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Did You  
Know?



## Army Navy Drive

Note: This article is an update of the “Did You Know” that appeared in the August 2016 ANCC Newsletter.

The first ferry from Arlington across the Potomac (Magee’s Ferry) ran from what is now Rosslyn to the mouth of Rock Creek. It was to this ferry that “the road from Alexandria” ran. This road later became known as the Old Georgetown Road, which is now essentially Army Navy Drive.



Typical 18<sup>th</sup> Century River Ferry

Existing as early as 1725, the Old Georgetown Road was one of the oldest “highways” in Arlington County. Magee’s Ferry appears on a map drawn by a cartographer in 1737 and in a 1746 survey of the area. George Washington and other colonial patriots used the road to travel from the Williamsburg/Northern Neck area to the Federal City and northwards. Near the close of the Revolution the road was used by Rochambeau and Washington to move troops, supplies, and weapons from the northern battle fields to Yorktown in support of the victorious battle with British forces under Cornwallis. The road appears later on a map of the Federal District printed in 1880.



For a time during and after the Civil War, the road was known as “Convalescent Camp Road” or “Old Camp Road” since it led to a large Sanitary Commission (Union) hospital largely situated on the southern end of what is now the ANCC Arlington Campus.

With the development and growth of the Army Navy Country Club, Army Navy Drive became the formal designation of the road in the 1935 Arlington County realignment of street names. The construction of the Shirley Highway in the late 1940s and early 1950s resulted in some changes to the road’s configuration.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The original southern end of Army Navy Drive is that section of 24<sup>th</sup> Street that runs between the Club property (White #6) and Dolley Madison Apartments and Bell Arlington Ridge Apartments.