

UP THE CREEK

Hacker's Creek Newsletter

June

2019

Is the Cemetery Dead?



The model of caring for and remembering the dead remained unchanged for over 100 years. However in recent years change has come in ways of how we plan for the fate of our departed loved ones. The average funeral cost today is over \$9000.00. Few choose how they die, but they can choose what happens next. Most leave this process to loved ones who, in their distress usually outsource the decision to an undertaker. Another factor is the environmental toll. We bury our love ones along with wood, metal, concrete and toxic chemical fluids. Today people are embracing eco-friendly burial options. Many go with cremation while others are choosing biodegradable methods. History repeats itself; many of our ancestors were buried organically. Basically it is the old concept of ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

As genealogists we deal with death records, obituaries and cemeteries. Many of the old family cemeteries have no living caretakers and the ancestor's grave sites become lost. In this newsletter I'm telling stories of 2 such cemeteries where good, caring people have stepped up to respect our ancestors. We need to respect the past and consider the future. Is the cemetery dead?

Death isn't a topic we like to talk about. But one needs to think and plan the next steps while living. If you are a genealogist, consider all your hard work of family research and be sure to will it to a historical or genealogical repository.

***The smallest
good deed is
better than the
grandest
intention.***

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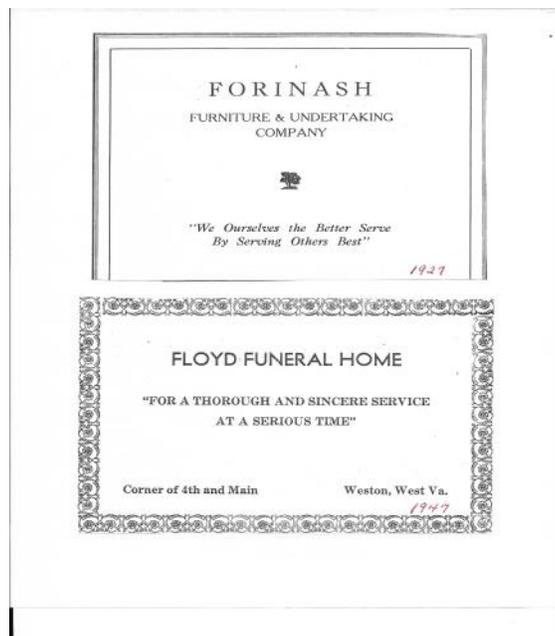
One beautiful day as I was walking down Main Street in Buckhannon, WV, I happened to look up and noticed an old advertisement on the side of a building. It reads: "Rohrbough Furniture & Undertaking" What? Furniture and undertaking, what's up with that? That began my research.



In the early 1800's most communities did not have funeral homes or even undertakers. The families took care of their deceased loved ones, by having a wake and wrapping the deceased in quilts or placed in a box then taken to the cemetery by horse and wagon for burial. I'm sure many farmers did not have the skills or time to design a burial box. This is where the furniture makers came in. They were talented in cabinet woodworking thus creating a sideline undertaking business.

In Upshur County a Mr. J. W. Rohrbough opened his furniture and undertaking business in 1877. In 1899 he moved to Elkins and Boreman and Hooker Furniture and Undertakers took over his business. They painted over his advertisement but over time the paint faded revealing the Rohrbough sign. You can clearly see the advertising on the building. The building is located across Main Street from the courthouse and a little to the right.

In 1883 a Mr. James C. Forinash and Co. opened for business in Lewis County. The business provided fine furniture and funeral services. In 1884, Mr. Forinash was the 15th West Virginian to be licensed as an embalmer. He purchased the first funeral hearse ever to be used in Weston. Mr. Forinash in 1918 hired Roy Glenn Floyd to work in the store and as an assistant undertaker. Mr. Floyd bought the business in 1915 and the rest is history.



Good Works of Neighbors

A lonely abandoned cemetery sits off of old Rt. 33, in the Gaston Road area. The cemetery is called the Bush Graveyard. Through a community group effort the old cemetery is once again a serene, peaceful place for those souls resting there. Credit goes to Randall Bush, of the Lewis County Sheriff Dept., Delmas McCauley, Tammy Rush and James & Crystal Lough for their hard work on cleaning/caretaking the cemetery. They plan to erect a sign and continue caretaking. If you have ancestors resting there and would like to contribute to the upkeep of the cemetery, then please contact HCPD and we will notify the group.

A Short History of the Cemetery

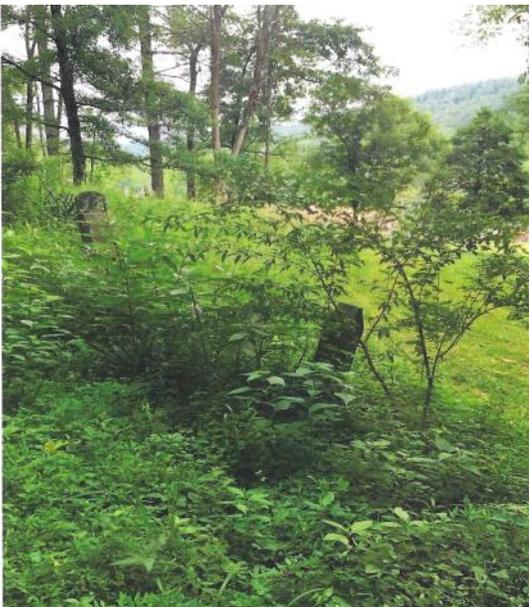
Jacob Bush owned the farm in the early 1800's. It was established as a burying ground in 1831. In 1907 a deed was made by the owners of the land to set aside this parcel for the cemetery. The parcel of (¼ acre) contained the remains of some of the early settlers. The trustees were to continue the said burial grounds, to be known as "The Bush Graveyard" and to keep it properly enclosed and fitly beautify it

Surnames of souls buried there are: Bell, Bethel, Bonnett, Bush, Canfield Curtis, Fox, Peterson, Shifflet, Smith, Swisher and Williams.

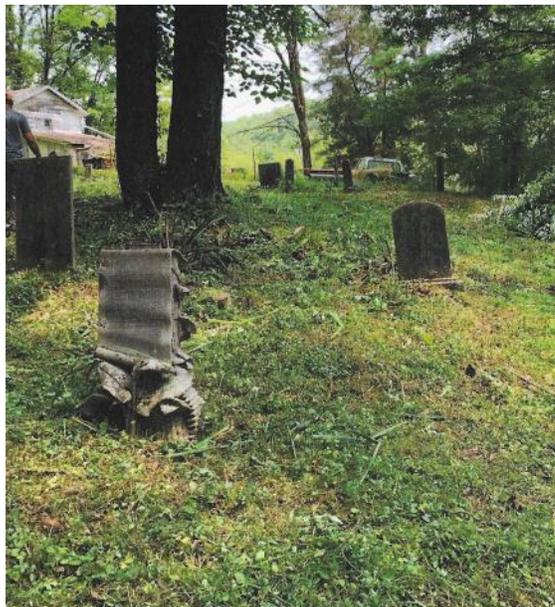
Jacob Bush was the son of George and Mary Bush. Jacob was one of the wealthiest and most prosperous farmers of the time. He was described as jovial, self-reliant, and kind man who was a good citizen and neighbor. His wife Elizabeth was the daughter of Andrew and Catherine Marteney Stalnaker. They were married in 1830. Jacob died in 1865 and Elizabeth in 1886.

More Information can be found in the library. We do have a record of those buried there.

Before



After



Searching Newspapers

The daily newspaper can serve as wrapping paper, packing material, pet liner, landscape cover, pattern material and many more creative uses. To the genealogist it can be a valuable source of information. We need to re-search not only the obituary pages but check out the marriage notices, legal notices and social items. From the advertisement pages you can find out about what your ancestors were buying, who they were purchasing it from and how much they were paying. It can also lead you to an ancestor that may have own a business and where it was located.

We do have microfilm of the Weston Democrat 1871-1880 to view at the library.

Below is a short list of some websites to check out for newspapers.

Chronicling America

[Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

Pages digitized in the Library of Congress from 1789-1963

Elephind

www.elephind.com

Smart search scours more than 181 million items from 3,566 newspaper titles for your ancestors

GenDisaster.com

Browse by state, year to read all about disasters

Newspaper.com

www.newspapers.com

Ancestry owned site (payment required)

Browse the Google News archive going back to the mid-1880s at <news.google.com/newspapers>.

