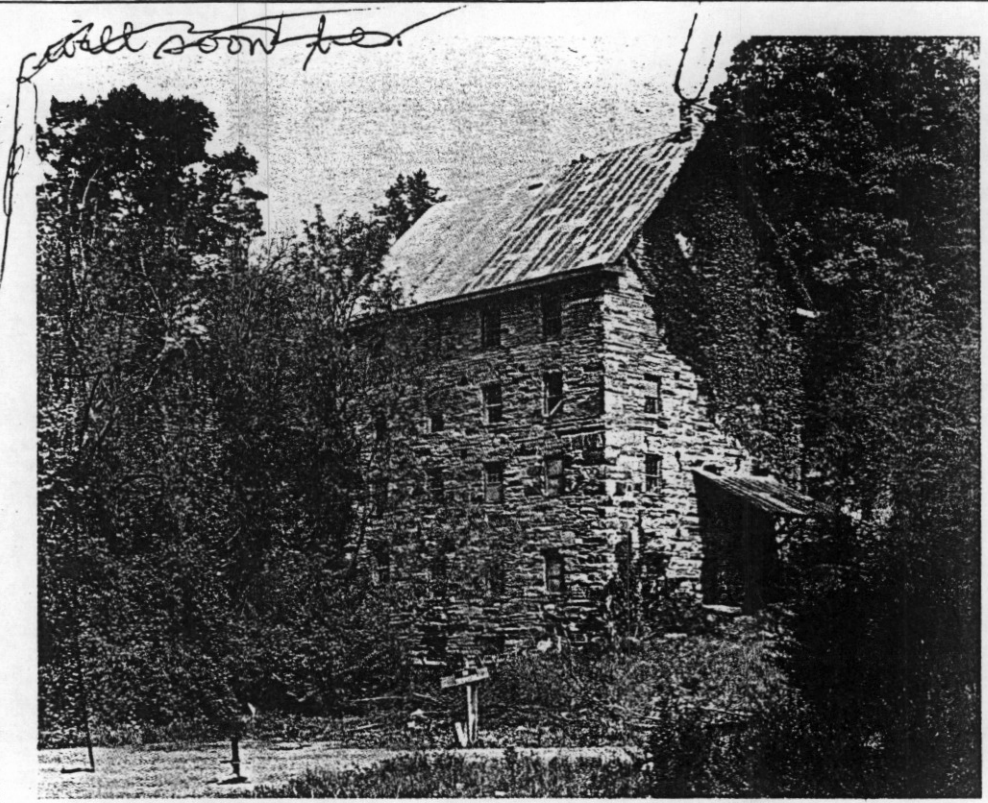


This updated article originally appeared in the Pioneer America Society's Chronicles of History, July 1971.



Beverley Mill as it appeared in May 1970. The office at the right was still standing. It has now fallen down. (Photo Pioneer America Society/Wm. Edmund Barrett.)

will soon be

Beverley Mill

By H. H. Douglas

Beverley Mill, the most outstanding and impressive of any mill remaining anywhere in the northern part of Virginia, is located on Route 55 on Broad Run in Thoroughfare Gap, on the Fauquier-Prince William county line, midway between Haymarket and The Plains.

The construction of Route 66 is now in the process of being extended through Thoroughfare Gap where Route 55 (constructed in the 1930s) cuts through the Bull Run Mountains on its way to Front Royal in the Shenandoah Valley. With bulldozers and dynamite the road builders are cutting the new roadway, mostly out of solid rock, on the side of the Gap farthest from the mill. Two highways will run through the Gap—Route 66 within 200 feet of Beverley Mill, with Route 55 on the far side of Route 66. The Virginia Department of Highways heeded the expressed wishes of local citizens and revised their original plans in order to save the mill.

will be

thus, thus

7.

the early 1930s.

ton. Mr. Wilbur had become a partner in the business in 1937. Mr. Kerr had died in 1939. ~~In the early 1950s~~ it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Mack J. West, together with an old house immediately to the east where Mrs. West operates an antique business. Nearly in front of the mill is a small stone building which has, in recent years, been used as the Broad Run Post Office (it is in Prince William County). It was built in the 1930s as a retail store for the mill.

in 1951

until 1973

gas station and a

The post office was first housed in the Broad Run Railroad Station, which is about a mile away in Fauquier County. The first postmaster was Henry F. Robertson, who was installed February 20, 1886. Next came George Burgess (1897-1901); P. D. Brawner (1901-1919); and Elizabeth Bloxton (1919-1958), just months short of forty years. Mrs. Bloxton still lives next door to the Broad Run Station. Mrs. Elaine Wiser has been postmistress since 1958. It looked, in 1968, as though the post office was going to be

up the railroad track

Bloxton dec?

closed for good, but a reprieve came through at the last minute.

Just to the east of the mill and across the tracks are the ruins of the original Chapman house (Meadowland), and a small burying ground nearby. Upstream from Beverley's Mill (in the Gap) was located another Chapman mill built at the same time as the present mill.

In _____ the post office moved out of the old stone bldg mill ruins?

The Furr family operated the mill during most of the first half of the 20th century.

shortly before

In the mid 1960s, in an effort to persuade the Highway Department to route Rt. 66 as far away from the mill as possible, Rev. Melvin L. Steadman, Jr., Northern Virginia historian, and then a member of the Gainesville Ruritan Club, compiled an historical account of the old mill, which appeared in both *The Fauquier Democrat* and the (Prince William) *Journal-Messenger*.² (He has graciously consented to the use of material from this account in the

(Continued on page 18)



The mill as drawn for this article by Polly Beverley, great-granddaughter of Robert Beverley, depicting horse and wagon transport, and showing the office at the corner of the mill.

BEVERLEY MILL, continued from page 1)

preparation of this article.) Rev. Steadman's account was transmitted, with recommendations for the mill's preservation, in a letter to the then Secretary of the Interior, S. L. Udall, urging the utmost consideration for the future of the mill as an historic landmark. As a result of this and expressions from many people in Fauquier, Prince William, and Loudoun counties, the roadway for Route 66 was placed as far away as possible.

In emphasizing the importance of Beverley Mill as a historic landmark, Rev. Steadman pointed out the following:

"1. It is an official boundary marker between Prince William and Fauquier. The Act creating Fauquier County on April 14, 1759, states that the boundary was to be a line to be run from the head of Bull Run and along the top of Bull Run Mountain to Chapman's mill on Broad Run in Thoroughfare Gap; . . . Thus, as a legal boundary marker, the Mill should be preserved.

"2. It contributed essential food products for five wars—beginning with the French and Indian War. The Mill is mentioned in old orderly books and in the public claims for the Revolutionary War (on file in the Virginia State Library). Supplies were shipped to American troops during the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and during the Civil War the Mill was used by both Union and Confederate troops.

In the *Fauquier* for Mar 4
 1965 Malvin L. Steadman
 made the points that the mill
 was an official boundary marker on
 the line between Fauquier & Prince
 William counties, and that it contributed
 food products in the French & Indian
 War, and during, & Rev. War and
 the War of 1812. During the C. W.,
 the mill was used by both Union
 and Confed troops.

4

charter member of the Ohio Company, and had experience in iron making at the Principio Iron Mines in Maryland, and the Accokeek Mines in Virginia—another source of aid to the United States troops in several wars. He is mentioned in George Washington's Diaries, and served as executor of the estates of Augustine and Lawrence Washington. . . .

"4. In keeping with President Johnson's proposal concerning the preservation of historic and scenic sites, Chapman's Mill is outstanding in opportunity. Thoroughfare Gap was the natural access route for western pioneers. It is a place of unusual beauty. . . .

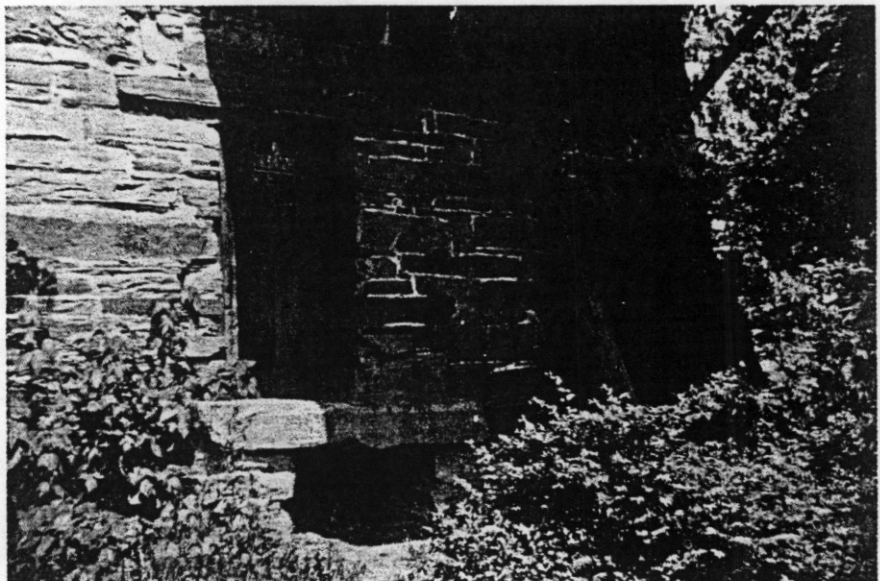
"5. Chapman's Mill is an important adjunct to the Manassas Battlefield Park. Used by both sides during the Civil War, its importance is evidenced by reports filed in connection with both battles of Manassas and subsequent engagements. . . ."

The letter to Secretary Udall further stated: "The Gainesville Ruritan Club respectfully petitions the Interior Department to give consideration to the acquisition of the mill property for preservation as an historic monument—an adjunct to Manassas Battlefield Park with which it was linked so closely in these historic engagements of the Civil War."

"3. Chapman's Mill is a memorial to one of America's great families. From this family, which owned the Mill for generations, came Dr. Nathaniel Chapman (1780-1853), first president of the American Medical Association and editor of the *Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*. His grandfather, Pearson Chapman, owned the Mill for some years. . . .

"Nathaniel Chapman, who owned the Mill in the second generation, was a

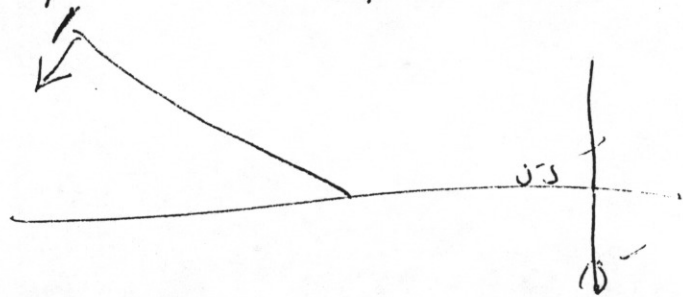
(Continued on page 79)



Main entrance to the mill. (Photo Pioneer America Society/H. H. Douglas, May, 1969.)

Asler's line

Iron quarries in
Hopewell Gap



Nothing taken out in 10-
4000 Quarts - for
Bldg stone
Flagstone
Chicken grit - ground
right there

Asler's stone comes fr 20 states
+ 5 foreign countries -

Dave Asler

5-13-77

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John S Sunford
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