

**Wilson, Donald L**

**From:** Wilson, Donald L  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2006 4:39 PM  
**To:** 'Lucy Baker'  
**Subject:** RE: Grayson's Belle Air

Lucy - Regarding your questions below, have attempted to determine as closely as possible when the present house was built.

The 1890 land tax list shows S. B. STONNELL owning 145 1/2 acres, pt. Bellair, 18 miles E [of Brentsville], worth \$6 per ac., **improvements worth \$300**, \$873 total value, \$2.62 tax, 87 cents school tax, \$3.49 total tax. Remarks: "Reduced by deed to Taylor."

On the same list, TAYLOR, Jackson, 30 acres, adj[oining] Bellair, 18 E, \$6/ac. no improvements, \$180 total value. [No remarks.]

1888 - STONNILL, Sherwood B., 235 acres, part Bell Air, 18 E, \$6/ac., **\$200 improvements**, \$1410 total value, \$4.23 tax, \$1.41 school tax, \$5.64 total tax. [No remarks]

1887 - S. B. STONNELL not found on list.

KANKEY, Z. A., res. Pr. Wm. Co., fee simple, 235 acres, Bellair, 18 E, \$6/ac, **\$200 improvements**, \$1410 total, \$4.23 tax, \$1.41 school tax, \$5.61 total tax. [List was submitted by James M. Barbee, Commissioner of the Revenue, 20 July 1887. Collection of data began after 1 Feb. 1887 when the instructions from the state commissioner were written.]

1886 - KANKEY, Z. A., 235 ac., Bellair, worth \$5/ac., **no improvements**, \$1175 total value, \$3.53 tax, \$1.18 school tax. He also has 127 acres on Neabsco Run, 18 mi. E., worth \$16/ac., \$1000 improvements, ... Same information on 1885 list. He apparently lived on his property on Neabsco Run.

Zebulon A. Kankey appears to have built at least some of the present house at Belle Air sometime between the spring of 1886 (when the property was assessed with no improvements) and the spring of 1887. The value in 1887 and 1888 was \$200, probably representing the core of the present wooden structure. (Smaller farmhouses were being assessed at \$100.) Mr. Stonnell increased the value of the building(s) by \$100 before 1890.

I haven't gone back further to see if any improvements were claimed on the property between 1865 and 1885. 1892 is the last year we have available on microfilm. Tax lists after 1892 should be available at the court house.

I am honored that you have asked me to serve on your board, but I must reluctantly decline. Am willing to help as time allows with the necessary research for your applications, but am not in a position to serve in an official capacity with your foundation.

Thanks.

Don

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