

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. II

June 2024

Issue VI

Greetings members,

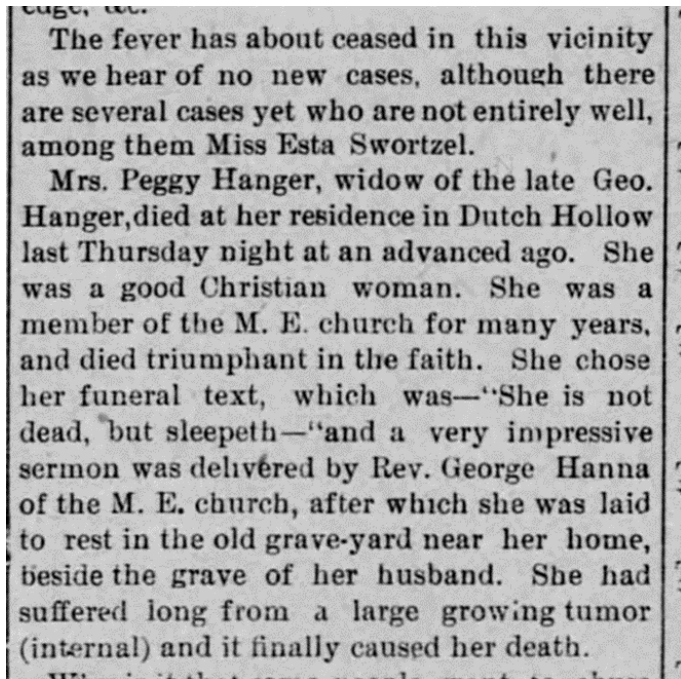
I hope this newsletter finds you well and if not, at least on the mend. After a very hot and dry April, May has brought some much-needed rain and crops seem to be responding to it. For those who were able to attend the ACHS spring meeting I again say thank you. For those who could not attend, hopefully you were able to see the presentation via the link posted to the Augusta County Historical Society website and their Facebook page.

One of the questions that came up during the Augusta County Historical Society spring meeting was, "How did Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery get its name?." In particular, how did the Hanger name get interjected into the name since the Hangers did not own the land at the time the cemetery was first used.

For me, the only name I ever heard growing up was "the old graveyard." I guess that was because it is very old (it was approaching 200 years old when I was a boy) and there are no other graveyards in the area to confuse it with. But when I began doing research on my own, I found that that "old graveyard" was referred to using a number of different names. So let's start there. The Hanger obituary at right¹ calls it just what I had always heard as a boy, "the old graveyard." Being written in an obituary that way, maybe more folks than just me knew which graveyard was the "old graveyard" and also where it was located.

But there were other names for the graveyard found in obituaries during my research, those for Clinebells², Lotts',³ Fox⁴,

I have included for your perusal. There are many more that could be cited where names like, Hanger burying ground, Dutch Hollow burying ground, and others are used.



The fever has about ceased in this vicinity as we hear of no new cases, although there are several cases yet who are not entirely well, among them Miss Esta Swortzel. Mrs. Peggy Hanger, widow of the late Geo. Hanger, died at her residence in Dutch Hollow last Thursday night at an advanced age. She was a good Christian woman. She was a member of the M. E. church for many years, and died triumphant in the faith. She chose her funeral text, which was—"She is not dead, but sleepeth—" and a very impressive sermon was delivered by Rev. George Hanna of the M. E. church, after which she was laid to rest in the old grave-yard near her home, beside the grave of her husband. She had suffered long from a large growing tumor (internal) and it finally caused her death.

¹ Newspapers.com. *Staunton spectator*, Staunton, Virginia. 14 November 1894, Page 3.

² Newspapers.com. *Staunton Spectator*, Staunton, Virginia. 3 November 1898, Page 3.

³ Augusta County Virginia Heritage Book Committee. *Augusta County, Virginia Heritage Book 1732-1998*. Walsworth Publishing Co. 1998. Page 187.

⁴ Newspapers.com. *Staunton Spectator and Vindicator*, Staunton, Virginia. Vol. 84, No. 25. 23 June 1905

George Lotts and his large family migrated from Pennsylvania to Augusta County, Virginia, and purchased land in January, 1791. Their land lies in the Riverheads District and was part of the original Beverly Manner land patent. George was a farmer, and lived on this property until his death on 09/20/1845, leaving a will. He is buried at Hanger Cemetery at Dutch Hollow, but there is no marker or stone. His obituary is as follows: Departed this life at his place of residence in the upper end of this county, on the morning of 09/20/1845 in his 103 year of age. Was a German of a strong and vigorous constitution. Father of a large family, grandfather of many, great grandfather of a great many more and great great grandfather to others.

Greenville News.

Greenville, Nov. 1.—Mrs. Adam Clinebell died at her home in Dutch Hollow, near Middlebrook, on Saturday last and was buried in Dutch Hollow grave yard on Monday evening.

Mr. Edward Fox, eldest brother of Mrs. D. M. Smith of this place, died at his home in Lexington, Va., on June 18th. Mr. Fox was an old Confederate soldier and served all through the war with great bravery. He was aged 63 years, the interment took place at the Hanger grave yard in Dutch Hollow near this place. Mr. Fox is survived by three sisters, Mrs. D. M. Smith of Middlebrook, Mrs. Alex. Kennedy of Washington, D. C, Mrs. Fayette Douglas of Lexington, and four brothers, Messrs. Samuel, Charles, John and Ralph Fox, all of Rockbridge county.

So why it was used by so many names is probably a result of the original founders never giving it a name. It was their cemetery; it did not need a name. It was not church affiliated, and by the time newspapers and obituaries became more prevalent, the Hangers did own the land and it is located in Dutch Hollow. Taking all of this into account and coupled with the fact that there are a number of cemeteries in the United States named Dutch Hollow, it seems that Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery continues to work just fine. So, what you have here as a result of the question being asked is an attempt at an explanation, combined with more than a fair amount of speculation on my part.

Most folks have always heard, be careful what you wish for. I have wished for a good while now that I could find a little more information on my 2g grandfather, David Ott Hanger. I still have not located a headstone marking his grave, but his wife Elizabeth is at Dutch Hollow and there is no reason to assume that he is buried elsewhere. His parents are buried there and he has children buried there. There are plenty of land records bearing his name, the last of which was just a few years before his death. I kept searching and several months ago that resulted in a not-so-good find. He was put in jail... accused of stealing Mr. Armstrong's hogs. His neighbors were the Armstrongs! When I read the article⁵ the first thing that caught my eye was that he was "accommodated to quarters in Harlan's Hotel." I had not heard that phrase before and thought just for a moment that he did actually get to "pull his time" in a

David O. Hanger, committed to jail by Justices Bumgardner and Smith, of Greenville, on the charge of stealing hogs from Mr. Armstrong, was brought down on the 20th inst. by G. M. Apple, Constable, and accommodated to quarters in Harlan's Hotel.

⁵ Newspapers.com. *The Valley Virginian*, Staunton, Virginia. 27 March 1867. Page 3.

hotel! I should have known better, but the phrase led me to find out just what and where Harlan's Hotel was.

Actually, George Harlan was not a hotel desk clerk at all, ever, but rather a Jailor for Augusta County, and the more I read, the more fascinating this man's life became for me. Rather than use my own poorly chosen words to describe him, I have attached a couple of articles of interest about him. His wife (Jane Ball) is reported to have been a distant relative of George Washington but I cannot locate the document that proves that even though I do recall reading it. President Washington died about 16 years before Jane was born. His mother was Mary Ball (1708-1789). Immediately below is George Harlan's obituary.⁶

Death of a Well Known Citizen.

Justice George Harlan, one of the best known and most deservedly respected citizens of Staunton, died on Monday night last, at the residence of Mr. Caspar Zirkle, No. 8 Washington street. He was born in Petersburg, Nov. 26, 1821, and was in his 67th year. At the age of three years he was left an orphan and was sent to Harrisonburg to Mr. Dillworth, his uncle, who was engaged in the Rockingham Register office. In that office he learned the trade of a printer. At the age of 21 he left Harrisonburg for the residence of his brother, John Harlan, of Lebanon White Sulphur Springs and, soon after, came to Staunton and became foreman of the VINDICATOR's composing room. When the Mexican war came on, he and Vincent Geiger, then the editor, enlisted in Capt. Kenton Harper's company, and went to Mexico. Mr. Harlan was a corporal and Mr. Geiger a lieutenant. When the company returned, Mr. Harlan went to work at the office of the Spectator, Capt. Harper's paper. He afterwards went to Fincastle and with his brother-in-law, Rev. Stephen D. Hopkins, published the Fincastle Democrat for a while. He then returned to the Spectator, where he remained until 1862, when he was appointed county jailer, which position he held for twenty-one years, until July 17th, 1883. On June 5th, 1851, he was married in this city, by Rev. Thos. B. Lemon, to Miss Jane S. Ball of Richmond, who was residing in Staunton, with whom he lived happily until her death, a few months ago.

He had belonged to the Masonic Lodge here longer than any other member, except the venerable George Moffett Cochran, and had taken two of the Masonic degrees on the battlefield of Buena Vista in Mexico. He was the oldest member of the Methodist Sunday School here, and one of the oldest members of the M. E. Church, he having belonged to it for forty-four years and been a member of its Board of Stewards for twenty years. He was one of the charter members of Charity Division Sons of Temperance, and was one of the oldest advocates of the cause. He had filled many public positions—for many years a Tipstaff of the old Court of Appeals, Justice of the Peace both in the city and county, Deputy Sheriff, Overseer of the Poor, Coroner of Staunton and Coroner of Augusta county, in all of which he gave the fullest satisfaction. He leaves two children, George T. and Kate E. Harlan. He was universally liked and few men will be more missed in our community than he, and those he has left behind will receive the general sympathy of our people. His funeral took place from the Methodist church, on Tuesday afternoon, and was conducted by Rev. Dr. Gardner and attended by members of Staunton Lodge No. 13 A. F. & A. M. and a large number of citizens. The pall-bearers included representatives of the Board of Stewards and the Masonic Lodge.

Marriage License.

⁶ Newspapers.com. Staunton Vindicator, Staunton, Virginia. 10 August 1888. Page 3.

Next, I found the tribute below given by the Augusta County Court Officers and Bar Association.⁷

THE
×Staunton×Vindicator.×

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 7, 1888.

LOCAL.

A Just Tribute to the Memory of a
Worthy Man.

A meeting of the members of the Bar and officers of the County Court of Augusta was held in the Court House Thursday, Nov. 29th, 1888, to adopt suitable resolutions upon the death of George Harlan, who for many years had been an officer of that Court as well as the Corporation Court and Supreme Court of Appeals. Maj. Marshall Hanger was called to the chair and William A. Burnett appointed Secretary.

Geo. M. Harrison, Esq., offered the preamble and resolutions printed below and spoke of the esteem in which Mr. Harlan was held by all who knew him. Judge Grattan seconded them and spoke at some length of the public, private and religious character of the deceased—and of Mr. Harlan as one who had fulfilled all of his varied offices with fidelity. The following preamble and resolutions were then unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, George Harlan departed this life on the 6th day of August, 1888, in the 68th year of his age; and whereas many years of his life were spent as a minister in the Courts of Justice, and in intimate association with the Attorneys attending them, it is proper and fitting that an expression of the esteem in which he was held should be placed upon the records of the Court which he served so long and so faithfully.

George Harlan lived as long as the measure of strength given by the Creator to men usually permits them to be useful, and during all the years of his life, in which he was known to the present members of the Bar of Staunton, he employed all of his strength in the service of the public, and in the service of God and of his church.

George Harlan was born in Petersburg, Virginia. In early life he adopted and thoroughly learned the printer's trade and was employed for many years in the offices of the *Staunton Spectator* and the *VINDICATOR*. At the breaking out of the Mexican war, he enlisted in the company of Captain Kenton Harper and served during the war with the Virginia Regiment, in that Company. At a period anterior to the admission of any present active member thereof to the bar of Staunton, with a single exception, he was a ministerial officer of the Courts held in Staunton, and during all that time, and down to his death, he served the public in many capacities—as Deputy Sheriff, Jailor, Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, Coroner, and always honestly, efficiently and faithfully.

For many years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and an officer of the church, and his life, walk and conversation was a living illustration of the doctrines of Christianity.

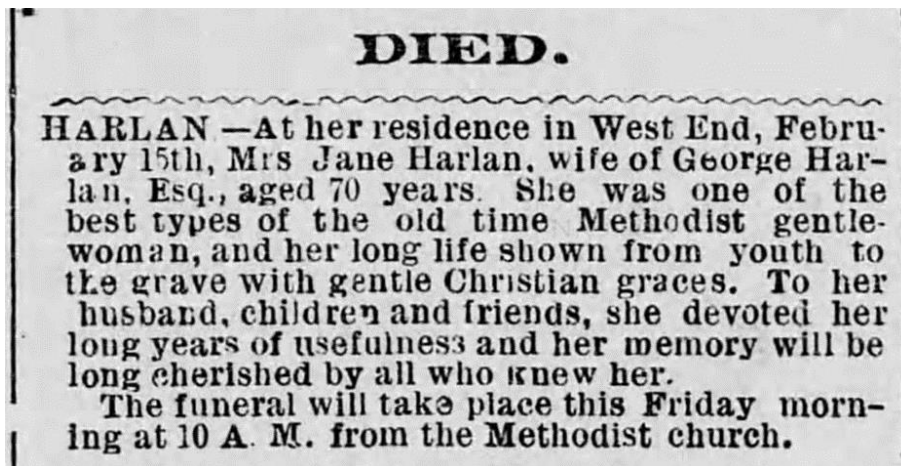
It was further resolved that the Judge of the County Court of Augusta County and the Judge of the Hustings Court of Staunton be requested to direct these resolutions to be spread upon the minutes of the Court, and that a copy thereof be sent to the family of the deceased, and also published in the newspapers of the City of Staunton.

MARSHALL HANGER,
Chairman.

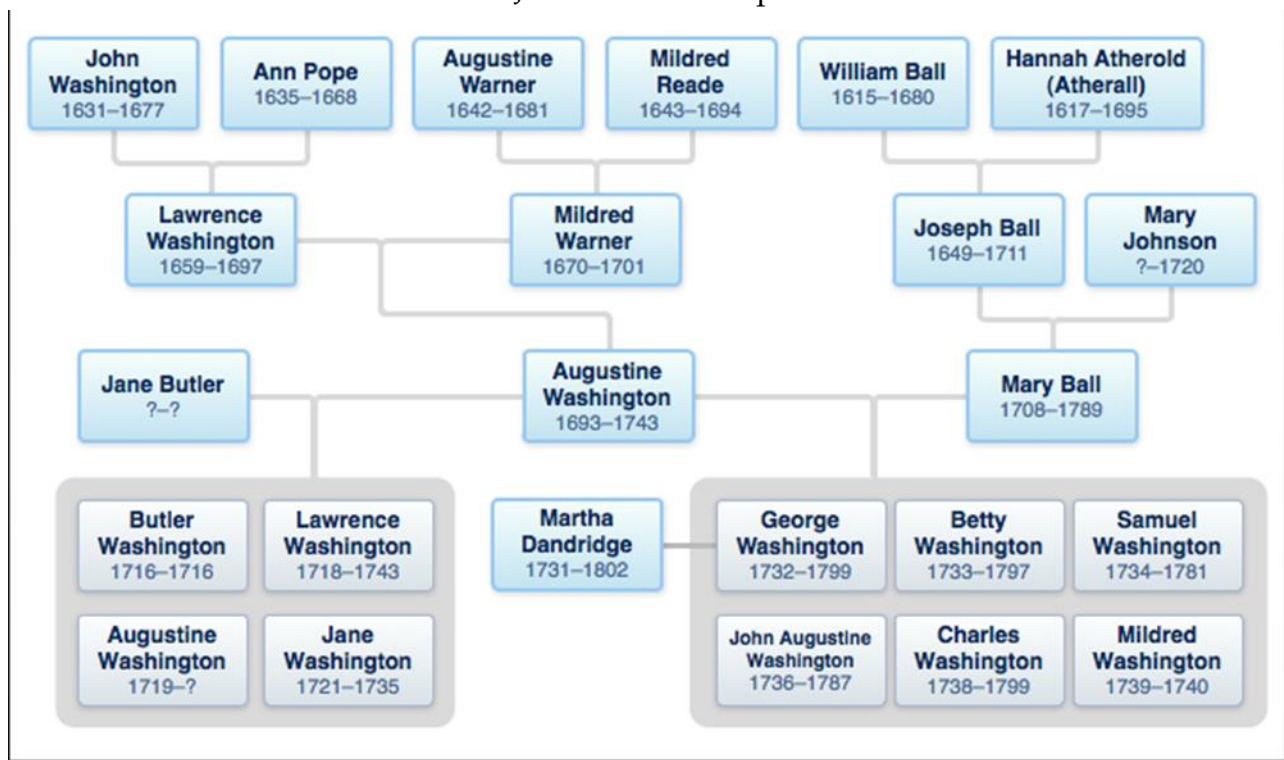
WILLIAM A. BURNETT, Secretary.

⁷ Newspapers.com. *Staunton Vindicator*, Staunton, Virginia. 7 December 1888. Page 3.

His wife's obituary.⁸



And last but not least, The Ball Family as it is related to George Washington's lineage,⁹ keeping in mind that I do not have evidence of Jane's relationship in hand.



⁸ Newspapers.com. *Staunton Vindicator*, Staunton, Virginia. 17 February 1888. Page 3.

⁹ <https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=ball+family+tree+related+to+george+washington&fr=yhs-infospace-009&type=ud-c-us--s-p-fb7vpvij--exp-none--subid-none&hspart=infospace&hsimp=yhs-009&imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fi.pining.com%2F736x%2F65%2F56%2F5d%2F65565ddc30940b2a9f584e46898efc56--irish-roots-family-trees.jpg#id=0&iurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.archives.com%2Fgenealogy%2FWashington%2520family%2520tree.png&action=click>

Working with the wonderful staff at the courthouse I was able to obtain the file on the case from 1867! Whitney Rhodes, Historic Records Clerk for Augusta County Circuit Court located the complete case and supplied me with the documents. What a great job she does for everyone.

First, we have below the affidavit dated March 19, 1867, from Hugh M. Armstrong presented to William Smith, Justice of the Peace, and the arrest warrant issued by him to the Sheriff or Constable of Augusta County. A felony, accusing David Hanger of stealing two hogs in November 1866 valued at \$20.00 belonging to Margaret Armstrong.

State of Virginia, County of Augusta, to wit:
..... *Hugh M. Armstrong* upon oath, complains that
on the day of *December* 1866, in the County aforesaid, ... *David Hanger*
..... *feloniously took and carried away*
..... *two hogs of the value of twenty dollars of the property of*
..... *Margaret Armstrong*
and he, the said *Hugh M. Armstrong* therefore prays that the said *David Hanger*
..... *Hanger* may be apprehended and held to answer the said complaint, and dealt
with, in relation thereto, as the law may require.
Dated this day of *March* 1867. *Hugh M. Armstrong*

County of Augusta, to wit:
The said *Hugh M. Armstrong* made oath to the truth of the foregoing
complaint before me, this day of *March* 1867.
..... *Wm. F. Smith* J. P.

(2.) *County of Augusta, to wit:*
TO THE SHERIFF OR ANY CONSTABLE OF AUGUSTA COUNTY:
Whereas, ... *Hugh M. Armstrong* of the said County, has this day
made complaint and information, on oath, before me, ... *Wm. F. Smith*
a Justice of the said County, that *David Hanger* of the said County, on the
..... day of *December* 1866, in said County, did *feloniously take*
..... *and carry away the hogs of the value of twenty*
..... *dollars of the goods & chattels of Mr. Margaret Armstrong*
THESE ARE, THEREFORE, in the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to command you forth-
with to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of the said County, the body of the said
..... *David Hanger* to answer the said complaint, and to be further dealt
with according to law.
Given under my hand and seal this day of *March* in the year, 1867.
..... *Wm. F. Smith* J. P. **LS**

Next there is the "return" which indicates that David was arrested on March 20, 1867.

In the lower corner of the return is a notation, "Summons Witnesses for Commonwealth."

Hugh M. Armstrong

Archibald Armstrong

John A. Hanger

Summons for Commonwealth
Hugh M. Armstrong
Archibald Armstrong
John A. Hanger

Executed & returned
on the 20th March
1867. before Wm. Smith & Burgess
G. M. Apple
C. A. G.

Below is the "committal," or mittimus from Justice of the Peace William Smith dated March 20, 1867 remanding David Ott Hanger to jail.

State of Virginia, County of Augusta, to wit:

TO THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT OF AUGUSTA:

I, Wm. Smith a Justice of the said County, do hereby certify that I have this day committed David Hanger to the Jail of Augusta County, that he may be Examined by the County Court of Augusta County, for a Larceny by him committed in this, that he did, on the 20th day of March 1867, in the said County, Indictment for Larceny Two Hogs of the value of Twenty Dollars of the property of Mrs. Margaret Armstrong

Given under my hand and seal this 20th day of March in the year 1867

Wm. Smith J. P.

So maybe this is the spot for a little background. As for the parties involved and the witnesses, I will try to keep it the least confusing as possible.

Hugh McCausland Armstrong and Archibald were half-brothers. Their father, John Armstrong, married Hester Hipes October 21, 1823, and had at least four children, one of which was Archibald. Hester died in 1850 and John married Margaret McChesney January 18, 1844. Margaret was Hugh's mother.

Hugh was married to Adeline Amanda Whitmore. I mention this because Adeline's father, David Henry Whitmore married Catherine Hanger in 1894, his second wife. His first wife and Adeline's mother, Sarah Elizabeth Crist, had died in 1888. Catherine Hanger and David Hanger were first cousins. The parents of both are buried in Dutch Hollow.

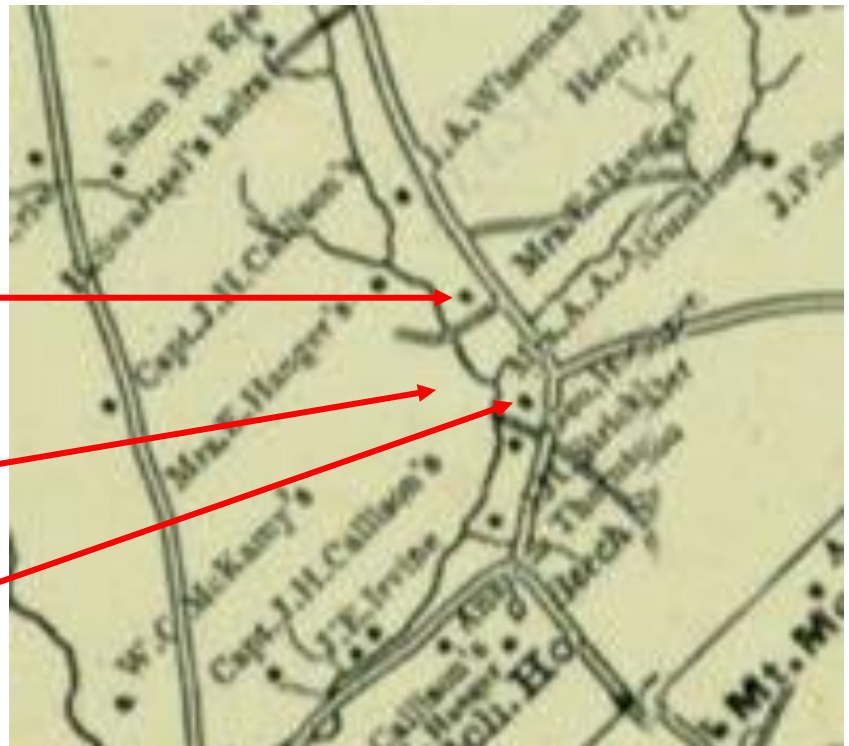
It is the third name that gives rise to questions that will never be answered. John A. Hanger. This would have been John Aurelius Hanger (1847-1934), eldest son of David Ott Hanger. I am not sure why he was summoned as a prosecution witness, but he was. He would have been 19 years old when the crime was alleged. John A. was living with his parents on the 1860 census and the 1870 census and was not married until 1871, so one can conclude that he was probably living with his parents in 1867. I suspect that the plaintiffs and the Commonwealth's Attorney knew that John A. would have to at least testify to things like, "when did you first see the hogs in your father's possession, did you know where they came from, etc.?" These questions would have to be answered under oath, whether he wanted to answer them or not.

Geographically speaking, I will use the 1885 Hotchkiss map to illustrate the proximity of the parties involved.

Residence where David Ott Hanger was probably living in 1867. His widow, Elizabeth lived there until her death in 1903.

Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery

Residence where Adeline Amanda Armstrong, widowed, was living in 1885.



This next document I am not familiar with and never saw it used in my 33.5 years of law enforcement work. It is a witness recognizance bond in the amount of \$100.00 binding Hugh M. Armstrong, Archibald Armstrong, and John Hanger, Jr. (David's father) to a promise to appear at the next term of Grand Jury to give evidence on the bill of indictment.

State of Virginia, County of Augusta, to wit:

Be it Remembered, That on this *22nd* day of *March* in the year 1867,
Hugh M. Armstrong, Archibald Armstrong & John Hanger Jr
of the said County, personally appeared before me *Wm P. Smith*
a Justice of the said County, and each of them separately acknowledged himself individually to be indebted
to the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the sum of *One Hundred* dollars,
lawful money of the United States, to be levied and made of their respective goods and chattels, lands
and tenements, to the use of the said Commonwealth, if the said *Hugh M. Armstrong, Archibald Armstrong & John Hanger Jr*
shall make default in the performance of the underwritten
condition.

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE RECOGNIZANCE IS SUCH, That if the above bound
Hugh M. Armstrong, Archibald Armstrong & John Hanger Jr
shall personally appear before the Justices of the County Court of Augusta County, at the Court-house,
on the first day of the *March* Term next thereof, and then and there
to give evidence on a bill of Indictment to be preferred to the Grand Jury of the Commonwealth, in
and for the said County, against *David Hanger*
to wit: *that he did feloniously take the said Commonwealth's*
Two Hogs of the value of Twenty Dollars of the year
1866 of Mrs Margaret Hanger
and do not depart
thence without the leave of said Court, then the above recognizance shall be void, otherwise to remain in
full force.

