

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. II

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Issue I

I do hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and realized all the Blessings that come with this special holiday. Happy New Year. If you are like me and my family, you are often asking the question, "where does the time go?"

As I said in my email to everyone on December 15, 2023, getting the cemetery listed on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register was my Christmas gift. Oh yes, I got a lot of presents under the tree, but that one was special to me, and I hope to you as well. It is an accomplishment for all of us and all of those who will come after us. One of the board members really took note of the possible existence of a Beverley Manor station marker within the cemetery. Likely knowing that William Beverley's survey and distribution of the 118,000 plus acres he was granted oversight of by then Lt. Gov. Gooch under King George II was the catalyst for settling the Shenandoah Valley and building a buffer against the unsettled frontier, he asked a few questions about the marker. The discussion ended with the suggestion that if the stone can be confirmed as a Beverley Manor station marker, that the date for the historic register for the cemetery reflects the date of 1736. If, with the help of Paul Parish, colonial period survey expert, the stone can be verified and the date corrected to 1736, that would give Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery one of the earliest register dates in Western Virginia except for Native American archeological sites. Not that the date is of any real importance in and of itself, but if this is the case, it illustrates to a greater degree just how long Dutch Hollow has been a contributing part of our history. Currently, the cemetery is one of only 59 listings on the State Register from Augusta County, and only the second Augusta County cemetery to ever be listed!

Well, the cemetery fence is installed! The fence contractor, Nick Smith of Smith's Fencing, called me on November 29th and advised that he could be at the cemetery with his equipment on the 30th. Given that winter is all but here, which gives way to very slick conditions whether from snow, ice, rain, or just freezing and thawing, I told him to come ahead. On Saturday December 1st we had finished installing approximately 768 feet of three rail fence. The final bill counting materials and the installation: \$4,902.07, which includes two posts and six rails which I stored in the barn for "spare parts." Yes, we had enough to cover the costs thanks to everyone's generosity. I know the membership is only \$20.00 for individuals but every member makes a difference, and many have given much more than just the membership fee and I am so grateful to each of you that have helped, whether big or small.

My good friend, neighbor, historian, and genealogist extraordinaire, Al, helped me hang the entrance gate on December 8th. I still have some tweaking to do on the fence and gate but nothing serious. A couple of posts a little too high and a couple a little too low sort of thing, just aesthetics really. I have a few photos below from different views to give you a sense of how it looks but you need to see it in person to decide what you really think of it. (Yes, that absolutely is an open invitation!)



Getting started-The old barbed wire fence and posts have been removed and the new posts and first rails are going in!



Because of the steep terrain, all of the work had to be done from top to bottom.



Above: The view looking from the intersection of Broadhead School Road & Wagon Shop Road.



Looking west from the southeast corner of the fence.



Above: The entrance gate installed and before the gatepost were cut to a proper height.



The large stone identified with the red arrow is the suspected Beverley station marker. The smaller stone just below it is the 1998 survey pin location. Pretty close considering the first one was done in 1736!

I have included some history of a different sort I suppose. The Moffatt's Creek Schoolhouse is being moved. I took the photos below on the evening of December 15th. It was scheduled to be moved at 0700 hrs. on December 16th. It is only traveling about 100 feet or so and will be reset on the same side of the road. I am not clear on all of the particulars surrounding the why of this move, but I do know that at least it will remain intact. I understand that there may be plans in the works to refurbish it somewhat and possibly use it for a community center of sorts for the Newport and Walker's Creek community. I do know that by moving the building in one piece rather than dismantling it and then building it back, it keeps its status on the Virginia Register of Historic Landmarks and the National Register of Historic Places. So maybe we can see this as preserving history, not destroying it, and I figure that to be a good thing.



The new site for the schoolhouse. Only 100 ft. or so from its original location.

The next photo, taken viewing WNW, shows the new location just up the road a piece and on the same side. (At the far end of the traffic cones, and you can also see equipment parked in the woods where the schoolhouse will end up) Many of our kin folk attended this school during the late 1800s and early 1900s. I have included Ann McCleary's National Register nomination description and statement of significance from 1984 below. The four-room schoolhouse, just a stone's throw down the road from Moffatt's Creek Schoolhouse that Ann refers to in the last paragraph in the significance section, is where my father, Ernest Hanger, Jr. attended grades four through seven after the county closed the McKamy one-room schoolhouse in Dutch Hollow in 1926. After grade seven he went on to get his PhD. in the school of hard knocks like so many other men and women did during the depression era.



Just a short trip to the new home, but the same preparation as if it were going for miles I would suspect.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1870-1940
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Thematic National Register Nomination Inventory Form

Historic Name: Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse	Common Name: Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 681	VHLC File Number: 07-547
Vicinity of: Newport	Owner: Mt. Herman Cemetery Association
USGS Quad: Augusta Springs 7.5	Middlebrook, VA
Date(s): 1873; 1880s	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Schoolhouse	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Woodworking Shop	
Condition: Good	
Altered ☐ ; unaltered ☒	

Physical Description:

This schoolhouse remains one of the best-preserved examples of a one-room schoolhouse that was later enlarged into a two-room graded school. Both portions display the familiar rectangular block design. The original portion is the west room with the gable end facing the road. This frame structure, resting on a limestone foundation, retains its two-bay facade, with off-center gable-end entrance and three-bay side walls pierced by 6/6 sash. The gable-roofed addition built perpendicular to the original school creates an "L"-shape plan. This was also of frame construction on a stone foundation and had two-bay side walls.

