

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

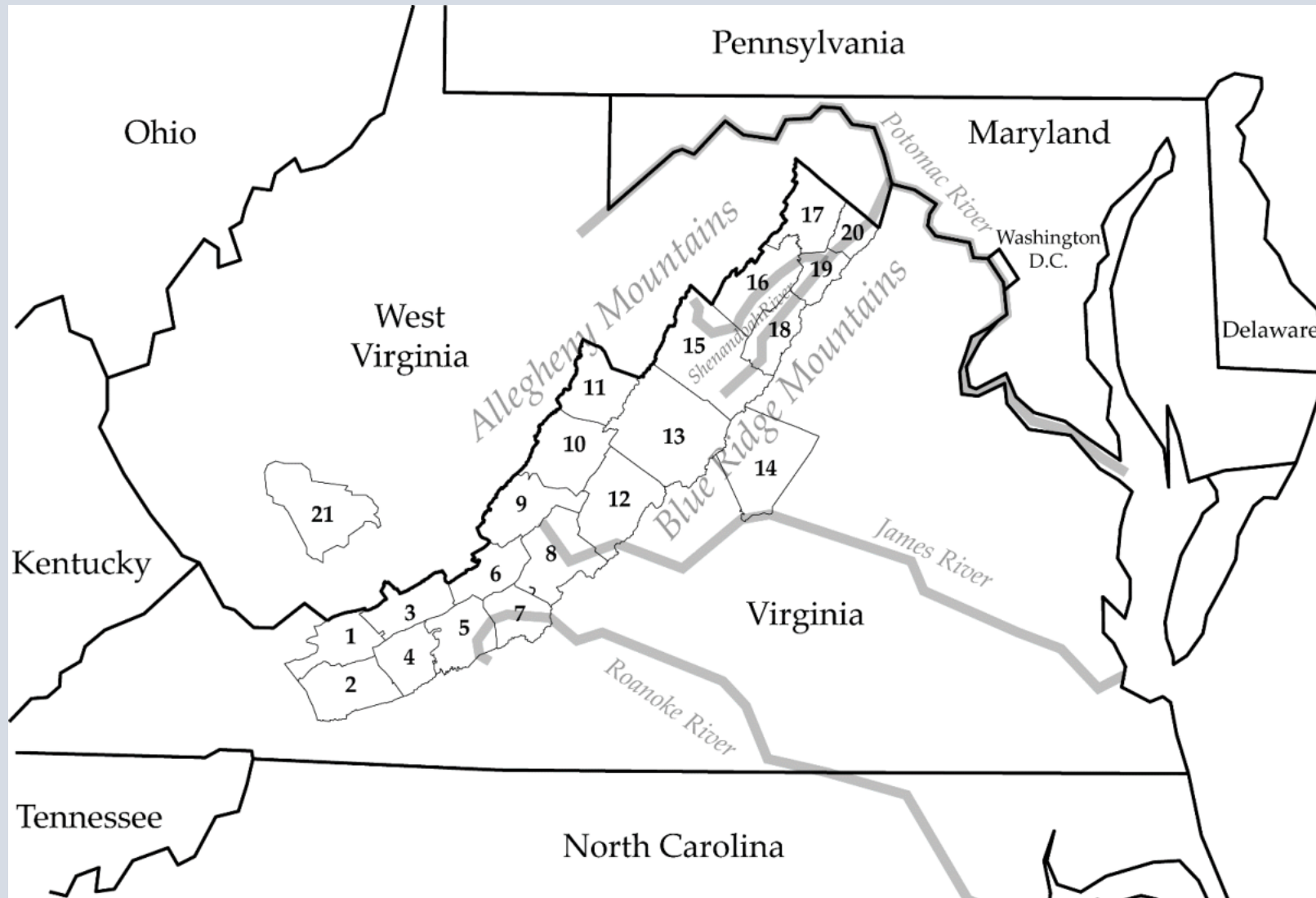
Alison Bell
Professor of
Anthropology,
W&L

Rockbridge
Historical
Society



Timber
Ridge
Presbyterian
Church

April 30,
2023



Virginia Counties

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 - Bland | 5 - Montgomery | 9 - Allegheny | 13 - Augusta | 17 - Frederick |
| 2 - Wythe | 6 - Craig | 10 - Bath | 14 - Albemarle | 18 - Page |
| 3 - Giles | 7 - Roanoke | 11 - Highland | 15 - Rockingham | 19 - Warren |
| 4 - Pulaski | 8 - Botetourt | 12 - Rockbridge | 16 - Shenandoah | 20 - Clark |

West Virginia County

- 21 - Raleigh

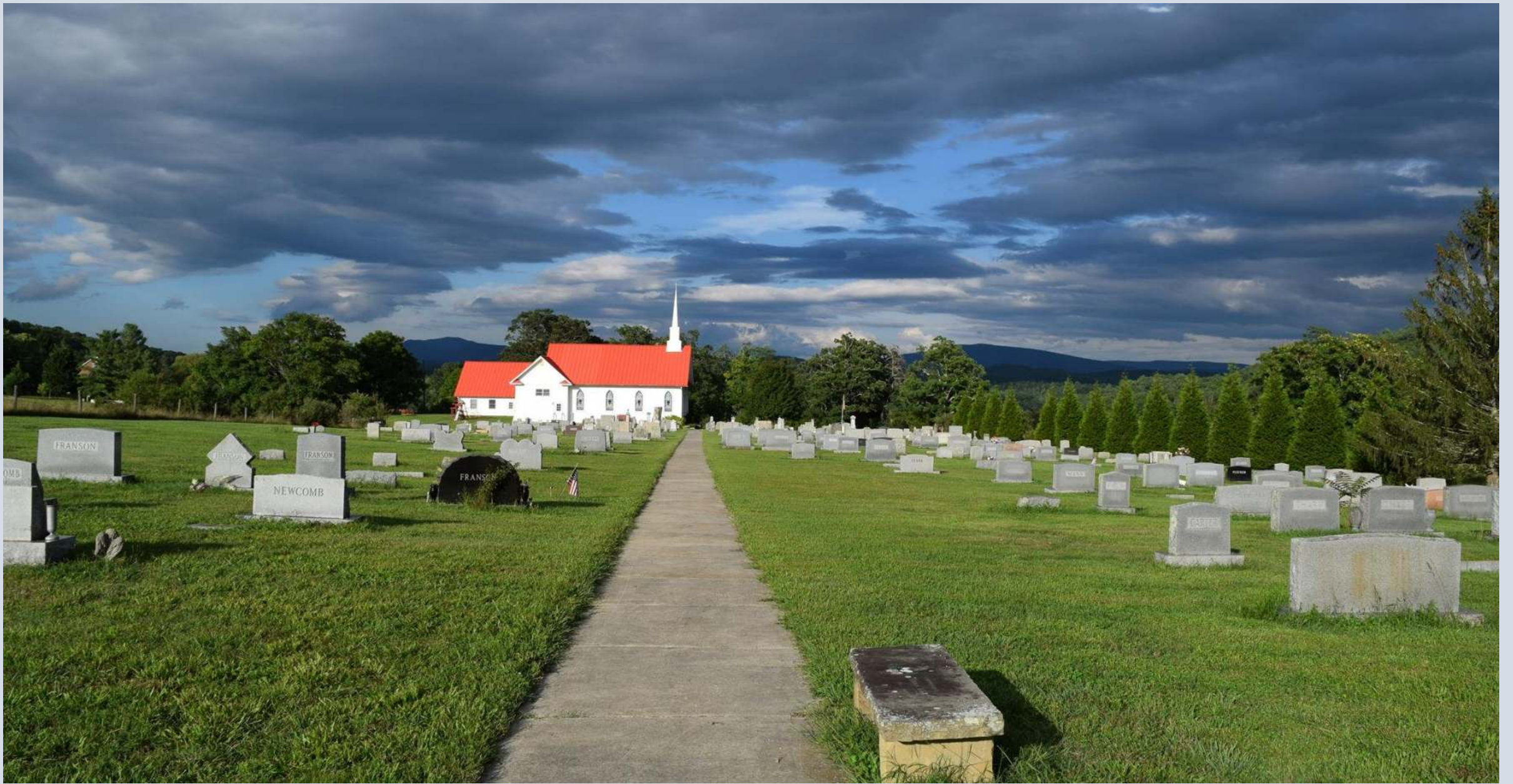
Maps courtesy of
Don Gaylord

- 1-Daughters of Zion
- 2-Hebrew Cemetery
- 3-Holly Memorial Gardens
- 4-Lincoln
- 5-Maplewood
- 6-Monticello Memorial Park
- 7-Oakwood
- 8-Riverview (Charlottesville)
- 9-University of Virginia
- 10-Hillsboro
- 11-Mt. Plain
- 12-Piedmont
- 13-Emmanuel
- 14-Ivy
- 15-St. Pauls
- 16-Sharon (Union)
- 17-Lone Star
- 19-St. Peter's
- 20-Ebenezer Methodist
- 21-Fishersville United Methodist
- 22-Tinkling Spring
- 23-Greenville
- 24-Greenville Baptist
- 25-Greenville United
- 26-Fairview
- 27-Staunton National
- 28-Temple House of Israel
- 29-Thornrose
- 30-Trinity

- 31-Western State
- 32-Verona United Methodist
- 33-Bethlehem Lutheran
- 34-Old Presbyterian
- 35-Riverview (Waynesboro)
- 36-Serenity Gardens
- 37-Arbor Hill
- 38-Augusta Memorial Gardens
- 39-Bethlehem Methodist
- 40-Calvary United
- 41-Elk Run
- 42-Glebe Burying Ground
- 43-McKinley
- 44-Mount Hermon
- 45-Mount Vernon
- 46-Pines Chapel
- 47-Shemaria
- 48-St. James
- 49-George W. Cleek
- 50-Windy Cove
- 51-Woodland Union
- 69-Blue Grass
- 70-McDowell (Highland)
- 86-New Providence
- 87-Green Hill
- 88-Nowlin (Green Hill)
- 89-Knick
- 90-McDowell (Rockbridge)



- 91-Timber Ridge
- 92-Evergreen (Glasgow)
- 93-Glasgow
- 94-Ancient Jane Burial
- 95-Lexington Colored Cemetery (Former)
- 96-Evergreen (Lexington)
- 97-Lee Chapel
- 98-The Meadow (green burial ground)
- 99-Rockbridge Memorial Gardens
- 100-Oak Grove (formerly Stonewall Jackson Memorial)
- 101-Natural Bridge
- 102-Mt. Carmel
- 103-Alone Community (Bethany)
- 104-Andrews
- 105-Cedar Hill
- 106-Collerstown
- 107-Falling Spring
- 108-Immanuel
- 109-Lebanon
- 110-Mount Lydia
- 111-Mt. Zion
- 112-Neriah
- 113-Oxford
- 114-Paxton
- 115-Wesley Chapel
- 128-Mossy Creek



Woodland Union Church Cemetery, Bath County



“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



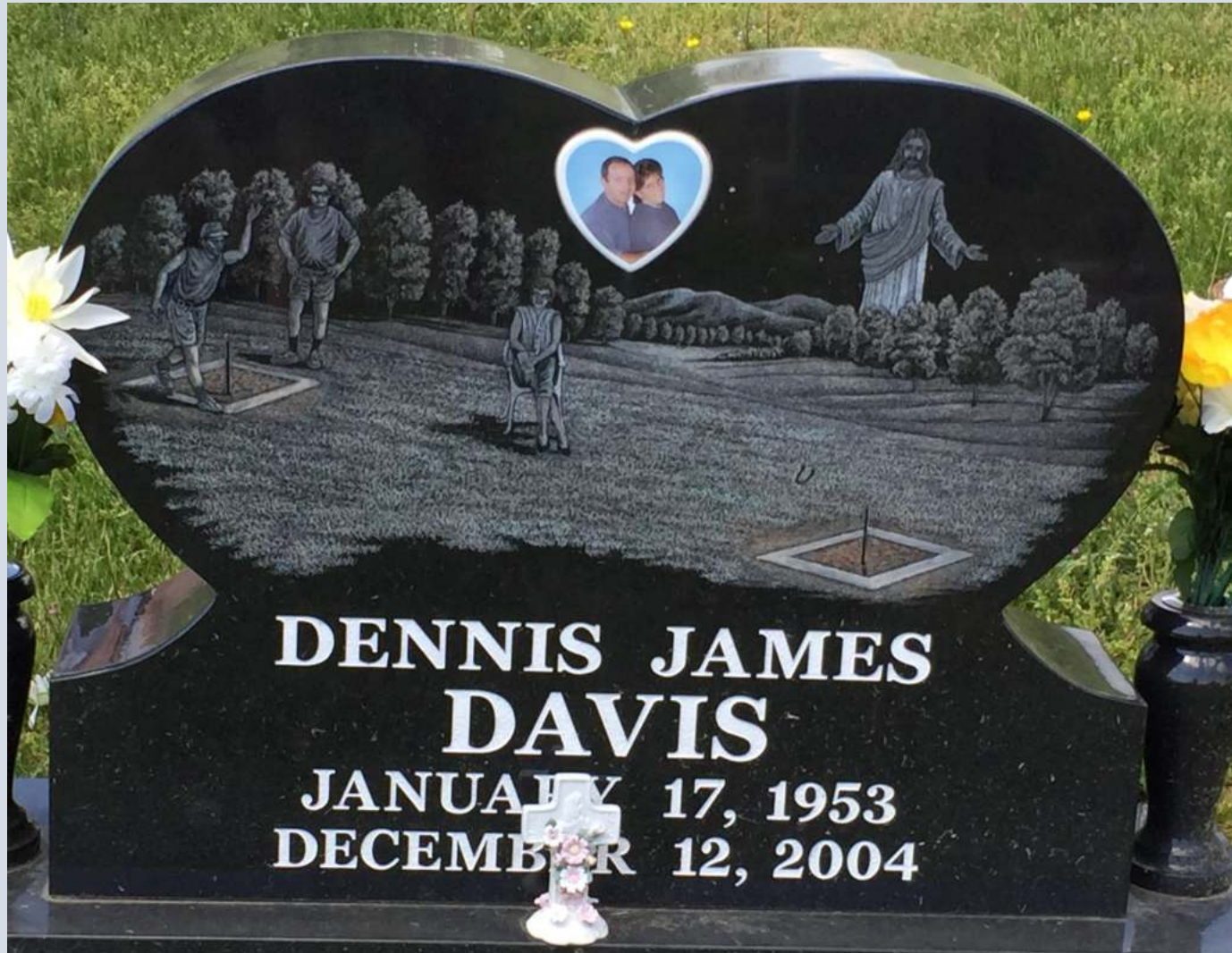
Footstone of
Wonderful P.
Pettigrew taken on
Memorial Day 2019,
Evergreen
Cemetery,
Lexington.
Photograph courtesy
of Eric Wilson.



Blue Grass
Cemetery,
Highland
County



Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church
Cemetery, Augusta County



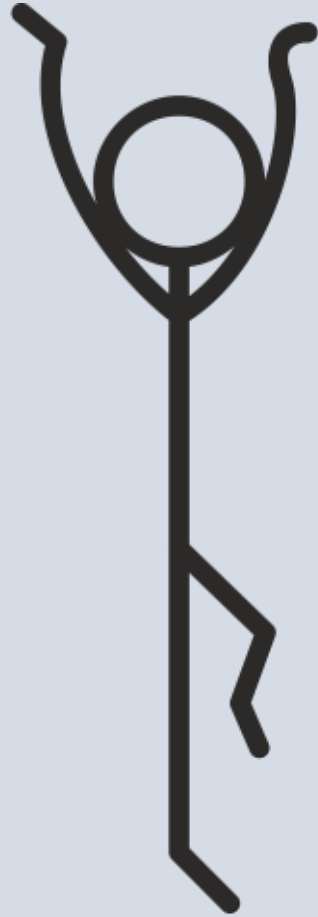
Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista

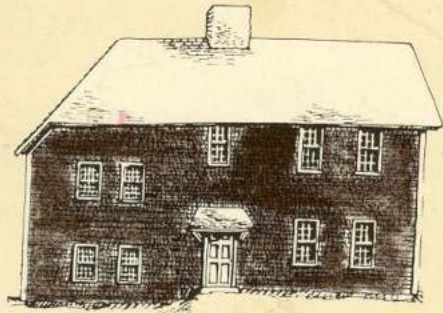
Anthropology

Behavior

Culture

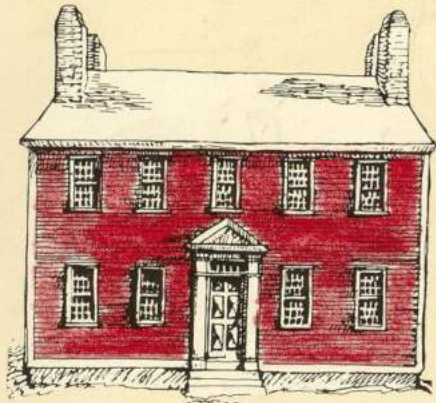
material culture





In Small Things Forgotten

THE ARCHEOLOGY
OF EARLY AMERICAN LIFE



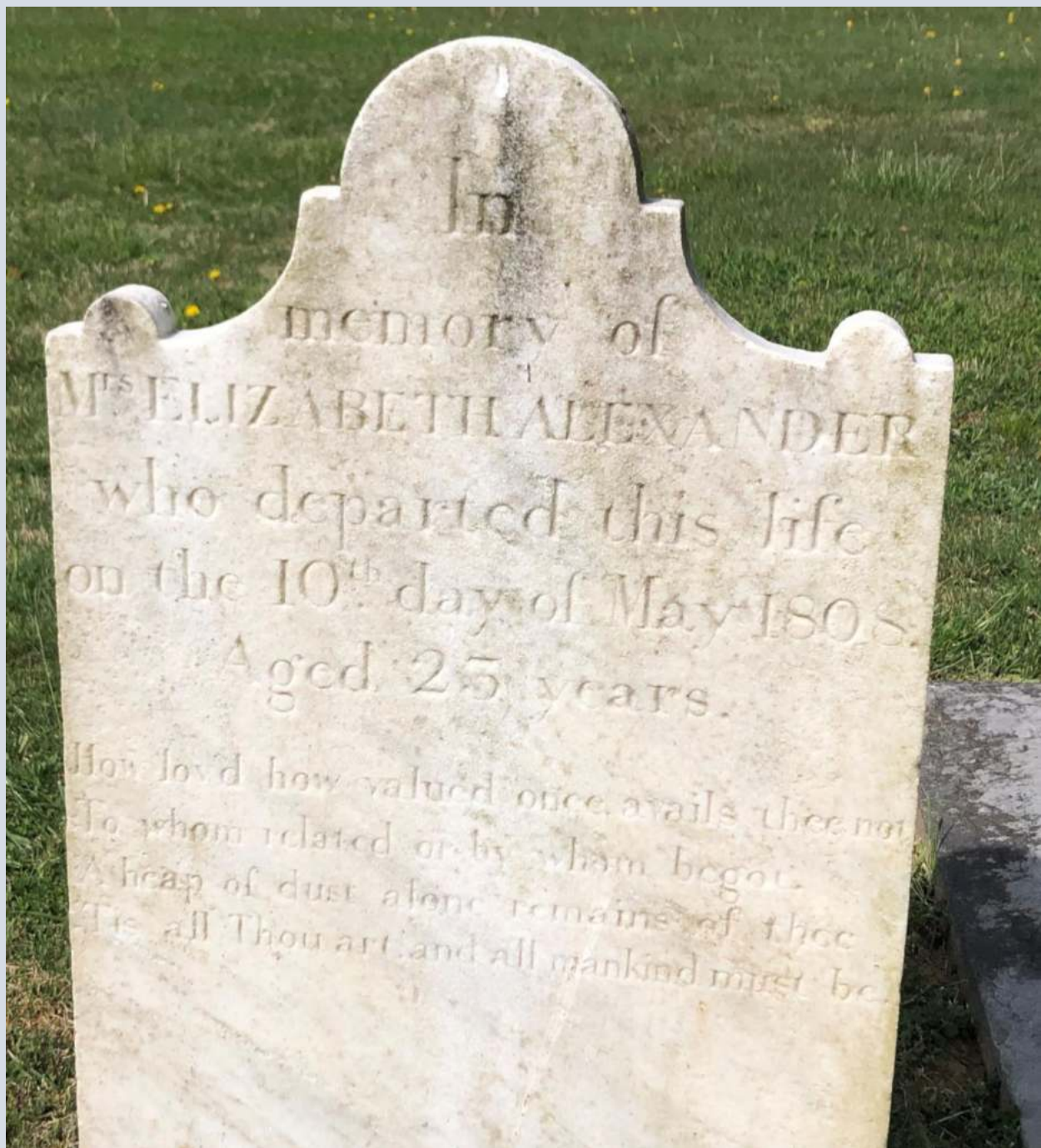
James Deetz

author of Invitation to Archaeology

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



Timber Ridge
ARP Church
Cemetery,
Rockbridge
County



Oak Grove
Cemetery,
Lexington

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County

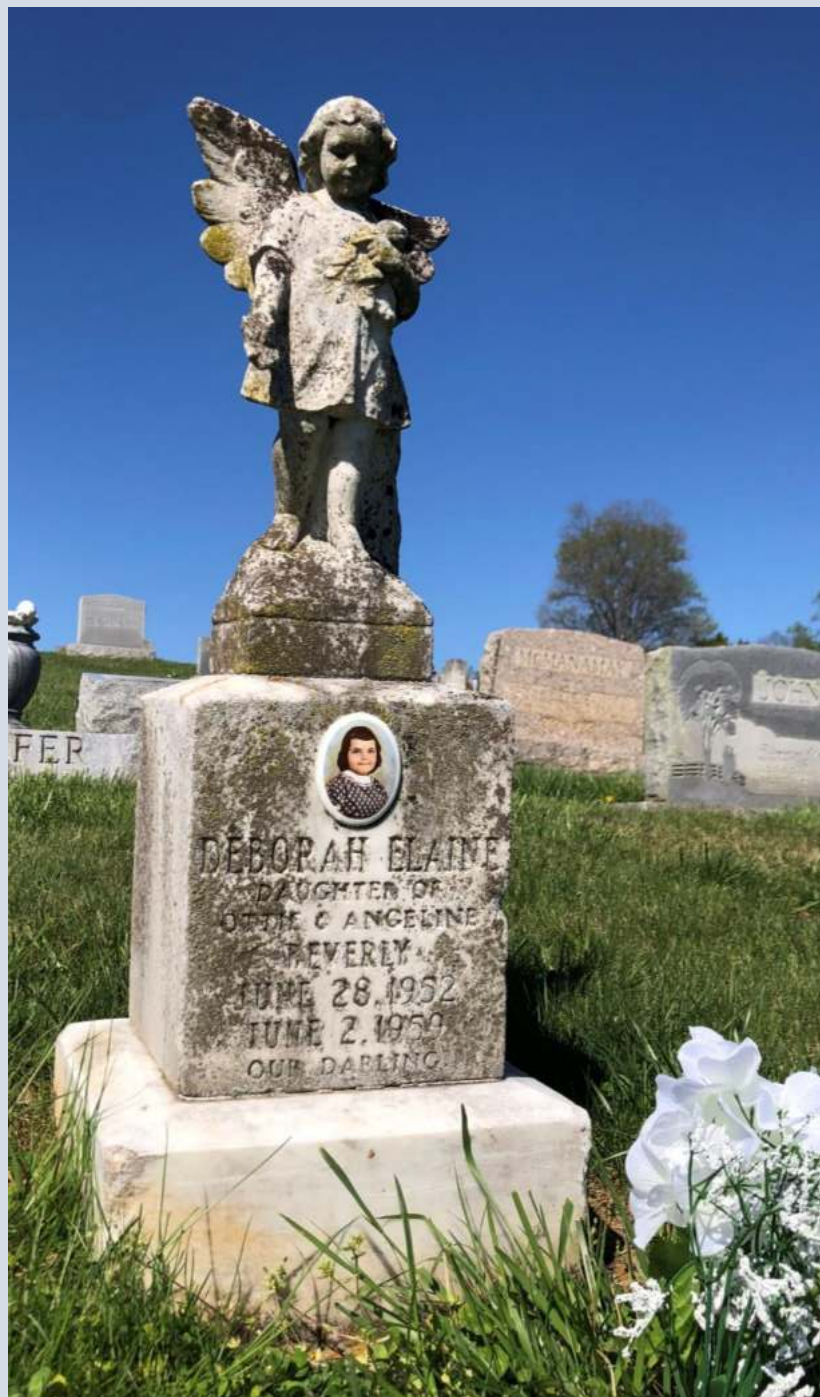




Thornrose
Cemetery,
Staunton



Glasgow Cemetery,
Rockbridge County



Green Hill
Cemetery,
Buena Vista



Greenwood Ames
Cemetery,
Bridgewater



Timber Ridge
ARP Church
Cemetery,
Rockbridge
County →



←
Thornrose
Cemetery,
Staunton

TRISSEL

OUR CHILDREN
RONALD LeROY SEPT. 19, 1945
LARRY DEWITT MAY 16, 1948
DAVID LLOYD, JR. DEC. 25, 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





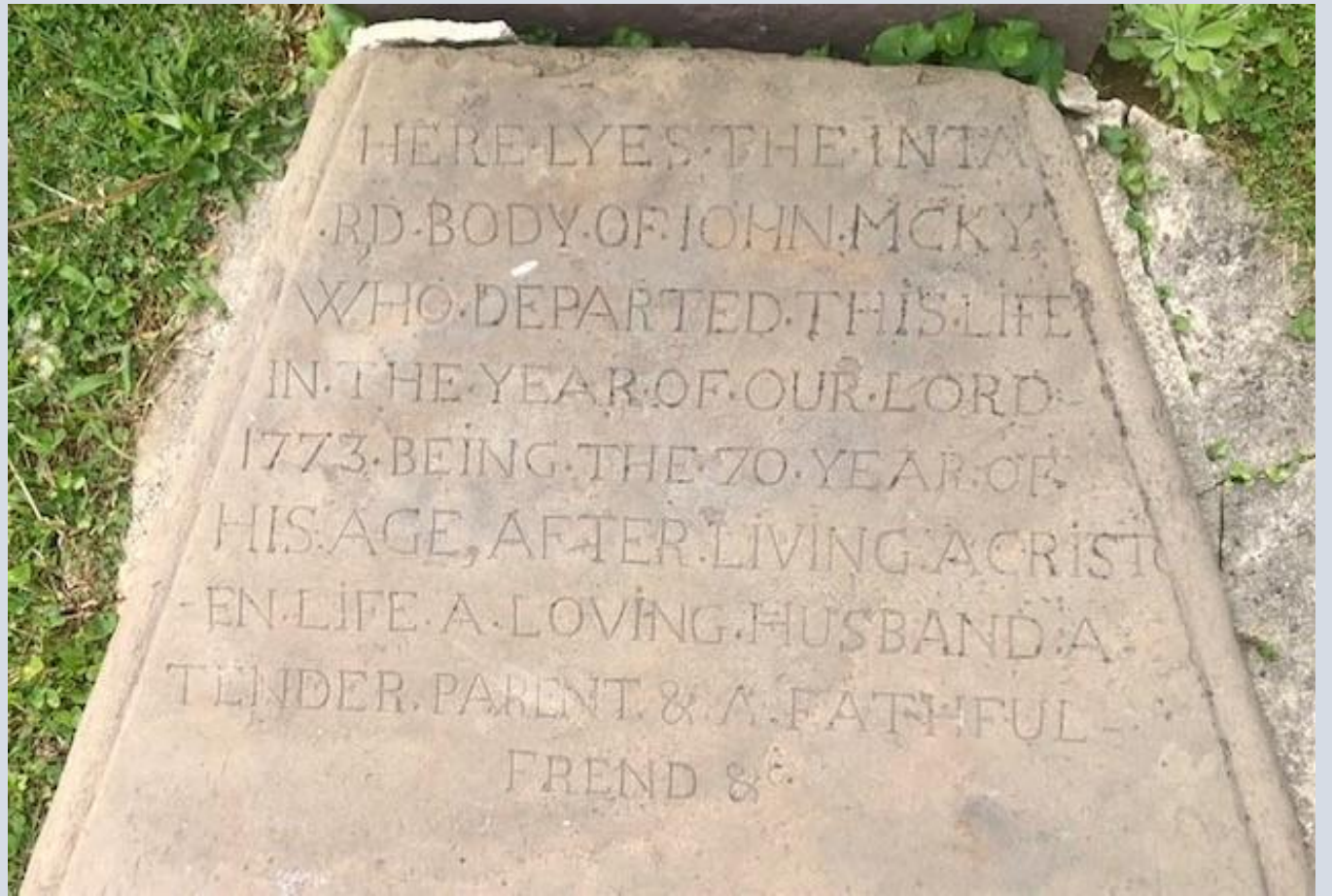
http://www.oldburialhill.org/pond/pond_cluster_03a.html



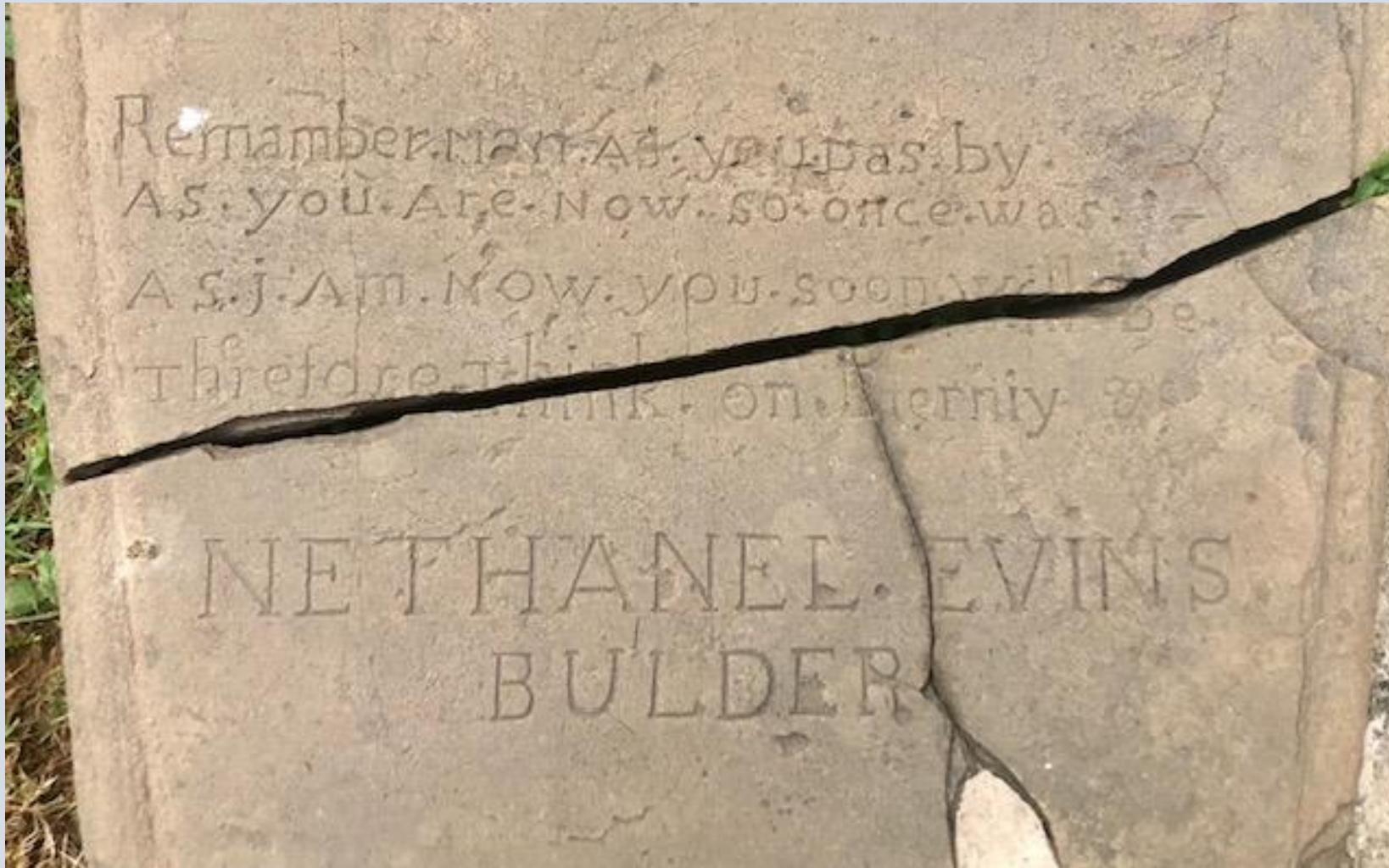
**“Remember me as you pass by.
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, you soon shall be.
Prepare for death and follow me.**

“I told you I was sick”

**James Deetz,
Western Maryland**



“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



**“Remember 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”**

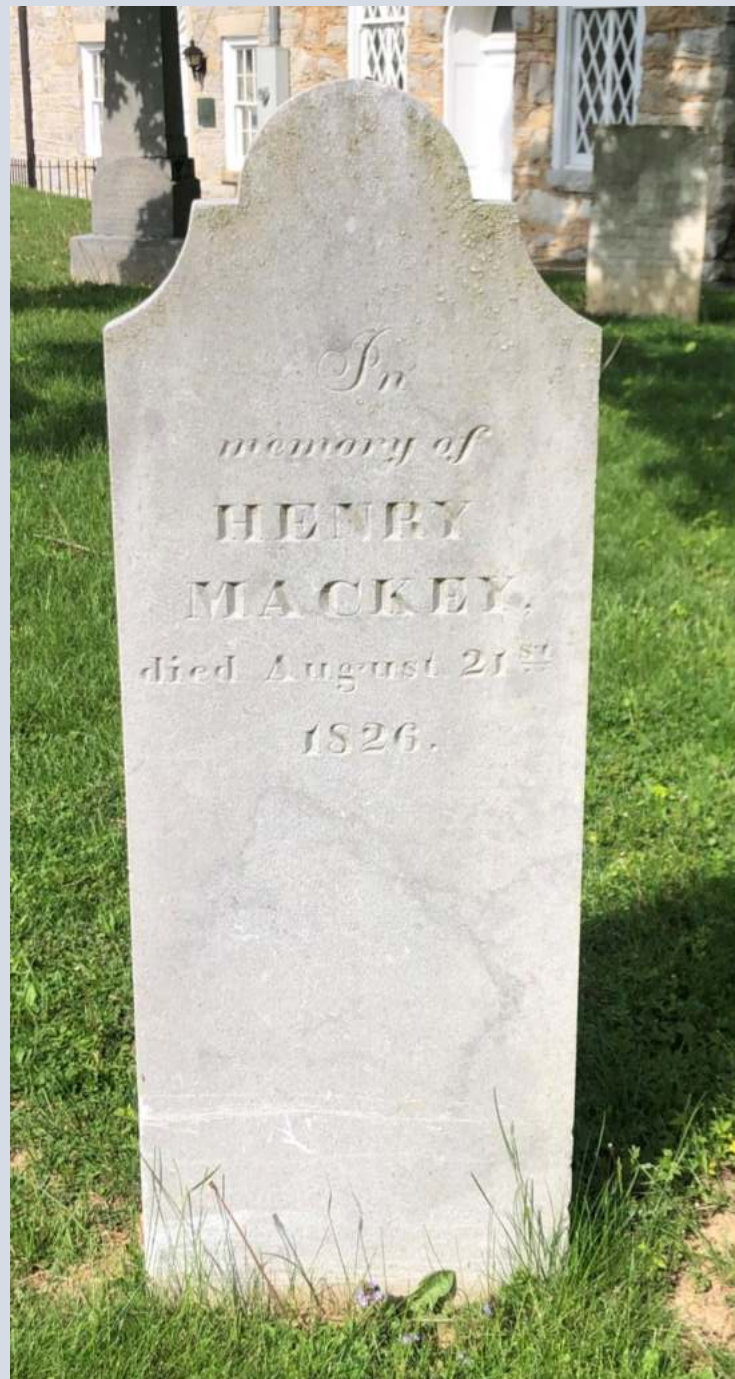
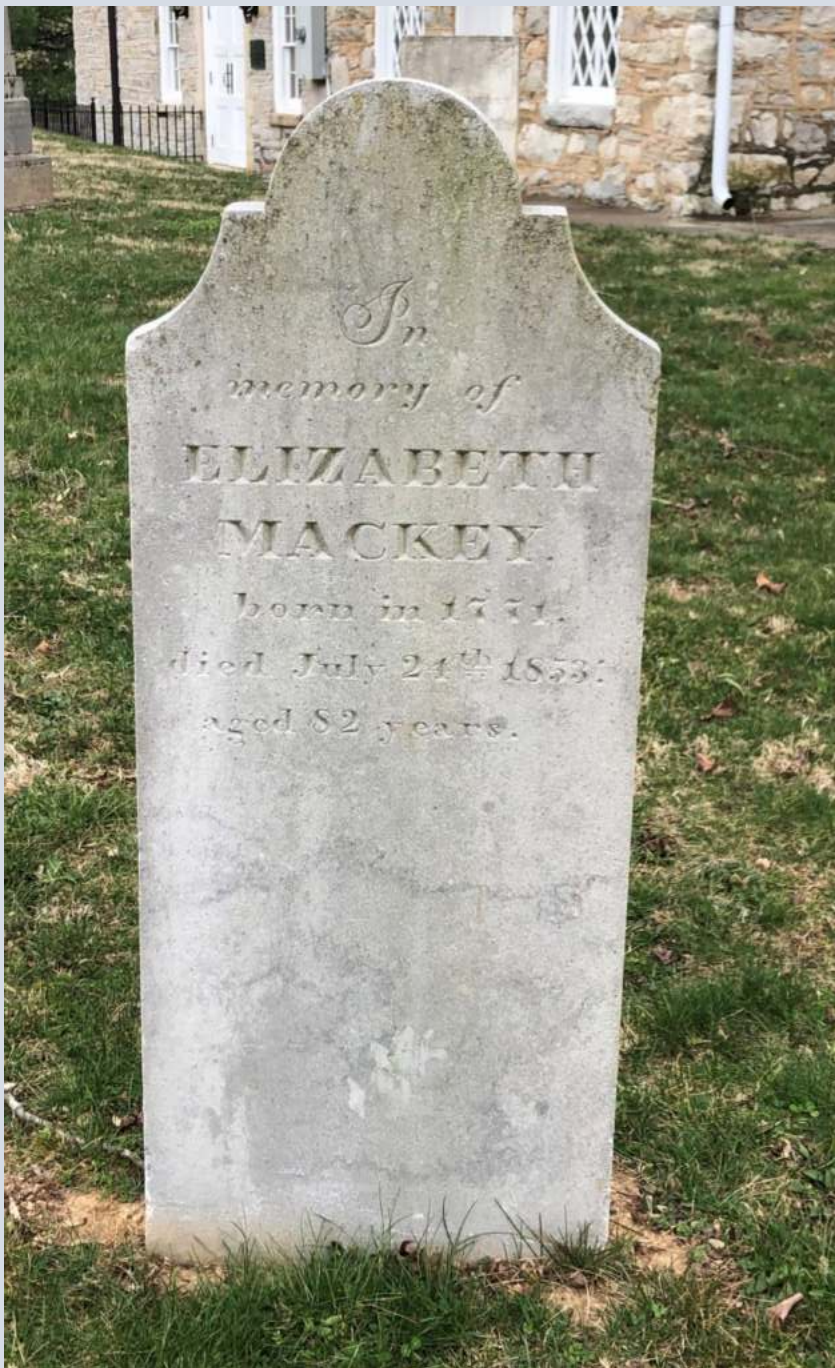
**Nethanel Evins
Bulder**



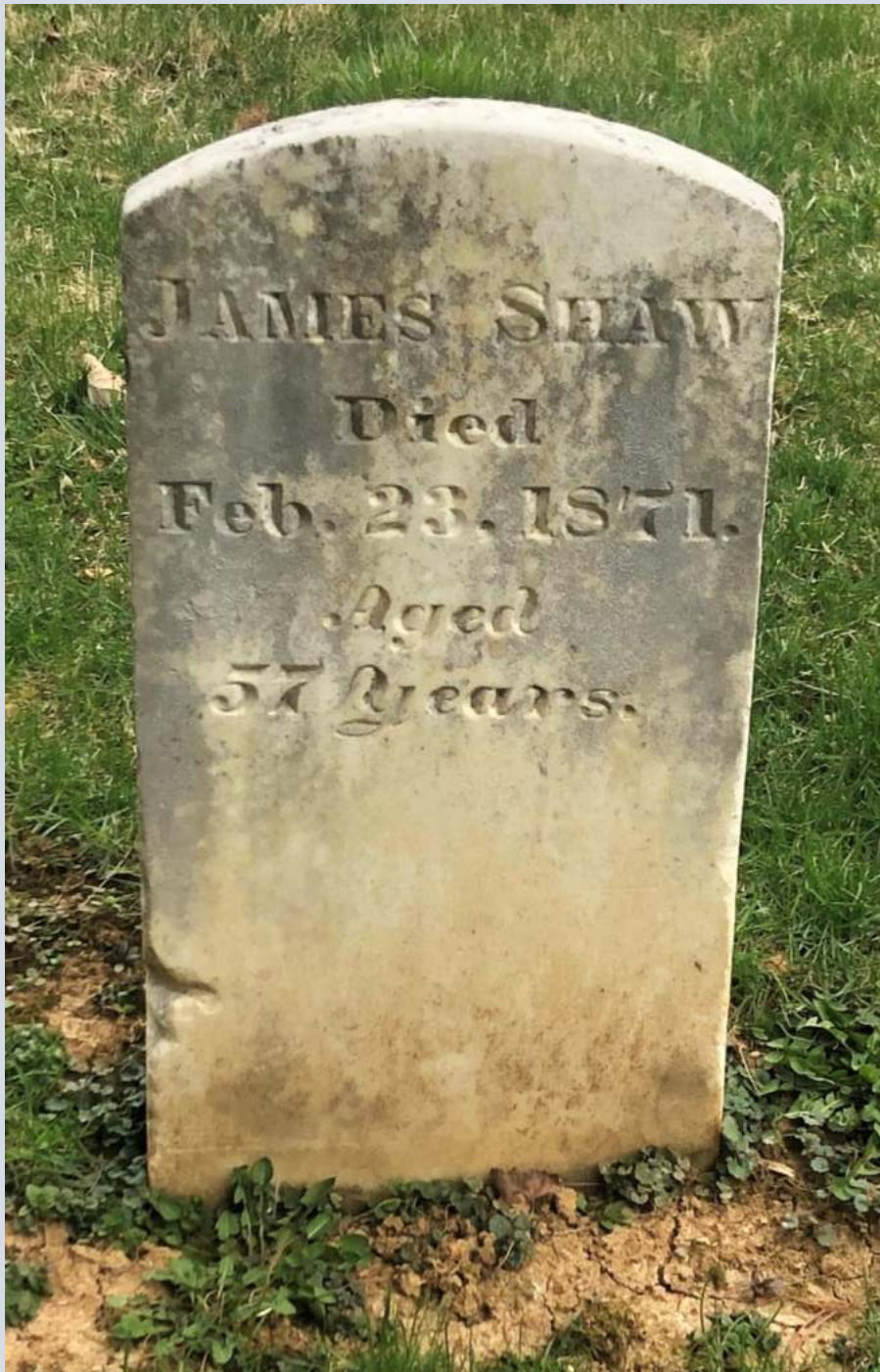
Glasgow Cemetery, Rockbridge County



<https://gravelyspeaking.com/2015/09/10/the-willow-and-the-urn/>



Timber Ridge
Presbyterian Church,
Rockbridge County



Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge County

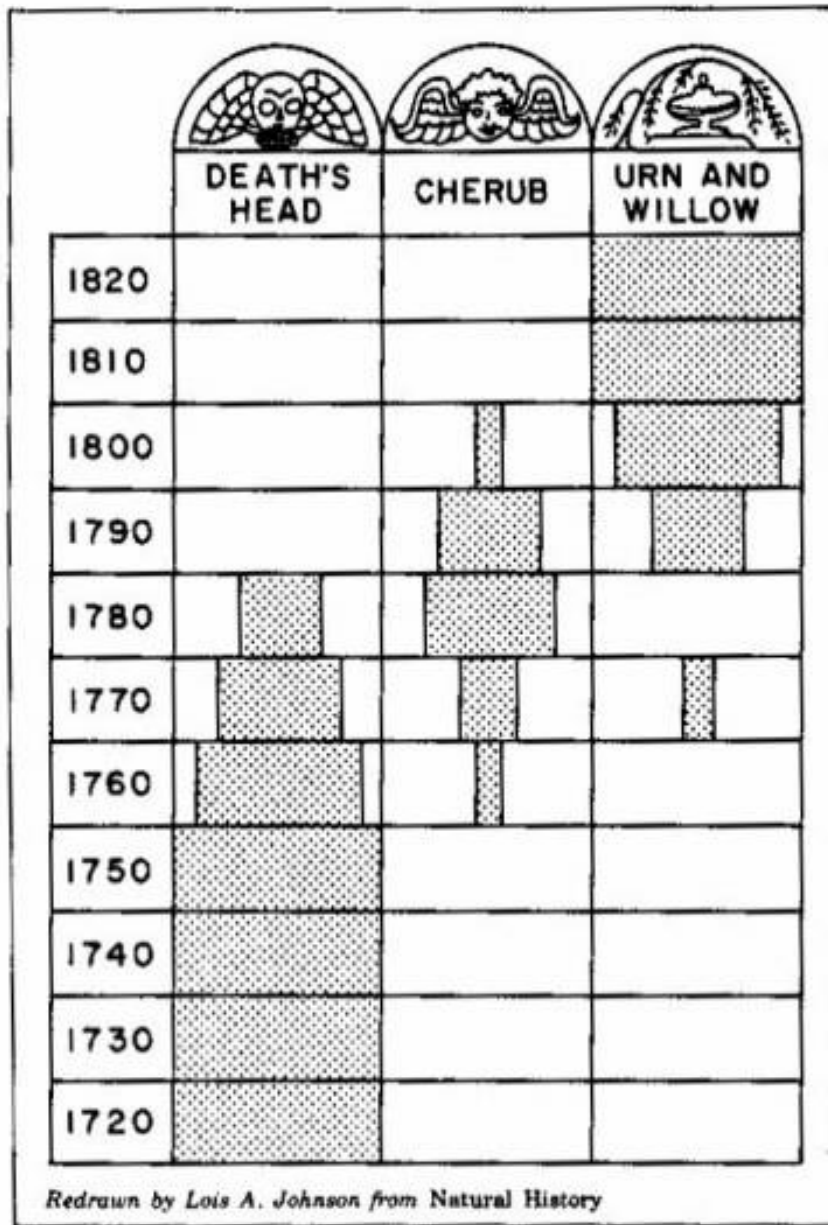
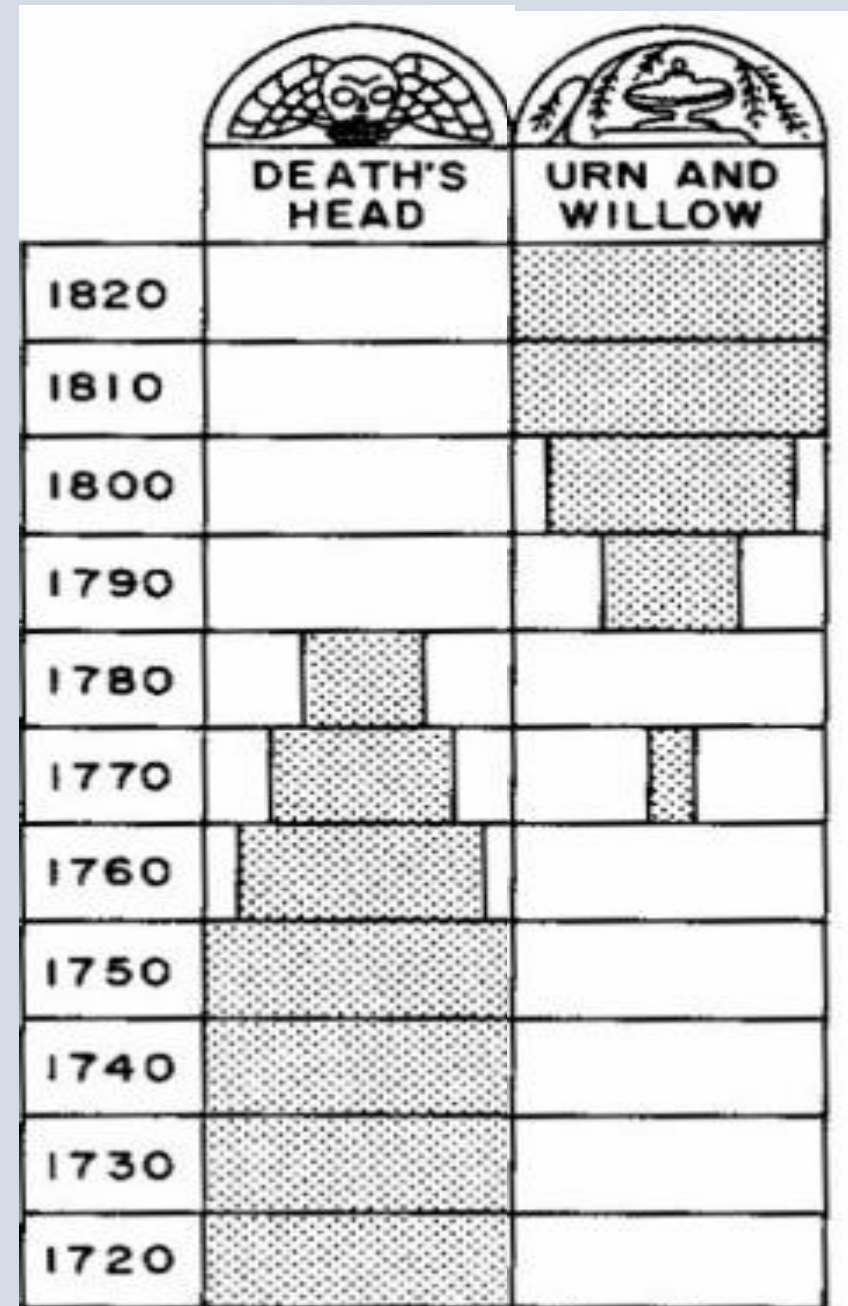
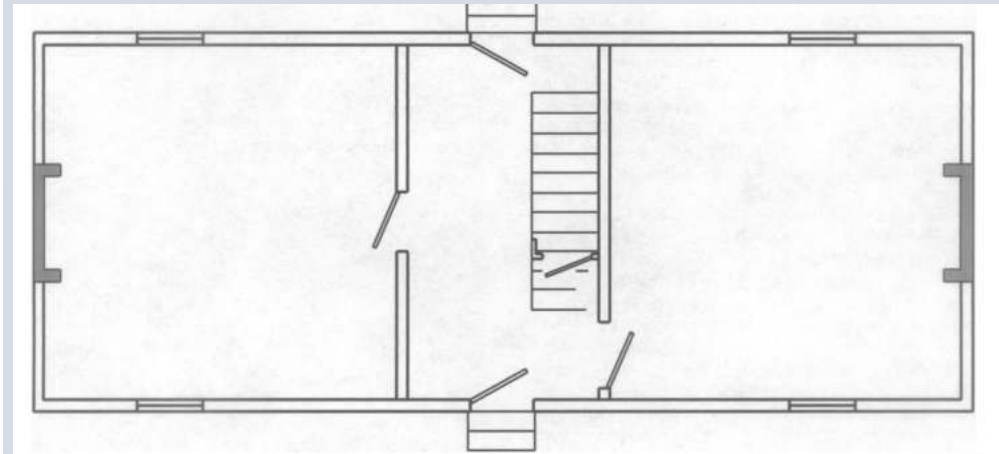
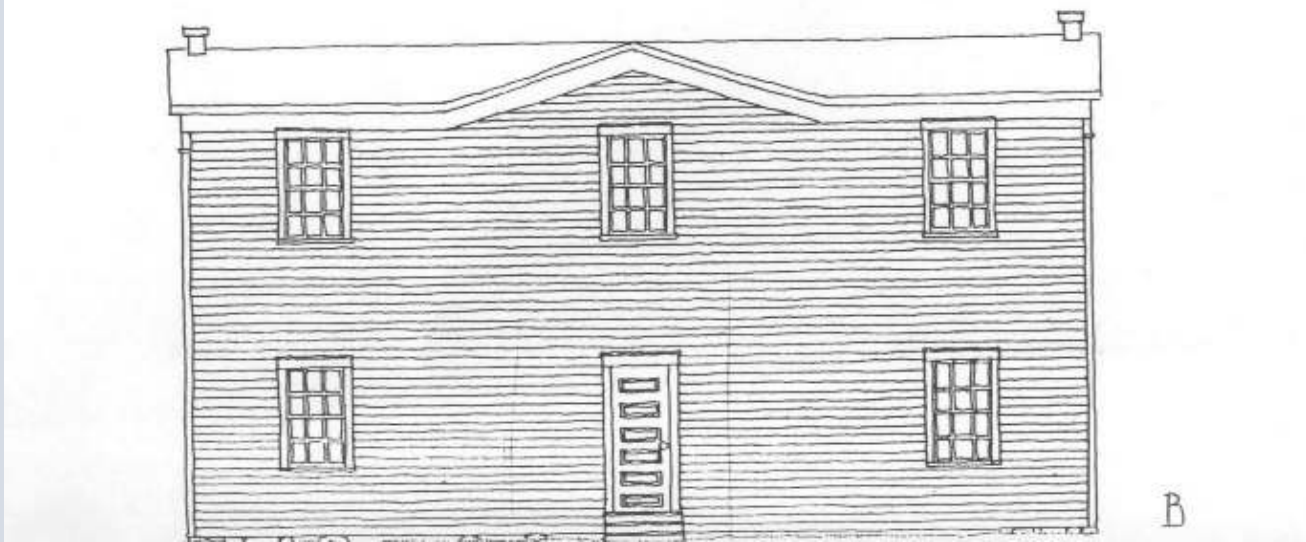
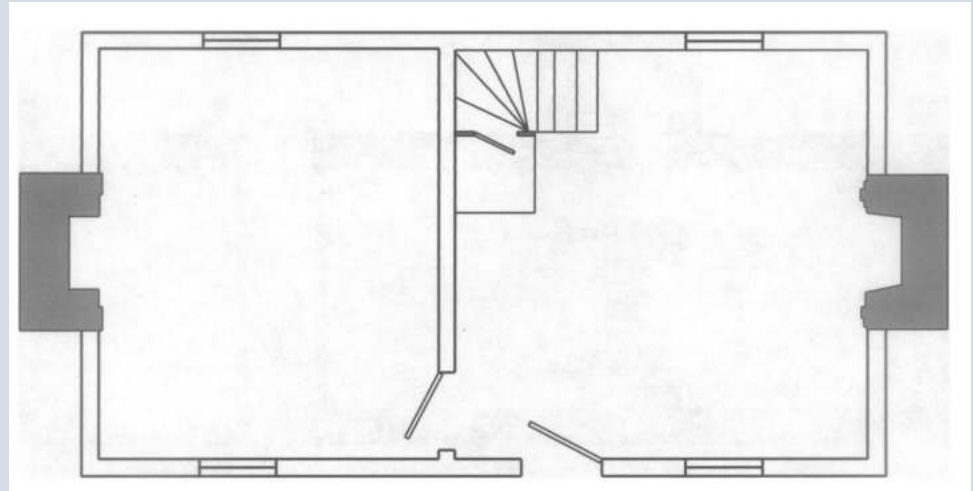
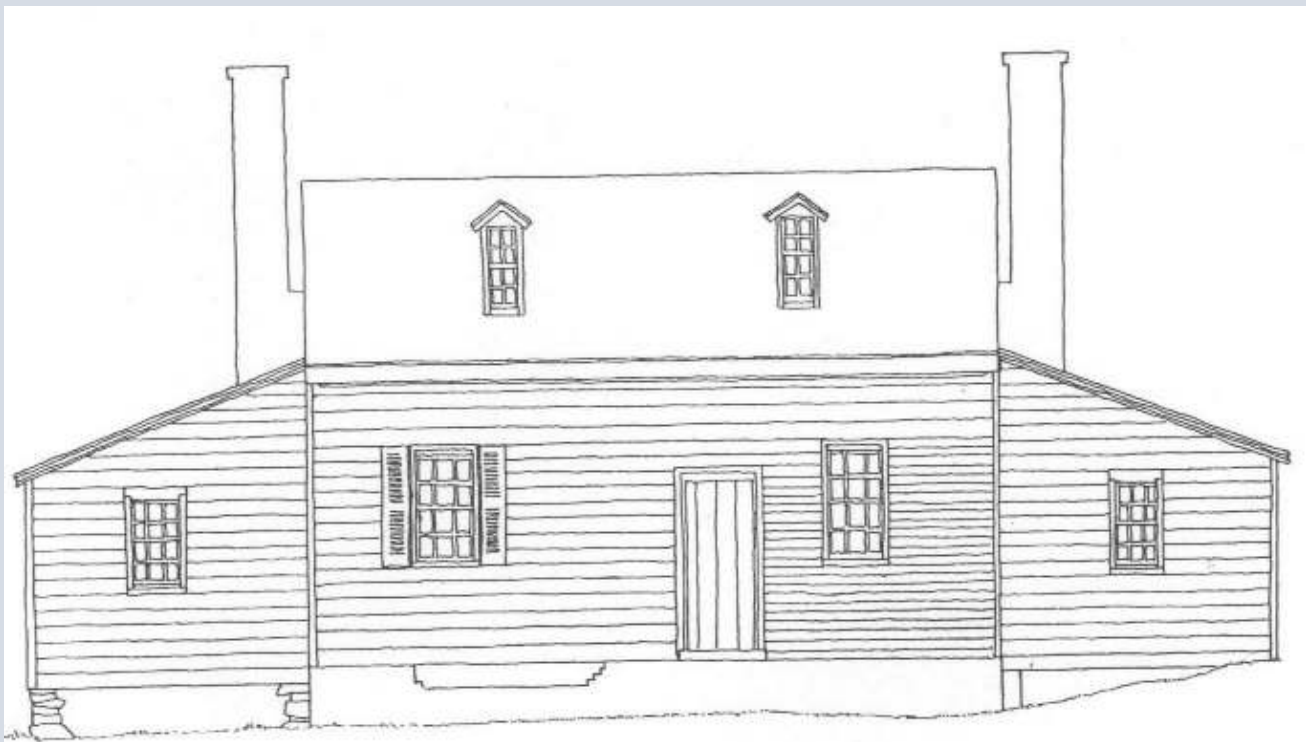


FIGURE 1. Stylistic Sequence from a Cemetery in Stoneham, Massachusetts.



Henry Glassie -
Historic
Virginia
Houses
(case
study in
Louisa
County)



25, 1875
30, 1875

BREEDEN



Elk Run Cemetery, Elkton



James R.
DePoy
March 7, 1935
August 18, 2014

Mary Elizabeth
DePoy
June 28, 1935

Mount
Crawford
Cemetery,
Rockingham
County



Morning Star,
Temple Hill, Bland
County



Green Hill
Cemetery,
Buena Vista



Lebanon
Presbyterian Church
Cemetery,
Rockbridge County

KEY



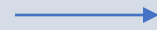
VIDA B.
MARCH 9, 1923
AUG. 21, 2013



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



Timber Ridge
ARP Church
Cemetery,
Rockbridge
County

STINNETT

MARSHALL H. "SQUIRREL"

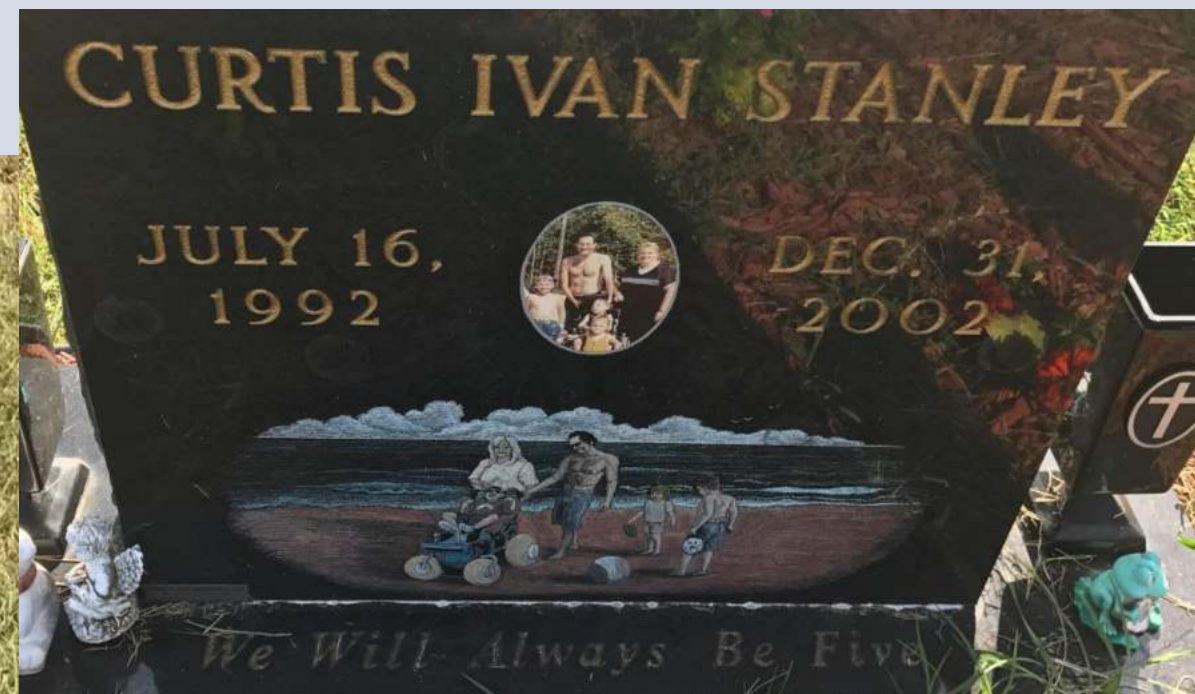
JULY 15, 1925 - FEB. 19, 2015

OUR
FATHER

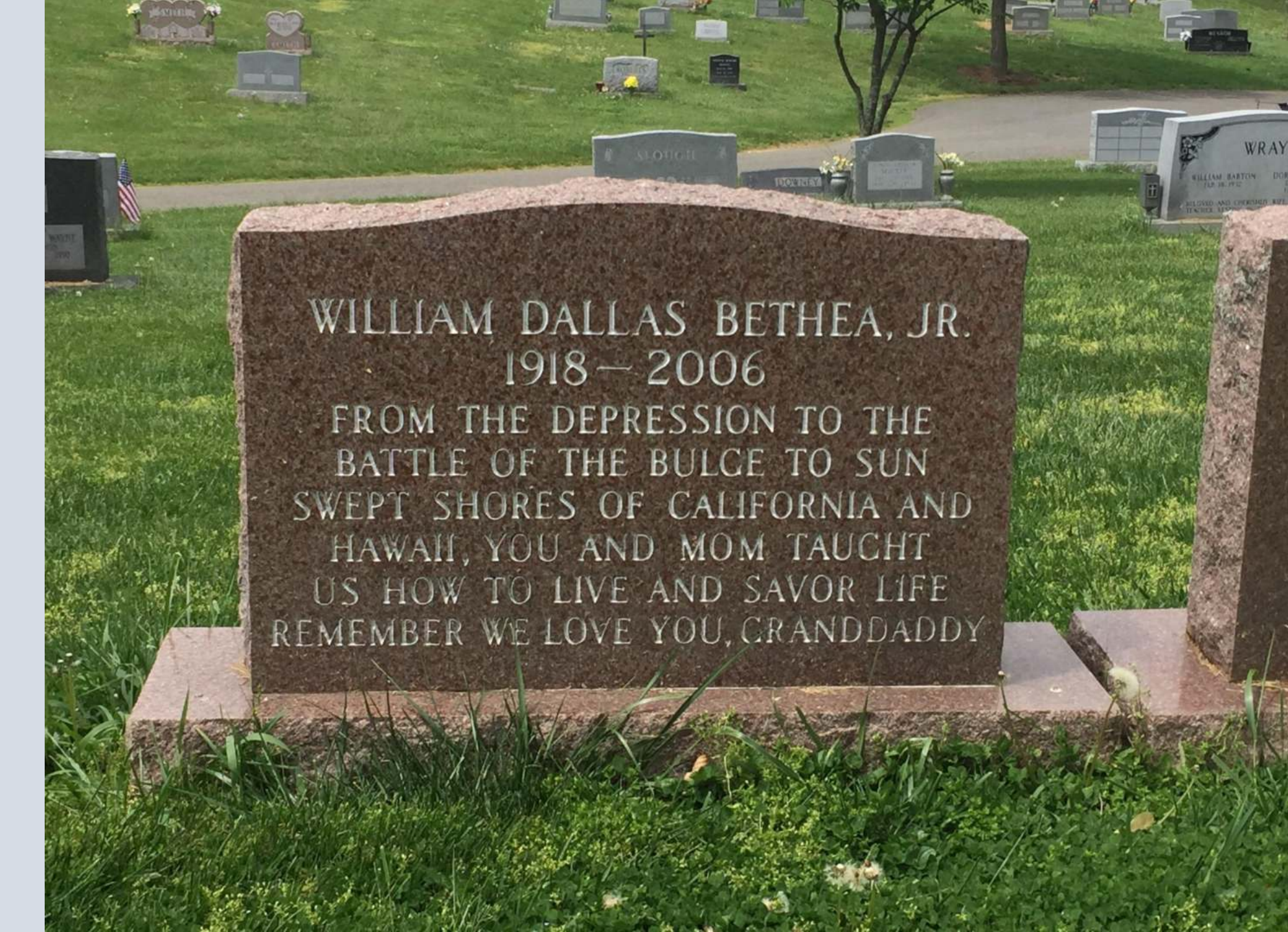


"POPPY"

Green
Hill
Cemetery,
Buena
Vista

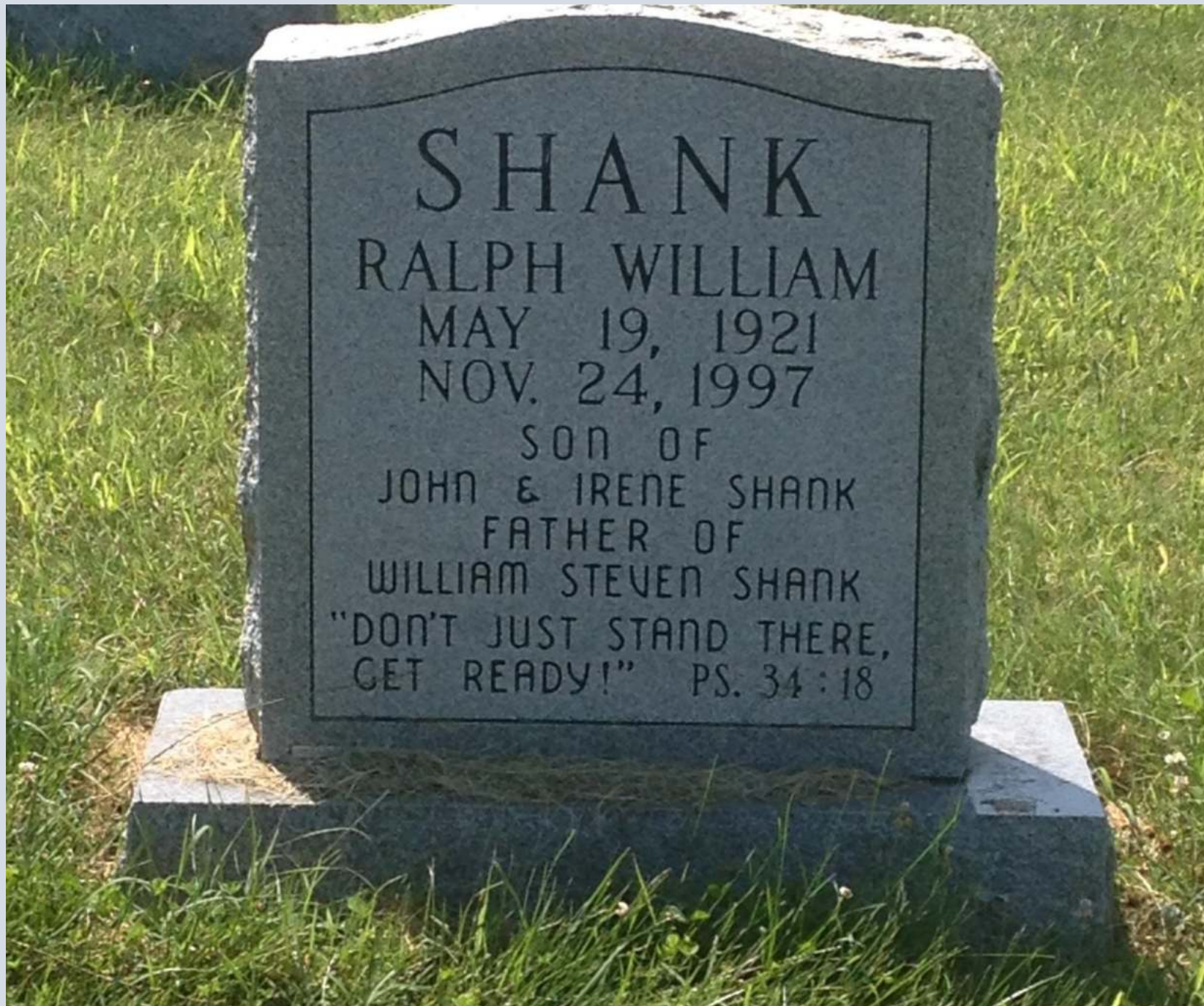


Prospect Hill Cemetery
Front Royal



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

Oak Grove
Cemetery,
Lexington



SHANK

RALPH WILLIAM

MAY 19, 1921

NOV. 24, 1997

SON OF

JOHN & IRENE SHANK

FATHER OF

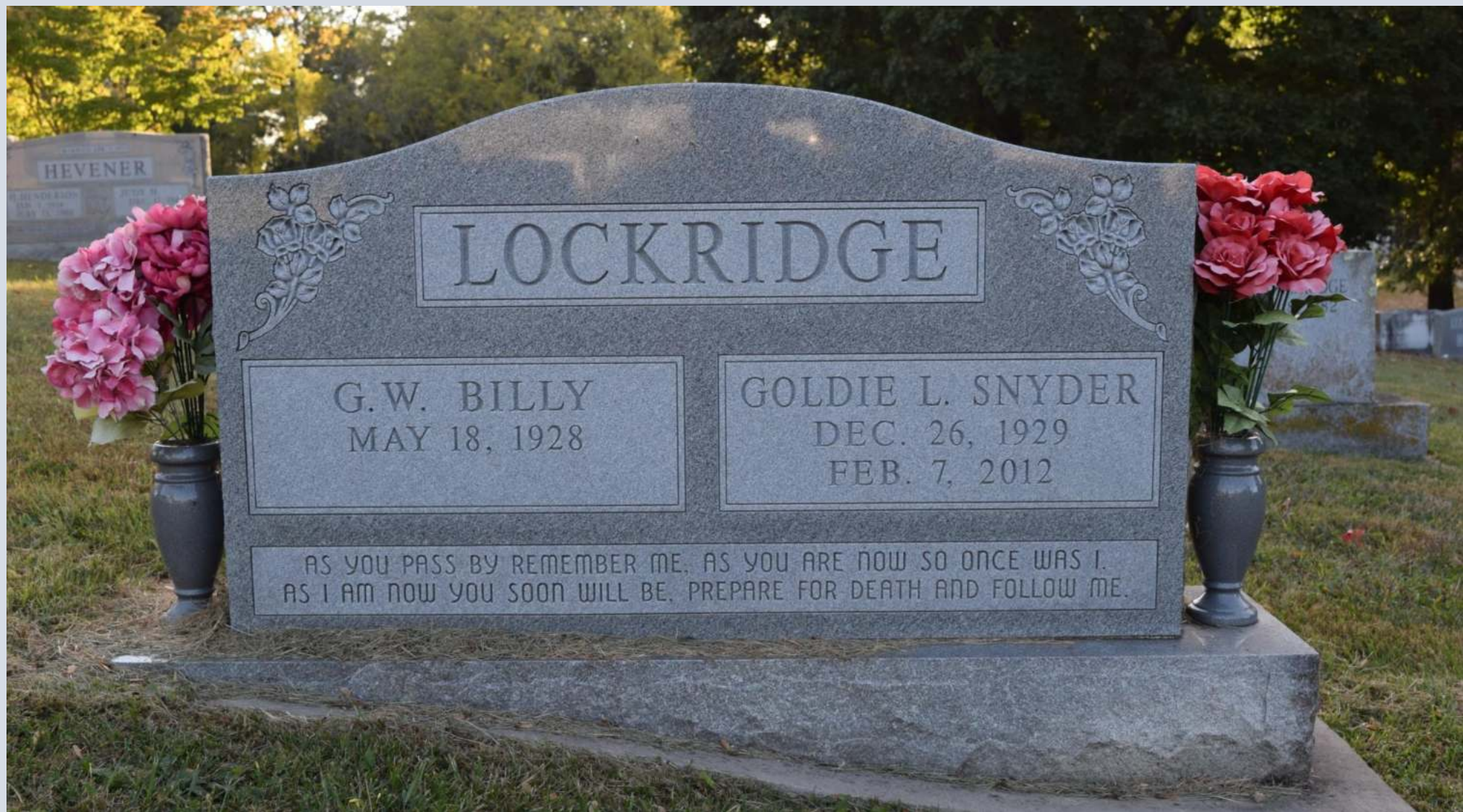
WILLIAM STEVEN SHANK

"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.*