Taken and acknowledged before me in the said County,
the day and year first above written. }
Wm P. Smith J. P. }

Recognizance of wits
Hanger

But perhaps it is the document on the following page that is the most important in this research!

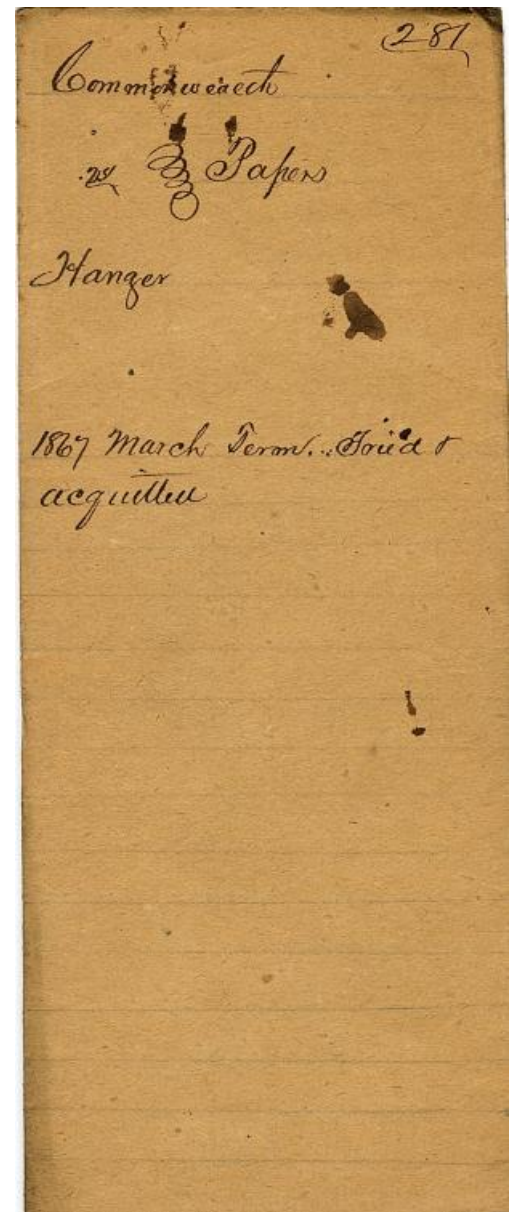
It says: Commonwealth vs Papers

Hanger

1867 March Term. Tried and Acquitted.

We will never know the details of this matter or what part John A. Hanger or John Hanger, Jr played in all of this. I suspect that John A. and John Hanger, Jr. could be entry errors on the Justice's/Clerk's part based on the change in names all in the same document. (John A. Hanger, John A. Hanger, Jr, John Hanger, Jr.) There is no way of knowing which one it was, however. And I don't guess it is all that important now.

Such are the mysteries that sometimes forever remain in genealogy, and sometimes for the better I might add.



Bob Jolley, Virginia Department of Historic Resources archaeologist and I completed three more historic site surveys on March 5th.

They are:

Henry Clinebell Homestead DHR ID: 44AU1075

J. E. Irvine House Remains DHR ID: 44AU1074

Cook-Teaford Cemetery DHR ID: 44AU1076

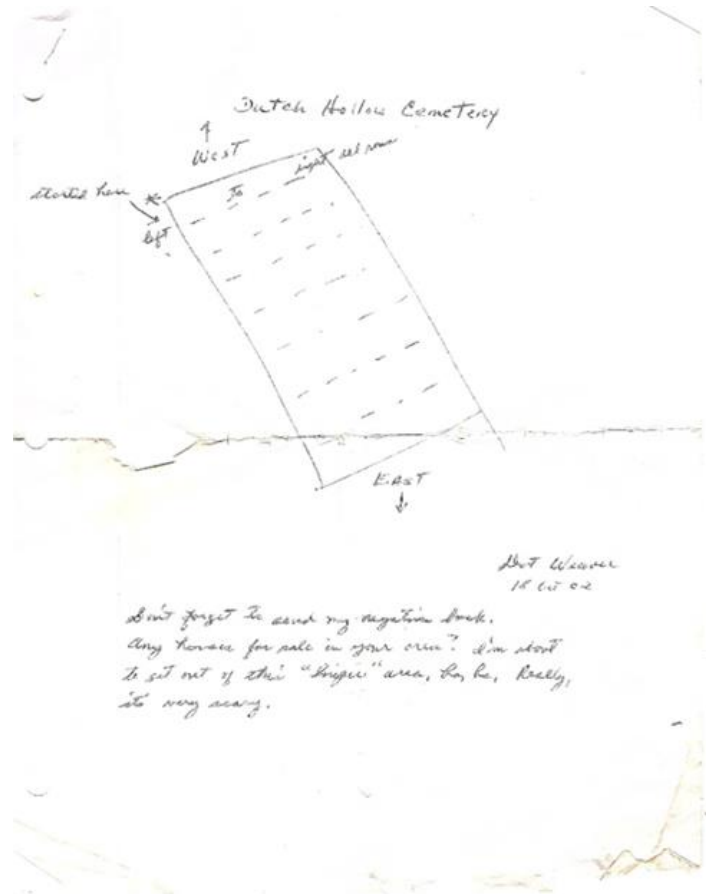
All three sites are now part of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources database. I have also uploaded the files to the website, and they can be found in the Library / Archives Section under the tab DHR Archaeological Surveys. The files are just thumbnail overviews of the sites, but their entry in the DHR database does ensure that there is a permanent record of their existence and location.

I have added another book to the website store. Weaver, Dorothy Lee. *Here Lyth, Tombstone Inscriptions of Most Cemeteries in Riverheads District of Southern Augusta County & Staunton, Virginia*. 1987. Iberian Publishing Company. Athens, Georgia.

Dorothy Weaver, the author, was still living when I first began investigating the Cemetery from a genealogical perspective in 2002. The note at left is one she mailed me to help locate headstones based on the order in which she had entered them in the book. Her note at the bottom of the map reminds me not to forget to send her negatives back. She was referring to 35mm negatives from when she photographed the Hanger house just south of the cemetery in the 1980s. It is one of only two pictures of that house that I possess. The other is from 1967. The second part of that note says, "Any houses for sale in your area? I'm about to get out of this "sniper" area, ha, ha. Really, its very scary." Dorothy had moved from Middlebrook and was residing in Northern Virginia in 2002. This was the same time that the "D.C. Sniper" was on the rampage. That is what she was referring to in the note. I was

assigned to Criminal Investigations at that time and law enforcement was on constant high alert across the east coast until John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were apprehended. In ten months, from February until October 2002 the pair randomly killed 17 and wounded 10 others. Reason enough for Dorothy to be scared. If you are not familiar with this case, I encourage you to break away from the newsletter for a moment and read just why Dorothy wanted to get out of Northern Virginia! [D.C. Sniper Timeline](#) But once again I have digressed. Please check out the website store to read more about her book.

On May 8th I submitted a grant application to the Augusta County Department of Economic Development and Tourism for a 1:1 matching grant for cemetery lane improvements and tree removal. I requested \$5,000.00 which means the cemetery will receive one dollar for every dollar spent up to \$5,000.00 if the grant is awarded. The maximum that can be requested is \$10,000.00 but I knew that we would never raise enough money through donations to match that amount and I did not want to keep someone else from receiving funds that I knew we would never be able to match. Let's hope for the best on this because it is a great opportunity. This makes two grants that are pending for a decision, this one and the one offered by Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative. I will keep everyone posted on progress.



Website Updates: Members Section

In The Library / Archives Section

Ship Passenger Lists 1732-1754 – 15 Total

Unpublished Documents - 9 Total

Published Documents – 11 Total

Life in Dutch Hollow – 133 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices – 668 (Still several ~~hundred~~, thousand to go)

Lucas-Fix Private Collection 109 Total

Department of Historical Resources Augusta County Archaeological Site Surveys – 16

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

New Category! Frederick Hanger Descendants Over 200 pages of his descendants' names with city, county, and state of residence when known.

Cook-Teaford Cemetery - 2 Files

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 37 files. There are over 350 files contained within those 37 files. Please use them. All of that work is for your benefit. Take advantage of it!

When my son Adam and I are recounting a hunting or fishing story or most any story, our accounts of the same event are rarely the same. My fish always seems to be bigger or that shot is always further than it was, that sort of thing. So, I tell him all the time, just to pick at him of course, "son, never let the facts get in the way of a good story!" But just so you know, I try never to do that in my research! Proving that I am not the only one to use that phrase, I share the following quote to sign off with for this month's newsletter.

"Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please." – Mark Twain

Until next month, Blessings & Happy Trails.

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery