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Archaeological Investigation
of the
Letitia Preston Floyd and Gov. John Floyd Graves
And Documentation Of The
Lewis Family-Old Catholic Cemetery
Sweet Springs, Monroe County, West Virginia

by

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February 15, 1991

ABSTRACT

The Lewis Family-Old Catholic Cemetery in Sweet Springs, West Virginia was archaeologically investigated during a five-day period in June, 1990. The investigation was a continuation of archaeological research and restoration activities begun at the cemetery in 1988 (Robinson 1988a; 1988b). Objectives of the archaeological investigation were (1) to confirm the locations of the graves of Letitia Preston Floyd (1779-1852) and her husband, John Floyd (1783-1837), former governor of Virginia, and (2) to locate and document marked and unmarked graves in the Lewis Family Cemetery.

Archaeological investigation of the area around the Gov. Floyd grave revealed that the marker on his grave, which was constructed in the early twentieth century, was incorrectly placed several feet off the center of his grave. The grave pit was archaeologically located and the marker was moved to its correct position over the center of his grave.

Evidence from the excavations strengthened the interpretation that an unmarked grave on the south side of Gov. Floyd's grave is that of his wife, Letitia Preston Floyd. A marker for Letitia Preston Floyd was constructed on this grave by a Parish member after completion of the archaeological investigation.

Six unmarked graves were located in the vicinity of the John Floyd and John Lewis graves. By matching grave marker bases found in their original locations with pieces of broken grave markers scattered about the cemetery, two of the unmarked graves were identified as belonging to members of the Lewis family. Two other graves, outlined in stones, were found in an area south of the Letitia Preston Floyd grave. Many more unmarked graves are present within parts of the Lewis Family cemetery not yet investigated.

Fifty-two marked graves within the privately-owned Lewis Family Cemetery were mapped and 25 unmarked graves were documented. A composite map incorporating the results of the 1988 and 1990 documentation of the Lewis Family and Old Catholic Cemeteries was prepared. An inventory of headstone name inscriptions was compiled, keyed to the cemetery map. A total of 165 marked and unmarked graves have now been documented within the two parts of the cemetery.

ABSTRACT (continued)

Maintenance work was conducted by volunteers within the cemetery while the archaeological investigation was taking place. Vegetation was cut and volunteers placed numbered concrete blocks on unmarked graves found in 1988 in the Old Catholic Cemetery.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my appreciation to Father Harry Winter and the members of the Monroe County Catholic Parish, sponsors of this cemetery restoration effort, for their hospitality and support during the project. Father Winter has been the guiding light for the restoration project over the past few years and his assistance is especially appreciated.

Mrs. Jack (Lynn) Spellman, owner of the Lewis Family Cemetery, gave us permission to conduct the excavations and restoration work in the cemetery. The project would not have been possible without her support, interest and cooperation. Also, Jack Spellman shared his wonderful humor with the tired field crew on more than several occasions.

Two other special friends who greatly assisted the project were Bob and Elizabeth Neligan. Not only did they initiate the involvement of the archaeologist in the cemetery restoration project, but they also assisted with the field work by setting and labeling markers on unmarked graves, recording headstone inscriptions, and assisting with the archaeological excavations.

The field work was conducted by several wonderfully energetic and interesting people. Dr. Henry (Hank) Richter, D.V.M. served as a combination overseer-taskmaster-humorist-"go-fer"(his words, not mine)-laborer and made the project fun and interesting ("Hank, it will only take a couple more minutes now!"). Glenn Masek and Bill Grinnell provided the strong backs and willingness to work that allowed the excavations to be completed. Rich Mundell operated the backhoe for the investigation. He also constructed the marker that was placed over Letitia Preston Floyd's grave after the archaeological investigation was concluded. Scott Traino assisted by making and delivering the markers that were put on unmarked graves in the Old Catholic Cemetery. Tedd and Shirley Urice also helped in the field and in many other ways (those toes are made for walking, Tedd!!).

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Kathryn for her patience and understanding during the course of the project.

I. INTRODUCTION

For several years the Monroe County Catholic Parish has been involved in the restoration of St. Johns Catholic Church and the documentation and restoration of the Old Catholic-Lewis Family Cemetery in Sweet Springs, West Virginia. The cemetery is a historical site of considerable interest and importance and it is the focus of this report.

The oldest part of the cemetery which dates from around 1800 is the family burial plot for the Lewis family, original owners of the estate on which the cemetery is located. This portion of the cemetery today is owned by descendants of the Lewis family. The Old Catholic Cemetery, which is adjacent to the family plot, is owned by the Catholic Church, and contains the graves of many Irish Catholics, and their descendants, who lived in the vicinity of Sweet Springs in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

This report describes an archaeological investigation that was undertaken at the Lewis Family Cemetery in 1990 as part of the cemetery restoration project. This was the second phase of archaeological documentation conducted at the cemetery. The first effort was conducted in October, 1988, under the direction of archaeologist Kenneth Robinson. A map of unmarked and marked graves in the Old Catholic Cemetery was prepared and, within the Lewis Family Cemetery, an effort was made to locate the unmarked grave of Letitia Preston Floyd. She was believed to be buried next to the grave of her husband, John Floyd, a former governor of Virginia. The results of these investigations were summarized in two reports submitted to the Monroe County Catholic Parish (Robinson 1988a, 1988b).

In June of 1990, the Parish continued with the archaeological investigations of the cemetery, focusing efforts on the investigation of the Letitia Preston Floyd and Gov. John Floyd graves. The major objective of the 1990 investigation was to confirm the locations of the two graves so that Gov. Floyd's grave marker could be correctly placed over his grave and a marker could be constructed over the unmarked grave of Letitia Preston Floyd. Other objectives were to map the marked graves within the Lewis Family Cemetery and also to begin to locate the unmarked graves in the cemetery. Five and one-half days of field investigation took place and a great deal of work was accomplished.

This report describes the work conducted during the 1990 archaeological investigation and provides a summary of the results of both the 1988 and 1990 investigations.

II. SETTING AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Setting

Sweet Springs is a small rural crossroads located in Monroe County, West Virginia, in the southeastern part of the state, less than a mile from the West Virginia-Virginia border. The town is approximately 20 miles from Union, West Virginia, the Monroe County seat, and 25 miles from White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Sweet Springs is approximately 50 road miles west of Roanoke, Virginia.

Southeastern West Virginia is part of the mountainous ridge-and-valley region of the Appalachian Mountains. Long linear mountain ridges extend through the area in a southwest-northeast direction. Sweet Springs is located on the west side of Peters Mountain, a large ridge that is part of the divide between the states of West Virginia and Virginia.

The region is historically famous for its natural springs. Sweet Springs takes its name from a number of springs in the vicinity, including one that is located only a few hundred feet from the Old Catholic-Lewis Family Cemetery. These springs produce an unusually clear and tasteful water. Sweet Springs and other natural springs in the region became popular with members of the Virginia aristocracy in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century. Several of the springs, including Sweet and Salt Sulphur Springs in Monroe County, and White Sulphur Spring (The Greenbrier) and Red Sweet Spring (Chalybeate) located only a few miles distant, were developed as resorts and often hosted prominent members of the Virginia social set. Notes one early writer, "The whole circuit could be made in less than 170 miles. But one HAD (original emphasis) to be at the Sweet for the last week in August and the first week in September" (Fishwick 1978, cited in Winter 1983).

Guests who visited the springs around the turn of the nineteenth century were housed in log cabins. During the first half of the nineteenth century, elaborate accommodations were built at several of the springs for the wealthy visitors. One prominent resort was constructed at Sweet Chalybeate about two miles down the road from the Lewis family estate and cemetery.

The springs attracted visitors throughout the nineteenth century but the springs had lost much of their attraction by the twentieth century, and the tourism industry declined. Today, however, Sweet Springs is again

building a national reputation, not as a resort spring, but as the source of the popular "Quibell" brand of mineral water. This water is actually collected from a spring on the old Lewis family estate, near the cemetery.

The Lewis Family and The Lynnside Estate at Sweet Springs

Shortly after the Revolutionary War, William Lewis (1724-1811) acquired an large estate in the mountains of western Virginia around Sweet Springs. This estate of several thousand acres was certainly one of the larger holdings in the region. He built a family home near the spring and soon began to develop the area into a resort, using the springs of the region as an attraction. Small cabins were set up to accommodate visitors to the springs prior to 1800. He even attempted to establish a small resort town near his home at Sweet Springs by selling off small 1/2-acre lots, but there is no evidence this development succeeded (Frazier et al 1985:65). William eventually was married to Ann Montgomery. Both husband and wife were buried in the Lewis Family Cemetery on the hilltop behind their home at Sweet Springs.

William Lewis' son, John Lewis (1758-1823), assisted his father in developing Sweet Springs as a resort and took over the estate after his father's death. His largest development was only a couple of miles from his home at Sweet Springs and this resort in particular attracted many visitors. The main building is reported to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson late in his life (Winter 1983). The resort was visited by many famous people, including presidents, during the nineteenth century (Winter 1983). (The resort has in recent history functioned as the Andrew Rowan home, owned by the state).

John Lewis had served in the Revolutionary War, achieved the rank of Major, and had extensive contacts throughout Virginia. The inscription on his grave marker notes that he was an officer under George Washington in the battles at Brandywine and Monmouth, and that he spent the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge. It is reported that he was personal friends with George Washington and Andrew Jackson (Frazier et al 1985:200). In 1793, John Lewis married his second wife, Mary Preston (died 1821). Both were buried in the Lewis Family Cemetery at Sweet Springs.

It is through the union of John Lewis and Mary Preston that two important persons enter the picture at Sweet Springs (Winter 1983, 1986 and 1990a). Mary Preston's sister, Letitia Preston, was the wife of John Floyd (1783-1837), who served two terms as Virginia's governor (from

1831-35). It is reported that Governor Floyd was visiting Sweet Springs when he took ill and died. He was buried in the Lewis Family Cemetery at Sweet Springs and his wife was buried next to him.

The marriage of John Floyd and Letitia Preston produced several children. A son, John Buchanan Floyd, became governor of Virginia (1850-53). But it is a daughter, Letitia Preston Floyd, who figures prominently in the story of Sweet Springs and the Catholic Church. Letitia Preston Floyd married William Lynn Lewis (1799-1869), a third generation member of the Lewis family, the son of John Lewis and Mary Preston. This union provided another strong bond between the Lewis and Floyd families.

Letitia Preston Floyd Lewis had converted to Catholicism during her late teens and fostered the association of the Lewis family with the Catholic church, an association that ultimately led to the establishment of the Catholic Cemetery next to the Lewis Family Cemetery and, in the 1850s, the building of St. Johns Chapel at Sweet Springs. It appears that her brothers and sisters also were Catholic converts. Her mother, Letitia Preston, wife of Gov. John Floyd, also converted late in her life.

In the 1840s, William Lynn Lewis constructed a magnificent house on the Lewis family estate at Sweet Springs. The house and estate was called "Lynnside". William and Letitia managed Lynnside for most of the mid-nineteenth century, and lived in the beautiful two-story home they had constructed on the property. The abandoned house is still standing on the estate today, although a fire in the early-twentieth century burned the second story and the surviving house is only one-story tall. Both Letitia Preston Floyd Lewis and William Lynn Lewis are buried in the Lewis Family Cemetery behind Lynnside.

Lewis Family and Old Catholic Cemeteries

The Lewis Family and Old Catholic Cemeteries are a part of Lynnside, the Lewis family estate (Winter 1986). The cemeteries are actually two separately owned parts of a combined cemetery that is located on a high hilltop behind the house at Lynnside (Figure 1). The cemetery started out as the family plot for the Lewis family. The earliest gravestone now existing bears the date of 1800, but it is possible earlier unmarked graves are present in the cemetery.

The family section, the older part of the cemetery, is located on the east-facing slope of the hill. The graves of most members of the Lewis family and its descendents are concentrated within a relatively level terrace on the

eastern slope (Figure 1). This section of the cemetery is presently owned by Mrs. Jack (Lynn) Spellman, a descendent of the Lewis family.

In the 1870s, the highest part of the hill above the Lewis Family Cemetery was purchased by the Catholic Church for use as a burial ground for members of the St. Johns Church located in Sweet Springs (Winter 1986). The Parish was comprised of many Irish immigrants and their families, many of whom were workers on the railroad as it was being built through the region. Distinctly Irish names such as Kelly, Moriarty, Callaghan, Leehy, and Leary are among those inscribed on headstones in the Old Catholic Cemetery.

Over the last 100 years, even though the family plot and the Catholic section were separately owned, distinction between the two cemeteries has not been strictly maintained. There is no fence or boundary marker separating the two parts of the cemetery, although the pattern of grave locations reflects the two parts. The Lewis family portion of the cemetery now contains the graves of many descendants of the Irish families and the Catholic Cemetery may contain family members and non-Catholics.

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND INVESTIGATIVE METHODS

Objectives

The 1990 archaeological investigation was a continuation of investigations began at the cemetery in 1988. The reader should consult with the reports of the 1988 investigations (Robinson 1988a, 1988b) since the results of those investigation have a bearing on the 1990 project objectives and results.

The main objectives of this year's investigation were:

- (1) to investigate the area beneath Gov. John Floyd's marker to better determine whether his marker was correctly or incorrectly placed;
- (2) to investigate additional areas around the Gov. Floyd marker to obtain evidence that might support the 1988 archaeological interpretation that Letitia Preston Floyd's grave is beside that of her husband;
- (3) to move Gov. John Floyd's marker to its correct location if archaeological evidence confirmed it to be incorrectly placed;
- (4) to record the locations of marked graves within the Lewis Family portion of the cemetery;
- (5) to begin to identify unmarked graves within the Lewis Family cemetery;
- (6) and, to prepare a written report of the results of the investigation.

Documentation and Field Methods

A variety of methods were used during the course of this investigation.

Existing grave markers were documented in several ways. The location of each grave was mapped, each marker was photographed and all of the information written on the

headstones was recorded. Information about the style and design of the markers and the materials from which they were made also was recorded. Mapping of the cemetery was accomplished by establishing base lines and datum points within the cemetery, and measuring and triangulating marker locations from these reference points. The resulting map is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

The archaeological excavations were conducted only within limited areas of the site (see Appendix 1). The excavations rarely extended any deeper than 10 inches, the only exception being the excavation around the concrete slab marker associated with Gov. John Floyd's grave. It should be emphasized that the purpose of the archaeological excavation was simply to locate grave pits and markers; no attempt was made to excavate or exhume any human remains.

Detection of grave pits was accomplished by stripping away ground vegetation and topsoil to expose changes in soil color and texture. Grave pits were usually visible as areas of mottled orange, yellow and brown earth, which results from the mixing of the various colors of clays and silts that were used to refill the grave at the time of burial. The edges of the grave pits were sometimes distinctly visible due to the contrast between the grave fill and natural subsoil.

Excavations were conducted mostly with hand tools such as shovels, mattocks and trowels. Excavation areas were marked prior to the excavation and the precise locations of the excavated areas were mapped and recorded in order to maintain permanent record of where the excavations were conducted.

A backhoe was used to scrape several 12-inch wide trenches across parts of the cemetery (Appendix 1). This method had proven to be very useful in exposing the outlines of graves during the investigation of the Old Catholic Cemetery in 1988. However, the conditions in the Lewis Family Cemetery were different. The topsoil was more varied in color and texture due to fill placed in slumped grave pits, overlapping and closely excavated graves, and the fact that graves in the Lewis Family Cemetery show up less distinctly in the ground because of their old age. The narrow trenches did not provide adequate space to confidently define grave pits. Widening of the trenches would have been necessary to confidently identify graves and there was not enough time in this year's investigation to accomplish this. Therefore, the backhoe trenches were of limited use in this year's investigation.

Probing also was used to locate graves. Three different types of probes were used. The preferred tool was a long, thin, metal rod (commonly called a tile-probe or pipeline-

probe). Undisturbed soils generally are hard and resistant to probing while soils used to backfill grave pits are usually softer, allowing the rod to sink more easily into the grave pit. Thus, it is possible to feel the difference between undisturbed soil and the disturbed areas where grave pits have been dug. It was sometimes even possible to detect the edge of grave pits using this method.

A 4-inch-diameter bucket auger and an 1/2-inch-diameter soil probe also were used occasionally to collect samples of subsurface soils. These allowed the investigator to visually examine soil color and texture, which was useful for confirming the results of probing.

The relocation of Gov. John Floyd's marker was accomplished with the aid of a tractor-mounted backhoe-front-end loader (Figures 2-6). The backhoe was used to excavate the fill from around the base of the existing concrete box marker and to dig a hole at the new location. The backhoe arm also was used to lift and move the concrete box that formed the base for the marker. The front-end loader was used to backfill the excavated areas.

IV. INVESTIGATION OF LETITIA PRESTON FLOYD AND GOV. JOHN FLOYD GRAVES

The marked grave of Gov. John Floyd is one of the most prominent in the cemetery (Figure 5). One goal of the Parish's cemetery restoration effort has been to determine whether the grave of Letitia Preston Floyd, wife of Governor John Floyd, is located beside that of her husband. Local tradition has long held that she was, but no marker is present to confirm the location.

Letitia Preston Floyd is a significant historical figure in her own right (see discussion in previous section). She was a member of a prominent Virginia family, an educator of note, the wife of a Virginia governor (John Floyd), the mother of another Virginia governor (John Buchanan Floyd), the mother of other children who assumed important roles in family and community affairs, and a convert to Catholicism who had a part in the growth and development of what is now the Monroe County Catholic Parish. To give recognition to her accomplishments, the Parish has been planning to mark her grave (Winter 1990).

In 1988, the area to the south and west of Governor Floyd's marker was archaeologically excavated to determine if Letitia Floyd's grave might be identified (Robinson 1988b). Two grave pits were located within the excavated area. Both graves were similarly outlined with stones and their proximity, similar size, and similar condition seemed to indicate they were related, and that they were the graves of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd.

The northernmost grave pit, only partially covered by the Gov. John Floyd marker, was interpreted to be Gov. Floyd's grave. It appeared that the marker, a concrete slab constructed and placed on the grave in the 1930s, was not centered over the grave it was intended to mark. Despite the incorrect positioning of the marker, there was little doubt that the grave partially under it was that of Gov. John Floyd since family members distinctly remember being told that this was the location of his grave. Also, the grave is located in the north side of a fenced plot that used to surround the Floyd graves. The fence was removed in October, 1984.

The second grave, located on the south side of Gov. Floyd's grave, was interpreted to be that of Letitia Preston Floyd. This interpretation was basically inferential, based on the grave's proximity to Gov. Floyd's grave, the fact that the stone outline around the grave pit matched that of

the Gov. Floyd grave, and the location of the grave within the fenced plot that was torn down in 1984. Also, many family members had recollections of being told that Letitia Preston Floyd was buried by the side of her husband.

Although the circumstantial evidence for identifying the two graves as those of Gov. Floyd and Letitia Preston Floyd was very strong (Robinson 1988b), before this interpretation could be completely accepted it was felt it would be prudent to investigate the area around and north of Gov. Floyd's marker to make sure that there was no conflicting archaeological evidence. This was especially important since plans were to move the Gov. Floyd marker to its correct location and to construct a new marker over the grave of Letitia Preston Floyd.

Therefore, when returning to the cemetery in 1990 to continue with the archaeological investigation, the area around the Gov. Floyd marker (and around the John Lewis marker which is next to the Floyd marker) was archaeologically excavated to gather additional data to test the interpretations about the location of the two Floyd graves (for location see Appendix 1 and Figure 6).

Gov. John Floyd Grave

Description and location in cemetery: The grave of Gov. John Floyd (d. 1837) is one of the most prominently marked graves in the cemetery. It is located in the center of the Lewis Family cemetery, next to and in line with the graves of the various members of the John Lewis family (Figures 6 and 7). The grave used to be in the north side of a fenced plot. The fencing was torn down in 1984, but photographs showing the configuration of the plot survive (on file with Father Winter, Monroe County Catholic Parish) and the fence post holes were documented in the 1988 excavation (Robinson 1988b).

The grave of Gov. John Floyd is presently marked with a flat concrete slab set at ground level (Figure 5). The slab marker, measuring 3x6 feet, by 10 inches thick, rests on a rectangular concrete box that also measures 3x6 feet (Figures 2 and 3). The box extends 3 feet into the ground. The configuration of the slab marker and box foundation is similar to a box tomb. However, the subsurface box in this case never served as a tomb since the concrete box and slab marker were placed on Gov. Floyd's grave sometime in the 1930s or early 1940s (Ben Schumaker, personal communication), nearly 100 years after John Floyd was buried. The box foundation serves only to support the concrete slab lid. The marker was built at the request of Coralie Floyd Lewis (1881-1964), who lived at Lynnside and

made considerable efforts over the years to maintain and improve the cemetery. The slab marker may have replaced an earlier marker, although no evidence of the earlier marker has been found. The concrete slab marker bears the inscription:

GOV. JOHN FLOYD
TWICE GOVERNOR OF
VIRGINIA
AN APOSTLE OF SECESSION
AND THE FATHER OF
THE OREGON COUNTRY
DIED AUG. 21, 1837

Excavation of fill inside box foundation: To begin the excavation, the concrete lid of the marker was removed by sliding it to the side. The box foundation was found to be filled with earth and stone. The fill was carefully excavated. The box tomb was put in place in the 1930s, over 100 years after Governor Floyd was buried, so it was not expected that any human remains would be encountered within the interior of the box, and none were found.

The concrete box was found to extend to a depth of approximately 3 feet (Figures 2 and 3). Three distinct zones of fill were found inside the box. The top six inches of fill consisted of loose, earthen fill, which housed a massive ant colony. Beneath this was a thick layer of brown clayey earth. Fill near the bottom of the box was composed of clay and large chunks of rock similar to those that were found outlining the two graves presumed to be those of Letitia and John Floyd. Apparently, during construction of the marker, when the hole was excavated to accommodate the box foundation, the oval of stones outlining the John Floyd grave was partially dismantled. The person excavating the hole may not have even known that the grave was outlined with stones. Consequently, several of the stones were displaced and, after the box was constructed, the stones and excavated earth were used to refill the concrete box.

Beneath the fill at the bottom of the concrete box, at a depth of about 3 feet, a hard, flat clayey surface, was encountered. Close examination of the clay revealed the straight edge of a grave pit. The pit edge appears as a straight line, running parallel to the north side of the box, with different colored soils on either side. Clay on the north side of the line is yellow-orange in color; that on the south side is reddish. This line is interpreted to be the south edge of a grave pit in which John Lewis and his wife were buried. Their marker is also a slab lying at the surface of the ground. It is located immediately adjacent to the north side of Gov. John Floyd's marker.

Probing (with a thin, metal rod) north of the pit edge, within what is interpreted to be the Lewis grave, indicated the grave fill extends at least three feet below the base of the concrete box. This places the bottom of the Lewis grave at approximately five feet below surface. This depth is certainly adequate for a grave pit.

Probing of the soil south of the edge of the grave pit, in about the middle of the Floyd foundation box, only reached a depth of one foot. Probing of the area along the south side of the box foundation reached slightly deeper, to about 1.5 feet. This suggests the grave pit slopes downward from north to south, toward the center of the grave pit interpreted to belong to Gov. John Floyd. This confirms the observation that the Floyd marker was incorrectly positioned over the northeast edge of Gov. Floyd's grave.

The probing seems to indicate the Gov. Floyd grave pit has a depth of only about 3.5 feet. This seems shallow for a grave. The shallow probes could have been due to the fact that probing took place within the eastern end of the grave pit which would be slightly higher than the center of the grave pit. However, probing in the grave pit on the south side of the box foundation indicated the same depths. Probing within the presumed grave of Letitia Preston Floyd reached a similar depth of 3.5 to 4 feet below ground surface.

Though the apparent depths of the graves are shallow, 3.5 to 4 feet would have been sufficient to bury a body. The graves originally may have been dug to a shallow depth. Another more likely possibility is that fill within these graves, which are some of the oldest in the cemetery, has compacted to the point that probing does not easily indicate the actual depth of the grave. Whatever the case, the fact that both graves have a similar depth helps to confirm their relationship, which in turn supports the interpretation that the graves are those of Gov. John and his wife, Letitia Preston Floyd.

In summary, excavation within the concrete box foundation of the Gov. John Floyd marker showed that the box overlapped the northeast edge of a grave pit that has been interpreted to be the grave of Gov. Floyd. Also, the edge of another grave pit extending to the north, under the extant John Lewis marker, was found. This is interpreted to be the grave of John Lewis and his wife. No archaeological evidence was found that would invalidate the interpretations about the locations of the Gov. Floyd and Letitia Preston Floyd graves.

Relocating the box foundation and marker: After the inside of the concrete box was excavated and documented, efforts

were directed to moving the Floyd marker to its correct position over the grave (Figures 2-5). First, the location of Governor Floyd's grave, as determined in the 1988 excavation, was marked accurately in the ground. Then the soil from the top part of the grave was scraped out with a backhoe to a depth of about 3.5 feet, just enough to accommodate the concrete box. The excavated area measured about 8 by 6 feet (Figure 5). The soil taken from the grave pit location was mottled in color but no distinct edges of the grave pit were found. No casket remains or other burial evidence was found, which seems to indicate the backhoe excavation did not extend deep enough to disturb the actual interment. Once the hole was dug, the soil beneath it was probed. The probe indicated relatively soft soil extending at least another 2.5 feet below the bottom limit of the excavation. This indicates the grave pit has a minimum depth of at least 3.5 to 4 feet below ground surface, the same depth indicated by earlier probing. As suggested above, compaction of soil may actually mask the actual depth of the grave pit as determined by probing; the grave could be deeper than 4 feet.

After the receiving hole was prepared, soil around the outside of the box foundation was excavated using both the backhoe and shovels. Care was taken to excavate only as much soil as necessary to move the marker. About 1.5 to 2 feet of earth from each side of the concrete box was removed. Once the earth was removed, chains were run beneath the ends of the concrete box, and these were attached to the backhoe bucket arm. The backhoe then lifted the box foundation and moved it to the correct position directly over the Gov. Floyd's grave pit. The new location, centered over the grave pit, was 4 feet west, and 2 feet north, of the original location.

The concrete box was leveled with rocks and concrete blocks and fill was replaced around the box. The same earth and stone excavated from within the box was put back into the box. The concrete lid was then replaced. The overall appearance of the Gov. Floyd marker is essentially the same as it was before being moved. However, the marker is now in its correct location, centered over the grave interpreted to be that of Governor John Floyd.

Letitia Preston Floyd Grave

The archaeological excavation within the box foundation of the Gov. Floyd marker, and subsequent excavation on the north side of Gov. Floyd's grave (discussed in detail in the next section of this report), did not produce evidence that would diminish or invalidate the interpretation about the location of Letitia Preston Floyd's grave. In fact, the new evidence, specifically the

definition of the Gov. Floyd grave and the John Lewis (and wife) grave, only strengthens the interpretation that her grave is the one on the south side of the marked grave of her husband.

It might be asked why the grave on the north side of Gov. Floyd's marker, the one under the John Lewis marker, could not be that of Letitia. Of course, disinterment of the body would be one way to tell for certain, but lacking that, there is other evidence that seems to indicate otherwise. First, the grave to the north is not outlined in stones and therefore does not match Gov. Floyd's grave. Second, the grave lies outside the former plot fence that once surrounded the two graves outlined in stone. The preponderance of the evidence would suggest that the grave of Letitia Preston Floyd has been identified.

The grave of Letitia Preston Floyd was not archaeologically excavated or exposed during the 1990 investigation, although the location of the grave was marked precisely with stakes. These later were used as guides for the placement and construction of a Letitia Preston Floyd marker. The marker was built subsequent to the archaeological investigation by Parish member Rich Mundell. It is a slab marker, the same size and style as the Governor Floyd marker, and it also is made of concrete. However, no box foundation was built to support the slab, so there was no major disturbance of the ground (or stone outline marking the grave) below the marker. Inscribed in the lid, in lettering similar to Gov. Floyd's marker, is this inscription:

LETITIA PRESTON FLOYD
WIFE OF GOVERNOR JOHN FLOYD JR.
MOTHER OF GOV. JOHN BUCHANAN FLOYD
AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR
DIED DEC. 12, 1852

An important goal of the archaeological and restoration effort was thus achieved. The graves of John and Letitia Floyd have been located and precisely marked with concrete slab markers.

V. INVESTIGATIONS NORTH OF JOHN LEWIS MARKER

Description of John Lewis Marker

The marker of John Lewis, which actually marks the grave of both John Lewis and his wife, Mary Preston, is located adjacent to the north side of the original location of the Governor Floyd marker (Figures 5-7). The Lewis marker, which was made in 1858, is the most elaborate in the cemetery. It is a large slab, made of white marble, with a lengthy inscription carved in its face. This marker is part of a cluster of markers that mark various Lewis family members.

The marble slab marker, measuring 6'-2" long by 3 feet wide, is set at ground level. It is presently cracked through the middle, and the lower right corner also has been broken. The marker has this lengthy inscription:

Here lies the remains of
JOHN LEWIS

Son of Wm Lewis and Ann Montgomery
who was born in August 1754,

and died at the Swt. Springs June 8, 1823

He was a man of noble nature, stern integrity
high courage & pure patriotism, and the friend &
fellow soldier of Washington under whom
as a Va. officer he fought bravely the battles
of Brandywine, Monmouth, and with whom
he passed the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge.

He was the grandson of John Lewis, the pioneer
of Augusta Co. and in his day & generation did noble
service in establishing upon a solid bases the Liber
ties of the country he had contributed so largely in
rescuing from a savage foe.

His wife Mary Preston who was born in 1776 & died
February 4, 1821 is here buried by his side.

This monument was erected in 1858 by their descen
dants to commemorate their virtues: & as a grateful
recognition of the mercy of God to the seed of the
righteous.

The inscription tells us that both John Lewis and his wife are buried beneath the marker.

The John Lewis marker rests on a cement slab that is slightly larger than the marker, but only about 12 inches thick (Figure 5). It is not a box foundation like the one on the John Floyd grave. The concrete base is not original to the marker. It was constructed sometime in the early-

twentieth century. It may have been constructed at the same time the Gov. Floyd marker was constructed.

Across the width of concrete base are the imprints of several boards that once were used as levelers for the marble slab. The boards have all rotted away, leaving the marble slab lying on an uneven, hard cement surface. A rim along the side of the base shows that the marble slab was cemented tight around its edges when the base was originally constructed. Most of the cement around the edges, fortunately, has broken away. Had it remained intact, the freezing of water in the crack around the cemented edge might have broken the marble slab into more pieces than it is currently. The marble slab was already cracked when it was placed on the concrete base, evidenced by the an imprint of the crack in the cement edge on the north side of the base.

Excavations

A small area north of the Lewis marker, and south of the cairn that marks the grave of William Lewis, contained no intact or upright headstones, although several fragments of headstones were found lying on the ground surface. Part of this area was archaeologically investigated to make sure there was no archaeological evidence that would conflict with the interpretations about the locations of the John and Letitia Floyd graves (Figures 6 and 7). Specifically, the investigation hoped to better understand the arrangement of grave pits in the vicinity of the Gov. John Floyd and John Lewis graves and to document unmarked graves that were believed to be in the area.

An area measuring approximately 8 feet (north-south) by 16 feet (east-west) was archaeologically excavated on the north side of the John Lewis marker (Figures 6 and 7).

Prior to excavation, the area was probed, with hopes that this would indicate where grave pits were located. Probing, however, did not prove to be very useful. It seems that the fill in the graves in this part of the cemetery, which are the oldest graves in the cemetery, has compacted extremely tight over the last 150-175 years. It was very difficult, through probing, to distinguish between the compacted fill within grave pits and the natural subsoil surrounding the graves. This was surprising because probing had been a very useful method for locating graves in the Old Catholic part of the cemetery. It seems that probing produces the best results when used with graves less than 100 years old. Probing was useful, however, for locating buried marker fragments within the excavation area.

Shovels and trowels were used to excavate the area. As the excavation began, only the grass and top three inches

of soil were removed from the area, but this did not reveal any clear patterns in the soil so the excavation was deepened to between 7 and 10 inches. At this depth, the edges of graves could reliably be detected. Figure 7 shows the various depths of the excavated areas.

It became apparent why a minimum depth of approximately 10 inches was needed to define graves. Since the Lewis Family Cemetery is the older part of the cemetery, the area has built up a thick topsoil layer due to considerable vegetation growth over time and the capture of slopewash from the higher part of the cemetery. Also, considerable amounts of earth had been spread throughout the cemetery to fill in depressions where grave pits have slumped. Slumping is a particular problem with the older graves since wooden caskets were used. Slumping is not as much a problem with modern graves because metal caskets are often used, often in association with concrete or composite vaults. Where older, slumped grave pits have been filled, sometimes to depths of 1.5 feet or more, it is very difficult to recognize color differences between the grave pit fill and the natural subsoil unless excavations are at least 10 inches deep.

Possible Grave Of Mary Preston,
Wife of John Lewis and Other Unmarked Graves

Evidence of a grave was uncovered immediately north of the John Lewis marker ("C-2" in Figures 7-9). There is only a slight color difference marking the grave edge. This quite possibly is the north edge of a grave pit that extends back under the John Lewis marker. This could be either the north edge of John Lewis' grave or the north edge of the grave of John Lewis' wife, Mary Preston. The slab marker notes that they are both buried at this location.

What may possibly be another unmarked grave pit was found intruding into the indistinct grave pit on its west side ("C-1" in Figures 7-9). This grave is evidenced by a very distinct mottled orange coloration. This may be the east end of a grave that extends to the west. Additional excavation is needed to fully expose this grave.

A third unmarked grave was located in the east edge of the excavation area, east of the John Lewis marker ("B" in Figure 7-9). This grave also exhibits mottled bright orange fill and has very distinct edges. It does not appear to be associated with the John Lewis marker or graves. It seems to be a part of north-south line of graves south of the Lewis marker. It is in line with the stone outlined grave farther to the north. Additional excavation is needed to fully expose this grave pit.

The excavation revealed that graves are overlapping within the Lewis Family Cemetery--that is, some graves have been dug into earlier graves. Widespread archaeological excavation will be needed in the future to accurately define the locations of unmarked graves since the overlapping graves can be quite confusing.

The location of the grave of John Lewis' wife, Mary Preston, is still not well defined. The grave pit presumed to be hers is only marked by a very faint discoloration and it is intruded into by at least one other grave. Her grave may actually extend farther north (toward the grave of infant John Lewis) than currently shown on the drawing. Perhaps this can be rechecked in future excavations.

Infant Son of John Lewis

Prior to excavation, there were indications that at least one more grave might be located close to the north side of the John Lewis marker. Three pieces of a large, broken tablet marker, made of a soft, olive-color stone, lay on the ground north of the Lewis marker. One piece had this inscription:

John Lewis
age 4 years
Died 1803

As the area under the marker was excavated, the base of a headstone, still intact in the ground, was uncovered ("D" in Figures 7-9 and Figure 10). The three broken pieces found on the surface matched the buried base, completing the headstone marker. The base marks the original location of the headstone and its position shows the headstone tablet faced east.

Another tablet base was found buried beneath the ground surface eight feet east of the headstone base ("D" in Figures 7-9 and Figure 10). This turned out to be the footstone for the infant John Lewis grave.

Actually, three marker fragments were found together buried beneath the ground; one was a base, and the other two were fragments that matched the base (Figures 11 and 12). The base fragment is unfinished. Quarrying marks were present on the surface of the stone (Figures 12-14). The break along the top of this fragment extends along the bottom cut of the finished portion of the marker (Figures 12 and 13). The other two pieces of marker, which had been jammed down beside the marker base, are finished parts of the tablet that were exposed above ground when the marker was standing (Figure 14).

The three footstone pieces fit together perfectly but did not comprise the entire tablet marker (Figure 14). One other broken piece of tablet was found lying on the surface about 20 feet west of the base. This piece completed the tablet, which had the inscription "J.L." on it ("D" in Figure 15). The initials "J.L." confirmed that this was the footstone that was associated with the headstone 8 feet to the north.

The grave of the infant John Lewis also was observed between the head and foot markers. As seen in Figures 7-9, the south edge of the grave pit was distinctly identified by a soil discoloration. This grave lines up with other graves of Lewis family members, including the grave of Alexander Lewis (to the north), and John Lewis and his wife (to the south).

Alexander Lewis Grave

Another set of tablet bases, made of soft, olive-color stone, was found north of the infant John Lewis grave (Figures 7 and 15). These were found by probing and small areas around the stones were excavated to expose them. The bases do not have finished faces and still exhibit quarrying marks.

The base on the west side is part of a headstone. Two additional pieces of the headstone were found scattered around the cemetery. They matched the base perfectly and together form the entire marker. The inscription on the headstone is that of "Alexander Lewis, age 35, 1806". Alexander Lewis is believed to be a brother of John Lewis.

The tablet base on the east is a part of the footstone to the Alexander Lewis grave. The remaining part of the footstone tablet, a single piece, was found lying on the ground nearby. It matched the base fragment and has the inscription "A.L." on it.

No attempt was made to fully expose the Alexander Lewis grave by excavation. Probing, however, confirmed that a grave was present between the footstone and headstone.

Grave Outlined In Stone

A third grave pit was discovered in the northeast part of the excavation (Figures 7-10). The grave is outlined with large, irregular pieces of stone. No marker was found with the grave so the person buried there remains unknown. The use of stones to outline the grave is similar to the way the graves of Gov. John and Letitia Floyd were marked (Robinson

1988b). It is presumed from this evidence that this grave dates from about the same period as the Floyd graves, circa 1830s.

Grave Of "Tom and Dinah, Faithful Slaves"

About 8 feet northeast of the excavation area are the headstone and footstone tablets of two slaves of the Lewis family, Tom and Dinah, who died in 1800. This is the oldest surviving marker in the cemetery. The headstone is made from soft, olive-color limonite like the headstones of several other members of the Lewis family. The inscription is also in the same style as the other members of the Lewis family.

The headstone has been broken from its base, but is set upright next to a depression that most probably is the actual grave pit. The grave, however, was not archaeologically exposed. This will need to be done in a future investigation to confirm how the grave originally related to the marker. Excavation and probing within a two foot square around the marker did not locate the base of the marker. Only when this base is found will it be certain that the associated grave depression is actually that of Tom and Dinah.

A footstone tablet also was found lying flat on the ground near the headstone. It has the initials "T&D" inscribed on it. The original location of the footstone has not yet been identified.

That these Lewis family slaves were given a resting place within the family cemetery, close to the family members, certainly indicates they were valued members of the household. However, because they were slaves, they only received a single marker for the two of them. In contrast, the infant son of John Lewis, only four years old, was given a full-sized headstone and a large footstone.

Summary

The excavation of a small area north of the John Lewis marker resulted in the documentation of five, possibly six, grave pits (Figure 7). One grave, immediately adjacent to the north side of the John Lewis marker, appears to be the grave of either John Lewis or his wife Mary Preston. Another possible unmarked grave was found intruding into the north edge of the Lewis grave. Another unmarked grave was found east of the John Lewis marker. Yet another unmarked grave, outlined in stone, was found northeast of the Lewis marker.

Two additional unmarked graves, situated in line with the John Lewis marker, were located and these were determined to be the graves of the infant son of John Lewis and Alexander Lewis, the brother of John Lewis (Figure 7). These graves were identified by matching pieces of broken headstones and footstones with the broken bases of tablet markers that were found buried beneath the ground surface.

The marker of Tom and Dinah, slaves of the Lewis family, also was documented, although the exact location of their graves has only tentatively been identified.

VI. INVESTIGATION SOUTH OF LETITIA PRESTON FLOYD GRAVE

Excavations also were conducted in an area south of the Letitia Preston Floyd grave (Appendix 1 map and Figure 16). This area is adjacent to the area that was excavated in the 1988 archaeological investigation. The purpose of this excavation was to see if evidence was present that might have a bearing on the identification of the Letitia Preston Floyd grave. The excavation unit was originally laid out to measure 11-feet long (east-west) by 5-feet wide (north-south). This was later expanded to the east another 11 feet (Figures 16-18). Two graves, outlined with stones, were exposed within the excavation area.

One grave, roughly outlined in stones, was located about 6 feet to the south of and in line with the Letitia Preston Floyd grave (see #115, Appendix 1). The oval of stones is 7.5-feet long and 2.5-feet wide (Figure 17). Some of the stones at the east end of the grave have been displaced where a small, modern, granite block marker was put in place. The marker bears the inscription "Anne Stuart Bailey/Feb 15, 1860/May 10, 1938". It is believed that this stone was placed on the grave sometime in the 1960s. Whether Anne Bailey is actually buried in the stone-outlined grave is not known. It seems unlikely, since most of the other stone-outlined graves in the cemetery seem to date from the nineteenth century.

Another grave (#129, Appendix 1) was located adjacent to and on the north side of the modern Woodville family marker (Figure 18) (# 128 on the cemetery map). The grave is outlined in stone, but the stone outline, measuring 9'10" long by 3 feet wide, is different from the stone outline found on the grave to the west, and different from the stone outlines associated with the Letitia Preston Floyd and John Floyd graves. This stone outline is much larger and a great deal more stone is used in its construction. As can be seen in Figure 18, the stones around the grave were once a part of a three-tier wall. As the fill within the grave pit slumped, the wall fell toward the center of the grave pit. In its present state, the wall is almost lying on its side. Bricks also were found in the east end of the grave, apparently used to form a part of the wall.

A square granite block, set in cement, is present at the foot (east end) of the grave (Figure 18). Two similar granite blocks, not associated with graves, were found along

the fence at the south edge of the cemetery. Lynn Spellman, owner of the cemetery, believes these marker blocks were obtained from a church in White Sulphur Springs, and the one on the grave was brought to this cemetery and recently added to the grave.

Although this grave is located adjacent to the Woodville family marker, it is not in perfect alignment with the marker. It is possible that the Woodville's are buried next to, not within, this grave. The area directly in front of the headstone will have to be investigated to determine whether this is the case.

VII. CEMETERY MAPPING AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Mapping

Marked graves within the Lewis Family Cemetery were mapped and recorded as part of the archaeological documentation. Several datum points were set up and permanently marked in the cemetery to use as reference points for the mapping (locations are indicated on the cemetery map). The results of the mapping were combined with the information collected from the mapping of the Old Catholic Cemetery in 1988 and a composite map showing the location of all known graves was produced. This is the map presented as Appendix 1.

Marked Graves

All marked graves located within the Lewis Family Cemetery were photographed and their name and birth/death date inscriptions were recorded (see Appendix 1, inventory list).

The marked graves in the cemetery (see Appendix 1 map) are mostly concentrated within the nearly flat terrace near the center of the cemetery, or on the south slope. The graves are aligned in north-south rows, with headstone markers facing east. Small clusters of marked graves are located on the steep north slope. Most of the clusters represent individual families. Many markers on the northern slope of the cemetery have fallen over because of slumping or erosion.

Most of the markers within the Lewis Family Cemetery seem to be in their original and/or appropriate place. Only a few appear displaced. Probing showed a close correlation of grave pits and markers in the lines of stones on the south slope. However, it appears that the markers of many early graves were replaced sometime in the early-twentieth century with iron rod reinforced concrete tablets. It is not known how these graves were originally marked. If they were marked with stone markers, these have been removed from the cemetery. They could have been marked with wood markers but there is no evidence for this.

Unmarked Graves

As mentioned several times earlier in this report, the uninvestigated areas of the Lewis Family Cemetery seem to contain many more unmarked graves. Unlike the unmarked graves within the Old Catholic Cemetery on the top of the

hill, which are more recent in age and usually visible as a depression or soft spot (when using probes) in the ground, the older graves in the Lewis Family section of the cemetery are not easily detected. Considerable archaeological excavation will be needed to locate these graves and excavations will need to be at least 10 inches deep in order to define grave pits.

Grave Marker Styles

Time and resources did not permit a detailed analysis of grave marker styles within the cemetery, although all markers have now been photographed. Several prominent marker styles are described here.

Limonite Tablets: The earliest markers in the Lewis Family Cemetery are made from a soft, olive-brown stone that has been tentatively identified as limonite. All of the markers of this stone are a tablet type, which was the preferred type for members of the Lewis family. Prominent examples are the markers of "John Lewis, age 4 years", "Alexander Lewis", "Dennis J. Stack" and "Tom and Dinah, Faithful Slaves". All of the markers are inscribed with similar style of lettering. These markers range in dates from 1800 to 1848.

Both headstones and footstones of this type have been identified, with headstones always located on the west side of the grave, facing east. The headstones usually bear the persons name and a cross is inscribed above the name near the top of the tablet.

The footstones are plain and only bear the initials of the individual. For example, the Alexander Lewis marker has the initials "A.L.". The footstone of the slaves Tom and Dinah bears the initials "T&D".

All of the markers of this type are broken. The full size of the headstone tablets was determined after two of the markers were reconstructed by piecing together fragments. The headstones are about three feet tall, with an additional one-foot high base that was intended to remain below the ground surface. The total length (height) of a headstone marker is about 50 inches. They are slightly more than 19 inches wide, and about 3.5 inches thick. The footstones are slightly smaller, measuring about 36 inches long by 15-5/8 inch wide by 3 inches thick.

The origin of the limonite material from which these markers are made is probably local within the region. The source of the stone has not been identified, although no real effort was made to find it during this investigation. It is understandable why the limonite was selected for use. The stone is soft and easily cut and chiseled (Figure 14).

Though the stone is soft, it weathers very well. The tablet makers of this type found within the cemetery, even those that are 190 years old, have clearly readable inscriptions. It appears that the parts of the tablets exposed above ground develop a weathered patina which hardens and resists weathering. However, the parts of the markers buried beneath the ground surface, where moisture is retained in the stones, stay very soft and can easily be scratched with a finger nail. The subsurface pieces do harden somewhat after drying, but remain very fragile and highly susceptible to damage from mowers.

Several fragments of this type of marker were found scattered about the Lewis Family Cemetery. All of the surviving markers of this type have been repeatedly nicked by mowers and weed-eaters.

Marble Slab: The marble slab marker on John Lewis' grave is an unusual marker within the cemetery. Its size, its shape, its material, and its lengthy inscription make it stand apart from all other markers in the cemetery. This marker dates from around 1858. It was placed on the grave by descendants of John Lewis, probably is son, William Lynn Lewis.

The marble for this marker was certainly imported into the mountains of West Virginia. From where it is not known. The fact that a non-local stone was used, and the fact that the marker is so large and elaborately inscribed, attests to the wealth of the William Lynn Lewis family at that time. The use of a elaborately carved slabs was not uncommon among members of the upper economic class of Virginia society.

Tablets With Stylized Weeping Willow Motif: A third notable type of marker, tablet markers with stylized weeping willow pattern motifs, are representative of the 1860s period. Both examples of this type, on the graves of Bridgett Rowan (died 1861) and Mary Fox (died 1869), are crudely, but interestingly, handcarved with a stylized weeping willow pattern. These examples, probably locally made, copy a pattern that was widespread during the Victorian period. The weeping willow symbolized life, or the afterlife, during that period. The symbolism is derived from the fact that he weeping willow tree usually was located near flowing streams, the source of life, and drew its sustenance from the wet earth. Later in time, the drooping limbs of the tree became associated with sadness, or death, since the motif had become associated with graves.

Concrete Tablets: The most common type of marker in the cemetery is the concrete tablet with a simple cross near the top of the marker and the inscription "Sacred to the Memory Of" before each name . The concrete markers were made with iron reinforcing rods. These markers seem to replicate the

tablet shape of the early limonite tablets, although they are slightly larger. These markers were probably added to the graves in the first couple of decades of the twentieth century. Whether they replaced original stone or wood markers is unknown.

Concrete Slab: The concrete slab marker on the grave of Gov. John Floyd stands out as an unusual type of marker within the cemetery. As described earlier, it dates from the 1930s, when Miss Coralie Lewis had it constructed. More than likely, this slab was made to replicate the slab style of the John Lewis marker. The intent seems to have been to make the former Governor's grave as prominent in the cemetery as the grave of John Lewis. There is now a matching concrete slab marking the grave of Letitia Preston Floyd next to the grave of Gov. John Floyd.

Stone Cairn: This cairn (#104, Appendix 1) reportedly marks the graves of the first Lewis family members at Sweet Springs, William and Ann Montgomery Lewis (died 1811 and 1808, respectively). This prominent marker was constructed sometime between 1930 and 1960 (Ben Shumaker, personal communication). It was constructed for Miss Coralie Lewis who made a number of improvements to the cemetery. The cairn represents an obvious attempt by Miss Coralie to make the graves of the original Lewis' of Sweet Springs the most prominent in the cemetery. It is not known how the graves were originally marked.

The cairn is made of irregular pieces of gray-blue limestone, a stone local to the region. A recessed rectangle was constructed in the south side of the cairn. It was intended to hold a metal plaque with the name inscriptions on it. The metal plaque was never made.

Others: Various other styles of markers are represented within the cemetery. Marble tablets with carved lamb motifs are found on a couple of markers dating from the first decade of this century. A prominent column marker denotes the location of five members of the Rowan family who died in the 1880s. There are a couple of military markers of World War II veterans. A small metal marker, a temporary funeral home marker with removable lettering, was found. It bears the inscription John Dillon, 1856-1901. The marker comes from the Shanklin Funeral Home in White Sulfur Springs, a firm that evidently conducted a lot of services in the Sweet Springs area.

VIII. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The 1990 archaeological investigations resulted in the documentation of marked graves in the Lewis Family Cemetery and detailed archaeological investigation of an area around the graves of Gov. John Floyd and John Lewis and an area south of Letitia Preston Floyd's grave.

The locations of 52 marked graves were mapped within the Lewis Family Cemetery. These were combined with the results of the 1988 investigation of the Old Catholic Cemetery and a fairly complete picture of the Old Catholic and Lewis Family Cemetery is now available (Appendix 1). A total of 108 marked graves has now been documented within the two parts of the cemetery.

Twenty-five unmarked graves also were identified within the Lewis Family Cemetery during this year's investigation. A total of 57 unmarked graves has now been recorded for the Old Catholic and Lewis Family Cemetery. As noted earlier, many more unmarked graves are present in the areas of the Lewis Family Cemetery that have not yet been investigated.

A total of 165 marked and unmarked graves have now been documented within the Old Catholic-Lewis Family Cemetery.

It can be stated with considerable reliability that the exact locations of the graves of Gov. John Floyd and Letitia Preston Floyd, his wife, have been found. The marker of Gov. Floyd has been repositioned to its correct location over his grave. Also, a new marker for the grave of Letitia Preston Floyd was constructed by Parish member Rich Mundell subsequent to the archaeological investigation.

The unmarked graves of several members of the Lewis family also were identified by matching broken pieces of markers with marker bases found in their original location.

Recommendations

Several recommendations regarding the future documentation, preservation and maintenance of the cemetery can be offered at this time.

Recommendation 1. Additional Archaeological Documentation:

Many more unmarked graves are present within the Lewis Family Cemetery. Additional archaeological excavation is needed to locate these graves in order to compile an accurate map of the cemetery.

Future archaeological investigations will benefit from the experiences of this year's investigation. It has been determined that probing is not a reliable technique to locate graves in the older part of the cemetery. Fill within the older grave pits is highly compacted, making it difficult to distinguish grave pits with the feel of the probe. This is complicated by the fact that some graves are overlapping. Wide areas will need to be opened up in future excavations in order to accurately determine where graves are located. The excavation of narrow trenches, either by hand or with a backhoe, has been shown to be of very limited value in defining graves.

Recommendation 2: Place Markers on Unmarked Graves: The unmarked graves found during this investigation should be permanently marked so the locations will not be lost again. The graves were temporarily marked with wood stakes. It is recommended that concrete blocks, similar to those put on the unmarked graves in the Old Catholic Cemetery, be placed on the unmarked graves. These should be numbered with reference to the index cemetery map (Appendix 1).

Recommendation 3: Repair and Restoration of Existing Headstone and Footstone Markers: Most of the markers within the Lewis Family Cemetery are unbroken, but a few are broken. Some of the broken markers are amenable to repair. If repairs are ever attempted, techniques suitable for long-term preservation of the stones should be used. Simply cementing or using iron rods to repair stones are techniques that may cause damage to the stone.

It is not recommended that the old Lewis family limonite markers be repaired. These markers are made of a very soft material and most of the markers have been broken into at least three pieces. Drilling into these fragile pieces will only lead to continued deterioration of these stones. It is recommended that the pieces of these markers be lain horizontally over their respective graves. Special care should be taken to avoid walking or driving mowers over the stones.

A few markers, especially those on the north hillside, have fallen over because of grave slumping. These should be reset in an upright position. This will require some refilling of grave pits, so archaeological documentation should be conducted before the filling is conducted.

Recommendation 4: Maintenance and Landscaping: Maintenance activities should continue to be of concern. Mowing should be conducted with regularity and extreme care. Some markers within the cemetery already exhibit nicks and scrapes from mowing. This should be avoided at all costs because the small nicks of today can develop into destructive cracks that can eventually break markers. Special care also should be taken when using weed-eater-type mowers for these can also damage markers. For example, the soft limonite tablets in the cemetery, the oldest markers in the Lewis Family Cemetery, display evidence of nicking from weed eaters.

Care also should be taken when mowing over the concrete block markers that were recently placed on unmarked graves within the Old Catholic Cemetery. If these markers are too high for the mower to pass over without damage, they should be reset at a lower position. Mowers will have to take care not to drag the marker blocks from their locations or the grave locations will be lost.

The thick, fibrous "yucca" plants that commonly grow throughout the cemetery need to be dug out on a regular basis. If left unchecked, these plants can grow very large and can topple headstones, crack concrete markers, and impede normal maintenance work. The larger these plants become, the more difficult it is to remove them. A four- or six-month schedule for clearing these plants is recommended.

The number of trees within the cemetery should be limited. It must be remembered that tree roots cause considerable damage to markers. Large existing trees should be left intact but it is probably best to refrain from planting many additional trees. If new trees are planted they should be species that will remain relatively small, and have small root clusters.

Recommendation 5. Access to Old Catholic Cemetery. The Old Catholic Cemetery is presently being accessed through an informal drive through the center of the Lewis Family Cemetery. This route passes directly over the graves of several members of the Lewis family, including the area where the unmarked graves of infant John Lewis and Alexander Lewis were found. Vehicular travel should be discontinued in this area or it may result in damage to existing markers and it may obscure those unmarked graves that have been recently located.

Since graves cover most of the south slope of the cemetery, and the north slope is very steep and hard to drive over and there are no other ways to easily access the upper part of the cemetery, it is recommended that the Parish consider the preparation of a driveway along the south side of the cemetery (east-west direction). Access to the interior of the cemetery can be provided by lateral

(north-south) drives entering the cemetery from the south side. Such an access drive would keep vehicles from driving unnecessarily through the cemetery and would lessen pedestrian traffic as well.

Comparable access could be arranged from the north side of the cemetery, but the north edge of the cemetery is wooded and the north slope of the hill is steeper than that on the south side. Use of the north side would probably prove to be unpractical.

Since there is very little traffic, vehicular or pedestrian, into the cemetery, it may be possible to lay out a drive with little or no grading. If grading is required, it should be strictly limited. Special care should be taken to preserve the beautiful hilltop setting and to not obscure the vistas from the hilltop. It would be preferable to have the drive covered with grass, or a mixture of grass and gravel, rather than solid gravel or pavement. Not only would the expense be less, but the natural setting of the cemetery would be preserved. The archaeologist should be consulted to provide input on how to avoid graves should such a drive be planned.

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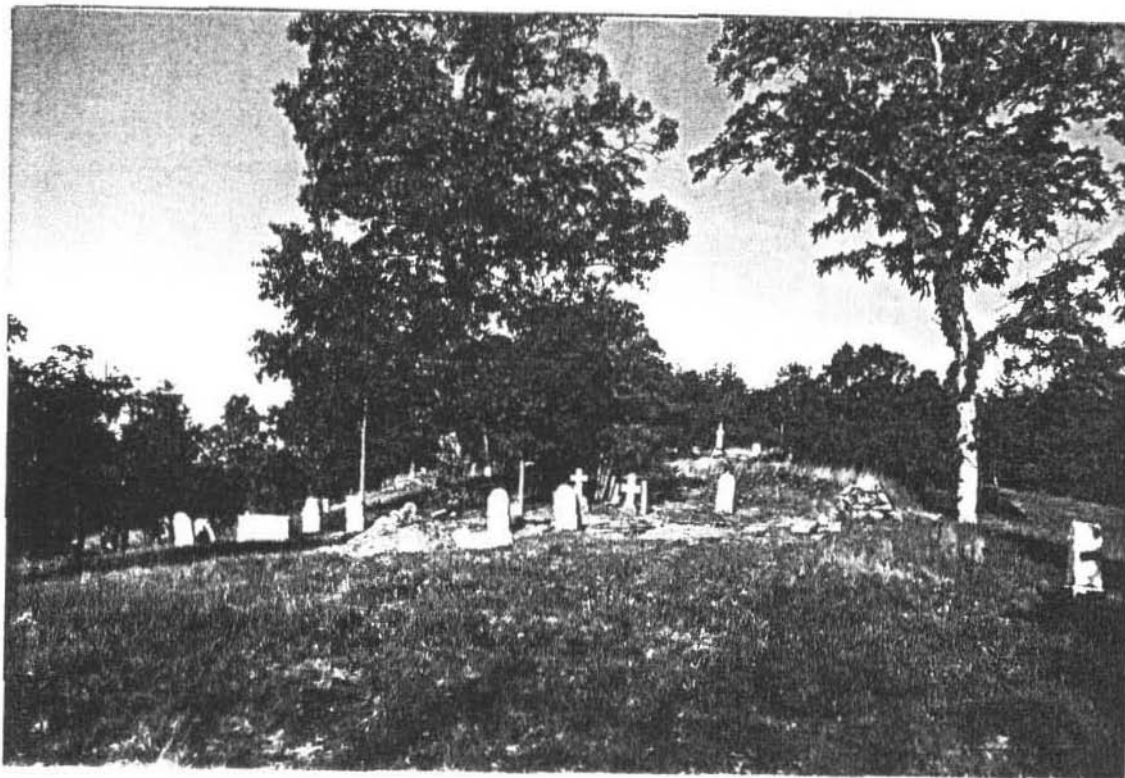


Figure 1. General view of Lewis Family Cemetery. Old Catholic Cemetery is on high part of hill in background. Photo facing west.

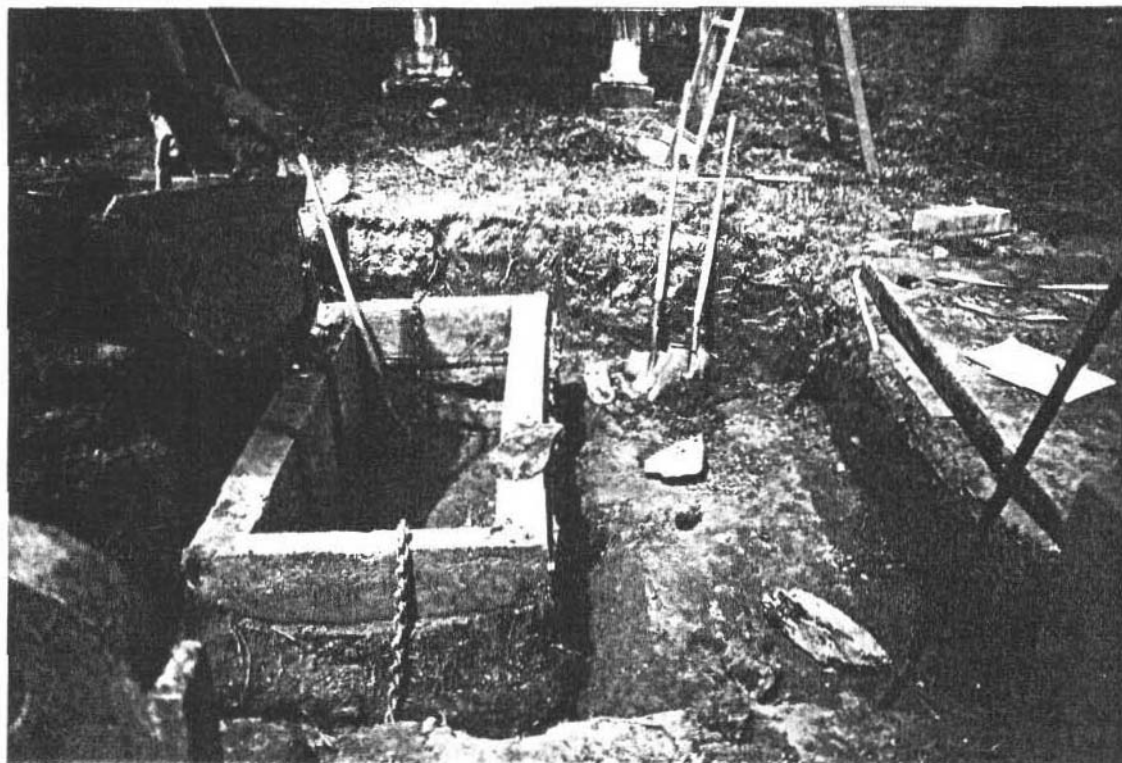


Figure 2. Relocating the concrete box base of Gov. John Floyd marker (# 118) with backhoe. Base is already in new location over grave pit; old location is to right of box. Photo facing west.

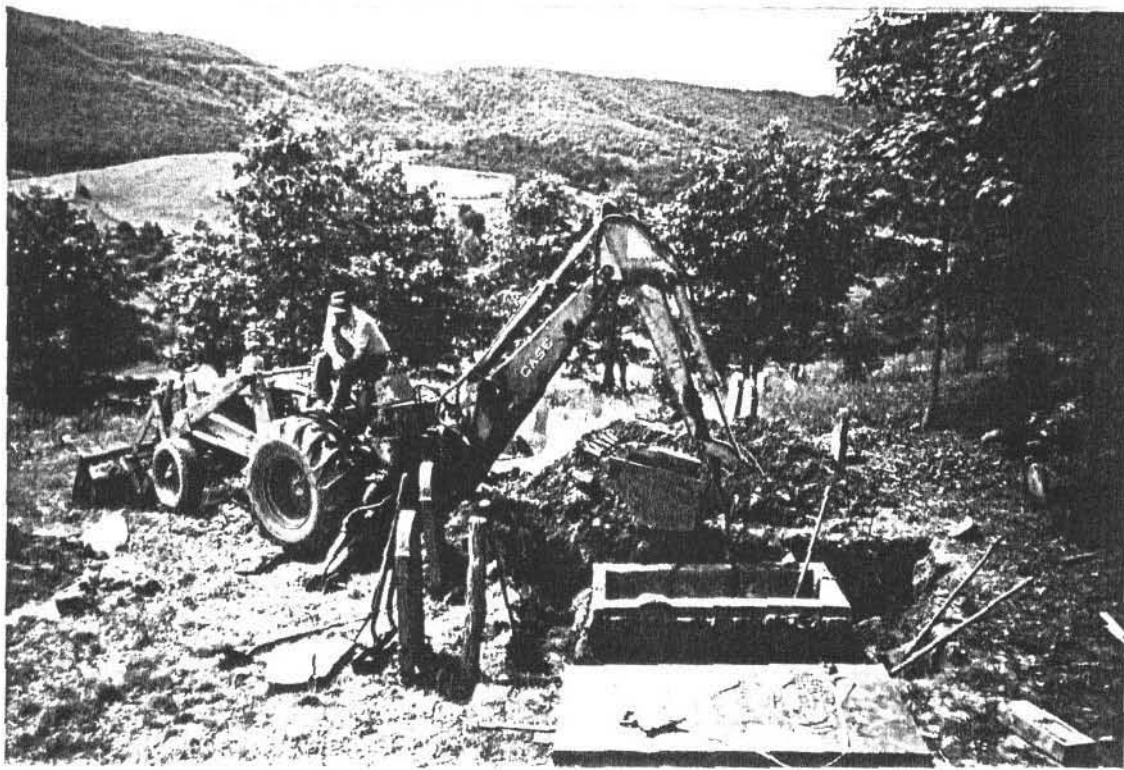


Figure 3. Relocating Gov. John Floyd marker base. Lid from Floyd marker (#118) (in foreground) has been moved temporarily to the location of the John Lewis marker (#119). Photo facing south.



Figure 4. Box (on right) marks new location of Gov. John Floyd marker (#118). Slab lid (on log rollers) is in where box was moved from. John Lewis marker (#119) base in on left (engraved marble slab has been temporarily removed). Photo facing east.



Figure 5. Sliding slab marker onto box, Gov. John Floyd grave (#118). Photo facing northeast.

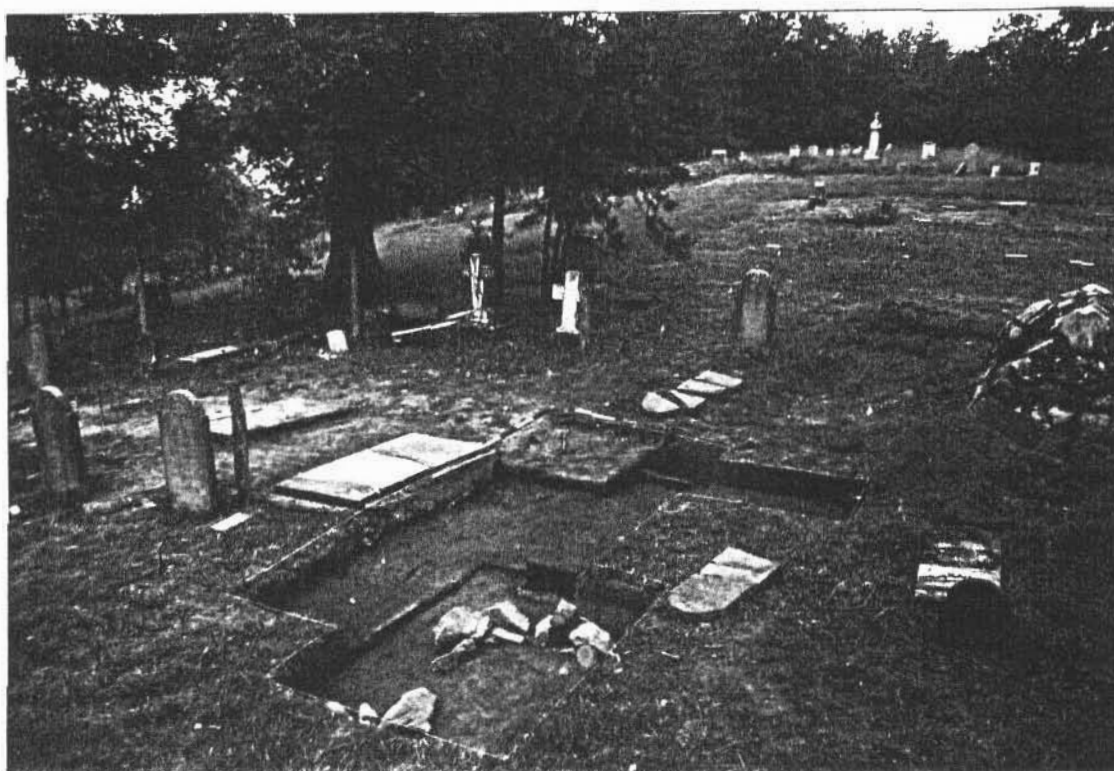


Figure 6. General view of excavated area north of John Lewis marker, Lewis Family Cemetery. William Lewis cairn (#104) on right. Old Catholic Cemetery is on hilltop in background. Photo facing southwest.

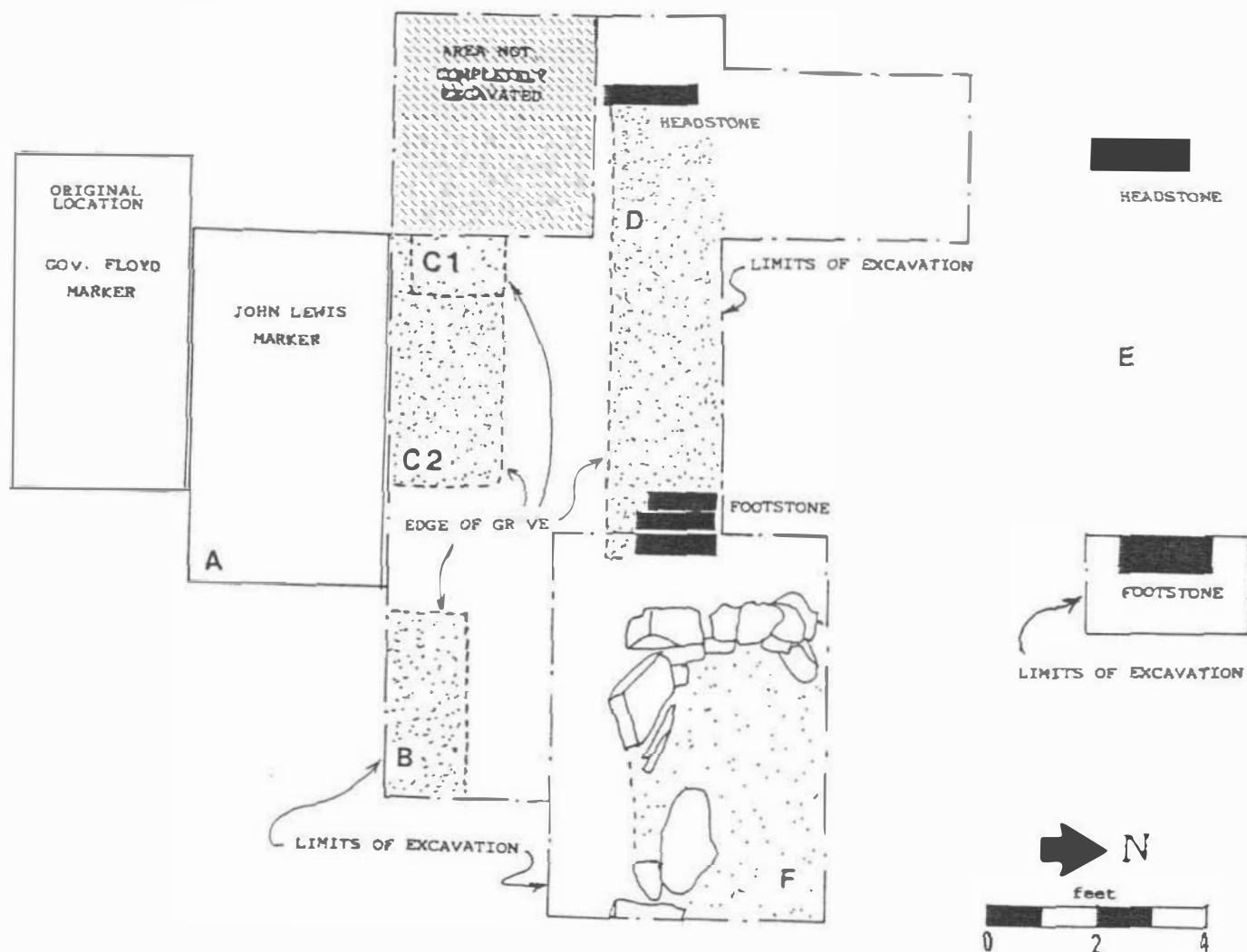


Figure 7. Plan drawing of excavated area north of John Lewis marker. (A) John Lewis marker (#119); (B) unmarked grave (#134); (C-1) unmarked grave (#120); (C-2) probable grave of Mary Preston (#121), wife of John Lewis; (D) grave of infant son of John Lewis (#122); (E) Alexander Lewis grave (#123); (F) unmarked grave outlined in stones (#135).

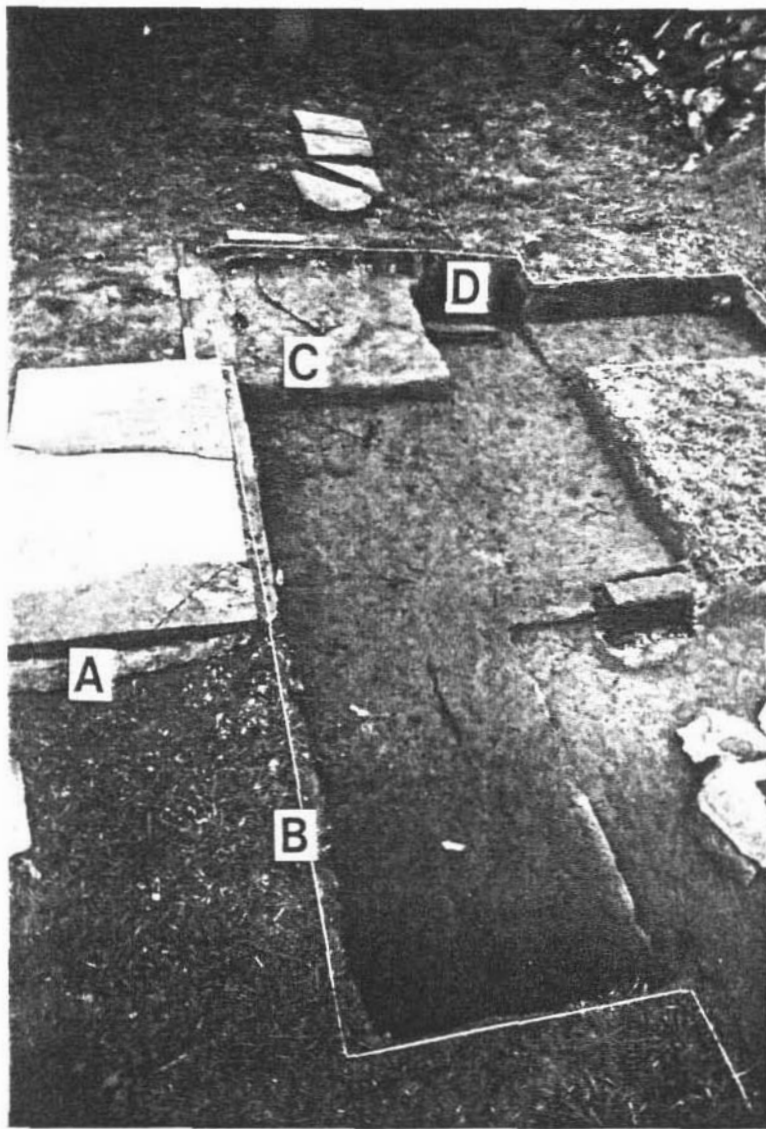


Figure 8. Closeup of Excavated Area North of Lewis Marker. Dotted lines highlight edges of grave pits. (A) John Lewis slab marker (#119); (B) unmarked grave (#134), small arrows on ground mark edge of pit; (C) end of unmarked grave pit extending out of excavated area (#120); (D) infant son of John Lewis, age 4 Yrs (#122), grave pit with broken footstone and headstone bases. Photo facing west.

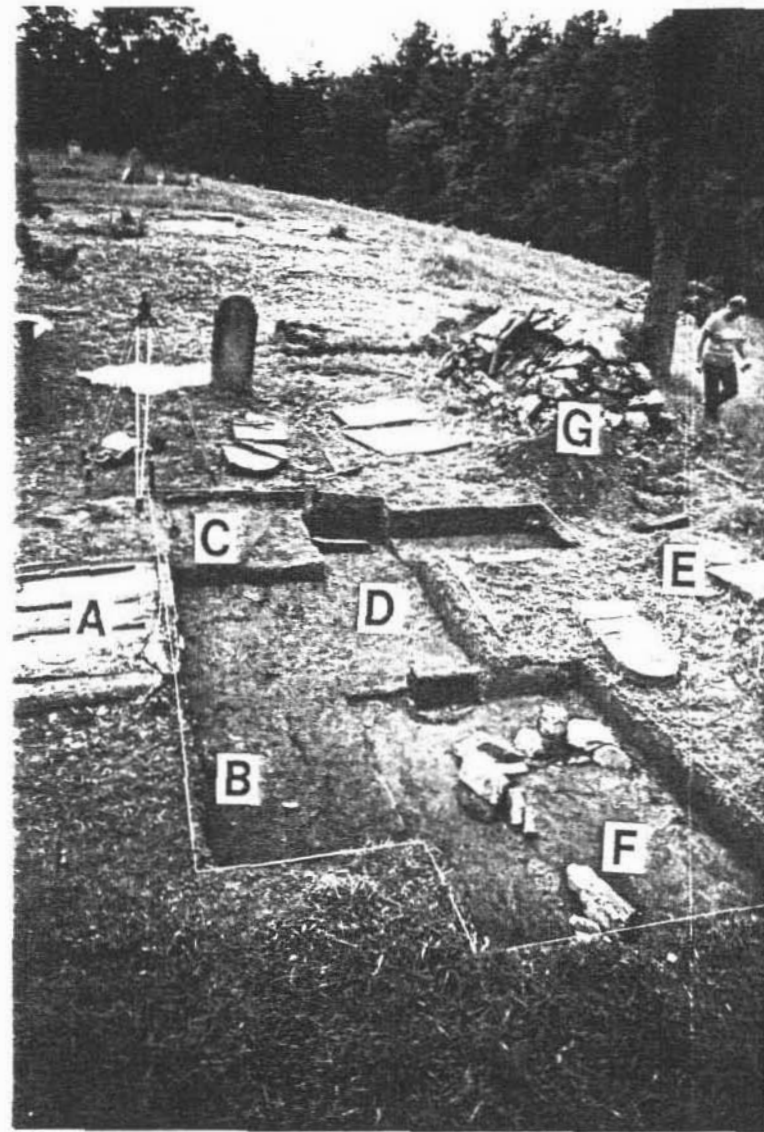


Figure 9. General view of excavated area north of John Lewis marker, Lewis Family Cemetery. (A) concrete base for John Lewis slab marker (#119); (B) unmarked grave pit (#134); (C) end of unmarked grave (#120); (D) grave of John Lewis, "Aged 4 Years" (#122) with bases of head and foot markers; (E) Alexander Lewis Grave (#123) with broken marker pieces; (F) unmarked grave outlined in stones (#135); (G) stone cairn (#104), constructed first half twentieth century, marks graves of William Lewis and Ann Montgomery Lewis. Photo facing west.

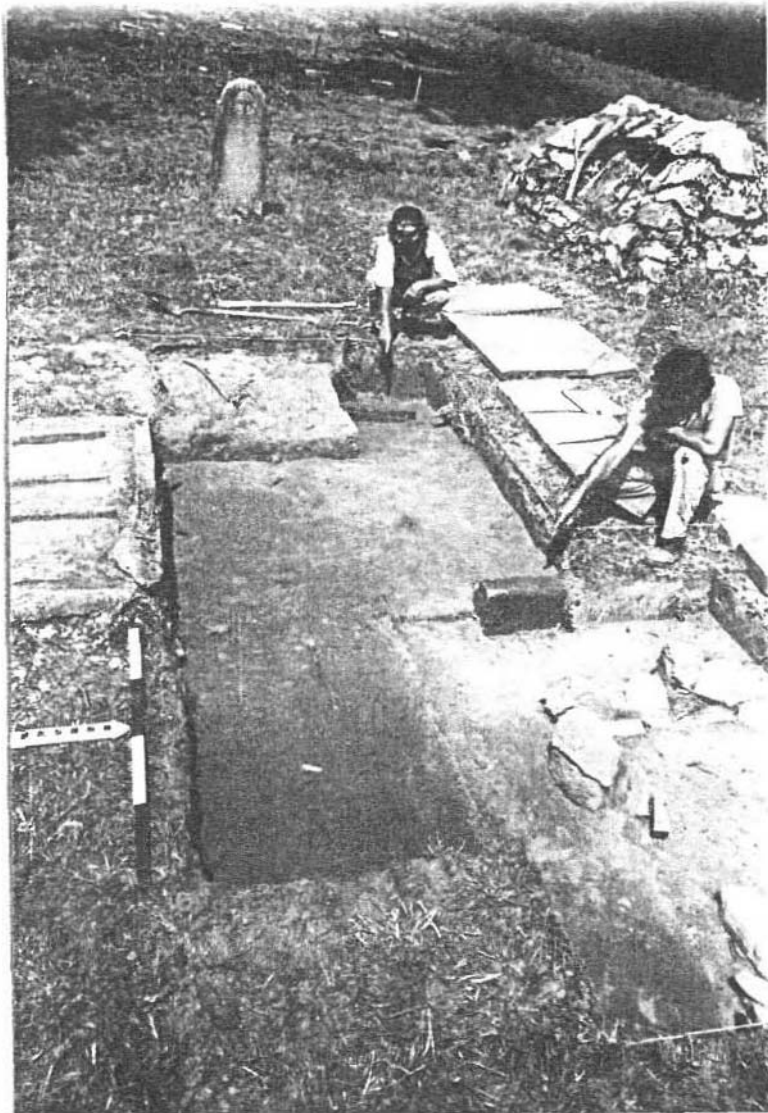


Figure 10. Grave of John Lewis, Aged 4 Yrs (#122). Person in foreground is pointing to base of headstone; person in background is pointing to base of footstone. Photo facing west.



Figure 11. Closeup of footstone fragments buried beneath ground surface, grave of John Lewis, age 4 years (#122). Center piece is base.

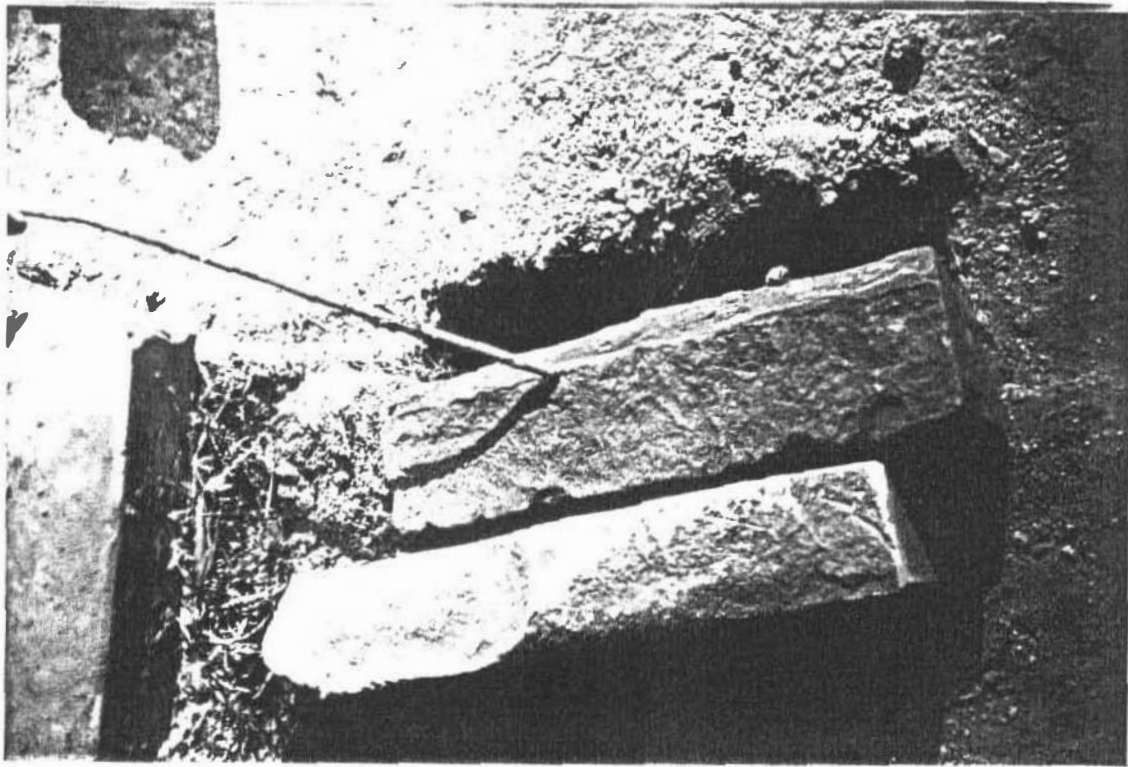


Figure 12. Closeup of footstone base, grave of John Lewis, age 4 years (#122). Pointer located on cut edge of stone where finished face of marker begins.

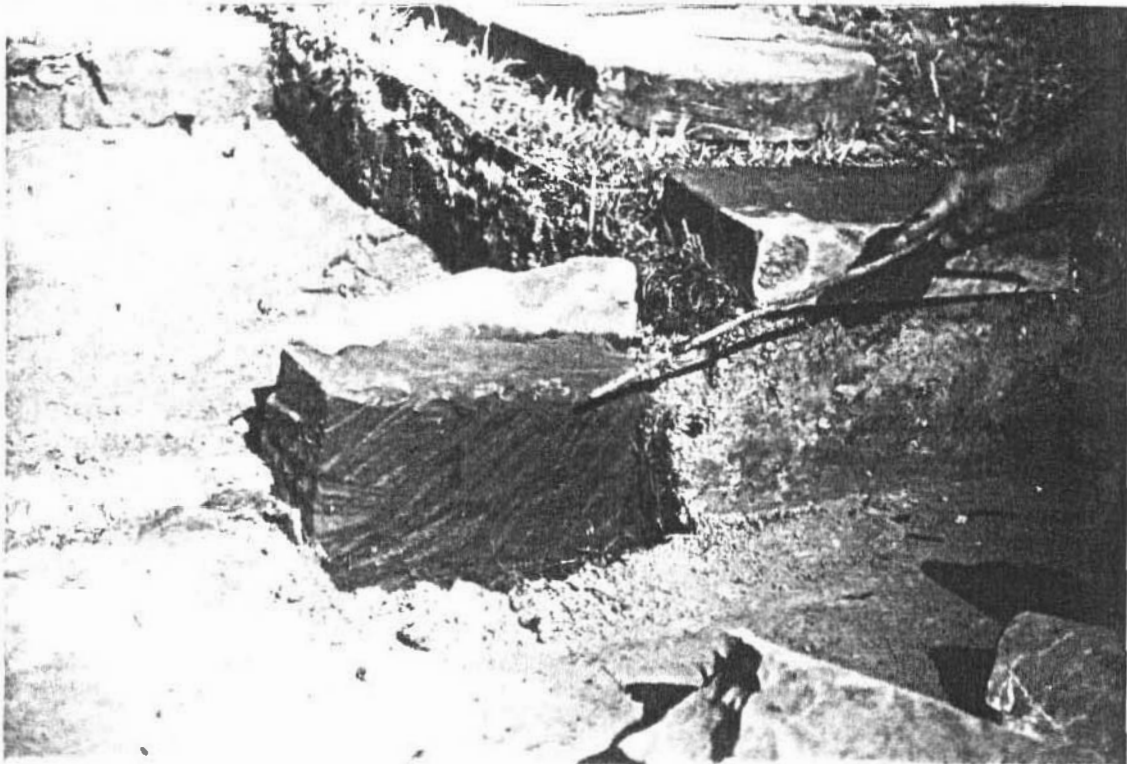


Figure 13. Closeup of side of footstone base showing unfinished surface and quarrying marks. Grave of John Lewis, age 4 years (#122).



Figure 14. Broken pieces of footstone fitted together. Grave of John Lewis, age 4 years (#122).

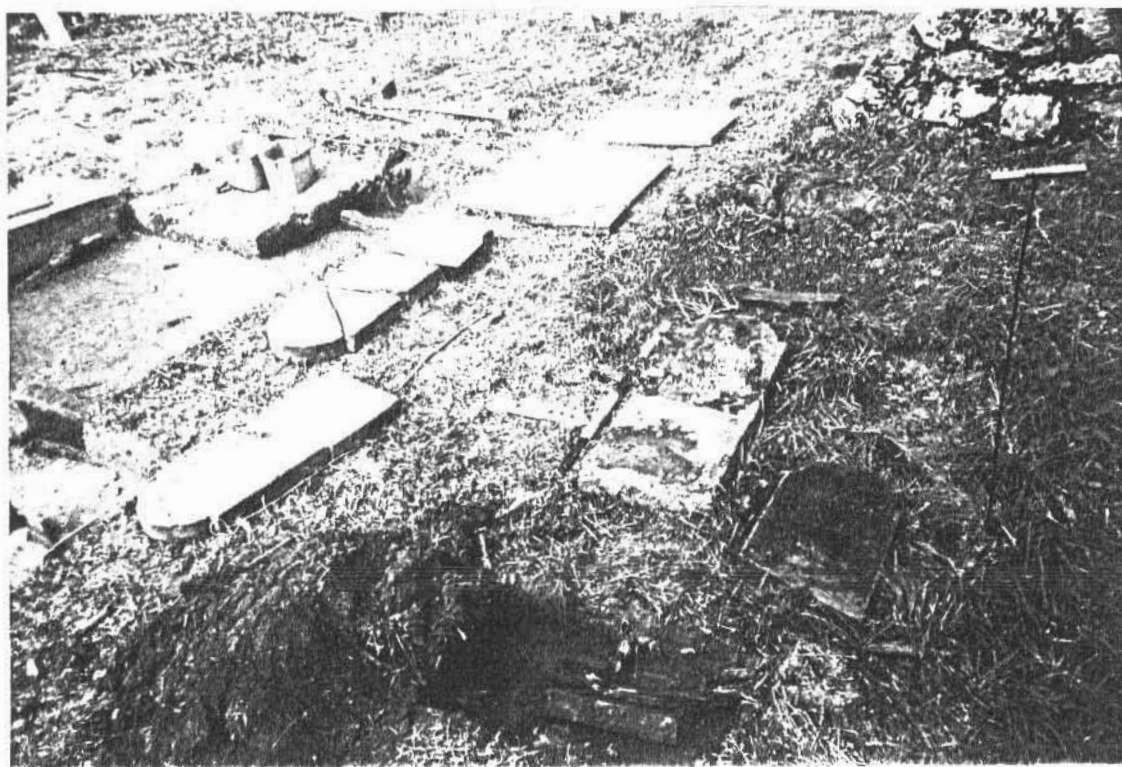


Figure 15. Excavated areas around headstone (far side of photo) and footstone (near side) of Alexander Lewis grave (#123). Probe used to locate marker fragments is shown on right. Alexander Lewis tablet marker located next to scale matches base fragment found beneath ground. Reconstructed pieces of footstone and headstone markers of John Lewis, Aged 4 Yrs (#122) also are visible on left next to excavation area. Photo facing southwest.

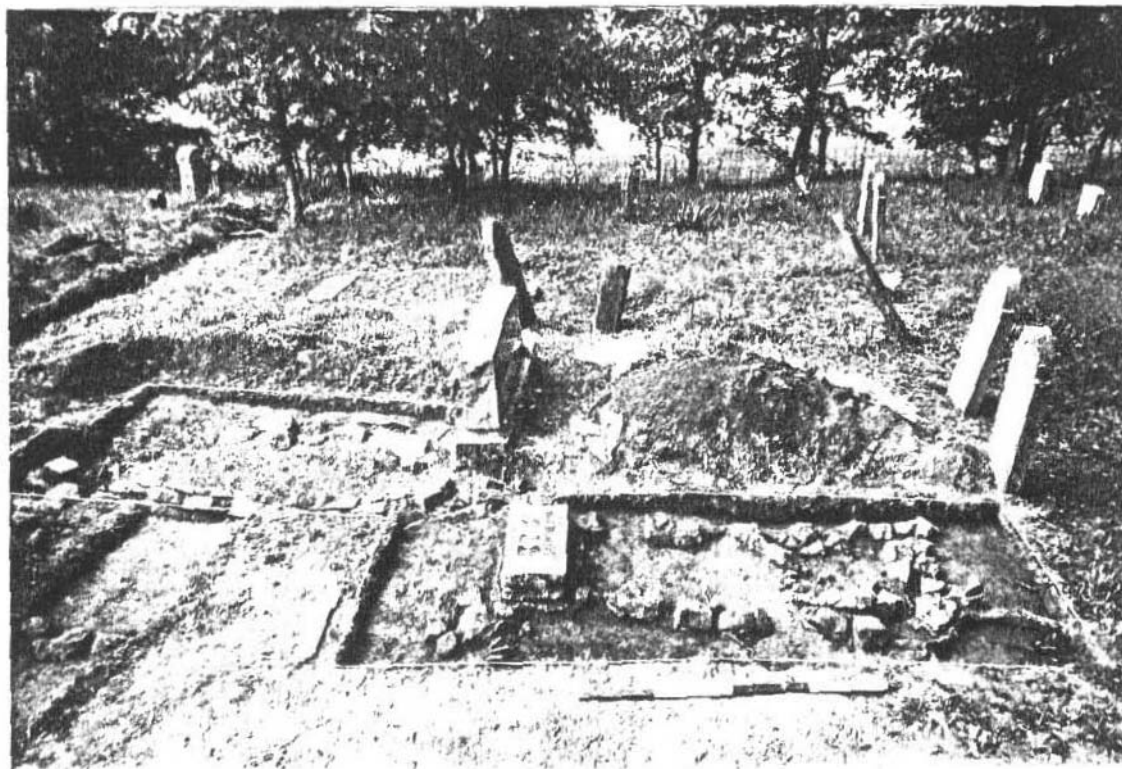


Figure 16. Excavation area south of Letitia Preston Floyd grave showing two graves outlined in stones (#115 on right; #129 on left). Granite marker on near grave: "Anne Stuart Bailey, Feb. 15, 1860-May 10, 1938" (#115). The granite marker was placed on grave in 1960s. Photo facing south.



Figure 17. Closeup of stone outlined grave with Anne Stuart Bailey marker (#115). Photo facing west.

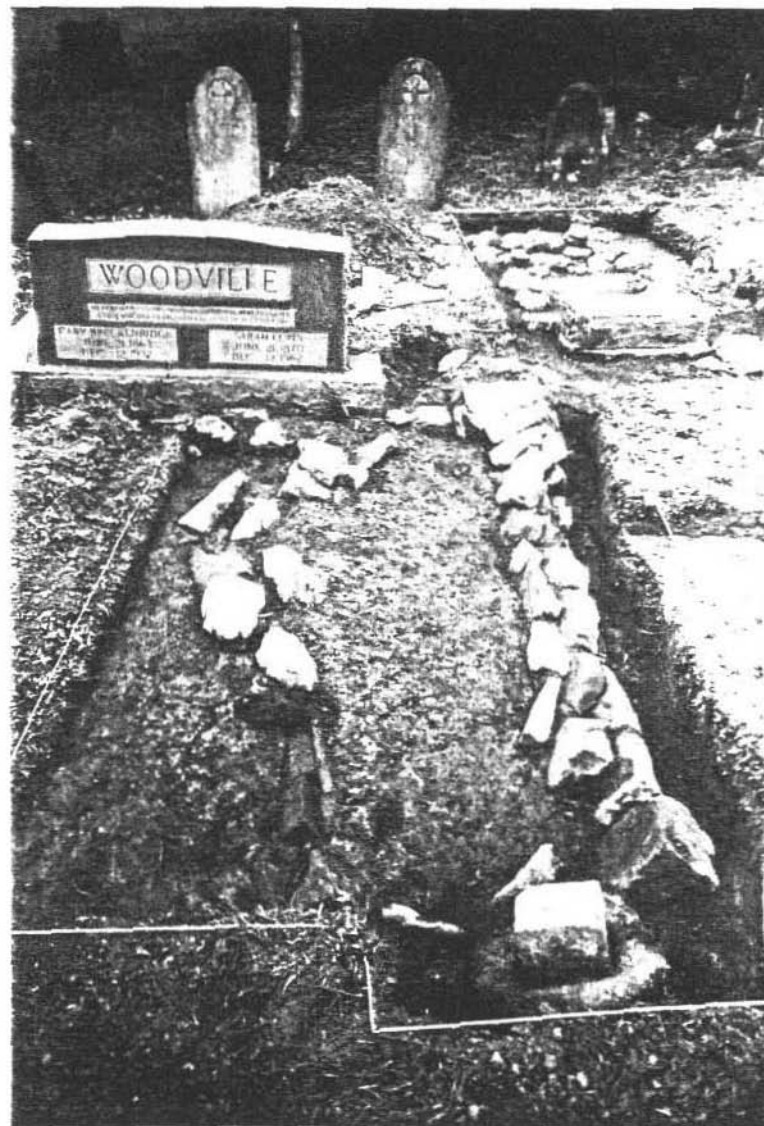
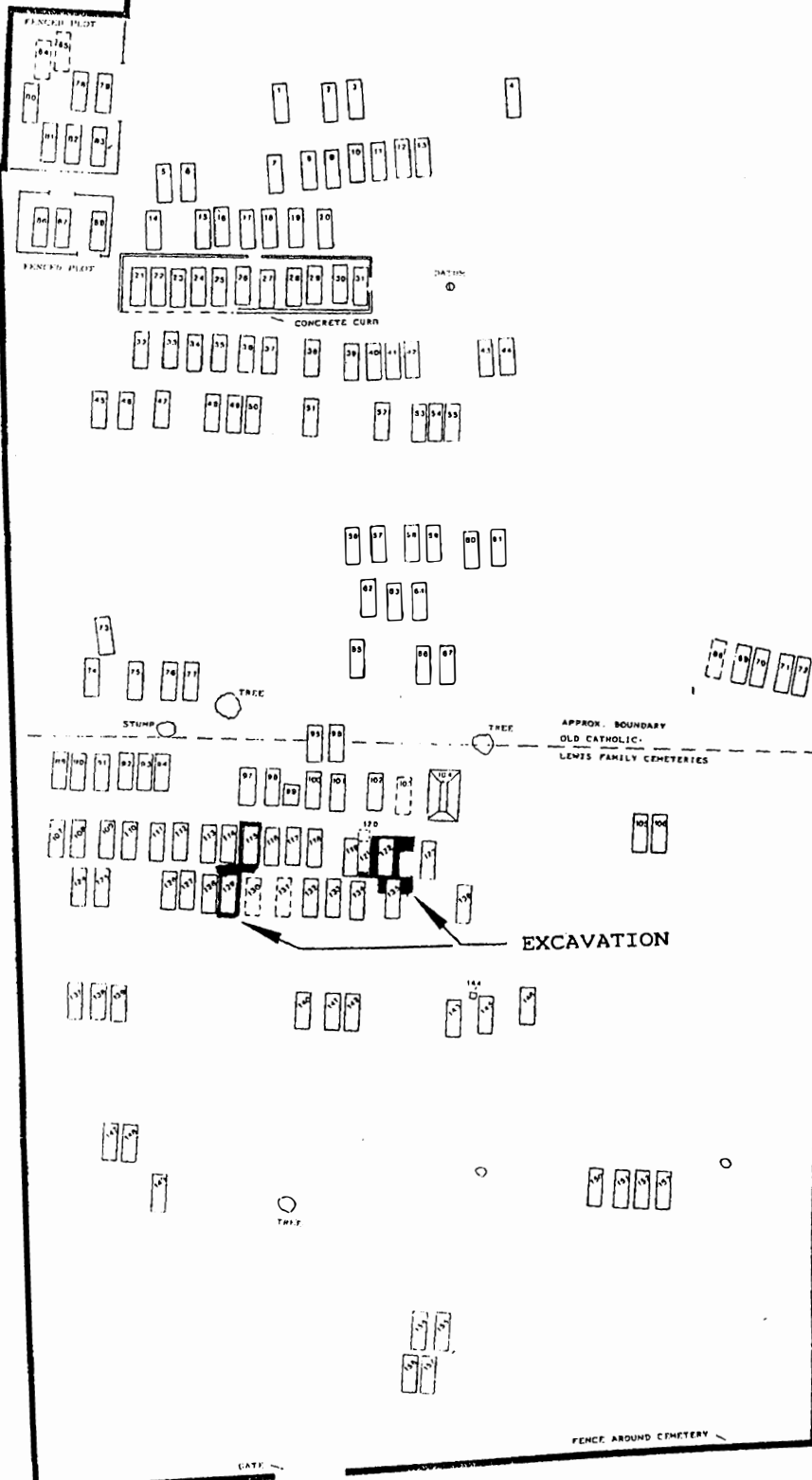
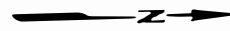


Figure 18. Closeup of stone outlined grave (#129). Note how stones on north (right) side were stacked in courses to form a low wall. Wall fell as grave pit slumped. Photo facing west.

OLD CATHOLIC-LEWIS FAMILY
CEMETERY

SWEET SPRINGS, WV

documentation as of 1990



OLD CATHOLIC AND LEWIS FAMILY CEMETERY
SWEET SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA

KEY TO CEMETERY MAP
As of Summer 1990

PART I: Old Catholic Cemetery

Map No.	Name(s)	Birth Date	Death Date
1	Joseph Halterman		1925
2	Mary Ann Woodville	Dec 4, 1831	July 23, 1883
3	James Lewis Woodville	Jan 8, 1820	Aug 14, 1904
4	unmarked		
5	Brendon Edward Curran	Oct 9, 1930	Nov 5, 1976
6	Edward M. Curran	1910	1971
7	Mary Breckenridge Ferguson	Nov 19, 1892	Nov 26, 1892
8	Joseph Preston Woodville	July 13, 1888	Dec 1, 1964
9	Nancy Paulette Woodville	Aug 1, 1892	Jan 30, 1983
10	Bessie F. Woodville	Nov 4, 1859	Jan 15, 1932
11	unmarked		
12	unmarked		
13	unmarked		
14	Wm M. Curran	March 28, 1887	Dec 13, 1924
15	unmarked		
16	unmarked		
17	unmarked		
18	unmarked		
19	unmarked		
20	unmarked		
21	Mary Curran		
22	Nellie Curran		
23	Anne Curran		
24	John Curran		
25	Mary Kelly Curran (wife of John P. Curran)		
26	John P. Curran	June 3, 1855	July 11, 1931
27	Mary E. Curran		Mar 21, 1893
28	Michael Joseph Curran	Sept 20, 1883	Oct 28, 1891
29	Margaret Hanifin		Jan 25, 1892
30	Timothy Curran		Ap 5, 1902
31	Mary Curran		Dec 24, 1901
32	Emma Curran	1892	1981
33	Annie C. Wendell	1888	1922
34	John T. Curran	1886	1906
35	Patrick Curran, Sr.	1858	1936
36	Julia A. Curran	1858	1926
37	Patrick J. Curran	1894	1929

38	John P. Kelly	Mar 27, 1855	Nov 10, 1890
39	(two names on headstone)		
40	Honara Kelly	May 3, 1821	June 27, 1891
	John Kelly	June 24, 1812	July 4, 1887
41	Bonnie Kelly	Jan 29, 1857	Jan 29, 1885
42	Jas. O'B. Kelly	Sept 19, 1861	June 28, 1889
43	unmarked		
44	unmarked		
45	Mary Moriarty	1887	1926
46	John Moriarty	1856	1928
47	Julia Elizabeth Hogan Moriarty		
		Oct 28, 1859	July 18, 1922
48	unmarked		
49	unmarked		
50	unmarked		
51	unmarked		
52	Mary Callaghan		Feb. 17, 1908
53	Robert Callaghan		Oct. 10, 1896
54	Infant Daug. Sizer		b. & d. May 18, 1906
55	Infant Daug. Sizer		b. & d. Oct. 9, 1911
56	Wm Michael Reardon	June 2, 1913	July 2, 1913
57	unmarked		
58	unmarked		
59	John Dillon	1858	1901
60	unmarked		
61	unmarked		
62	unmarked		
63	unmarked		
64	unmarked		
65	unmarked		
66	unmarked		
67	unmarked		
68	unmarked		
69	John Paul Cook	Aug 8, 1910	April 1, 1914
70	Catherine Murphy	Dec 11, 1851	Jan 21, 1914
71	John Joseph Murphy		Ap 10, 1909
72	Mary Murphy		Dec. 14, 1886
73	unmarked		
74	unmarked		
75	unmarked		
76	unmarked		
77	brass marker on tree at side of grave has this inscription: "died 1912 Nancy C. Bowyer"		
78	Jane Mahan		Feb 14, 1908
79	Charles E. Worsham	April 5, 1868	Oct 25, 1899
80	Ruth Hope Jenkins		
81	Susie C. Jenkins	1883	1956
82	Benjamin A. Jenkins	Nov 13, 1889	July 4, 1923
83	Madeline L. Jenkins	May 10, 1914	Mar 12, 1918
84	unmarked		
85	unmarked		
86	Daniel C. Worsham	Ap 2, 1845	Aug 24, 1910
87	Mary Martha Worsham	July 24, 1841	May 1, 1916
88	Etta Worsham	Nov 29, 1866	Sept 6, 1944

PART II: Lewis Family Cemetery

Note: Not all graves in this part of the cemetery have yet been located.

Map No.	Name(s)	Birth Date	Death Date
89	Clement Austin Damen	June 16, 1900	July 14, 1968
90	Margaret Damen	Nov 11, 1911	Nov 30, 1980
91	unmarked		
92	unmarked		
93	unmarked		
94	unmarked		
95	Henry Hendon Holmes	1853	1893
96	Mennie Holmes	Jan 27, 1855	Nov 17, 1923
97	Dennis J. Stack	(age 27)	May 20, 1848
98	unmarked (only base of headstone present)		
99	James Galt	(age 13 mo)	Sept 10, 1816
100	Lavalette Floyd Holmes		Sept 12, 1887
101	George Frederick Holmes	Aug 21, 1820	Nov 4, 1897
102	Henry Lewis Bailey	Feb, 1852	Aug 18, 1881
103	unmarked		
104	Cairn: erected by Miss Coralie Lewis between 1930s and 1960s over graves of		
	William Lewis	1754	1811
	Ann Montgomery Lewis	1737	1808
105	Susie, da. of W.M. & M.E. Reardon	(Age 7 yrs 9 mo)	May 26, 1885
106	Grover, son of W.M. & M.E. Reardon	(Age 7 yrs 10 mo 8 ds)	Feb 1, 1892
107	Coralie Floyd Lewis	Mar 17, 1881	Oct 20, 1966
108	Florence Catherine Lewis	June 30, 1848	Aug 6, 1924
109	Mary Lynn Lewis	Dec 18, 1876	Nov 26, 1916
110	Charles Patton Lewis	Aug 16, 1853	Oct 5, 1914
111	Florence Catherine Lewis	Dec 22, 1872	Dec 15, 1889
112	Letitia Preston Lewis	Dec 22, 1872	Dec 15, 1889
113	William Lynn Lewis IV	Apr 9, 1872	Aug 9, 1872
114	Sara Letitia Lewis	Apr 3, 1860	Apr 3, 1860
115A	unmarked, lined with stones as found in archaeological investigation		
115B	Anne Stuart Bailey	Feb 15, 1860	May 10, 1938
	(modern marker; may be in wrong place; could be associated with #129)		
116	unmarked		
117	unmarked, interpreted to be grave of Letitia Preston Floyd		Dec 12, 1852
	concrete slab marker constructed on grave in 1990		
118	John Floyd		Aug 21, 1837

119A	John Lewis	1754	June 8, 1823
119B	Mary Preston, wife of John Lewis,	1776	Feb 4, 1821
	"buried by his side"		
120	unmarked (not completely defined)		
121	unmarked (could be grave of Mary Preston, #119B)		
122	John Lewis	(age 4 yrs)	1803
123	Alexander Lewis	(age 35 yrs)	1806
124	Mary Helen Jones	Aug 29, 1838	June 1, 1921
125	Robert McClandish Jones	May 18, 1838	Aug 24, 1913
126	Lavalette Lewis Keily	Oct 15, 1878	May 2, 1957
127	William Lynn Lewis	June 13, 1844	Ap 8, ????
	(death date covered in concrete)		
128	Gary Breckinridge Woodville		
	Sarah Lewis Woodville	June 21, 1863	Dec 12, 1932
		Jun 21, 1870	Dec 14, 1962
129	unmarked		
130	unmarked		
131	unmarked		
132	Letitia Floyd Lewis		Feb 16, 1886
133	William Lynn Lewis		Oct 16, 1869
134	unmarked, probably grave of Letitia Preston Floyd Frederick Osborne		
	the edge of this grave was exposed in excavation		
135	unmarked, outlined with stones as found in excavation		
136	"Tom and Dinah, Faithful Slaves"		d. 1800
137	unmarked		
138	unmarked		
139	unmarked		
140	unmarked		
141	unmarked		
142	unmarked		
143	unmarked		
144	five names on four-sided column marker		
	Mrs. Bridget Rowan (same as #145), b. County Mayo, Ireland		
		(Aged 66 yrs)	d. Oct, 1861
	Willie Rowan	(Aged 6 mo)	Aug, 1868
	John J. Rowan, Died Winchester, Kentucky		
		(Aged 27 yrs)	Aug 10, 1882
	James V. Rowan, Died Low Moor, Va.		
		(Aged 18 yr)	June 20, 1883
	Patrick J. Rowan, Died White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.		
		(Aged 25 yrs)	Feb 23, 1882
145	Bridget Rowan	(Age 66 yrs)	Oct, 1861
	(same as #144)		
	b. Parish Crossmaliny, County Mayo, Ireland		
146	John T. Mulvihill	June 14, 1857	Feb 14, 1862
147	Philip Preston Keiley	1905	1974
148	Madeleine Leclerc	1909	(not deceased)
149	Mary Fox, dau of Pat Fox & Sarah Lewis,		
	Born at Allegheny Station, Va.		
		May 14, 1867	July 29, 1869
150	Timothy, son of Dennis and Mary Leary		
		(Aged 27 yrs)	March 9, 1889

151 Dennis Leary, Sr. Born in Castletown County, Cork, Ireland
in 1819
Died near Callaghan, Alleghany Co., Va
152 Peter J. Leary (Aged 27 yrs) July 23, 1884
153 Dennis J., Son of Dennis & Mary Leary Nov 13, 1887
(Aged 31 yrs) Dec 5, 1889
154 unmarked
155 Jane Leehy, Native of Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland
1784 Sept 15, 1869
156 unmarked
157 Timothy Leehy, born in Dingle, Dispoil Parrish, Kerry Co.,
Ireland (Aged 52 yrs) March 26, 1870

Totals: 57 unmarked graves
108 marked graves
165 total graves