

Industries – Farming

In the early 1770s, Stafford County prospered due to its agricultural production as well as its mining. By the 1860s, there is documentation about farming in the census. There were 1,022 heads of households. Four hundred and one (401) heads of households owned slaves. Ninety-two (92) heads of households (23% of the total heads of households that owned slaves) owned only one slave. Two hundred thirteen (213) heads of households (53% of the total heads of households that owned slaves) owned five or fewer slaves. The largest plantations in Stafford were J. Horace Lacy's "Chatham" estate, with 100 slaves, and G.B. Wallace's "Little Whim" estate, with 99 slaves. The next largest estate had 62 slaves. Only 37 Staffordians owned more than 20 slaves and were qualified as planters. These statistics indicate that the vast majority of Stafford farms were operated by the owner and his family. Those farmers who owned one slave probably worked side by side with their chattel in the field.



The economic impact of the Civil War is apparent in the following chart of agricultural statistics:

	1850	1870	1880
Horses, Asses & Mules	1,308	1,095	1,784
Cattle	4,756	1,810	3,990
Sheep	7,310	3,393	2,804
Swine	7,310	3,393	5,404
Wheat (bushels)	58,923	30,763	
40,697			
Rye & Oats (bushels)	41,057	41,743	
Corn (bushels)	178,651	99,057	
216,333			
Potatoes (bushels)	13,107	9,199	
18,660			

All the above statistics are from Homer Musselman's book, *Stafford County in the Civil War*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc, 1995.

Today farming is not as large an industry in Stafford as it was before. Below are some pictures from times past



Joe Jett Armstrong on the corner of Carter Street and Butler Road





Youngs of Blysdale Farm