

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. I

July 2023

Issue VII

I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying the season and accepting the weather as it comes. Through the last part of May and the better part of June was no appreciable rain in or even near Dutch Hollow. It was just plain dry. So, with the early-on lack of rain, I guess some things just weren't as fresh and pretty as they could have been, but then there were other pieces and parts of nature that just seemed to make up for that.

My son and I were at the graveyard on June 12th during the dry spell moving some brush and several pieces of wood and we paused for a rest and Adam used his Merlin app. that he has on his way-too-smart-for-me phone. If you are not familiar with Merlin, first and foremost it is free. The app. "hears" bird sounds and provides an in-color picture and the name of the bird. Every time a new bird is heard it populates the page with the picture and name and each time any bird on the page makes a call, it highlights that bird. In just a little over a minute we had heard a Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Cardinal. Oh, That Cardinal. As if the joy of hearing him wasn't enough, he let Adam take a picture of him with that way-too-smart phone. I hope you can appreciate the beauty.



If you recall the pictures from several emails back of the tree that fell in January during the ice storm, it left quite the root-ball to be cleaned up. (It was the tree that also uprooted the broken headstone) Thanks to a helping hand from my good friend George Cox, who just recently retired from law enforcement, the root-ball is now gone, the hole is filled in and grass seed has been sown but not strawed yet.

Slow progress I will admit, but progress none the less. Thank you, George, for your help and especially your service to our community.

I have checked on fencing and it was no surprise that it, like everything else, is getting more expensive...a lot more



expensive. I had a conversation with my fencing contractor that I have used for years about what would be best. I suggested vinyl because of the low maintenance and ease of repair/replacement if a tree falls. That prompted him to suggest vinyl picket. I went to his suggested supplier and got a quote. I did not know that the term "sticker shock" also applied to fencing! To make a long story short, picket is out! I also priced a two-board and a three-board vinyl and the two board is within means if folks continue to support the effort, and I believe they will. Not a sales pitch, I knew when I started this project it would take time. The supplier has agreed to give what I consider a really generous discount, and I know the fencing contractor will as well. I will keep everyone posted on the progress.

Mowing and weed eating on June 15th revealed what is most likely another headstone or footstone. A fieldstone with no detectible markings, it was located near the eastern-most (bottom) of the graveyard. I plan to leave it where it was found until I get the radar

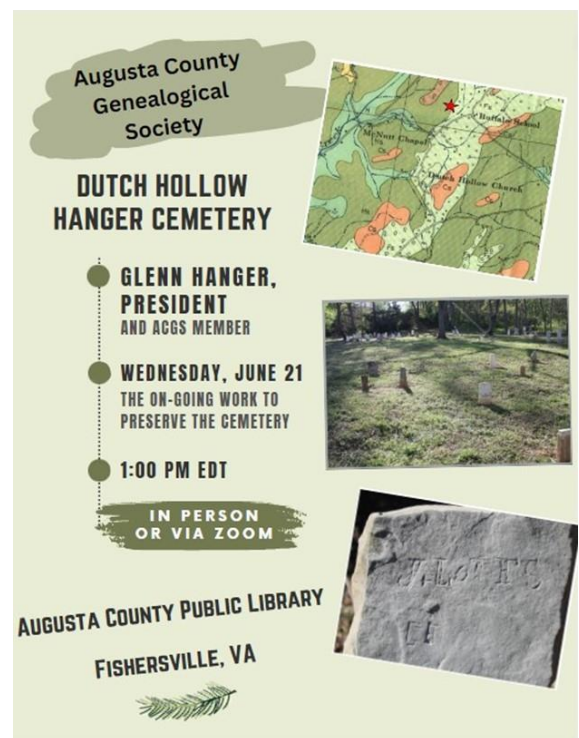


results for that area. Dr. Nash told me that I should have had those by now for the area that was surveyed, and she is in the process of checking with her students to see why I don't. As a location reference, the marked stone to the right of the one found is that of William W. Thornton (1877-1898), son of Ananias (1837-1897) & Elizabeth Lotts (1843-1926) Thornton. They lived on what is now Callison Mill Road straight down the hollow about one mile from the graveyard. Ananias and Elizabeth are buried at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church Cemetery north of Middlebrook.

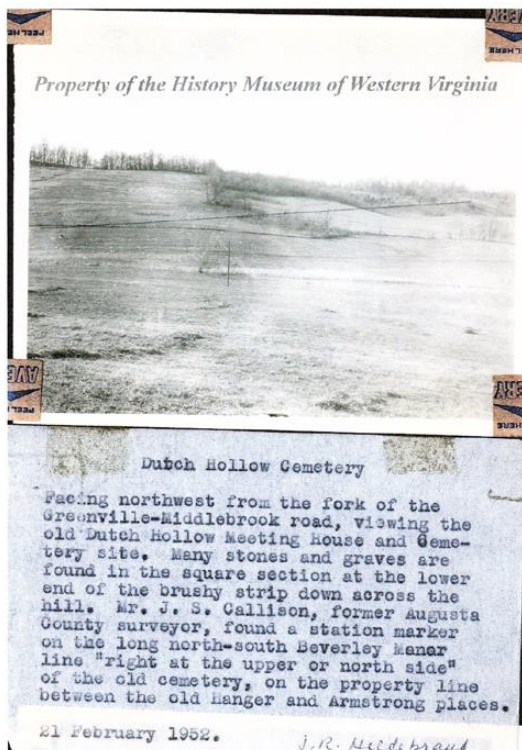
Last month's newsletter contained a picture of a very large stone marker found in the upper section of the cemetery during cleanup. The picture also illustrated the location of a flag right beside the stone marking a "hit" by the cadaver canine Seamus on April 8th. While that section of the cemetery has not been surveyed with Radar, I went ahead and reset the marker at the location of the flag, a distance of about 12 inches from where it was lying. When Dr. Nash and her students survey that area, I will correct the location if necessary. As you can see in the photograph, there is also a flag up the hill from where the stone was found. For now, I am going with the odds of proximity. No disrespect intended, just doing the best that can be done with the information at hand.



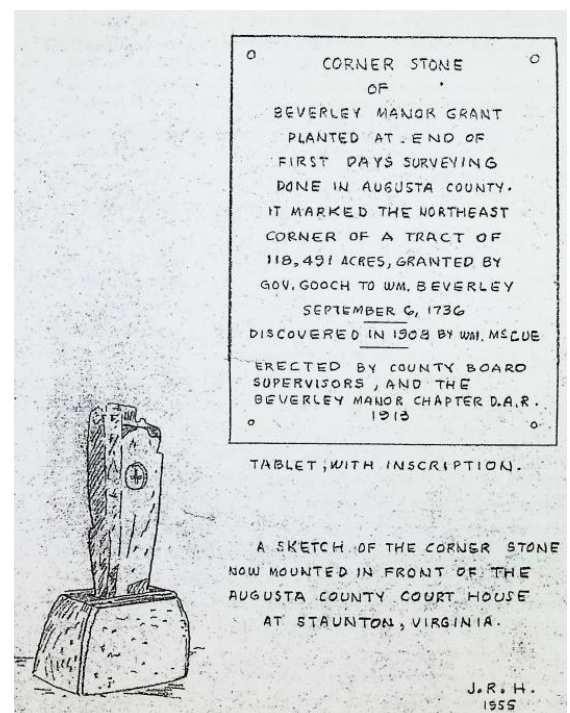
On June 21st I presented a program to the Augusta County Genealogical Society on Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery. The program covered the process of restoring the cemetery, and some resources available to those who might want to undertake a similar project on their own. There were about twenty members present and we were also honored with the presence of one of our cemetery Board of Directors members, Nancy Sorrells. The program seemed very well received and I have also had some follow-up emails. The officers of the Augusta County Genealogical Society, in appreciation for the program, plan to make a donation to the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery. Thank you ACGS!



J. H. Hildebrand made note in 1952 about the existence of a station marker set at the graveyard when Beverley had the King's land surveyed for grants in 1736 and the years following. The existence of that station marker, the equivalent of a survey pin today, is documented in the picture below and to the left.¹ The 1955 sketch and notes below and to the right are from J. H. Hildebrand's field notes and illustrates what a known station marker looks like. The picture on the following



page is of the potential station marker located at the northernmost end of the cemetery.



¹ Used with permission, courtesy History Museum of Western Virginia. Roanoke, Virginia.



Glenn Hanger & Paul Parish at the location of the potential Beverley Station Marker after it was reset on June 28, 2023, where found.

The gentleman to the viewers right is Paul Parish. Paul has devoted a great deal of time to the study of colonial surveying and is a wealth of information on lands in Virginia and adjoining states that were surveyed in the 1700s. He has studied the surveys of Washington, Beverley, Borden, Mason and Dixon, and others. With Paul's help and that of Dean Caldwell, a neighbor and historian himself, the stone that I have suspected of being the station marker was reset and examined by Paul. While he cannot say with absolute certainty that it is a Beverley station marker, he does suspect that the area in the center of the stone is the result of a circle being carved around what appears to be a raised area on the rock. This stone was lying "face" up and probably has been for decades if not centuries. Almost 300 years of weathering can take its toll.

Based on exactly how J. H. Hildebrand described Surveyor James Callison's wording of the location of the marker, I suspect that a deed for that specific location has the same verbiage contained in the survey documentation. That is information that I will pursue and if found, I will report the findings in a

subsequent newsletter. As a final note, I think it is worth mentioning this rock is positioned approximately eight feet from the current survey pin set December 22, 1996 by Surveyor Robert Funk when the land was again surveyed. According to Mr. Parish, this small margin of error, considering the instruments that they worked with it the 1700s, is rarely seen.

To me, these discoveries speak to the rich history of Dutch Hollow and the extent to which historical integrity remains intact in and around the graveyard. Thank you, Mr. Parish.

Finally, as you celebrate Independence Day, I hope you pause to remember those, some of them from our own clan, that died fighting for the freedom we enjoy and the constitution we stand upon. Not preaching on it, just sayin.

Website Updates: Members Section

In The Library / Archives Section

Ship Passenger Lists 1732-1754 – 15 Total

Unpublished Documents – 7 Total

Published Documents – 10 Total –

Life in Dutch Hollow – 81 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices – 376 (Still several hundred to go)

Lucas-Fix Private Collection 109 Total

Department of Historical Resources Augusta County Archaeological Site Surveys

St. Paul Chapel, Newport, Virginia

Buffalo Springs Schoolhouse, Dutch Hollow, Virginia

DHH Cemetery Forensics, Etc.

April 8, 2023 – Photographs of Research Conducted by JMU & Others

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)

Four of the *Blood of Our Blood* books have been sold, leaving one available. If you or someone you know wants one, it might be wise to get it before it is gone!

Last but not least, take this little test.

Answer the first associated words that come to mind: *Ellis*, *family* and *vital*.

If you answered *Island*, *history*, and *record*, you know you've become a genealogist.

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery