

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. II

December 2024

Issue XII

Hello and greetings to all!

Well, this is the issue where I get to say, Merry Christmas! Yes, it is still about 25 days away and yes, Thanksgiving leftovers are still being served, frozen, and dare I say “repurposed,” but Merry Christmas none-the-less. May we all remember the reason for the season throughout the coming year.

The Valley Railroad (B&O)

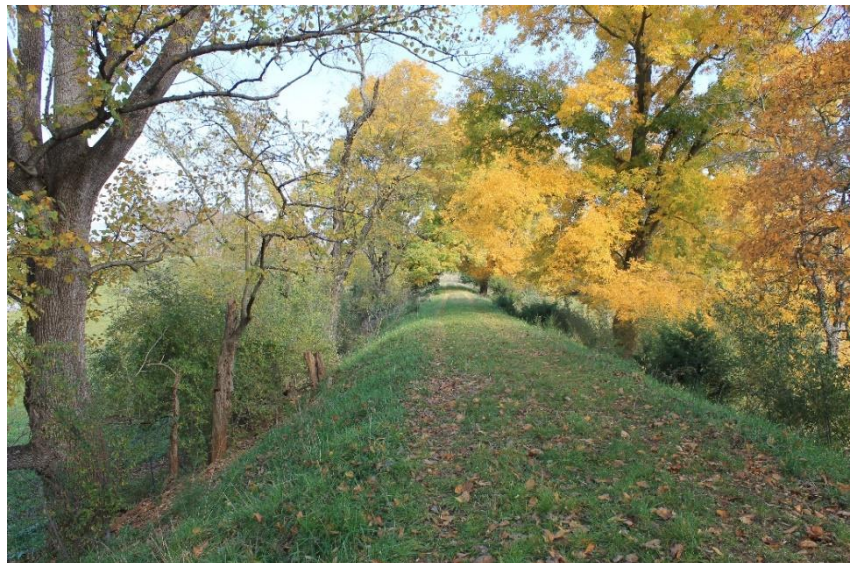
In the September 2024 issue of *The Headstone* I included an article about a newspaper reporter’s observations while riding the train on the Valley Railroad from Staunton to Lexington and I included a photo of the stone railroad bridge constructed at Folly Mill Creek along Interstate 81. I also noted in the article that there was a second stone bridge just north of Greenville spanning Christian’s Creek. Richard Jones, after reading the article, emailed me and expressed an interest in seeing the bridge in Greenville up close and personal if you will. I have known the farmer who owns the land all my life so asking permission to go on his land to get closer was not a problem. On a sunny but crisp fall Sunday after church Richard met me at my house and we drove over to the bridge. While I have been driving by this bridge for nearly half a century, I



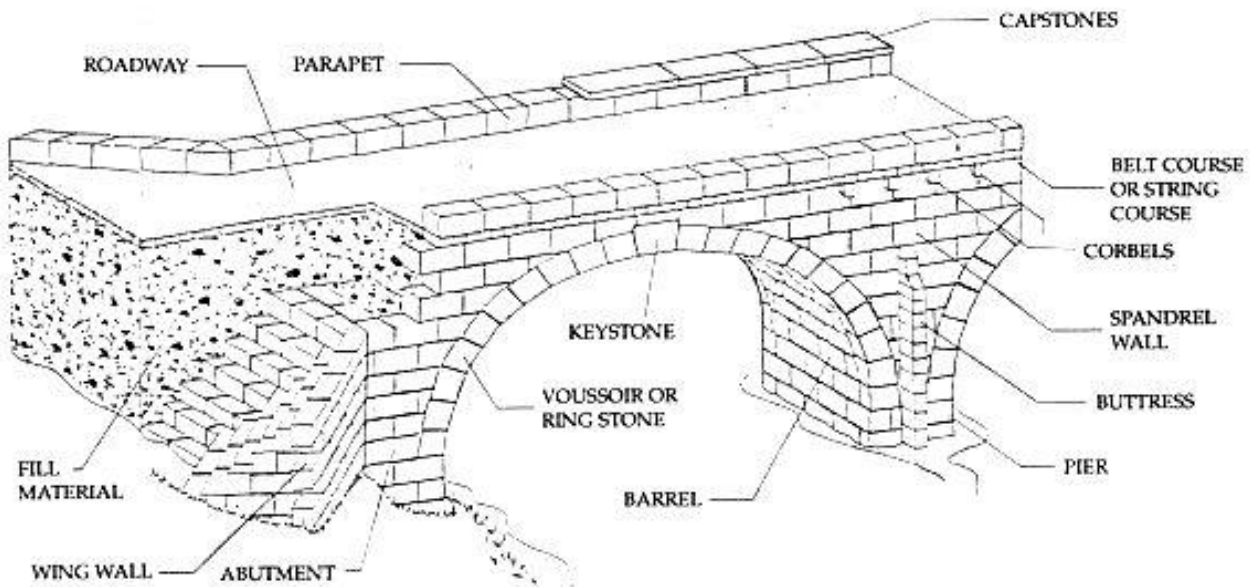
Richard standing on the expanse looking east.

The photo to the right is of the bed looking north towards the Pilot Truck Stop. As you can see from the tire tracks, the farmer is still using the bed and is even driving across the bridge! I have no doubt that it will hold. The next photo illustrates the width of the bridge compared to the railroad bed itself.

had never taken the time to make the short trip over to it. Take a look at the photos and judge for yourself the level of skill required to produce such a work. This first photo is a view of the bridge from the east side looking southwest. Next are two photos of what remains of the railroad bed. One thing I did notice while there was the width of the bridge section itself, which can be discerned in one of the photos with



I can't help but wonder if it was in case the railroad ever expanded to two sets of rail in the area, they would not have to rebuild the crossing. Making the crossing wider to start with would only be pennies on the dollar since the buttresses, wing walls, and spandrel walls would be the same regardless of the width. Only the additional stones and fill to make it wider would be the extra cost. And no, heretofore I didn't know any bridge terminology, but I have included a diagram below which will allow you to pick up a few terms for yourself like I did if you wish to learn more! The diagram¹ actually represents the basic shape of the B&O bridge which contains about all of the various attributes that are illustrated and named in the diagram. Both views immediately below look south towards Greenville.



¹
https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=tJiF8Fbo&id=91AB5997AA319A9E854642D78E683850F3E17EC7&thid=OIP.tJiF8FboEAKa0S-2ZkDgpQHaD4&mediaurl=https%3A%2F%2Fs-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com%2F600x315%2Fdf%2F2f%2F1b%2Fdf2f1b78cb27c07b28ec40ab598dd7c3.jpg&q=what%20is%20a%20bridge%20buttress&ck=D9140453B83C2E7AA06A060AF87A713C&form=rc2idp&selectedIndex=9&exph=315&expw=600&vt=0&pivotparams=insightsToken%3Dccid_0iBmenQQ*cp_B1B8288F9C379994A308F9102D86FDAD*mid_F5ABAF0F238CC784059D929471C582DA01DBCDCF*simid_607998642203222147*thid_OIP.0iBmenQQB!_leQ6Hryx71LQHaFc&sim=11&iss=VS1&cdnurl=https%3A%2F%2Fth.bing.com%2Fth%2Fid%2FR.b49885f056e810029ad12fb66640e0a5%3Frik%3Dx37h81A4a17XQg%26pid%3DImgRaw%26r%3D0

And a few more pictures of Richard and that beautiful stone railroad bridge. Make no mistake, the stones used in the construction of this crossing are massive and neither the camera nor the

view from Route 11 do them justice. So, if anyone else would ever like to visit the site just let me know and Richard and I will give you the 25-cent tour!





I dare guess that beyond the farmer who now owns the bridge and those folks that rode the train across this bridge from late 1882 until rail service stopped between Staunton and Lexington in October of 1942 (now 82 years ago), Richard is one of only a few others that have enjoyed the view he held from the vantage point shown in the photo above. Great photo Richard, and I am glad I got to be a part of that day with you there.

Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse

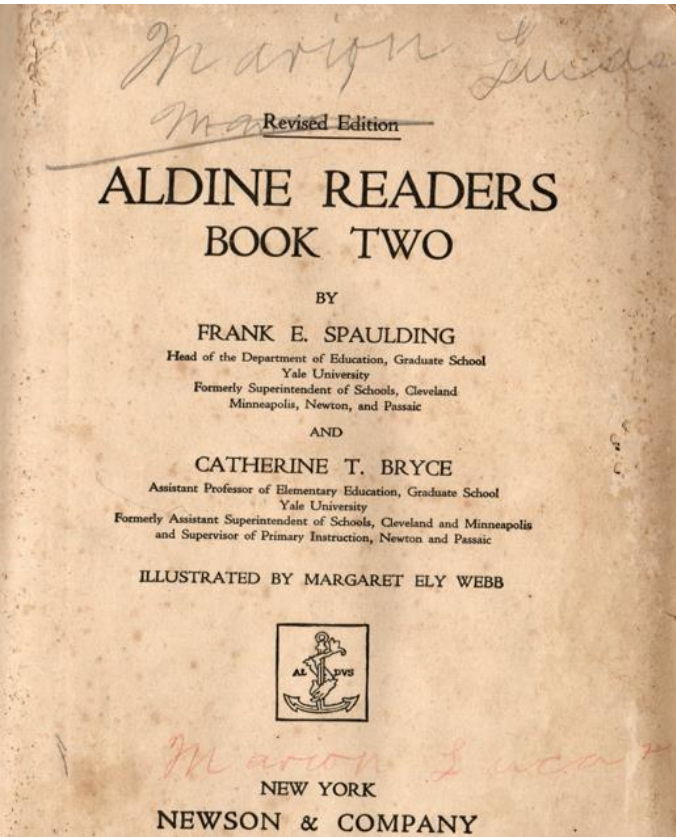
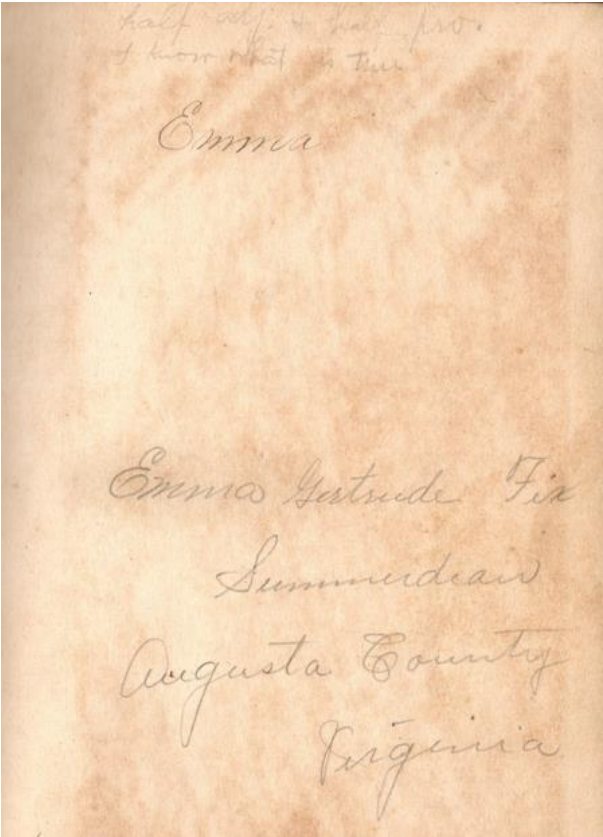
In the January 2024 edition of *The Headstone* I wrote a short piece on Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse and its planned move up the road about 100 feet or so. Below is a photo summary of that move. I took the last photo of the schoolhouse in October as it now sits on the new concrete foundation, but that work was completed earlier in the year. I just thought I would bring those that have an interest in the structure and the progress on it up to speed.





Richard Jones has been kind enough to give me a number of schoolbooks that were used in Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They were used primarily by his ancestors including his grandmother, Emma Gertrude *Fix* Lucas (1881-1960) and his grandfather, Marion Alexander Lucas (1881-1966). Below are scans of the inside covers of two of the ten books which he gave me. One being signed with the name Marion Lucas and the other

by Emma Fix. Names in the other books include Harry Fix and Irene Lucas, also ancestral family members.



