

Stories from Franklin County's Past: Beed's Lake - Its Creation

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Before European settlement, the land where Beed's Lake lies was home to the Wahpeton people. The Wahpeton are a part of the Great Sioux Nation. Earlier, the land was also used by the Sac and Fox tribes. This natural valley was enclosed by a series of hills bordering what the white settlers named Spring Creek. The two sides of this natural basin sloped gradually toward the north and south.

On November 22, 1854, two parcels of Franklin County land were sold by the US Government: one to David Matthews and the other to James VanHorn. In 1855, the remaining acreages of Mott Township were sold to Simon Reed and Henry L. Selen.

In 1856, T.K. Hansberry, a Campbellite preacher, visited the region and conceived the idea that such a basin with a resourceful, spring-fed stream at the bottom would be an ideal place to build an artificial lake by means of constructing a dike across the basin, damming the water and thereby supplying the water power to run a saw or grist mill. After obtaining water rights, Mr. Hansberry began operations on the proposed mill site in 1857. He constructed a dike about 80 rods long (½ mile) running northwest and southwest across the basin close to the eastern boundary of Section 19. The dike was 10 feet high and made chiefly of gravel, field stones, and black dirt. He then built a race (channel of water) in



Beed's home near the mill



William G. Beed

the easterly direction that ran nearly one-half mile before it contacted the mill itself and furnished the water to turn the mill's power wheels. The race was approximately three and a half feet deep.

Mr. Hansberry's first mill was a sawmill used to saw out the plentiful local virgin oak to construct cabins and the gristmill. The one-story sawmill began operation in 1857. Native limestone was used for the foundation and the four sides of the new gristmill. The sawed-out lumber was used for the rafters, roof, and finishing the interior of the new structure. The lower part of the building was finished in 1858; the building proper and fixtures were completed in 1859.

The mill had two rooms; one was used as Mr. Hansberry's living quarters. Farmers came from miles around to have their grain ground after the mill opened in 1859. One half bushel of wheat made about 20 pounds of flour, eight pounds of middlings, and three pounds of bran. A special kind of cloth called

bolting cloth was used for sifting the flour. Prior to the mill in Franklin County, a trip to the mill meant 125 miles by ox team to the closest mill in Cedar Rapids, which was a week-long trip!

By 1861, Mr. Hansberry found that he had more than he could do to care for the mill and spend much of his time away preaching. His brother-in-law, John McDonald, came from Marietta, Ohio, took possession of the mill, and employed a Mr. Albright as the manager of the mill. Running the mill was not always profitable. In the winter, the millrace would freeze. In the spring, floods washed away the dam; repairs were constantly being made. During the summer dry spell, the water would get so low that it would not turn the wheels.

The only store ever at the mill was when a few goods were kept in the little building which stood on the north side of the road just west of the mill. It was used as a home when McDonald owned the property. Stock consisted of a few groceries

which were occasionally loaded into a peddler's wagon by Nial McDonald, brother of John McDonald. The store was not profitable, and the stock was closed out a year or two before the sale to Mr. Beed. In November of 1864, Mr. McDonald sold the mill and water rights to William Beed for \$6,500.

William Beed was born January 9, 1831, in Devonshire, England; he was the oldest of the ten children of Thomas and Anna George Beed. He worked in a mercantile office in London until he immigrated in the 1850's to Batavia, Illinois, with his wife, Esther. She died in Batavia in 1858. William's parents and siblings all eventually immigrated to the United States and settled in Hampton. William Beed entered the mercantile business in Hampton in 1859, partnering with James Thompson. In 1861, William Beed bought out Mr. Thompson and continued to operate in Hampton with his brother, James, under the name of William G. Beed & Bro. for many years. The general

merchandise store sold ladies' and men's wear, boots and shoes, perfume, and jewelry.

On May 31, 1865, William married Hester Ann Gould in Hampton. Hester died in 1893. Their son, James William Hugh Beed, was born in November of 1867. Hugh became a bookkeeper and died at the age of 27 from tuberculosis. In July of 1895 William married Phoebe Benson, his second wife's sister. Phoebe died in 1898.

After his purchase of the land and the mill, Mr. Beed immediately began improving the mill structure, the race, and the long dike. The dike was raised by 10 feet to 20 feet and was lengthened until it was 120 rods long instead of 80. This deepened the lake in some parts to as deep as 15 feet. He purchased 134 acres around the mill. Mr. Beed constantly improved the mill, enlarging the original building to four times its original size including a third story used as an extra storage room. He also added

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Hampton Mill 1906



Chute the Chutes at Beed's Lake

Hampton Old Time Country Hoedown

The next Hampton Old Time Country Hoedown will be held on Monday, April 6th from 6-9 pm at the historic Windsor Theatre in downtown Hampton, IA. The Hoedown is a music jam open to all levels of musicians and music lovers. The theater seats are ideal for the audience to sit and enjoy some good old time country, bluegrass, Gospel. We invite all in the area to come enjoy this always entertaining event. Admission is free with a free will donation accepted. All proceeds are given to the Windsor Theatre. Concessions are open, smell that popcorn. Feel free to check out our Facebook page for pictures, videos, and updates. Contact event organizer Don Wrolson 641-425-0909 with any questions. We hope to see you and some friends on Monday, April 6th for a fun music filled evening. THANK YOU so much for continuing to support our efforts to bring live music to our area! We appreciate each and everyone one of you!



The family of Ernest Steven Hanns wishes to express our appreciation and gratitude to everyone who supported us during this difficult time. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have meant more to us than words can express.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff at the Rehabilitation Center of Hampton and St. Croix Hospice for the exceptional care, comfort, and dignity they provided to Steve. Their dedication and compassion brought peace not only to our loved one but to our entire family.

We are deeply grateful to 805 for providing the luncheon, which allowed family and friends to gather and share memories. Thank you also to Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home for your guidance, professionalism, and care in handling all funeral arrangements.

To everyone who sent kind messages, cards, flowers, plants, and offered their support. Your thoughtfulness has been a great source of comfort. We are especially thankful to our family and friends for your love, prayers, and unwavering strength during this time of loss.

With heartfelt thanks,
- The Family of Ernest Steven Hanns

PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's O'Reilly Series Race: North Carolina Education Lottery 250

Location: Rockingham, N.C.
Date: April 4th, 2:30 p.m.
Last Year's Pole: Connor Zilisch
Last Year's Winner: Sammy Smith

Rockingham Speedway

Track Details
Distance: 1.017 Miles
Shape: Oval
Banking/Turns: 8, 22, 25

Top News Stories

Tech Policing and Power: The New Racing Standards of 2026
As the calendar turns to April, the racing world is grappling with the most significant shifts in officiating and mechanical standards seen in a decade. The past week has been defined by "zero-tolerance" technical enforcement and the debut of digital policing. Following last season's track-limit controversies, NASCAR officially deployed its \$50 million remote technology command center to monitor "shortcut" zones. Using high-speed AI cameras at critical points, the system now automatically flags cars that exceed track parameters, instantly alerting race control. This move effectively eliminates the "gray area" that previously led to post-race disputes. Mechanically, the 750-horsepower package continues to reshape team strategy. Data from the recent "spring swing" shows that the 80-hp increase has forced a total rethink of tire management. Rick Ware Racing has become a focal point of this shift, utilizing RCR's proprietary simulation data to combat the accelerated tire wear caused by the higher power output. Simultaneously, Formula 1 teams began the final validation phase for their 2026 "Nimble Car" chassis. New technical bulletins issued on March 26 clarified the Active Aero mandates, confirming that front and rear wing flaps must sync during "low-drag mode" to maintain balance. These supplemental updates ensure that as the season enters its second month, the advantage belongs to those who can master the intersection of raw power and digital precision.

Last Weekend's Race: Chase Elliott Won at Ridgeway

Chase Elliott won the Cook Out 400 at Martinsville Speedway on March 29, 2026, securing Hendrick Motorsports' first victory of the season. Elliott led 84 laps, taking the lead during a green-flag pit cycle after crew chief Alan Gustafson called for a "short pit" on Lap 261. Despite Denny Hamlin leading 292 laps and winning both opening stages, Elliott maintained a 0.565-second lead through the final 69 laps. "Definitely a team effort, that was awesome," Elliott said. "We took a gamble. We were gonna two-stop that stage. I honestly think it was going to work out for us either way."

Chase Elliott
Born: Nov. 28, 1995
Crew Chief: Alan Gustafson
Car: Chevrolet

Year	Wins	Top 10s	Avg. Finish
2026	1	4	9.571
2025	2	19	16.14

2026 Standings

Cup Series Top Ten			O'Reilly Auto Parts Series Top Ten		
Drivers	Points	Top 10s	Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Tyler Reddick	353	5	1) Justin Allgaier	373	6
2) Ryan Blaney	271	5	2) Jesse Love	281	5
3) Denny Hamlin	259	4	3) Sheldon Creed	257	5
4) Chase Elliott	249	4	4) Austin Hill	251	4
5) William Byron	238	4	5) Carson Kvatil	234	3
6) Ty Gibbs	222	5	6) Sammy Smith	231	6
7) Christopher Bell	212	4	7) Corey Day	225	6
8) Brad Keselowski	206	3	8) Brandon Jones	198	2
9) Kyle Larson	206	4	9) Parker Retzlaff	195	2
10) Chris Buescher	206	3	10) Rajah Caruth	175	3

Racing Trivia

What color flag is waved to signal there is one lap left in the race?

a) Green c) Yellow
b) White d) Checkered

ANSWER: (b) White. The white flag indicates the leader has started their final circuit of the race.

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The Hampton Chronicle strives for accurate and complete news reporting, but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made, we will run a correction, clarification, retraction, or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.

Corrections will be printed on page two in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction.

Digital corrections will also be made, and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter, or any other online medium controlled by the Hampton Chronicle, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.