The interior of both rooms has been well maintained. Both retain narrow matchboard wainscoting with plaster above, and the addition still has the blackboard along the east wall. The church added a board partition in the original room, but this has been the only change in plan. Both rooms retain their original flooring and ceiling.

Statement of Significance:

Noffett's Creek Schoolhouse clearly displays the evolution from a one-room to a two-room schoolhouse that occurred for many of Augusta County's schools in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Since the building has not been remodeled into a dwelling as have many older schoolhouses, the building retains its ca. 1890 plan and much of the interior finish. The School Board purchased an acre tract for "school purposes" from John and Elizabeth Hite in February, 1873, and soon built this school. This was the first year that Augusta County began to purchase older schools as well as lots to build new schools, and the value of school property increased dramatically that year. Newport proved to be a bustling community by 1885, and its growing population clearly led to the enlargement of this school by 1890. At this time, Newport had one of 22 two-room graded schools in the county, boasting an enrolled population of 68 and an average daily attendance of 47.

Newport continued to grow, and by 1923 a larger, four-room masonry school was constructed near this schoolhouse. The old property was sold to the Mt. Herman Lutheran Church the following year. Still in the ownership of the Church Cemetery Association, the building has been well maintained and has not been substantially altered since its closing.

Geographic Data/Acreage: one acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the S side of VA 681 approx. 1,800' WNW of the intersection of said route with VA 252; thence extending approx. 200' W (continued)
Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and the immediate school yard.
UTM: 17/648570/4207200

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Below, a photo I took of the schoolhouse April 26, 2022.



And last but maybe most importantly, the schoolhouse in use. The girl labeled “momma” is Emma Fix Lucas and the girl labeled “Cora” is Cora Nace. She married Emma’s brother John “Harry” Fix. This picture was probably taken between 1896 and 1898.



Photo Courtesy Richard Jones & Lesley Ott

The full nomination submission can be found at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/007-0547/> which is where the cite credit for Ann’s work detailed above resides. It really is worth the read.

The schoolhouse is and will still be located on Mt. Hermon Road at the Mt. Hermon Cemetery. It is reached by traveling Route 252 from Staunton, Virginia approximately fifteen miles to Newport, Virginia. Turn right, (west) onto Mt. Hermon Road and travel approximately ¼ mile to the schoolhouse, located on the left.

I mentioned a few pages back that many of our kin attended Moffatt’s Creek School. Next month I will provide the particulars of the relationships and the ties that extend back to some of those buried in Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery.

Please take time towards the end of the newsletter to look over the file modules now available on the members section of the website. If you are not logging in, you are missing a wealth of research information that just could be of use to you. Just as a simple example, as of this newsletter, there are 478 obituaries with proper cites on the website. Many of these are very difficult to retrieve and a number of them date back to the early 1800s. They are a tremendous resource for family members, cause of death, occupation, and the list goes on. The two other

resources that I encourage you to explore are the E-book, *Silent Stories*, and the Miscellaneous Research Notes module. I have hundreds of files like the eighteen files already uploaded still yet to upload. And these are not one-pagers, the Stonecutters Folder for example that has already been uploaded has 132 files in it!

And since you will be using your membership to access all this information, this might be a good spot to remind you to please, please consider renewing your membership when it comes due. We have only been functioning as a non-profit for a little over one year now and I think we have made great strides. I believe there is and always will be a need for research of all types, but especially family research. So, let's keep knocking at it, shall we!

And if we lose sight of just how old some of our history is, consider for a moment that Maria Kaufelt Bright, having the oldest grave found thus far in the cemetery, was alive for all seven years and 308 days of George Washington's term as our first president. She was born in 1734, he in 1732, she died in 1798, he in 1799.

I shared some information several months ago about the altar cloth at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Virginia. I spoke with Pastor Robertson in early December and he and his church council are in the process of securing an acid-free box to temporarily store the tapestry in until it can be restored. The same box will be used to transport the tapestry to and from the restorer, which will probably be Newbold Richardson in Alexandria, Virginia. She owns Costume & Textile Specialists and has wonderful credentials and references. I will keep you posted on progress.

Well, I have risked wearing out my welcome once again by rambling on so I will sign off for now. May your New Year be one filled with Blessings. As the sign in our bathroom reads, *"Every day might not be good, but there is something good in every day."* Think on that a spell.

In The Library / Archives Section

Ship Passenger Lists 1732-1754 – 16 Total

Unpublished Documents - 9 Total

Published Documents – 10 Total –

Life in Dutch Hollow – 101 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices – 478 (Still several hundred to go)

Lucas-Fix Private Collection 109 Total

Department of Historical Resources Augusta County Archaeological Site Surveys – 13

DHH Cemetery Forensics, etc. – 2

NEW TAB! Miscellaneous Research Notes – Tidbits of documentation & Photos on those associated with Dutch Hollow in one form or another. Hundreds to upload as time permits. Mostly in field note style but a lot of info at the fingertips of anyone needing it for their research. – 21 Total

JUST ADDED! E-Book - Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery, Silent Stories Vol. I, by Glenn D. Hanger

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)

Blood of Our Blood book – **SOLD OUT!** I plan to see the author's daughter in the next few weeks and may try to acquire several more copies for the website store if there is interest. If you think you would like to purchase one, please let me know. Any of the books in the website store would make a great reading gift for that history buff in your family. All are out of print and have good information that is germane to Dutch Hollow and the folks that we call ancestors. And don't forget that members get a discount, but you must log onto the website using your username and password to get it!

Lastly, my New Year's Resolutions: Take more pictures, no matter how bad they turn out. Write more stuff down, no matter how bad I spell. Be more thankful, no matter how tough I think things are.

Until next month, Blessings & Happy Trails.

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery