

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. IV

February 2026

Issue II

Hello and Greetings!

I will withhold any introductory diatribe regarding weather because no matter how good or bad it has been for us in the Shenandoah Valley for the last thirty days or so, some of you have had it much better or much worse, depending on where you are in our great country. So, I will just say the days are getting longer and the shadows are getting shorter. All is good.

New Web Site for the Cemetery

I have been working on building a new website for the cemetery since December 16th. I am using the same website company that has the old site. I am working way above my skills, knowledge, and abilities but the owner of the company, Paul Barkley, is very understanding and helpful. So maybe you are thinking, finally, a website that is more useful. Well, I hope it will be. It should be more searchable, and it is certainly more “modern” looking with all the modern bells and whistles. It will use Stripe for payments of all types. Unlike PayPal, all you need to do is click on the credit card box, enter your card information, and check-out. No getting involved with the vendor like PayPal does. And there is a bigger reason for the new site. All users of the old site received an email on December 1st. It reads:

THE CLOCK IS REALLY TICKING ON ENS-C

Recently we experienced an almost fatal software failure. The third-party library that we rely on to upload images in ENS-C somehow failed. The result was that if you tried to upload an image, or if you even wanted to look at your images in some case, you got a not-very-useful error message. Our hero Alex found a work-around for this, but it illustrates just how fragile our old ENS-C code has gotten. As I've mentioned numerous times in these emails and Help Desk tickets, we can no longer update our ENS-C servers with changes in the language, database software, or the operating system because any change will break our ENS-C system.

The reason I say REALLY ticking is because if Alex hadn't found a work-around, that would have been the end of ENS-C right there. Yes, your ENS-C website almost ended a week ago! OK, it would have run, but without allowing any changes to the images, so that would not have been very helpful. You would have been able to create a new Event, say, but not upload an image for it, or use an existing image. So, basically an almost dead website.

We have several goals related to ENS-C and ENS-R:

- *Get everyone off ENS-C before it totally collapses.*
- *Get everyone to build a really nice looking ENS-R site.*
- *Make this a fun experience for our webmasters as they learn a little about responsive websites, and build their new, great looking pages!*

- *Get our revenue aligned so that large organizations pay a reasonable amount for the many members that they have and the greater bandwidth that they use.*
- *Keep supporting our small clients who have small budgets so the small dollar increase doesn't drive any small organization out of business.*

That's a lot to balance, but we're getting there. PLEASE talk to your board about starting the move to ENS-R now while we still have the Early Adopter period financial incentives, because it's not that early. It's almost too late for the incentives (we're working on the last module plus a couple other features), and one of these days, unexpectedly, it's going to be late for all ENS-C websites. The sooner you get started on your ENS-R website, the sooner you can enjoy the benefits of a new, responsive website which can be supported for many years to come.

Regards,

Paul

pbarkley@bluecrabsoftware.com

So there you have it. And at my age, I can appreciate the words "the clock is really ticking" if you know what I mean! The additional cost is very reasonable and the payment for the old site runs until September, which will be prorated back to offset the new site fees, none of which our members are responsible for anyway. The new site should be live by the first of March (but we all know how that can go) and there should be no action necessary on the members' part, but I will keep you posted on the progress as we move forward.

Buffalo Gap Cemetery

Way back in November I had the privilege of being contacted by Courtney Earhart. Courtney, who lives in Oklahoma, was in Augusta County, specifically at Buffalo Gap, visiting his mother. Courtney expressed an interest in visiting the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery because some of his Lotts ancestors are buried there. We arranged that visit and I had a most enjoyable time getting to know Courtney and his mother, Connie.



As it always does with genealogy, one conversation led to another and then another, until Courtney shared with me what he knew about what he referred to as Buffalo Gap Cemetery. A cemetery I had never heard of. Courtney expressed his desire to visit the cemetery and I expressed my desire to do the same, so we made a plan. Courtney had been to the cemetery before and was aware of one headstone there inscribed with MIRIAH J. BORN 1805 DIED SEP 24 1884 NOT DEAD BUT ASLEEP. He had done a lot of research using the limited headstone information and had come up with this most likely being a marker for Mariah J. Rodgers (Rodgers) whom he had found on the 1884 Augusta County Death Register which lists: *Miriam J. Rodgers Died 24 Sept 1884 at Buffalo Gap of Dropsy age 82. Neighbor Joseph Peterson was informant Parents listed as unknown.*

While not 100% confirmed, I personally believe Courtney has identified whose grave the headstone marks.

On November 24th we met at the Buffalo Gap Chapel and drove to the cemetery less than a mile south of the chapel on Route 42. We hiked the steep remnants of a road to the top of a saddle that runs off Big North Mountain just north of Elliot's knob and this is what we found.



Buffalo Gap Cemetery can be described as a rectangular rock-walled enclosure with rocks dry-stacked originally approximately 30 inches high and 18 inches thick. The enclosure is approximately 25 ft. X 40 ft.

We had taken a leaf blower, a probing tool, and of course a camera. After blowing what leaves we could out of the enclosure, we photographed what we had uncovered. Other than removing the leaves, nothing was disturbed except for leaning against the wall what appeared to be several unmarked headstones which were located using the probe. Below are photos of Mariah's headstone and the several unmarked ones.





Continued research on both Courtney's and my part has resulted in the following information being documented. Part of what was discovered must be attributed to Keli Rogers, who I was able to locate on Ancestry and reach out to November 30. She replied with valuable information, which is also included below. These are only rough notes with no real continuity and I apologize for that.

1880 Census:

Mariah Rodgers 76 yoa

A. B. Rodgers -grandchild - living in house born abt. 1865-age 15 First name may be Arthur (refer to 1870 census)

Rebecca Peterson – no relation living in house – “works in House” born abt. 1860 age 20

Mariah's Mother and father POB listed as Florida

1884 Death Register

Died 24 Sept 1884 at Buffalo Gap of Dropsy age 82. Neighbor Joseph Peterson was informant
Parents listed as unknown

Find A Grave

Arthur B Rodgers is found on FindAGrave, born June 1865 died 11 April 1915 in Huntington WV.

His wife - m. 1881 was none other than Rebecca Peterson. Arthur would have been 16 or 17 then according to the census.

The Fairmont West Virginian, Fairmont, West Virginia

Tuesday, April 14, 1914, page 7

Huntington - Capt A B Rodgers, aged fifty years, one of the most popular trainmen in the service of the Chesapeake & Ohio road, dropped dead at half past ten o'clock Saturday morning at the Huntington hospital, to which he had gone to visit his son, Hector Rodgers who is seriously ill there. Death was due to an apoplectic seizure.

Hinton Daily News and Leader, Hinton, West Virginia

Monday, April 13, 1914, page 1

The remains of Capt Arthur Rodgers, who died suddenly at his home in Huntington on Saturday morning were buried today at the Spring Hill cemetery in Huntington.

Mr Rodgers formerly resided in Hinton. He came to this city when it was but a small village and remained here for about eighteen years. His run was east of Hinton, where he was employed as brakeman and later as conductor and was later promoted to passenger conductor. His run was largely out of Huntington and he moved his family there about thirteen years ago.

Mr Rodgers was very popular with the people along the C & O. He had many friends in Hinton and the burial was largely attended today, by friends of this city who went on the early morning train to be present.

Marriage Record

Looking at the marriage record for Arthur B. Rodgers and Rebecca L. Peterson 15 June 1881 in Staunton, VA, his parents are listed as Jasper Rodgers and Elizabeth Rodgers.

1850 Census

Looking at the 1850 census for Jasper then age 15, Maria Rogers (sic) age 46, is listed on the census which would put her birth year at 1804. Also in the household is Isaac Rodgers, age 48.

1854 Augusta County Death Register

Looking at Isaac Rodgers on the 1854 Augusta County death register, he died in Buffalo Gap on 20 September 1854 of Cancer, age 53. He is listed as a merchant (mill) and his wife is listed as Mariah Jane Rodgers. His parents are not listed. The informant is Henry Rippitoe and is listed as "executor."

Augusta County Will Book

Isaac had a will and presumably all of the family members are named in one way or another, but the will is dated by his signature on 4 October 1854, ten days after his death so I am concluding that the death date on the death register is flawed. Henry Rippitoe is one of two executors appointed by Isaac. The other is a Rogers but I can't make out the first name. This Rogers refused to accept the executorship and there seems to have been some other matters that the court addressed to Rippitoe. Isaac's land seems to have been appraised at \$4,000.00. I will have to look at the original will to be able to decipher it correctly. Will books 34-35, 1854 to 1857.

Listed in the will are the names Elizabeth Rogers-daughter, Susan Rogers-daughter, Maria J Rogers-wife, William H. Rogers-son, Ann Blakmore-daughter.

Isaac Rogers is found on the 1850 Industry Schedule in Dist. 2 of Augusta County, occupation Merchant Mill listing wheat as the raw material and water as the power source.

Message sent 11-25-25 at 2315 hrs. to Ancestry member Keli Rogers (California):

Hello Keli Rogers, I am doing some research on the Rogers/Rodgers family. I have located a grave with a stone marked as Mariah J. , died September 24, 1884. The piece of stone that should have the last name has not been found yet but we will continue to look so right now I am only concluding it is Mariah Jane Rodgers based on the death date and place of death. It is a 25 ft. x 40 ft. graveyard on top of a forested mountain ridge in Buffalo gap and a hand laid rock wall encompasses the graveyard. There are several other headstones with no markings found as of yet. If you are willing to share any info you might have on Mariah or Isaac I would appreciate it. My email is shadyacresfarming at yahoo dot com. I just happened across your name on Ancestry and took a chance that you might have some info that might help me. I wrote my email address hopefully in a way that Ancestry will not block it but I think it is self explanatory. I have photos of the headstone and cemetery and would be glad to send them and some of my notes if you wish. Thank you and have a Blessed Thanksgiving. Glenn Hanger

Greetings Glenn, thank you for your email. Maria [aka Mariah] Rogers [spelling variant Rodgers] [nee Pugh] was b. abt 1802 in Frederick County, Virginia; d. 24 September 1884 in Augusta County, Virginia; married Isaac Rogers b. 1802 d. 1854 on 30 Sept 1822 in Frederick, Virginia. The name Rogers is commonly misspelled as Rodgers, but I believe the correct spelling at that time was Rogers. There is a lot of information on Ancestry.com about the Pugh's, but it would require more research on my part which I will verify and post Later to my Rogers Family Tree 2025 (on Ancestry.com). If you can send me your notes especially the name of the cemetery where Maria was buried, I would be very grateful. I grew up in Virginia and when my father was alive, we did a lot of research together visiting several cemeteries in Virginia, Colorado, and Nevada. I have been searching for more information on Thomas Rogers b. abt. 1778? (Maria's father-in law - my 3rd GGF) and his wife, Elizabeth Brown [needs verification], but have come to a dead end. There is a lot of misinformation posted on Ancestry about Thomas Rogers which I believe is mostly inaccurate. With respect to Maria Pugh and Isaac Rogers, I was unable to find any grave information, so perhaps they are both buried next to Maria along with other Rogers I have been searching for. I am posting what research I did today on Ancestry.com. Best regards, Keli Rogers

But the research did not stop with Mariah. Courney had also done extensive research on Buffalo Gap Chapel and so as not to punish you with another 3 or 4 pages of my own ramble, I offer the following newspaper information for you.

Newspapers.com. *The Daily News Leader*, Staunton, Virginia. 20 August 1961. Page 5.



First Buffalo Gap Community Church

Historical Service At Buffalo Gap Today

The Buffalo Gap Community Church, erected by the Buffalo Gap Furnace Company about 1850.

The building was used for a school room during the winter and for community meetings as well as for religious services. It was moved back from its foundation in the early 1920's, and the present building was erected by Loch Willow Presbyterian Church, as a place of worship.

The old building was then torn down, and moved about one mile west of Highway 42, and used in the building of a dwelling house.

The special dedication and consecration service is being held at the Buffalo Gap Chapel today, beginning with Sunday School at 10 a message and the dedication service at 11, and lunch on the grounds at noon. Plans now are for a historical and inspirational service in the afternoon.

Work on the Buffalo Gap chapel has been started and those who have worked so hard for its erection, will soon be rejoicing over their labors.

It will be located on the new pike.

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**BUFFALO GAP CHAPEL
DEDICATION ON OCT. 3**
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The Rev. William C. White, D. D., pastor, announces that the dedication of the Buffalo Gap Presbyterian chapel will take place on Oct. 3, at 3 p. m.

The Rev. W. E. Davis, D. D., will preach the sermon. The Rev. W. W. Sprouse will deliver an address. This is expected to be a very interesting occasion, when the hopes of the people of the neighborhood for several years will be realized.

Dr. White also announces that there will be a protracted meeting in the Loch Willow church at Churchville about the middle of October, when he will have the assistance of the Rev. D. B. Green, of Hebron church.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered next Sunday morning at Loch Willow church at 11 o'clock.

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Thanks to Courtney Earhart and his family, a part of history is now recorded that had all but been forgotten. They are dedicated to doing the right thing and it shows with their concern for Buffalo Gap Cemetery. Cemeteries just like the one at Buffalo Gap dot our county. If you think you might know where one is please let me know. I would like to make these places history, not mystery. And for everyone that have given so generously to the work at Dutch Hollow, were it not for Dutch Hollow I would not have met Courtney, and had I not met Courtney, this little chapter of our history would never have been written. Thank you all for that. And a special thank you needs to be extended to Keli Rogers, who also cared enough to answer my email with valuable information on the Rogers family.

As a footnote to this story I thought I might share one more photo. I wrote at the first of the article about the cemetery being on top of a saddle running off North Mountain. It is, and right at the end of it! While the cemetery spot is quite flat as mountain terrain goes, walking in the wrong direction when leaving the cemetery could get you into some trouble. Below is the view looking east just feet from the cemetery. That is Route 42 cutting through Buffalo Gap that can be seen in the photo at the bottom of the drop off. The cemetery is in a very beautiful place right there on that saddle.



ACGS Planned Programs

- **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Regular Meeting ~ 1:00 PM**
 - Speaker: Ben Anderson, Park Ranger, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
 - Topic: *"The Life & Legacy of Maggie Lena Walker"*
- **Saturday, March 7 & 14, 2026, Genealogy Workshop ~ 10:00 AM**
Location: Staunton Public Library, 1 Churchville Avenue, Staunton, Virginia
About the event

Participate in our yearly Genealogy Workshops. Experienced genealogists and ACGS members will conduct the classes, with the second session expanding on the knowledge gained in the first. Genealogists of all skill levels are invited to attend!

Call the library at 540.332.3902 to register for the workshops by Thursday, March 5.

- **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting ~ 1:00 PM**
 - Speaker: Sam Towler, Historical Researcher
 - Topic: *"Family & Land Title Research from the Rockfish Gap to Waynesboro"*
- **Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Regular Meeting ~ 1:00 PM**
 - **Speaker:** Lynn Scott, Leslie Hall & Joan Jewell
 - **Topic:** *"Ancestry Basics-Learn Tips in Using Ancestry.com"*
- **Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Regular Meeting ~ 1:00 PM**
 - **Speaker:** Dolores Duncan & Lynn Scott
 - **Topic:** *"Ancestry DNA-Understanding Your Matches"*

Website Updates: Members Section

LIFE MEMBERS

Al Wilkerson 2025 Glenn Hanger 2025 Crim Lotts 2025

Michael Clinebell 2025

In The Library / Archives Section

Ship Passenger Lists 1732-1754 - 15 Total

Unpublished Documents - 9 Total

Published Documents - 11 Total

Life in Dutch Hollow - 204 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices - 1141 Total (Still several hundred, thousand to go)

Lucas-Fix Private Collection 109 Total

Department of Historical Resources Augusta County Archaeological Site Surveys - 16

Deed Histories - Dutch Hollow - 5

DHH Cemetery Forensics, Etc. - Preliminary Findings of Ground Penetrating Radar for lower 35 feet of Cemetery and GPS of entire cemetery - 2

Frederich Hanger Descendants Over 200 pages of his descendants' names with city, county, and state of residence when known. Roughly 8,000 names.

Cook-Teaford Cemetery - 2 Files

Schoolhouses-Augusta Co. - 1800s - 39

Marriages - 146

Coming Soon:

Elijah Jacob Hanger Private Collection (Approximately 450 files to be uploaded as time permits)

In The Focused Research Section

18 Files (40+ more to be researched, formatted, and uploaded as time permits)

The **Miscellaneous Research Files** module now contains 52 folders. There are over 350 files contained within those 52 folders. Please use them. All of that work is for your benefit and was done with you in mind. Take advantage of it! By the same token, let me know what you would like to see changed or added and I will do my best to accommodate.

Until next month, Blessings, Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy Trails,

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery