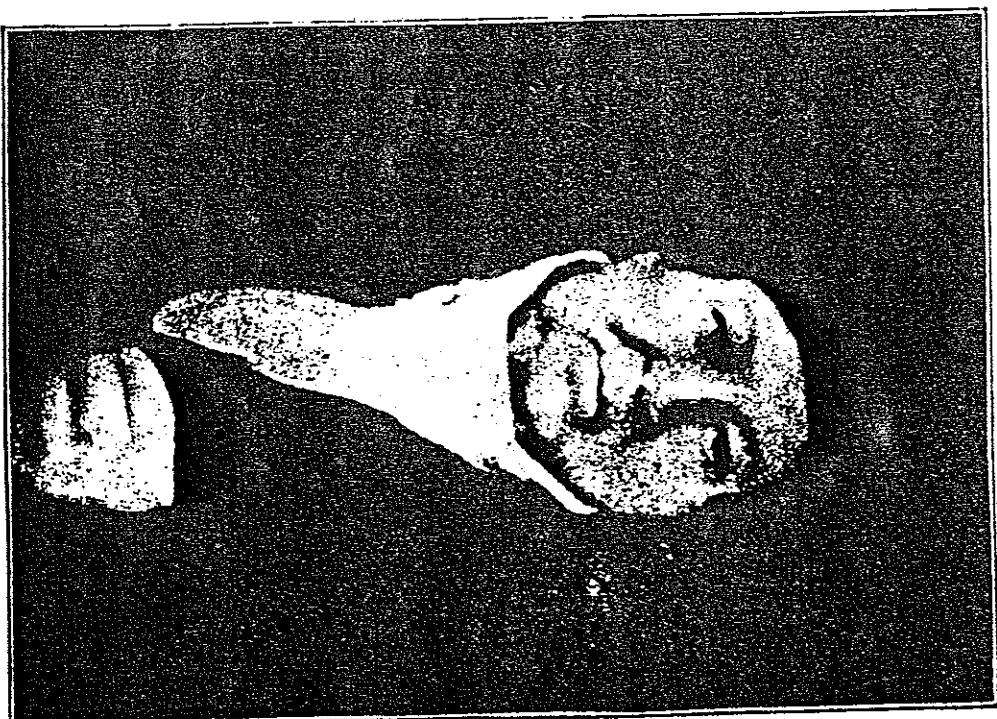
Fred'g, February 2. 1804.

Excerpts from appendix 68.6 which is entitled *The Life of Horace Stringfellow* (a descendant of Dr. Hall). Courtesy of Mr. Duval Quinn Hicks, *The Family and Descendants of Dr. and Mrs. John Byrd Hall* ...

Truthfully, it may be said that your great Uncle, Dr. John Byrd Hall of Fredericksburg was a gentleman of extraordinary dimensions. He wore a wig in the day which, when flustered, he pushed to one side and he wore a red flannel cap at night. When clad in a long white gown, candle in hand, he went from room to room to make sure that his seven sons were all in place, he must have been a sight to behold. Whenever there were visitors present and he was seen to take out his big silk handkerchief, his wife always raised her hand in warning of the sneeze that was to follow. There is a tradition in the family that once the concussion was so great that it knocked over a fire screen in front of the chimney. But, be that as it may, he was a fine old Christian gentleman, the very soul of truth and honor if he did send back that empty wagon to his father-in-law at the Retreat when the horse fell in his cellar.

When Burnside's troops were fighting around Fredericksburg, he was desperately ill. For some reason, his name was one of a list of gentlemen who were to be arrested. But, when the soldiers appeared, his physician stationed himself at the front door and announced that they would have to pass over his dead body before seeing his patient. Promising to return the next day, they departed. But there was no one to see the next day for your great Uncle had died in the night.

There being no communication at that time between Fredericksburg and Hanover, your grandfather had not heard of his brother-in-law's death until a wagon containing his sister Harriet and her four or five motherless young grand-daughters stopped at the gate. The driver was her eldest son Horace, father of the girls. He had brought the family out of Fredericksburg in the only vehicle that he could obtain. Although he had not been



JOHN B. HALL

J. B. HALL'S SONS.

It is rarely, even in the Old Commonwealth of Virginia, that a newspaper reporter finds opportunity to recount the history of a house that dates its origin to the last century—rare, because few enterprises trace back their origin so far, and fewer still are they where there is such direct "Apostolic" descent shown as in the career of the enterprise to which we here refer.

To those who are acquainted with Fredericksburg, it is unnecessary to state that J. B. Hall's Sons are Druggists. As a "drug and medicine store," as it used quaintly to be called, the enterprise was originated by Dr. Elisha Hall, in May, 1791. While in the store the other day we were shown the original invoice of the first bill of goods, purchased in London; it shows, as may well be imagined, a queer medley of articles, and yet it was evident that the selections were made by one who appreciated the needs of a drug store, though it was not quite such a stock as a modern druggist would have purchased. We were also shown the iron mortar and pestle which we think were "items" in the original invoice, and as we gazed at them, it seemed as if the ghosts of thousands of prescriptions that had been compounded within the old mortar still lingered about it. We could fancy how often life and death had hung upon the triturations that had been made in it; how much of suffering it had been a potent factor in alleviating.

Dr. Elisha Hall continued the business of a druggist (combining with it the practice of medicine) until his death, when his son, the late John Byrd Hall, succeeded him, and it remained under his direct management until his death in 1862, since which time his sons, under the present firm style, have continued it. The original "store" was located in a cottage still standing upon Main street, and whose dormer windows and old-time architecture generally tell of the last century. The first change of location was to the adjoining brick building, now a residence, and about sixty-five years ago the premises now occupied, at the corner of Main and Commerce streets, were taken possession of.

The founder of the house, Dr. Elisha Hall, was of English descent, though he came here from Maryland. Among other mementoes of the olden time that we saw the other day, was his admission ticket to the Philadelphia Medical College; it was printed on the back of the "Nine of Spades," was dated March 4, 1771, and was signed by Wm. Smith. Among other "old timers" were orders—one from Landon Carter, of Cleve, for a bill of goods, dated 1794. Invoices of purchases from New York houses dated about the same time were shown us; one especially attracted our attention, it being from Jacob Schieffelin & Son, who were then located "on Pearl street, facing the Fly Market." J. B. Hall's Sons continue to do business with the same old house, though its firm style has also undergone changes, it now being W. H. Schieffelin & Co., corner of William and Beekman streets.

Among the constant patrons of J. B. Hall's Sons are many who have done business with it for fifty years and more, and the parents and grandparents of other customers were patrons. The people throughout a very wide reach of country still look to this as the FOUNTAIN HEAD of choice supplies for all that appertains to the drug trade.

During the late war the house was twice sacked—with those exceptions its career has been as smooth and successful as any one could wish. Under the changes of proprietorship the son and grandsons have fallen heir to the kindly feelings entertained toward the originator of the enterprise, and it certainly will be no fault of J. B. Hall's Sons if the old time prestige is not only maintained but transmitted by them to whomever shall prove their successors in the (we hope) distant future.

It is quite unnecessary that we should tell the readers of the STAR anything in detail as to the appearance or resources of the house, nor need we indulge in any fulsome compliments as regards the character of its trade. Now, as for many years, it stands a thoroughly representative interest; its friends are legion; its trade is in every respect gratifying, and more than that we need not say.

MR. M. C. HALL DEAD.

He Was a Member of an Old and Honored Family—Had Been Superintendent of St. George's Sunday School Thirty Years.

Mr. Marshall Carter Hall, one of Fredericksburg's best known and best beloved citizens, died at his home on George street Tuesday morning at four o'clock. Mr. Hall had been in bad health for some months, but continued with wonderful determination to give his attention not only to his business, but to his work as superintendent of St. George's Sunday School. During the Christmas season when the school was getting ready for its annual celebration Mr. Hall, though suffering at the time, was always at his post of duty. A short time since he grew worse and with Mrs. Hall left Fredericksburg to visit relatives in Montgomery, Ala. Shortly after arriving there his condition became alarmingly worse and relatives from here were summoned to accompany him back to Fredericksburg. He arrived here last week and since that time his physicians had entertained no hope of his recovery. Mr. Hall was born in Fredericksburg on the 13th of January, 1813. His father was Dr. John B. Hall who conducted for years the drug store on the corner of Commerce and Main streets, which is perhaps the oldest business house in the city, having been established in 1791 by his father, Dr. Elisha Hall, and which has been conducted by some member of the family ever since, it being the property of Mr. Hall at his death. The early life of the latter was spent in this city where he obtained his education, but the outbreak of the war called him into the service of the Confederacy, and he volunteered with that readiness, which always characterized him when there was some duty to be performed. He enlisted as a private in Braxton's Battery of Fredericksburg Artillery and throughout the entire war served with the same command, ending his service at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered the remnant of his once magnificent army. Mr. Hall was in most of the most important battles in which the Army of Northern Virginia participated and earned the reputation of a brave soldier in that superb command, whose characteristic was bravery. After the war, like other young men of the devastated South, Mr. Hall returned to this city and after a brief time spent in Culpeper entered the drug business then being conducted by his brothers. The business succeeded, and as his brothers

grew older the deceased was left in charge of the store and remained so until his death. Business, however, did not absorb his entire time. Over thirty years ago Mr. Hall became the superintendent of St. George's Sunday School, of this city, and in this work for his Maker he labored with tireless energy. The children loved him on account of his kind and gentle ways and never a year passed that he was not made the recipient of some remembrance from the scholars and teachers. The work was a labor of love with him and rarely a Sabbath morning found him absent from his post of duty, while at each successive Christmas it was his pleasure to join with the school in those happy celebrations so dear to both scholar and teacher. He was a member of St. George's church, taking always, as was the case with the Sunday School, great interest in church work. Mr. Hall was nothing if not a Christian. Of him it can be truly said that he was a man of spotless, stainless character, untouched by any form of vice and pure in every sense of the word. His life was an open book from which all might read, and the example set by him is worthy of emulation.

On the 9th of November, 1881, Mr. Hall was married, taking as his wife Miss Lily Braxton, of Richmond county, who survives him with two children, Messrs. Carter and Spottswood Hall. He was devoted to his family and the happiest years of his life were spent in the midst of his loved ones. He leaves, in addition to his wife and children, three brothers, Dr. Horace B. Hall, and Messrs. R. R. and F. H. Hall, and three sisters, Mrs. M. H. Gillespie, of Sistersville, W. Va., Mrs. Elmer, St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Julia Henry, Houston, Va. Mr. Hall was of the distinguished Virginia family of Halls and was related to the Caldwells, Carters, Wormleys and other well known families of the Old Dominion. He had for a number of years been a member of Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M., of this city, and of Fredericksburg Council, Royal Arcanum.

The funeral took place from St. George's church Wednesday afternoon at five o'clock. The services were conducted by Rev. W. D. Smith. The Sunday school of St. George's church attended in a body, and the druggists of the city closed their places of business and attended the funeral. The floral offerings were very beautiful. The pall-bearers were:

Active—J. A. Taylor, A. D. Tapscott, James S. Knox, H. B. Lane, A. H. Wallace, W. H. Hurkamp, O. L. Harris, R. O. Egerton.

Honorary—Judge A. W. Wallace, Dr. J. E. Tompkins, Dr. S. W. Carmichael, Robt. T. Knox, St. Geo. R. Fitzhugh, Dr. J. F. Thompson.

Obituary of Robert Rush Hall in the issue of March 14, 1904 of the Fredericksburg Daily Star.

DR. R. R. HALL DEAD.

Was Formerly of Firm of John B. Hall's Sons—Member of an Old Family and Life-Long Resident of This City.

Dr. Robert Rush Hall died at his home in this city Saturday evening at 7 o'clock, after a period of ill health extending through several years. He was a son of the late John B. Hall and was born and raised in this city. Up to ten years ago he was connected with the drug firm of J. B. Hall's Sons, which was established by his grandfather, Elisha Hall, in 1791, and is the oldest in the State. Owing to the state of his health he retired from the firm. He was a Christian gentleman of quiet demeanor, cultivated tastes, liberal to the poor and to his church, St. George's Episcopal, of which he was a devoted member from early boyhood. Mr. Hall was twice married. His first wife was Miss Lucy Baskerville, of Petersburg, by whom he has one daughter, Miss Lucy Hall. His second wife, who survives him, was Miss Maria Wormley, of this city. She has one daughter, Miss Sophia Hall.

His surviving brothers are Dr. Horace B. Hall and Dr. Frank S. Hall, of this city, and three sisters, Mrs. Mary Gillespie, of Slatersville, W. Va.; Mrs. Elmore, of St. Louis, and Mrs. Julia Henry, of Halifax, Va.

Funeral services were held from St. George's church Monday at 12 o'clock, Rev. W. D. Smith officiating, and the interment made in the family lot in the city cemetery.

The pall bearers were: Active—J. Stansbury Wallace, E. M. Young, Jr., O. L. Harris, Hugh D. Scott, C. C. Rowlett and Dr. Myer Eckenrode. Honorary—J. B. Ficklen, J. Arthur Taylor, Dr. J. F. Thompson, W. D. Scott, Judge A. W. Wallace, St. Geo. R. Fitzhugh, M. B. Rowe, Dr. A. C. Doggett, S. Sydney Bradford, and James S. Knox.

Obituary of Horace B. Hall in the August 30, 1913 issue of the *Fredericksburg Free Lance*. He was the oldest native born citizen of the town and the last of the Halls who had been active in the drug business.

DR. HORACE B. HALL

**This Honored Citizen Passed Away
at Daughter's Home in Culpeper.**

WAS OLDEST NATIVE BORN CITIZEN

A telegram received here by Mr. H. B. Lane Friday morning announced the death of Dr. Horace B. Hall of this city, at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. William R. Robertson, in Culpeper, Va., where he was spending the summer, in the 90th year of his age.

The death of this old, venerable and respected native and citizen of Fredericksburg claims more than a casual notice.

Born in the early part of the last century, grandson of Dr. Elisha Hall, one of the physicians of Mrs. Mary Washington in her last illness; the son of John B. Hall, who was an officer of the United States Army in the war of 1812, and who was the founder in 1793 of Hall's drug store in Fredericksburg, he succeeded his father as the head of the firm composed of his two brothers, Robert R. Hall and Marshall Carter Hall, both of whom he has survived, as well as the twelve other members of a large family of brothers and sisters.

Dr. Hall was a man of the highest character and was a typical representative of the old Virginia gentleman. His mind to the day of his death was full of reminiscences, being almost an encyclopedia of local events of the last century.

For fifty years or more he has been a vestryman of St. George's Episcopal church of this city, and by his practical judgment has been of great assistance to that body.

Like the falling in the calm serenity of the evening sunset of some patriarch of the forest, which has stood the storms and winds of many tempests he has passed away and has exchanged his mortal body for a celestial body in an everlasting home peaceful with the perennial beauty of a blessed immortality.

The surviving children are Mrs. Bessie H. Egerton, of Petersburg; Mrs. W. R. Robertson of Culpeper; Miss Julia H. Hall of this city, a number of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held in Culpeper Friday afternoon.

The body will be brought here Saturday morning, arriving at 11:47, and will be taken direct to the City Cemetery, where services will be concluded at the grave, conducted by Rev. J. J. Lanier, rector of St. George's.

The interment will be made in the family lot.

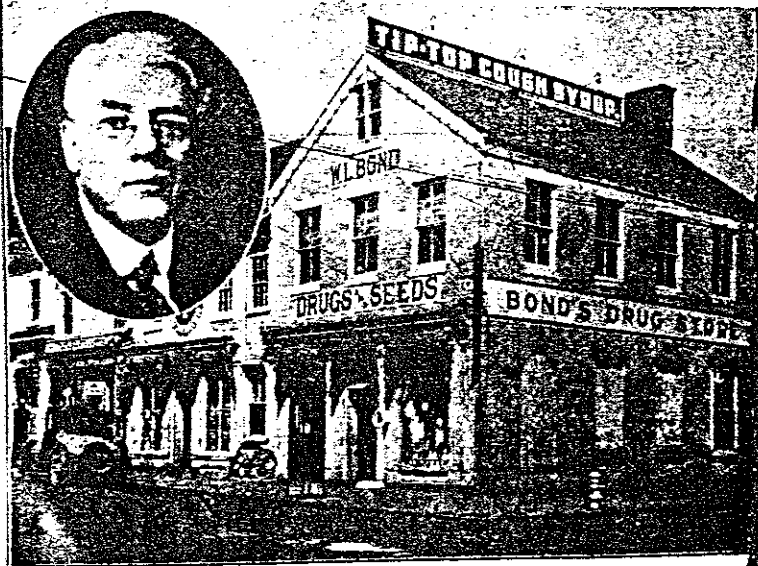
Bonds Drug Store & Dr. Bond
 3 Feb 1931
 Negs 6/7 & 8/9



THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS DRUG STORE IN UNITED STATES. INSET DR. W. L. BOND

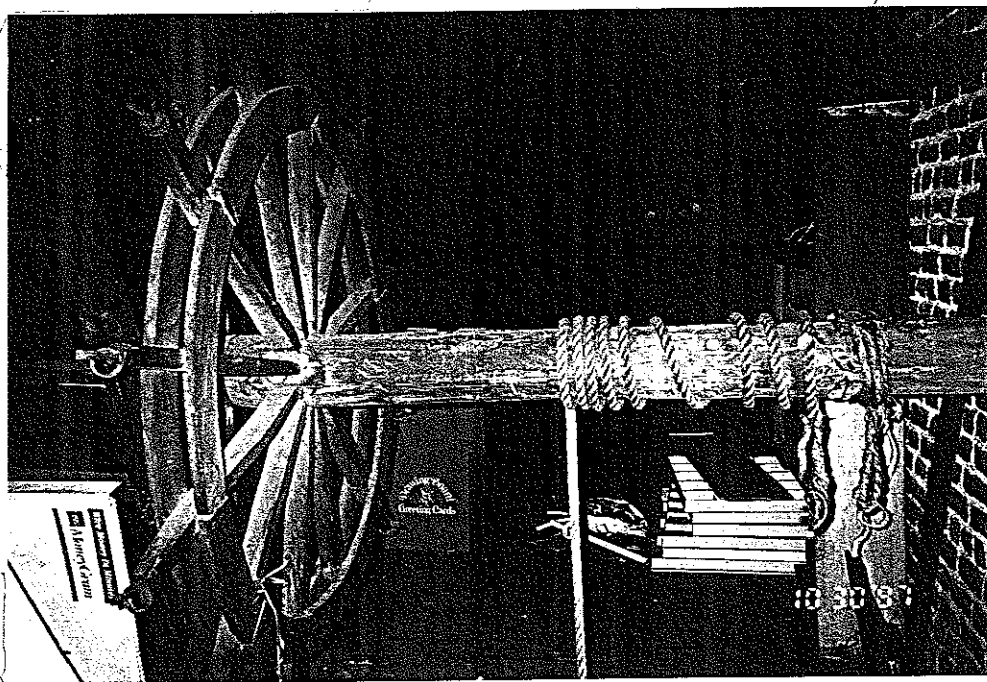
One Year Ago Was An Eventful Day For Fredericksburg and Vicinity

It Was February 3, 1930 That W. L. Bond's Drug Store Announced They Had Secured the Agency For "Vendol," the Great System Tonic and More Than 6,000 Bottles Have Been Sold By Them During This Year.

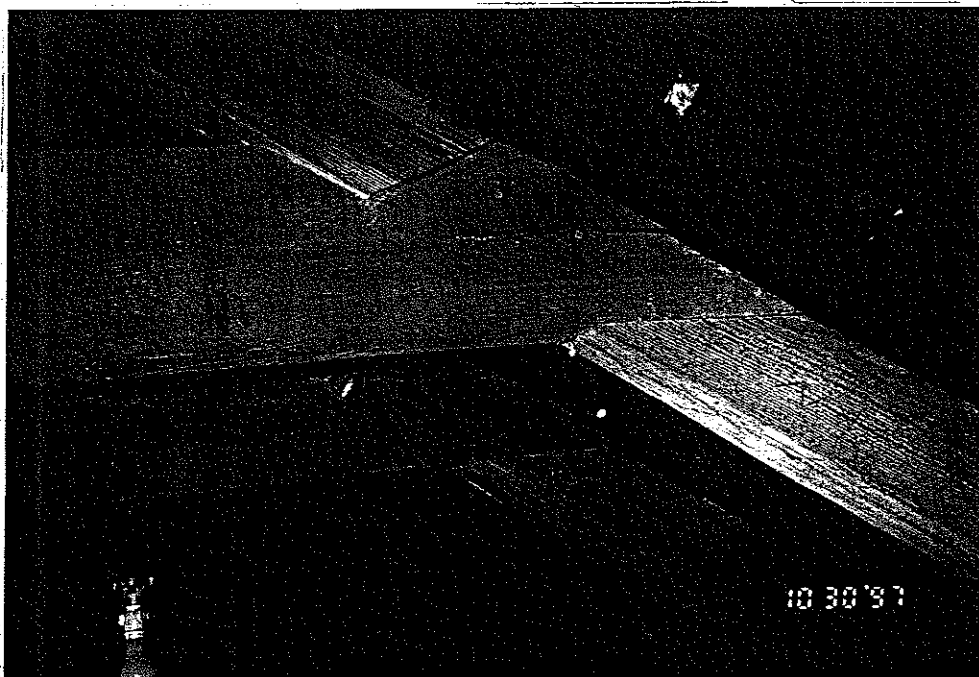


THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS DRUG STORE IN UNITED STATES. (INSET DR. W. L. BOND)

The windlass in the attic at 203 William St.



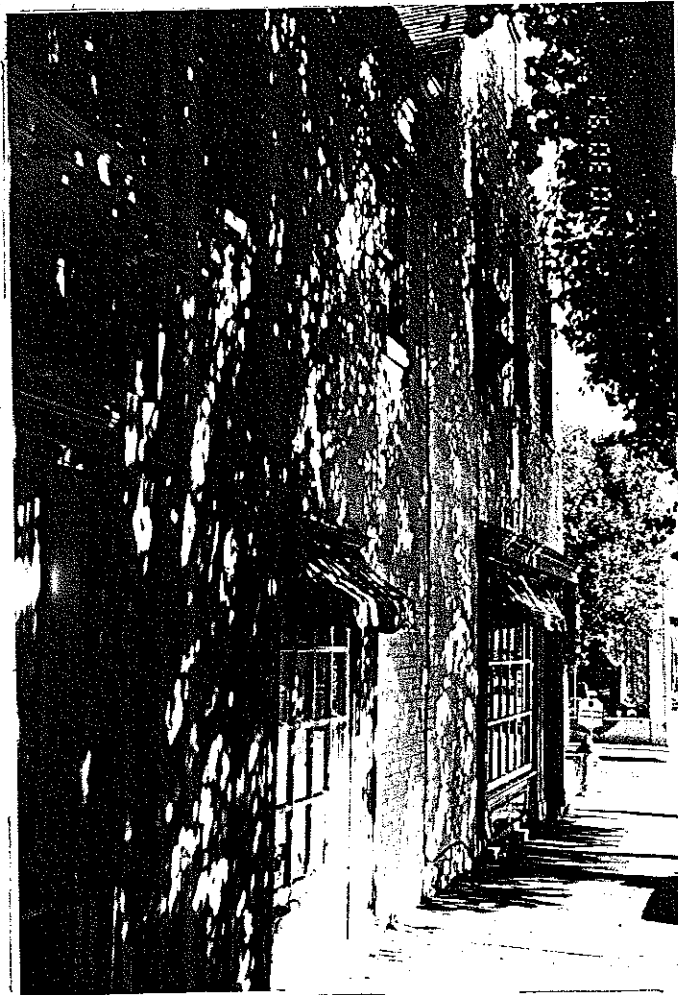
Dovetail joints holding the tie beams to the rafters in the attic of 201 William St.



32
Photo taken through a window of the attic of 203 William St.
showing the gap between the two buildings, 201 and 203
William St.



Photo of the front of the buildings. Note the display window
at 203 William St. that has replaced the door.



36
Bond Rexall Drugs about 1950. Courtesy of the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center

