

THE HEADSTONE

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Well, here we are on the cusp of spring. Are you feeling it yet? I guess that might depend on your own definition of “spring.” I think we would all agree that regardless of our definition, it is a time of renewal. Much like what the cemetery is going through thanks to your support and help.

Perhaps you have asked yourself the question since you joined the website or donated towards the cemetery upkeep, “Just why am I doing this?” I cannot answer that question for you, but I know someone who answered it for me. Grace Bannon. Grace and her husband Tom live in Illinois, and they are members and supporters of the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery Project. They ended up at Dutch Hollow one fall day in 2022, and rather than try to use my own inadequate words to describe the visit, Grace has given me permission to use hers. This was the email I received from Grace after she had told me she was going to write me about her trip. It is well worth the read in my opinion. Grace’s enthusiasm is contagious, at least for me.

October 2022 Planning A Trip

My husband and I planned our first big trip since 2019. We decided to make it a genealogical trip. We had already followed his Bannon ancestors back to Pennsylvania and now we planned to see where his Fulwider relatives had lived in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Having never been to Virginia we decided to see Jamestown, Williamsburg, the state capital, Monticello and camp in Shenandoah National Park. We spent two nights in Staunton since this was the county seat near to the small towns that the Fulwidars lived from 1779 to 1850. After 1850 the Fulwidars moved to Montgomery County, Indiana where Elizabeth Fulwider became the grandmother to my husband’s grandfather, Noble Bannon. He was the family historian and passed his files and his love of genealogy to me.

A Drive in the Country

I had done some research before the trip and determined that Ulrich Fulwider was the first Fulwider of our line to come to Pennsylvania from Canton Zurich, Switzerland. I knew that he owned land near Middlebrook, Virginia. Although I looked for the location of his grave, I was only able to find the location of the grave of his son, Johannes. So on a sunny fall day we drove from Staunton, armed with the GPS coordinates of Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery. Notes on the internet told me that I would not be able to drive to the cemetery as it was in the middle of a field. The countryside was beautiful, and we were enjoying the scenery of the land where my husband's ancestors had lived.

A Chance Meeting

As we winded down a country road we saw the cemetery on a hill in the middle of a field, quite a distance from the road. Tom slowed the car, and I took pictures. We decided to turn around in the next driveway to see it again. A gentleman was in his car getting his mail. We stopped and asked him if he knew anything about the cemetery on the hill. He got out of his car and introduced himself in a proper Virginia drawl as T. C. Daniels. He said that he didn't know much about it, but he could tell us who could. "Glenn Hanger. He knows all about it. You go back up the road a piece to the long driveway on the right and knock on his door." We shook hands and got back in the car.

Who are you looking for?

As we drove, we debated. Should we just knock on a stranger's door in the country? Is this how people disappear on vacation? In the course of conversation, T. C. Daniels said that Glenn had been in law enforcement. That coupled, with the fact that the house looked bright and inviting urged us to take a chance. We knocked on the door and told him that T.C. Daniels had told us to see him for information about the cemetery on the hill. "What are your names?" he asked. "Tom and Grace Bannon" we replied. He just looked at us for a moment. Then he said, "Who are you looking for?" "Fulwiders." "Well, come on in, you've come to the right place" he welcomed us.

We Walk the Cemetery

I compared my notes with Glenn and he determined that Tom and he were distantly related. He took us downstairs into his office and showed us such a wealth of information. Then he offered to drive us to the cemetery. He told us all about the restoration work and his plans for the future. I got to take pictures of the tombstones. Glenn pointed out where the Fulwidars' land would have been. It was the single most exciting part of our trip.

More about Ulrich in Pennsylvania

As we left Virginia we travel the path that Ulrich and his family had taken to get from York County, Pennsylvania to Augusta County, Virginia. We camped at Codorus State Park and drove to St. Jacob's (Stone) Lutheran and Reformed Church in Brodbeck, Pennsylvania. At this site, when Ulrich and his family lived nearby, there was a church made of logs where all his children were baptized. We walked the cemetery and took pictures. The next day we visited York County History Center. After perusing the museum, I went to the library and asked if they had any information about the Fulwider family. The person assisting me was very knowledgeable and within a short time he had given me information about the location of Ulrich's land purchases in Codorus Township. He pulled out a map of the township that showed Ulrich's property just north of St. Jacob's church. We also found the baptismal records for his children and some references to his military service in the revolutionary war. I was able to purchase a copy of the map which I then sent back to Glenn as a thanks for his hospitality.

Why We Do Genealogy

*I find that genealogists are all very similar. We get excited over the smallest details and can talk your ear off if you get us started. Lately, rather than filling in names on trees, I have begun to research topics – ancestors who fought in World War 1, my immigrant ancestors' journey. Although we can do so much on the internet these days, there is no substitute for seeing where your ancestors lived. Each community has its own local history that is kept alive by the people still living there. They shed light on all those family stories and bits of information we find on the internet. Glenn Hanger is recovering his local history and making it available to all. We think of cemeteries as being places of the dead but they are not. Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery represents the connectedness of the persons who lived in this area. By studying the cemetery, we not only learn of sad times as the death of loved ones but there are also joyful stories – a marriage between neighboring families, the birth of children and the anniversaries of couples in old age. I am reminded of the play *Our Town* where the dead sit at their graves and tell their stories. Each tombstone that Glenn finds is a person with a story and that is exciting.*

Thank you, Grace, for allowing your letter to be used. Your whole trip was genealogy at its finest in my opinion.

The efforts to get the cemetery listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places is ongoing. So far, no supplemental data has been required since the initial submission. Aubrey Von Lindern, from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, drove out and performed a site survey of the cemetery on January 24th.

On February 2nd Aubrey Von Lindern made her presentation to her regional review board and they concluded that the cemetery is “potentially eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places. The next presentation will be at the state level for what I understand will be the determining review of the application. That meeting is scheduled for March 16th, and the final details of where and what time are still being worked out. Let's hope that the cemetery does make the list.

Things are progressing in the cemetery restoration as well. Well, minus what first appeared to be a setback after the ice storm on February 12th and 13th. I have known all along that the huge trees in the graveyard, many dead or dying, were the single greatest threat to the headstones and fence. A tree came down during the ice storm, but missed all of the headstones, landed across the fence, but did not break any wires. So, a couple of positives here. First, the trees must come down for the cemetery and headstones to be safe going forward – one did and now there is one less to come down!



Second, when the tree uprooted, it turned up a broken piece of headstone! Another plus! Two pros and zero cons for this incident. You can see the piece of marble right there behind Henry and Leah Clinebell's obelisk. The following photograph is a close-up of the remaining inscription. This stone shows the end text of what was probably either a birth or death date of 1826 and an age of ?5 years. Not a positive but likely. One fact does present itself with this piece of marble, Alfred Viquesney was the marble cutter that takes credit for fashioning it. Of less significance is the piece of blue limestone in the lowermost photograph. While there are no assurances that it is of

archaeological significance to the cemetery, this grade of limestone is not found in the immediate vicinity of the graveyard and it is of a width and thickness that are similar to at least one other blue limestone footstone found in the cemetery. It has not been examined for the presence of tool marks or an inscription.



Clearly the hope is that Dr. Nash will be able to find the rest of the turned-up headstone, along with many others, when she is able to use ground penetrating radar in the cemetery to look for buried stones as well as confirm the location of unmarked graves.

This very important part of the work being done at the cemetery is now drawing closer to fruition.

So as to not be redundant (yet again) about this particular project, I refer you to a copy of Dr Nash's email below which I received February 14th.



Rough-shaped Limestone, Possibly a Footstone

Good afternoon, Glenn, and thank you for your email, which was timed well. I am teaching a class in advanced GPS this semester, and last week I posted the Hanger Cemetery project for the students to consider, as they are required to do a project with some heft. This morning, I received replies from 6 who want to work on this. We would like to come on a Saturday in early April, if that works for you, and bring the ground penetrating radar unit and our survey-grade GPS units. Would you check your calendar and let me know if either April 8 or 15 will work for you? I realize that Easter is on the 9th and family may be in.

Thank you and many apologies for my lack of communication. My student group fell through in the fall but I'm glad we're back on track.

Kathleen's dog, Seamus, had surgery and has been rehabbing, but I hope they may be able to join us. Carole

I consider the above-described project to be the second most important thing that we can do to reestablish the integrity of the cemetery from a historically correct perspective. The most important thing is to adequately preserve what we already know is there. If both of these initiatives can be fulfilled, then I believe that many of the questions in the genealogical world that arise from studying the families of those buried there will to some extent finally be answered. It is with great anticipation that I wait for the arrival of Dr. Nash and her students, as well as Dr. Connor and her noble canine.

Robert Jolley, Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archaeologist, visited the cemetery on January 30th and has made an additional return trip to document some other sites in the Dutch Hollow vicinity that are of historical significance. Mr Jolley has evaluated over 300 cemeteries during his career and during his visit to Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery he informed me that he observed symbols on several tombstones there that he has not seen anywhere else in Virginia.



Mr. Robert Jolley, Taking Note of Cursive Engraving on a Headstone

The photograph at right of John Hanger (Jr's) headstone was taken some time prior to about 1998 by Tim Hanger¹. It was still lying right where he photographed it when I began the cleanup project in 2022. Tim visited the graveyard around 2000 or so and that is when I first had the privilege of meeting him.

Most recently I had been trying to reach Tim in hopes that he could visit the cemetery and see that his hope of restoring it had come true. I had his number and called it with no response. I emailed with the same results. I asked Mike Condrey, who said he knew Tim, if he knew how to get in touch with him. He did not.

Looking online, I discovered February 17th that Tim passed away in 2021. I have attached a link below to his obituary. John Hanger (Jr) was Mike's 4g grandfather, Tim's 4g grandfather, and my 3g grandfather, making both Mike and Tim my 4th cousin 1 X removed. It was my pleasure and privilege to have known Tim. [Tim Martin Hanger Obituary](#)



On February 19th, Dr. Kathleen Connor returned to the graveyard with her noble cadaver canine, Seamus. Seamus is recovering from surgery as a result of repair to an injured leg and it was his first “work session” since the operation. Dr. Connor only worked Seamus about ten minutes but during that time he alerted at five more potential grave sites which were marked and mapped. These locations will be checked with the ground penetrating radar in early April when Dr. Nash and her JMU students begin their work at the cemetery.

¹Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32511410/john-jacob-hanger>: accessed 18 February 2023), memorial page for John Jacob Hanger (9 Mar 1790–25 Apr 1870), Find a Grave Memorial ID 32511410, citing Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery, Middlebrook, Augusta County, Virginia, USA; Maintained by Glenn Hanger (contributor 51168363).



Dr. Connor and Seamus, just after Seamus had alerted, barked, and laid down at the spot he “says” is a gravesite.

Website Updates:

Library / Archive

New Category – Passenger Ship Lists - 14 added, all with passengers who have direct ties to Dutch Hollow.

Obituaries & Death Notices – 271 in Library, several hundred yet to add.

I think that more than enough information has been included in this month’s issue of *The Headstone* to either really get you interested in what is going on at Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery or to make you request a refund for your membership fee! I hope it is the former. So, use the website as often as practical, make suggestions, ask questions, and last but not least, remember that in genealogy, **a step backwards is true progress!**

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery