The Vital Dead: Making Meaning, Community & Identity in Rockbridge Cemeteries

Alison Bell
Professor of Anthropology, W&L

Rockbridge Historical Society

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church

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Maps courtesy of Don Gaylord
“Survivors of Concentration Camps”
Temple Emanuel Cemetery, Roanoke

“Look Ye on High – We Are Not here”
Weavers Mennonite Church Cemetery, Harrisonburg
The Meadow Natural Burial Ground, Rockbridge County

Riverview Cemetery, Waynesboro
Western State Hospital Cemetery, Staunton
Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Augusta County

Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista
Anthropology
Behavior
Culture
material culture
Don’t only read what we have written; look at what we have done.
“In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander who departed this life on the 10th day of May 1808 Aged 25 years.

“How loved how valued once avails thee not To whom related or by whom begot A heap of dust remains of thee Tis all Thou art and all mankind must be.”

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
“Dust to dust here; life there with wife and daughter that crossed over before him!”

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
“In memory of Nathan A. Son of Sam’l and Isabella G. Lackey, born March 11th, 1842, and fell at the Battle of Chancellorsville May 3rd 1863. From the din of war the cannon’s roar His favored soul he bore And with yon bright angelick form He lives to die no more.

“Also John T. Son of Sam’l and Isabella G. Lackey, born Dec. 25th 1851 Died June 10th 1863 He took the from a world of care In everlasting bliss to share”

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
Tympanum and shoulders

Door, death as departure

Headboard, death as sleep

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
Fairview Cemetery, Staunton
Oak Grove Cemetery, Lexington
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton
Glasgow Cemetery, Rockbridge County
Greenwood Ames Cemetery, Bridgewater
TRISSEL

OUR CHILDREN

RONALD LeROY SEPT. 19, 1945
LARRY DEWITT MAY 16, 1948
DAVID LLOYD, JR. DEC. 23, 1950
DENNIS WAYNE SEPT. 13, 1953
GREGORY LYNN MAY 25, 1961

OUR PARENTS

JOHN H. & LILLIE HESS TRISSEL
PETER W. & MAE SHANK, BLOSSER

Weavers
Mennonite Church Cemetery,
Harrisonburg
“Remember me as you pass by. As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, you soon shall be. Prepare for death and follow me.

“I told you I was sick”

James Deetz,
Western Maryland

http://www.histarch.illinois.edu/plymouth/JDeetzMarker.html
“Here lyes the intard body of John McKy who departed his life in the year of our Lord 1773 being the 70 year of his age, after living a Cristen life A loving husband A Tender Parent & a Faithful friend &c” Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
“Remamber man as you pas by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now you soon will be
Therefore think on Eternity”

Nethanel Evins
Bulder
Glasgow Cemetery, Rockbridge County

https://gravelyspeaking.com/2015/09/10/the-willow-and-the-urn/
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County
Henry Glassie – Historic Virginia Houses (case study in Louisa County)
Elk Run Cemetery, Elkton
Morning Star, Temple Hill, Bland County
Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista
Lebanon Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Rockbridge County
Weavers Mennonite Church Cemetery, Harrisonburg
Sharon Union Baptist Church, Alleghany County

Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista
Prospect Hill Cemetery, Front Royal
Augusta Memorial Park, Augusta County
Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista
Timber Ridge ARP Church Cemetery, Rockbridge County
WAYNE LEWIS SHERMAN
MAY 10, 1961
JULY 11, 2013
BELOVED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS
SERVANT OF THE COMMUNITY

GIRLIE

Timber Ridge
ARP Church
Cemetery,
Rockbridge
County
“Curt”

Everyday we will celebrate you, love you, include you, thank God for you. We will be together forever... someday, never to say good-bye again.

Love Mommy, Daddy, Clay, and Alexandra

Prospect Hill Cemetery
Front Royal
Evergreen Cemetery, Lexington
WILLIAM DALLAS BETHEA, JR.
1918 – 2006
FROM THE DEPRESSION TO THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE TO SUN
SWEPT SHORES OF CALIFORNIA AND
HAWAII, YOU AND MOM TAUGHT
US HOW TO LIVE AND SAVOR LIFE
REMEMBER WE LOVE YOU, GRANDDADDY
SHANK
RALPH WILLIAM
MAY 19, 1921
NOV. 24, 1997
SON OF
JOHN & IRENE SHANK
FATHER OF
WILLIAM STEVEN SHANK
"DON'T JUST STAND THERE,
GET READY!" PS. 34:18

Weavers
Mennonite Church
Cemetery,
Harrisonburg
Glasgow Cemetery,
Rockbridge County
“As you pass by, remember me. As you are now, so once was I. As I am now you soon will be. Prepare for death and follow me.”

Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Augusta County.