

Bridges Newsletter

a publication of the
Fauquier Heritage & Preservation Foundation
Summer 2023

Announcements

• **New Hours on Two Days per Week** - Beginning July 11, 2023 we will be open on **Tuesdays from 10 am to 3 pm** and on **Wednesdays from 12 pm to 4 pm.**

• **Used Book Sale, Friday, Sept 29 and Saturday Sept 30, 10 AM to 4 PM. Sinclar Education Center, 4110 Winchester Road, Marshall, next door to The Gott Library.** This is a once-in-a-lifetime sale. Our volunteers have been cleaning out shelves, boxes, and forgotten corners for duplicate books and books not pertinent to the library's collection. There will be bargains galore. Don't miss this sale!

Volunteers at Work

The FPHF Volunteer Team is constantly at work. Terry Hill is researching buildings and families of Marshall. She is writing a walking tour of Marshall's commercial district in



preparation for the Marshall 225th anniversary celebration coming Sept. 29-30 of this year. Mark your calendar for this special event!

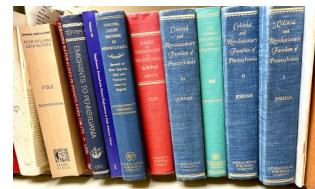
New Research Room Update

Great strides have been made in the creation of the library's Fauquier County Research Room.

► The new shelving has been installed in the new research room. The collection of Fauquier family surnames is no longer packed in the bookcases in the main library room. The collection now has room to breathe and expand as we receive new materials.



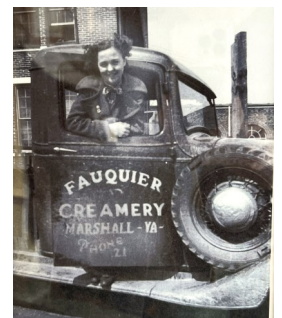
► Genealogical information from states other than Virginia have been moved to a separate room where there is also room for expansion.



► The Special Collection archives have all been moved to a separate room. This collection includes independent research by a number of noted Fauquier County historians.



► The Reception Room has a new display of Marshall history and objects. Can anyone identify the girl in the Fauquier Creamery truck?



Become a Volunteer -- We need more volunteers to do a wide variety of jobs. Give us a call—we will find you a job you will love. Request an application today.

The John K. Gott Library | 4110 Winchester Road | P.O. Box 594 | Marshall, VA 20116
Phone: 540-364-3440 | Email: gottlibrary@gmail.com | Website: www.thegottlibrary.org
Library Hours: Tuesday 10-3 and beginning on 12 July Wednesday 12-4
Education Center Hours: By Appointment

Life, Death and Rebirth of a Country Store

By John Toler

Heflin's Store, in Little Georgetown east of The Plains, is a small but significant piece of local history. It was built in 1845 by stonemason John M. Fry for the Stover family, who also owned the nearby Stover's Mill. Originally serving the community and travelers going between Warrenton and Winchester, business got a boost when the Manassas Gap Railroad came through in 1852.

During the Civil War Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, wounded Confederates were brought to the store, and those who died of their wounds were buried nearby in unmarked graves. Union troops who came to Little Georgetown also left their mark. In November 1862, two Yankees – Sgt. Thomas F. Hamilton and Pvt. Warren W. Hull of the 73rd Ohio Infantry – were at the store, and penciled their names and regiment on the inside wall next to the east gable window.

In 1895, the Stover family sold the store building to Henry Newlon Brawner, whose family property figured prominently in the Second Battle of Manassas. Brawner had rented Stover's Store for 11 years before buying the property. Involved in the emerging regional telephone business, Brawner built a nine-room house, barn and other outbuildings in the open area northeast of the store. Wishing to focus his energies on the telephone business, Brawner decided to sell the store and other buildings on the property. But there were no buyers, and in May 1899, the real estate, store inventory and Brawner's livestock were sold at auction.

The buyer was Edgar W. Heflin, who changed the name to Heflin's Store and added product lines, including clothing, hats and shoes. He operated the store until 1926 when due to mounting debt, it was again put up for auction. The purchaser this time was his son, Carlton Heflin. As an attorney Carlton Heflin had no interest in operating the store, which continued to be run by his father. Although it was in a perfect location to add gasoline pumps and take advantage of the coming automobile age, he resisted, limiting a future opportunity. Edgar Heflin ran the store until his death in 1945, at which time his wife took over. She lived in the house next door and kept sporadic hours, finally closing it down in the 1970s.

In November 1999, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Hazel Jr. purchased the 1.3 acre store property from Matthew Carlton Heflin Smith, a Heflin descendant. The Hazels had extensive stabilization and restoration work done on the store, and the decrepit old house and other outbuildings were demolished. After the work was done, an extensive nomination was prepared by Architectural Historian Cheryl H. Shepherd, and in 2004 the Stover-Brawner-Heflin Store was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In the survey for the registry, Mrs. Shepherd notes that the store "...is distinguished for remaining in its original form without envelopment by a larger commercial or residential addition," and that it is "...the solitary surviving example of an unaltered storehouse built of stone in Fauquier County."

From time-to-time, the store building was open by Mrs. Hazel for events held at the nearby chapel and Little Georgetown Cemetery. Now owned by the John T. Hazel Jr. Revocable Trust, Heflin's Store is not open to the public, but is visible from Blantyre and Trapp Branch roads.



Tree Dedication April 29

A tree dedication was held on April 29th in memory of Robert Stuart Sinclair who passed away in 2022. Robert was the son of Robert L. Sinclair, long time president of the Fauquier Heritage & Preservation Foundation. The tree is planted in front of the Sinclair Education Center. The dedication was attended by members of the Sinclair family, FHPF board members and friends.

