

A Brief History

The village of Bluemont, was officially founded by William Clayton in 1813 as a farming community. The settlement had been in existence for more than 50 years however. The original post office was officially at Snicker's Gap, named for the mountain gap and for the ferry operator of the late 1700's, Edward Snickers. The community's first unofficial name, Punkin Town, supposedly came about when a wagon carrying a load of pumpkins up Rt. 7 turned over, spilling its load down the streets of town. The name eventually became Snickers Gap and then later Snickersville. William Clayton's stone home, Clayton Hall, was built in 1797. In 1813, he divided his land among four of his children. He had previously sold more land to others. These and other small plots were settled around the junctions of the major link between Winchester and Leesburg (Rt. 7), and Snickers Gap Turnpike (Rt. 734), the road to the Little River at Aldie. This made the growth of the village inevitable.

The first school, a one room log cabin, was built in 1825 on donated land and became known as the Snickersville Academy. It is now used as a private home. When outgrown in 1872, a second school was built just down from the stone church. The church itself had been constructed in 1851 after the Ladies Benevolent Society purchased the land for the establishment of

a free church for the community. In 1921, the third and last school was built across from the church and today serves as a community center. This school closed in 1962.

Near the center of the village was the Snickersville General Store, down the road was the Lake store which also housed the post office and a bank. Dr. Plaster, one of the town physicians, originally housed his office in town next to the general store. But around 1850, he moved to a larger home and office combined, named Glenmeade, just outside of town.

In the late 1800's the Washington and Old Dominion Railway Company decided to extend the rails to Snickersville and promote the village as a summer resort. The Company changed the village name to the more appealing Bluemont. The first train rolled into Bluemont Station, located on Railroad St. at the time, on July 4, 1900. Round trip tickets from Alexandria on the "Virginia Creeper" cost \$1.00. Many local houses became boarding houses or hotels. The Bluemont Hall was built in 1920 as a dance hall and now houses Cochran's Lumber Co.

Bluemont's fame was short-lived, however. As automobile travel opened up the countryside, railroad service was discontinued in 1930. Bluemont once again returned to a quiet, farming community.

In 1955, local residents united to form The Bluemont Citizen's Association. The BCA sponsors the Bluemont Fair which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Taken from Snickersville: The Biography of a Village
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