

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. III

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Issue VI

Hello and greetings to all!

I hope that all of you have been blessed with the warmth of Spring and soon to be summer, as well as all the other beautiful parts of this time of year. It is easy to take such beauty for granted, especially on those days when the pace of life kicks into high gear. So, while maybe it is way too late for a New Year's resolution, maybe we can resolve to slow down or even stop for a moment from time to time to reflect on this seasonal beauty. Never know, we might make it a daily priority.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day has come and gone for another year, but most would agree that a mother's love never ends. That special day each May is just a way to show our appreciation for all the other love-filled days, even if our mothers are gone. With that thought in mind, I wanted to share a Mother's Day letter that Luther Hanger sent to his sister, Anna Hanger Eversman in the early 1930s. The letter was shared with me by none other than Ted Harrison of Missouri – my newly discovered 7th cousin. Luther was Ted's granduncle; Anna was Ted's grandmother. Luther and Anna's mother, Gertrude "Gertie" Ridgeway Hanger had passed away in 1929, several years before Luther wrote the letter to his sister. I am honored to share the transcribed copy that Ted sent me. Thank you Ted for allowing me to do so. And thanks to all you mothers!

Sunday – Mother's day! It brings back memories, doesn't it? When we feel most lost in this world, and when the disappointments and betrayals crowd thickest about us, we hunger for some compensation, some source to which we may go that our trodden spirits may find refreshment and warmth.

Not every friend is able to understand. And it's a busy world. The multitude is an uneasing one. But there is one who always understands, who always loves, and whose heart is the eternal source for every bit of sweetness, beauty, and fragrance in this world – Mother.

Our Mother has already slipped silently out of this world. Still does that source remain. And even now when we in anguish cry out to that source – our cry is heard. For the selflessness of Mother never leaves where once it has been given. A man or woman may become a wanderer upon the face of a dozen continents, may fail and fall below every standard of worth and desire that their mother may have had for their own, but still does that everlasting influence and love remain.

Who is there to question that our Mother is the one source of all greatness and all lasting achievement in this life? The saddest thing in human experience is not to have known the love of a Mother. The next saddest thing must be to not have been a Mother.

From a Mother's eyes flows the purest liquid gold of all the ages – and deep in her heart ripples the eternal waters that cool and quench the thirst of the poorest striver for beauty and happiness. You never have to explain to a Mother. She always knows beforehand.

Ted actually emailed this to me while in Shelby and Monroe Counties the week of May 5th. I will add that he is quite the researcher and as of the same date he had Blessed me with several preliminary reports of his success.

While on the subject of Missouri, I have added a folder titled **Hanger Migration To Missouri** to the Misc. Research Notes module. It now contains 23 files of information pertinent (some more than others) to those who went west. The plan is to add more as they are located and compiled. I credit Ted with most of this as he has worked hard to put the Missouri puzzle together.

The Wilhite stone

I frequently visit a local auction house website in search of books on history and genealogy. Quite often I find some pretty good books although I don't always have the winning bid. On one such search for books back on April 18th I found a most unusual item for sale. It was a headstone! And not just any old slab of marble, it was engraved with the name of the deceased, his death date, and age at death. It was the headstone of Lester W. Wilhite who died July 26, 1899, at the age of 1 year, 4 months, and 9 days.

I went to work and found that Lester had been buried at Friedens United Church of Christ in Rockingham County, Virginia. I searched the records for Friedens Church and discovered that Lester's headstone was present in 1962 when the cemetery was privately cataloged but in 2011 when it was again cataloged by a different entity, the stone was missing. I emailed the auction house and told them that I had found where the stone belonged and offered to come get the stone and return it to its proper place. They emailed back and said "Good morning, Thank you for taking the time to reach out to us. We've taken down the lot, and if you would like to come pick it up to get it returned, we'd be happy to release it to you."

After getting the thumbs up I immediately called my old pal James Hulvey and asked if he would give me a hand. He agreed to help (he always does!) and away we went, first to the auction house to retrieve the stone and then to Friedens Church Cemetery. Below are three photos, one of the stone as advertised by the auction house, one of the headstone base before we

The memory of a Mother's love and sacrifices grows in luster with the years. It never needs watering to keep it verdure. There is that about it that harbors the raindrops and the sunshine.

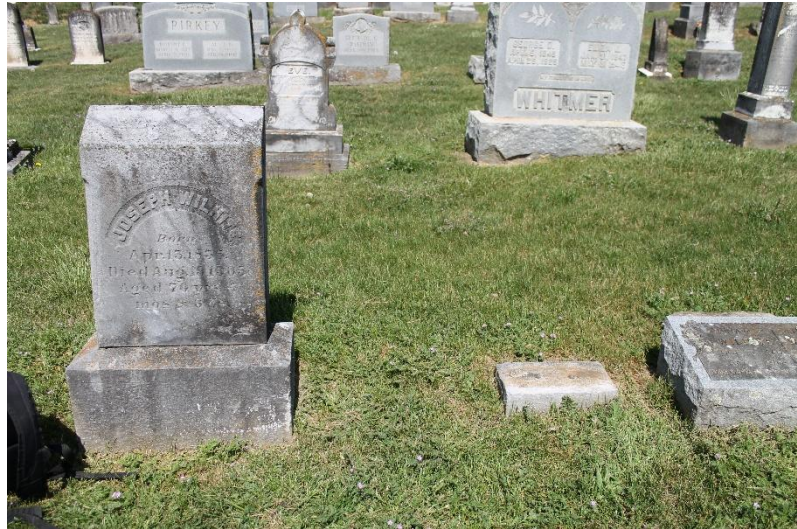
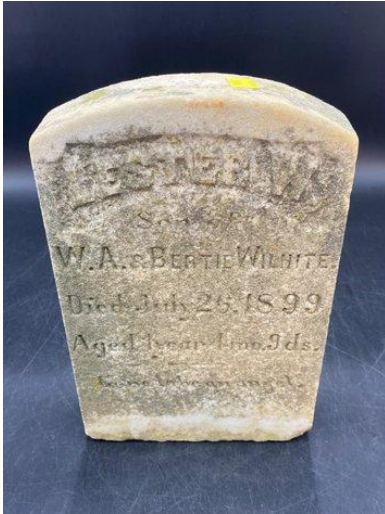
Mother, or Motherhood can never be honored too much. Her gift of life to others shall always remain the supremest of all the gifts of this earth. No man or woman can be permanently poor with a Mother's love in his or her heart.

Mother – the great source! Whenever the lights go out for us, we shall grope about for your hand that it may lead us to the light again.

*Your loving brother
Luther*

reset the headstone, and one of the completed mission. (And before you email to ask, I did not forget my glasses!) His grave is among those of his family, four or five other Wilhites if I recall correctly.

I bring this story to you just to share with you that I have been scratching my head ever since the day I saw the headstone for sale, wondering who removed it, why they removed it, and most of all, why they were selling it. After all, according to my research, it had been missing since at least 2011 - fourteen years - and maybe longer. All we know is that it was there in 1962. This is just one of those itches for me that I know will never get scratched.



The Cemetery Fence

The rail fence around the graveyard has been completely stained. Three separate days of applying stain for a total of 18.5 hours work and 32 gallons of stain later, it is completed. There was no charge for the labor. The stain used was Australian Timber Oil – Natural Finish. I use it a lot on my own stuff, especially the wooden beds in our utility trailers. It is the same finish that I applied to the cemetery sign when it was built and erected. I suppose we will see how well it holds up, but I expect to get eight or so years of protection out of it before another coat is needed - at least that is what I am hoping for. Below is a picture taken on Mother's Day showing how it turned out. I greatly thank each and every one of you for your membership and donations. Your hard-earned dollars are being put to good use, and it is work that you can all take pride in. Without your generous contributions, this cemetery would have soon been no more. Thank you.



Omega Mapping Services

By far the greatest accomplishment at the graveyard, not only for this year but probably for any year since its founding was the arrival of Len Strozier with Omega Mapping Services. I included a copy of the contract and scope of work in last month's issue of *The Headstone*, so I won't go back over that. Hopefully you got a chance to at least glance at it. What I will do is talk about how things went once Len got to Dutch Hollow and went to work.

Mr. Len Strozier arrived at the graveyard on Saturday, May 24th around 4:30 pm to do some preliminary work and get a feel for just what he might find once the real work began the following day. While he was on site until dark, within less than an hour using the GPR, fourteen unmarked graves had been located.

Len returned on Sunday after church and worked until about 5:30 pm, starting at the top of the cemetery and working his way down the hill a section at a time. He deployed his radar in an east-west direction in order to capture the length of each burial shaft, thereby determining if the burial was that of an infant/child or an adult. The upper section, that portion down to where the marked headstones begin, was completed and two unmarked headstones (rocks) were also located.

Some of the area in and around the existing headstones was checked after which Mr. Strozier called it a day with plans to return on Monday, May 26th to finish the GPR work, get survey grade GPS coordinates for each burial location, including ones with marked headstones, and take photographs. This data will be uploaded to a mapping system which will be accessible online and will include all the information available on each grave, including headstone inscriptions and photographs.

At the end of the day well over one hundred unmarked graves had been located and marked just in the upper (steep) section of the cemetery. Information recorded for each GPR located grave includes the type of burial, (wood coffin, metal coffin, or burial shroud), and whether the burial was that of an infant/child or an adult.

Thanks to all of the folks that came out Sunday to observe, including the members of our Board of Directors. I also would like to extend a very special thanks to Crystal Heishman and Kira Roadcap. They are both members of the website and they both have Fulwider ancestors/relatives buried in Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery. They pitched in to help flag confirmed graves and they both just helped things go so much more smoothly on the documentation end of things. Thanks Crystal & Kira. You are greatly appreciated and you should be very proud of what you are helping to accomplish.

I have included a photo of Len using his GPR and also one of the upper section before the GPR work began and one after the upper section was finished. The few flags you see in the "before" photo are those that were previously placed as a result of cadaver canine



alerts that have been taking place periodically over the last three years. The flags in the second photo are only those of positively identified unmarked graves. I will let you be the judge of our success, but I would call it nothing short of overwhelming. Below are the before and after



photos.

Mr. Strozier returned on Monday, May 26th after the rain stopped and went right to work on the remaining sections of the cemetery. The GPR work was completed, and the fence perimeter and all grave locations were collected. The following information was verified, and collected for map plotting:

271 total internments were located

183 were unmarked with 110 being adults and 73 being children / infants

88 were graves with either inscribed or uninscribed stones already present

This is actually more graves than I anticipated in one respect, but I am also not too surprised given that burials were taking place at Dutch Hollow at least since 1798 and through at least 1919, 121 years. This might be a good place to list some of those that I have documentation on that are reported as being buried at Dutch Hollow but have no marker present. They are in no particular order.

John Bright, Jr.	1762-1828	George Hanger	1818-1888
Susannah Fulwider Bright	1764-1803	*John Hanger	1823-1826
David Jackson Fox	1820-1900	Margaret Coffman Hanger	1823-1894
Edward Lewis Fox	1843-1905	Ann Lotts	?-1891
Eliza Jane Taylor Fox	1825-1897	*Christiana Hanger Lotts	1840-1876
William Henry Fox	1851-1881	George Lotts, Sr.	1742-1845
David Ott Hanger	1820-1870	*Infant Child Lotts	?-?
*Infant Child Robertson	?-1890	Lavina Buchanon Smith	1810-1854
Nancy Aylor Taylor	1796-1866		

This list slowly grows as new documentation is discovered. The four names with an asterisk had headstones present and documented as recently as 1972 but their stones have not yet been located, even using the GPR. It might be worth stating that all of those listed above have at least one immediate relative also buried in Dutch Hollow with a marker present.

The identities of most of those buried in the 183 unmarked graves will never be known to us and that is just the long and short of it. We have done all we can thus far to preserve what is there, and at the end of the day, that's all we can do.

The GPR also determined what type of burial was used at each unmarked grave. Wooden Coffin, Metal Coffin, or Burial Shroud. There were only three metal coffins identified with the unmarked graves. Andrew Lucas and Hannah Fulwider Hanger, both being burials marked with marble headstones, were also buried in a metal coffin making five total for the 271 total internments. I will have the numbers of each type of burial as work progresses. They are recorded on the flags placed at each grave and I still working on compiling that data.

These are just a few of examples of documentation that has been researched to determine burials at Dutch Hollow where no grave markers can be located.

George Lotts¹

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.

Ann Lotts²

Miss Ann Lotts died near Spottswood on Friday morning and was buried in "Dutch Hollow" graveyard on Saturday. Rev. Mr. Haddon preached her funeral in the Old Providence church, of which she was a member.

Mrs. Adam Clinebell³

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.

Margaret Coffman Hanger⁴

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.

As you can see, Peggy's (Margaret's) obituary does not explicitly identify Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery as the place she was buried but she lived within sight of Dutch Hollow Graveyard, and last but not least, it's the only graveyard in Dutch Hollow! If you look below at George's obituary, it doesn't even say if he was buried, yet his widow's obit says she was buried in a grave beside "the grave of her husband." These are the kinds of documentation I have used to determine the list above.

George Hanger⁵

Mr. George Hanger, Sr., died at his residence in Dutch Hollow near here last Tuesday morning of consumption. He was an aged gentleman and leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

¹ Augusta County Virginia Heritage Book Committee. Augusta County, Virginia Heritage Book 1732-1998. Walsworth Publishing Co. 1998. Page 187.

² VirginiaChronicle.com. Rockbridge County News, Lexington, Virginia. 22 January 1891. Page 3.

³ Newspapers.com. Staunton Spectator, Staunton, Virginia. 3 November 1898

⁴ Newspapers.com. Staunton Spectator, Staunton, Virginia 14 November 1894

⁵ Newspapers.com. Staunton Spectator & Vindicator, Staunton, Virginia. 11 April 1888. Page 3.

I will hopefully have more information compiled and be able to share more photos and more tidbits associated with the GPR work in the July newsletter, including the manner of burial. I will say that we have accomplished a lot just this year and have expended most of your graciously donated funds to make it happen. Next month I will try to include a breakdown of just what we have gotten done and how your generous donations have made it possible. Thank you for your support.

The Grave Marker Fund Campaign

I have built a section at the bottom of the "Contributors" page on the website for folks to be acknowledged for sponsoring an unmarked grave or graves as we try to raise funds to pay for the markers to be placed at each unmarked grave. Any donations for that will go to offset the cost of the markers. An email has already gone out to that effect so I will spare you the redundancy of repeating it. I will say that immediately after sending out the email, folks started donating to this worthy cause and as of this mailing, we have received almost \$600.00 for this project! Thank you all for your generous support. I have always held in my heart that the folks buried in Dutch Hollow were good people and it is plain to see that their descendants are as well.

Obituaries & Death Notices on the Website

A last note - If you are wondering where to find the obituaries displayed on the previous page, they are on the website. And over 1000 more just like those are also there for your use in your research, with more being added each month. Log in, go to Library/Archive, Click on Obituaries and Death Notices and help yourself. For anyone of the Fulwider line, I have added over sixty obituaries with that surname this past month. Many of them are for the Fulwidars that went west from Virginia to Indiana in the very early 1800s and are buried in Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois as well as all the way to California.

I will include one photo below of a grave marker that the GPR located. It was about 4 inches beneath the surface and was reset in the exact manner in which was found when unearthed. The GPR indicated, based on the length of the burial shaft, that it is the grave of an infant. You have heard that era called "the good ole days," but pictures like this remind us all that our ancestors had their share of heartaches too. Yet through their faith they persevered, and their descendants, all of us, are now the evidence of that.



Website Updates: Members Section

LIFE MEMBERS

Al Wilkerson 2025

Glenn Hanger 2025

In The Library / Archives Section

Ship Passenger Lists 1732-1754 - 15 Total

Unpublished Documents - 9 Total

Published Documents - 11 Total

Life in Dutch Hollow - 186 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices - 1022 (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. Roughly 8,000 names.

Cook-Teaford Cemetery - 2 Files

Schoolhouses-Augusta Co. - 1800s - 38

Marriages - 92

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 45 folders. There are over 350 files contained within those 45 folders. 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.

Until next month, Blessings and Happy Trails,

Glenn Hanger

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery