



300 Central Road, Suite 200 Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
www.dovetailrg.com (540) 899-9170

March 1, 2013

Dennis R. Donachy, CMCA, AMS
General Manager
Lake Land 'Or
Property Owners Association
319 Land 'Or Drive
Ruther Glen, Virginia 22546

Re: Delineation of the Higginbottom Cemetery at Lake Land' Or, Caroline County, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Donachy:

On behalf of Lake Land 'Or Property Owners Association (POA), Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) completed a cemetery delineation of the Higginbottom/Lake Land 'Or Cemetery in Caroline County, Virginia. This work includes a brief historical background of the small multi-family cemetery, a penetrometer survey to identify potentially unmarked graves and buried grave markers, mapping of the entire cemetery including all noted graves and markers, and placement of a temporary boundary fence around the perimeter of the cemetery. The survey was completed to explore the history of the cemetery, to determine how many burial shaft locations are within the cemetery plot and to delineate the extent of the cemetery boundary.

Specifically, the questions addressed during the research were: one, how many individuals are buried at this cemetery; and two, who are the individuals buried in this cemetery. The delineation of the cemetery boundary extent through a penetrometer survey would help to provide initial data in identifying the number of graves present and their arrangement. This will assist in determining the future placement or construction of a perimeter fence or barrier of this plot. This letter report documents the cemetery delineation process and results from the work.

Project Methodology

To address these questions, Dovetail first examined records available on the world wide web. Online resources included records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) in Richmond, the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the Library of Virginia in Richmond, and several other historical research web pages on area history.

The field survey of the Higginbottom/Lake Land 'Or Cemetery was conducted on February 21, 2013. The delineation included a reconnaissance ground survey, identification and photographic documentation of all grave markers and grave shafts, the scaled mapping of the cemetery, and penetrometer testing. The ground survey involved walking the cemetery and surrounding area to identify above-ground markers and note evidence of subsurface features. All grave markers were identified and mapped on a scaled drawing. Inscriptions, material, location, and type of each grave marker were recorded through written field notes and photographs. Pin flags were placed within the identified grave shafts and numbered sequentially. Based on the surface inspection, a soil compaction penetrometer was used to record subsurface anomalies within the vicinity of the cemetery. The location of the cemetery and boundary was then drawn on aerial views and plotted on U.S.G.S. topographic maps of the area.

Brief History of Higginbottom Cemetery

Wilson Swann and John Swann were two of six children born to Jonathon and Elenor Amery Swann. Born in Maryland the Swann brothers most likely migrated to the Caroline County area upon John's marriage to Anna Wilson of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1799 (U.S. Census 1810). Little is known about John, who died at the age of 28, leaving behind his wife and two children (Photo 1). His younger brother, Wilson, was a farmer who had acquired seven slaves by 1810 and owned 17 by 1830 (U.S. Census 1810; U.S. Census 1830). Wilson married Judith Terrell and had eight children: Mary Amery, George F., Harriet, Samuel Edgar, Anne Jane, Judith Terrell, Julia, and Elizabeth (Bettie) (U.S. Census 1860). Wilson died in 1834 at the age of 53.

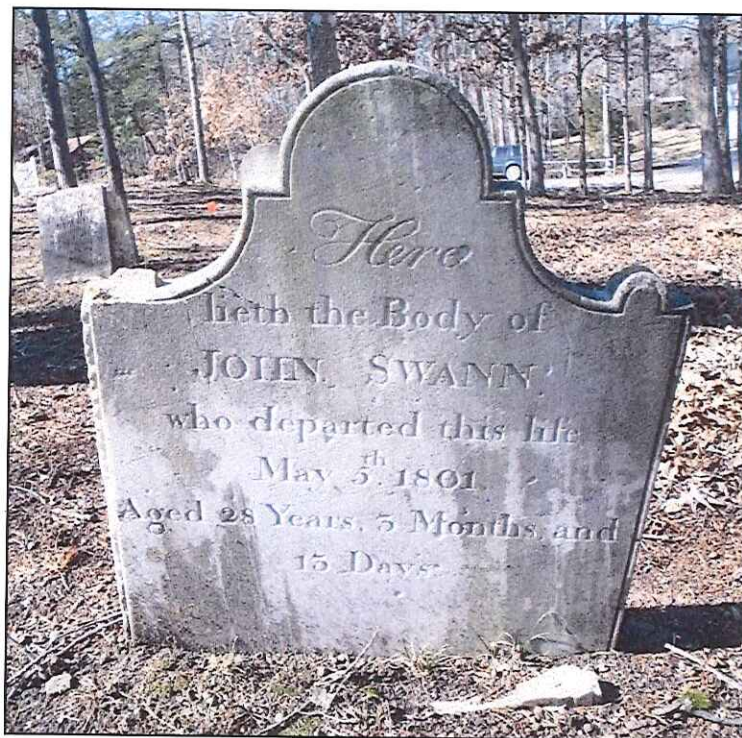


Photo 1: Headstone for John Swann.

Wilson's oldest son, George F. Swann, became a physician and in 1870 his personal property was worth \$500. His first marriage was to Mary Elvira Waller, whom he had six children with (U.S. Census 1860). Mary died in 1860 (Photo 2a). Left with a young family, George remarried Lauretta Maria Green, whom he had one child with (U.S. Census 1870). Dr. George F. Swann died on February 17, 1874 at the age of 59 (Photo 2b).

Samuel Swann was the second son of Wilson and Judith. He worked as a farmer on his father's estate, and appears to have taken over its care after Wilson's death (Figure 1, p. 4) (U.S. Census 1850). He remained a farmer throughout his life and married Willie Ann Edwards in the mid-nineteenth century (U.S. Census 1880). On May 15, 1861, Samuel enlisted in the Confederate Army and was commissioned an officer in Company G, Virginia 10th Regiment (U.S. Civil War Soldier Records). He was promoted to Full Captain in April 1862 and mustered out the same month (U.S. Civil War Soldier Records). On November 15, 1864, Samuel reenlisted in Company I, Virginia 10th Cavalry Regiment and served until the end of the Civil War (U.S. Civil War Soldier Records).

Wilson's youngest daughter, Bettie Swann, remained unmarried throughout her life, most of which was spent living with her brother, Samuel, in Caroline County (U.S. Census 1860; U.S. Census 1880). She made a living working as a teacher in the local school (U.S. Census 1880). Bettie died on March 10, 1905 at the age of 73 (Photo 2c).

Hill Jones (1836–1860) was the son of Thomas Jones and Mary Amery Swann, the eldest child of Wilson Swann. By 1860, Hill was living with his Uncle George and had a personal estate worth \$2,000 (U.S. Census 1860). However, Hill died in October of that year (Photo 3, p. 4).

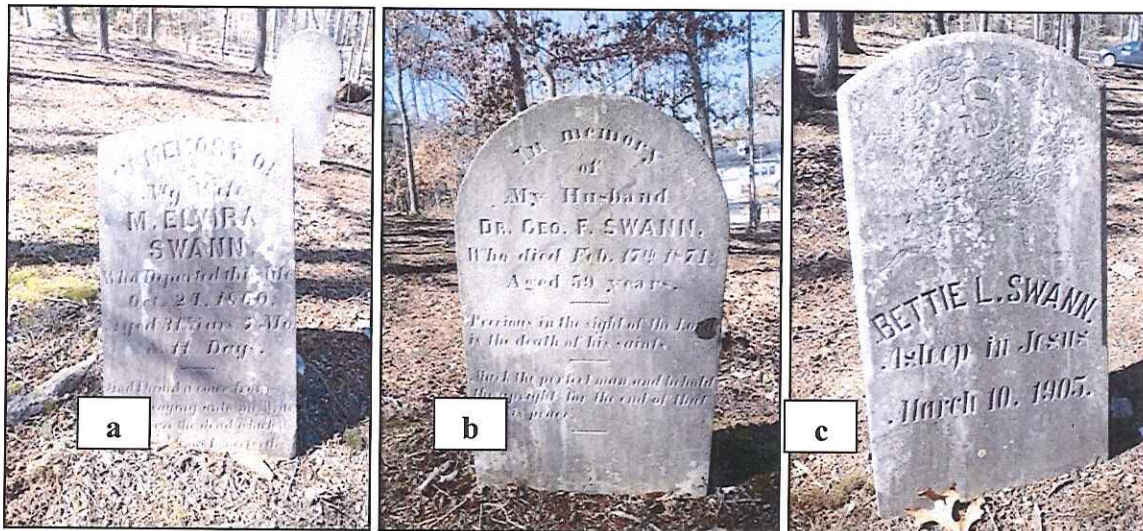


Photo 2: (a) Headstone of Mary Elvira Swann, Dr. George Swann's first wife, (b) Headstone of Dr. George F. Swann, and (c) Headstone of Bettie L. Swann, Dr. George Swann's sister.

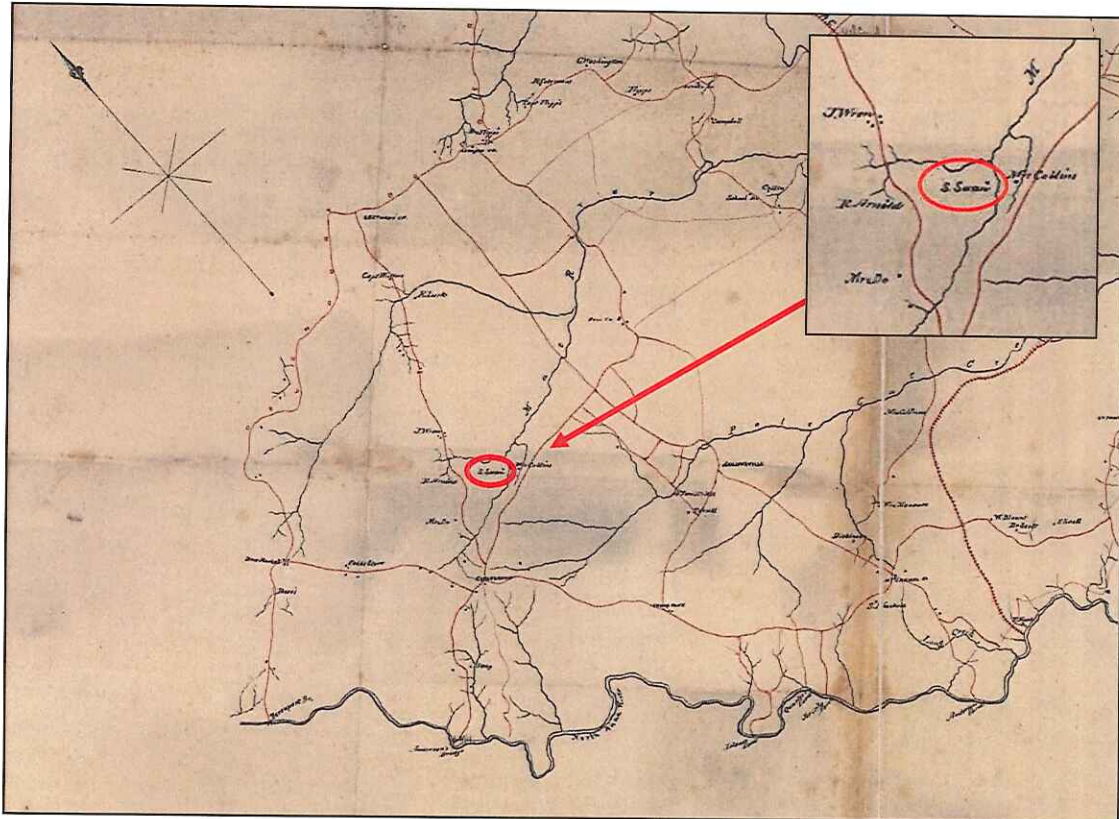


Figure 1: Excerpt of 1862 Map of Caroline County, Virginia (Campbell 1862). The property of S. Swann, most likely Samuel Swann, located approximately in the same area as Lake Land'Or is circled in red (see inset).

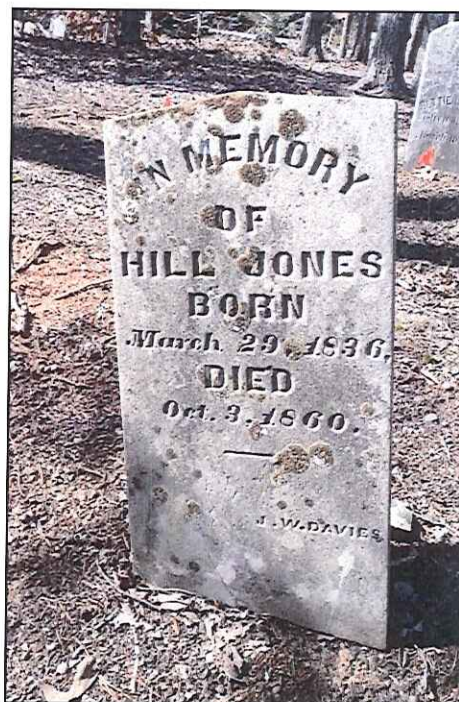


Photo 3: Headstone of Hill Jones.

It is recorded that some of the unmarked graves in the cemetery belong to the Allen family (Cemetery Notes). In an attempt to make a connection between the Swann family and the Allen family the following information was found:

In 1860, the U.S. Census records a Tarleton Harris living with the Swann's and working as the "manager" of possibly the farm and/or estate. Tarleton Harris is most likely a relative of Jane Harris, the first wife of Richard Theodore Allen (1826–1901). Richard was a farmer who by 1860 had acquired \$3,200 in personal estate (U.S. Census 1860). He married Jane Harris in 1842 and they had four children: Arthur, Eugene, Theodosia (Dora), and Henry (U.S. Census 1870). Jane died in 1863 and Richard remarried Catherine Rice, whom he had three more children with (U.S. Census 1900). It appears that Dora remained single and living at home with her father until both of their deaths in 1901 (U.S. Census 1890). It is possible that because of this family connection and the great trust between landlord and estate manager that the Swann's permitted Tarleton's family members to be buried in their family cemetery.

Project Results

The cemetery is located on the east facing edge of a flat ridge top overlooking the shores of Lake Land'Or (Figure 2, p. 6; Photo 4, p. 6). The topography of this location is nearly level and situated in a small wooded area between developed residential parcels (Figure 3, p. 7). The cemetery has been regularly cleared of intrusive trees and excessive undergrowth by residential neighbors and is generally covered by thick mat of leaf litter. A mature Dogwood tree is situated near the general epicenter of the cemetery plot which currently contained some smaller tree saplings within the plot and some larger pine at the periphery. The initial surface inspection identified approximately 20 depressions, five headstones, four footstones, and four fieldstones. The ground depressions observed within the study area were found to be laid out in a nearly east-west alignment across four rows. The proposed study area for this cemetery delineation includes areas between the previously identified ground depressions and extends toward the peripheries in order to better determine the cemetery boundary limits.

Ground depressions initially identified as possible graveshafts observed within the area generally range between 4 to 6 feet long and 1.5 to 3 feet wide. Five ground depressions have associated headstone/footstone markers. Headstones observed during the surface inspection are associated with a matching footstone. These footstones are assumed to be matched sets based on inscribed initials corresponding to the headstones. The majorities of these headstones identified are broken near the base and have subsequently been repositioned upright at the head of the associated grave. These are generally oriented east-west with headstones located on the west of the graveshaft and a footstone at the east. A matched set of headstone and footstone with the engravings "Hill Jones" and corresponding initials of "H. J." on the footstone are not located facing each other flanking a depression in the ground. The footstone is currently positioned next to headstone at the head position of an adjacent depression. The footstone appears to have been relocated to its current position and may not accurately represent or be associated with the potential grave depression at this location. One set of grave markers associated with "John Swann" does not appear to have an associated ground depressions located between the set of markers.

