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FAMILY BURYING GROUNDS
in
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

by
Linda Layman

INTRODUCTION

The settler, going into a new area, had many problems. Among them was a necessity for providing a place to bury members of his household.

The usual practice was for a landowner to set aside a small plot for this purpose. This was near the homestead, often in a small grove of trees. It would be fenced in and beautified with evergreens, box bushes and the like.

Not only members of the owner's family would be buried here, but also members of families working on the farm, including, in many cases, slaves. The grave of a member of the owner's family would usually be marked by a formal headstone on which was recorded the name, dates of birth and death, and sometimes names of parents of the deceased. Graves of non-family members might have their graves marked merely by a simple field stone with no inscription.

Such family burying plots often continued to be used as long as the original family occupied the farm. A few have continued in use up to recent times.

However, when a farm was sold, the cemetery became a problem. The new owners found the site a hindrance to mechanized farming and often made no effort to keep the plot from becoming overgrown or trampled on by livestock or even plowed under. Bulldozers make short shrift of family cemeteries. Some families have moved the stones of their ancestors from the farm plot to a public cemetery.

Historians and genealogists regret the destruction of these cemeteries because the data recorded on the stones is often invaluable. In some cases grave stones in family cemeteries are the only place where certain vital statistics can be found.

To salvage what information may still be gleaned from these cemeteries, the Montgomery County Historical Society has tried to locate as many of them as possible and record whatever information is obtained from the stones. Most of this work has been done by Mrs. Linda Layman who has struggled through briars, poison oak, and masses of undergrowth to record what can be found on remaining stones. The result of her research has been recorded in the library of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

We are publishing this material so that our members may know about this project. We give here a few samples.

The notes have been supplied by Mrs. Mary Gordon Malloy, our Historian, Mrs. Jane Sween and Mrs. Layman.

Other organizations have been collecting data from family plots. The National Society of the Daughters of The American Revolution has for many years been collecting such data, which has been published in their yearly records. At the present, the National Society of the Colonial Dames in the State of Maryland is collecting similar data and assembling it. Published information on family burying grounds may be found in Scharf's History of Western Maryland and in Roger Farquhar's Montgomery County, Maryland: Old Homes and History.

FAMILY BURYING GROUNDS

by
Linda Layman

As a result of my visits to many family burying grounds, I have obtained the following information:

QUERY FAMILY

The family burying plot of the Query family is on the Lawrence Stevens property on Esworthy Road. Only two graves remain at this site, although at one time there were others.

Inscriptions on the grave stones:

John Nicholas Query, born Dec. 17, 1714; died Nov. 24, 1788
Mrs. C.Q.C., born Oct. 6, 1801; died Apr. 27, 1826 (was she John's
granddaughter or great-granddaughter?)

John Query arrived at Philadelphia on the ship HALIFAX from Germany before 1752. In that year he took the Oath of Allegiance to England. Query came from Berk's County, Pennsylvania, to Montgomery County, Maryland. A deed from Samuel Boone of Frederick County to Nicholas Query is dated May 8, 1779, and refers to property called "Maiden's Bower", "Montrose" and "Resurvey of Rich Meadow". This was the site of a grist mill operated by Nicholas Query. His will was probated at Rockville in 1788 and mentions his wife, Margaret, two sons, Daniel and Henry, and five sisters. By 1865, judging from the Martenet and Bond map, the Query family had disappeared from Montgomery County.

HOLLAND FAMILY

The burying ground of this family is on the family estate, Prospect Hill, on the road from Brookeville to Brighton.

Inscriptions on the grave stones:

J. R. Holland, born Sept. 3, 1877; died Apr. 1, 1878
M. L. Holland, born Sept. 1, 1880; died Apr. 29, 1882
J. T. Holland, born Jan. 12, 1833; died July 28, 1911
Alice Holland, wife of J. T. Holland; born Sept. 23, 1841; died
Dec. 1, 1891
Charles Holland, born 1796; died Apr. 29, 1850
Nancy Holland, born 1805; died Feb. 28, 1876

John and James Holland came from England to Maryland in the mid 1700's. John built Prospect Hill on the road from Brookeville to Brighton about 1750. This home was a chapel of worship in its early days. The Hawlings River is supposed to have been called originally the Hollands River, named for that family.

The next owner of Prospect Hill was Charles Holland, son of John, and his wife, Nancy Griffith, from the adjoining property, Fair View. Charles and Nancy had a son, James Thomas Holland, who married Alice Linthicum. James Thomas inherited Fair View and Prospect Hill. They made Prospect Hill their home. Their daughter, Annie, married Samuel Owings in 1896 and she inherited Prospect Hill. The property was next left to Alice Owings, the daughter of Samuel and Annie Holland Owings. Alice became the wife of Guy Holland Wood.

SHOEMAKER FAMILY

This cemetery is between Jamestown Court and Allen Road, just off Western Avenue (area of Yorktown Village and Westmoreland Hills).

Tombstone inscriptions:

Jesse Shoemaker, born Dec. 6, 1815; died Dec. 14, 1887
Jesse, Jr., son of Jesse and Elizabeth A. Shoemaker; born Sept.
18, 1844; died Dec. 12, 1891
John, husband of Margaret A. and son of Jesse and Elizabeth Shoemaker; born Sept. 8, 1842; died Apr. 11, 1887
Elizabeth E., wife of George Shoemaker; born Dec. 25, 1859; died
June 15, 1906

(There were several other graves and footstones in the cemetery but they do not bear the family name of Shoemaker.)

There are seven Shoemaker families listed on the 1865 map of Montgomery County. All are descendants of Samuel Shoemaker, who came to Montgomery County, Maryland, from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in 1819. His ancestors, who were Quakers, had lived in Pennsylvania since 1683. Samuel purchased 102 acres of land which includes the present developments of Yorktown Village and Westmoreland Hills in the Bethesda area near the District Line. Samuel's sons bought additional land, most of which was along Western Avenue. His will names eight sons and one daughter. In his will Samuel dedicates the family graveyard which is located just north of where the old home stood.

In 1878, Jesse Shoemaker, a son of Samuel, lived in the home place.

CRABB FAMILY

The Crabb family plot is located a few hundred yards east of the Rockville to Gaithersburg road junction with Derwood Road.

Tombstone inscriptions:

General Jeremiah Crabb died Feb. 19, 1800; age 40
Elizabeth Ridgely Crabb, wife of General Jeremiah Crabb; born Aug.
10, 1764; died 1828; age 64
Susan R. England, 1832 - 1899
Thomas H. England, 1834 - 1919
Harriet V. England, 1838 - 1925
Henry C. England, 1840 - 1891
Mary England, 1843 - 1923
Thomas Worthington Howard died July 29, 1818
Elizabeth Ridgely (Howard) [wife of Thomas Worthington Howard;
daughter of Gen. Jeremiah Crabb], died Nov. 8, 1821
Emily England, wife of John G. England, died Jan. 18, 1851; age 38
Philemon Griffith died Oct. 8, 1873; age 80
Sarah G. Griffith died Apr. 27, 1862; age 68

Captain Henry Wright Crabb was a prominent man in the early settlement of this county. When the people of the Scotch settlement on the Potomac River at Rock Creek decided to lay out a town about 1751, they petitioned the Assembly and a commission consisting of Henry Wright Crabb, John Needham, John Clagett, James Perrie, Samuel Magruder, III, Josias Beall and David Lynn were authorized to do so. This town was called Georgetown.

On April 10, 1753, a patent was granted to Crabb for 2,085 acres. This he named "Resurvey on Valentine's Garden". It lay between what was to become Rockville and Gaithersburg at Derwood. The family cemetery is located on this tract.

Jeremiah Crabb, the son of Henry Wright Crabb, was born in 1760. During the Revolution he entered the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Maryland Regiment. On December 15, 1777, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. In 1778, he resigned from the service because of ill health. He had suffered the privations of the winter at Valley Forge. At the close of the war, he received a commission as General from

George Washington and then served with General Harry Lee in putting down the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania.

General Crabb was the first man to be elected to Congress from Montgomery County. He was a Democrat and served in the Fourth Congress from March 4, 1795, until 1796. His home was located on a farm now owned by Mr. Basil Mobley. General Crabb married Elizabeth Ridgely Griffith. Her father was Charles Greenberry Griffith, her grandfather, Orlando Griffith, and her great grandfather was the immigrant, William Griffith.

General Jeremiah Crabb and his wife, Elizabeth Ridgely Griffith Crabb, had eight children: (1) Charles H. Crabb, who married Mary L. Summers; (2) Ann S. Crabb, who married Dr. Richard Orme; (3) Elizabeth R. Crabb, who married Thomas Worthington Howard; (4) Matilda, who married Joseph E. Lackland; (5) Emeline died unmarried in 1824; (6) Lydia R. Crabb, who married Michael B. Griffith; (7) Sarah Crabb, who married Philemon Griffith; (8) Richard Crabb, who married Catherine Chase.

Elizabeth Ridgely Crabb and her husband, Thomas Worthington Howard, were the parents of Emily Howard who was born in 1813. On May 4, 1830, she married Major John G. England.

John G. England, Sr. was a native of Frederick County but came to the Rockville area. Soon after his arrival here, he was admitted to the bar on March 30, 1830, and entered private law practice. He was an accomplished public speaker and used this talent to advocate the Union of the county and the Republican party. He was elected to the Maryland Legislature in 1839 and served for several terms. He was defeated in his try for the State Senate by General W. L. Gaither. Major England, as he was often called, was also a trustee of the Rockville Academy. He died February 30, 1881. Major and Mrs. England, Sr. had six children. Five of these children are buried in the Crabb family burying ground.

YOUNG FAMILY

The family cemetery of this family is on Kilmain I near Edward's Ferry in the Poolesville neighborhood. It is very neglected and cows have been allowed to use the area, so that many stones have been ruined.

Inscriptions on the grave stones:

- Elizabeth Rensburg, born March 13, 1813; died February 11, 1877; age 66; daughter of Sebastian, Sr. and Elizabeth Rensburg.
Elizabeth Rensburg died September 3, 1866; age 86; wife of Sebastian, Sr.
Stephen Rensburg, born June 19, 1786; died March 30, 1852; age 65.
(On bottom of the stone is J. W. Kelly, Washington)
Caroline Heffner, born November 11, 1818; died June 14, 1845; age 26; wife of Jacob Heffner, daughter of Stephen and Catherine Rensburg
Catherine Rensburg, ___5, 1786; died October 27, in her 57th year.
Henry Young, born September 4, 1791; died January 31, 1857, age 65
Henry Young, Sr., born November 14, 1798; died April 15, 1863; age 64(?)

William Nelson Young died May 6, 1904; son of David Young
Phebe R. Young died September 1, 1888; age 92; wife of David Young
Samuel Young, born May 17, 1799; died June 22, 1856
Drusilla B. T. Young, born October 3, 1802; died November 4, 1833;
age 31
_____ Young died in 1825 (Could this be Catherine, wife of
Lodwick?)

Kilmain I is on a tract of land granted to Daniel Carroll in 1735. In 1772, Carroll's daughters sold it to Richard Bennett Hall. The next owners were the Youngs who came to Montgomery County from Hagerstown between 1812-1814. The family emigrated from Rotterdam in 1753 and the original name was Jong. Lodwick Young, Jr., the first to come to Montgomery County, was born in 1765. He married Catherine Shafer. He died in 1820 and his wife died in 1825. According to OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY by Roger Brooke Farquhar, they were buried in the family cemetery.

Lodwick built Kilmain II about 1812. This home is further up Edward's Ferry road toward Beallsville. Lodwick and Catherine had six sons and two daughters, and on Lodwick's death each son received a farm. David, the third son, inherited Kilmain I. He married Matilda Chilton in 1820 and they had a son, William Nelson Young. After the death of Matilda he married Phoebe Donohue in 1836. She remained at the farm after David's death in 1879.

Issac Young, another son of David and Matilda Young, was the next owner of Kilmain I. In May 1856, he married his cousin, Margaret Young. Their daughter, Verlinda Lucretia, married Frederick Claggett, and she was the last of the Youngs to live in the house.

Henry Young, third child of David and Matilda Young, was left the East Oaks farm across the road. It was then known as Little Oaks Manor. In 1823 he married Margaret Chiswell and built the present house on East Oaks farm. He was a member of the Levy Court 1839-41.

Elizabeth, the eighth child of David Young, married Sebastian Remsburg. They were the ancestors of a large and prominent family.

Samuel Young, also buried at Kilmain I, had a daughter, Alethea, who married George Brewer, Sr. in March 1849. Their son, George W. Brewer, II, purchased East Oaks in 1900. He married Betty Williams in 1907 and they lived at East Oaks until 1916 at which time they returned to the Brewer home, Aix La Chapelle.

DORSEY (also CLAGETT and OWEN) CEMETERY

This small graveyard is on Gregg Road. It is enclosed with a fence, is well kept and can easily be seen from the road.

Inscriptions on the stones:

Col. Gustavus Warfield Dorsey died Sept. 6, 1911; age 73
Margaret Owen, wife of Col. G. W. Dorsey, died Oct. 30, 1909; age
68
Elizabeth Owen, wife of Edward W. Owen, died August 19, 1887; age
79

Margaret A. Clagett died June 5, 1890; age 102
Nathaniel Clagett died April 17, 1838; age 55
Edward W. Owen died March 21, 1895; age 87
Laura Clagett, daughter of E. W. and E. A. Owen
Mary V. Owen, daughter of Edward and E. A. Owen

Colonel Gustavus W. Dorsey was in command of the last cavalry attack made by the southern forces in the Civil War. He was the son of Samuel Owings Dorsey and his wife, Mary Riggs Griffith. Samuel was the son of Dennis and Maria Owings Dorsey and Mary Riggs Griffith was the daughter of Philemon Griffith and his wife, Sarah Hammond Riggs.

Colonel Gustavus Dorsey married Margaret Owen, probably the daughter of Edward W. and Elizabeth Owen. Edward W. Owen married Elizabeth Clagett in 1830. She was the daughter of Nathaniel and Margaret A. Clagett buried in the cemetery.

OWEN FAMILY

The Owen cemetery is located in an overgrown area near the tennis courts on the Norbeck Country Club property. According to the 1865 map, there was a home in this area owned by W. W. Owen.

Inscriptions on the tombstones:

L. Robinson died June 17, 1840; age 16 years
Mary S. Owen, wife of W. W. Owen, died Dec. 7, 1894; age 87
W. W. Owen, born November 30, 1813; died April 11, 1891
Angeline Owen, wife of W. W. Owen, died February 19, 1852; age 37
Angela C. Owen, wife of Col. W. Owen, died June 18, 1876, age 67
R. Owen (could this be Robert, the brother of Washington W. Owen?)

The Reverend Robert Owen was sent to Maryland from Scotland to report to his parishioners the "condition of the colony". He returned to Maryland in 1695 and acquired a large tract of land on which he built a log house he called Contentment. His son Edward was the next owner and in 1730 this property was owned by Major Robert Owen, Jr.

Robert Owen in his will of 1779 left his home to his son, Washington Winder Owen. Adjoining lands were left to his sons Robert and Edward.

Washington Winder Owen was a county school trustee in 1881-1882 and for a time served as a director of the Sandy Spring Savings Institution. From the names carved on the stones in the cemetery it seems that Washington Winder Owen was married three times.

Catherine Goldsborough Owen, the daughter of W. W. Owen, was next in line to inherit the home place. She married Thomas John Beall, the son of Eden and Priscilla Beall, who lived at Flint Hill on the road from Norbeck to Norwood. Catherine and Thomas John Beall changed the name of the property from Contentment to Locust Hill. In 1900 the land was sold and went out of the hands of the Owen family.

(To be continued in a future issue)