

Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center
for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC)
Bull Run Regional Library
8051 Ashton Avenue
Manassas, VA 20109-2892
6 September 2000

Ms. Terry Thompson
4110 Poinsetta Avenue
Mount Dora, FL 32757

Dear Ms. Thompson:

This is in response to your letter postmarked 31 August asking for information about **New Hope Baptist Church**, formerly located on what is now the US Marine Corps Base. The old church is no longer standing, having been torn down when the Marine Corps took over the property ca. 1943. I am enclosing a page from *100 Old Cemeteries of Prince William County, Virginia* which gives us all we know about the church property. We have no records or photograph of the church. The information we have about this church suggests its members were predominantly white.

There is another church with the same name (New Hope Baptist Church), a predominantly black congregation, which has been located at Bristow in Prince William County since 1905, having been founded at Brentsville in 1888. The two churches appear to have a separate history, not belonging to the same conference.

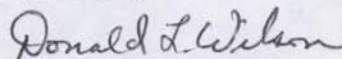
We have a collection of pamphlets reporting the minutes of the Potomac Baptist Association, 1909-1955. There is one church named New Hope mentioned in the reports. In 1909, the pastor was W. S. Jackson of Fredericksburg, and the clerk was C. L. Reading of Nokesville. In 1925, J. M. Frame was pastor, with D. T. Herndon of Bristow as clerk. A map in the 1929 report confirms this is the same New Hope Church as that reported in *100 Old Cemeteries*. In 1934 the pastor was J. Murray Taylor and Mrs. Myrtle Herndon of Nokesville was clerk. 1942 was the last year New Hope appears in the report as an active congregation. J. M. Taylor was still pastor. Mrs. Frank I. Griffith of Nokesville was clerk. The total membership at that time was 21 persons.

Although the church register for 1943 does not mention the congregation, under "church property" we still find New Hope listed as a "country" church, built in 1894, made of wood, 150 seats, 1 room, worth \$300. The next year (1944) it is gone from the report.

The congregation appears to have been dissolved at the time the property was turned over to the Marine Corps. Records of the church may have been deposited with the **Virginia Baptist Historical Society, P.O. Box 34, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173**. I suggest you contact that agency for further information.

If the Historical Society does not have the records you need, you may want to contact other Baptist congregations in the Prince William area. It is also possible that records may exist in private hands. Families of some of church members may have photos and other documents of interest to you. If you have other, particular questions, please contact us again.

Sincerely,

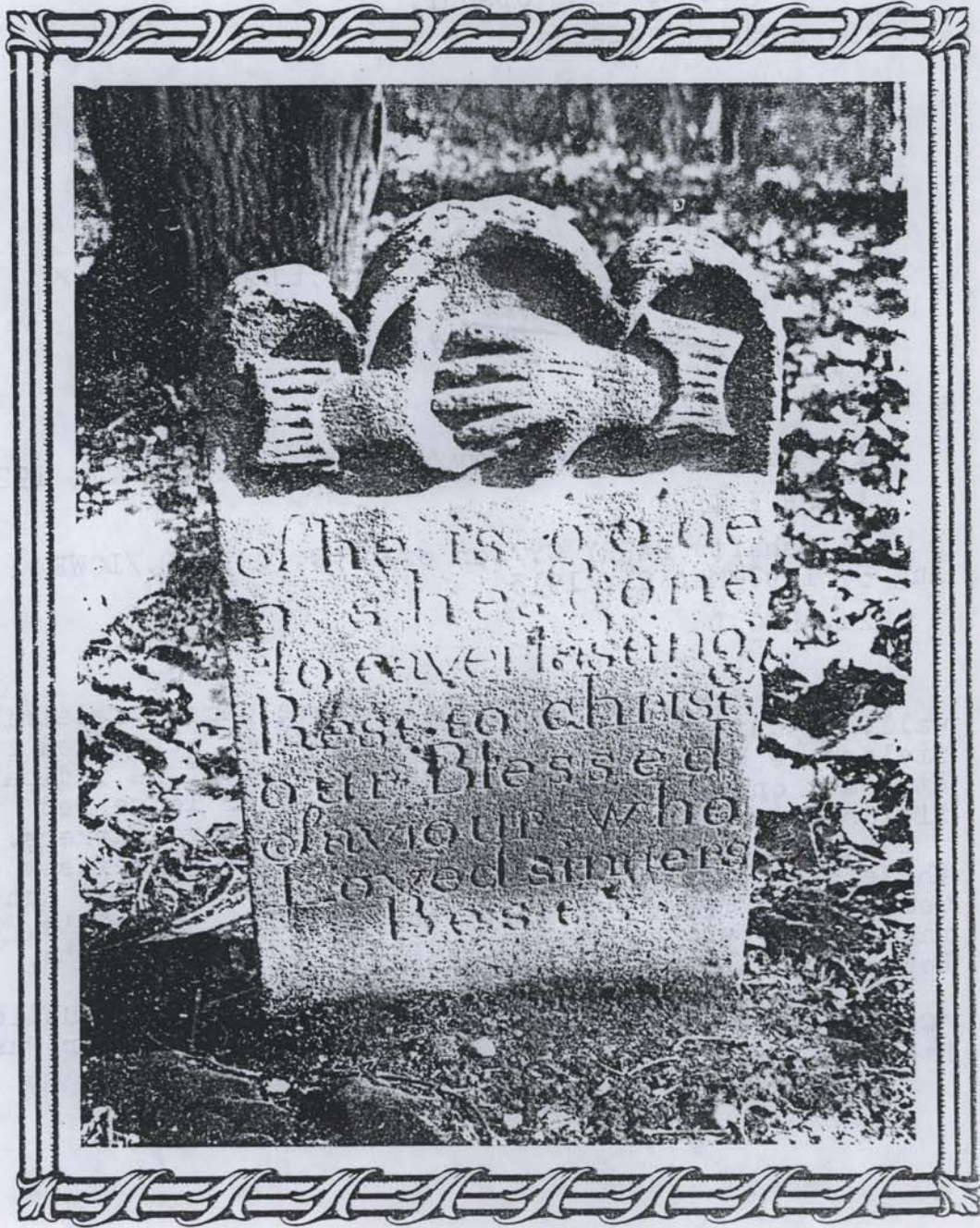


Donald L. Wilson
Virginiana Librarian

<http://www.pwcgov.org/library/services/relic>
email: DLWilson@pwcgov.org

100 OLD CEMETERIES

of Prince William County,
Virginia



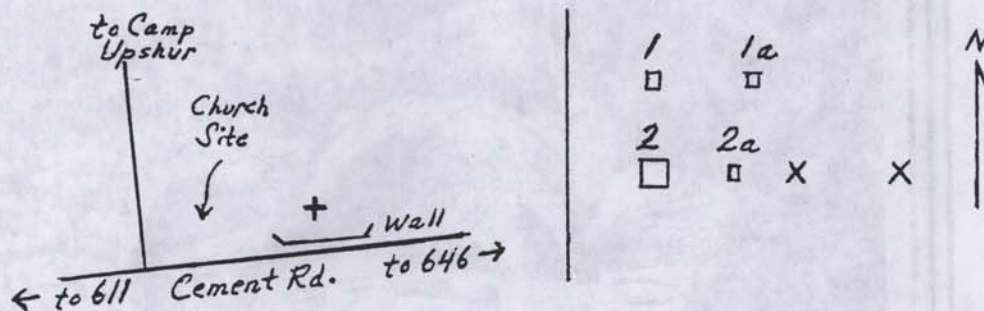
E. R. Conner, III

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church cem. (church no longer standing)

USMC Base, north side "Cement Rd." just east of main entrance to Camp Upshur.

By author, 11-6-78.



1. MOTHER/ROSA LEE LOWE/FEB 17, 1862/APR 27, 1927

1a. R L L

2. (shaft) HARRY C./Son of/L. C. & R. L./LOWE/
Aug 5, 1897/Mar 21, 1913

2a. H C L

NOTES: Cem., on wooded hill above cement retaining wall, is unfenced but in good condition. Unmarked red fieldstone headstone and footstone east of 2a indicate at least one additional grave; two other loose red fieldstones lying in cem. may also be grave markers.

Many more graves were once here, but all except those of Lowe family were moved by USMC to Cedar Run Cem. Small frame church, probably built in 1890's, was razed after USMC acquired property in early 1940's. Foundation and steps remain in woods west of cem.

Both roads intersecting here were formerly public: "Cement Rd." was Rte. 608 and road to Camp Upshur was Rte. 645. Village at intersection was Fayman.

CROSSROADS AND CORNERS

CROSSROADS AND CORNERS

A TOUR OF THE VILLAGES,
TOWNS AND POST OFFICES
OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY,
VIRGINIA
PAST & PRESENT

A COMPANION BOOK TO THE 1992
HISTORICAL MAP OF
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

By Eugene M. Scheel

A PUBLICATION OF HISTORIC PRINCE WILLIAM, INC.

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Companion map in
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courthouse, the destroyed White House, and the 1847 St. James Church (used by Baptists since 1897), now Hatcher's Memorial Church. Of the aura – "scattered frame building dwellings with farm-like yards" – not unlike today. Today the historic west end is manicured – the Union Church, schoolhouse, courthouse, jail and Hatcher's down the lane – which gives the feel of what Brentsville once was.

Sources: Luther Breeden, Bessie W. Shoemaker, Benjamin W. and Ruth Shoemaker, Lucy Walsh Phinney, J. Robert Beahm.

BRIDGETT TOWN...

(Map coordinates - B-1)

Bridgett Town: Marshall Bridgett at ninety-three years was the last of the Prince William line of the family for whom this town is named. His parents were Henry and "Aunt" Eliza Brown Bridgett; his grandparents, James B. and Kitty Bridgett. Kitty was sister to Butler Baker, who ran the store. Butler was a powerful Negro who had no toes, the result of frostbite from cutting timber in upper New York State. He was resourceful and also "tight." He built a sled during an ice and sleet spell and pulled it, loaded with a fifty-gallon can of coal oil, three miles from the Thoroughfare railroad station. When he saw his first Model T, he lifted it up by the front fender to see the undersides. Mr. Baker's store closed when he died, about 1931.

James Buchanan Ashby's distillery was the big business and Jim Buck, a white man, also ran a small store and feed mill, which closed in 1913; three years earlier than the distillery which became a casualty of Prohibition. Jim Buck was just a year away from turning a profit, but the final bottle of distiller Douglas McIntosh's "Ashby's Whiskey" sold out at \$1.25 a gallon; the tax on it came to \$1.10.

With a population of nearly 100, Bridgett Town was the largest black community in upper Prince William at the century's turn. Recalled are Richard "Dick" Beale and his wife, "Aunt" Fanny Beale, a midwife; Alex Ferguson and wife, the former Rebecca Hatcher; George Hatcher and wife, the former Maggie Napper; Hannah Hailstock, John Scott and Alice Taylor. Most of their log homes burned in the teens and twenties.

In 1896, the last Antioch School arose here. Forty years later, when the Thoroughfare Negro community raised \$400 for a second

room, the school became Antioch-North Fork – the latter name was that of the earlier Thoroughfare School. Antioch-North Fork closed in 1953 and burned early in 1992. Other than the Ashby and Bridgett homesteads, Bridgett Town's vestiges are but scattered graveyards in the woods.

Sources: James Fowler Ashby, Howard Allen, Lucy Walsh Phinney.

BRISTOW...

(Map Coordinates - D-3)

Bristow is the legacy of at least two Robert Bristows. The first was one of the four grantees of the 30,000-acre Brent Town Tract in 1687, and receiver of 7,500 acres on which Brentsville and Bristow stand. The other Robert Bristow lost this acreage in 1779, when Virginia confiscated lands of British subjects. After twenty-eight years of legal proceedings, the state sold off the land in 100-acre parcels in 1834. With the completion of the Orange and Alexandria Railway through this site in 1852, the crossing warranted a post office, for the road was the main one between the Prince William County Courthouse at Brentsville and the Fauquier County Courthouse at Warrenton. The post office moved from nearby Millford Mills to the crossing, now Bristoe Station, with Thomas J. Fewell, and shortly John R. Kincheloe, postmasters. Spelling then, as now, was an inexact science, hence the "e." In 1874, with Edmund P. Gaines postmaster, the village name was shortened to Bristoe, and finally to Bristow in 1894 when Lamartine A. Free was postmaster. The "e" was often scribed as an "l" and too much mail ended up at Bristol in Washington County.

Bristoe Station was heavily damaged during the October 14, 1863 battle when Gen. A.P. Hill attacked Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren's 3rd Corps, entrenched on the south side of the railroad embankment. The Confederates were repulsed with 1,300 casualties to Warren's 548. Forty-three Union dead and 137 Southerners were buried on the field. Thomas K. Davis, who had the store and hotel, was allowed \$1,728 off his 1865 taxes for "buildings destroyed."

John R. Hornbaker, operator of Millford Mills, was usually postwar Bristoe postmaster, and that era's big stores were those of J. G. Bodine and Basil S. Robertson, who also ran Mr. Davis's hotel, replete with saloon. Mr. Robertson couldn't read or write, but could figure by etching marks on the doors. His store closed in the

early 1920s. Robert Harrison Davis also had a store, ca. 1890 to ca. 1925, which dealt in hardware and lumber. His son, Harry P. Davis, was Manassas Mayor for forty-two years. He grew up at the old Davis Place. The nearby Davis Field (now Manassas Airport) was named for him.

Monroe Russell, a black man, ran his blacksmith shop until old age got the best of him in the 1930s. He had been smithing for a half century. James A. Smith was Bristow postmaster from 1926 to 1949. The aura of 1940 Bristow was described as "a huddle of frame buildings at a railroad crossing – half a dozen houses, two or three stores, and a station for local stops." Today, new homes have raised Bristow's population to the sixty or so of its heyday in the early 20th century. The business enterprise survives in Barbara and Daniel Beard's *The White Elephant* antique shop, vintage 1966, and the oldest relic emporium in the county.

The 1940 writer missed three brick buildings, one of which was the 1930 store of Joseph F. Rollins. His father, Joseph L. Rollins, began carrying the mail in 1908, the year his son was born. When young Joseph was sixteen, his father asked him what he wanted to do. Joseph's blood wouldn't clot and he was already six years beyond his life expectancy. He thought of raising chickens or running a store. So his father bought him Basil Robertson's store in 1924 (it burned in 1929). Young Joseph ran it – never able to get insurance – for a record sixty-three years. Today he's the oldest hemophiliac in the United States and he attributes his longevity to the Lord's grace. Well into his fortieth year of business, he was robbed and beaten up badly. After being apprehended, the criminal began raising Cain in the Manassas jail and they sent in Deputy Robert Ritenour to "straighten him out." Bob was a former U.S. Fleet champion. Afterwards, Bob said, "When I thought about what that guy did to Joe Rollins, I gave him everything I had."

Various Bristoe and Bristow one- and two-roomers served as neighborhood schools from 1877 to 1936. There was a Bristow Methodist Church from the early years of the twentieth century until the late twenties. Both the 1907 school and church, next to each other, have been converted to homes. A Bristow Baptist Church, also of early-20th-century vintage, was built on land donated by Basil S. Robertson. The building was used by various groups dubbed by locals as "Holy Rollers." Services ended in the late forties and then the building collapsed. **New Hope Baptist**

a different church

Church survives. Founded at Brentsville in 1888 by the Rev. Lewis Bailey of Occoquan, the church was New Hope Missionary Baptist Church until the building was moved to Bristow in 1905. Trustees then were the Rev. Richard Jackson, New Hope's second minister; Thomas Thornton Champ, a later minister, and Smith Moore. The Rev. John Jasper Bowles, known as "J.J.," ministered from 1929 to 1963, motoring each week in one old vehicle after another from Cabin John, Maryland. Robert Lee Jones, Assistant Pastor in 1967, became Pastor in 1981. He commutes from Calverton, where he also shepherds Mount Pleasant.

Sources: Cora Lane, *New Hope Baptist Church, 1888: 101st Anniversary Celebrations*, privately printed, 1989; Joseph Rollins, Paul Rollins, Philip Rollins, Ralph Rollins, Morris Thornton, Barbara Beard.

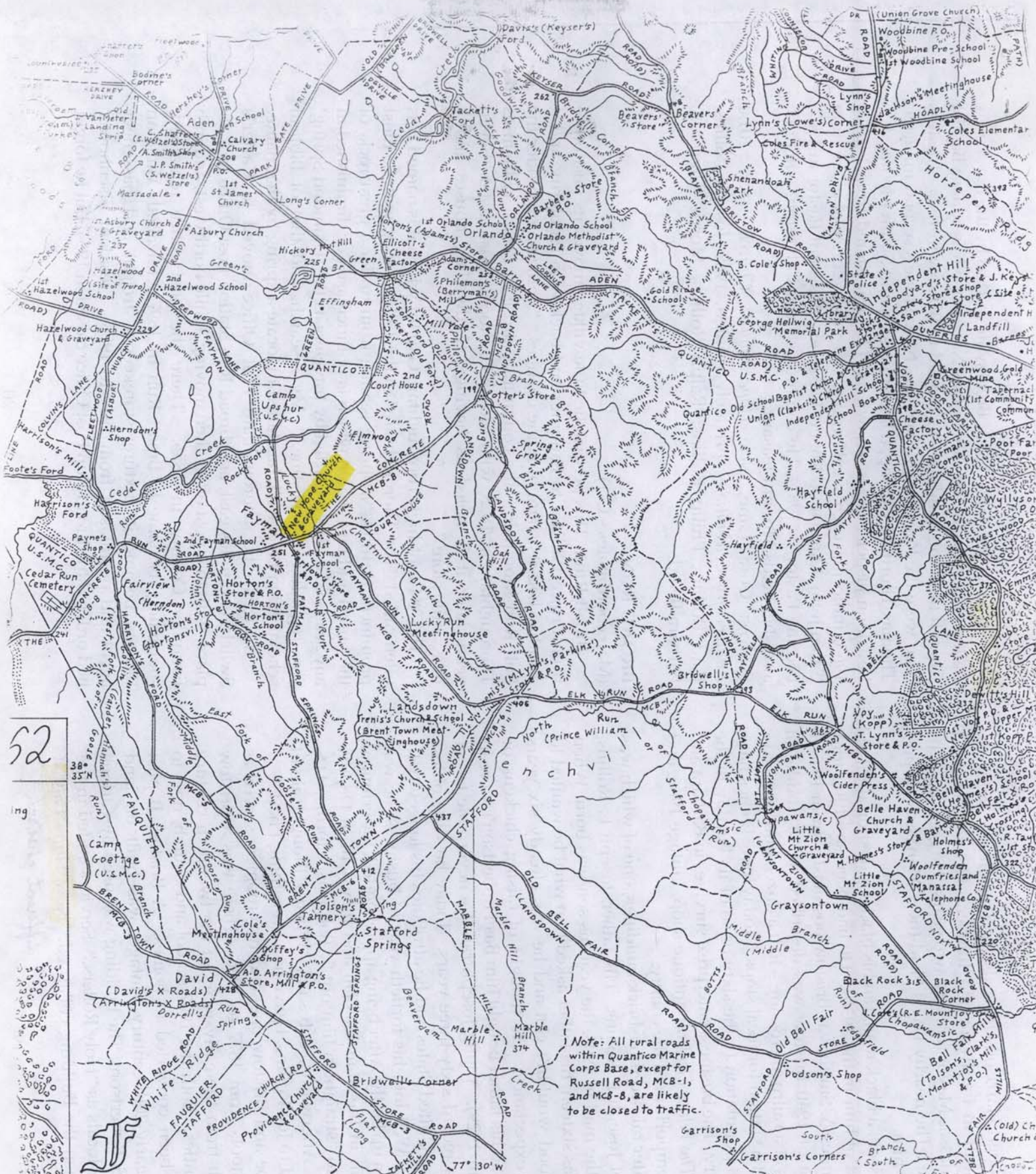
BROAD RUN...

(Map coordinates - C-1)

Broad Run: This peripatetic little village moves its post office from Prince William to Fauquier and back with regularity, and it also has had its share of name changes. "Immediately under the Bull Run Mountain," the community arose in Prince William as Thoroughfare in 1828, with Moses D. Brooke, postmaster. Seven years later it is noted as having "12 dwelling houses and 1 mercantile store."

The 384-foot-high Thoroughfare Gap for which it is named was often called "The Thoroughfare" in the 19th century, with its most prominent features "a spring issuing from under a great rock, of the purest and best water, which is not increased or diminished in any season... and is regarded by travelers as the 'Diamond Spring' was regarded in Palestine." My research, and that of Biblical scholar Ellen Blackwell, has failed to locate a spring by that name.

In 1854, the Thoroughfare Post Office moved to Carter's Switch, two miles east, and Broad Run Station Post Office took its place, with that post office then moving a mile northwest, and into Fauquier County, in 1855. There the post office remained, shortening its name to Broad Run in 1897. Elizabeth Vaughan Bloxton became its fixture: storekeeper, freight and passenger agent and postmaster from 1919 to 1958. President Eisenhower had ordered the Broad Run Post Office closed in 1954, but he forgot



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Dear Librarian,

I would like any information you can provide on New Hope Church.

It was on the land that was taken over by the Marines in the

40's. I really would like to find any church records and possibly a picture. Thank you for your help.

Thanks again
Ms. Jerry Thompson
4110 Poinsetta Ave
Mount Dora, FL 32757