

# **Cemetery Miscellanea**

Fort Vance Historical Society



**Aaron Aten**  
**April 25, 1809-February 1, 1859**  
**Mary McMinn Aten**  
**August 11, 1816-August 19, 1895**

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**John Aten**  
April 7, 1844-January 27, 1892

**Margaret Ann Bailey Aten**  
May 7, 1849-April 9, 1930

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Sarah Russell Aten**  
**November 25, 1902**

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Henry Crooks**  
1743-March 10, 1831

**Jane Howlett Crooks**  
1752-July 15, 1816

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Cross Creek Graveyard

The first interment in the old Graveyard was that of an unnamed child of David and Sarah Vance who had fallen into an open fire and was so severely burned that its death came as a result. This was in early 1779. A council was held with the neighbors and friends as to where they would bury the child, when it was agreed to inter it in the woods up where they were going to build the church. Curiously enough, the first interment in the new Cemetery at Cross Creek was of a Vance child, Jessie Emily Vance, daughter of Leander and Anna Vance, in January 1891.

There has been discovered about one thousand that are buried in the Cross Creek Graveyard, but have not got the one-half that are interred. The inscriptions of the headstones have been written down but the dust of many others reposes here.

Buried are 47 Revolutionary Soldiers, including one nurse: 13 Indian Fighters and 24 who served in the war of 1812 with the British. Many of these markers are deteriorating and require some searching so it was determined to put all their names on one Memorial to be put in front of Cross Creek Graveyard, across from the Church and near the road for all to see. It is believed that the Memorial was unique to Washington County at the time.

There is a stone across from the church dedicated to James Simpson 1750-1819 who was among the first settlers and James Simpson 1824-1902 who was a farmer-Historian. James Simpson was the original compiler of the History of the Cross Creek Graveyard and The Cross Creek Cemetery which was originally compiled in 1894.

The Cross Creek Cemeteries stone that is also across the street from the church was given in memory of Leonard Lyle Cooke showing the 1779 and 1890 dates of establishment for each cemetery. Mr. Cooke was outstanding in his service to both the Cemeteries and the Church serving on both boards for many years. Mr. Cooke born 1911 and died 1983 is buried in the new cemetery.

The Memorial Keystone Arch was built in the early 1940's. It was built by the men of the community who cut the stones by hand and hauled them to the site. Charles Schulte still living in the community was a very big contributor to the building of the arch. The plaque in the center of the arch reads in memory of the illustrious dead of our community, and in honor of our living heroes who have defended us in all wars. This tablet is solemnly and respectfully dedicated in the year of our Lord. 1954

## CROSS CREEK CEMETERY

Established 1890

The new Cross Creek Cemetery was established in 1890. Ironically the first interment in the new Cemetery was of a Vance child, Jessie Emily Vance, daughter of Leander and Anna Vance, in January 1891. Sadly there were 5 others died before her and were buried at other locations, but when the new cemetery was available they were re-interred to Cross Creek. One was also a child that died of scarlet fever on 9/29/1889 who was the son of Leander and Anna Vance.

The Cemetery at Cross Creek to date has 738 burials. We are striving to keep the Cemetery in good maintenance condition. It is directly north of the old Cross Creek Graveyard which has been closed to burials.

The Cross Creek Graveyard and Cemetery are about a mile south of the sight of Fort Vance. Many of the names of the buried are ancestors of the people buried in the old Graveyard such as Marquis, Vance, Lee and many, many others.

The Graveyard and Cemetery were being mowed but was suffering form other maintenance. Many stones were in need of repair, weeds and trees out of control, garbage thrown over the hill, etc. We have since been under a restoration to open wooded areas and general clean-up. It may take many years to complete.

## 'Lost' Grave

By William A. White

Press Staff Writer

CROSS CREEK, Pa.—In the old Cross Creek cemetery here nearby the historic Cross Creek Presbyterian Church there is a "lost" grave that holds the dust of a frontier wife and mother, Mary Wallace.

Only such of her remains as survived a year in a forest, exposed to the elements and wild animals, were interred. The simple marker placed at the grave, inscribed "M.W.," has long since gone.

The tragic fate of Mary Wallace, slain by Indians, was not new to pioneer life when Washington County was being settled.

Wife of Robert Wallace, she was at the family cabin near Florence, her husband off at the grain mill, when the Indians came in February of 1782. With no time to escape, no chance to get help, she with her babe in arms and two small sons were dragged off as captives.

The log cabin was burned, the stock slaughtered, and when Wallace returned from the mill he could read in the ruins what had happened. He and other settlers went in pursuit but snow started to fall and soon hid the trail.

There were raids elsewhere in Washington County at the same time and presumably by the same band. One of the captives



escaped and upon returning to his home reported some of his captors had said they were Moravians from the Christian Indian settlements in Ohio, principal of which was Gnadenhutten.

Aroused Washington Countians organized an expedition at Vance's Fort to march against Ohio settlements, with original intent to drive the Indians away or bring them back to Fort Pitt as prisoners. Wallace, grief-stricken, believing his wife and children were captives, joined the march.

**Had he not gone the massacre of 90 Christian Indians at Gnadenhutten might not have occurred.**

The expedition entered Gnadenhutten without opposition. Then Wallace saw an Indian woman wearing the blood-stained dress of his wife. His unbounded rage and cries for vengeance found support from all but a few of those in the expedition.

They disregarded the plea that the dress had been bought from other Indians who had gone through the village and in a short time 90 unarmed men, women and children had been ruthlessly slaughtered.

A year afterwards hunters found a skeleton in the woods near Hookstown. Wallace identified it from the teeth as that of his wife, brought the remains here for burial in the Cross Creek cemetery.

New graves mingle with the old today in the enlarged cemetery, in which are buried men of the Indian struggles and all wars of America's history.

**But no other grave has the shroud of tragedy that envelops the "lost" grave of Mary Wallace.**

'Lost Grave' Cross Creek, PA  
Pittsburgh Press-Unknown Date



**Family Night  
Covered Dish  
At Cross Creek**

The annual Family Night Covered Dish Dinner will be held at the Cross Creek United Presbyterian Church on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. The dinner is sponsored each year by the Women's Missionary Society for all members and friends of the church.

The speaker will be Sergeant Jack McNelly, of the Waynesburg Unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Mr. McNelly, a member of the church, will tell about his experience with the Guard in the Wilkes-Barre flood disaster caused by Hurricane Agnes earlier this year.

There will be a nursery service provided for small children during the program, which will include special music by Mr. Minna England, Mrs. Genevieve Cooke and Mrs. Gloria Smith. Devotions will be led by Mrs. Alice Zelars.

**Family Night Covered Dish at Cross Creek Church  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 30, 1972 Edition**

# DEATHS

Of Burgettstown Citizens and Non-Residents From the Incorporation of the Borough (March 23, 1881) until the Close of the Nineteenth Century.

1881.

April 17, William Pelly, of Steubenville, Ohio.  
 May 29, Maggie Catharine Worstell.  
 June 24, Mrs. Sarah Plummer.  
 June 27, Robert M. Worstell.  
 July 29, Tessora Bell Butler.  
 July 31, Nora Myrtle Chidister.  
 August 4, Mary Butler.  
 August 28, Effie A. Allen.  
 September 5, Frankie Nichols.  
 September 11, William M. Allen.  
 September 30, Rev. John Todd.  
 October 6, William Bradford Melvin.  
 December 17, Mrs. Martha M. Brimmer.  
 December 19, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hill.  
 December 27, Paula Clemence Stievernart.

August 16, Thomas Hays, from home.

1882.

January 23, infant daughter of Rachel Evans.  
 January 27, Rachel Evans.  
 April 12, John Pry.  
 April 23, Mrs. Mary Dunlap.  
 May 13, Sarah E. Hawley.  
 May 25, Mrs. Ella Bigger, of near Bavington, Pa.  
 June 26, Mrs. Jane W. Carson.  
 July 5, Ella McFadyean.  
 July 7, Wesley Smith.  
 September 15, Robert M. Scott, of Steubenville, Ohio.  
 September 22, Mrs. Julia Divitt.  
 November 21, William McNary.  
 December 30, Rosa Richey.  
 September 22, John L. Proudfit, from home.

1883.

February 19, Sarah Ada Thompson.  
 April 14, Mrs. Mary Daugherty.  
 May 5, Charles W. Bingham, of Pittsburg, Pa.  
 May 7, Flora Julia Robinson, colored, of Pittsburg, Pa.  
 May 15, Benjamin H. Van Sciver.  
 July 19, infant son of Ed. and Lorena Evans.  
 August 23, Birdie Ella May Robinson, colored.  
 August 31, infant daughter of Abdallah and Mary Garrison.  
 September 20, Mrs. Margaret Anderson.  
 October 30, John Raybuck.  
 December 17, Louis Leopold.  
 December 19, infant son of Thomas and Mary J. Forsyth.  
 December 26, Sarah Ann McNary.  
 December 26, Thomas Rogers.

FROM HOME.

July 14, John T. Davies.  
 October 16, Robert Ferguson.

July 27, James Rankin.  
 August 7, Sarah Forsyth.  
 August 17, Mrs. Nannie Kennedy.  
 September 12, John Parker.  
 October 12, Mrs. Jane McCarrell.

1888.

January 12, Mrs. Margaret Ullrich.  
 February 24, Mand Quigley, of East Brady, Pa.  
 March 29, infant daughter of John and Maria Leopold.  
 April 5, Mrs. Margaret Jane Buchanan.  
 April 7, Nora Nell Smith.  
 July 24, Mrs. Rachel Ghrist.  
 August 4, Mrs. Mary Ann Russell.  
 August 17, Robert Earl Boyd.  
 September 5, Andrew F. Smith.  
 November 6, Mrs. Jane Cowings.  
 November 8, Mrs. Jane Whitaker.  
 December 5, Alvin Donnan Johnston.

1889.

February 24, Mrs. Hester Ann Palmer.  
 May 4, Samuel J. Morgan.  
 June 8, George Sheridan Stroud.  
 June 28, Samuel McFarland.  
 July 29, Ethel Kate Cramer.  
 September 22, George H. Garwig.  
 September 29, Samuel Davis, colored.  
 October 9, Alexander H. Duncan.  
 October 22, John Oliver.  
 December 12, Mrs. Nancy Jane Duncan.

December 29, Anna Bell Crider.  
 July 12, George Alexander Coffy, colored, from home.  
 Charles Donley, Steubenville, Ohio, during the summer of 1889, was killed east of the depot, by the Dinsmore gravel train.

1890.

January 12, Margaret Wilna Fulton.  
 March 3, Mary McKee.  
 April 21, Romulus L. McCabe, of Paris, Pa.  
 April 25, Frank Milton, colored.  
 June 17, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. David M. Winters.  
 July 4, Emma Margaret Patterson.  
 July 7, James Witherspoon Patterson.  
 September 11, Bell Morrow.  
 October 11, William P. Brown, colored.  
 December 6, James Howard Penny, colored.

FROM HOME.

May 21, William C. Dornan.  
 September 4, Sarah Johnston.

1891.

January 11, Levi Caldwell.  
 January 17, Margart Isabella Bebout.  
 January 20, Everett Leo Aiken.  
 May 1, Patrick Kelly.  
 May 11, Mrs. Martha Isabella Tenan.  
 May 23, John J. Fulton.  
 May 31, Thomas P. Vance.  
 June 6, Josiah N. Scott.  
 June 19, George Penny, colored.  
 July 9, William Donnan, M. D.  
 July 29, Robert Anderson.  
 August 12, James K. McCurdy, M. D.  
 August 18, Martin McMurray Andrews.

January 31, Mrs. Anna Lasher, of Mannington, W. Va.

February 14, James M. Stevenson.  
 March 14, Silas Dornan.  
 March 20, Margaret S. Smith.  
 March 31, John L. Scott, from home.  
 April 23, Jane Rankin.  
 June 2, William Maxwell.  
 June 15, Polly Gilbert.  
 June 28, Anna Lasher.  
 July 1, Alva Linn Silvers.  
 July 10, James W. Bailey.  
 July 16, James P. Kelso, from home.  
 September 15, Robert C. Boyce.  
 October 11, Sarah Ann Wilson.  
 October 16, Cornelia F. Arnold, colored.  
 October 18, Mrs. Henrietta Gillespie.  
 October 23, Mrs. Betty Arnold, colored.  
 October 29, James M. Nelson.  
 November 2, Laura Harper Nichols.  
 November 11, Nannie Cecelia Shook.  
 November 12, Mrs. Amanda Conn.  
 November 20, Lucy Arnold, colored.  
 December 1, Mary Elizabeth Ghrist.

1896.

January 3, Mrs. Pamela Dornan.  
 March 10, John B. Smith.  
 March 20, Mrs. Eliza V. Walker.  
 March 27, Mrs. Mary Ann Butler Colliers, W. Va.,  
 May 27, Mrs. Susan Dunbar.  
 May 31, Mrs. Mary Ann Campbell.  
 July 15, Marie Margaret Leech.  
 July 25, William T. Richey.  
 August 29, William Patterson Linn.  
 September 28, Mrs. Ellen Magee.  
 December 24, Jessie Luella Kennedy.

1897.

January 26, Blanche Crawford, of near Candor, Pa.  
 January 30, Margaret Louisa Pyles.  
 February 23, Mrs. Martha Jane Cassidy.  
 February 27, Lucy Abell.  
 March 3, Celia Morrow.  
 March 31, Catharine Marie Morrow.  
 May 15, B. F. Scott, from home.  
 May 18, Ethel Maud Pyles.  
 October 15, Samuel J. Ghrist.  
 November 11, infant child of Joseph A. and Etta M. McClurg.  
 November 19, Cyrus Ringler.  
 November 21, John Ross.  
 December 15, James Miller Stevenson, from home.

1898.

February 15, infant son of W. C. and Lulu Boyd.  
 February 20, Mrs. Margaret Smiley.  
 April 8, Laura Margaret Pyles.  
 April 21, infant son of David C. and Sarah J. Shipley.  
 May 17, Ralph Bushfield.  
 May 20, Harry Lawrence McKenzie.  
 May 25, Mrs. Letitia McNary.  
 May 31, Francis Hood.  
 June 5, Isaac Morgan.  
 June 9, Hannah Jane Robinson.  
 July 7, Wylie Bushfield.  
 September 26, James Cassidy.

July 14, infant son of James and Hannah Worstell.

July 20, Leila Anderson.

July 23, Charles W. Cochran.

August 10, Joseph B. Scott.

September 6, George W. Bell, M. D.

September 7, Mrs. Mary E. Hoffman.

September 14, Ralph Aiken.

September 24, John Miller, Sr.

FROM HOME.

April 26, Charles W. McCarty.

May 25, Mrs. Martha J. Patterson.

November 4, Asenath M. Daugherty.

1885.

January 9, Mary Ward Pettibon.

January 22, Mrs. Mary Ann Anderson.

March 29, infant daughter of Thomas and Margaret Boyd.

April 18, Charles B. McFarland.

April 28, Jane Morgan.

May 10, Mrs. Eliza Ann May, of Cecil township.

May 24, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. James.

May 28, Nettie Westlake.

June 28, John Kelly.

November 2, Mrs. Rebecca Jane Todd.

November 5, George W. Noah.

November 5, Andrew Smith.

November 25, Samuel Buchanan.

November 27, Maud Davies.

December 8, Mrs. Isabella McCay.

December 11, Mrs. Catharine Roena Evans.

August, Edna Vance, from home.

1886.

January 4, Georgie Abell.

February 7, Fanny McMurray.

March 9, Maggie May Conner.

March 30, William Hartford.

April 14, Minnie May Smith.

April 18, infant daughter of W. S. and Mary E. Faison.

April 21, Sarah Jones.

April 25, Mrs. Mary E. Bavington.

June 4, Julia, daughter of John Divitt.

June 17, Estella Neil.

June 28, Mrs. Mary Leopold.

July 8, infant daughter of Joseph and Martha Richey.

July 10, John Smiley.

July 20, Mary Allison.

July 21, Rev. James T. Fredericks.

August 9, Minnie McCombs.

August 22, John Brown, colored.

September 1, John Anderson.

October 22, Elsie V. Melvin.

October 22, Mrs. Elizabeth Lee.

November 23, Meredith James.

November 30, Samantha Russell.

September 29, Alexander Russell, from home.

1887.

February 23, Lizzie Scott.

March 13, infant son of Abdallah and Mary Garrison.

May 14, William M. McElhaney.

May 19, Thomas Webster Bradley, D.

June 15, Thomas J. Crawford.

July 7, infant daughter of Thomas and Mary J. Forsyth.

July 22, Bessie Watt, of Pittsburg, Pa.

July 23, Mrs. Sarah McCombs.

January 16, Mrs. Sarah Smith.

January 18, William Hamilton Cheek.

January 31, Mrs. Anna M. Miller.

February 2, Mrs. Mary Hawley.

February 3, Andrew Ullrich.

February 4, Mrs. Elizabeth F. Wise.

February 7, infant daughter of Holland A. and Elizabeth Scott.

February 8, Thomas Andrews.

February 15, Margaret Elizabeth McBride.

February 15, Jane Ghrist.

February 21, Mrs. Hannah Graham.

February 24, Nannie Lee.

March 16, Etta M. Woodrow.

March 16, David G. Pyles.

April 1, William C. Forsyth.

April 15, Mrs. Mary Jane Purdy.

May 12, Mrs. Margaret Hastings Forsyth.

June 10, William Clifford, a stranger.

June 27, John P. Wood.

July 23, George McGregor.

August 14, Mrs. Mary Jane Scott.

August 14, John Falconer.

August 17, Joseph Wilson Aiken.

August 27, Marv Etta Bell.

September 5, John Gillespie.

September 27, Samuel L. Cochran.

October 20, Thomas C. Brown, colored.

October 20, Mrs. Mary Ann Parker.

October 25, William L. Wilson.

November 10, Mrs. Charlette Stephenson.

November 14, Napoleon B. St. Clair.

December 18, Mrs. Elizabeth Cleland.

December 24, Nancy Mary Smith.

December 30, Wilson R. Dunlap.

FROM HOME.

August 26, Mary O. Bebout.

October 4, William W. Lyon.

December 24, Margaret Beulah Vance.

1893.

May 7, Mrs. Margaret B. Cochran, from home.

May 29, John Powelson.

July 6, Oliver James Cassidy.

September 2, Adda Gillespie.

September 4, Mrs. Martha E. Russell.

September 14, Hazel C. Leopold.

September 17, Madison M. Yolton.

September 24, Myrtle S. Leopold.

November 7, Mrs. Jane Tucker.

1894.

January 8, J. Edgar Rankin, from home.

February 13, David Nelson.

April 20, Robert Thomas Curry Stephenson.

May 7, Mrs. Sarah Wheeler, colored, from home.

May 14, Mrs. Ella S. Miller.

May 25, Mrs. Sarah B. McFarland.

July 28, Mrs. Nancy D. Proudfit.

August 6, Mazie Erma Simpson.

August 11, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Dornan.

1895.

January 2, Mrs. Leila Cora Cramer, of Crafton, Pa.

January 8, Thomas Lowry.

January 12, John Orr Lee, of Fort Wayne, Ind.

La Pearl's circus.

May 30, George M. Tenan.

May 30, Mrs. Mary Ellen Pyles.

June 6, Mrs. Margaret Amelia Woodburn.

June 16, Mrs. Marie Louisa Brown.

June 18, Johnson L. Proctor, colored.

July 31, Mary Margaret Antill, Smith township.

September 15, Mrs. Eleanor Shipley.

September 23, William P. Fulton.

October 7, Mrs. Sarah H. Scott.

October 16, Esther Isabella McNary.

October 20, infant son of Harry and Amanda Bell.

December 6, Cornelia Norton Spencer.

1900.

January 18, George Stroud.

April 18, Mrs. Jane E. McCombs.

April 28, Elizabeth Edna Scott.

May 5, Thomas Algeo.

May 22, Cynthia Agnes Russell.

June 19, John Miller Shane, Jr.

August 4, Mrs. Mary Ewing.

September 18, Mrs. Esther Miller Wood.

October 2, James Taggart Patterson.

October 27, Anna Martha Proudfit.

December 13, Alexander Steele Berryhill.

December 27, Mrs. Lucinda Campbell, from home.

The above list is as nearly correct as the undersigned could keep it. Possibly the two children of Abdallah Garrison should be credited to Smith township. If incorrect it is now too late to correct in time for publication. If there be any errors or omissions will those knowing of the same kindly communicate with the undersigned at 42 Bates street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

WILLIAM MELVIN.

#### A Prominent Chicago Woman Speaks.

Prof. Roxa Tyler, of Chicago, Vice President Illinois Woman's Alliance, in speaking of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says: "I suffered with a severe cold this winter which threatened to run into pneumonia. I tried different remedies but I seemed to grow worse and the medicine upset my stomach. A friend advised me to try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and I found it was pleasant to take and it relieved me at once. I am now entirely recovered, saved a doctor's bill, time and suffering, and I will never be without this splendid medicine again." For sale by W. E. McCurdy.

Such little pills as DeWitt's Little Early Risers are very easily taken, and they are wonderfully effective in cleansing the liver and bowels. McCurdy's drug store.

The most soothing, healing and antiseptic application ever devised is DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It relieves at once and cures piles, sores, eczema and skin diseases. Beware of imitations. McCurdy's drug store.

When threatened by pneumonia or any other lung trouble, prompt relief is necessary, as it is dangerous to delay. We would suggest that One Minute Cough Cure be taken as soon as indications of having taken cold are noticed. It cures quickly and its early use prevents consumption. McCurdy's drug store.

BURGETTSTOWN'S DEATH ROLL  
For 1901 and 1902.

1901—JANUARY.

- 16—W. L. M. Smith, heart trouble; age 54 years.  
24—Infant daughter of James and Emma (Brown) Lewis, brain trouble; aged 5 months.

FEBRUARY.

- 21—Fanny L., (Noah) wife of Joseph D. Pyles, pleuro-pneumonia; aged 17 years, 6 months.  
26—Infant son of Joseph D. Pyles, brain trouble; aged 15 days.

MARCH.

- 1—Sarah (Linn), wife of James L. Patterson, killed by freight train; aged 70 years.

APRIL.

- 10—Sarah Elizabeth (Caldwell), wife of John W. France, lung trouble; aged 38 years.

MAY.

- 31—Robert S. Ravenscraft, general debility; aged 77 years.

AUGUST.

- 22—Barbara A. (Anderson), wife of Thomas Lindsey, peritonitis with other complications; age 64 years.

SEPTEMBER.

- 16—William H. Wilson, meningitis; age 57 years.  
20—William H. Witherspoon, a complication of diseases; aged 70 years.

OCTOBER.

- 7—Isaac Fleming, organic heart trouble with dropsy; aged 72 years.  
24—Miss Jane Keys, paralysis of the brain, aged 67 years.  
27—James Frederick, son of James L. Patterson, heart failure; age 33 yrs.

DECEMBER.

- 17—Nancy (Kelly), wife of Jacob Patterson, colored, at Clinton, Pa., result of grip, aged 72 years.

1902—FEBRUARY.

- 1—Sarah Jane (Culley), wife of S. C. McGregor, nervous prostration result of fall; aged 70 years.  
16—J. Lee Scott, organic heart trouble aged 40 years.

MARCH.

- 24—George Brown, colored, at Ravenna Ohio; killed by a train.

AUGUST.

- 21—Miss Ada Augusta Conyngham, tuberculosis of the bowels; aged 66 years.

SEPTEMBER.

- 3—Dr. George Stockton Graham, dysentery; aged 62 years.

OCTOBER.

- 8—Miss Kate Kelly, tuberculosis; aged 41 years.

NOVEMBER.

- 29—Mrs. Sarah (McBride) Stewart, paralysis, aged about 74 years.

DECEMBER.

- 16—Mary Jane, daughter of S. M. and Eva J. (Sprows) Nicholls, inflammation of the stomach; aged 20 months and 3 days.  
26—Delphine May, daughter of Silas and Ossie (Brown) Fullum; found dead in bed; aged 2 months.

Deaths since March 23, 1881, 319.

Of these were from home, 29.

Non-residents, 14.

WILLIAM MELVIN.

**Burgettstown's Death Roll  
For 1901 and 1902**



**Alexander Scott Dunbar**  
March 1844-1924

**Mary M. Dunbar**  
July 1847-October 1, 1919

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Eldersville haunted by history

Children bring past to life with pageant telling stories of town's forerunners

**BY JUDY CHESTNUT**  
THE OBSERVER-REPORTER  
judyc@observer-reporter.com

History came alive in Eldersville United Methodist Cemetery Tuesday as local children acted out the lives of those buried in the graveyard.

The Seekers, the youth extension of Jefferson Township Historical Society, presented "Personalities from the Past" in front of the Eldersville United Methodist Church to a crowd of about 150.

The children, dressed in costumes from the era, acted out events that happened to residents who lived in the area between the 1800s and early 1900s.

Kathryn Slasor, founder of the historical society, and her sister, June Grossman, researched the histories and wrote the skits for the children.

Elizabeth Gump, 11, of Avella, depicted the life of Adeline Robertson Smith, a woman who lived in the area in 1858. Her five children included a daughter who married Cyrus Ferguson, who was instrumental in founding Weirton Steel.

"It taught me a lot about the people in the area," she said. "It was a good learning experience."

The children and their families also learned about John Allingham, an Eldersville store owner who was murdered in 1872.

Henry Briceland served time for killing Allingham, Slasor said. Briceland was accused of constructing a pipe bomb and launching it into Allingham's bedroom.

"That was more than 125 years ago, and the Allingham murder has stayed with us all this time," Slasor said. "It was never really proven that Briceland did this. They used circumstantial evidence."

Eugene Painter depicted the life of James W. Gillespie, a huck-



TOM COGLIO / THE OBSERVER-REPORTER

ster who lived in Eldersville around 1874.

From left, Jacob Weigmann, 7, Adrienne Marler, 8, and Jesse Laborec, 10, stand in line at Eldersville United Methodist Church Tuesday. The trio were waiting to perform their skits of some of the people who lived in Eldersville from the 1800s to the early 1900s.

Gillespie apparently got caught during a flood while traveling through the "Shades of Death" in Jefferson Township, and his wagon and team of mules were washed away.

"The Shades of Death was a dark valley in Jefferson Township because of the tall Hemlock trees that grew there," Slasor said. "The trees intertwined across the road, creating a tunnel. There were all kinds of legends that people were killed there."

Maureen Gump, Elizabeth's mother, said she thought the program was an excellent way for children to learn about history.

"It was such a different world then," she said.

Stephen Loborec, 12, of Burgettstown, portrayed Pvt. Joseph Corbin, who served in the Civil War.

"He was wounded in the leg at Gettysburg and was discharged," Loborec said. "His brother, David, was killed a few months before. His leg never healed, but he died in 1912 of old age. He was 85."

Loborec said he agreed to perform in the pageant at the request of his grandmother, a member of the historical society.

"I found it interesting," he said. "Some of the deaths that happened here, for such a small town, it was pretty interesting."

## Eldersville Haunted by History



**Fairview Cemetery-Burgettstown, PA.**  
**L-R: Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, and Father McCashin**



**Fairview Cemetery-Burgettstown, PA**  
**L-R: Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, and Father McCashin**



#### **Veterans to Parade.**

A parade of ex-service men of the community, headed by the Burgettstown-McDonald Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be a feature of the Memorial Day observance here. The parade will move from the bank corner Main street, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and will proceed to Fairview cemetery where wreathes will be deposited upon the graves of service men. The drum corps of the veteran's organization will head the procession. All ex-service men of the community are requested to participate in the parade.



# Neighborhood touch saves piece of history

By Liza Northrop, Editor  
The Record-Enterprise

A few years ago, it was within two weeks of being demolished.

Today, it stands as a testament to community involvement and visions of the future.

When the Victorian house at Fairview Cemetery in Burgettstown was dedicated Oct. 25, it bore no resemblance to the structure that was an eyesore in 1995. There are no longer boarded windows and rotted doors or falling shingles. The crumbling building that was once home to the cemetery's caretaker has undergone a remarkable transformation.

"One only has to look at the building today to understand how it was done," restoration committee member Jane Mancinelli said. "It took time, hard work and dedication. This came from you."

It was Clara Alvarez's idea to save the historical building that was built in 1895. She and her husband were on their way to a vacation when the crooked, slanted structure caught her eye.

"I'm not into antiques but I hate to see something old and unique being torn down," she said. "I'd rather restore a building than a chair."

Mrs. Alvarez got the ball rolling and the response of support came fast and furious. She received a call from Dave Choman, at that time a stranger, who offered his support.

"What couldn't be found or couldn't be done, he did it," Mrs. Alvarez said.

Choman and Charles Lawson are credited with much of the renovation. The two men would work tirelessly in transforming the building, Mrs. Alvarez said. They



**DAVE CHOMAN AND Charles Lawson** show off framed pictures of what the Victorian house at Fairview Cemetery used to look like.

**RESTORATION COMMITTEE MEMBER Jane Mancinelli** led the dedication ceremonies

scrapped, restored or built each shingle on the 17-foot building.

"A couple of years ago this building looked kind of sad," Choman said. "It was years of being down on it's luck."

What is now in its place is a solid, white painted structure, trimmed in antique blue and red. It was put back together from a wide variety of materials taken from three other torn down homes built approximately the same time as the original Victorian house.

What Clara Alvarez thought would take a few months to complete, was finished two years later.

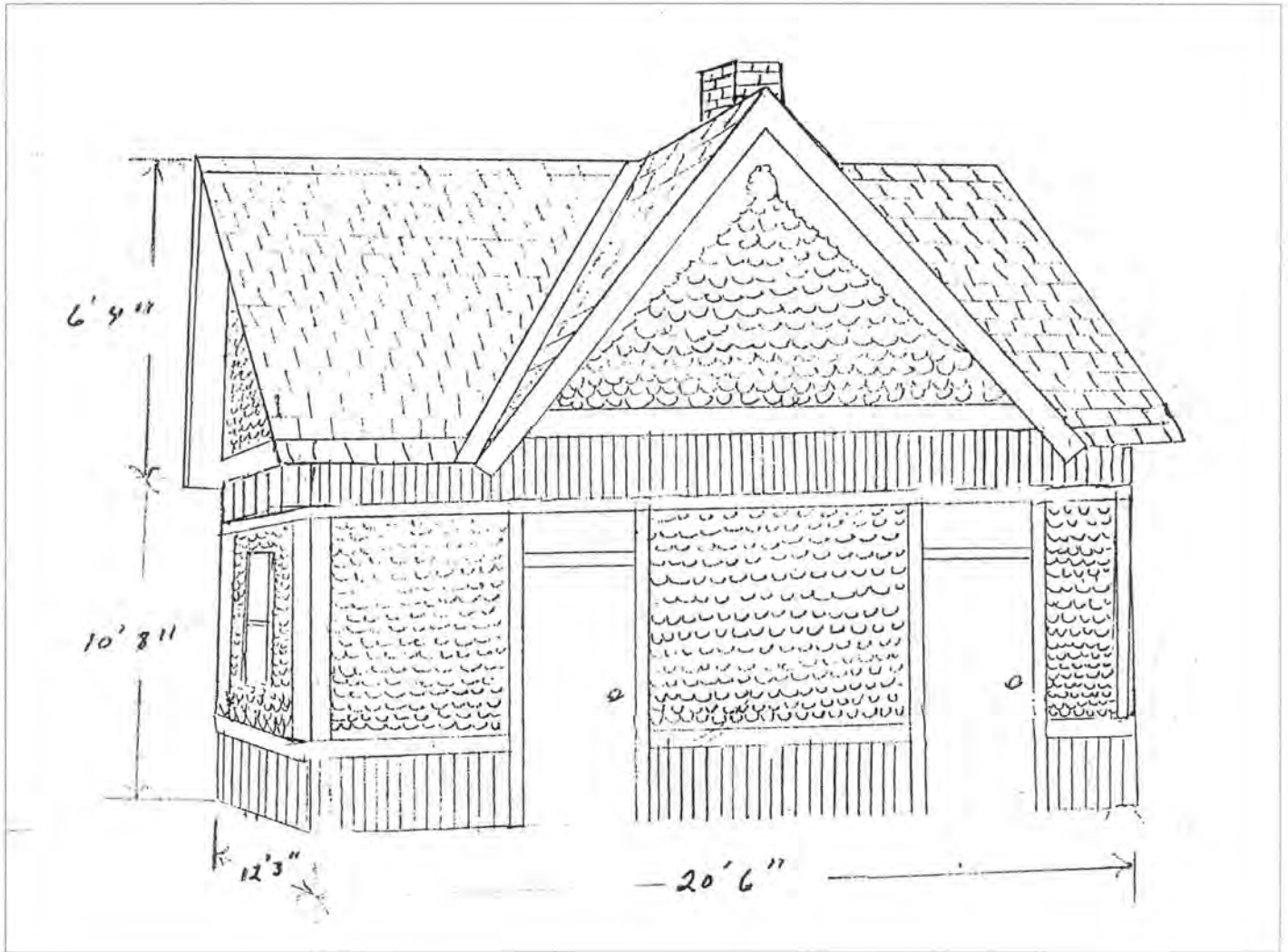
"I thought I would just take a chance," she said. "It was a shack. Today it is beautiful, wonderful. This is something I'll never forget."

Fairview Cemetery was founded in 1895 as a non-denominational burial ground. Located on a hill, it overlooked the former Burgettstown fair, from hence its name was derived.

"It was a place of peace and quiet and rare beauty," said historian June Grossman. "This was probably one of the most beautiful places in Burgettstown."

James Kelso, a popular accountant who died suddenly at age 35 while away on a business trip, was the first person buried in the then new cemetery. Other notables include NASA astronaut Steven Ben, the Easton family and Edwin Dutch Hill, for whom the Burgettstown High School stadium is named.

**Neighborhood Touch Saves Piece of History**  
**Record Enterprise-November 5, 1997 Edition**



Exterior walls approximately 900 to 100 sq. ft. surface area  
Interior walls approximately 440 sq. ft. surface area  
Ceiling and floor walls approximately 240 sq. ft. surface area

Two coats primer interior.      Three coats primer exterior.

Burgundy Trim, white shaker shingles, Gray bottom down shingles

### **Restoration of Fairview Cemetery Building**



**Fairview Cemetery-Burgettstown, PA  
Huge crowds came to the Memorial Day service at cemetery.**



### **McCurdy Marker**

**Florence (Cross Roads) Presbyterian Church Cemetery  
Florence, PA**

## Graveyard Fund

There will doubtless be many in town from a distance during fair who would like to contribute to the fund for putting the old Presbyterian graveyard in better condition. Any person feeling so inclined can hand their subscription to the editor at the HERALD booth, near Floral hall, Wednesday or Thursday.

Burgettstown Herald.....	\$5 00
W. B. Culley.....	5 00
Mrs. S. S. Saxton.....	5 00
Washington National Bank.....	5 00
E. G. McGregor.....	5 00
W. E. McCurdy.....	5 00
W. B. Porter.....	2 00
Mary Miller and Son.....	5 00
G. S. VanEman.....	1 00
Miss Anna L. Pyles.....	3 00
George F. Stroud.....	5 00
Miss Lizzie Leopold.....	5 00
Isaac Fondersmith.....	5 00
John Pyle.....	5 00
Mrs. J. C. White.....	5 00
Mrs. W. O. Johnston.....	3 00
J. A. Lowry.....	5 00
W. D. Andrews.....	5 00
S. M. Work.....	5 00
Mrs. Fred Harper.....	2 00
Samuel Neil.....	2 00
Mrs. S. F. McPeak.....	2 00
Dr. W. V. Riddile.....	5 00
D. W. Studa.....	5 00
William Divitt.....	5 00
Mrs. Margaret Wilkin.....	5 00
Mrs. C. S. Fleming.....	5 00
J. B. Cunningham.....	5 00
A. H. Smith.....	3 00
A. B. Bilderback.....	1 00
W. F. Bilderback.....	2 00
Robert Crane.....	5 00
James S. McKay.....	5 00
Thomas Lindsey.....	2 days work
Mrs. Dan Silvers.....	5 00

## Graveyard Fund

Burgettstown Herald.....	\$5 00
W. B. Culley.....	5 00
Mrs. S. S. Saxton.....	5 00
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George F. Stroud.....	5 00
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Mrs. J. C. White.....	5 00
Mrs. W. O. Johnston.....	3 00
J. A. Lowry.....	5 00
W. D. Andrews.....	5 00
S. M. Work.....	5 00
Mrs. Fred Harper.....	2 00
Samuel Neil.....	2 00
Mrs. S. F. McPeak.....	2 00
Dr. W. V. Riddile.....	5 00
D. W. Studa.....	5 00
William Divitt.....	5 00
Mrs. Margaret Wilkin.....	5 00
Mrs. C. S. Fleming.....	5 00
J. B. Cunningham.....	5 00
A. H. Smith.....	3 00
A. B. Bilderback.....	1 00
W. F. Bilderback.....	2 00
Robert Crane.....	5 00
James S. McKay.....	5 00
Thomas Lindsey.....	2 days work

## ANOTHER PLEA FOR THE OLD GRAVEYARD

Early last spring THE HERALD inaugurated a movement to raise money for the purpose of putting the old Presbyterian graveyard in repair. A number of persons subscribed quite liberally, but the matter has not been kept before the public and of late little has been done. The committee has decided to revive the question and make a final plea. Personal letters have been sent to all whose addresses could be learned who have relatives buried in this yard, and it is hoped that they will respond promptly and liberally. It is also believed that there are many who, though they have no relatives buried therein, have enough friendly interest in it to help lift it from its present disgraceful condition. Let everyone who desire to aid in this work be prompt, so that the work can be finished before bad weather sets in.

Those who have contributed thus far are as follows:

Burgettstown Herald.....	\$5 00
W. B. Culley.....	5 00
Mrs. S. S. Saxton.....	5 00
Washington National Bank.....	5 00
E. G. McGregor.....	5 00
W. E. McCurdy.....	5 00
W. B. Porter.....	2 00
Mary Miller and Son.....	5 00
G. S. VanEman.....	1 00
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George F. Stroud.....	5 00
Miss Lizzie Leopold.....	5 00
Isaac Fondersmith.....	5 00
John Pyle.....	5 00
Mrs. J. C. White.....	5 00
Mrs. W. O. Johnston.....	3 00
J. A. Lowry.....	5 00
W. D. Andrews.....	5 00
S. M. Work.....	5 00
Mrs. Fred Harper.....	2 00
Samuel Neil.....	2 00
Mrs. S. F. McPeak.....	2 00
Dr. W. V. Riddile.....	5 00
D. W. Studa.....	5 00
William Divitt.....	5 00
Mrs. Margaret Wilkin.....	5 00
Mrs. C. S. Fleming.....	5 00
J. B. Cunningham.....	5 00
A. H. Smith.....	3 00

G. S. VanEman.....	1 00
Miss Anna L. Pyles.....	3 00
George F. Stroud.....	5 00
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Mrs. S. F. McPeak.....	2 00
Dr. W. V. Riddile.....	5 00
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William Divitt.....	5 00
Mrs. Margaret Wilkin.....	5 00
Mrs. C. S. Fleming.....	5 00
J. B. Cunningham.....	5 00
A. H. Smith.....	3 00
A. B. Bilderback.....	1 00
W. F. Bilderback.....	2 00
Robert Crane.....	5 00
James S. McKay.....	5 00
Thomas Lindsey.....	2 days work

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### Dedication of Mission Chapel

On Sabbath, September 26th, the people of Hickory United Presbyterian congregation will dedicate the fine mission chapel which they recently completed at Westland. The services will open at 3 p. m. Dr. W. D. Irons of the First United Presbyterian church of McDonald, will preach the dedicatory sermon.

The building, including the lot cost \$3,100, about \$2,400 of which has been provided for. An effort will be made to raise the remaining \$800 on the day of the dedication. Rev. J. C. Kistler of the Houston United Presbyterian church will have charge of the work of raising the money necessary to clear the church of debt.

The foreign people of Midland, for whom the building was erected, are showing a good degree of interest in the work of helping to pay for the house and have contributed some \$400 or \$500. They also attend services in encouraging numbers.

The people of the Mt. Pleasant (Hickory) United Presbyterian congregation started the Westland mission some three years ago, and there has not been a Sabbath since on which services have not been held. They also have been very liberal in giving of their means toward helping pay for the house of worship and in this work they should have the help of their neighbors and friends at a distance.



**Samuel Meloney**  
**Died-November 25, 1850**

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*





KATIE ROUPE / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Monongahela Cemetery has a special section for Civil War veterans. Each headstone commemorates their service with an American flag, and the section is set apart by three Civil War cannons.

**Historic Monongahela Cemetery Turns 150**  
**Observer-Reporter-January 27, 2013**

# Cemetery

Continued from Page B1

All of the cemeteries in Monongahela at the time were privately owned, and the city needed one that would be secular and nondiscriminatory.

The cemetery's first board of directors sold grave subscriptions to earn the money to hire Pittsburgh architect John Chislett, who designed a park-like setting for Allegheny Cemetery as its first superintendent, to design a similar setting for Monongahela.

Chislett was given just two instructions: Give Monongahela Cemetery a fountain square and a circular drive name Prospect Circle. He gave the city a Gothic setting for burials, a quaint stone chapel and planted a large variety of trees in a design that would earn the cemetery a listing on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2001.

"He saw rapid encroachment on rural areas and he preserved a parklet setting for Pittsburgh and repeated that here," Cattaneo said.

When the older section began to fill in the early 1900s, Hare & Hare of Kansas City was hired for an expansion project that would give the upper section of the cemetery a lawn park design with wider roads to accommodate the automobile. Today, less than half of the 173-acre cemetery is filled with 35,909 graves.

Earlier, the cemetery established an impressive sec-



Members of the military conduct a memorial service circa 1895 for Civil War veterans buried in Monongahela Cemetery.

tion for the burials of Civil War veterans guarded by three Parrott rifles, muzzle-loading pieces of artillery with barrels that were notorious for exploding when fired, Cattaneo said.

"I've always referred to them as silent sentinels," he said.

Just 102 of then cannons are known to have survived the war, and the cemetery is home to the third one out of the production line.

Joe Mason was probably the most famous person to have been buried here among common folk and members of the area's wealthier families, including the Bentleys and Finleys, whose names were attached to the nearby towns

**ARCHITECT JOHN CHISLETT GAVE THE CITY A GOTHIC SETTING FOR BURIALS, A QUAINST STONE CHAPEL AND PLANTED A LARGE VARIETY OF TREES IN A DESIGN THAT WOULD EARN THE CEMETERY A LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 2001.**

of Bentleyville and Finleyville.

Another grave, though, still sparks controversy 150 years

after it was created for Civil War veteran Lt. Henry W. Clark of Monongahela, whose massive tombstone indicates he death resulted from injuries he suffered in July 4, 1863, while harassing Confederate wagon trains during the Battle of Gettysburg.

That battle, though, officially ended July 3, 1863, but history was still being written when Clark died while serving with the 1st West Virginia Cavalry, Cattaneo said.

The cemetery will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a weeklong schedule of events during the last week of June, including tours, a picnic, band concerts and a recognition of Penn State.

# Neglect of old cemeteries not just issue of today

Noted local historian, A.D. White, expressed his concern 17 years ago in message to public during nation's bicentennial

*(Editor's Note: This article was submitted by June Grossman, a member of the Graveyard Committee of the Fort Vance Historical Society. It is being published in the public interest.)*

Last summer I drove to the top of the hill overlooking the little town of Burgettstown in Washington County, Pa., settled perhaps two centuries ago by the Sebastian Burgetts and other early families whose descendants have, for the most part, departed from the area. There on the summit, totally lost from view by the dense growth of trees, underbrush and weeds, stood two ancient burial grounds, the Presbyterian and United Presbyterian graveyards. Both were in a state of abandonment and total neglect. Had I not known they were there, there would have been absolutely no way I would have noticed them in passing by, for even the tallest of the monuments was obscured by the excessive growth of a number of years duration.

Not long thereafter, the issue of this neglect was discussed at gatherings of the Cemetery Committee of the Fort Vance Historical Society, a group of persons interested in preserving these old burial plots and recording their inscriptions. Concern for this problem must have been quite widespread for by November one of the area's best citizens and helping hands, Jerry Stiffler, entertained a plea for assistance in clearing these grounds of their heavy growth.

Led by this civic-minded, hard-working man, a gallant attempt was made at performing this almost insurmountable task. Prior to the appointed day for work, Mr. Stiffler, working alone, had already amassed 77 man-hours on his own, using for the most part, his own equipment. He later credited a few other persons for some assistance which was given him, but the bulk of the effort and expense was Mr. Stiffler's.

A drive today to the location at the top of Pittsburgh Street would find quite a different picture than that which I encountered last summer. A most commendable showing in the clearing operation now greets the traveler, and once again it is possible to visit the graves of the early pioneers whose final resting place is one of these two old cemeteries.

The sad part of this story is that after all of this thankless donation of time, work and expense, Mr. Stiffler received a disheartening letter of condemnation from one of the churches which claims one of the burial grounds. The letter from their attorney reprimanded him for infringing on their jurisdiction and opening them to possible law suits from persons who could possibly have been injured in the cleaning-up operation.

Mr. Stiffler, whose record for community service and labors of love speaks for itself, was crushed. He published a letter in The Enterprise in which he stated his intentions of NEVER again performing a single hour of service to this community. We of the Cemetery Committee are in complete sympathy with his views. We understand the concern of the church board in its fears of litigation inasmuch as this seems to be the growing trend in today's world. But we feel strongly that some other action could have been taken rather than to discourage and discredit the efforts of this sincere civic-minded individual.

The Burgettstown community is not large enough to thoughtlessly discourage a single citizen who has the community's welfare at heart. We of the Cemetery Committee wish is to be publicly known that both individually and collectively we offer our thanks to Mr. Stiffler for his work and his interest in these old burial grounds.

At this point in time we hope that Mr. Stiffler will step back from the situation and view it in the long run, for as will be seen, he is but one link in a long chain of persons who have mentally anguished over this issue.

Very recently, while perusing material from the files of Mr. A. D. White, historian, I came across the following. On September 10, 1910, the Burgettstown Herald, forerunner of The Enterprise, published a plea for help in putting the old Presbyterian graveyards in repair. Personal letters were sent to all relatives of persons buried there for whom addresses could be found. Donations were solicited at the Burgettstown Fair and articles appeared in the town newspaper, asking for donations to "help lift it from its present disgraceful condition."

That call for help was answered through liberal contributions of money and labor by two interested groups of persons — first, the descendants of those pioneers whose earthly remains were herein interred, and second, concerned human beings dedicated to preserving all ancient burial grounds. But the funds raised for this purpose back in 1910 were soon depleted.

The years went by and once again these cemeteries fell into a state of total neglect. For a time, some of the descendants of those buried therein would appear at Memorial Day and clear away the growth from the graves of their loved ones. But finally even this effort seemed to vanish. All that was left in the way of concern were the yearly ramblings of Mr. White as he trampled through the underbrush in search of tombstone inscriptions to help some person whose family tree he was researching.

Mr. White made numerous appeals to both Hillcrest and Westminster Churches to do something about the state of these old grounds. But all of his efforts were to no avail. Eventually, he then undertook to solve a part of this problem singlehandedly. Like Mr. Stiffler today, Mr. White knew that if anything is going to be done, one must do it himself.

Thus it was that he undertook the gigantic task of recording for posterity the inscriptions on every tombstone in each of these burial grounds. One must of necessity go in person and walk over these two areas for oneself to even begin to appreciate the work involved.

By 1984 Mr. White felt that his work was as complete as he was able to make it in view of the fact that many stones were illegible, sunken forever into the ground or had been removed by some thoughtless or mischievous person to some inaccessible location. Not content, however, with these records carved into the granite, marble and sandstone markers, Mr. White consulted for hours the meticulously kept records of four generations of the Lee family in the funeral business. These records were graciously loaned to him by one of the present owners of the Lee and Martin Funeral Home, Thomas Lee. From them he was able to glean names of persons whose graves were no longer marked but whose remains rest in these cemeteries.

Another source of information was the necrology kept for a time in the late 1800's by William Melvin. After compiling the records into a readable form, Mr. White engaged the Fort Vance Historical Society, then under the capable leadership of Katherine Pyle, in publishing this work of many years. The finished compilation was so well received that a second printing was done in 1985.

Prior to the printing of this valuable record, Mr. White had been sowing seeds among the community attempting to arouse some concern for the care of old burial places. In 1976 when this nation engaged in a gigantic Bicentennial Celebration, it was no surprise that Mr. White was the one chosen to represent the great thinking of this community by being asked by The

Enterprise to write a dissertation for the Enterprise Bicentennial Edition. When presented with the subject, "What does the future hold for this area?" Mr. White gave a rather surprising response. He indicated that rather than address the issues of the future, his leaning had always been toward the history of the past. Thus it was that on the 200th anniversary of the birth of the nation, Mr. White penned what is probably the most eloquent discourse of his long and brilliant career as a historian and writer.

It has been said that the real test of a writer's worth is the application of that writing to life throughout the ages. Inasmuch as Mr. White's message of 1976 would have addressed this issue back in 1910 and is as apropos today as it was 17 years ago when he penned it, we present it here in its entirety.

"You asked me to write something commenting on 'What does the future hold for this area in this, the Bi-Centennial Year of our country?' What I am more concerned about is this: What is going to happen to our valued landmarks over the years ahead?"

"This part of our county is especially rich in places connected with the 200 years of our country. Many places can still be identified with our historic past. We have, in some cases, made feeble efforts to seek out and visit these places. We have, in some cases, written something about them, which is a commendable thing to do. A few of our historic old buildings have been snatched from the greedy hands of progress and have been restored to a respectable original condition, and to, at least, a semblance of their former usefulness. Almost everybody is willing to 'take a look' at these historic places, or to read a well-phrased description. But what are we doing about the preservation of these spots for the enjoyment and use for those who come after us in the next 200 years? (Or is that worth thinking about?)

"One of the best known of our early residents here was Col. Joseph Vance, for whom our local Historical Society is named. He came here in 1772. The exact location of his first settlement was not known until the accidental discovery of a paper containing his signature and in which he pin-pointed

the location of his 'cabin in the woods' as being on former Stephenson lands one and one-half miles south of Atlasburg just off present Route 18. His old cabin, past which I have walked on many occasions without knowing of its significance, is now in ruins.

"On the farm where, in 1744,

Col. Vance built his historic Vance's Fort, nothing remains except a simple plaque placed there some years ago by our Junior Historians of Burgettstown Area High School. Even the exact location is in question. We tried some years ago to find the location of old Fort Dillo. It appeared that the site had been covered over by a spoil bank made by a modern coal-stripping operation.

"In Burgettstown, the Burgett House and Fort are entirely gone, and the old Mill too. And the Burgett Burial Ground wherein reposes the dust of early members of that family, and the bodies of six or eight of our heroes who fought for us in the American Revolution, even that sacred spot has been desecrated by the removal of every gravestone. Nothing marks any of these spots except the neat plaques placed there by the Fort Vance Historical Society in 1971.

"On a hill less than a mile away, the old United Presbyterian Graveyard and the site of the First Sceder Church here, lie in almost total abandonment except for a small pathway cut through where one or two family plots were cleared for the planting of Memorial Day flowers. Here can be found markers for several pioneer families of our area with names such as Scott, Welch, Stewart, Coventry, Kidd, Leech, Galbraith, Malone, Moore, McGough and many more. Included are the graves of John Perry, of the Civil War; Soldier Dugan, and another of World War I.

"And down the western side of this same hill can be found the old Presbyterian burial ground standing likewise, mutely, in a sad state of neglect. With a long list of family names from Aiken to Watt, displayed in horrendous disarray on the thousands of dollars worth of marble and granite, once placed there, confidently, by loving relatives, here, 'the rude forefathers of this hamlet sleep' unconscious, of

# Reorganizing Paris Cemetery

By **SUMMER WALLACE-MINGER**  
Community editor

PARIS — A citizens committee is moving forward on the reorganization of the Paris Cemetery, and anyone with family interred in the cemetery or an interest in local history are invited to participate.

At a recent committee meeting, members discussed finding the descendants of the original Paris Cemetery Association Board members and those who granted the original cemetery deeds.

Members also noted the cemetery holds the graves of veterans from nearly every American conflict, including the Revolutionary War, Mexican-American War, Civil War and Spanish-American War, until present day, including the Persian Gulf War.

The cemetery also is final resting place for Medal of Honor recipient and Civil War veteran Uriah H. Brown.

Brown was a member of the 30th Ohio Infantry Co. G, out of Columbus, Ohio, during the Civil War. During the May 22, 1863, assault on Vicksburg, Miss., Brown volunteered to carry siege materials over heavily fortified ground, under enemy fire, and attempt to build a bridge over a deep ditch and set a ladder against the fort's walls. The expectation of casualties was so high only unmarried men were allowed to volunteer for the "forlorn hope." Brown was wounded but survived and managed to carry five other wounded men to safety.

Several area veterans recently placed a wreath on Brown's grave in observation of Veteran's Day Monday. They included Darrell and Duwayne Caldwell, the great-great grandsons of Samuel Caldwell, another Civil War Veteran who served in the 85th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and is buried in the cemetery. Milton Fabianich, a World War II veteran, also attended the wreath-placing ceremony. Fabianich is

See **WREATH** Page 2 ⇔



Summer Wallace-Minger

**WREATH PLACED** – World War II Veteran Milton Fabianich, left, shakes hands with Duwayne Caldwell, right, as Darrell Caldwell looks on. The three recently placed a wreath, made from 100-year-old pines and cedar branches, near the grave of Medal of Honor recipient and Civil War veteran Uriah H. Brown.

**Reorganizing Paris Cemetery (Pg. 1)**

**PA Focus-November 7, 2013 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

an American Legion Post 10 of Weirton member and the last living member of the Last Man's Club, established in 1956 with 92 members.

Other area veterans consulted about how best to honor Brown include Dallas Perkins of Paris, a Korean War veteran; Mark Fiber of Weirton, an Afghanistan War veteran; and Tom

Lyke of Colliers, a Korean War veteran and prisoner of war. Lyke has 11 members of his family buried adjacent to Brown's grave, including his uncle, Thomas A. Lyke, a World War II veteran, and John Gardner, a World War I veteran.

Citizens committee members discussed contacting the Veterans Administration to inquire

whether that agency would offer any aid.

Burials in the cemetery date back to the 1820s, and headstones are inscribed in Chinese, Greek, Czech, Slavic, German and Arabic, in addition to English. There is an early "Baby Land," where children who died during an influenza epidemic are buried.

Residents became

concerned about the upkeep of the cemetery after volunteer caretaker Leslie Grossmann of Paris said funds to provide every day maintenance were nearly depleted.

The cemetery association, which oversaw the cemetery's operation and care, literally died out with member Tom Vincineti. However, a perpetual care fund was

never established. The citizens committee is exploring options for the cemetery, including the reformation of the cemetery association. Other options have included turning the cemetery over to a local church or other interested group or signing a lease with a natural gas company to provide the necessary income to care for the cemetery. The group also hopes to preserve the history of the cemetery with the assistance of local historians.

However, the group has many legal issues to

address, including figuring out to whom the property is deeded, who owns the mineral rights associated with the property and what steps are necessary for reforming the association.

There are four separate deeds for the 19 and one-half acres making up the cemetery and a title search may prove difficult, as the area was claimed by Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

*(Wallace-Minger can be contacted at [swallace@pafocus.com](mailto:swallace@pafocus.com))*

## Reorganizing Paris Cemetery (Pg. 2)

PA Focus-November 7, 2013 Edition

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



### **Joseph Phillis**

In memory of Joseph Phillis who departed this life 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1831 in the 80<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

### **Elisabeth Littell Phillis**

In memory of Elisabeth Phillis who departed this life 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1826 in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

**United Presbyterian Cemetery, Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

**FRIENDS ASKED TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO PRESB.  
GRAVEYARD CLEANUP**

Relatives and friends who have loved ones at rest in the old Presbyterian cemetery in South Burgettstown, on top of the hill, are asked this week by the Board of Trustees to contribute funds to take care of a general clean-up of the grounds. Many soldiers are buried in this plot, as well as many former Burgettstown residents and persons in charge of the cemetery are anxious to effect a general clean-up. It is their intention to clean out the leaves, berry bushes and underbrush and in general reclaim the plot. It is estimated \$100.00 will be necessary for this work.

Persons desiring to contribute to this work should contact John Stevenson at the Linn Brothers Lumber Company.

**Friends asked to Contribute to  
Presbyterian Graveyard Cleanup  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 24, 1941 Edition**

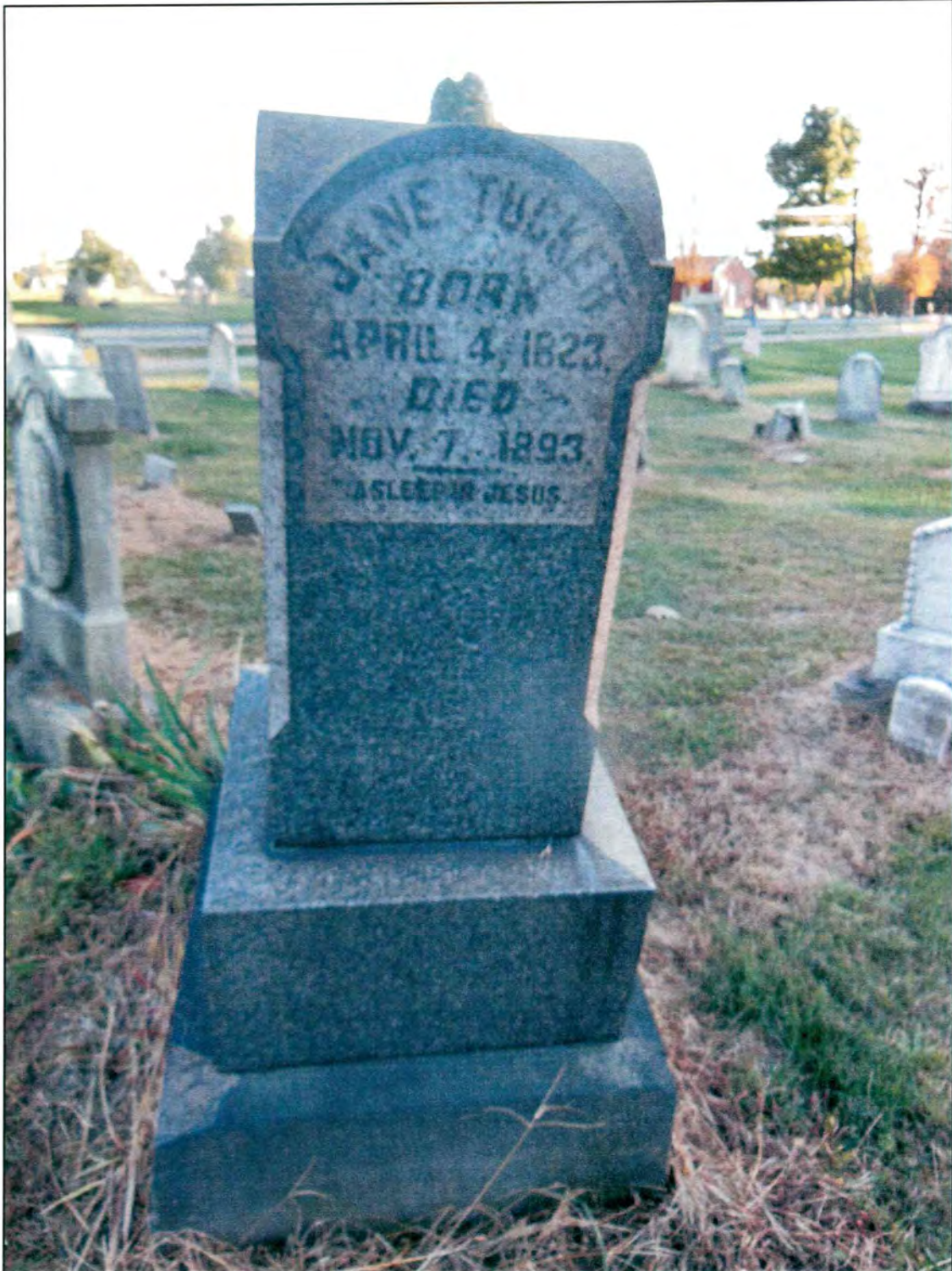




**Mary Provines Conn**  
**1835-February 9, 1909**

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Jane Tucker**

***Born, April 4, 1823. Died, November 7, 1893.***

**Tucker United Methodist Church Cemetery  
641 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA.**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**John Tucker**

*Died April 6, 1831. Aged 100 years.*

**Tucker United Methodist Church Cemetery**

**641 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA.**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Mary Jane Tucker**  
*Died, November 23, 1868. Aged 20 years, 3 months, and 6 days.*  
*Daughter of J. & E. Tucker*

**Tucker United Methodist Church Cemetery**  
641 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Rachel Tucker**

*Died February 9, 1867, in her 67 year.*

**Tucker United Methodist Church Cemetery**  
641 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*