



Kilmarnock's History

- February 1, 1650 **Called “the Crossroads”, this land patent issued to Gervais Dodson and George Wale for land that a portion of today’s Kilmarnock is located on. Wale later becomes the sole owner.**
- 1659 Anthony Steptoe arrives in Virginia from Hampshire, England as an indentured person.
- March 1, 1676 **Part of Wale patent is now in hands of Anthony Steptoe. Now known as Steptoe’s Ordinary,** he operates a tavern and storehouse at the crossing. (He marries Lucy Stephens of Scotland.) He owns 278 acres.
- 1764 **Anthony Steptoe’s great grandson, William Steptoe, sold a 2 1\2 acre parcel of today’s Kilmarnock** to Robert Gilmour. Gilmour is an agent for and interest holder in a mercantile firm (Bogle, Somerville & Co.) in Glasgow, Scotland and owns property in Kilmarnock, Scotland. **Robert Gilmour’s wife, Helen Galloway, is the granddaughter of Richard Lee of Ditchley (in Northumberland County, VA).**
- December 7, 1778 **Earliest mention of “Kilmarnock” in a deed filed by Rawleigh Hazard, a silversmith, when he purchases 2 acres.**
- 1779 **Hazard applies to run an ordinary “in Kilmarnock”.**
- 1781 Two more Hazard deeds refer to Kilmarnock.
- 1782 Robert Gilmour operates a store in Kilmarnock, VA and at his death wills to his son a house **“at the end of the bridge in Kilmarnock, Scotland”. Both Hazard and Gilmour are closely associated with the name choice of Kilmarnock.**
- 1803 Store opens on Main Street by Peter Tankersley. In 1803, Tankersly sells his store and lot to John Hall. Hall and Elias Edmonds are prominent merchants. These may have been the only stores until after the Civil War. It is unknown if these two operated continuously.
- August 10, 1804 John Hall becomes the first postmaster of Kilmarnock.
- 1842 **Kilmarnock Seminary, a private school, is founded by Addison Hall (John Hall’s son),** prominent lawyer, merchant, Baptist Minister, postmaster. He recruits Lewson Chase (from Massachusetts) as its first schoolteacher. It continues for nearly 50 years.
- 1855 Female Seminary founded by Addison Hall. Located at the corner of Main and Church Streets, he brings Miss Julia Gordon from New England to be its first teacher. In 1859 Miss Gordon and Mr. Chase are married.
- 1881 Gus and William Eubank lease commercial space at the southeast corner of Main and Church Streets and begin Eubank and Brother. They purchased the store outright in 1886 and **expanded to two stories in 1891. At 1000 square feet, this may have been the Northern Neck’s largest mercantile establishment.**
- 1886 Only 5 commercial stores exist in Kilmarnock **-Eubanks’, T. W. Bonner, Shearman, J. B. Cralle and T.R. Smither.**
- 1895 **T. W. Bonner expands his store and provides for a “town hall” on the second floor. John Palmer starts the Holly Ball, both a debutant ball and, now a community fundraiser.**
- 1897 **Kilmarnock’s first newspaper, *The Chesapeake Watchman*,** is published. John Palmer is the editor.
- 1890’s Brothers Eubank build the Eubank Hotel next door on Church Street.

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| 1901 | The Eubanks build a steamboat wharf on Indian Creek at the end of Waverly Avenue. In 1902, a fish processing factory is built at the wharf. |
| November 13, 1909 | The first major fire occurs in Kilmaronck. It starts in the kitchen of the Eubank Hotel, spreads to the livery stable and then to the Eubank and Brother store. It eventually burns a portion of town north of Waverly Avenue and Church Street. The hotel, store and stable are rebuilt in brick instead of wood. |
| July 6, 1915 | The second major fire starts in the bowling alley on Main Street on the northern edge of town burning both sides of Main Street until it reached the brick buildings of the Eubanks' . Upon rebuilding, merchants used fire retardant materials with brick and concrete block construction; however, they had common attics with no firewall between them. This would prove costly in later years. |
| 1916 | The Kilmaronck Water Company was created by T. Sargeant Brent, R.H. Chilton, Sr. and Dr. W.H. Lowe. It provided a safe water supply for the community. |
| October 4, 1916 | The <i>Rappahannock Record</i> issues its first paper, Fred C. Smith, editor. |
| 1918 | A power plant was established to supply the town with electricity. Bought in 1927 by East Coast Utilities, later Virginia Electrical Power Company (VEPCO), now Dominion Power. |
| 1920 | The Hazel Building is constructed by A.E. Brent and named for his daughter. Three stories high, it was an imposing barn like structure with multiple shops inside—a department store, drug store, restaurant, hotel and opera house, seating 500 people. |
| 1925 | Whippet-Knight Motors opens on Main Street. The Fairfax Theater opens just a few doors down. |
| 1927 | Downing Bridge is opened in Tappahannock crossing the Rappahannock River, opening the northern end of the Northern Neck to additional commerce with the Richmond area. |
| December 8, 1930 | Kilmaronck is incorporated as a Town within Virginia. Raleigh D. Carter was the first Mayor and S. G. Purcell the first Sergeant. The town now includes 762 acres. |
| 1932 | Kilmaronck Volunteer Fire Department is formed. R. C. Saunders is the first fire chief. |
| 1934 | Town of Kilmaronck purchases the Kilmaronck Water Company. |
| August 23, 1933 | The 8 th hurricane of the 1933 season hits the Northern Neck destroying 18 of 30 existing steamboat wharves. Most steamboat lines ended regular service vs. rebuilding. The steamboat era was over. |
| 1935 | The Kilmaronck Carnival Co. is established as fund raiser for the Kilmaronck Volunteer Fire Department. |
| 1938 | Lee's Restaurant opens. It's still run by the Lee family. |
| Early 1950's | Five automobile sales and service buildings were on Main Street plus three auto repair and 2 gasoline stations. |
| March 17, 1952 | St. Patrick's Day fire begins when the Hazel Building catches fire. High winds prevailed that day and fire swept Main Street. The buildings rebuilt after the 1915 fire were lost due to the common attic. |
| 1973 | 150 acres are added to the Town's limits along Harris Drive where the hospital would be opened. |
| 1977 | Rappahannock General Hospital opens. |
| 1984 | 896 acres are added to the Town's boundaries. This acreage is north of Town along Rt. 3. |
| April, 2006 | Main Street revitalization begins with Federal VDOT and local funding. "Steptoe's District" is formally created. |
| 2007 | 432 acres are added along the southern edge of Town encompassing Mary Ball Rd. toward White Stone, VA and along Harris Drive. |
| 2009 | A \$2.5 million grant is secured through VA Department of Housing and Community Development to rehabilitate housing units along Mary Ball Rd., providing public water and sewer services. |