

# THE HEADSTONE

Vol. IV

July 2026

Issue VII

Hello to all!

It is my hope that your late spring and pre-summer life has gone as well as can be expected and that the weather is tolerable for everyone. We have had two basic climates here since May, hot and dry and dry and hot. A little rain here and there but still way, way below normal. The silver lining to the cloudless skies have been that we have not had any bad storms. So, all is good and the rain will come with time.

I have had the opportunity to visit with some newfound cousins thus far this year thanks to them traveling to Dutch Hollow, and I have gotten a few more files uploaded to the new website, and we have a few new members and a few just-renewed used-to-be members, so all is good.

## Website Modules

I have added two new modules to the searchable database, Chancery Suits & Wills and Auctions & Estate Settlements. As for the chancery suits, I received an email from Ted Harrison, my 7<sup>th</sup> cousin and Missouri expert on the Hangers, Maupins and other families that went west in the early to mid-1800s. In that particular email Ted sent a copy of a chancery suit from a posting in an 1868 Staunton Newspaper and as he discussed his genealogical quandary and how the chancery suit had helped clear up a few things, he made me realize how helpful the suit notices would be if included in a searchable format. So, that is how that module evolved into existence. Being new, there are only a few files in there, but it is a start.

As for the auctions and estate settlements, not only do the newspaper postings usually describe the location of the property in question, but they also list the names of everyone involved, whether living or dead, and if deceased, who is next in line for the entitlement. So thanks Ted for spurring me on.

As for the searchable database, I gave it a permanent home of its own on the main menu bar so you should not have any trouble accessing it. A search tip: The modules for auctions & estate settlements, chancery suits, and death records have ALL the names associated with the event included in the searchable text part of the database. That means if John Doe was listed as an honorary pallbearer or a family member or the preacher or a plaintiff or defendant or anything else, using the search term John, John Doe, or Doe will bring up the file(s). I think this will help us all. Having said all of this, the 1,200 death records I entered before Ted got my lightbulb turned on to do this still needs to be updated. That is done at a rate of about ten files per hour, twelve if they have a short name list, so the update part will last well into the coming winter. All the new files being added from this point on will have all the names when uploaded.

When it comes to burial records, I am adding cemeteries and the burials associated with those cemeteries. Some are complete and others may only have a burial or two listed under the respective cemetery. To search by name, just use the name search bars but to search by cemetery, use the location search bar. If you want to see everyone buried at Oakland Methodist Cemetery, (which is one I have finished) just type Oakland Methodist Cemetery in the location search and all the burials there will come up. If then, for example, you find a name that you are interested in, clear your search bars and search by name and you will get results for every file that has that name listed. Last but not least, if you are still looking for John Doe, don't choose a data set like burials or ship list, etc., just put the name in the name search boxes and you will get ALL the files from every data set for that name. The process is not nearly as complicated as I have probably made it sound, so just experiment with it and you will quickly understand what it is I have feebly attempted to explain here. Knowing of course that our website cannot contain some of the information that can be found on Find A Grave, I have included the ID number for each burial that they have for your convenience.

I also encourage you to check out the resource links tab. There are almost eighty links to sites that I use a lot, and I suspect you do as well. You do not have to log in to access this module, and I find when I am doing research and need something from one of those sites it is just easier to use the module to get to the site with just one click of the mouse.

## Flagpole

You have seen me write it before and I will write it again here; You just can't beat good neighbors. I had occasion to be with my neighbor, website member and staunch supporter of the cemetery Jeff Pletcher a few weeks back and he showed me the new flagpole and flag he had purchased and erected at his house, which is just up the hollow from the cemetery. I expressed my admiration and he immediately asked, "would you like one for the cemetery?" Of course I said yes, actually I said YES!, and he went on to say that he would get the pole, flag, and the concrete to install the base and be back in touch. And the next day he did! We got the base installed and the day after that the flagpole was erected and the flag unfurled. What an edition to the cemetery, and what a neighbor! And it was his gift to all of us! Thank you Jeff for your unending kindness and generosity. A couple of photos follow of Old Glory and loved ones.



*Looking south from halfway up the north fenceline*



*Looking west from the lower end of the cemetery*



*My wife Laurin with her brother's dog "Marley" on the leash and her mom, Mary, holding "Otis" under the new flagpole.*

## The Glebe

Not a lot of folks know exactly what a Glebe is. Even those that have had interests in cemeteries and history are often stumped. It is not the waterfowl I am speaking of, that has an R, not an L. It is a word that is taken from the Latin word gleba, a noun that means clod of earth or lump of soil. Not much help there on defining the word. The Glebe I am referring to is defined as follows: *A plot of land historically owned by or yielding revenue to an English parish church or ecclesiastical benefice, originally intended to provide income or food for the local parish priest.*

As with a number of localities throughout Virginia, we had a Glebe. Because we were under British rule when Augusta County was formed from Orange County in 1738, and because we had to oblige the existence of the Anglican Church of England, (and at first no others) we had to by law procure a parcel of land, erect buildings, and construct a house for an Anglican minister to have means to provide subsistence for himself. Oh yea, and build a church. So, in 1745 we built a courthouse and the good governor of Virginia appointed 21 justices of the peace. From those 21 he appointed James Patton to serve as sheriff, John Madison to serve as clerk of court, and Thomas Lewis was appointed as county surveyor. Then eligible county voters had to select 12 vestrymen who were charged with hiring a minister, procure a farm, build the required farm building, a house, and a church. And they were charged with exacting tithables from each landowner based on the acreage they held to pay for all of that. The following was the order from then Virginia Governor Gooch to Sheriff James Patton on the qualifications required of the 12 vestrymen.

*"Directed to the Sheriff of Augusta County for Electing Twelve of the most able men of the Parish of Augusta...Freeholders and House Keepers of the Said County and parish...likewise to be conformable to the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England."*

The 12 were elected, and of the 12, eight are known to have been Presbyterian and two more are suspected of being so. Not good odds for the Church of England's future but it worked out great for our first amendment to the constitution. As for the minister's house, because of two court cases involving delays in getting the Glebe established, we have in the court records just what was provided, shown below.

**\*Dwelling House, 32x16, dove-tailed logs squared on 2 sides, framed & shingled**

**\*4 windows glazed with good glass, 8"x10" Two Windows above 8 lights in a window**

**\*good staircase & partition above stairs**

**\*2 outside doors (with lock and hung on iron hinges), 2 inside doors**

**\*raised panel floors laid with good quarter plank, upper floor planned both sides and tongued**

**\*2 brick or stone chimneys built with good lime**

**\*16x16 kitchen**

**\*10x10 dairy**

**\*40x22 barn with threshing floor**

**\*walled in garden    \*hand dug basement**

The Glebe was established about halfway between Middlebrook and Swoope, Virginia at the foot of Little North Mountain. The church was built in what is now Staunton. What is believed to be the footprint of the original church's foundation was located just last year using ground penetrating radar. Trinity Episcopal Church still stands there today (version 3). A little AI overview of that piece of history:<sup>1</sup>

*Founded in 1746 as Augusta Parish, **Trinity Episcopal Church** (214 W. Beverley St.) is Staunton's oldest place of worship. It famously hosted the fleeing Virginia General Assembly during the American Revolution and was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** in 1972.*

*The history of this historic congregation is divided into three physical structures, significant wartime service, and renowned ecclesiastical art:*

### **1. The Early Years and Revolution**

- **Founding:** Established a year before the city of Staunton was officially chartered. Early services took place in the county courthouse.
- **The First Building (1763):** Constructed on land granted by William Beverley, the small 25 × 40 foot brick building became a key political hub during the Revolutionary War.
- **The Virginia Assembly:** In 1781, state lawmakers fled Richmond and then Charlottesville to escape British raiders, subsequently holding legislative sessions in the original church building.

### **2. The Second Building and Civil War**

- **The Second Building (1830):** The growing congregation outgrew the original space, utilizing bricks from the first church to construct a new sanctuary.
- **Civil War Era:** The current sanctuary was used by the Virginia Theological Seminary during the Civil War, and its surrounding historic churchyard – which was Staunton's only graveyard until 1849 – contains burials of 17 American Revolutionary soldiers.

### **3. The Present Gothic Revival Structure**

- **The Third Building (1855):** Designed by English architect J.W. Johns, the current Neo-Gothic dark red brick building features distinctive angle-buttressed towers and was built to accommodate a booming congregation.
- **Expansions:** Side aisles were widened between 1869–1872, and the chancel was extended in 1887.

To learn more about Trinity Episcopal Church and her history, the link below will take you to the history page of their website. This page has additional links for even more history if you wish to pursue it.

[Trinity Episcopal Church - Staunton, Virginia](https://www.google.com/search?q=history+of+trinity+episcopal+church+in+staunton+virginia&rlz=1C1CHZN_enUS985US985&oq=history+of+trinity+episcopal+church+in+staunton+virginia&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOdIBCTIyNTQ3ajBqN6gCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

So, with a little background provided on a Glebe, specifically The Augusta County Glebe, what about the cemetery? This was much easier and given that death is non-denominational, I suspect most folks felt okay about this part of the requirement.

**\*We know that the Glebe land was purchased in 1748**

**\*In 1755 the vestry minutes recorded 4 entries together: build an office at the Glebe, pale a graveyard on church land, wall in the Glebe House cellar, and create a Glebe garden**

**\*makes sense that the reference**

**is to the cemetery on the Glebe**

**\*oldest stone there is dated 1755**

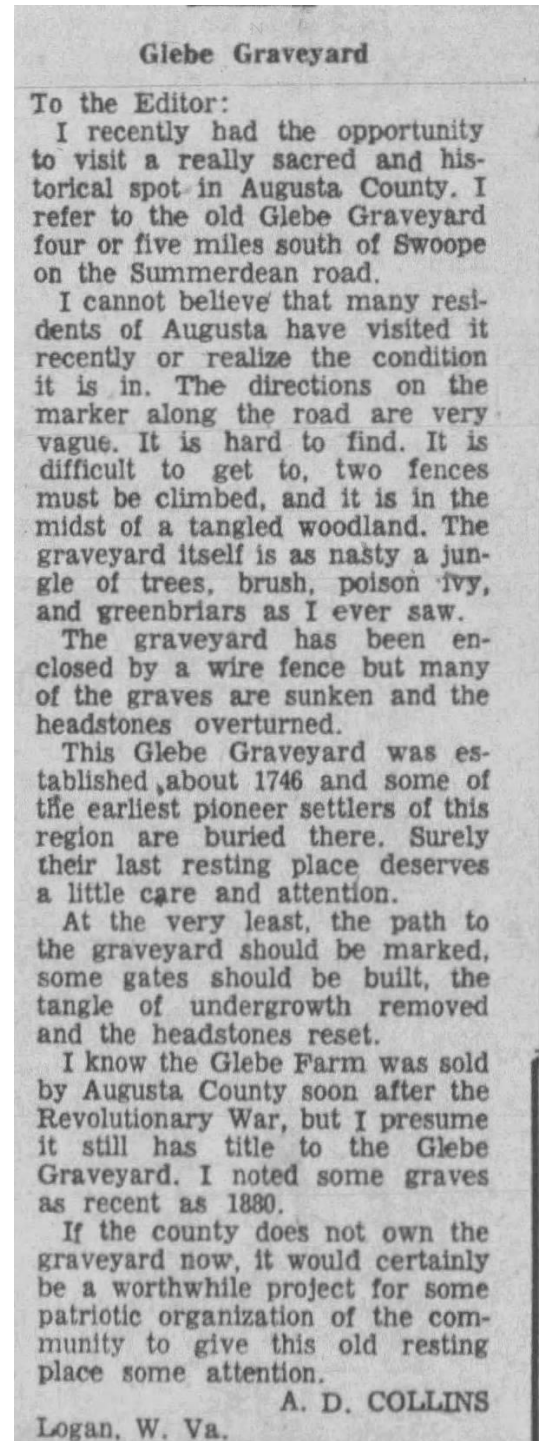
Much of the foregoing information has been gleaned from a presentation that author, historian, and publicist Nancy Sorrells provided to the Augusta County Genealogical Society in a presentation on June 17, 2026. Thank you Nancy for allowing me to use your research.

Now, to the point of the lengthy introduction to The Glebe. Retired Brigadier General Theodore Shuey has taken it upon himself to spearhead the restoration of The Glebe Cemetery. And who is Ted Shuey. In a nutshell, Brigadier General Theodore "Ted" G. Shuey Jr. is a retired U.S. Army and Virginia Army National Guard officer renowned for his 37 years of military service, command of the historic 116th Infantry Regiment, and his historical work preserving the legacy of the 29th Infantry Division.

Ted got GPR completed last year, the same week that we had it done at Dutch Hollow. On June 9, 2026, we were able to get the grave markers installed and on June 13<sup>th</sup> the real work of repairing and resetting headstones began.

The Glebe had fallen into disrepair many decades ago and several noble efforts were mounted to restore it, but it just never did come to fruition. As a matter of fact, folks were writing about its condition in 1958. I digress to share the article at right.

Ted is rewriting this story. I will simply share a few photos of where things stand now, and I think you will get a glimpse of where they are headed.





*James and J. D. Hulvey, Cementarians in their own right, installing grave markers, with me just trying to keep up with them back on June 9th.*



*The only marked headstone in what is believed to be the section of slave and freed slave burials. There are 39 additional unmarked graves in that section of the cemetery. Ceely as she was called, was born about 1818 and died in 1883. She was living in the household of a family also buried at The Glebe on the 1870 and 1880 census, listed as a servant. I found a Black female on the 1860 slave schedule for this same family that could be Ceely.*



*There are a lot of stones just like these, just waiting to be repaired and reset.*



*The best way to describe this view in my opinion is, "With much work comes much reward."*



*A Stringline was set to get the stones as straight as possible when reset. This is the Ewing family "section" with the earliest birth and burial dates found thus far being 1762 and 1793.*



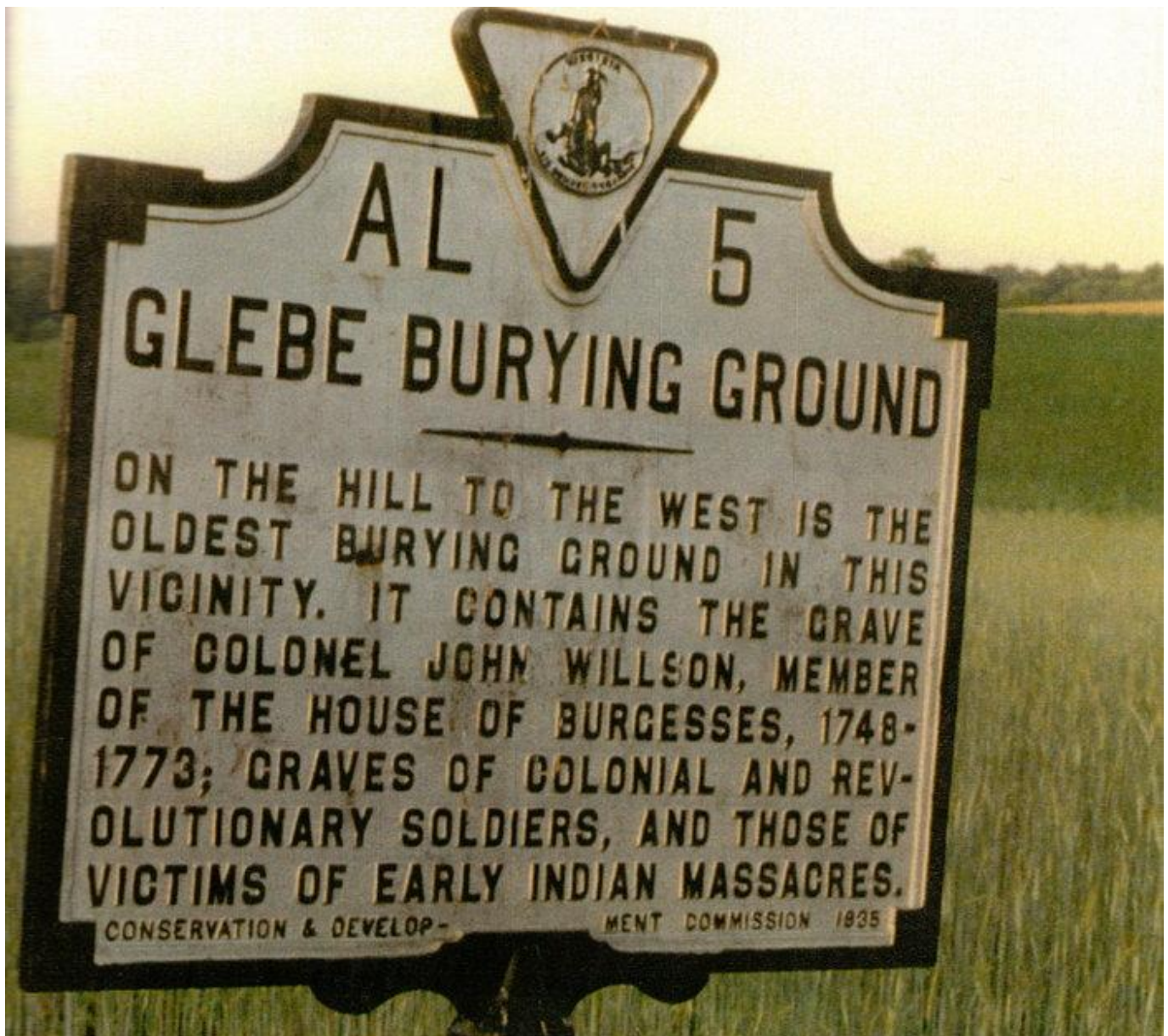
*The stone on the platform being clamped was broken in five pieces. Soon to be reset in one piece.*



*Three headstones reset, two footstones reset, and one footstone glued and clamped yet to be reset. A little progress but progress all the same.*

I will attempt to provide progress reports on The Glebe work that Ted is doing. He and I have a fair amount of additional information for anyone that may desire to know more about the cemetery or those buried there as does the Augusta County Historical Society.

There are at least seven Revolutionary War Patriots there, and John Wilson is buried there. He served in the Virginia House of Burgesses for 27 years. He died in 1774. And if you recall last month's newsletter article about Keller Cemetery, you may recall that Mr. & Mrs. Crawford were buried at the Glebe after being killed in an Indian attack in 1764 as were the Trimbles. There is a lot of history at The Glebe, and Ted's goal is to save it. With a little help from others, I happen to believe he will do just that.



## Planned Programs



### ***30th ANNIVERSARY & ANNUAL PICNIC***



### ***AUGUSTA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY***



***PARTY***  
***Time***



**Wednesday, July 15th ~ 5:30-7:30 PM**

***Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall  
30 Tinkling Spring Dr., Fishersville, VA***

**Food, Fun, and Fellowship**

**Teresa Whitesell will provide music on guitar & vocals**

**Bingo with prizes**

***PLAN TO JOIN US!***

**Bring your favorite food to share  
& your vintage tablecloths to use ~**

**chicken, pork bbq, & beverages are provided**

**RSVP at [www.acgsva.org](http://www.acgsva.org) or email us at [acgsva@gmail.com](mailto:acgsva@gmail.com)**

**~ BY July 10th**

## Website Updates: Members Section

### LIFE MEMBERS

Al Wilkerson 2025   Glenn Hanger 2025   Crim Lotts 2025

Michael Clinebell 2025   Ted Harrison 2026   Mary Ellen Kutas 2026

| <u>Some of the Website Records</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Added Since June 1st</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Death Records                      | 1261         | 72                          |
| Burial Records                     | 212          | 74                          |
| Marriage Records                   | 229          | 43                          |
| Miscellaneous Documents & Photos   | 1,339        | 36                          |
| Schoolhouses                       | 103          | 103                         |
| Ship Passenger Lists               | 19           | 0                           |
| <u>NEW SEARCH MODULES ADDED</u>    |              |                             |
| Auctions & Estate Settlements      | 12           | 12                          |
| Chancery Suits & Wills             | 10           | 10                          |

Until next month, Blessings, Happy 250<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Happy Trails,

*Glenn Hanger*

President, Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery