

Historic African American Settlement and the Digital Gateway **Western Prince William County, Virginia**

The following is a preliminary investigation conducted in response to the Digital Gateway proposed for 2,132 acres along the Northern and Western Boundaries of Manassas Battlefield Park in the area along Pageland Lane and the south side of Sudley Road roughly to Robin Drive. Preliminary research has revealed African American Settlement during the Post-Civil War era in two separate, concentrated areas, of the proposed Digital Gateway.

The first concentrated area is an area known as “The Settlement” in the area of Thornton Lane. The second concentrated area is an area known as Marble Hill / “Flat Iron Corner” in the area of Aldie Road / Marble Hill Lane and Sudley Road. Further, these two concentrated areas of Post Civil War African American Settlement were likely once linked by a road trace known as “Old Aldie Road.”

The Purpose of this preliminary investigation is to highlight history that could be lost if the “Digital Gateway” is approved by the Prince William County Board of County Supervisors. In the period after the Civil War, concentrated *communities* of emancipated slaves developed throughout Virginia. The two communities in this preliminary investigation begin to illustrate an important story of *community building* in the Post-Civil time period of North Western Prince William County, Virginia. This preliminary investigation scratches the surface of more research that needs to be done to fully understand the culture, boundaries, and cultural landscape in the proposed Digital Gateway area and its importance to African American Culture. Importantly, these African American areas were in the immediate vicinity of the Manassas Battlefield. African American figures that appear in the communities below such as Jennie Dean had direct ties to the area before the war when her family was enslaved, during the war when her and her family were still enslaved, and after the war when her and her family settled in the vicinity of the Battlefield in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner.

Methodology

This Preliminary Investigation began as the result of “The Settlement” and notation of the “Thornton (Elliott) School House” on Eugene Scheel’s African American Heritage of Prince William County (2000) Map (Figure 1). This Map also gave a brief description of the Settlement on Thornton Lane as “ a forsaken area, allotted to ex-slaves who first rented then bought. Remembered were midwife Frances Beale, Nelson and Martha Elliott, and Robert Allen and Thornton Allen.” This map also showed “Mt Calvary Baptist Church Organized, 1880” and “Jennie Dean” in the area of Aldie Road and Sudley Road (Figure 9).

Additionally, Eugene Scheel’s The Tri-Counties of Upper Prince William and Lower Loudoun East Fauquier (2004) Map (Figure 7 and 17) showed additional important details including “The Settlement” and “Thornton (Elliott) School House in the area of the Thornton Drive. The map Also shows the place names “Marble Hill” and “Flat Iron Corner” at the crossroads of Aldie Road and Sudley Road along with “Mt Calvary Church and Jennie Dean.” The map also shows a “Slave Graveyard” in the area of Marble Hill and a connecting pathway “no longer motorable” that connected The Settlement on Thornton Drive to the area of “Flat Iron Corner (Figure 17).

The notations on Historian Eugene Scheel's map provided a valuable starting point for primary documentation research. Subsequent research utilized the Maneuver Grounds Prince William and Fairfax Counties, 1904 by Maj. Edward Burr, and a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Engineers Map (Figures 2, 4, and 8). This Map is a snapshot of the area in 1904 that shows the area characterized by a physical landscape of woodland, fields, and corn weaved between the riparian areas that flow through the proposed Digital Gateway. The other vitally important thing that the map shows are family names in 1904 and their location. The map notes both Caucasian family names and African American Family Names. These family names, and their adjacent location to one another in a concentrated area, allowed for cross-referencing with the 1900 census, which was done in the same era as the 1904 map. The 1900 Census then became a starting point for research of the families and their adjacency in a concentrated settlement area of African Americans. The other important component of the 1904 map were photos that were taken and the photo locations. These corresponding photos are shown in Figures 5, 6, 11, and 12). These photos provide a vital snapshot into the rural cultural landscape with place locations noted in 1904.

The 1900 Census became the starting point to work forward and backward in research. The 1900 Census was searched using the names that appeared in the 1904 Manuevers Map. The 1900 Census shows the same names on the map in the vicinity of one another. The 1900 Census also in some cases shows family names that were not noted on the map, painting a more complete picture of the population and culture (the jobs) in 1900. Next, the same names in the 1900 Census were searched in the 1880 and 1870 census. The 1880 census and 1870 census showed showed different family names in some cases but also showed consistent adjacency of family names such as Elliot which appears in the 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 Census next to the Watson Family. The same methodology was used for both Thornton Lane and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner for these earlier census in 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910. The 1930 Census, similar to the Maneuver Map, provided another vitally important piece of information that helped confirm the location of the African American Settlements. The 1930 Census notes the Road where the family name was located. In the case of the Thornton Drive Settlement there is a concentration of African Americans on "PAGELAND LANE." In the case of the settlement area at Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner there is a concentration of African Americans on "SUDLEY ROAD." Main roads were used for the place name and families were likely located on gravel roads such as Thornton Lane that were in the immediate vicinity of both Pageland Lane and Sudley Road.

Some additional research was also done on Jane (Jennie) Dean who was an instrumental figure in this area of Prince William County within the Digital Gateway as noted in the Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner portion of research below.

Contents:

- **Thornton Drive Settlement (1900 Census)**
- **Thornton Drive Settlement 1880, 1870, 1910, and 1930 Census'**
- **Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner (1900 Census) and Jennie Dean**
- **Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner Census' 1880, 1870, and 1930**

- Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Lane; Communities Connected
- Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Lane; The Digital Gateway Proposal
- Cultural Landscape in Peril: The Connections between Manassas Battlefield, Jennie Dean, and The Settlement at Thornton Lane and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner
- Closing

Thornton Drive Settlement (1900 Census):

Eugene Scheel’s African - American Heritage of Prince William County Map created in 2000 notes “The Settlement” along Thornton Lane and the location of the “Thornton (Elliott) School. The map states “these were forsaken areas allotted to ex-slaves who first rented, then bought. Remembered at this site were midwife Frances Beale, Nelson and Martha Elliott, and Robert Allen and Thornton Allen. This map depicting the settlement along Thornton Drive led to further research of primary documentation to substantiate the historic reference.

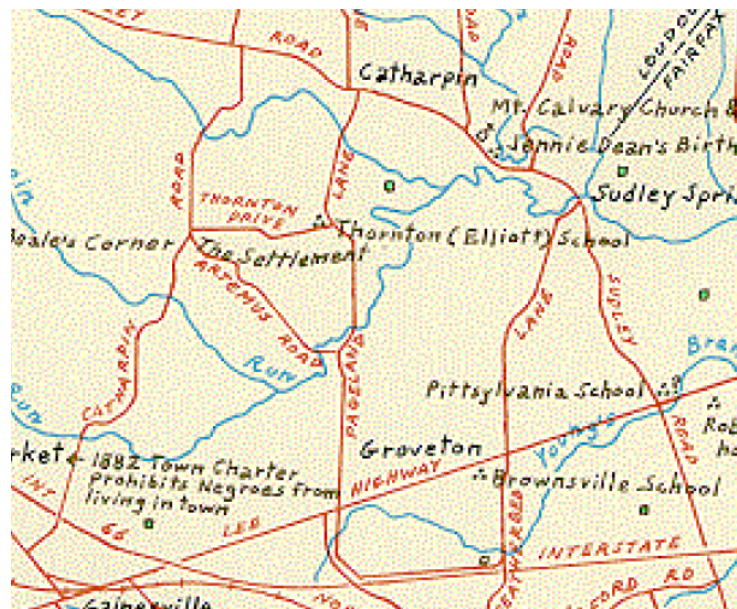


Fig 1: Eugene Scheel’s African - American Heritage of Prince William County (2000). Resources shown in the proposed “Digital Gateway” include The Settlement on Thornton Drive, a cemetery along Pageland Lane (denoted with the green box), and Mt. Calvary Church just outside the Northern Boundary of the proposed Data Center area.

Subsequent research using primary documentation substantiated that an African American Settlement existed along Thornton Drive. The “Maneuver Grounds Prince William and Fairfax Counties, VA surveyed by Maj. Edward Burr (1904) and a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Engineers shows the names “Allen, Watson, B Meed, Elliott, and E Shellington” in the area of Thornton Drive. Additionally, a “S.H.” is shown at the intersection of Pageland Lane and Thornton Drive.

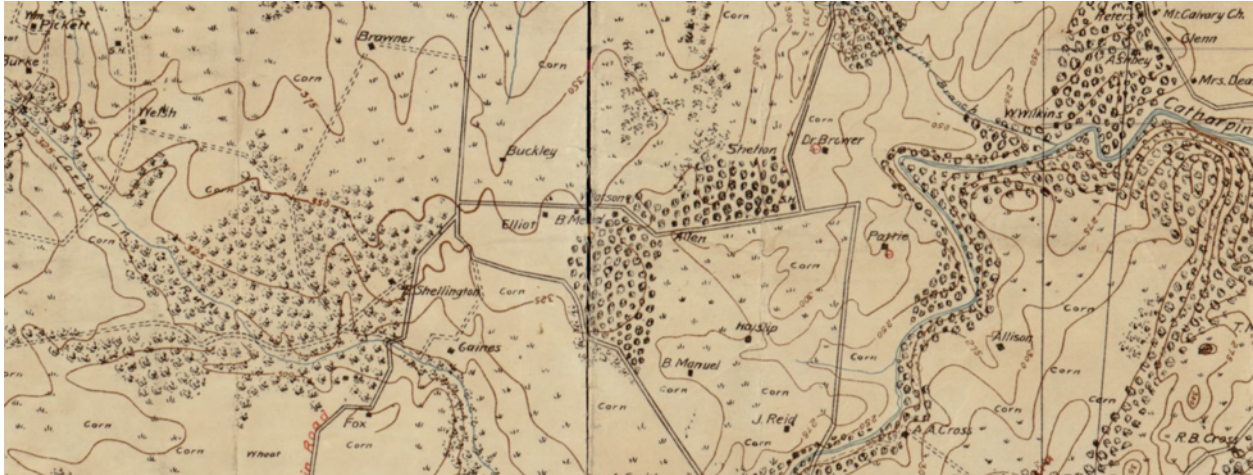


Fig. 2 From Maneuver Grounds Prince William and Fairfax Counties, 1904 by Maj. Edward Burr, and a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Engineers. Note the concentration of Household Names (Elliot, B Meed, Watson, Allen) and the S.H. (School House) along Thornton Lane.

Cross referencing these names in the 1900 census reveals the following about these families and their contribution to the community. These African American Families are in close proximity in the census which combined with their names appearing on the map above substantiates they were in close proximity in a concentrated settlement area along Thornton Drive in 1900.

Watson / Meed (Meade in other census) Household 133

1. Maria Watson Born June 1866, Gainesville District, Black Female, Head of Household, married 1893, Mother's name Bettie Need, mother of 9 children (6 living), Washwoman, Owned her house (mortgaged)
2. Robert Watson Born July 1887, Gainesville District, Black Male, son to Maria, Single, enrolled in school
3. Martha Watson Born August 1889, Gainesville District, Black Female, daughter to Maria, Single, enrolled in school
4. Eva Watson Born August 1892, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Maria, Single, enrolled in school
5. Louis Watson Born Apr 1894, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Maria, Single
6. Ella Watson Born Jan 1896, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Maria, Single
7. Bettie Meed Born Jul 1837, Gainesville District, Black Female, Mother of Maria, Widowed

Elliott Household 130

1. Nelson Elliott Born Mar 1840, Gainesville District, Black Male, Married to Martha, Married 1862, Farmer, Owns his house (Free of mortgage) Head of Household
2. Martha Elliott Born Apr 1850, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Nelson Elliott 1862, Mother to 13 children (8 living), No Occupation Given
3. Eleanor Elliott Born Feb 1880, Gainesville District, Black female, Daughter to Martha and Nelson, Single, Enrolled in school
4. Katie Elliott, Born Dec 1882, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Martha and Nelson Elliott, Enrolled in School

5. Nelson Elliott Born Jun 1885, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, son to Nelson and Martha Elliott, Enrolled in School
6. Mamie Elliott Born Dec 1887, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Nelson and Martha Elliott, Enrolled in School
7. Lillie Elliott Born Dec 1887, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Nelson and Martha Elliott, Enrolled in School
8. Robt D Elliot Born Feb 1893, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, Son to Nelson and Martha Elliott, Enrolled in School
9. John Elliot Born May 1865, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, Nephew to Nelson Elliott, No Occupation Given

Allen Household 129

1. Emma G Allen Born Aug 1857, Gainesville District, Black Female, Head of Household, Single however notes she was married in 1897 with 3 children. Washwoman, Rents

Shellington Household 165

1. Emily Shellington Born Apr 1840, Gainesville District, Black Female, Head of Household, Widowed, Married in 1888 No Husband Name Noted, Mother and Father Born in Virginia with No Names Noted, Mother to 8 Children, Washwoman, Owns House (Free of Mortgage)
2. Chas Shellington Born Jun 1881, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, Son to Emily Shellington, No Father Name Noted, Day Laborer
3. John Shellington Born Apr 1885, Gainesville District, Black Male, Granson to Emily Shellington, Single, Both Parents Born in Virginia with No Names Noted, Enrolled in School
4. Mary Shellington Born Dec 1890, Gainesville District, Black Female, Granddaughter to Emily Shellington, Both Parents Born in Virginia with No Names Noted, Single, No Occupation Noted

Berry Household (3 Households Away from Watson) 128

1. Sarah V Berry Born Jan 1856, Gainesville District, Black Female, Head of Household, Divorced, Mother to 12 children (6 living), Mother and Father Born in Virginia Names not noted, Owns House, Day Laborer
2. Samuel Berry Born Feb 1878, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, Son to Sarah V Berry, No Father Name Noted, Farm Laborer
3. Rosa F Berry Born Dec 1883, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Sarah V Berry, No Father Name Noted, Single, Enrolled in School
4. William C Berry Born Dec 1886, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Sarah V Berry, Single, Enrolled in School
5. Carrie L Berry Born Oct 1889, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Sarah V Berry, No Father Name Noted, Enrolled in School

Beal Household (Eugene Scheel's Map notes Midwife Frances Beal). The 1900 Census notes a Beal Household near other nearby family names including the Caucasian Households of Robert Haislips and Manuel Families who lived in proximity to Thornton Lane. There is also a Beal

Cemetery at the intersection of Artemus Road and Catharpin Road just south of where Thornton Drive intersects with Catharpin Road.

Beal Household (Within Three Households of Manuel and R. Haislip) (109)

1. John Beal Born November 1856, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Fannie Beal, Married in 1884, Farm Laborer, Rents, Mother and Father Born in Virginia Names Not Noted
2. Fannie Beal Born Jan 1861, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to John Beal in 1884, Mother and Father Born in Virginia Names Not Noted, Mother to 12 Children (6 living)
3. Georgiana Beal Born Sep 1884, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Fannie and John Beal, Single, No Occupation Noted
4. Fred Beal Born Oct 1888, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to John and Fannie Beal, Single, Enrolled in School
5. John Beal Born Feb 1893, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, Son to John and Fannie Beal, No Occupation Noted
6. Guy Beal Born May 1895, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to John and Fannie Beal, Single, No Occupation Noted
7. Luther Beal Born Sep 1899, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to John and Fannie Beal, Single, No Occupation Noted.

Total Approximate Population 1900 Census: 32 Total Population born before 1865: 8

While the names listed in the 1900 begin to paint a picture of the concentrated settlement area along Thornton Drive, there were many other African Americans residing in the Gainesville District as noted in the "Map of Prince William County Virginia, 1901, WM. H. Brown. The map notes that the Gainesville District had the second most owned land owned by "col'd" with 1,897 acres, second only to Manassas which had 2,433 acres. Additionally, the Gainesville District had the most "col'd" students (436 students) with the most "Col'd" schools (5 Schools) in the entire Prince William County.

MEMORANDA.

Prince William County was formed in 1750 from Stafford and King George
Manassas is the county seat.
Fairfax was formed in 1742 from Prince William; and Fauquier in 1759
The timber consists of oak, pine, chestnut, hickory and other woods.
Gold, copper, brytes, slate, soapstone, brownstone, marble and lime-
stone are found in the county.

Area and Valuation, 1900.				
Districts,	Acres.	Value of Land.	Val. of other Prop.	Town Lots & Buildings.
Brentsville, White	32,668	\$ 351,661.26	\$ 108,101	\$ 12,312
Col'd	826	3,033.10	3,292	
Coles, White	43,468	158,796.68	47,193	
Col'd	929	8,192.50	1,027	
Dumfries, White	30,204	158,039.42	33,301	10,735
Col'd	1,674	7,047.75	4,920	
Guineaville, White	44,727	469,475.37	185,125	22,444
Col'd	1,897	21,920.00	2,352	300
Manassas, White	37,522	506,287.75	182,993	213,815
Col'd	2,483	39,500.00	11,572	18,265
Occoquan, White	25,048	134,752.83	66,375	50,875
Col'd	537	2,938.58	1,922	
Total, White	215,657	1,778,893.15	623,436	318,871
Col'd	8,296	83,951.93	31,085	18,565
White & Col'd	223,953	\$ 1,862,845.08	\$ 654,521	\$ 337,436

Valuation of all property, 1900, \$ 2,541,552.08

Districts,	Population.		School Population.			No. of Schools		
	1900	1890	White	Col'd	Total	White	Col'd	Total
Brentsville,	1,549	1,419	513	111	624	8	1	9
Coles,	1,265	1,214	428	32	460	8	0	8
Dumfries, (inc. town)	1,457	1,091	369	162	531	3	2	10
Guineaville,	2,565	2,571	538	456	994	9	5	14
Manassas, (inc. town)	3,006	2,287	512	369	1,181	9	4	13
Occoquan, (inc. town)	1,270	1,225	531	107	638	7	1	8
Total,	11,112	9,805	2,921	1,417	4,338	49	10	62
Manassas town	817	530						
Occoquan "	297	287						
Dumfries "	160							

Fig 3 Excerpt from Map of Prince William County Virginia, 1901, WM. H. Brown

The Aesthetic of the Settlement along Thornton Drive was primarily rural. The Maneuver Grounds Map (Fig 2 and Fig 4) shows that the area surrounding the Settlement was comprised of Woodland, Corn, and Fields. Photo 22 (Figure 5) and Photo 53 (Figure 6) give a rare view of what the area surrounding the Settlement looked like in 1904.



Fig 4 From Maneuver Grounds Prince William and Fairfax Counties, 1904 by Maj. Edward Burr, and a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Engineers.

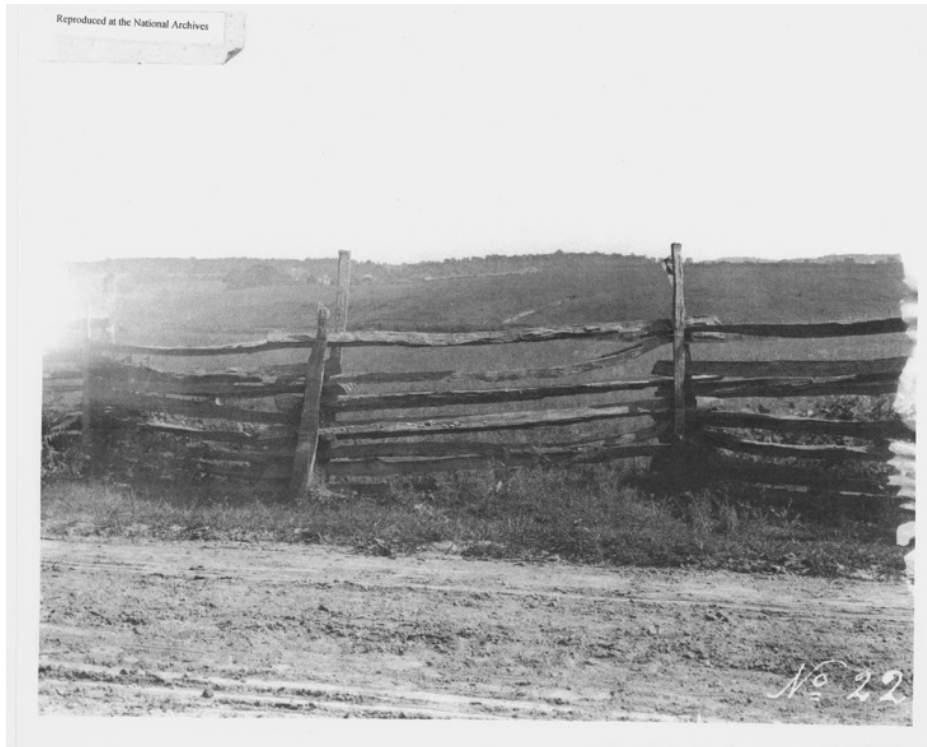


Fig 5 Photo 22 from the Maneuver Grounds Map, 1904. In the notes for the photo it states “50 feet south of **Allen** house on cross-roads between Gainesville-Catharpin Road and Pageland Lane. Hasslip’s, Manuel’s and Reid’s farms.” Note the fencing and dirt road in the foreground which is Thornton Drive.



Fig 6 Photo 53 from the Maneuver Grounds Map, 1904. In the notes for the photo it states “On Dr. Brower’s farm, on road connecting Pageland Lane and Gainesville-Catharpin Road, 100 feet north of turn in road. To Dr. Brower’s house 36; to School house 250; to Shefton’s house 313.” The School House noted in the caption is the Thornton (Eliott) School House just west of where this photo was taken.

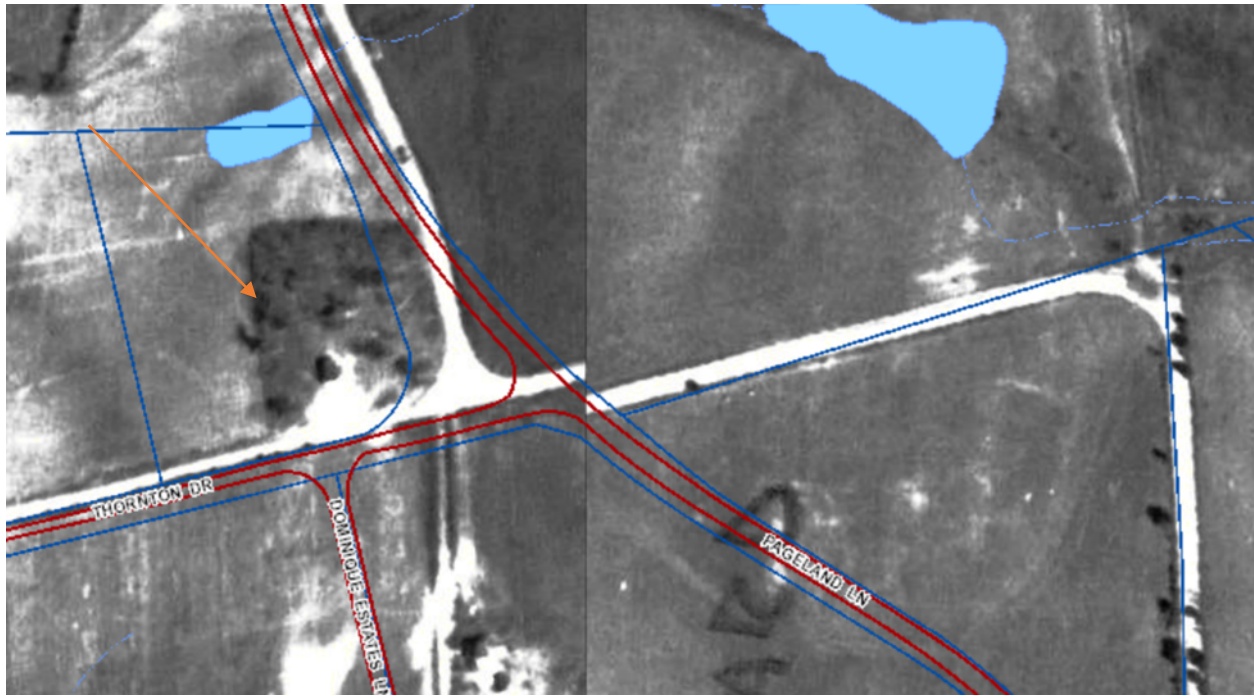


Figure 6.5 1937 aerial showing the Thornton-Elliott School at the corner of Pageland Lane and Thornton Drive

Thornton Drive Settlement 1880, 1870, 1910, and 1930 Census'

The Maneuver Grounds Map from 1904 is a vital piece of documentation to tie specific African American Households in the 1900 census to this specific area of the Settlement on Thornton Drive in the larger Gainesville District. Using the names that were gathered in the 1900 census it is possible to then search those same names in the 1880 Census and see if they were living in proximity to each other.

1880 Census

The 1880 Census of the Gainesville District shows that Nelson and Martha Elliot and B. Meade (aka Bettie Meed in the 1900 Census) still lived in close proximity. Further evidence that the Elliot and Meade (Watson) families were living along Thornton Drive in 1880 is their proximity in the 1880 census to the Caucasian family of the William Buckley who resided at Bushy Park which was a farm just north of Thornton Drive. (*Bushy Park was later relocated from its original location to the Gainesville-Haymarket library site on Route 15 in Haymarket*). There are other African American Names noted in the 1880 census in proximity to the Buckley, Elliot, and Meade Families that were not noted in the 1900 census.

Williams Household 309

1. George Williams Born About 1835, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Sarah Williams, Mother and Father from Virginia No Names Noted, Farm Laborer.

2. Sarah Williams Born About 1830, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to George Williams, Father Born in Virginia Mothers Name "Milly Jefferson", Keeps House
3. Eliza Brown Born About 1857, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Sara and George Williams, Married to Henry Brown, No Occupation Noted
4. Henry Brown Born About 1844, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son-In-Law to George Williams, Married to Eliza Brown, Both Parents Born in Virginia No Names Noted
5. William Brown Born About 1875, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Eliza and Henry Brown, No Occupation Noted
6. Henry Brown Born About 1877, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Eliza and Henry Brown, Single, No Occupation Given
7. Mary J Williams Born About 1873, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to George and Sarah Williams, Single, No Occupation Noted
8. Milly Jefferson Born About 1792, Gainesville District, Black Female, Mother of Sarah Williams, Widowed, Mother and Father Born in Virginia No Names Noted

Smith Household 311

1. Melissa Smith Born About 1843, Gainesville District, Black Female, Head of Household, Keeping House, Single, Both Parents Born in Virginia No Name Noted.
2. Ann Smith Born About 1864, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter of Melissa Smith, Fathers Birthplace in Virginia No Name Noted, Occupation At Home
3. Aleck Smith, Born About 1865, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son of Melissa Smith, Father Born in Virginia No Name Noted, Occupation At Home
4. John Smith Born About 1867, Gainesville District, Single, Son of Melissa Smith, Father Born in Virginia No Name Noted, Occupation At Home
5. Lula Smith Born About 1879, Gainesville District, Black Female, Granddaughter to Melissa Smith, Father's Birthplace Virginia No Name Noted, Single, No Occupation Noted

Mason Household 311

1. Richard Mason Born About 1845, Gainesville District, Black Male, Mother and Father Born in Virginia No Names Noted, Farm Laborer

Meade Household (Later Bettie Meed and Maria Watson (daughter) in 1900 Census) 312

1. Betsey Meade Born About 1837, Gainesville District, Black Female, Head of Household, Widowed, Mother and Father Born in Virginia, Keeps House
2. Webb Meade Born About 1865, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son of Betsey Meade, NA Marital Status, Fathers Birthplace Virginia No Name Noted, Occupation At Home
3. Maria Meade Born about 1866, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter of Betsey Meade, Father Born in Virginia No Name Noted, Occupation At Home

Elliott Household (later in the 1900 Census with the spelling Elliott) 313

1. Nelson Elliot Born About 1841, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Martha Eliot, Mother and Father Born in Virginia No Name Noted, Farmer
2. Martha Elliot Born About 1850, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Nelson Elliot, Mother and Father Born in Virginia No Names Noted, Occupation Keeping House

3. George Elliot Born About 1866, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son of Nelson and Martha Eliot, Marital Status NA, Occupation At Home
4. Lucretia Elliot Born About 1872, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Nelson and Martha Eliot, Single
5. Elenora Elliot Born About 1879, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter of Nelson and Martha Elliot
6. Robert Elliot Born About 1859, Gainesville District, Black Male, Nephew to Nelson Elliot, Occupation At Home

Watson Household (Later married Maria Meade?) 314

1. Robert Watson Born About 1864, Gainesville District, Black Male, Mother and Father Born in Virginia No Names Noted, Farm Laborer

Total Approximate Population 1880 Census: 24

Total Approximate Population Born Before 1865: 12

1870 Census

The best lead that was found during this preliminary investigation is the census record for Nelson and Martha Elliott who were living adjacent to the Berry Household. However, it is hard to tie both families to the Settlement Area on Thornton Drive for the year 1870. What is significant is that both Homesteads had others living with them with different last names. Below are the census records for the Berry and Elliott Homesteads in 1870.

Elliott Household 3

1. Nelson Elliott Born About 1842, Gainesville District, Black Male, Farm Laborer, Inferred Spouse Martha Elliot
2. Martha Elliott Born About 1845, Gainesville District, Mulatto Female, Occupation Keeping House, Inferred Spouse Nelson Elliott
3. George Elliott Born About 1865, Gainesville District, Mulatto Male, Inferred Mother Martha Elliott and Inferred Father Nelson Elliott
4. Cheney Ford Born About 1858, Mulatto Male, No Parent Information Noted

Berry Household 2

1. Mary Berry Born About 1815, Gainesville District, Mulatto Female, Occupation Keeping House, Inferred Children Lucretia Berry and Henry Berry
2. Lucretia Berry Born About 1855, Gainesville District, Mulatto Female, Occupation At School, Inferred Mother Mary Berry
3. Henry Berry Born About 1858, Gainesville District, Mulatto Male, Occupation At School, Inferred Mother Mary Berry
4. Richard Harris Born About 1835, Gainesville District, Mulatto Male, Farm Laborer, Inferred Child is Mary Harris
5. Mary Harris Born About 1854, Gainesville District, Mulatto Female, Inferred Father Richard Harris.

Total Approximate Population 1870: 9

Total Approximate Population Born Before 1865 in 1870 Census: 8

1910 Census

Watson Household (74)

1. Robert Watson Born 1865, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Maria, Owns House Free of Mortgage, Farm Laborer
2. Maria Watson Born 1866, Black Female, Married to Robert, Cook
3. Emma Watson Born 1895, Black Female, Daughter to Maria and Robert, Cook to Private Family
4. Eva Watson Born 1892, Black Female, Daughter to Maria and Robert, Cook to Private Family
5. Louis Watson Born 1896, Black Male, Son to Maria and Robert, Laborer to Private Family
6. Ella Watson, Born 1897, Black Female, Daughter to Maria and Robert, Nurse to Private Family
7. Robert Watson Jr Born 1888, Black Male, Married to Lauvenia, Laborer
8. Lauvenia Watson Born 1888, Black Female, Married to Robert Watson Jr.
9. Alice Watson, Born 1910, Black Female, Daughter to Lauvenia and Robert Watson Jr.

Elliott Household (Misspelled Ellia in 1910 Census) (73)

1. Martha Elliot Born 1850, Black Female, Widowed, Head of Household, Washerwoman, Owns House Free of Mortgage
2. Nelson Elliot Born 1886, Black Male, Son to Martha Elliott, Laborer
3. Lillian Elliott Born 1890, Black Female, House Clearing, Daughter to Martha
4. Robert Elliott Born 1893, Black Male, Single, Farm Laborer, Son to Martha

Harris Household (71)

1. Joe Harris Born 1863, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Nancie, Owns Farm Free of Mortgage, Farmer
2. Nancie Harris, Born 1861, Black Female, Married to Joe

Shellington Household (76)

1. Shellington Born 1871, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Susan, Farm Laborer, Rents
2. Susan Shellington, Born 1875, Black Female, Married, Laborer
3. Annita Shellington, Born 1898, Black Female, Daughter to Susan
4. Winston Shellington Born 1899, Black Male, Daughter to Susan
5. John H Shellington, Born 1904, Black Male, Son to Susan

Davis Household (79)

1. Abraham Daves Born 1882, Black Male, Married to Sallie, Laborer, Owns House
2. Sallie Davis Born 1887, Black Female, Wife to Abraham
3. Fannie Davis Born 1908, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Sallie and Abraham
4. Mary Davis Born 1910, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Sallie and Abraham
5. Walter Davis Born 1894, Black Male, Newpew to Abraham

Total Approximate Population 1910 Census: 25

Total Approximate Population Born Before 1865 in 1910 Census: 3

1930 Census

The 1930 Census is a vital year to tie the African American's from earlier census to this area along Thornton Drive / Pageland Lane because it is the first year in records displayed a road name associated with their last name. The 1930 census directly ties a group of African Americans, one of them with the name Robert Watson, to the closest main road. In the case of Thornton Drive "Pageland" was the closest main road.

Watson Household (336)

1. Robert W Watson Born 1854, Black Male, Laborer, Owns, PAGELAND LANE
2. Anna Snider, Born 1877, Black Female, Divorced, PAGELAND LANE

Page Household (337)

1. Amos Page Born 1881, Black Male, Head of Household, Rents, Farm Laborer, PAGELAND LANE
2. Emma B Page Born 1885, Black Female, Married to Amos, PAGELAND LANE
3. Albert Page Born 1906, Black Male, Parents Emma and Amos, PAGELAND LANE
4. Francis E Page Born 1921, Black Female, Parents Emma and Amos, PAGELAND LANE
5. Amos J Page Born 1914, Black Male, Parents Emma and Amos, PAGELAND LANE
6. John L Page Born 1923, Black Male, Parents Emma and Amos, PAGELAND LANE
7. Ella R Page Born 1926, Black Female, Parents Emma and Amos, PAGELAND LANE
8. Walter R Page Born 1928, Black Male, Parents Emma and Amos, PAGELAND LANE

Ewell Household (339)

1. John Ewell Born 1909, Black Male, Widowed, Head of Household, Rents, PAGELAND LANE

Thomas Household (341)

1. John S Thomas Born 1873, Black Male, Head of Household, Owns, Married, Farmer, PAGELAND LANE
2. Margaret Thomas Born 1885, Black Female, Wife to John, PAGELAND LANE
3. Sherley Thomas Born 1915, Black Male, Single, PAGELAND LANE
4. Leroy Thomas Born 1918, Black Male, PAGELAND LANE
5. Edith V Thomas Born 1923, Black Female, Daughter to John and Margaret, PAGELAND LANE

Willis Household

1. Josh W Willis Born 1883, Black Male, Head of Household, Married, Owns Home, Porter Steam Road Rail, PAGELAND LANE
2. Ruth V Willis Born 1906, Black Female, Married to Josh, PAGELAND LANE
3. William A Willis Born 1912, Black Male, Son to Ruth and Josh, PAGELAND LANE
4. Dorothy M Willis, Born 1915, Black Female, Daughter to Josh and Ruth, PAGELAND LANE

5. Minnie V Willis Born 1920, Black Female, Daughter to Josh and Ruth, PAGELAND LANE
6. Josh C Willis Born 1922, Black Male, Son to Josh and Ruth, PAGELAND LANE
7. Mary M Willis, Born 1923, Black Female, Daughter to Josh and Ruth, PAGELAND LANE

Total Approximate Population in 1930: 23

Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner (1900 Census) and Jennie Dean

Eugene Scheel’s The Tri-Counties of Upper Prince William Lower Loudoun and East Fauquier Map created in 1994 notes “Flat Iron Corner” and “Marble Hill” at Aldie Road and Sudley Road and the location of Mt. Calvary Church and Graveyard. This map depicting these place names and the connection of an old road trace with Thornton Drive led to further research.

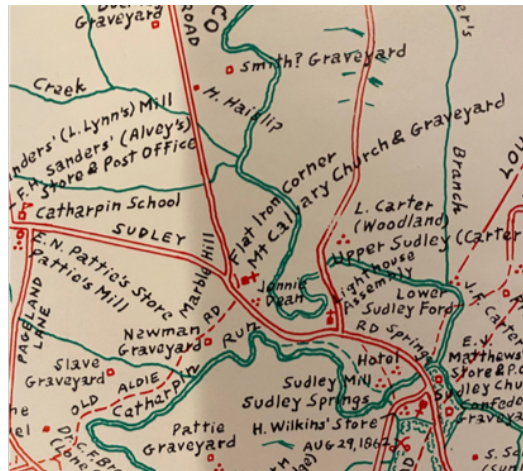


Figure 7 Taken from The Tri-Counties of Upper Prince William and Lower Loudoun East Fauquier shows an area called “Flat Iron Corner” and the location of Mt. Calvary Church and Graveyard and “Marble Hill” as well as a Slave Cemetery

Subsequent research using primary documentation substantiated that an African American Settlement existed in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner where Aldie Road intersects with Sudley Road. The “Maneuver Grounds Prince William and Fairfax Counties, VA surveyed by Maj. Edward Burr (1904) and a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Engineers shows the names “Ashbey, Peters, Glenn, Mrs Dean, and W. Wilkins”



Figure 7.5 The origin of the name “Flat Iron Corner” unknown to the author, but one possible reason is the roadway Right of Way resembles an old Flat Iron. The Parcels between the Right of Way belong to Mt. Calvary Church.

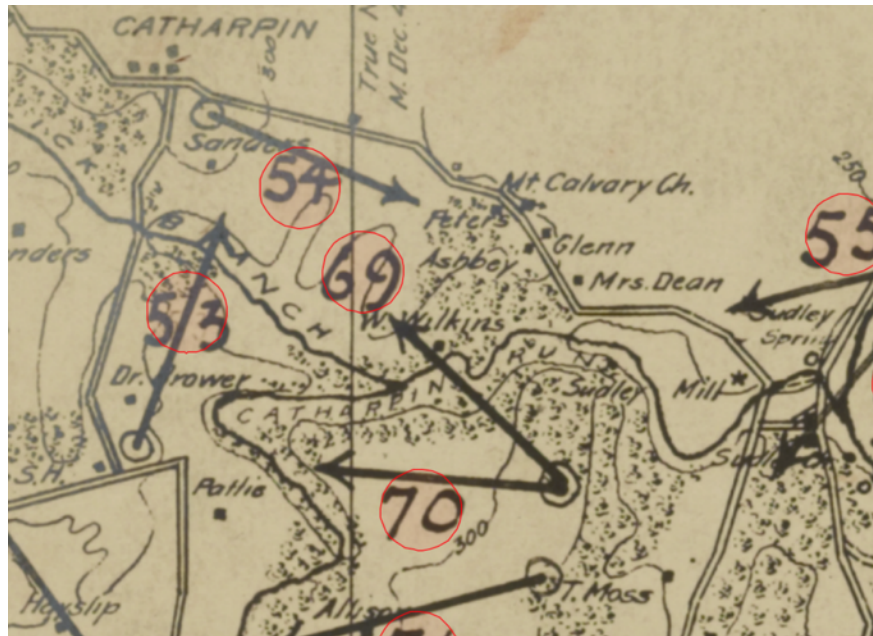


Fig 8 From Maneuver Grounds Prince William and Fairfax Counties, 1904 by Maj. Edward Burr, and a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Engineers. Note the names “Mrs Dean, Ashbey, Peters, Glenn, and Mt. Calvary Ch”

Cross referencing these names in the 1900 census reveals the following about these families and their contribution to the community. These African American Families are in close proximity in the census which combined with Peters, Glenn, and Ashbey (Ashton? There was no Ashbey appearing in the 1900 Census and often names were spelled differently or incorrectly) appearing on the map above substantiates they were in close proximity in a loosely concentrated settlement area in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner. W. Wilkins (97), a Caucasian family and the only W Wilkens listed in Prince William County 1900 Census, is also adjacent to the following African American families in the 1900 Census. W. Wilkens (1844) and Mary Wilkins (1848) is also the only Wilkens in the 1870 Census and they lived near the Dean family in the 1870 Census as well.

Mount Calvary Church was founded in 1880 (Current Structure 1921-1923) by Jane Serepta (Jennie) Dean who was born into slavery in close proximity (Historic Marker in front of Mt. Calvary Church). After the Civil War Jennie Dean went on to be an influential leader dedicated to racial uplift through education. She founded Sunday Schools, some of which became congregations including Calvary Chapel, Later Mt Calvary. In 1888 Jennie Dean founded the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth which received its charter in 1893. Jennie Dean died in 1913 as one of the most influential African American females from Prince William County. She is buried at Mt Calvary, along with her sisters (Figures 21, 25, and 26) which solidifies her strong ties to the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Mt. Calvary. Census records indicate that her family also chose to settle in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner as evidenced below. The Maneuver’s Map of 1904 notes “Mrs. Dean” in proximity to Mt Calvary Church (Figure 8). The 1937 Aerial shows an area marked “Dean” (Figure 13).

The existence of Mt Calvary Church and its founding in this location around 1880 is evidence that there was a concentration of African American settlement in this area. Further, several

family names listed in the census' for the Thornton Drive area and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Area are buried in the cemetery at Mt Calvary including members of the Davis, Peters, Berry, Allen, and Thomas families. There appears to be many unmarked graves at Mt Calvary Church that may have additional African Americans from the Census' below buried there. Additionally, Jennie Dean and her sisters are buried at Mt Calvary (Figures 21, 25,26).

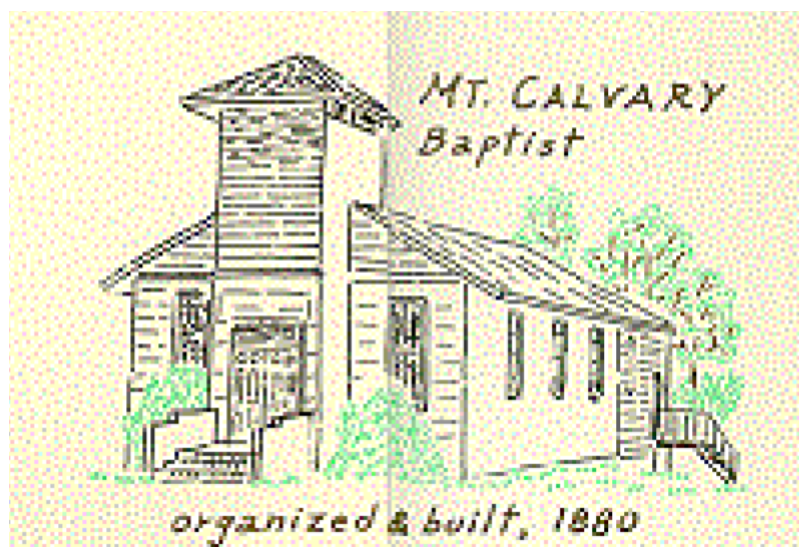


Fig 9 and 10. Mt Calvary Church organized in 1880 in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner. The structure shown above was built between 1921 and 1923. (Courtesy Eugene Scheels African American Heritage of Prince William County Map). Jennie Dean (pictured) was one of the original founders of Mt Calvary and is buried in the adjacent Cemetery

Peters Homestead (93)

1. John Peters Born May 1830, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Susan M Peters in 1867, Owns his land Free of Mortgage. John Peters is Buried at Mt Calvary Church.
2. Susan M Peters Born Aug 1844, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to John Peters 1867, Mother to 6 children (5 living), No Occupation Noted
3. Naomi Peters Born Feb 1888, Black Female, Black Female, Granddaughter to John Peters, Single, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Enrolled in School
4. Effie Peters Born Aug 1890, Gainesville District, Black Female, Granddaughter to John Peters, Single, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Enrolled in School
5. Harry Peters Born May 1885, Gainesville District, Black Male, Grandson to John Peters, Single, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Enrolled in School

Ashton Homestead (Possibly Ashbey) (95)

1. William H Ashton Born Mar 1864, Black Male, Married to Ellen Ashton in 1887, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Day Laborer
2. Ellen Ashton Born Oct 1866, Gainesville District, Black Female, Wife to William H Ashton Married in 1887, Mother to 6 Children
3. Blanche E Ashton Born Oct 1887, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Ellen and William Ashton, Enrolled in School
4. Cora B Ashton Born Dec 1890, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to William H and Ellen Ashton, Single, Enrolled in School

5. Leroy P Ashton Born April 1893, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to William H and Ellen Ashton, Single
6. Janie M Ashton Born May 1895, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to William H and Ellen Ashton
7. Lawrence Ashton Born Jul 1897, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to William H and Ellen Ashton
8. Susie Ashton Born Dec 1899, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to William H Ashton and Ellen Ashton

Payne Homestead (92)

1. Richard Payne Born Dec 1849, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household Married to Fannie Payne in 1890, Farmer, Owns House Free of Mortgage
2. Fannie Payne Born Mar 1862, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Richard Payne in 1890, Mother to 7 Children, Mother and Father born in Virginia No Name Noted
3. Henry Payne Born Jul 1880, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Richard and Fannie Payne, Single, Farm Laborer
4. Charlie Payne Born Apr 1881, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Richard and Fannie Payne, Farm Laborer
5. Mary F Payne Born Apr 1885, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Richard and Fannie Payne, Enrolled in School
6. Sarah Payne Born Dec 1885, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Richard and Fannie Payne, Enrolled in School
7. Beverley Payne Born Jan 1889, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Richard and Fannie Payne, Single, Enrolled in School
8. Claude Payne Born Apr 1890, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Richard and Fannie Payne, Enrolled in School, Single
9. Maurice L Payne Born May 1896, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Richard and Fannie Payne
10. Gertrude Payne Born Sep 1899, Gainesville District, Black Male

Berry Homestead (96)

1. Geo W Berry Born May 1844, Gainesville District, Black Male, Married to Sarah F Berry in 1870, Both Parents Born in Virginia No Name Noted, Plaster, Owns House Free of Mortgage, Head of Household
2. Sarah F Berry Born May 1854, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Geo W Berry, Mother and Father from Virginia No Names Noted, Mother to Two Children
3. Hattie V Berry Born Jul 1874, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Geo and Sarah F Berry, Enrolled in School, Single
4. Charlie S Berry Born Jul 1880, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Geo and Sarah Berry, Farmer, Single

Williams Homestead (98)

1. Henry Williams Born Sep 1873, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Harriet Williams in 1894, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Farm Laborer, Rents

2. Harriet Williams Born May 1865, Black Female, Gainesville District, Married to Henry Williams, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted

Peterson Household (91)

1. Henry Peterson Born Jul 1858, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Widowed, Mother and Father Born in Virginia No Name Noted, Owns House Free of Mortgage

Allen Homestead (99)

1. Frank Allen Born Jun 1874, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Martha T Allen 1900, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Farm Laborer, Rents
2. Martha T Allen Born Apr 1877, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Frank Allen in 1900, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Mother to Two Children
3. Benj F Allen Born May 1900, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Martha and Frank Allen
4. Caroline Allen Born May 1900, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Martha and Frank Allen
5. Douglas Thomas 11 Years Old, Gainesville District, Black Male, Boarder

Davis Homestead (101)

1. Joe H Davis Born Apr 1864, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Margaret Davis in 1891, Farm Laborer, Rents
2. Margaret Davis Born Mar 1873, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Joe H Davis in 1891, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Noted, Mother to 6 Children
3. Georgie S Davis Born Dec 1891, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son of Joe and Margaret Davis, Single
4. Harry D Davis Born Dec 1886, Gainesville District, Black Male, Single, Son to Joe and Margaret Davis
5. Henry Davis Born Mar 1896, Gainesville District, Black Male, Son to Margaret and Joe Davis, Single
6. Melissa R Davis Born Dec 1892, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Joe and Margaret Davis
7. Alice V Davis Born Dec 1897, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Joe and Margaret Davis
8. Joe T Davis Born Aug 1898, Gainesville Distrit, Black Male, Son to Joe and Margaret Davis

Glenn Homestead (102)

1. Ellwood Glenn Born May 1870, Gainesville District, Black Male, Head of Household Married to Angy Glenn in 1893, Mother and Father Born in Va No Name Noted, Farm Laborer, Rents
2. Angy Glenn Born Mar 1870, Gainesville District, Black Female, Married to Ellwood Glenn, Mother to 5 Children, Mother and Father Born in VA No Names Given

3. Bertha Glenn Born Mar 1883, Gainesville District, Black Female, Single, Daughter to Angy and Ellwood Glenn, Enrolled in School
4. Caroll Glenn Born Apr 1892, Gainesville District Black Male, Single, Son to Ellwood and Angy Glenn
5. Nellie Glenn Born Aug 1893, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Ellwood and Angy Glenn
6. Dora Glenn Born Sep 1895, Gainesville District, Black Female, Daughter to Angy and Ellwood Glenn
7. Maude Glenn Born May 1898, Gainesville District, Black Female, Duagher to Ellwood and Angy Glenn

Mrs. Dean

Although “Mrs Dean” was shown in the 1904 map, the 1900 Census notes that Jennie Dean was living at the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth. However, according the the Encyclopedia Virginia, Jennie Dean helped purchase their farm for her family in Prince William County after her father’s death, possibly the one where “Mrs Dean” is noted in the 1904 map near Mt Calvary.

Total Approximate Population in the Flat Iron Corner Area in the 1900 Census: 50
 Approximate Total Born before 1865 in the 1900 Census: 9

The Aesthetic of the the area surrounding Flat Iron Corner was primarily rural. The Maneuver Grounds Map (Fig 8, 11, and 12) show the rural aesthetic of the surrounding countryside in 1904.



Fig 11 Photo 53 from the Maneuver Grounds Map, 1904. Refer to Figure 8 for Photo Location and Direction. In the notes for the photo it states “Pattie’s house S 85° W; to W. Wilkin’s house N 30° W. Catharpin Run with trees; W. Wilkins’ house in center.”



Fig 12 Photo 53 from the Maneuver Grounds Map, 1904. Refer to Figure 8 for Photo Location and Direction. In the notes for the photo it states "On road between Catharpin and Sudley Mills, on 325 foot contour, near Catharpin, FOREGROUND. — Pasture; rail fence on left. MIDDLEGROUND. — Farm houses; W. Wilkins' house on right."

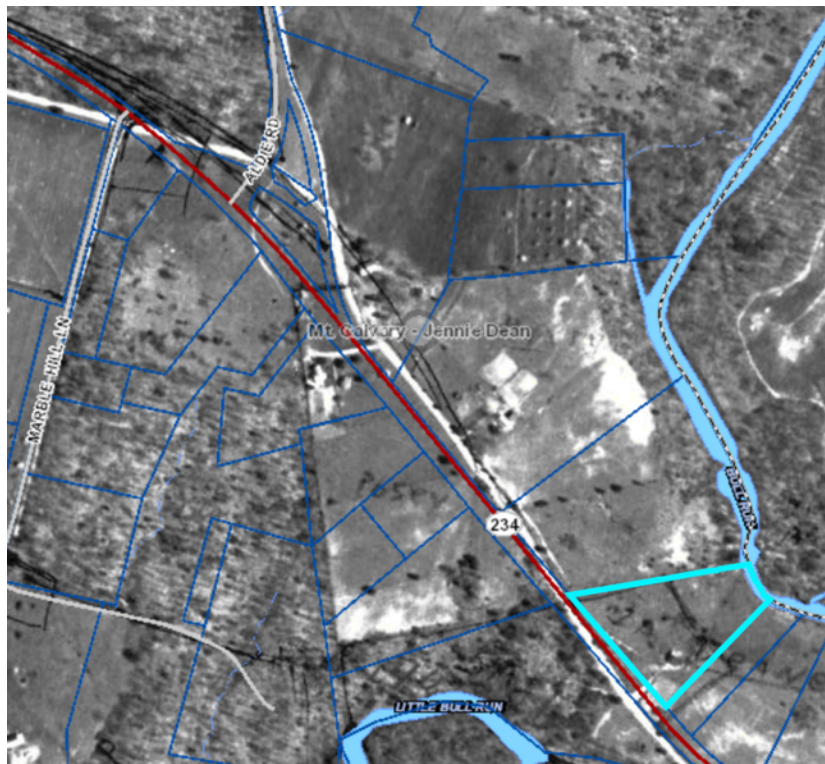


Fig 13 1937 aerial of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner. Note Mt Calvary and the location marked "Dean" south of Flat Iron Corner

Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner Census 1880, 1870, and 1930.

1880 Census

Common Threads in the 1880 Census include the Dean Household (also in 1870 and shown on 1904 map), the Berry Household (George and Sally also in the 1900 Census), and Paine Household (Same surname found in 1870,1880, and 1900 Census).

Dean Homestead (119)

1. Charles Dean, Born 1821, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Ann, Farmer
2. Ann Dean, Born About 1823, Black Female, Married to Charles, Keeping House
3. Huldah Dean, Born About 1868, Black Female, Single
4. Patsey Helm, Born About 1875, Black Female, Single

Berry Household (120) (Also in the 1900 Census in proximity to Flat Iron Corner)

1. George Berry Born About 1843, Black Male, Head of Household, Married to Sally, Plasterer
2. Sally Berry, Born About 1854, Black Female, Married to George, Keeping House
3. James Berry, Born About 1879, Black male, Single, Parents George and Sally

Paine Household (118)

1. Fanny Paine, Born About 1822, Black Female, Widowed, Keeping House, Head of Household
2. Laura Paine, Born About 1861, Black Female, Mother Fanny, Occupation At home
3. Arthur Paine, Born About 1865, Black Male, Mother Fanny, Occupation At Home
4. Fanny Paine, Born About 1855, Black Female, Daughter In Law to Fanny Paine, Married to Arthur, Occupation At Home
5. Laura Corain, Born About 1867, Mulatto Female, Occupation at Home
6. Robert Paine, Born Apr 1880, Black Male, Grandson to Fanny Paine

Elzny Household (121)

1. Pattie Elzny, Born About 1786, Black Female, Widowed

Hamilton Household (121)

1. Pennie Hamilton, Born About 1858, Black Female, Single, Head of Household
2. Belle Hamilton, Born About 1878 Black Female, Daughter to Pennie, Single

Wright Household (121)

1. Joseph Wright Born About 1860, Black Male, Single, Farm Hand

Michee Household (122)

1. William Michee Born About 1840, Mulatto Male, Head of Household, Married to Matilda, Farm Hand
2. Matilda Michee, Born About 1840, Black Female, Married to William, Keeping House
3. Thomas Michee, Born About 1861, Black Male, At Home
4. Philanda Michee, Born About 1865, Black Male, Parents William and Matilda

5. Voriney Michee, Born About 1872, Black Female, Parents William and Matilda
6. William Michee, Born About 1876, Black Male, Parents William and Matilda

Michee Household (122)

1. Margaret Michee Born About 1877, Black Female

Robinson Household (129)

1. Zork Robinson Born About 1854, Black Male, Head of Household, Farm Hand
2. Jefferson Donald Born About 1857, Farm Hand, Black Male, Single
3. John Johnson, Born About 1862, Black Male, Farm hand
4. Frederick Scott Born About 1850, Mulatto Male, Farm Hand, Single
5. Spencer Johnson, Born About 1856, Black Male, Farm Laborer, Single
6. Alice Bulter Born About 1852, Mulatto Female, Cook, Single
7. Lee Butler, Born About 1871, Mulatto Male, Son to Alice, Single

Jones Household (113) Richard and Mary Jones (Dean) were married and are buried at Mt. Calvary. Mary Jones (Dean) is sister to Jennie Dean.

1. Richard Jones Born About 1854, Mulatto Male, Married to Mary, Farm Hand
2. Mary Jones Born About 1855, Black Female, Married to Richard, Milkwoman
3. John Beale, Born About 1858, Black male, Farm Hand, Single
4. Elizabeth Enell, Born About 1855, Black Female, Cook

Total Approximate Population in the 1880 census: 35

Total Approximate Population Born Before 1865: 22

1870 Census

The individuals listed below in the 1870 census appear in the Manassas Post Office instead of Gainesville like they do in the 1880 census. However, the common names found in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 census' make it likely that the post office for this area was Manassas in 1870 or that there was an error by the census taker when entering data.

The 1904 Maneuver Map is a vital map that shows some names in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner that were able to be matched in the 1900 Census. The 1900 Census then became a starting point to trace backwards using key family names that remained living near each other over periods of time. One of those families shown on the 1904 map and 1900 census is Mary Wilkins (1848) and William Wilkins (1844). Mary and William Wilkins appear in the 1870 census and the 1900 census. They appear in the 1870 census near the **Dean Family** (Dwelling 58 while the Dean's were 56). Additionally, in the 1904 Maneuver map it shows "Mrs. Dean" and William and Mary Wilkins in close proximity.

Additionally, Members of the **Paine (Payne)** family also appear in the 1900, 1930, 1880, and 1870 census'. **Emily Shellington** also appeared in the 1870 census in the area and was later in the 1900 and 1910 census for the area near Thornton Drive as a renter.

It would be highly unlikely that all of these different families moved from Manassas to this particular area in this timeframe. It is more likely that there was an inconsistency with the Census Taker or that the Post Office Area for this area was on the border between Manassas and Gainesville in 1870.

Dean Homestead (56)

1. Charles Dean Born 1822, Black Male, Farmer, inferred spouse Ann Dean, Inferred Children Jane Dean. Personal Estate Value \$125
2. Ann Dean Born 1826, Black Female, Keeping House, Inferred Spouse Charles Dean, Inferred Children Jane Dean
3. Jane Dean (Jennie Dean) Born 1852, Black Female, Attends School
4. Mary Dean, Born 1855, Black Female, Attends School
5. Hulda E Dean, Born 1868, Black Female
6. Mallie Cant Born 1802, Black Female

Shelington Homestead (55)

1. John Shellington Born 1840, Black Male, Farm Laborer, Inferred Spouse Emily Shellington
2. Emily Shellington Born 1842, Black Female, Keeping House, Inferred Spouse Robert Shellington
3. Robert Shellington Born 1864, Black male, Inferred Parents Emily and John Shellington
4. Mary Shelington Black Female, Inferred Parents Emily and John Shelington
5. Patty Ellsworth Born 1775, Black Female

Henry Household (51)

1. Emma Henry Born 1790, Mulatto Female, Keeping House
2. Malinda Smith Born 1825, Mulatto Female

Halmos Homestead (50)

1. Edmond Halmos Born 1798, Black Male, Farmer
2. Stepney Halmos, Born 1805, Black Male
3. William Hughes, Born 1855, Mulatto Male

Deron Household (49)

1. James Deron, Born 1824, Mulatto Male, Farmer
2. Mahala Deron Born 1834, Black Female, Inferred Spouse James Deron
3. Robert Deron, Born 1858, Mulatto Male, Inferred Parents James and Mahala
4. Caroline Deron, Born 1869, Mulatto Female, Inferred Parents James and Mahala
5. Jemima Deron, Born 1862, Mulatto Female, Inferred Parents James and Mahala
6. Shelton Deron, Born 1865, Mulatto Male, Inferred Parents James and Mahala
7. Pidgin Deron, Born 1867, Mulatto Female, Inferred Parents James and Mahala
8. Millie Deron, Mulatto Female, Inferred Parents James and Mahala
9. Henrietta Deron, Born 1870, Mulatto Female

Paine Household (48)

1. Robert Paine, Born 1808, Black Male, Farm Laborer, Inferred Spouse Fannie Paine

2. Fannie Paine, Born 1828, Black Female, Keeping House, Inferred Spouse Robert
3. Richard Paine, Black Male
4. Landon Paine, Born 1852, Black Male, Inferred Father Robert
5. Albert Paine, Born 1855, Black Male, Inferred Father Robert
6. Alger Paine Born 1857, Black Male Inferred Father Robert
7. Lauretta Paine Born 1862, Black Female, Inferred Father Robert
8. Arthur Paine, Born 1865, Black Male, Inferred Father Robert
9. John Taylor, Born 1848, Mulatto Male, Farm Laborer
10. Richard Mason, Born 1851, Black Male
11. Anthony Mason, Born 1854, Black Male

Alexandria Household (46)

1. David Alexandria Born 1825, Black Male, Farm Laborer, Inferred Spouse Rachel
2. Rachel Alexandria, Born 1832, Mulatto Female, Keeping House
3. William Alexandria , Mulatto Male, Inferred Parents David and Rachel
4. Sandy Alexandria Born About 1855, Mulatto Male, Enrolled in School, Inferred Parents David and Rachel
5. Henry Alexandria Born About 1857, Mulatto Male, Enrolled in School, Inferred Parents David and Rachel
6. James Alexandria Born about 1858, Mulatto Male, Enrolled in School, Inferred Parents David and Rachel
7. Hannah Alexandria Born About 1860, Mulatto Female, Enrolled in School, Inferred Parents David and Rachel
8. Frank Alexandria Born about 1863, Mulatto Male, Inferred Parents David and Rachel
9. Charles Alexandria (Alexander) Born 1865, Mulatto Male, Parents David and Rachel
10. Catharine Alexandria, Born 1868, Mulatto Female, Parents David and Rachel

Burk Household (45)

1. Mytilda Burk, Born 1832, Black Female, Keeping House
2. Calsium Burk, Born 1854, Black Male, Inferred Mother Mytilda
3. Lewis Burk, Born 1856, Black Male, Inferred Mother Mytilda
4. Thomas Burk, Born 1858, Black Male, Inferred Mother Mytilda
5. Louisa Burk, Born 1864, Black Female, Inferred Mother Mytilda
6. James Burk, Born 1866, Black Male, Inferred Mother Mytilda
7. Philander Burk, Born 1868, Black Male, Inferred Mother Mytilda

Gaskin Household (44)

1. Annie Gaskin Born 1835, Black Female, Keeping House
2. Frank Gaskin, Born 1855, Black Male, Inferred Mother Annie
3. Benjamin Gaskin, Born 1858, Black Male, Inferred Mother Annie
4. Caroline Gaskin, Born 1862, Black Female, Inferred Mother Annie
5. Rice Gaskin, Born 1867, Black Male, Inferred Mother Annie
6. John Gaskin, Black Male, Inferred Mother Annie

Total Approximate Population in the 1870 Census: 59

Total Approximate Population Born Before 1865: 44

1930 Census

The 1930 Census is a vital year to tie the African American's from earlier census to this area along Sudley Road because it is the first year in records displayed a road name associated with their last name. The 1930 census directly ties individuals that were consistently living next door to each other in the 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 Census' to a road name. In the case of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner "Sudley Road" was the closest main road (Present Rt 234 / Sudley Road).

Peters Household (349)

1. Henry Peters Born 1856, Black Male, Head of Household, Married, Owns, Farmer, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Lulu F Peters Born 1876, Black Female, Married, SUDLEY ROAD

Davis Household (352) (Sadie and Abraham Buried at Calvary Church)

1. Abraham Davis Born 1882, Black Male, Married, Head of Household, Farmer, Owns, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Sadie Davis Born 1891, Black Female, Married to Abraham, SUDLEY ROAD
3. Abraham L Davis Born 1915, Black Male, Son to Abraham and Sadie, SUDLEY ROAD
4. Lucy Davis Born 1917, Black Female, Daughter to Abraham and Sadie, SUDLEY ROAD
5. Thomas H Davis Born 1920, Black Male, Single, Son to Abraham and Sadie, SUDLEY ROAD
6. Frank L Davis Born 1926, Black Male, Son to Abraham and Sadie, SUDLEY ROAD

Griffith Household (353)

1. Fred Griffith Born 1909, Black Male, Married, Head of Household, Owns, Laborer at Sawmill, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Mary L Griffith Born 1910, Black Female, Wife to Fred, SUDLEY ROAD
3. Curtis L Griffith Born 1930, Black Male, Son to Mary and Fred, SUDLEY ROAD

Berry Household (355)

1. Charles S Berry Born 1881, Black Male, Head of Household, Married, Rented, Farmer, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Laura E Berry Born 1883, Black Female, Married to Charles, Laundress, SUDLEY ROAD
3. Sarah F Berry Born 1855, Black Female, Widowed, Mother to Charles S., SUDLEY ROAD
4. Ormond Berry, Black Male, Son to Charles S and Laura E, Farm Laborer, SUDLEY ROAD

Payne Household (356)

1. Claud Payne Born 1883, Head of Household, Black Male, Rented, Farm Laborer, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Ella R Payne Born 1896, Black Female, Married to Claud, SUDLEY ROAD

3. Laurretta V Payne Born 1917, Black Female, Daughter to Ella and Claud, SUDLEY ROAD
4. Henry L Payne Born 1912, Black Male, Son to Claud and Ella, SUDLEY ROAD
5. Benjamin Payne Born 1927, Black Male, Son to Claud and Ella, SUDLEY ROAD
6. Dorothy M Payne Born 1928, Black Female, Daughter to Claud and Ella, SUDLEY ROAD
7. Sylvestra Payne, Born 1929, Black Female, Daughter to Ella and Claud, SUDLEY ROAD

Davis Household (357)

1. Joseph A Davis Born 1891, Black Male, Head of Household, Rented Land, Farm Laborer, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Lucy A Davis Born 1895, Black Female, Wife to Joseph, SUDLEY ROAD
3. Anna E Davis Born 1912, Black Female, Daughter to Lucy and Joseph, SUDLEY ROAD
4. Marie F Davis Born 1916, Black Female, Daughter to Lucy and Joseph, SUDLEY ROAD
5. Josie I Davis Born 1917, Black Female, Daughter to Lucy and Joseph, SUDLEY ROAD
6. Andrew J Davis Born 1919, Black Male, Son to Lucy and Joseph, SUDLEY ROAD
7. Helen M Davis Born 1921, Black Female, Daughter to Joseph and Lucy, SUDLEY ROAD
8. Mildred A Davis, Born 1922, Black Female, Daughter to Joseph and Lucy, SUDLEY ROAD
9. Eugene C Davis Born 1924, Black Male, Son to Joseph and Lucy, SUDLEY ROAD
10. Burnice E Davis Born 1926, Black Female, Daughter to Joseph and Lucy, SUDLEY ROAD
11. Gilbert F Davis Born 1928, Black Male, Son to Joseph and Lucy, SUDLEY ROAD

Payne Household (358)

1. Beverly Payne Born 1888, Black Male, Married, Head of Household, Rented, Farm Laborer, SUDLEY ROAD
2. Hattie Payne Born 1895, Black Female, Married, Wife to Beverly, SUDLEY ROAD
3. Morice L Payne Born 1896, Black Male, Brother to Beverly, Married, SUDLEY ROAD

Total Approximate Population on SUDLEY ROAD in 1930: 36

Total Approximate Population on SUDLEY ROAD in 1930 born before 1865: 2

Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Lane; Communities Connected

The African American Communities of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner Hill and Thornton Lane demonstrate an important part of the fabric of Prince William County in the Post-Civil War era. Both Communities showed children enrolled in school which was possibly the school on Thornton Lane. Both communities likely also congregated at Mt Calvary Church. Eugene Scheel's Map shows that a road / path connection once existed between the two communities which further shows the connection between the communities (See Figure 13). Eugene Scheel's Map also shows a "Slave Graveyard" commonly referred to as "Marble Hill. " Marble Hill Graveyard was noted by Ron Turner as "Marble Hill Slave" Approx 40 x 40 unknown number of burials. Latitude / Longitude N3850.594 W077 33.880 (Location).

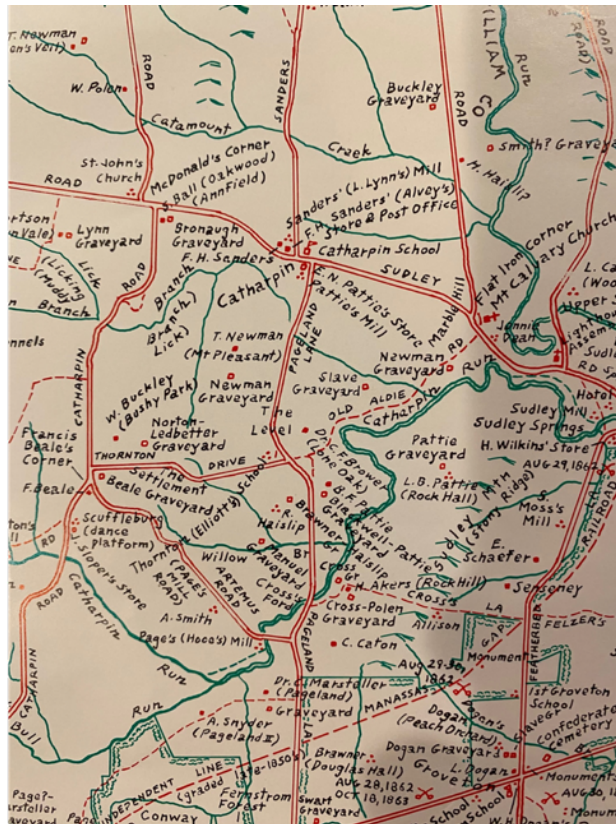


Figure 14 Taken from The Tri-Counties of Upper Prince William and Lower Loudoun East Fauquier shows The Settlement on Thornton Drive and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner/ Mt Calvary Church. Additionally, a road trace/ path is shown between the two communities as “Old Aldie Road.” Near this Road trace is a “Slave Graveyard” which is commonly known as “Marble Hill.” Also of note on this map is the Norton-Ledbetter Graveyard and Newman Graveyard in vicinity of the African American Neighborhoods.

Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Lane: The Digital Gateway Proposal

The areas of Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Lane areas are both partially within the Digital Gateway Proposal. The images below show their location adjacent and within the Digital Gateway area shaded in purple. Mt Calvary Church and Jennie Dean’s final resting place in the African American cemetery are directly across the roadway on Sudley Road from where the Digital Gateway is proposed and would have views toward industrial data centers (See Figure 21 and 22). Additionally, the 1900 Census and 1904 Maneuver Grounds Map gives locations of African Americans from Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Lane that appear to be within the Digital Gateway area shaded in purple. The Marble Hill Slave Cemetery and the Old Aldie Road Trace that may have once connected these two African American settlements is entirely within the proposed Digital Gateway. Much of the rural aesthetic of fields and woodlots that once surrounded these African American Communities still exists (See Figures 15, 19, 20, 23, and 24). Thornton Drive is still a gravel roadway (See Figure 19). If the Digital Gateway is passed by the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, it would threaten to destroy the fabric of the traces left behind of these important communities. These communities tell the story of African Americans in Prince William County coming together Post-Civil War, after gaining their freedom, and creating a community. The archeological remnants and the rural aesthetic these communities exhibited in are in danger of being lost forever to data center development.

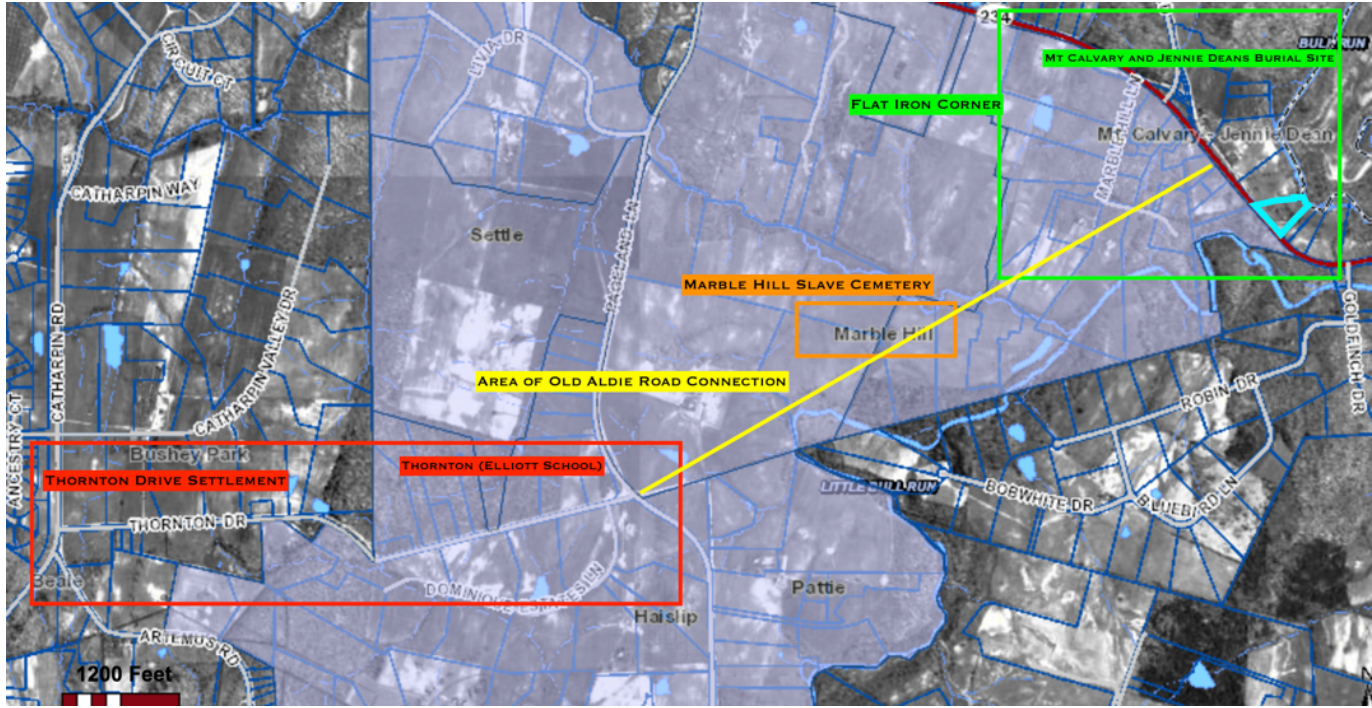


Figure 15. 1937 aerial showing areas of African American History effected in the Digital Gateway Proposal. Note the Settlement at Thornton Drive Area, the site of the Thornton Elliot School, the area where the Old Aldie Road once connected the two communities, Marble Hill Slave Cemetery, and Flat Iron Corner with Mt Calvary and Jennie Dean’s burial location. Areas Shaded in Purple are the properties proposed as part of the Digital Gateway.

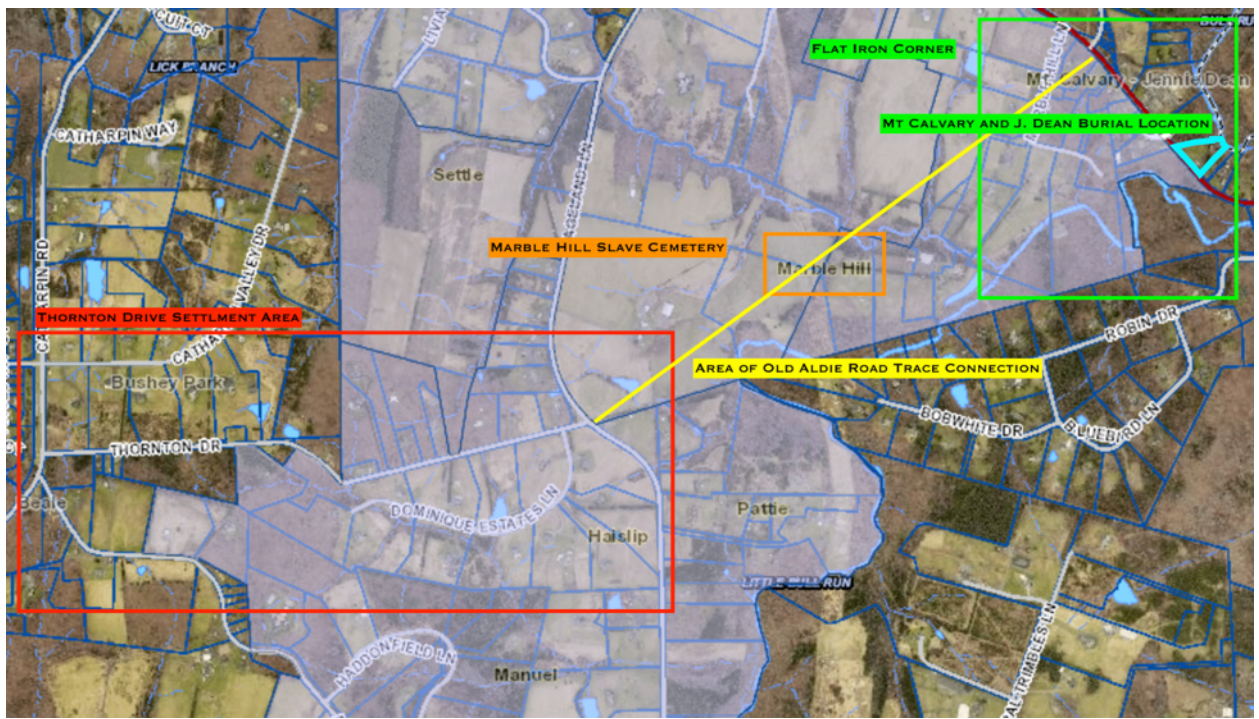


Figure 16. 2021 aerial showing areas of African American History effected in the Digital Gateway Proposal. Note the mosaic of open fields and woodland that still exist in 2021. This fabric is similar to the aesthetic shown in the pictures from the 1904 map and from the 1937 aerial. If the area shaded in purple is approved as the Digital Gateway it could forever change the aesthetic of the area, losing the ability to visualize the African American Communities that existed. It also could potentially endanger unknown cemetery sites and other archeological sites that exist in the Digital Gateway Area that are not yet documented.



Figure 17 and Figure 18. Figure 17 shows present day Mt Calvary Church and Figure 18 shows a grouping of trees at Pageland Lane and Thornton Drive where the Thornton (Elliott) School House once existed. It is possible that archeological remains of the School House still exist in this wooded area.



Figure 19 and 20. The rural, wooded gravel road aesthetic of Thornton Drive still exists in 2021. Photo Taken in the area where the Thornton Drive Settlement Existed. Figure 20 shows Marble Hill Lane. Marble Hill Cemetery, known to be a slave cemetery, is somewhere in the area of Marble Hill Lane. Marble Hill Lane gets its name from the area known as “Marble Hill.”



Figure 21 and 22. Jennie Dean’s headstone in the foreground and Mt Calvary Church in 2021. The land across Sudley Road in the middleground is part of the Digital Gateway Proposal and would forever change the context and view shed for these important traces of the African American Community that existed in the Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner area.



Figure 23 and 24. Gravel Road along Marble Hill Lane and field in the area of Flat Iron Corner. Marble Hill Cemetery is located in proximity between Thornton Drive and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner in a field and is known for being a slave cemetery. This mosaic of fields, woods, and gravel roads are all remnants of the rural character that still exists near Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Thornton Drive.



Figure 25 and 26. Both of Jennie Dean's Sisters are also Buried at Mt Calvary. (Ella Figure 25 and Mary Figure 26)



Figure 27. Data Center Development under construction near Manassas Battlefield and Pageland Lane on University Blvd. Note the flattening of topography and large swaths of pavement needed for this development typology. This aesthetic would replace the current rural aesthetic of the areas that the Thornton Drive Settlement and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner currently still have.



Figure 28 Shirley Cemetery in the Middle of the Virginia Gateway Shopping Center in Gainesville, Virginia near the proposed Digital Gateway. Current Policies in Prince William County have allowed for cemeteries to be encircled by development, forever changing the peaceful settings that once surrounded these cemeteries. The Marble Hill Slave Cemetery and Mt. Calvary Church Cemetery where Jennie Dean is buried could face a similar fate if the Digital Gateway is approved.

Cultural Landscape in Peril: The Connections between Manassas Battlefield, Jennie Dean, and The Settlement at Thornton Lane and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner.

The Manassas Battlefield Park is in the direct vicinity of both the Thornton Drive Settlement and Flat Iron Corner. It is important to begin to understand the relationships between the Manassas Battlefield and the two settlement areas and their inhabitants. The area around Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner is approximately 0.931 miles from the border of Manassas Battlefield. The area around the Thornton Drive Settlement is approximately 1.675 miles from Manassas Battlefield. These areas of Post-Civil War African American Communities in such close proximity to a National Battlefield Park presents a unique, rural, cultural landscape that tells the story of one of the most significant periods in American History; The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the formation of African American Communities that developed during the Post-Civil War Era.

This rich cultural landscape has many stories and connections that need further research. In a Wikipedia Search of Jennie Dean it states:

“Jane Serepta Dean (April 15, 1848 - May 3, 1913) was born into slavery in Northern Virginia, freed as a result of the American Civil War, and became an important founder of churches and

Sunday Schools for African Americans in Northern Virginia. Dean founded the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth, which for more than four decades was the only institution of secondary education available to African American youth in Northern Virginia...Jennie Dean was born to Charles Dean (a domestic servant) and his wife Annie, both of the African Americans born enslaved and owned by the Newman Family, and later by the Cushing Family. Her Grandmother Mildred may have been of Native American ancestry...the First Battle of Manassas was fought near their home, and the Dean family stayed in their cabin and hoped to avoid artillery shelling and crossfire. Afterward, on the master's instructions, her father and other enslaved men rescued wounded Confederate soldiers, and later buried many dead..."
-Wikipedia 2021

While Wikipedia is often not viewed as a primary or reliable source of information, the description in the quote becomes worth investigating when compared to Eugene Scheel's Prince William County Map (1992) that shows Civil War Movements for the First and Second Battles of Manassas (Figures 29 and 30). The Map shows a historic site labeled "Dean" and the family names "Newman" and "Cushing" nearby. It is common knowledge that Jennie Dean was born in the area of Sudley Springs, the same area where Manassas Battlefield is located and where according to this map, families with the last name's Newman and Cushing were living at the time of the Battles at First and Second Manassas. While Eugene Scheel's map is a more recent interpretative map, the description and maps do provide a basis for further research, a jumping off point to verify the claim in the Wikipedia description. The narrative of Jennie Dean being born into slavery, her family's location in the vicinity of the First and Second Battles at Manassas, and her contributions to the African American Community after the Civil War in the immediate vicinity at Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner with her connection to Mt Calvary Church is a powerful narrative. That narrative exists in the traces of the rural cultural landscape that still exists in the area of Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and nearby Settlement at Thornton Drive.

This is just one possible example of the ties between the Manassas Battlefield and the African American Communities that developed at Thornton Drive and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner after the Civil War. It needs verification and research to confirm the claim. The Gravestone of James Peters that has the inscription "Civil War Veteran" at Mt. Calvary Church provides another thread that can take this preliminary investigation to the next level of research (Figure 34) to better understand African American communities in Post-Civil War Prince William County, especially in the vicinity of Manassas Battlefield where two major battles were fought during the Civil War. "Peters" is an African American surname that appears in the 1904 Maneuvers map and the 1900 census in the area around Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner (See Figure 8).

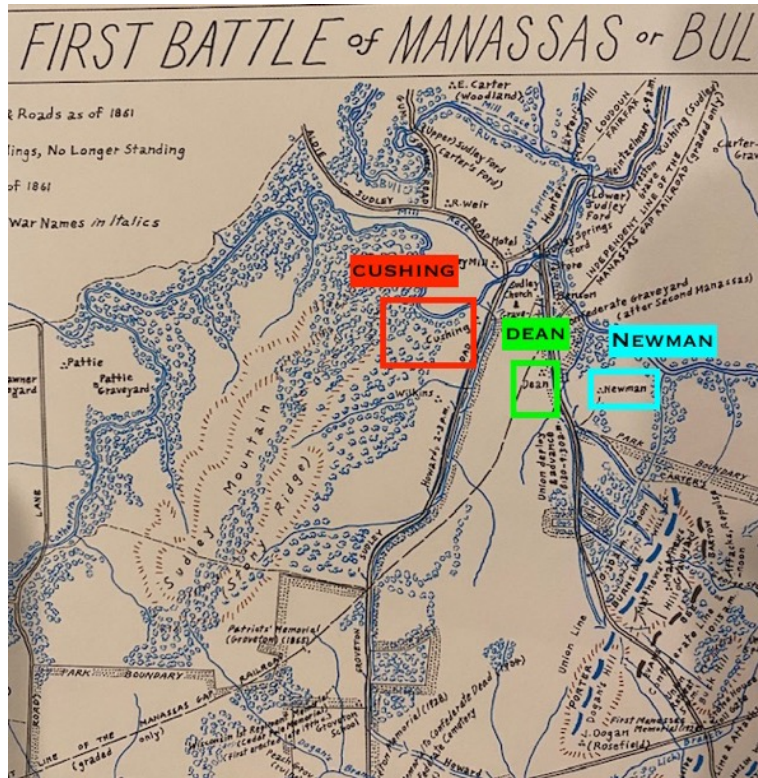


Figure 29 Image from Eugene Scheel's Prince William County Map (1992) with Civil War Movements from the First Battle of Manassas. Note Cushing, Dean, and Newman on the map in close proximity

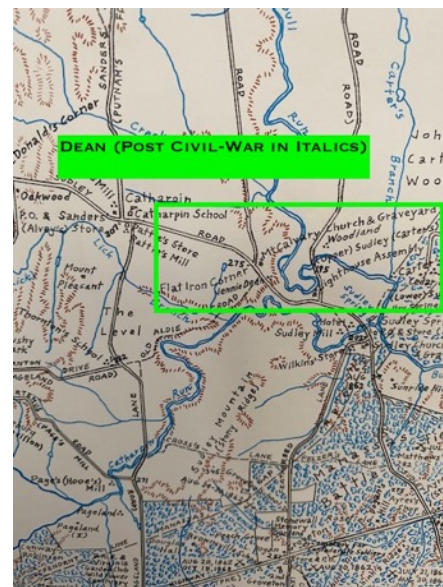
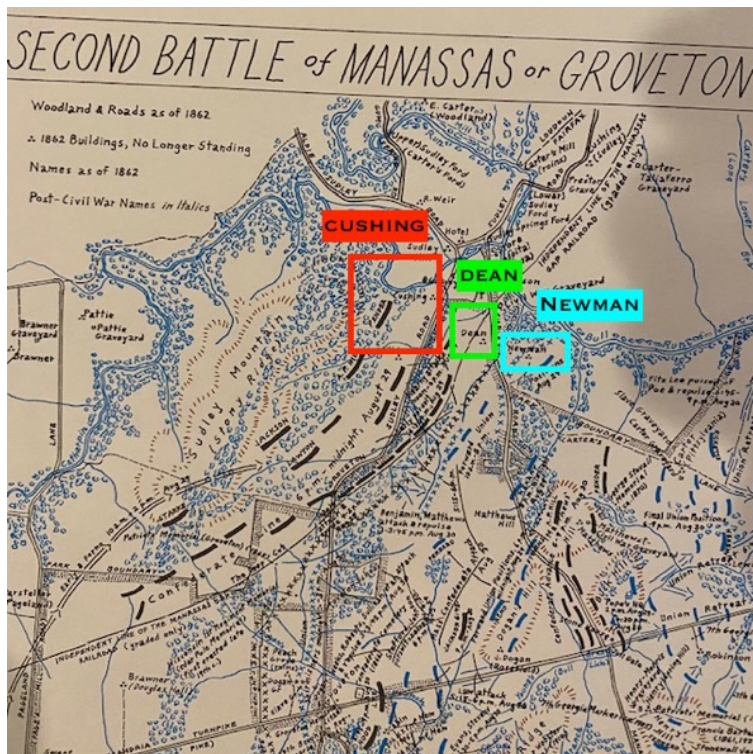


Figure 30 Images from Eugene Scheel's Prince William County Map (1992) with Civil War Movements from the Second Battle of Manassas. Note Cushing, Dean, and Newman on the map in close proximity. Words not in italics are as of 1862. The second photo taken from the map shows "Dean" in italics (Post Civil War) closer to the eventual location of Mt Calvary and Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner.

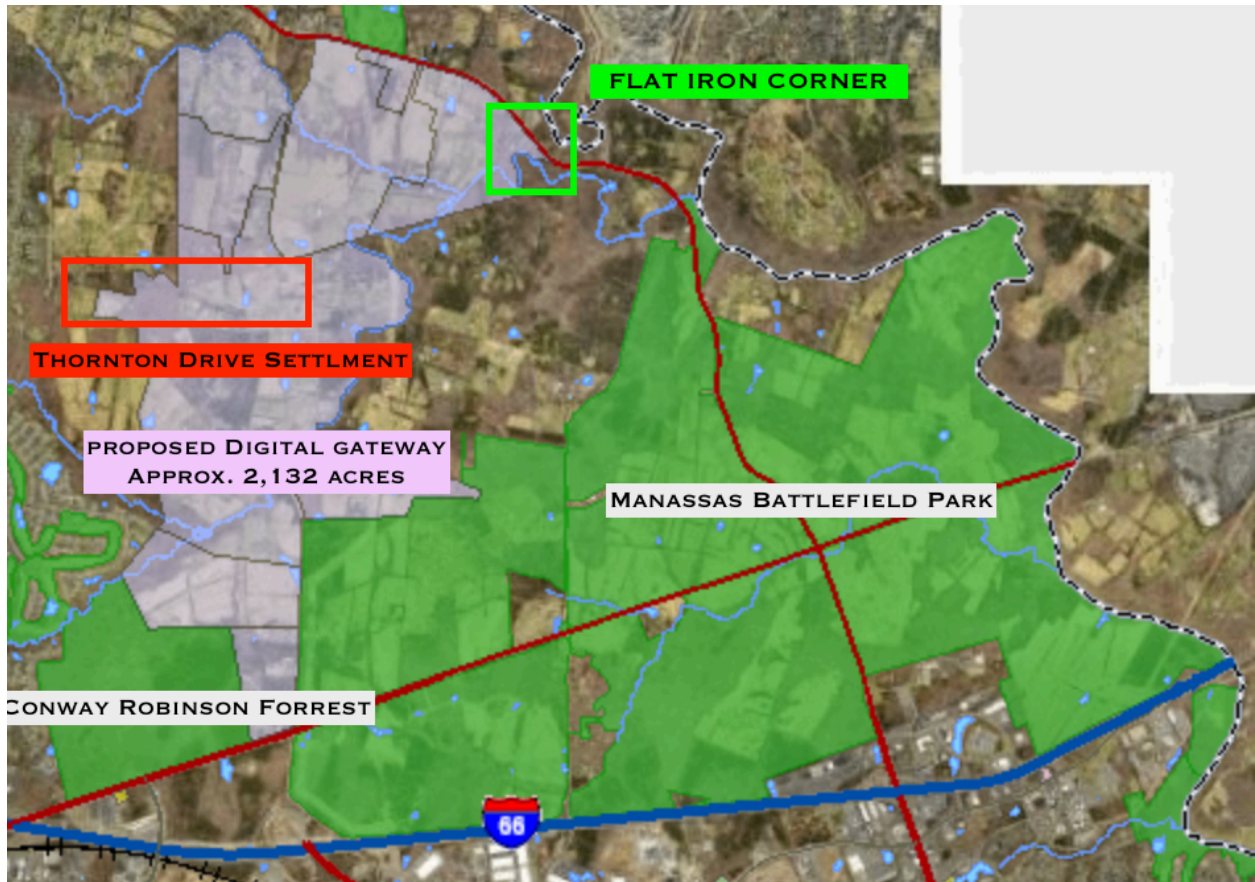


Figure 31 The location of Manassas battlefield, The Thornton Drive Settlement, Flat Iron Corner, and The Proposed 2,132 Acre Digital Gateway that could be approved for a large Data Center zone instead of the current AE (10 Acre Residential Zoning). Note the proximity of both African American Communities to Manassas Battlefield

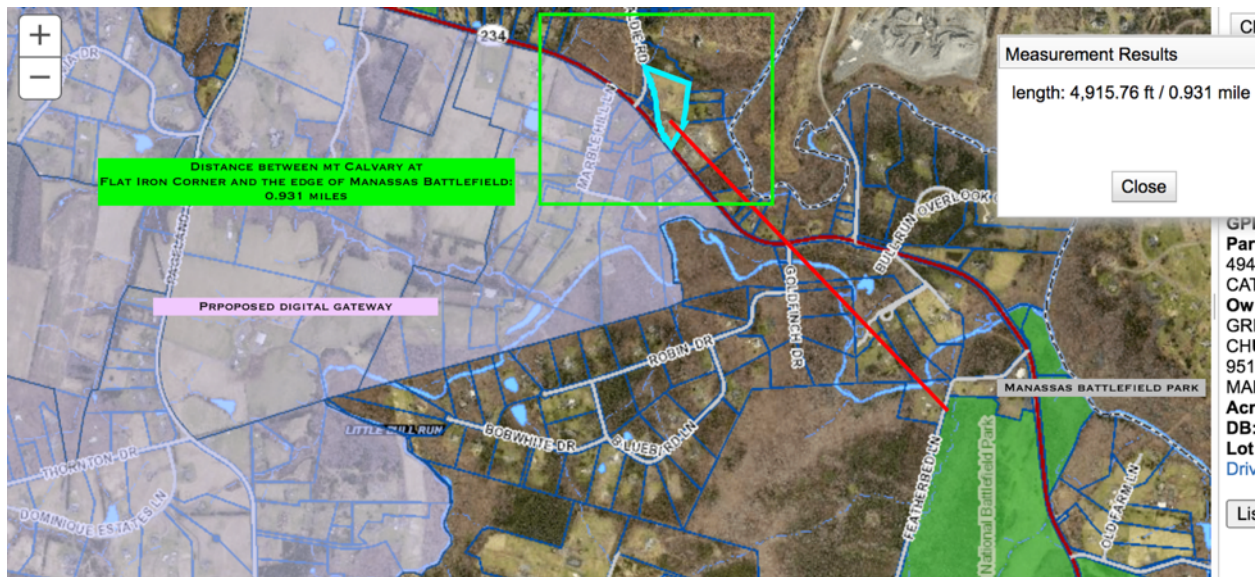


Figure 32 The Approximate Distance Between Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and Manassas Battlefield is 0.931 Miles

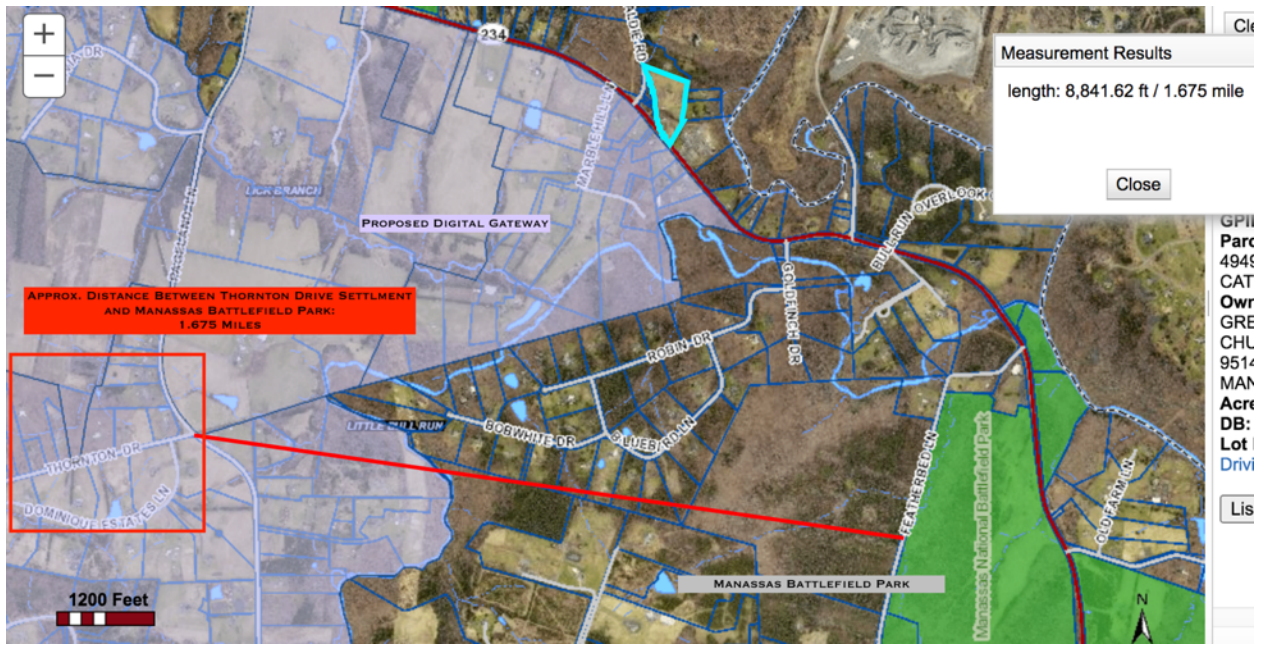


Figure 33 The Approximate Distance Between Thornton Drive Settlement and Manassas Battlefield is 1.675 Miles



Figure 34 Gravestone at Mt Calvary African American Church. Inscription “James Peters Civil War Veteran.” Members of a family with the Name “Peters” appear in the 1900 Census for the area around Marble Hill / Flat Iron Corner and on the 1904 Maneuvers Map

Closing

This Preliminary Investigation describes two African American Communities in the Digital Gateway area, both within the boundaries and on the edges of the proposed area for Data Center Development. This Preliminary Investigation is just a start to beginning to understand the communities that once existed. Further research is needed including:

1. Tax Assessor Documentation that describes the value of owners property
2. Deed Research and property transfers to better map the fabric of these communities. How much land did African American's Own in these areas? What specific Parcels did they own? Can traces of those parcels be seen today? We know they were in the area but it is still to be determined to what extent these parcels were grouped and shared parcel boundaries. *The 1901 Map of Prince William County by WM H Brown states that 1,897 acres were owned by African Americans in the Gainesville District valued at \$21,920. Where are the records used to determine those amounts?*
3. Further Census Study
4. Identification of Potential Archeological Sites
5. Important View Sheds
6. Why were these areas settled by African Americans? Can links be made to Caucasian surnames of who owned the property before the Civil War or did these communities begin before the Civil War? Is it possible that these areas were "confiscated" under various Reconstruction "Confiscation Acts"? What led to these communities developing in the location that they developed?
7. Oral History Gathering
8. Contact Manassas Battlefield to learn more about the possible existence of the original Dean Homestead before and during the Civil War. Eugene Scheel's map appears to show the original Dean House location in 1862 within Park Boundaries on Featherstone Drive (Figure 29 and 30).

The story of these communities is undeniably worth further research to take this preliminary investigation and turn it into a comprehensive Cultural Landscape Study to better understand these African American Communities. While the fabric of the rural area along Pageland Lane and Sudley Road has been altered by residential development and powerlines, the basic cultural landscape of woods, undisturbed riparian areas, fields, and gravel roads is still largely in-tact (See Figures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24). Visible assets from these African American Communities still exist at Mt. Calvary Church and Cemetery, Marble Hill Slave Cemetery, and possibly the woodlot where the Thornton (Elliott) school once existed at Pageland Lane and Thornton Drive. The approval of the proposed Digital Gateway would forever alter and erase this cultural landscape. Prince William County Supervisors in favor of the Digital Gateway note that processes are in place to protect resources. Currently Prince William County utilizes buffer offsets as small as 25' from graveyards and linear buffers along roads that do not preserve view sheds (See Figure 28). Does Marble Hill Slave Cemetery have the same fate as the Shirley Cemetery in the middle of asphalt parking lots with a 25' setback? Prince William County has not fully recognized this cultural landscape and its importance to African American History Post-Civil War. This preliminary investigation provides the basis for further study, and preservation to

alter the course of the proposed Digital Gateway. Isn't this worth investigation further before proceeding with the Digital Gateway?