



FLOWERS ADORN GRAVES AT CENTRAL CEMETERY DECORATION LAST YEAR (2013)

Central Cemetery Cemetery

June 2014

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Decoration Day 2014

Decoration Day 2014 is nearly here! The fourth Sunday in June (June 22) will be here before you know it. After the long cold winter we just had it will be wonderful to greet family and friends "up on the hill" again for another great Decoration. The schedule and activities remain the same as in past years. A general clean up-fix up day will be held on Saturday and the Decoration will be on Sunday morning. We will visit in the Cemetery beginning around 9:30 a.m. and have a worship service at 11:00 with David Trent officiating. There will be a brief business meeting immediately following the service and a cookout in the afternoon. Please let me know if you are coming for lunch on Saturday or Sunday so I can be sure to cook up enough possum stew!

Cleanup Day

Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Come and help out as much as you like. We have lots to do, but there will be plenty of time to socialize, too. This is a good time to clean the moss from your family members' stones, do some trimming and decorating and general "sprucing up" of your Cemetery. We will have a good time and enjoy lunch around noon. Bring your cleaning supplies, a chair and a cheerful heart!



Decoration Day 2013

The photo above shows some of last year's participants relaxing under the trees after the worship service. The Cemetery continues to be a special gathering place to remember and honor our ancestors 170 years after the first burial there.

The grounds remain well maintained and cared for thanks to your generous support and monetary donations. Jason Funk and his family carry on the work of keeping the grass mowed and neatly trimmed. Volunteers continue to keep the headstones straight, the sunken areas filled, the fence "cow tight" and the trees trimmed. It takes many hours of labor each year to keep the Cemetery in tip-top condition and we encourage you to come out and lend a hand on June 21st. If you can't help with your muscles, please consider helping with your wallet by mailing in a donation to keep the Cemetery sparkling.



Cleanup Chores

In the photo above Andy Anderson and Ronnie Russell work on a marker on Cleanup Day 2013. There is more work to do this year! We have 9 "unknown" stones to install along with 2 reservation stones and one headstone replacement. More on these topics in the following pages.

We need your continuing financial support. Though we have not had any large capital improvement projects in the past year we do have mowing expenses and we continue to try to grow our long term fund in hopes of sustaining our Cemetery without donations soon. Send your donation in the enclosed envelope today!

What's New at Central

Change comes slowly to the mountains and hills of Grayson County. We kind of like things to stay the same. There is comfort in that. But a few things are changing:

The first and most noticeable change may be the replacement of the white crosses that mark "unknown" graves in the Cemetery. The Cemetery Board has voted to replace the crosses marking these graves with more permanent stone markers. The wooden crosses rot quickly at ground level (even using treated lumber) and must be replaced often. They require so much maintenance each year (painting them, replacing rotten ones and trimming around them) that we decided to make a more permanent memorial for these graves. The stones have a cross carved into them and will outlast many wooden crosses and most of us!

Finances

A less noticeable but very important change has come in our finances. We have had some "issues" with the financial institution where the bulk of our money is held. Individuals at this institution have retired or moved leaving our funds essentially unmanaged. As a result we are not receiving the maximum return on our investment.

We have 2 investment accounts – One at Wells Fargo which provided us with an annual return of just over 3.22% for tax year 2013. Our Edward Jones account (initially funded by a gift from Bill Prichett) managed by Jim Laub of Edward Jones, Inc. gave us a return of just under 25% during the same period.

We have "shopped" various fiduciary instruments and companies and decided that the Edward Jones managed account fits our situation best. We have history with Mr. Laub of Edward Jones (he has done a great job for us with the smaller fund) and we are in the process of moving our account from Wells Fargo to the Edward Jones account. We will likely diversify our funds as follows: 38.5% into Inter Bond Fund of America, 12.8% into Capital Income Builder Fund, and 48.7% into Income Fund of America – all are Class A American Fund instruments. Mr. Laub's services will include a bi-annual review/adjustment of our portfolio and immediate notification and/or consultation/action if or when a market storm appears on the horizon.

We are committed to growing our investment to the point where interest alone will pay the operating expenses of the Cemetery. We strive to invest conservatively in instruments that are safe, secure and grow steadily over time. We want to keep our risk LOW and income HIGH.

Income/Expenses last year

Last year we had expenses of: \$1550 for mowing. That's it! Note there is no expense for postage or paper for all of those newsletters, thank you notes and other correspondence. No expense for phone calls, travel, ink or other office supplies. No expense for flowers, food and drinks for the cookouts or paint and lumber for bench repairs. And no expense for the hours of labor contributed to the Cemetery. We are grateful for your donations and do not squander a penny!!! You can rest assured that your gifts to the Cemetery will be used to maintain the physical grounds of Central Cemetery and to fund the future upkeep of the Cemetery after the current generation of supporters has moved on!

Jacob Anderson Plaque Relocated to Correct Location

At the Anderson/Cornett Reunion last year there was some discussion of moving the memorial plaque for Jacob Anderson from its location behind Garnett Anderson's house to Jacob's actual grave site, approximately one mile west. Andy Anderson led the charge in this effort and I am happy to report that on November 23, 2013 Andy, Chris Stevens (owner of the Garnett Anderson house) Jason Funk (owner of the property where Jacob is buried – and the gentleman who mows Central Cemetery for us), and I successfully relocated the marker.

The plaque had originally been placed at the John Anderson Cemetery (behind Garnett Anderson's house) in the late 1970's when



Ronnie Russell hard at work during the Central Cemetery work day in 2013

Donations last year totaled \$5621.00. The total balance of the the Wells Fargo bond and cash is valued at \$39,265.32 as of April 30, 2014 (up from \$38,775.27 April 30, 2013). The Jim Pritchett fund is valued at \$13,681.38 as of March 28, 2014 (up from \$11,578.60 on March 28, 2013). The operating fund contains \$11,714.63 as of May 15, 2014.

As you can see we have continued to grow our investments during shaky financial times all the while improving the Cemetery infrastructure. Expenses this year will include approximately \$960 for the new stone markers (replacing the wooden crosses) and around \$1550 for mowing. We still need your donations to help keep us on track! The fence around the Cemetery is showing its age and will need some repair soon. We will always have maintenance and operating expenses. Remember Central in your will!

the "new" fence was installed. This small cemetery contains the graves of John Anderson (son of Jacob), John's wife, Feraby Cornett, their grandson, Isom Anderson, his wife Minerva Russell, along with two Anderson infants. Photos on the next page.

The Jacob Anderson Cemetery is located on Jason's property about 1 mile west of the John Anderson Cemetery and contains three rows of graves – approximately two dozen graves in all. It is difficult to get an exact count since the graves are marked with "field stones" and some may be missing after nearly 200 years. We suspect that Jacob's grave is one located near the highest point on the hill, as was the custom at that time.

A photo essay of the day's events is at www.CentralCemetery.org along with other Central news.

Anderson Cornett Reunion

The annual Anderson & Cornett Family Reunion will take place on Saturday, August 9, 2014. We will meet at the Central Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. and depart for a "driving tour" of sites of historical family interest. Visit www.CentralCemetery.org for the latest updates and tour information.

Last year we visited several great locations: We met at the Cemetery and moved down the road to the old Clem's Branch School building (see photo at right). Shade Mecum is in the process of restoring the structure so we could only look at the exterior. He hopes to have it open for the 2014 reunion.

Next we went to the Arthur Cornett house that was moved from the north side of Route 658 "up the hill" to the right side of the road. Shade and Suzanne have beautifully restored the old home place inside and out.



The old Arthur Cornett house

Inside Shade and Suzanne's home (below) lots of historical artifacts are found.



We then traveled back west to the old Garnett Anderson place he called Morningside Farm. Chris and Leslie Stevens have done a remarkable job of bringing the farm back to life in the past 2 years. They have a beautiful garden, four happy dogs, lots of chickens, and two hives of bees. The Stevens' sell fresh eggs and honey under the Morningside Farm label.

The previous owners added on a "modern" wing to the traditional farmhouse so it has the best of both worlds. An up to date kitchen, bathroom and bedroom suite blended with the old fashioned farmstead. In the photo in the center column you can see the old kitchen

complete with blue wood cook stove, iron skillets and a well stocked pantry. Thanks to the Stevens' and the Mecum's for so generously opening their homes for us to visit.



Shade Mecum gives a tour of the grounds around the Clem's Branch School at the Anderson & Cornett Reunion in 2013



Old Garnett Anderson Kitchen

In the photo below Jason Funk, Andy Anderson and Chris Stevens fill dirt in around the monument to Jacob Anderson, Revolutionary War Veteran, at its new location one mile west of the John Anderson Cemetery where it had been placed "temporarily" 30 odd years ago.



The next photo shows the Jacob Anderson Cemetery, a collection of about two dozen "field stone" tombstones. The final photo at the bottom of the last column shows the actual

plaque that was placed in the new location. The photo was taken at the "old" location before the plaque was moved. What an honor it was placing a fitting memorial to a Revolutionary War soldier and great, great,

great, great grandfather nearly 200 years after his death. History runs deep in Grayson County! Many of us feel that it is important to preserve this history and to respectfully remember our ancestors. We are committed to preserving Central Cemetery, and to safeguarding our Grayson County roots wherever they may be found!



Jacob Anderson marker before the move.



We'll take your muscles or your money... or both!

We need lots of help on Saturday, June 21st to do the physical upkeep of the Cemetery. This is the time when families maintain their relatives monuments. Moss and lichen are scrubbed away and trimming and grooming of graves takes place. As a group we will be installing reservation stones, filling in low spots, placing unknown markers and more. The old adage, "Many hands make light work" is truly appropriate here. If you can come by for an hour or two it will really help out a lot! We will also visit and talk about future projects. It won't be all work. We'll take a lunch break around noon for some serious catching up!

If you can't come to the Cemetery to help out physically, please consider sending a monetary contribution. We continue to grow the perpetual fund and wish to keep our "pay as we go" record in tact. We have always been able to meet our annual expenses without having to reach into our savings. Please help us keep this record going. Thank you for helping keep Central Cemetery a beautiful place of respect and remembrance for our ancestors. Your continued support is greatly appreciated Thank YOU!

Headstone Replacement

The Central Cemetery Board strives to maintain the overall infrastructure of the whole Cemetery. Families are asked to maintain their own family member's headstones. Time takes its toll on stone markers (like everything else). Several markers are almost illegible and several more are fading fast.

I am heading up a headstone replacement project for my great-great grandmother, Rachel Isabelle Cornett Anderson (b. April 28, 1828, d. November 18, 1908), wife of Nelson Anderson. Rachel and Nelson were instrumental in building the Central Church. Nelson has a pretty nice headstone. Rachel's marker, however, is in need of replacement (see photo at right).

As was often the case "back then" the man got a nice stone while the woman often received an inferior memorial. It appears that Rachel's stone was a "poured concrete" stone with here information carved into it. The carved information is almost illegible at this time so I am leading the charge in replacing the stone. I want to keep the original size and shape along with the original information. When pricing the stone I found prices from \$750 to \$950. Our

supplier of reservation stones and unknown markers has graciously offered to provide a stone with these specifications for under \$400! I have gone ahead and ordered the stone and I am looking for financial assistance from other descendants of Rachel. This project is **completely separate from the Cemetery fund**. This is a **private project** for my ancestor. No Central Cemetery monies will be used for this project. If you'd like to help me with this project send your check to: Danny Trent
151 Cherry Stone Avenue
Bluefield, Virginia 24605



Send your other donations to this address, too. Just make those checks out to the **Central Cemetery Fund**.

If you have questions call me (276) 322-3911 or email DanTrent@comcast.net I am looking forward to seeing you at Central!

Danny Trent

Central Cemetery



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CentralCemetery.org