

## ***A TOUR OF “BEALMEAR’S/MEYER’S BOTTOM”***

**S**ituate in the Lower, or Southwesternmost, Portion of “The Great Fork of the Patuxent”, today part of Anne Arundel County, Maryland’s, Odenton Rural Route Post Office, close to the Fort George G. Meade Military Reservation, is the MeyerStation Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Community (the name “MeyerStation” denoting the now closed former Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railroad Company - the “inter city” short line that was electrified in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and which closed down during the Great Depression - Station known as “Meyers Station” which was located upon the Meyer property as the Railroad right-of-way passed through the Meyer property between Odenton and Washington, on the “Washington line”) bordering the Easternmost side of the Patuxent River and comprising about 137.5 acres, more or less, of the still privately owned (and much larger) Jacob Meyer Estate which is part of the original “Owenwood Thicket” and/or “Duvalls Range” land patent tracts bordering, on its North and East, the “Providence Plantation” of the Andersons at nearby Woodwardville (“Patuxent Station”). Operated today as a non-profit charitable foundation known as MeyerStation, Inc., by Russell (“Buz”), Robert (“Bob”), and William (“Bill”) Meyer (sons of Schubert Meyer, one of Jacob’s sons), the Meyer family generosity is shared with and extended to, among others, wild life enthusiasts, birdwatchers, Scout troops, hunters, fishermen, and target practicers.

Complete with camp sites, an old (“W.B.&A”) railroad right-of-way sitting astride an elevated railroad fill (with the remains, on both sides, of the former railroad bridge as it crossed the Patuxent River), various roads and hiking trails, a media center, a heronry, game field, pond, and other features too numerous to mention, and woods aplenty, this privately owned forested tract also contains various swamp and wet areas comprising the shifting (over the years) patterns of the Big Patuxent River (upon which this tract of land fronts). Entrance is by prior appointment only with MeyerStation, Inc., whose telephone no. is (301) 261-6996.

In 1966, with the assistance of the late Mrs. Cora Woodward (Anderson) DuLaney, author of the 1948 Andersons from the Great Fork of the Patuxent, Sally Meyer (“Buz” Meyer’s wife) authored a paper, “A Short Trip Through the Bealmear Estate, Owenwood Thicket or Meyer’s Bottom” about this beautiful farm. Its significance for Anderson family descendants, including the Bealmears, lies in the fact that the Meyer property is contiguous to the adjoining Andersons’ “Providence Plantation”: whereas the old Anderson “Providence Plantation” tract has now largely been consumed for earlier sand and gravel extraction operations and, more recently, as the controversial proposed site for a construction rubble landfill, most of the adjoining Meyer estate (comprising, originally, many more hundreds of acres than just the present 137.5 acre “MeyerStation” site), on the other hand, continues basically undisturbed the way it has always been (more than the fact that, over the years, its original Bealmear home(s), barns, and grave sites have largely disappeared).

With the permission of Mrs. Sally Meyer, the following portions of her 1966 paper are published here for the first time:

### **A SHORT TRIP THROUGH THE BEALMEAR ESTATE, OWENWOOD THICKET OR MEYER’S BOTTOM**

*by*

**Sally Meyer  
July 20, 1966**

**H**alfway between two large teeming cities - Washington and Baltimore - lies a small green area in the State of Maryland, county of Anne Arundel. It is known on the surveyor’s maps as “plat 5, Rod Q”. But to the people who live there it is known for its stately stands of maple, beech, hickory, and chinquapin, the mighty oaks, and scrubby pines. Treading upon a soft carpet of old pine needles, one must put his foot down lightly to avoid the delicate scented wild creeping arbutus, the shy golden dog-tooth violet, and the delicate greenery of the pokeberry. Sniff the

heavy incense of the magnolia and the honey-suckle while you view the pink blush of the mountain laurel and the profuse bloom of the dogwood trees. These are all tied together by the officious poison ivy and thorny Virginia creeper, quick to claim possession of anything left alone. Driving slowly through on a mild spring morning, one may see the fleet-footed deer looking for the holly thicket, the wily squirrel, or a quickly disappearing white fluff that says the wild rabbit makes his home here. Open your windows on a balmy spring morning and hear the sassy jay, the bossy cardinal, the cheerful robin, or the happy bluebird. If you look closely, you may see the beautiful indigo bunting, or the bright Baltimore oriole as well as many other birds. Here we find the Patuxent flowing gently in the summer, welcoming you for a cool, refreshing dip to relax those tired, strained muscles, or for a calm, relaxing period of fishing to refresh the mind and bring ease to the soul. In the spring it may rush fiercely over the banks, cleaning the swamps of the winter debris and bringing the herring up for the spawning season. This then is "plat 5, Rod Q", but to those of us who live there, this is home.

A very colorful past is connected with this area and with the families who have lived there over the years. Many of the stories and traditions have never been written down and other sections of this history belong to that of the state of Maryland. This paper will attempt to make a permanent record of at least some of the important landmarks, facts, and stories that have grown up and become connected with this area. Much of this research will be done in the form of interviews with older members of the families who are present day owners. It will depend upon records and memorabilia that they have in their possession. Some of the old court records of land transactions and other official records will be examined. There have been several references to this section in the history of Maryland and these will be used also to show as clearly as possible the logical order of succession and use of this land.

#### *Meaning of the Word "Patuxent"*

The Patuxent River was originally so-called by the Indians, the name meaning "running over loose stones", a fitting description of its course before it reaches the fork.<sup>1</sup> There is quite a bit of evidence that this land was once used by the Indians as a hunting ground before the earliest settlers and even until the early 1700s. In fact a book telling about the Indians of Maryland states, "The Susquehannocks often came into Maryland. They claimed that their hunting grounds stretched south throughout Maryland to the Patuxent River...."<sup>2</sup> Many Indian artifacts have been found on the grounds of this estate. There have been arrowheads, broken bits of clay pots, axes, and other small articles that are hard to identify but have markings showing their use. Mrs. DuLaney stated that during her Grandfather's time, he remembered the Indians camping along the river and particularly near a certain spring on what is now the Dick property.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Cora DuLaney, *The Great Fork of the Patuxent* (unpublished booklet, Patuxent, Md., approx. 1953), p. 2 (Typewritten). Mrs. DuLaney is one of the few surviving members whose families were born and raised in this area. Her uncle was a lawyer who handled many of the land transactions and she worked in his office for many years. Mrs. DuLaney has spent many years researching materials and records of this part of Maryland and has quite a variety of material on this area.

<sup>2</sup>Harold R. Manakee, *Indians of Early Maryland*, Maryland Historical Society (Baltimore, Md., 1959), p. 33.

<sup>3</sup>Conversation with Mrs. DuLaney, Patuxent, Md., June 23, 1966.

It is surmised that the early settlers were led to the land in their search for timber and ships' woods in the early 1700s. They may have been led, to some extent, by a Ranger whose job was to keep an eye on the Indians. One of the earliest settlers of whom there is any record was Mr. Francis Bealmear. Mr. Bealmear was married three times and had a family composed of four sons and three daughters.<sup>4</sup> He was a cordwainer and worked making leather harness and shoes.

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<sup>4</sup>[Editor's Note: Here, we may, in reality, be speaking about the family of Francis Bealmear, Jr., who was married three times, first, to Elizabeth Anderson (daughter of Absolom (I) Anderson and his second wife, Ann (Wheeler) Anderson), on October 6, 1794 (Elizabeth was the mother of all of Francis, Jr.'s children who survived to adulthood); second, following his first wife's death, to Sarah Davis Warfield (daughter of Thomas Warfield and his first wife, Sarah (Anderson) Warfield, daughter of James Anderson, Sr., and Lydia (Meek) Anderson) on October 3, 1811 (no issue who survived infancy); and third, following his second wife's death, to Mrs. Catherine Brownley, a widow, on November 13, 1828 (no issue). However, Francis Bealmear, Sr., by his only known wife, Elizabeth (whose maiden name was Brewer, daughter of John Brewer and his wife whose maiden name was Pierpont, according to the recent material of Mr. Richard Thaddeus Bealmear hereinafter referred to), did have four sons and three daughters, one of whom, Sarah, became Mrs. William Anderson (this William was a son of James Anderson, Sr., and Lydia (Meek) Anderson). William Anderson and Sarah (Bealmear) Anderson were the parents, among others, of William Anderson of "Grassland". Cora (Anderson) DuLaney, *Andersons from the Great Fork of the Patuxent* (1948), p. 192; *Extract of Diary or Farm Journal of William Anderson of "Grassland", 1853 to 1875, and Certain Related Documents* (1993), fn. 97, p. 93.

The significance of the Bealmear connection for Anderson family descendants is that most of the descendants of James Anderson, Sr., and Lydia (Meek) Anderson, his wife - James, Sr., being one of the three Anderson brothers, sons of William (II) Anderson and Susannah (Meek) Phelps Anderson, of the generation which included the Revolutionary War - are also descendants of Francis Bealmear, Sr., and Elizabeth (Brewer) Bealmear, his wife.

Since the initial draft of this article was prepared, your editor is indebted to Mr. Tim Bealmear, now of Calvert County, Md., a descendant of both Francis Bealmear, Sr., and Jr., for providing recent materials about the Bealmears from and by Mr. Richard Thaddeus Bealmear, of Louisville, Kentucky, a descendant of the earlier Samuel Bealmear (son of Francis, Sr.), who "went to Kentucky". (In connection with this particular Samuel Bealmear who "went to Kentucky", footnote 80 on page 88 of the *Extract of Diary or Farm Journal of William Anderson of "Grassland" 1852 to 1875* speculates that a certain death date Diary entry by William Anderson in his Diary or Farm Journal indicates that Samuel Bealmear of Kentucky might have died on November 3, 1855 (see page 11 of the *Diary Extract*). Information recently from Richard Thaddeus Bealmear, of Louisville, Kentucky, indicates that his ancestor, Samuel Charles Bealmear (who was the above mentioned son, who "went to Kentucky", of Francis Bealmear, Sr., and Elizabeth (Brewer) Bealmear) died, instead, on May 25, 1837, at Bardstown, Kentucky (and not on November 3, 1855, as stated in the *Diary of William Anderson of "Grassland"*). More than likely it was the Kentucky Samuel's namesake Anne Arundel County, Maryland, nephew, also named Samuel Bealmear (son of Francis Bealmear, Jr., and Elizabeth (Anderson) Bealmear) who died on November 3, 1855. This nephew's widow was Ann Janetta Brewer (daughter of John Brewer), of Annapolis, Md., who survived until June 18, 1887. Apparently the date of death of this nephew was not known until it was discovered in William Anderson, of "Grassland's", *Diary*.)

This recent material indicates a probable paternity for Francis Bealmear, Sr., namely, a Lewis (or Louis) Bealmear, born about 1700 in Strasbourg, Alsace Lorraine (possibly the Champagne area), France, who married Ann, and they migrated prior to 1736. According to the records of All Hallows (South River, Anne Arundel County, Md.) Parish, their son, Francis Bealmear, Sr., was born February 29, 1735/36, and he died *circa* October 11, 1782, when his Will was probated.

Among the notes of Mrs. DuLaney pertaining to the early Bealmears are references to a Thomas and Ann Balmer [sic] appearing in the Index of First Maryland Settlers (edited and published by Gust Skordas) as having immigrated and been transported, respectively, to Maryland in 1651; interestingly, the notation for this Thomas Balmer indicates that he was "of Patuxent River". Whether "Thomas" is the same person as "Lewis", or was Lewis's father (or even his grandfather), or not, is, at this time, unknown. According to Mr. Richard Thaddeus Bealmear's work, two of the earlier spellings for the name Bealmear were "Balmeier" or "Balmier". According to Mrs. Dorothy Mae Powers Elliott, another Bealmear-Anderson

His chief contribution during the American Revolutionary War was the supplying of shoes to the soldiers. For this he was given credit for "Patriotic Service"<sup>5</sup> He also operated a grist mill and this was used by people from as far away as the town of Bladensburg. Although this is just a short jaunt today, in the 1700s it was quite a trip for the roads were very bad and there were very few bridges to cross over the Patuxent River. Most of the crossings were done at shallow fords in the river.

### *The Bealmear Mill*

Another Bealmear mill was run by water impounded in a storage lake which covered about fifteen acres. This mill has been abandoned for a great many years. No one can be found who remembers when it was used, but the old mill race is still very plain and the site is clearly marked. The stones from this mill were used in the foundation of Mr. Jacob Meyer's house.<sup>6</sup>

The Bealmears grew mainly tobacco, wheat, and corn. The tobacco was packed in huge hogsheads and rolled on wheels to Queen Anne<sup>7</sup> for shipment to Baltimore. The wheels were put on the hogsheads of tobacco and the whole barrel became the cart. This was driven right through the river fords and because the tobacco was packed so tightly it never got wet. The wheat and corn were used on the farm as food.<sup>8</sup>

### *The Bealmears' Portion of "Duvall's Range"*

On the death of Francis Bealmear, Sr., this land was left to his son, Francis, Jr. In Mr. Bealmear's will was this item, "I give and devise unto my Son, Francis all that Part of a Tract or Parcel of Land call'd Duvall's Range Lying in Anne Arundel County and State of Maryland whereon I now Dwell Deeded to me by Thomas Trammel, as also a Small Part of that Deeded to me by Edmund Wayman and Francis Linthicum whereon Tho. Francis Linthicum now Dwells to him my said Son Francis and his heirs forever. \*\*\*\*\*"<sup>9</sup>

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descendant, older Bealmears conversed in German. Apparently there is not much dispute among Bealmear descendants that the earliest of them were French Huguenots with a German strain/background.]

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Mrs. Cora DuLaney, Patuxent, Md., on July 3, 1966.

<sup>6</sup>DuLaney, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup>"Queen Anne" was the small "port town" on the Patuxent where today a small bridge crosses the River South West of Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County, Md. In the old days it represented about as far North, along the River, that larger vessels might come.

<sup>8</sup>Recorded interview with Mr. Martin Meyer, son of Jacob Meyer. Mr. Meyer has lived here for sixty odd years. When he was a young boy and man, many of the Bealmear slaves were still alive. Mr. Meyer learned many of the facts and stories of the Bealmear history from them.

<sup>9</sup>*Wills, T.G. No. 1, 1780 to 1786*, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., M..L.R. Archivist. [Editor's Note: This is the citation, at page 192, in Mrs. DuLaney's *Andersons from the Great Fork of the Patuxent*, for the Will of Francis Bealmear, Sr.]

After the death of Mrs. Bealmear, some of the land was sold. According to her will we find the item, "I give and bequeath unto my son Francis Bealmear all my part of a tract of land lying in Anne Arundel County called and known by the name of Duvall's range containing by estimation [sic] one hundred and Sixty acres more or less to him and his heirs forever\*\*\*. My Will and meaning is that my son Francis shall not inherit the aforesaid lands till after my decease...and that the valuation hereof shall be and is hereby valued to thirty Shillings and five pence half penny per Acre\*\*\*."<sup>10</sup> I have figured this to be roughly \$7.56 [per acre]. Within the last two years, there have been offers of up to \$1,000.00 per acre for this land.

### *Late Nineteenth Century Title History*

After the land was sold by Francis Bealmear, Jr.,<sup>11</sup> there were several owners of whom little is known. Among the papers on file in Annapolis, I have found deeds from Jacob Ramle and Caroline, his wife, to William R. Steele, dated December 15, 1879, and from William R. Steele to Levi Z. Condon and Emily, his wife, dated June 7, 1880. Then the land was purchased by the Swiss ambassador to the United States, James F. Dubois and his wife. Mr. Dubois used the farm mainly for hunting and fishing. They came out from Washington on the train to Patuxent Station and were met by the Swiss couple who lived on the farm and took care of it. Mr. Dubois built two houses while he owned the property. One of these was known as the Swiss chalet.<sup>12</sup> This was built for the caretakers. Mrs. DuLaney said that her grandmother told her that the Swiss couple were very lonely here in Maryland. They missed the mountains and it was hard for them to adjust to the swamps. Many times they would walk to Patuxent [Woodwardville] to talk to Mrs. DuLaney's grandmother and this was quite a distance even in those days.

Mr. Jacob Meyer came to this territory from Tennessee in 1900. He originally came from Switzerland and settled for a few years in the northern part of the United States. From there he went with his family to Tennessee. He could not find work there so they moved to Maryland. Grandfather Meyer was a stone mason and when he first settled here he did much of this type of work. Some of the things that still remain today are the abutments of the old W.B. & A. railroad bridge crossing the Patuxent River [situate on the Meyer real estate here written about], the entrance gates to the Bowie racecourse [situate opposite the Meyer property on the Prince George's County side of the Patuxent River], and the bricks or stones in the Trinity Lutheran Church of Bowie, Md. Grandfather Meyer bought approximately 651 acres from Mr. Dubois.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>*Wills, Liber T.G. No. 2, Folio 285*, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., M.L.R. Archivist. **[Editor's Note: It is believed that the foregoing citation is for the Will of Elizabeth Bealmear, widow of Francis Bealmear, Sr. Altogether the Bealmear land holdings were far more extensive than just this one 160 acre tract.]**

<sup>11</sup>**[Editor's Note: Captain (later Major) Francis Bealmear, Jr., Captain of an Anne Arundel County Company of Maryland Militia during the War of 1812, was considered a very wealthy man who spent most of the last years of his life in residence in Baltimore City and County, Maryland. In some references, he seems to be called "Major". His descendants married into the old Anne Arundel (or Prince George's) County, Maryland, Linthicum, Waters, Shipley, Brewer, Bassford, Isaac, Jacob, and other early families. Among his descendants were and are prominent real estate brokers, appraisers, and early land developers; some of them resided and/or had offices in Baltimore City and/or County, Md.]**

<sup>12</sup>Conversation with Mrs. DuLaney, Patuxent, Md., July 3, 1966.

<sup>13</sup>*Wills, Anne Arundel County, Book 50*, p. 91, Annapolis, Md.

His family of five boys and one girl helped with the work on the farm. They grew mainly truck crops instead of tobacco. They cut the timber in the swamps for pulp wood. When Grandfather Meyer died, he left the land to his wife, Bertha. Grandmother Meyer was a very religious person and was also thought to have some kind of physic powers. People in trouble would come to see her and would go away relieved of their troubles and sorrows. It has been said that she could foretell events and would know of things happening in far distant places before they actually happened.<sup>14</sup> A few years after the death of Grandfather Meyer, the land was surveyed and made up into [large] lots which were divided among the six children. All of this land is still in their possession today except for one section of over one hundred acres belonging to the eldest son, Otto Meyer, which has been sold.

### *Interesting Landmarks*

Some of the most interesting landmarks and stories which have grown up surrounding this area are often hard to believe. The grist mill which was spoken of earlier was quite important in the growth of Maryland. The old grinding stones and stones from the foundations of the old mill are now in the possession of Mr. Schubert Meyer.

A narrow gauge railroad was built across the property and was used during the building of the W.B. & A. railroad. It was built in 1914 and was used for only a short time. The roadbed can be seen today.

One of the houses built by Mr. Dubois is still in existence and is used for storage. This was built of logs and many of the metal hangings on the outside of the walls are still in place. Some of these metal hangings were ornamental and have special meaning to the Swiss people. The old fish pond next to this house is used today as an irrigation pond. Originally it was used to protect the house in case of fire, and served as both fishpond and cooler for the earlier residents. The old breastworks of the pond can be seen today though these have been reinforced.

### *Cemeteries*

There are sites of two old cemeteries on the property. One of these was the old slave graveyard which was uncovered when gravel was being dug for the W.B. & A. railroad. The bones that were uncovered were reburied in a common grave. An interesting story is connected with this graveyard and there are many variations of the story. It seems that when the workmen uncovered the bones of the old slaves, there were a great many. One source says at least sixty-five skulls were uncovered, many of these were of children.<sup>15</sup> One of the workmen decided to take one of the skulls, supposedly so that it could be examined by a doctor who was interested in history. However, when the man picked up the skull, he became paralyzed. When the other men returned to the site the next morning, they found the workman still standing. After the skull was returned to the other skulls, he became all right and quickly left the scene.<sup>16</sup>

The other graveyard was known as the "white folks" graveyard. The only grave that had been marked was that of Francis Bealmear, Sr. This had a big headstone made of sandstone.

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<sup>14</sup>Conversation with Martin Meyer and Mrs. Emma Simpson, Odenton, Md., July 17, 1966. Mrs. Simpson is the only daughter of Jacob and Bertha Meyer. She is the only one of the children born in Maryland. Her godmother was Mrs. James Dubois. Mrs. Simpson lives on part of the property and has many of the family records.

<sup>15</sup>Martin Meyer, July 17, 1966.

<sup>16</sup>Martin, Schubert, and Dewey Meyer, July 17, 1966.

The body of Francis Bealmear was removed but there are still a number of headstones in the old graveyard. No one knows who is buried there as there were never any markings on the gravestones.

It has been said that the old slave graveyard was always clear of brambles and neat while the other graveyard had been covered with brambles for as long as anyone can remember. It is quite overgrown today, but the headstones can still be seen. A breed of black rabbits was supposed to inhabit this area too. They could only be found around the graveyard and were said to be the ghosts of the people buried there.<sup>17</sup>

### *Springs and Wells, and Stories About Them*

Another point of interest on the property is the spring containing “empty water”. According to the stories, the water in this spring can be drunk in great quantities. It is very cool and refreshing. However, even after consuming large amounts of this water, the person still remains thirsty. The water does not satisfy. That is the basis for the term “empty water”.<sup>18</sup>

The “Black Hole” is a spring or deep well that is reputed to have no bottom. It is known that part of this well has quicksand in it. Many times ropes with weighted ends have been lowered into this well in an effort to determine the depth. One of the ropes was over two hundred feet in length. The breed of fish that have been taken from the Black Hole are black inside and unfit to be eaten. It is not known whether it is the breed of fish or the conditions under which they live that cause this to be.<sup>19</sup>

### *The Old Bealmear House*

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<sup>17</sup>Martin Meyer, July 17, 1966.

<sup>18</sup>Conversation with Russell Meyer, son of Schubert Meyer. He was born and raised on the property and makes his home there today.

<sup>19</sup>Martin Meyer, July 17, 1966.

The old Bealmear house was supposed to be haunted. When Jacob Meyer bought the property in 1900, this house was still standing.<sup>20</sup> One night his sons decided to sleep there to prove that there were really ghosts. They were just about ready to settle down for the night when the door suddenly opened. Nothing could be seen, but footsteps could be heard on the stairs and around the house. Needless to say, the boys had second thoughts about ever sleeping in the old house again.<sup>21</sup>

In 1962, an old barn that had been built by the slaves for the Bealmear family was razed. In the construction of the barn, no nails were used. Wooden pegs carved by hand had been used to hold the boards in place.

This story is not finished. In the chain of ownership, I have not yet found the link between the Bealmears and Ramles. There are many more interesting stories and facts that need more research. What has started out to be an English research paper has turned into a fascinating look at the history of the property where I now live. I hope to continue and build on this paper as I accumulate more of the stories and facts about the interesting people who have lived here.

#### *What About the Future (As It Looked in 1966)?*

What is ahead for this land of peace and beauty? At the present time it seems fairly well assured that this will be part of a large complex of parks along the Patuxent River providing a greenway between Baltimore and Washington. When one views the rapidly expanding communities now being built, one can see where this parkway is an essential part of future planning. People need a place to rest and relax. This could be made into such a place. Then when one (1) drives through the Bottom and sees the destruction and defilement caused by the thoughtlessness and carelessness of people who deposit their trash and unwanted articles ranging from disabled and abandoned automobiles to someone's personal private wearing apparel; (2) has had trouble getting police assistance to preserve the peace and calm of one's property when hordes of young boys and girls in big cars descend and take possession every Friday and Saturday night; or (3) has to think twice before driving down a country road after dark; then one has second thoughts as to whether it is best to try to preserve this heritage for the future generations or to relax and let someone else worry about it.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Editor's Note: From a letter written soon before May 12, 1933, to E. R. Shute (a Bealmear-Anderson descendant) by and from Schubert Meyer: "I have heard of quite a number of grave yards near by, but to the best of my knowledge the original Bealmear grave yard is at Meyer Station, on West side of WB&A RR, on my brother's [Otto Meyer's] property which is across the track from my tract.

"The old homestead of Francis Bealmear was almost directly across from grave yard, on my side of the track, and they tell me that Francis Bealmear was buried there.

"As to the condition of the grave yard, you can still see signs of ten or twelve graves, marked with ordinary field stones and no marks of identification.

"The Waters Bealmear house, which was on Fritz Sander's place, was torn down about 40 years ago, by Mr. Will Smith who owned the place before Mr. Sander.

"I also heard that there was an old graveyard in Sander's back yard where Waters Bealmear's remains were taken up years ago.

"Since my father lived here, they put the WB&A RR through here and a construction Co. dug gravel near where Meyers Station is now, and they began to dig into the graveyard and dug up the slave section, then the Bealmears requested them to go no further into the family section.

"The Old Francis Bealmear house got right shaky, so my father had it torn down in about 1918.

"It was a little different shaped house than that of Waters Bealmear, and it had an upstairs porch."

<sup>21</sup> Martin, Schubert, and Dewey Meyer, July 17, 1966.

<sup>22</sup>Editor's Note: As mentioned, since this article was written by Sally Meyer in 1966, her husband



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**and his two brothers have conceived the idea for, and have created, the (private) MeyerStation Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Community while retaining their ownership of the 137.5 acre tract upon which it is operated.]**