

# STUARTS DRAFT HUB

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Stuarts Draft  
The HUB of Augusta County

# Stuarts Draft Goes Way Back

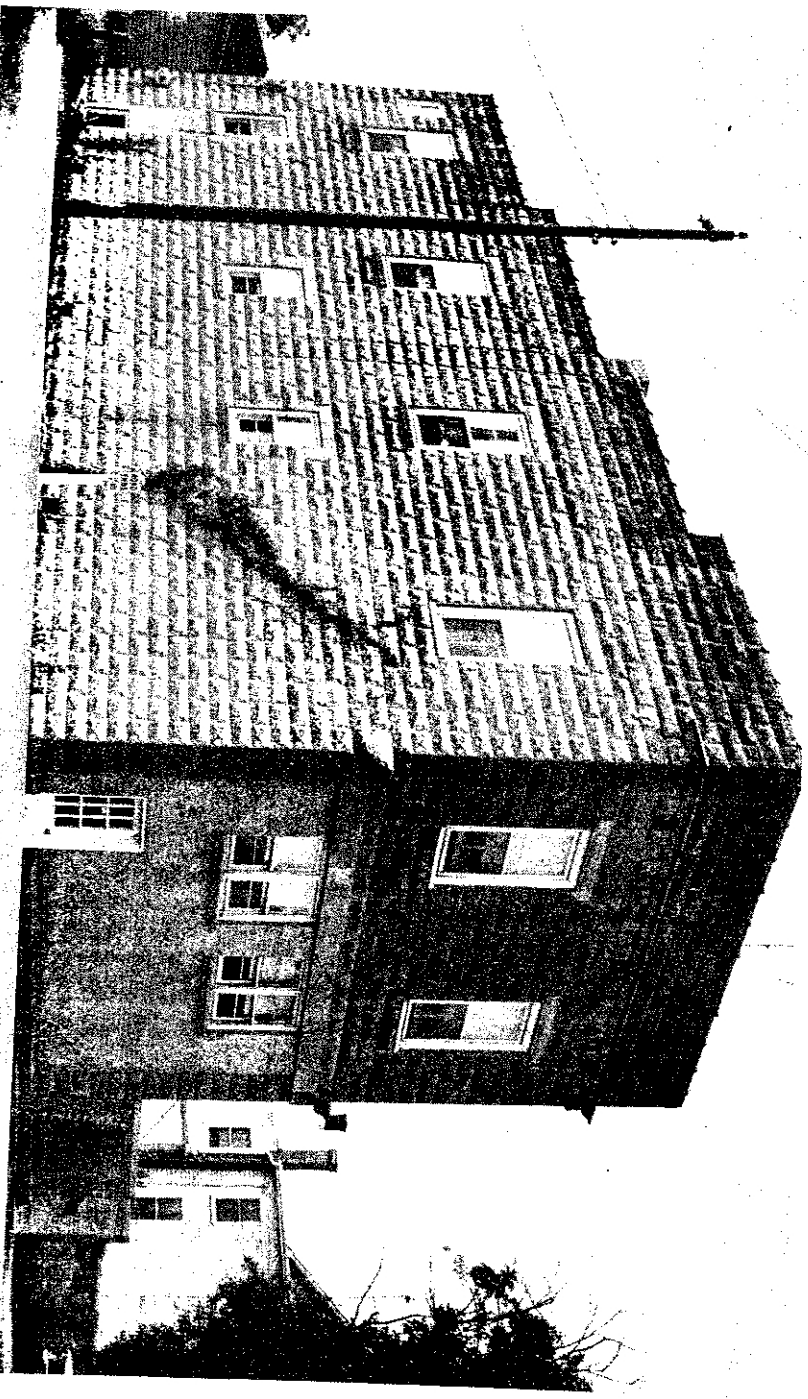
## History Begins In 1736

By BEN CRITZER  
N-V Staff Writer  
**STUARTS DRAFT** — The community of Stuarts Draft originated sometime around the year 1736.

A land area called the Manor of Beverley was granted to William Beverley, John Randolph, Richard Randolph and John Robinson by William Gooch, Commander in Chief of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia. It totaled 118,491 acres of the land region "Beyond the Great Mountains of the River of Sherando."

In 1725 Archibald Stuart, a Scottish immigrant, was forced surrection in defense of his religious rights. He was granted a general amnesty in 1732 so he sent for his wife and family and in 1738 moved from Pennsylvania to Augusta County. The family settled on a farm three miles east of Thinking Spring.

The Stuart family was active in both state and local affairs and helped with the establish-



**FUNERAL HOME** built by George S. Etter Sr. in 1886. Located on the corner of Flory Ave. and Main St. in Stuarts Draft the building is one of the oldest in the area. Mr. Etter

Pratt house located at the intersection of U. S. 340 south and Northgate Ave. near the Waynesboro city limits, is still standing today.

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besides the Stuarts were the Pattons, Blacks, Davidsons, Moffetts, Longs, Johnsons, McClures, Christians, Bells, Churchmans, Alexanders and

moved his business to Waynesboro in 1918 and the building was remodeled into apartments. (N-V Photo by Critzer)

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Draft house located at the intersection of U. S. 340 south and Northgate Ave. near the Waynesboro city limits, is still standing today.  
By the late 1740's the owners of the land grants in Augusta County released most of their

land to William Beverley, who then sold the land to settlers. Thomas Stuart, Archibald's son, bought 353 acres of this land in 1749 and later would become the founder of the present Stuarts Draft.  
Other land holders in the area

besides the Stuarts were the Pattons, Blacks, Davidsons, Moffetts, Longs, Johnsons, McClures, Christians, Bells, Churchmans, Alexanders and Caldwell.

The first village was established near the Howardsville Turnpike, a wilderness trail along what is now U. S. 340 south and U. S. 250 east, and consisted of a combination tavern and general store.

The origin of the word Draft has never been clearly understood but it is thought to refer to a current of air blowing over a low lying area near a stream and here are references to a strange wind blowing over the village from time to time, thus the name Stuarts Draft.

In the early years of the village the rugged terrain thwarted attempts to transport supplies by wagon and all goods had to be brought in by horseback. Guns, ammunition, clothing, cooking utensils, seeds and axes could be hauled in, but furniture and farm equipment had to be built by the settlers.

Corn, flax for clothing, wheat and hemp for making rope were the chief agricultural products of the area.

It has been recorded that in 1818 there were only two 2-wheeled rigs in Augusta County and that most of the heavy work was done with sleds and all transportation was on horseback.

The middle 1800's marked the building of a better road so it was then possible for families to travel twice a year by horse-drawn wagon to Scottsville, also along the Howardsville Turnpike, to exchange wheat for flour, sugar, and other food staples. The trip took about a week.  
The major recreation during this period included shooting matches, quilting bees, fox hunting and corn musing with an ample supply of alcohol to liven up the events.

Prior to the Civil War a one room school house was built about four miles from Stuarts Draft at Barterbrook. This was replaced by a similar school located behind the present day Finley Memorial Church. As school enrollment increased this structure was enlarged to four rooms.

The Norfolk and Western Railway was built in 1882 and a new village was begun about a mile to the south of it. The J. B. McChesney store was built along the track four years later, followed by the construction of the mill, blacksmith shop, hardware store, post office, depot and the Dodge Inn. The original structure of the Inn is

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Weaver Feed Store.

The building of the railroad  
meant the end of yearly journeys  
to Scottsville and also the  
beginning of prosperity for the  
village of Stuarts Draft.

In 1895 George Samuel Etter  
Sr. founded the Etter Funeral  
Home in Stuarts Draft. Mr.  
Etter moved to Waynesboro in  
1918 but his former funeral  
parlor building remains in  
Stuarts Draft and is one of the  
oldest structures still standing.

Stuarts Draft has many  
citizens today who lived and  
worked there during the early  
years of the 1900's. One of the  
best known is B. B. Kube.

In 1913 Mr. Kube moved to the  
town and opened a blacksmith  
shop. His original shop burned  
down in 1928 but he built a new  
one the following year. This  
structure still stands beside his  
home on Main St. across from  
the Stuarts Draft Fire Dept. Mr.  
Kube, who is 84, remembers that  
when he first came to the valley  
a suit of clothes cost \$4. The  
price to shoe a horse was \$1.

There is an almost endless list  
of events and special oc-

currences surrounding the  
history of Stuarts Draft. To  
cover the whole of the Stuarts  
Draft's history would be a  
mammoth undertaking for there  
exists no complete record or  
book at this time.

But, by providing a brief  
sketch of the life and growth of  
the community it is possible to  
understand the significance of  
the area and the relation of the  
people and their lives to the rest  
of the Augusta County region.