



NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND SHARING THE UNIQUE HERITAGE OF OUR COUNTY

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Exciting Happenings!

Here's a look at what's going on at the Society office during our winter shutdown.

Our roof is being restored to the original 1914 appearance: slate, with dormers and skylights. Yes, there were skylights in 1914! It's going to be beautiful.

The Historical Society Library hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed for legal holidays and inclement weather.

WASHINGTON COUNTY ROOTS

After retiring at the end of 1992 I began looking into family history and joined the Eastside Genealogical Society in Bellevue, Washington. I found living relatives I had not previously known, and we shared some family stories. Research into census and other records helped extend my knowledge and understanding of our shared ancestry on both my mother's and father's lines. Fortunately, my mother acquired and passed along to me many photos, stories and family tree charts. As I explored these leads I discovered roots in Washington County, Virginia, on her paternal line (Jones and Cowan) and maternal line (Fletcher and Clark.) Her aunt, Beth Hale did considerable research and corresponded with the Washington County Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court in Abingdon in 1966. Clerk Katherine G. Mock sent records of 70 acres on the Middle Fork Holston River sold and deeded to my great/great grandfather Furney Jones in 1835. Also, 150 acres on both sides of South Fork Holston River were deeded to Furney Jones in 1850. In 1856 Furney and wife, Rebecca Cowan deeded 280 acres in this area to William Carson. Also in 1856 they purchased 730 acres near Tazewell, Tennessee, where they survived the Civil War and lived out their lives.

Furney and Rebecca were married in 1831 in Wythe, Virginia, where a James Cowan family, probably including her parents and a brother A.J. Cowan, resided as shown on 1810-1830 census reports. Between 1834 and 1852 Furney and Rebecca, both born in Virginia, had eight children, also born in Virginia, perhaps near Abingdon. Furney returned to Abingdon for the April 30, 1858, Samuel and Margaret Hawthorne estate and slave sale. A young male slave Mark, age 9, is listed as sold to Furney Jones for \$920 (equal to

\$22,500 today.) Young female slave Fanny, age 10, was sold to John Hawthorne for \$700 (\$17,500 today.) Both these young slaves were included in the 1860 slave census for Tazewell, Tennessee, as owned by Horatio T. Hawthorne.

Apparently, H T's father-in-law Furney and brother John bought the young Hawthorne slaves for H.T., who may have been unable to travel from Tazewell because of two young kids and a third about to be born to his wife. At the slave sale William Carson (H.T.'s brother-in-law who purchased the Furney Jones Washington County property in 1856) also purchased one of the slaves. The Jones, Hawthorne, Carson and DeBusk families must have been close neighbors in Virginia. Furney's daughter Margaret married Horatio T. Hawthorne in 1853 and his daughter Amanda married James DeBusk in 1856. They all lived near each other from 1856 at Tazewell, Tennessee. After the Civil War Furney made claims with the Southern Claims Commission for property taken but not paid for by Union forces. Sworn statements supporting his claims were signed by H.T. Hawthorne, James DeBusk and A.J. Cowan indicating they were close neighbors and witnessed the events.

Though I've learned a lot, I still don't know exactly where Furney and Rebecca were born, or their parents' names. The genealogy hobby continues to prove that discovering family history is not a destination, but a life-long journey.

Bill Dillon

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This article was originally published in the Bristol Herald Courier Friday, February 12, 1965, Page 1 B. You can find this and many other local history documents in our collections at the Historical Society Library

The Real Pioneers

Many Families Settled Area

By Gordon Aronhime

Colonel John Buchanan, Charles Sinclair, Jacob Castle, and Samuel Stalnaker - and rather mythical figure of Stephen Holston - were the real pioneers and explorers of our area.

Dr. Thomas Walker, as indicated in a prior article made at least two exploratory trips in the area, 1748 and 1750, leaving an invaluable journal of the second but no record of the first trip. Of all these, only Sinclair and Stalnaker became settlers.

What of the other settlers besides these two men and their families? Who were they? What became of them? Where did they live? The answer to these questions represent the very interesting, but only sketchily known, chronicle of the Goldman, Baker, Carlock Sterns (Starnes), Lyon and Hamilton families. Their homes stretched across the land from just north of Glade Spring to near Marion, as we reckon locations some 200 and more years later. They are the real pioneers of the first, ill-fated settlement of the Holston Country.

It has already been pointed out that Samuel Stalnaker, somewhat a community leader, was the first settler of this region. Less than six months after Dr. Walker and his men helped Stalnaker raise his cabin, a whole community had sprung up along the present upper section of Washington and lower section of Smyth counties.

Where Did They Live?

This raises the question quite naturally as to where these families lived. It can be fairly well established that Samuel Stalnaker lived on the upper reaches of what we call today Plum Creek. For some, this can be more precisely located by saying it was near the site of old Washington Springs Hotel, that Edwardian hostelry whose very name evokes in older citizens dim but nostalgic recollections of long verandahs, good fried chicken and infinite boredom that was enjoyed by all.

Stalnaker's immediate neighbor was Humphrey Baker and his family group.

The Lyon family probably lived on the North Fork of Holston just above the present town of Saltville. This is where the land was located when the settlers returned. (The Lyons family among them) in 1770 when the settlements were re-established so it is very likely that this is the original location. To bolster this opinion, the gap in Walker's Mountain, through which the present Chilhowie-Saltville road runs (State Road 107) is called even today (212 years later) "Lyons Gap."

Just east of the Baker settlement lived the Starnes (Sterns) and Carlock families. The creek that flows into the Holston River at the intersection of State Road 107, mentioned just above, and U. S. 11 is called Carlock's Creek. The family of that name certainly lived up this creek, as did the Sterns family. The Carlocks were closely related by blood and marriage, it would seem, to the Goldmans, Starnes, and Bakers. Of the Carlock family, Thomas, David, and Hunchrist were among the very early settlers. The name Hunchrist is an interesting amalgamation of Johann Christian!

The Starnes family still live in the area, This name being quite prevalent in Scott County. Also spelled Sterns, the family figures

prominently in the annals of lower Southwest Virginia from 1742 till after the Revolution. They left this area, went to Greene County, Tennessee. and. then, after the turn of the century, returned to Scott County, where they had made very early explorations - a cabin known by the name of Jacob Sterns place appearing in the order books of the county for 1778. It is interesting that the earliest Starnes to live in the Chilhowie section did not include the most famous member of the family.

Mention Of Thomas Starnes

There is mention of Thomas Starnes in the era just before the French and Indian War along the Holston. Frederick, the best known of the family, continued to live on the waters of New River in this period and was captured by the Indians, but escaped in July, 1755. After the return of settlers, in the 1770-1772 period, Frederick Starnes came to Chilhowie region to live. On an expedition against the Indians with his brother, his nephew and nephew-in-law, he met death, as did all the quartet except the nephew. This occurred on April, 7 1779 somewhere in Wise County, probably.

The Goldman family is an especially interesting one. There is no doubt they were close kin to the Starnes, Carlock, and Baker families. It is quite likely that the wife of Jacob Goldman, Sr. (died in Dec. 1750 near present Blacksburg), whose name was Mary, was a sister of Humphrey Baker and that Goldman's daughter Mary was the wife of Frederick Starnes and that his sister was the wife of one of the Carlocks.

Frederick Starnes and Humphrey Baker were executors of the will of this Goldman in 1750 along with Goldman's daughter Mary. Since Frederick Starnes' wife was named Mary and since they all had sons named Jacob and Conrad, there is little doubt that the families were closely interconnected.

At any rate, the Goldman family not only moved west, but further west in the period of 1750-55 than any family at all except the Hamiltons, of whom next to nothing is known. In the will of the elder Jacob Goldman, there are three children mentioned, though the will clearly indicates there are other children. These two mentioned are Jacob Jr. and John.

By a singular coincidence, the location of this land is clearly preserved in the early Surveyor's Book of Washington County, Va. The land in question is in the area we call today Keewood and the Keewood Gap (State Road 750 from Glade Spring to Plasterco). When the fighting broke out in the fall of 1754, the first families to feel the sting of death from the Shawnees included the Goldman family, the son John Goldman being killed in October, 1754.

Fortunate To Have Data

Much as it is to be regretted that so little is known of this brave settlement that flourished along the Middle, South, and North Forks of Holston in 1750-55, we are fortunate to have so much definite data on families and events of well over two full centuries ago. Perhaps this series on the oldest historical records we have, stretching back at least to the fall of 1746 - now 219 years ago - will give us some sense of our place in history.

This is the final article of a series of five on the true pioneer settlers. It is also the next-to-last article in this whole series, stretching over a period of two full years. Many letters have been received from readers, some praising some bitterly condemning what has been written in columns. Both have been pleasing since the object has been to stimulate interest in area history and to help awake residents to their wonderful historical heritage - one of the greatest in the nation.

Perhaps in the future a new series of articles can be written. Until then, the writer would like to thank the readers for their unusual interest.

A Mystery Solved

By Charlie Barnette

12 April 2011

The members of the Cemetery Committee (John Gregory, Troy Taylor, Carol Hawthorne-Taylor, Doris Wells who is accompanied by her mother, Juanita Neese, and myself), are having a head-banging session. Carol & I are having trouble finding the Clark cemetery #157. Doris consults her Clark papers and notes it has a limestone wall around it and is located off of the Lee Highway. Juanita verifies this. Consternation arises, as the only cemetery of that description and location is the Middleton cemetery #380.

After the meeting, Carol & I decide to check the Middleton cemetery. We had seen the cemetery several times from the highway and never bothered to stop. After all it was pretty well cut & dried, as the "monuments" were all embedded within the north and west walls. It was a chill April day. It had been drizzling - a cold rain - but that slackened off, until we reached our destination and were walking across the field towards the limestone walls that protected Middleton. I climbed over the upper wall and, as Carol hunkered down, braced against the chill rain, I circled the briar-infested interior. The Middleton stones were easily seen even though a few had separated from their niches on the walls and fallen to earth. I checked several fragments of stones that appeared to have been tombstones but found no traces of lettering.

Then, about midway of the west wall and almost buried, I uncovered a partial stone for Job M. Clark, listed as Job Clark, Jr. in #157 Clark, not in Middleton #380. Our suspicions were realized. I continued to search and found no other stones and, as the day was getting late and the rain becoming more intense we decided to leave, having solved one riddle: Clark #157 and Middleton #380 were one and the same.

But now we had other questions: How did whoever read Clark for High on a Windy Hill (HOWH) Vol. 1, miss the Middleton stones? They were obviously in place upon the walls when it was read. In HOWH Vol. 2, the cemetery is named Middleton and no Clarks are noted. But that is easily explained: the readers didn't see or find any stones for #157 Clark due to same being buried. It would be another year before we would return and learn more about this puzzle.

4 April 2012



Carol Hawthorne-Taylor and I returned to the cemetery with Doris Wells, who insisted upon coming along as the Clarks are in her line, and she was as anxious to discover the whys of Clark-Middleton as we were. We had much better weather on this jaunt, and had brought a ladder, thus enabling all of us to climb into the cemetery and search. The briars were thicker than I remembered due to an early spring. The ticks were fighting each other for room on our bodies. The groundhogs had made a mess of the interior with holes & mounds of clay scattered about. It was a war zone.

After a short while, another piece of the Job M. Clark stone was found, also alongside the west wall. Then, over in the

southeast corner where we had noted a plain footstone, I saw part of a larger thick stone, and when the dirt was removed, it turned out to be a base with a slot for a very large stone. We measured the Job M. Clark stone and it was too narrow at the base. Meaning one thing: there had to be another stone buried, perhaps nearby this slotted base. After some probing with a long steel probe, Carol hit something to one side of the base. I grabbed up the shovel and began digging. Slowly, a long wide tombstone revealed itself. It was a large stone and took quite some time to carefully remove from the clay. It was

lettered (practically) from top to bottom. And it was for 5 of those listed in HOWH Vol.1, Clark #157, *with differences*:

On this single stone was inscribed:

J M Clark	30 Jan 1847 - 8 Mar 1872
Sarah M Clark	3 Mar 1858 - 1 Jan 1859
Walter P Clark	11 Sep 1845 - 13 Feb 1863
E M C Clark	5 Jan 1856 - 4 Jun 1862
E S C Clark	5 Jan 1856 - 31 May 1862
B R J Clark	4 Jul 1854 - 8 Jun 1873

*note: there is no Jr. on Job Clark's stone and the death date is 1873 not 1872. J M Clark on the newly unearthed stone is same person as Job M. Clark on the stone dug on 12 Apr 2011.

McConnell had listed, per Mrs. W.M. Richards:

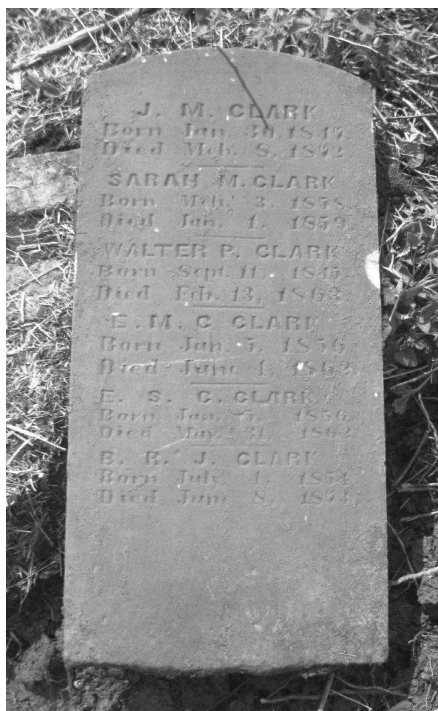
Amelia Clark	age about 3y
Sarah Margarette Clark	age 9m
Ellen Campbell Clark	age 6y
Edward Campbell Clark	age 6y
Walter P Clark	age 17y6m2d
Beverly Clark	d/8Jun 1873 age 19y
Lucinda Leonard Clark	d/2Aug 1875 age 60y2m
Thomas W Clark	d/21Mar 1922 age 79y
Dr. William L. Clark	b/20Sep 1851 - d/5Feb 1917
as well as Job Clark, Jr.	b/30Jan 1847 - d/8Mar 1872, as being buried here.

Our conclusions:

#1 - no one has seen or read this recently unearthed stone and the list in HOWH Vol.1 must have come from a family bible or someone's memory.

#2 - the reader had never been within the cemetery, or else they would have noted all the Middleton tablets.

Thus, several questions are answered about Clark-Middleton Cemetery. But there is still the matter of the "missing" stones for Amelia Clark, Thomas W Clark, Dr. William L Clark, & Lucinda Leonard Clark, as well as the new addition of J M Clark to the listing. Hmmmm.....this requires another exploration of this unusual cemetery, when the ticks are all gone.



RESEARCH UPDATE:

Dr. W L Clark is buried at Bethel cemetery with wife, Mary.

Thomas Clark, i.e. Sleepy Tom, is said to be buried at the Keller cemetery. There is no stone there for him.

Therefore, Amelia and Lucinda (and possibly Thomas) are the only ones yet unaccounted for.



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The new friendly voice on the phone at the Historical Society is *Carol Hawthorne-Taylor*. Carol is a retired 5th grade teacher, so keeping up with all our volunteers should be easy for her. She has been a volunteer, Membership Coordinator, Board member, cemetery hunter, and now the Office Coordinator. Be sure to say 'hello' the next time you call.

Your membership in the Historical Society is appreciated. Please help us stay in touch with you!

- send a change-of-address card when you move,
- or call our offices at 276-623-8337,
- or e-mail us at office@hswcv.org

A Soldier's Song

Submitted by Jim Hagy

A confederate soldier on duty in Washington County wrote a song "I want to be a soldier" which was sung to the air "I want to be an angel". The *Abingdon Virginian* printed it on December 5, 1862.

I want to be a soldier,
But not to stay in camp.
I'd rather not expose myself
To Bullets, dust and damp;
I'd rather be an officer,
With gold upon my arm,
Receive the pay and rations due,
And keep away from harm.

I never do get weary

Of walking round the town,
But, strange to say, the shortest march
Is sure to break me down:
I know the ranks don't suit me,
For when I get away
From camp and go back home again
I don't feel sick a day!

I know I'm brave as any man
But no man wants to die,
Altho' I own that some will stand
Where balls and grape-shot fly;
I'd much prefer to stay at home
And eat good butter'd bread
Than fight all day with naught to eat
The solid ground for my bed.

I think it is a right hard case
That men should have to go
And join the army, whether they
Should want to fight or no;
But then you're made a conscript,
If you don't go ahead.
And all the ladies scorn you so,
You might as well be dead.

And so I'd be a soldier,
And with the soldiers stand,
I'd talk as much of Southern Rights
As any in the land;
For if a fellow chooses
And plays his cards all right
He can always leave the army
When there's going to be a fight