Members Page

I am dedicating a page for Members. Send any query, questions, info you want to share (short) to hcpd@hackerscreek.com. This email address comes directly to me, Patty. The newsletter is issued in June and December. If you want something in the next newsletter please submit it by November, 2019.

Query from member

I am trying to find citations for the parents of James Pritt born about 1813 in Bath, Lewis Co. VA. He was married to Rachael McKissic, born Dec. 25, 1818, Upshur County, VA; died Oct 7, 1890, Kanawha Head, WV; daughter of Andrew Jackson McKissic 1775-1836 and Susannah McCauley 1788-1866. James Pritt and Rachael were the parents of James Fletcher Pritt born Mr. 1, 1858, died Nov 30, 1926.

I have seen Edward Pritt and Sarah Miller listed as parents of James Pritt born about 1813, but I have also seen Elijah Pritt and Margaret Hansel listed as his parents.

Does anyone actually have birth certificate information or anything else as proof?

I appreciate any help you can give! You may contact Donna at email below, or contact HCPD.

Donna Vizza

vizza612@gmail.com

XX

Member Website and research

This HCPD member, Dean Robinson now has a website on the Robinson genealogy.

<http://robinsongenealogyofwva.com>

Mr. Robinson is versed in the DNA testing. Of the 4 descending Robinson lines, he has now Y-DNA tested all, except the line of James Jr. He continues the search for a living male descendant of James Robinson Jr.

Mr. Robinson can be contacted through his website, or notify HCPD and we will contact him.

Fairview Church Closed and Sold

A gentleman came into the library and donated documents from the old Fairview Church. He told us the church had been closed and sold. Oh! So sad! This led me to do a little historical research on the church. The following is a small slice of history of the church.

The Fairview Church is located on the Hacker's Creek Road about midway between Harmony and Berlin. The organization was formed by Rev. George Willis in 1870 and the Church built in 1872 under the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Barret.

The church had a 100 yr. Anniversary in 1972, making it now standing 147 years. The church was founded as a Methodist Protestant Church. It became a United Methodist church in 1969. The land was purchased December 9, 1871 from Holzen Kelley and deeded to Isaac N. Allman, Wm.O. Law and Edgar M. Kelley, trustees and their successors. The building committee in 1872 consisted of Samuel Alkire, D. R. Swisher and Wm. O. Law. Directions for construction were: To build a church house 30' X 40', 15' story in the clear, foundation ground to be well leveled, all dirt removed so that the wall can be built on solid ground, the walls to be sunk 15" deep in solid ground and to be built 17" high above the ground, 18" wide all around the house, also 4 pillars under the middle sill all to built of flag rocks and layed in good lime mortar in good mason style. Is it no wonder this church building has stood 140 years?

The Pastors who served from 1866-1884: Rev. R.S. Welch(1866) D.R. Helmick (1867) John Clark (1868) George Willis (1860-1870) Geo. W. Barret (1871-1872) John Norris (1873-1874)

Oliver Lowther 1875-1876 Dan G. Helmick (1877-1881) M. L. Bonnett (1882-1884) Note: We do have a complete list of serving Pastors in the library.

Surnames of members who attended: *Alman(Allman), Law, Hacker, Straley, Dean, Bennett, Wagoner (Waggoner), Cookman, Bailey, Post, Alkire, Westfall, Batten, Life, Swisher, Yoke*

(went west) Sutton, Bonnett and Smith

We have scan of names and dates of those who attended as members of the church and a scan of marriage's from 1882-1885. More information can be found in the library.



Church today and picture of the old flag rock foundation.



Hacker-Morrison Cemetery Project

The Morrison Cemetery (Also known as Old Hacker) was probably established in 1824. We say this because John Hacker was the first to be buried in this cemetery. The Cemetery was part of John Hacker's property. Today, it is still located on a lovely hill in the Hacker's Creek area and is accessible by vehicle. It is a historical site because many buried there are the pioneer settlers and related families of the Hacker Creek settlement.

Hacker's Creek Genealogy Library is asking for donations to install new fencing and repair to grounds and restoration of tombstones.

The last recorded burial was Gertrude Bonnett in 1929. We encourage you to participate in this worthwhile project especially if your family roots tie into these Hacker's Creek Pioneer Settlers: **Allman, Batten, Bonnett, Boram, Cozad, Hacker, Hersman, Hinzman, Lawson, Maxon, Morrison, Post, Smith, Starcher, Swisher, and Waggoner.**

All donations are appreciated and tax exempt. Donations can be mailed, made on-line at our website or call 304-269-7091 with credit card information.

HCPD

45 Abbotts Run Road

Horner, WV

www.hackerscreek.com



Schools, Schools, Schools



We are in the process of gathering information on one room schools of Lewis County. Our vision and goal is to publish a book. Audrey has most of the deeds together and some pictures. If you have any information or pictures you could share, please submit them to HCPD. We appreciate any help on this project! Email hcpd@hackerscreek.com or call (304) 269-7091.

Unknown School???

I found this funny for today, but must have been serious in 1915. It deals with the ladies, as I don't believe many men were teachers at that time. Not many would make the grade now.

Rules for 1915 School Teachers

You will not marry during the term of your contract

You must not keep company with men

You must be home between the hours of 8PM and 6AM, unless attending a school function

You may not loiter downtown in any of the ice cream stores

You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board

You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother

You may not smoke cigarettes

You may not dress in bright colors

You may under no circumstances dye your hair

You must wear at least two petticoats

Your dress must not be shorter than 2" above your ankle

To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day; and start the fire at 7AM so the room will be warm by 8AM

Copied from article Buckeye Farm News

Ten Tips to Google for Ancestors

1. Add the word genealogy to ancestor searches. Try adding a location, too, as in Thomas Frost Cincinnati genealogy.
2. Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase: "Thomas Edward Frost."
3. Use an asterisk inside quotation marks to specify unknown words: "Thomas * Frost."
4. Use OR (capitalized) to search for multiple versions of a name at once: "Thomas Frost" OR "Frost Thomas."
5. Use the minus sign to eliminate results with certain words: "Thomas Frost", - weather.
6. Search for words on specific websites, such as the local library or genealogical society: "Thomas Frost" site: hcg-sohio.org.
7. Browse the Google News archive going back to the mid-1880s at <news.google.com/newspapers>.
8. Search for images like the one you have by dragging it onto the Google Images home page <images.google.com>.
9. See if your ancestor has applied for a US patent at <patents.google.com>.
10. Search Google Books <books.google.com> for a person or place to find city directories, family history books and more.

Upcoming Events

- One Day Yard Sale on June 29th 9AM-5PM
- Closed July 4th weekend
- Board Meeting on July 11th at 10AM
- McWhorter Reunion on July 20th
- Christmas in July sale (fundraiser) July 27th sale of nice used Christmas Deco.
- Gathering August 8th -11th
- Jubilee (sale books)Aug. 30th –Sept. 1st.



Reminders!!!

- Don't forget to send in your registration for the Gathering by July 26th
- Please submit stories, pictures, queries and any short tips and hints genealogy information to HCPD for the Journal and Newsletter. I have a folder of submitted items. Your help is greatly appreciated as this helps me from having to research for interesting information. Or do you have something you would like to know the history of? *Need fresh ideas!!*



Donation Request

We are a non-profit organization. We do not receive funding from the state or federal. Our funding comes from membership dues, selling books, fundraising events and donations. We appreciate our members support. Operating expenses have increased and we try as much as possible to work at low budget. **We are asking for your help!** If you can afford to make a donation on a monthly basis large or small it would help us. *Example: 100 people donate \$20 a month would net \$2000 toward our operating cost.* Membership renewal of \$40 will be due in October. Consider adding a little extra in a donation. Our goal and purpose is to see our family history live on. The library is a treasure trove and contains insurmountable family history records. The website holds value information and in the future will contain and offer much more. We strive to serve and help all that enter the library or those who call or email us. If you as a member would like to see our financial statement, email or call.

Some of our projects: transcribe more circuit court records, transcribe a 1885 literary society record book, compose and publish a one-room school book of Lewis County, make more records available on our website along with eBooks, cemeteries of Gilmer county books by Radabaugh sisters, Hacker Book by William Hacker, L.L.D, and publish more old pictures.

Membership is \$40.00 year

Donations can be made to HCPD by mail or through our website at www.hackerscreek.com

We have many used items for sale along with used books available on our website.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our library.

HCPD

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Visit us on the web at
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE