

THE HEADSTONE

Vol. III

September 2025

Issue IX

Hello and greetings to all!

August started off with the temperature during the day going from hot enough to melt car bumpers to a nice 72 during the day and believe it or not, high 40s and low 50s at night. As of August 1, our rainfall total was 29.15 inches for the year. Based on our five-year annual average locally, that should occur around the last week of October. It has been greener this summer in the Shenandoah Valley than I can ever remember. Great for the corn farmers, not so much for the hay farmers. The rain produced good hay, but there just never seemed to be a three-day rain-free window to get it made. The last three weeks of August, however, have been all but rainless. But life goes on. I hope the weather has been tolerable wherever you might be reading this.

Tree Work at The Cemetery

I decided that I had been talking about getting the dead and dying trees in the graveyard removed for about long enough, especially since many of you specifically donated your hard-earned money for that very purpose. Well, we are at that point.

I have had two arborers come out to the cemetery and give prices. The first company wanted roughly \$3,000.00 to remove what I consider the worst two trees. Yep, just two. The second arborer, Sean Atkins, owner of Double A Tree Service, agreed to charge day rates. Three men, and all the equipment necessary to climb the trees, fell them, and remove all debris from the cemetery out to a pile. He feels that he can remove the same two trees plus remove a third huge cherry and trim the walnut for \$1800.00. One full day's work. I have asked him to work for a maximum of three days and to get as far as he can. That will use up all of the pledges we have received for tree work and maybe just a little more, but the hope is that the worst threat that the cemetery faces going forward will be mitigated for the foreseeable future. We will see how that goes. All of the foregoing discussions took place on the 30th of July, and he advised that he could come within a month of that



date to get started. I will keep you posted, either later in this newsletter if he comes before the last week of August or in the next issue if he arrives after that. And then on August 16th I went over to see if I needed to mow and weed eat and I found that the walnut had shed a limb, as can be seen in the preceding photo. Timing is everything!

With the help of my neighbor and Life Member of the cemetery organization, Al, we got it cleaned up and it now looks like this again.



An odd place for a grave

About a year ago my ole school pal Charlie called me to tell me that he had found an old headstone on a farm that he is renting, thinking I might want to know about it. Charlie is good about things like that. He has always been a good guy, but we could always seem to bring out the worst in each other in school. Once while in high school we were in Mrs. Reid's biology class and it was final exam review day. Feeling pretty good about the material already, Charlie and I entered into a friendly competition during the review. We wanted to know which one of us could flip the most pennies into the goldfish aquarium. From our desk! It only took about two pennies for Mrs. Reid to put a stop to that and promptly remove us from the classroom to the hallway where we were told to stay until the bell rang. And make no mistake, we stayed right there beside her door until the class ended. Moral of the story: We should not have felt quite so confident about the final exam material. I shall not digress yet further by stating what our exam grades were. Point is, he is still a good guy.

Charlie gave me the gate lock code, and I and two other interested "Cementarians" traveled over to try to find the headstone and we did finally stumble upon it. It was the only stone present and by all appearances, it could be the only grave there. I have two pictures below, one being a photo that I took and one being a photo from Find A Grave. It had already been discovered and recorded as being there. The one on the left is mine. The one on the right is from her memorial page on Find A Grave and the retouched photo was taken by I believe, Dwayne Hawpe, who according to his Find A Grave profile page, has spent years researching his Hawpe Ancestry. As you can see in the photo that he posted, the last name has a spelling variation, but she was a Hawpe. Lucy Ann. Sixteen years of age.



I did some research on the name and discovered that she was buried on what was her family farm. Below are some of my notes from that research.

Lucy Ann Haupe
b. 24 March 1812 – d. 12 October 1828

Daughter of:

John Hawpe b. 1759- d. 19 July 1849

OBITUARY¹

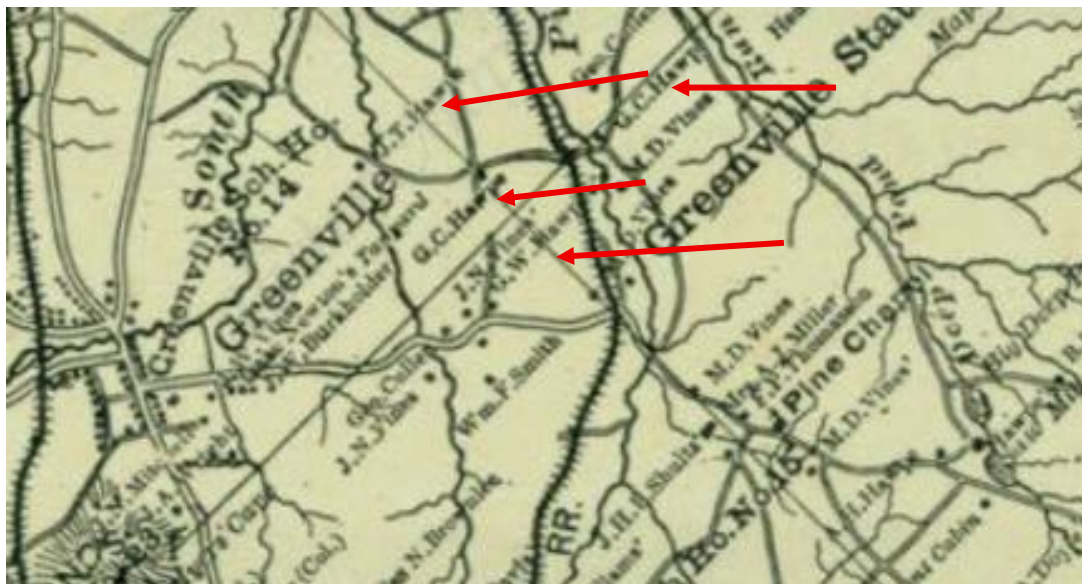
DIED, on Thursday last, at his residence near Greenville, JOHN HAWPE, Sr., in the 90th year of his age. -- The deceased was a plain, unassuming and unpretending man, highly respected, and a sincere friend.

Staunton Spectator and General Advertiser -- Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia -- July 25, 1849 -- Wednesday -- Page #3.

Mary Magdalene Polly *Mizer* Hawpe b. 1775 – d. unknown
John & Mary were married in 1791

One of Lucy's brothers, William Steele Hawpe, died in 1877 in his barn 1 mile east of Greenville which is about the same distance to the Penmeryl Farm where Lucy is buried. He is buried in the Greenville United Methodist Church Cemetery.

¹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75232484/john-hawpe>: accessed July 1, 2025), memorial page for John Hawpe (1759–19 Jul 1849), Find a Grave Memorial ID 75232484; Burial Details Unknown; Maintained by G VanB (contributor 46618035).



G. W. Hawpe is shown as the person living on part of the property in 1885. G. C. Hawpe is also an adjacent resident as is J. T. Hawpe. (Red Arrows) Research indicates the following:

G. W. Hawpe may have been George M.. Hawpe who was born in Greenville, Virginia and at some point moved to Pike County Kentucky. He married Florence Edna Fidler in 1903 in KY. She was born in Pike Co. KY. He was a son of George Crobarger Hawpe. The research on G. W. is not confirmed. Hotchkiss may have meant "M" for the middle initial and put W. – not sure yet.

G. C. Hawpe was George Crobarger Hawpe (1838-1916) Lucy Ann Hawpe's nephew (son of her brother, John Jr.).

J. T. was James William Thomas Hawpe (1845-1902) Lucy Ann Hawpe's nephew (son of her brother William)

OBITUARY²

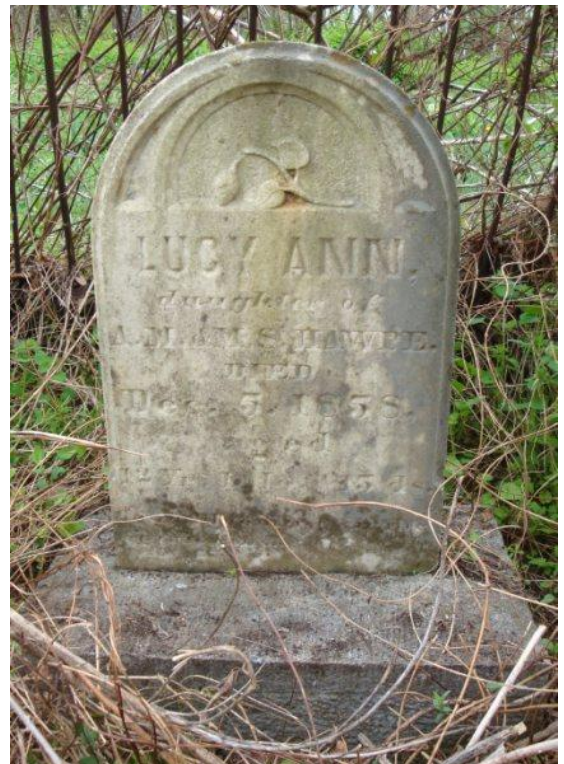
SUDDEN DEATH OF WM. HAWPE.—On Monday evening of last week, Mr. Wm. Hawpe, aged about 70 years, who lived about a mile East of Greenville in this coenty was found dead in his barn. He had recently recovered from an attack of typhoid fever, but on that day seemed to be quite well, and had been attending to business. He probably died from heart disease. He was an honest man and highly respected. He was somewhat eccentric, and it is said that he never voted at elections.

² Newspapers.com. *Staunton Spectator*, Staunton, Virginia. 1 May 1877. Page 3.

Lucy's grave is on a hill beside a crop field just beyond the dam that impounds the water in the photo below. The lake was not there when she was buried of course, but it sure does make for a pretty resting place for her now.



While the research notes two pages back are probably hard for most anyone to follow since at the time I was jotting down things for my own use later, I will say that the most interesting discovery from this research came about at another nearby Hawpe Cemetery. I found another Lucy Ann Hawpe. She is buried in the Hawpe Family Cemetery which is on Find A Grave. This Lucy Ann Hawpe was the daughter of Adam Mizer Hawpe and Margaret Sheilds Dunlap Hawpe and she too died young, at age 12 in 1858. All the Hawpes in the area are related and the two Lucy Ann burials are only about two miles apart as the crow flies. As a matter of fact, Dwayne Hawpe, the suspected photographer of the Find A Grave photo, noted on his profile page that he was once told by a relative, "if you even meet another Hawpe anywhere, you're related!" I found a very moving memorial written for this Lucy and I figure her teacher was the one who wrote it, but I don't know that for sure of course. I have attached it for you to read, and I think it will be as hard on your heart strings as it was on mine.



On the 5th inst., Lucy Ann, daughter of Adam M. and Margaret Hawpe, aged 12 years, 1 month and 17 days.

The subject of the above has been for several sessions a pupil at the Christian's Creek School. She was no ordinary girl; a bright, lovely being has gone from us, and in her death our school has lost one in whom friendship and confidence was reposed.

Her attack was sudden and her disease rapid in its work. A few hours before she died, at her request, her teacher stood by her side, and with her hand in his she could only accent, "I know you." We saw it was but a question of hours; physicians had given her up, and our pupil must die.

A few days before this she was with us at school, blooming in beauty, and elastic in health, the soul of diversion, and highest in the honors of school. She led the way and lured her classmates in the acquisition of knowledge; her perceptions were quick and her memory retentive, and she possessed remarkable neatness and taste. But

"Death loves a shining mark,"

and amid all these she must cease to mingle with us.

On the last day she was at school little did we think when she left us that evening to walk her long path home, that her feet were treading it for the last time; that she would never return to us again; that her plays and her studies were over, and that her schoolmates would next walk, two and two, her seat mate singly, in sad and silent procession along "Lucy's Path" to see her in her little coffin, and hear our venerable pastor, whose voice was wont to mingle in our school, preach to us the impressive moral of our loss.

It will be pleasant to think of Lucy. We gratefully remember how her company was sought to go with us to our homes, and how happy she made us when we went with her to return the visit; and we remember the concluding poem of our last annual examina-

tion, spoken by her, prophetic of the truth that she was with us for the last time on such an occasion; that when that festive day returns, when spring is retouching the earth with life and beauty, and when the young and gay come forth in their best attire, "She will be far away, her short life done."

The concluding stanzas are as follows:

'Tis over now, the hopes and fears,
That held alternate sway;

'Tis over now, and smiles and tears
Shall consecrate the day.

Smiles—we have approving smiles—
How dear we need not tell;

Tears to be shed—and bitter tears—
For we must bid farewell.

As a further expression of sentiment the school passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, By the C. C. School, that the death of Lucy Ann Hawpe, a pupil of this school, after a short sickness, is a sad and solemn event to us all, and admonishes us that in the bloom of youth and active life we may be near our end.

Resolved, That in the death of Lucy this school has lost a most intelligent and faithful scholar, and a friendly and genial associate, and society has lost one in whom talent, taste and application combined to promise a brilliant and useful life.

Resolved, That we tender our sympathies to the parents, sisters, and brothers of Lucy, and mingle our sorrows with theirs, soothed with the hope and confidence, that she lives again in a better world than this.

Resolved, That we will cherish the memory of Lucy and Aibenia as dear friends and schoolmates, and learn from their early death to spend our days at school in kindness and love to each other.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the family and also be offered to the Staunton papers for publication.

M.

If Lucy lived where I think she lived, it was about a three-mile walk to school for her, one way. What a tribute for someone who was obviously a very special little girl.

Just as a side note, we often find the abbreviations "ult." and "inst." in older obituaries and marriage announcements, such as in Lucy Ann's obituary above where the writer starts with, *On the 5th inst., ...* For anyone that may not have seen that before or does not know what it means, ult. is an abbreviation for the Latin word ultimo, which means 'of last month.' On the other hand, inst. stands for 'instant,' or in the context of newspaper events, the current month. The only time this can still create a problem dating an event in such articles is when other newspapers, perhaps thousands of miles distant one from the others, reprinted an article, sometimes after a significant lapse of time, and proper note was not made of the alt. or inst. before printing. Where I have found this the most involves folks that went west during the 1800s. They would die, get married or be the subject of some other event out west which would get reprinted in newspapers back east in the area where they were from some time after the month the first article was printed had come and gone.

If you are ever in the Greenville, Virginia area and want to see the above Lucy's grave and headstone and those of her family for yourself, stop in at the Pilot Travel Center on Route 11 just south of the I-81 interchange. The Hawpe Family Cemetery is now on property owned by

the Pilot Corporation. It is in a small, wooded section and is surrounded by a wrought iron fence.

White Caps

I will be the first to admit I had not heard the term White Caps or whitecapping until last month. Maybe you have. If you found time to read the May issue of *The Headstone* you saw that I had written a little on the history of the Jayhawkers and Bushwhackers, two groups of guerrilla fighters, one for the north and the other for the south during the civil war. They wreaked havoc on citizens, mostly along the Kansas and Missouri line during the war, for their support of their respective side of the cause.

White caps were formed for an entirely different purpose. I think of the term vigilante (or worse) when I now think of whitecaps, and I by no means attest to the properness of their actions even though in some cases their actions were probably viewed as just by some during the time. After studying them a bit, I have personally concluded that this group represented all the bad treatment of others, particularly black folks, that many have tried to rid our country of since the civil war and before. I have included a newspaper clipping³ below that characterizes a visit from these so-called White Caps. I have a Wikipedia link below which will explain more about the group if you wish to explore it further.

WOMAN WHIPPED BY WHITE CAPS

Flog a Farmer's Wife in Indiana for Abusing Stepchildren.

New Albany, Ind., June 6.—Mrs. Alice Hanger, wife of Otto Hanger, a farmer who lives near Marengo, about thirty miles west of this city, was taken from her home by a band of twenty White Caps, tied to a tree in the yard and severely switched. Her husband was held under guard in the house by a portion of the gang while she was flogged. After the whipping the woman was warned by the band to be more careful in her care of her stepchildren or she would receive another visit from the mob.

[Whitecapping](#)

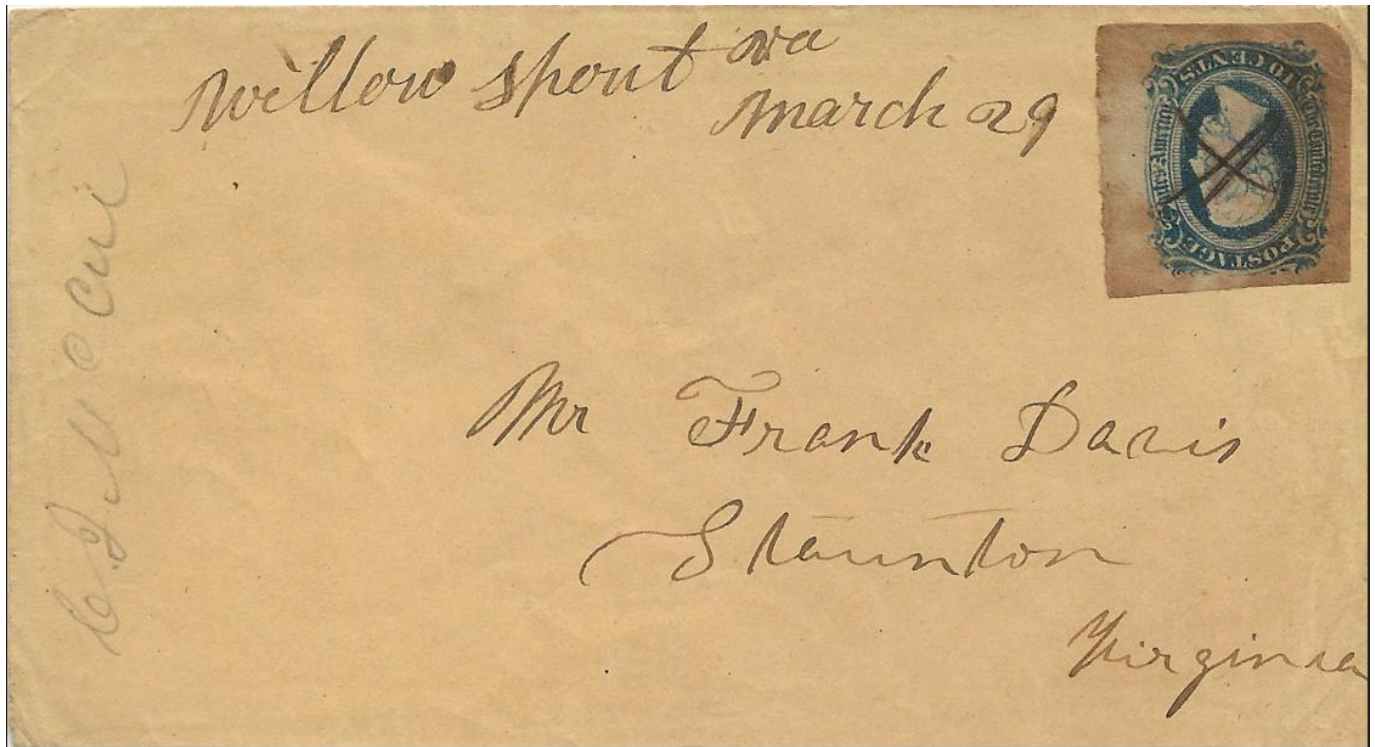
Willow Spout Follow-Up

In last month's newsletter I included four newspaper articles spanning about 100 years in which writers shared cumulative research on Willow Spout and surrounding area. As a result, I was contacted by one of our members, Dr. Robert Hill, who thanked me for the articles and in the process he shared something about Willow Spout that I did not know. Dr. Hill is a collector of mail covers, and old ones at that. He sent me a copy of one that he has that was addressed to Frank (Davis?), Staunton, Virginia. Another post office address had been added to the top of the envelope, that of Willow Sprout, VA. When post offices did not have stamps, they cancelled the stamp with ink by writing the post office and defacing the stamp. What makes this mail cover the most interesting is the fact that it was mailed using the CSA postal system.

³ Newspapers.com. Freeport Journal-Standard, Freeport, Illinois. 6 June 1902. Page 5.

What I have learned from Dr. Hill is that the Confederate States of America only operated "their" postal system in the year 1865. Given that Lee Surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, and that event began a cascade of heightened efforts by the Union to push other Confederate Units into surrender, the CSA Postal System had a short existence. The postal cover that Dr. Hill has is dated March 29th, arguably one of the last few such letters to make it to their addressed destination before the end of the war.

As we look at the events of the past, whether it be our own family history or the history that shaped our country, sometimes it is really hard to put things in a chronological perspective. In the case of Dr. Hill's Confederate letter, maybe that perspective can be better appreciated if we pause to recall that President Lincoln was shot on April 14th by John Wilkes Booth, just a little over two weeks after this letter was delivered.



Cemetery Mapping Update

Len Strozier of Omega Mapping Services sent me the rough draft of the map developed from the ground penetrating radar work in early August. My part of the work began August 7th and continued for about a week, with many hours at the cemetery verifying locations and names, with many more hours in front of the computer.

On August 13th I was contacted by Holly, the GIS mapping expert for Omega who informed me that she was working on the editing and finalization of the map that I had sent back to her. With 273 burials plotted, this has been a tedious process on my part just in just trying to make sure it is correct. I said 273 burials when in all of my other reports I have listed 271 burials. One we missed during the initial mapping, a known, marked burial, was that of my great, great grandmother, Elizabeth Cale Hanger (1826-1903), and there was one other previously unknown grave that did not get logged.

I also provided the best photos I have of each headstone to Holly in case some of mine came out better than the ones Len took at the time of mapping. I am hoping for a good final product, and I will say that in my opinion the folks at Omega Mapping have gone above and beyond to make sure that is what we get from their end. Work continues on that project, and I contemplate being finished around September 3rd. I look forward to providing a completion report in the next newsletter.

Two Field Trips Scheduled to Dutch Hollow

There are two field trips to the cemetery scheduled for September. The first is on the 8th and I anticipate about 25 to 30 folks attending that. It is being done as a program for the Monday Mid-Day programs that Old Providence Church, my church, does each fall and spring. We have five programs in the fall and six in the spring with topics that range from mission trip speakers to department of wildlife biologists. Many of those I expect to attend are from the immediate area of Dutch Hollow and knows many of the family names associated with the cemetery. I do hope the weather is good and that those in attendance have a rewarding time.

The second field trip is for the Augusta County Genealogical Society, and I expect fifteen to twenty at that event. Both trips are free and open to the public. I plan to publish a report in the October newsletter.

Obituaries in The Library/Archives

There are now over 1100 obituaries in the Library/Archives section. Use them for your own work if it will save you valuable research time. It has taken several years to compile this list, which usually grows a little bigger each month. If you ever need something in particular, let me know and I will do my best to find it or find someone who can. You must log in to get to these and the many other files that are archived there.

Middlebrook, Virginia

I am doing some research on the history of Middlebrook. I am just getting started and I am not sure how much I can uncover that has not already been documented by others, but so far I am finding some fascinating little-known facts about the town and its people. I am learning a great deal from interviewing family historians in the area that had ancestors in and around Middlebrook starting in the 1700s. It will take months to complete this work but I will make a full report if and when I get finished.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or find errors in the newsletter.

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 - 200 Total

Obituaries & Death Notices - 1122 (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 - 39

Marriages - 146

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 52 folders. There are over 350 files contained within those 52 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