Below is what a report card used at Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse looked like in 1920. This is the back of the report card. The front had the student's name, grade, year, teacher, and a place for a parent to sign every month that school was held indicating that they had reviewed the teachers remarks and grades assigned.

And on the following page is a snippet from the front page. The last two paragraphs caught my eye. Parents seemed to be held in high regard when it came to their role in their child's education. Yep, they are called "the good ole days" if I am not mistaken.

Method of Grading: A-Admirable. Grade from 95 to 100. E-Excellent. Grade from 85 to 95. F-Fair. Grade from 75 to 85. P-Poor. Grade from 60 to 75. M-Very Poor. Grade below 60. Any Grade lower than FAIR will not be honored by promotion.												
Attendance	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	YEAR'S AV.	
Studies												
Absent Unexcused												
Tardy Unexcused												
Times Tardy												
Days Present	14	15	16	15	16	15	16	15	16	15		
Days Absent	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5		
Reading	80	82	88	88	92	96	88					
Spelling	84	85	88	90	93	99	100					
Writing	81	83	88	88	90	92	96					
Arithmetic	86	89	94	96	98	99	99					
Geography												
Gram. & Lan.												
U. S. History												
Physiology												
Agriculture												
Va. History												
Drawing												
Civil Gov't												
Latin												
English												
Mathematics												
History												
Science												
Modern Lang.												

N. B. This Mark X is placed opposite trait to which attention is called.												
ATTITUDE TOWARD SCHOOL WORK	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June		
Indolent												
Wastes Time												
Work is Carelessly Done												
Copies Gets Too Much Help												
Gives Up Too Easily												
Shows Improvement			X	X	X							
Very Commendable					X	X	X					
RECITATIONS												
Comes Poorly Prepared												
Appears Not to Try												
Seldom Does Well												
Inattentive												
Promotion in Danger												
Capable of Doing Much Better												
Work Shows a Falling Off												
Work of Grade Too Difficult												
Showing Improvement			X	X	X							
Very Satisfactory						X	X	X				
CONDUCT												
Restless; Inattentive												
Inclined to Mischief												
Rude; Discourteous at Times												
Annoys Others												
Whispers Too Much												
Shows Improvement												
Very Good			X	X	X				X	X		

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS PLEASE READ

On or before the second Saturday of each school month this report will be filled out by the teacher and sent to you for inspection. If this report is not presented at the proper time, kindly notify the teacher.

If a pupil receives F. P. or M. on any subject, it should be made a matter of immediate inquiry. Possibly it is to be attributed to lack of study, to too many outside engagements, to irregularities in attendance or to some cause which may be removed.

Special attention is called to the serious consequences of **Irregular Attendance**. It is important to remember that the loss of even a portion of a school session often proves to be a serious interruption to progress, and tends to produce a lack of interest in the school work. Excuses showing good cause for the absence or tardiness should always be sent promptly to the teacher on the return of a child to school. Neglect of this may cause the child to be sent home after the excuse.

We suggest that you talk over this report with your child each time it is received, and if it has any peculiar needs which are indicated to you by the marks on this card, that you confer with the teacher or superintendent regarding it.

If the parents could show their interest in the child and school by occasional visits to the school, it would prove a great source of inspiration and help to both pupil and teacher.

Your hearty co-operation is solicited in the endeavor to secure the best development of your child.

And just to put a face with the names, I have included the photo at right. I used it in an earlier issue of *The Headstone* but felt it equally necessary to be used again here. I can't help but look at photos like this one and wonder what life was really like back then. I see the children's expressions and attempt to characterize each and every one. Maybe you catch yourself doing the same from time to time. And about those schoolbooks that Richard placed in my custody. My plan is to donate them BACK to the schoolhouse once all of the work on it is completed. It would make a great display there, especially in light of the fact that the original blackboard still hangs at the front of the classroom!

Photo Taken at Mt. Hermon (Moffatts Creek) School

Probably between 1896 and 1898

(mama) Emma Fix Lucas (1881-1960) Married Marion A. Lucas

(Cora) Cora Virginia Nace. (1890-1974) Married Harry Fix, Emmas's brother



And finally, reflecting on my "good ole days" comment, I decided to attach a 1910 purchase agreement between Roby Furniture Company and Marion Lucas. It is dated 19 February 1910. Marion and Emma were married on 14 December 1905. If the purchase agreement is for things they needed to start housekeeping on their own, it speaks to a simpler but harder life than we probably will ever know. Just take a moment to look through the list. Not so much for the cost of each item, but for the basic necessity of each item.

No. 1724

Office of I. K. ROBY FURNITURE CO.,

THIS AGREEMENT, Made this 19 day of Feb 1910, between I. K. ROBY FURNITURE CO.,

..... party of the first part, and M. A. Lucas.....
 party of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part agrees to sell to the said party of the second part the article or articles hereinafter mentioned, namely:

<u>1- 8/18 Charcoal Range</u>	<u>27.00</u>	<u>1- Wash Board</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>1- Copper Kettle</u>	<u>7.25</u>	<u>1- Round Oak Pan</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>2- Iron Pots</u>	<u>9.00</u>	<u>1- Coffee Mill</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>1- Tin Boiler</u>	<u>.65</u>	<u>1- Dish</u>	<u>.65</u>
<u>2- Iron</u>	<u>.60</u>	<u>1- Table</u>	<u>3.00</u>
<u>1- Rolling Pin</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18- Matting</u>	<u>3.76</u>
<u>2- on the following terms and conditions:</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1- Glove</u>	<u>2.50</u>
	<u>25.75</u>	<u>2- Elbows</u>	<u>30</u>

The said party of the second part is to pay for them the sum of \$ 25.75 cash, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and \$ 1 in 1 installments, each and every 3 months from day of date hereof until the sum of \$ 36.59 shall be fully paid. But it is expressly understood and agreed that the said party of the first part does not part with, nor does the said party of the second part require, any title to said article or articles until they are fully paid for. And the said party of the second part agrees to retain the said article or articles as the property of the said party of the first part at Mollette Creek.....
 Virginia, and agrees not to remove the same from the said premises, or sell or attempt to sell the same without the consent of the said party of the first part. And in the case of the default in any payment, or the falsity of any of the accompanying statements, or of any other violation of this contract by said party of the second part, this agreement shall, at the option of the said party of the first part, be deemed annulled, and they are authorized to enter upon and remove from the said premises the said property. No money is to be refunded if the article or articles are taken back. The said party of the first part reserves the right to refuse to send the article or articles mentioned in this contract, if not satisfactory to them; they also reserve the right to give more time than that agreed upon, if it suits their views, without violating this contract by such extension of time.

Notice of Removal must be sent to the Store. I. K. Roby Furniture Co. [Seal]

Witness..... [Seal]

Address..... Place of Business.....

Occupation.....

PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE WHEN DUE. NO MONEY REFUNDED OR GOODS EXCHANGED.

(Use of photograph and receipt courtesy of Richard Jones)

I am sure you have noticed by now that I have not yet included anything about the graveyard. I can do that now. Emma Fix's maternal grandparents were Andrew Lucas and Mary Ann Hanger Lucas - buried in Dutch Hollow. Emma's 2g maternal grandparents, Jacob Hanger and Susannah Ott Hanger - buried in Dutch Hollow. Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery is the resting place for family, yes, but I have come to know it better as a resting place for a community. So, all of the forgoing said, it makes Richard Jones and I not just friends, but 5th cousins.

I dare not subject you to more information in this newsletter than I already have, it being so close to Christmas and all! I do need to have something for next month's newsletter after all. As we each contemplate settling down for a long winter nap, I promise to remember what Christmas is really all about, and I hope you join me in doing the same. Merry Christmas.

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 – 153 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices – 736 (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.

Cook-Teaford Cemetery - 2 Files

Schoolhouses-Augusta Co. – 1800s - 14

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 39 files. There are over 350 files contained within those 37 files. 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.

And since it tis the season:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. What is Santa's favorite kind of Music? | Wrap. |
| 2. Why does Santa use the chimney? | Because that's what soots him. |
| 3. What do you call a kid that doesn't believe in Santa? | A rebel without a Claus. |

No, I did not make these up, but you are probably wishing I hadn't sent them either!

Until next month, Blessings, Happy Trails, and Merry Christmas.

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery