How the FHPF and The Gott Library Started

The FHPF and Gott Library began life in 1993 as "The Fauquier Heritage Society for Local History and Genealogy." The following is quoted from part of a pamphlet prepared in 1993 to explain the mission, methods and offerings of the Society.

"The Society's own roots began in the summer of 1993 when members of the Marshall community and the Fauquier County Parks & Recreation Department heard that John Gott was looking for a place to serve as a research facility for his local history and genealogical papers. An initial meeting established the interest and commitment of the Marshall community to this project. Bylaws were written and passed. A staff of local professionals was recruited, who were willing to volunteer their time and efforts to preserve and maintain such a collection. A nominating committee put together a slate of officers. On July 27, 1993 a Charter Board was elected and the Fauquier Heritage Society for Local History and Genealogy became a reality. The mission was to educate the public about the value of historical resources. The Society offers the public a time machine for traveling into the past through its well-equipped research facility, educational programs and collection of local records...." The Society moved into the Maddux Building in Marshall and housed the collections of Marshall historians John Gott and Triplett Russell, and materials from the Afro-American Historical Association. Since then we have changed our name, moved into larger quarters and expanded the collections, but our mission remains the same.

FROM THE DIARY OF EDWARD CARTER TURNER, KINLOCH:
NOVEMBER 6, 1862: "...Federal Army arrives in large force....The soldiers spread all over the country and commit all manners of depredations. They begin on me by taking two of my most valuable horses — I go to Salem to beg of Gen. Stoneman by whose men my horses were taken to have them returned. On my arrival there I find that Gen. Shurtz had moved off in the direction of Orleans. Being very uneasy for the safety of my family I ... return to Kinloch. On reaching home I find hundreds of men on the place killing my stock......Night sets in with a multitude of thieves all over my farm, around my barn, in my garden and in every out house...... A most black and miserable day...."

NOVEMBER 9 "...Tis hard to estimate my losses. As well as I can judge, I have lost 100 sheep, 34 hogs, 5 yearlings, 4 very fine horses and a large quantity of poultry."