



SLAVE HISTORY NEAR LRUCC

Little River United Church of Christ (LRUCC) was founded in 1955 by a group of Congregational members interested in establishing a church in Northern Virginia where all races could worship together. With that background, it is interesting that the present church property sits on land once owned by one of the largest slave holding families in Fairfax County prior to and at the time of the Civil War.

William Gooding owned land north and south of Little River Turnpike, and operated a famous tavern just west of LRUCC. He owned a number of slaves, some of whom are believed to be buried at the North end of the Gooding cemetery on the west side of our entrance road.

Census records show that Mr. Gooding owned 29 slaves ranging from 60 years to less than one year old in 1850. In 1860, a year before his death, he owned 24 slaves, ranging from 72 years to one year old. His son, Peter Gooding, who ran the Tavern with his father, owned 21 slaves in 1850 ranging in age from 44 years to one year. Another son, William H. Gooding, owned 22 slaves in 1850 and 1860.

Many times it is not possible to know the names of individual slaves. The 1850 and 1860 slave censuses do not list names. However, the Will of William Gooding signed on February 19, 1857, and Codicils signed December 3, 1857, and October 20, 1859, list by names the specific slaves he left to each of his children. Slaves were the legal property of their owners and, therefore, could be passed on through a will. For instance, his son Peter was to receive: "Mark, Mary and her child Jacob, Laura her daughter, Lucy her daughter, Linah, her daughter, and Leah, Ben's wife, together with the future increase of the females of them." Daughter Nancy Worster was to receive: "negroes Harrich, Kitty, Charles, Armistead, and Julia", in addition to confirming "negro girl Milly" previously given to her. Son William H Gooding was given: "negroes John, Herbert, Rachel and child Emily and George, together with the future increase of the females of them". Additional slaves were given to his daughters Maria Howard and Jane E. Coyle. The slaves given to William H. Gooding are likely to be interned north of the family cemetery.

A letter written in 1958 states that Mable Lowry, believed to be the greatgranddaughter of William H. Gooding, "knows of some colored graves north of the present fence" and "she located in 1952 was marked 'RR' (for Rachel Rancel) a lady's nurse she had been very closely associated with as a child. She went to her burial and 'nearly cried my eyes out'. There was John, Rachel's husband, Ella, her daughter, Mark Baker, Rachel's father, and a man named Steven that she definitely knows were buried there." These are the slaves believed to be buried at the North end of the Gooding cemetery on the west side of our entrance road.

WILL OF WILLIAM GOODING

Land Record of Fairfax County, Virginia
Will Book A-2, page 466

In the name of God, Amen. I William Gooding of the County of Fairfax and State of Virginia, do hereby make this my last Will and Testament as follows.

1st To my son Peter Gooding I give the piece of land now enclosed by his fence, to him and his heirs forever. I also give him Mark, Mary and her child Jacob, Laura her daughter Lucy her daughter, Linah, her daughter, and Leah, Bens wife together with the future increase of the females of them, to him and his heirs forever.

2nd To my daughter Nancy Worster I give all that portion of my real estate contained within the following boundaries viz. Beginning at a point in the Guinea Road where the line of Chichester crosses it and running thence up said Guinea Road to a Chestnut marked, on the North side of said road, and in the forks of said Guinea road and one running Northwardly thence in a Northerly direction a straight line to a stake in and old road on the South side of the Manassas Gap Rail Road thence with said Rail Road to the line of Peter Gooding, thence with Peter Gooding to Chichester and with the Chichester lines to the place of beginning to her and her heirs forever. I also give her negroes Harrich, Kitty, Charles, Armistead, and Julia, together with the future increase of the females of them, to her and her heirs forever. And I confirm to her negro girl Milly heretofore given her, together with her present or future increase. But I hereby charge upon said land and negroes the payment of the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars to my daughter Susan Kennedy.

3d To my son William H Gooding I give all that portion of my real estate, situate and lying on the South side of the Little River Turnpike Road (except for the buildings and garden given to my daughters Maria and Jane and which is particularly described in the devise to them) to him and his heirs forever. And I also give him negroes John, Herbert, Rachel and child Emily and George, together with the future increase of the females of them, to him and his heirs forever. But I hereby charge upon said land and negroes the payment of the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars to my daughter Susan Kennedy.

4th To my daughter Maria Howard, I give negroes Fanny and child Sibyl and Harry, Albert, Leana and Dinah, together with the future increase of the females of them, to her and her heirs forever. And I confirm to her, Negro girl Sally heretofore given her together with her present or future increase to her and her heirs forever.

5th To my daughter Jane E Coyle, I give negroes, Westley, Frederick, Cecelia, Caroline, Lucinda and Lucy, together with the future increase of the females of them to her and her heirs forever. But I hereby request and desire that as to said Lucy she may be permitted to occupy the house she now lives in during her life and to be supported by my daughter Jane whenever old age shall render her incapable of working.

6th To my daughters Maria Howard and Jane E Coyle I hereby give and bequeth to be equally divided between them, all my real estate situate and lying on the North side of the Little River Turnpike Road and not heretofore devised to my son Peter Gooding and my daughter Nancy Worster, to them and there heirs forever, reserving however the burying ground and one half acre of ground around it, for the use of my children and their decendants as a place of burial, with the right of ingress and egress for that purpose or for preserving the graves and beautifying the grounds and for no other purpose. I also give them the ground on the South side of said Turnpike, whereon the stables and other building's are and comprised within the following boundaries viz Commencing at a cherry tree standing on the said road and just below the blacksmiths shop from thence to the garden fence where a stone is planted marked with a cross, thence from said stone along the garden fence to another planted stone, similarly marked, standing near the edge of the woods, thence from said stone, running across the garden to another planted stone, also marked with a cross, standing in a line of the garden fence, thence from said stone to a cherry tree on said Turnpike Road, standing in the meadow above _____ thence along said Turnpike to the beginning, to have and to hold unto them their heirs and assigns forever. I also give unto them all my household and kitchen furniture of whatsoever kind or description that my be found in the house on the day of my death to them and their heirs forever. But this devise is made to them subject to and hereby charged with the payment of the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars to be made by each of my said daughters Maria and Jane E to my daughter Susan Kennedy.

7th To my daughter Susan Kennedy, I do give the sum of one thousand dollars, which has been charged upon the property given to my son William H and my daughters Nancy, Maria and Jane E and which is to be paid over to her. I also give to my son William H Gooding for the sole and separate use of my daughter Susan Kennedy negroes Darry Jim Jackson and Edmond. My said son to hire out said negroes and pay over the hires to my said daughter or to her order. And I hereby rest in my said son power and authority to sell, exchange and dispose of said negroes in his discretion, to invest the proceeds for the use and benefit of my said daughter Susan in like or any other kind of property and pay over the hires, profits proceeds and interest in like manner and at her death then to transfer and deliver the said property to the heirs of the body of my said daughter Susan.

Lastly. I direct all the rest and residue of my estate to be sold and the residue, after the payment of my just debts to be equally divided amongst all my children.

I hereby appoint my sons Peter Gooding and William H. Gooding Executor of this my last Will and Testament. Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of February 1857.

his
William X Gooding (seal)
mark

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the Testator as and for his last Will and testament in our presence and at his request and presence and in the presence of each other we have both subscribed our names as witnesses.

Alfred Moss
Walter Powell

I William Gooding do hereby make and constitute this as a codicil the above and foregoing Will and Testament, dated 19th February 1857 and by me made viz. All of the property and estate real and personal, which I have given by said Will to my daughter Jane E Coyle and is therein particularly described, I do now by this codicil give and devise to my son William H Gooding and his heirs forever, in trust however for the following use and purpose and none other, that is to say, for the sole separate and exclusive use and benefit of my said daughter Jane E Coyle, free from the debts, contracts and control of her husband James Coyle, and to permit my said daughter to have and take the rents, issues, hires and profits thereof to her own use and to manage and control the same as if she were a feme-sole. To permit her to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of said property as she may think proper by a writing under her hand and seal attested by two or more witnesses and to acquire other property with the sale or proceeds but to hold the same always to the same uses and trusts, with power to the said Jane E Coyle to dispose of the same as she may think proper by deed or last Will and Testament in like manner as if she were a feme sole. Witness my hand and seal this 3d day of December 1857

his
William X Gooding (seal)
mark

Signed, sealed and published by William Gooding as a codicil to his will in our presence and we have at his request subscribed it as witnesses.

Alfred Moss
W. P. Gunnell

Whereas I William Gooding of the County of Fairfax and State of Virginia have heretofore to wit on the 19th day of February 1857 duly made and published my last Will and Testament and on the 3d day of December 1857 duly made and published a Codicil thereto, Now I do hereby make and declare this as a further codicil to said will, to wit.

My son Peter Gooding having recently departed this life, leaving a large real and personal estate and only four children to take it, do hereby revoke the bequest to my said son of the Negroes given him by the first clause in said will and do hereby give and dispose of them as follows.

To my daughter Maria Howard I give Laura and Westley, children of Mary with any increase of said Laura to her and her heirs forever. To my son William H Gooding I give Lucy daughter of

said Mary, together with any future increase of said Lucy to him and his heirs forever.

To my daughter Nancy Worster I give negro boy Jacob, also son of Mary to her and her heirs forever.

To my grand son Henry L Howard I give Negro man Mark to him and his heirs forever.

To William H Gooding in trust for my daughter Jane E Coyle I give negroes Mary and her child Linah, together with their future increase, to him in trust for the said Jane E Coyle and subject to the control, uses, limitations, provisions and conditions as contained in the codicil hereinbefore referred to dated the 3d of December 1857 and to be held by the said William H Gooding in the same manner as is therein provided for the other estate given him in trust for my said daughter Jane E Coyle. Witness my hand and seal this 20th day of October 1859.

his
William X Gooding (seal)
mark

Signed sealed published and declared by the Testator as and for a codicil to his Will in our presence and at his request and in his presence and of each other we have hereto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Alfred Moss
Walter Powell

At a Term of the County Court held for the County of Farifax on the 21st day of January 1861. This last Will and Testament of William Gooding decd together with two codicils thereto was this day presented to the Court and the said Will and codicils having been severally proved by the oaths of Walter Powell, Alfred Moss and William P Gunnell the subscribing witnesses thereto was admitted to probate and ordered to be recorded.

Teste Alfred Moss Clerk

In the County Court of Fairfax County June Court 1869.

The last will and testament of Wm Gooding decd having by an order of the County Court of Fairfax County made at January Court 1861 been duly proved and admitted to probate and ordered to be recorded. It is now on motion of the heirs of the said Willaim Gooding ordered that the Clerk of this Court record the same, the same not having been recorded.

Teste D. F. Dulany C.

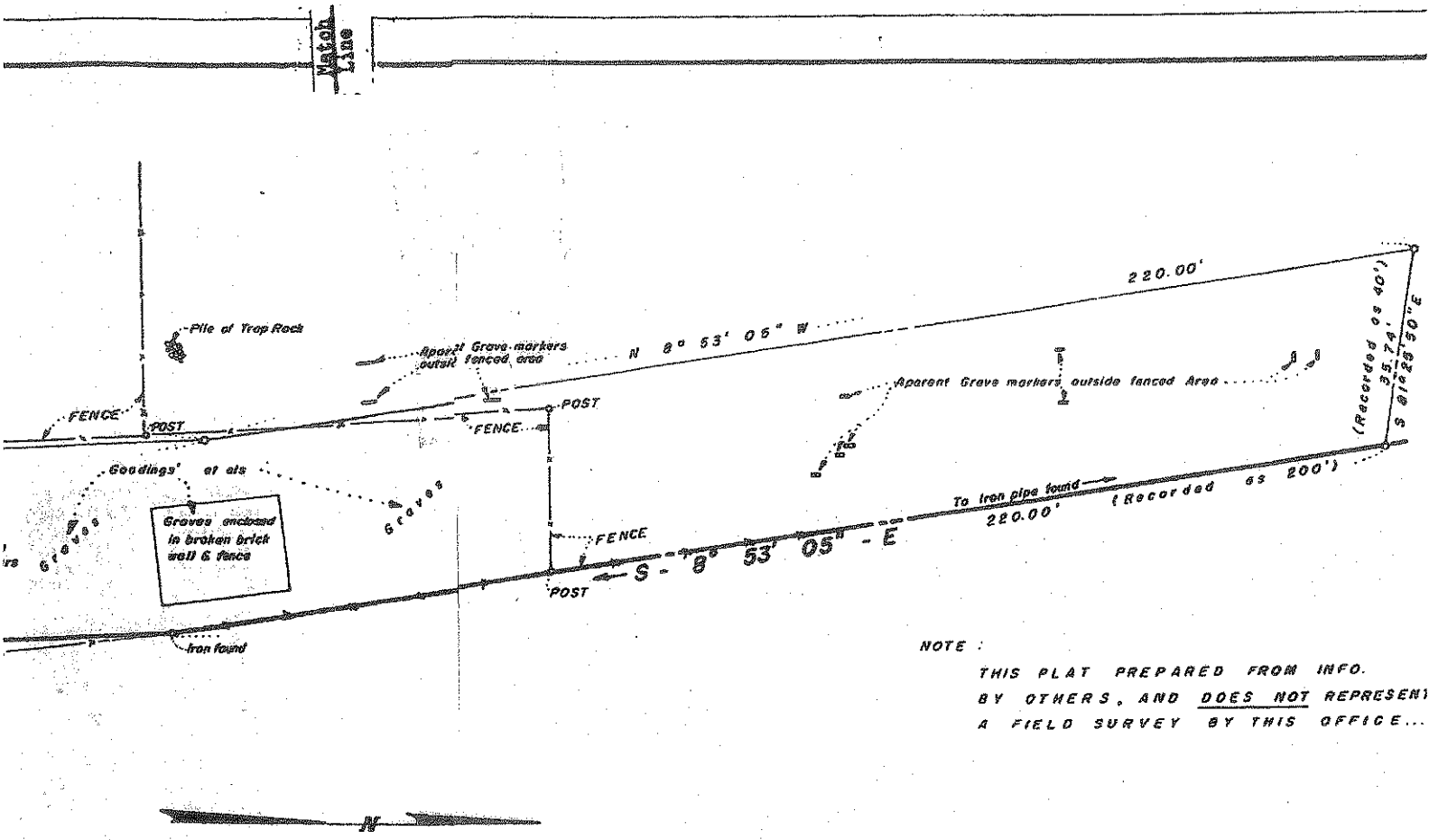
Excerpts from letters written in 1958
(likely by daughter-in law of Mabel H. Lowry)

The following is the lineal descent of Mrs. Mabel H. Lowry from William Gooding, died 1861, and Jane Davis Gooding, died 1857, who are buried in the private cemetery next to the VEPBCC Substation on Rt. 236 between Annandale and Fairfax:

Mabel H. Lowry, daughter of Philip Howard and
Catherine Graham Howard
Philip Howard was the son of Samuel Howard and
Maria Gooding Howard
Maria Gooding was the daughter of William Gooding and
Jane Davis Gooding

Mrs. Lowry says she knows of some colored graves north of the present fence. One stone she and my son Michael located in 1952 was marked "R R" (for Rachel Ransel) a lady's nurse she had been very closely associated with as a child. She went to her burial and "nearly cried my eyes out". There was John, Rachel's husband, Ella, her daughter, Mark Baker, Rachel's father, and a man named Steven that she definitely knows were buried there. She has not located Rachel's stone in the last few years.

When I first visited there in 1952 the portion that was undisturbed ran from 236 to the branch and further west than the present fence line. I would assume the Simmons family considered this portion they were not cultivating as the cemetery property. When the Simmons family bought the property some time between 1900 and 1905 from Mr. J. H. Grandall, there were fences around several lots, namely: an iron fence around Wm. H. Goodings, a brick around Peter Goodings, a white washed fence around the Seatons, a fence around the Newmans and a white washed fence around the Howards.



NOTE :
 THIS PLAT PREPARED FROM INFO.
 BY OTHERS, AND DOES NOT REPRESENT
 A FIELD SURVEY BY THIS OFFICE...

GOODING HEIRS GRAVE-YARD SITE
 NEAR ILDA, NORTH SIDE OF LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE RTE. 236
 FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
 SCALE: 1" = 20' DECEMBER 11, 1958
 RODGERS BROS. AND ASSOCIATES
 ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS
 ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA

Revised:- February 28, 1959
 Revised:- May 15, 1959



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