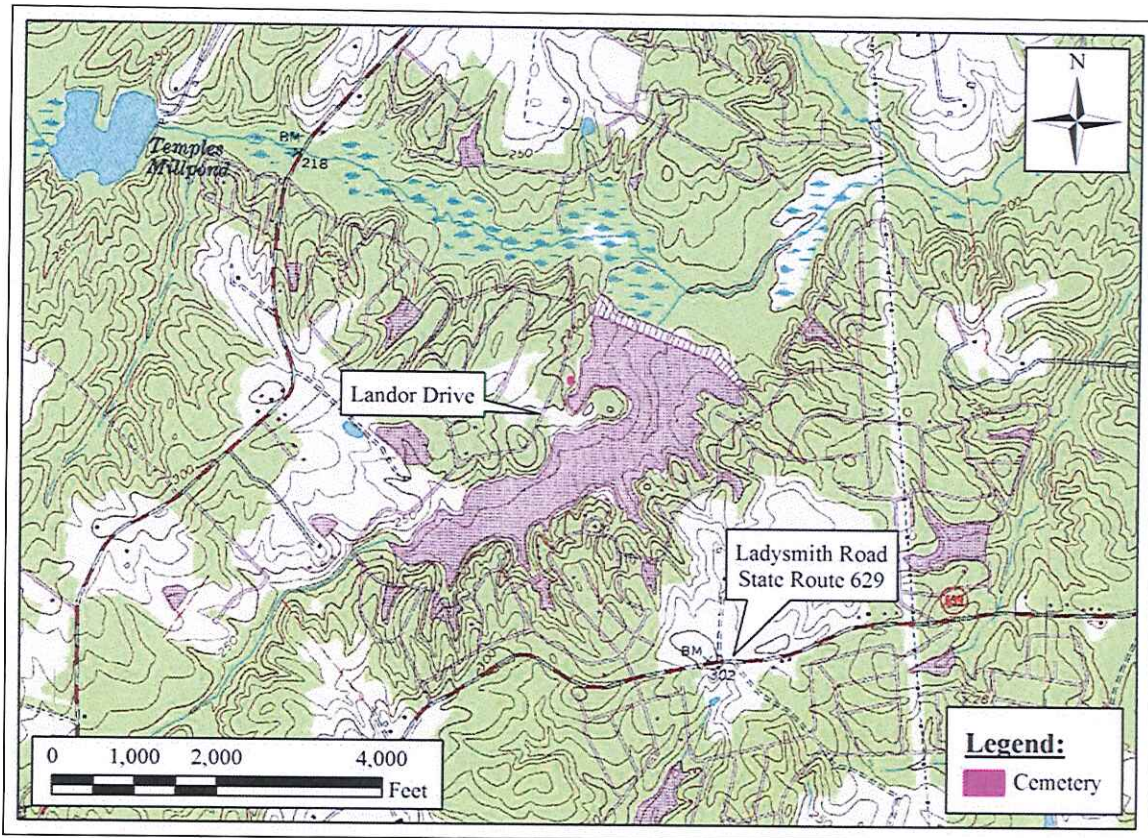


Figure 2: Location of the Higginbottom/Lake Land Or Cemetery on the United States Geological Survey 2002 Caroline County 7.5-minute Digital Raster Graphic Mosaic (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2002).



Photo 4: View of Cemetery Plot, Facing Southeast.



Figure 3: Location of the Higginbottom/Lake Land'Or Cemetery on the 2011 National Agricultural Imagery Program Aerial (USDA 2011).

Each grave marker was recorded and photographed and approximate measurements were taken in order to draw a sketch map of the location of each grave within the study area. A penetrometer survey was recommended in order to aid in identifying additional graves that could not be visibly confirmed during the surface inspection (Photo 5, p. 8). The penetrometer survey was used to delineate the boundaries of the cemetery and the individual graves. The penetrometer survey measured the compaction of soil across the cemetery plot. Soil compaction of natural soil strata that have been disturbed will generally produce a low compaction reading. This is generally a result of the soil particles that have been removed and rearranged creating voids in the fill materials. The penetrometer was first calibrated with readings from known sunken graveshafts at this cemetery with those taken from locations not suspected to be burial locations. Suspected graves within this plot typically produced a compaction reading under 150 PSI (pounds per square inch) while non-grave areas produced readings over 150 PSI.

There were minimal disturbances identified within study area. Significant ground disturbances were mainly identified along the study area periphery. This partially helped to delineate the visible extent of the cemetery boundaries to the north, northeast and south. These disturbances include driveways associated with adjacent houses and construction grading from the adjacent residential parcels. Minor disturbances within the study area included small circular depressions characteristic of small uprooted tree locations. A small drainage channel running north was observed at the northeast edge of the study area and also helped to delineate this cemetery extent. The upper soil strata

within the study area is a brown sandy loam and generally feels soft but was the calibration of the penetrometer did produce some consistent differences between grave and non-grave locations.

The penetrometer survey was systematically performed along a 2-foot grid across this study area with an emphasis on areas extending beyond the visible sunken graveshafts with no visible features or uncharacteristic depressions. All negative and positive hits were recorded on a scaled map overlaid onto the initial map of features observed (Figure 4, p. 9). Close interval penetrometer probes at 1-foot intervals along grid lines were also performed around identified positive hit locations within the study area. This intended to delineate the extent and shape of these locations.

All positive hits were further investigated with radial penetrometer readings. Many of these occurrences generally revealed small and concentrated positive readings which often appeared to form small and circular patterns in the ground. These patterns are characteristic of small decaying or thrown tree root locations and at times often identified partial tree root remains below the surface. Ground depressions with smaller circular patterns that did not produce positive hits were recorded and mapped but do not appear to maintain the typical characteristics that were observed within confirmed grave locations. These were not identified as graveshafts. Positive hits with no additional characteristics were mapped but not identified as graveshafts.



Photo 5: Caitlin Oshida Conducting the Penetrometer Survey Within the Study Area.

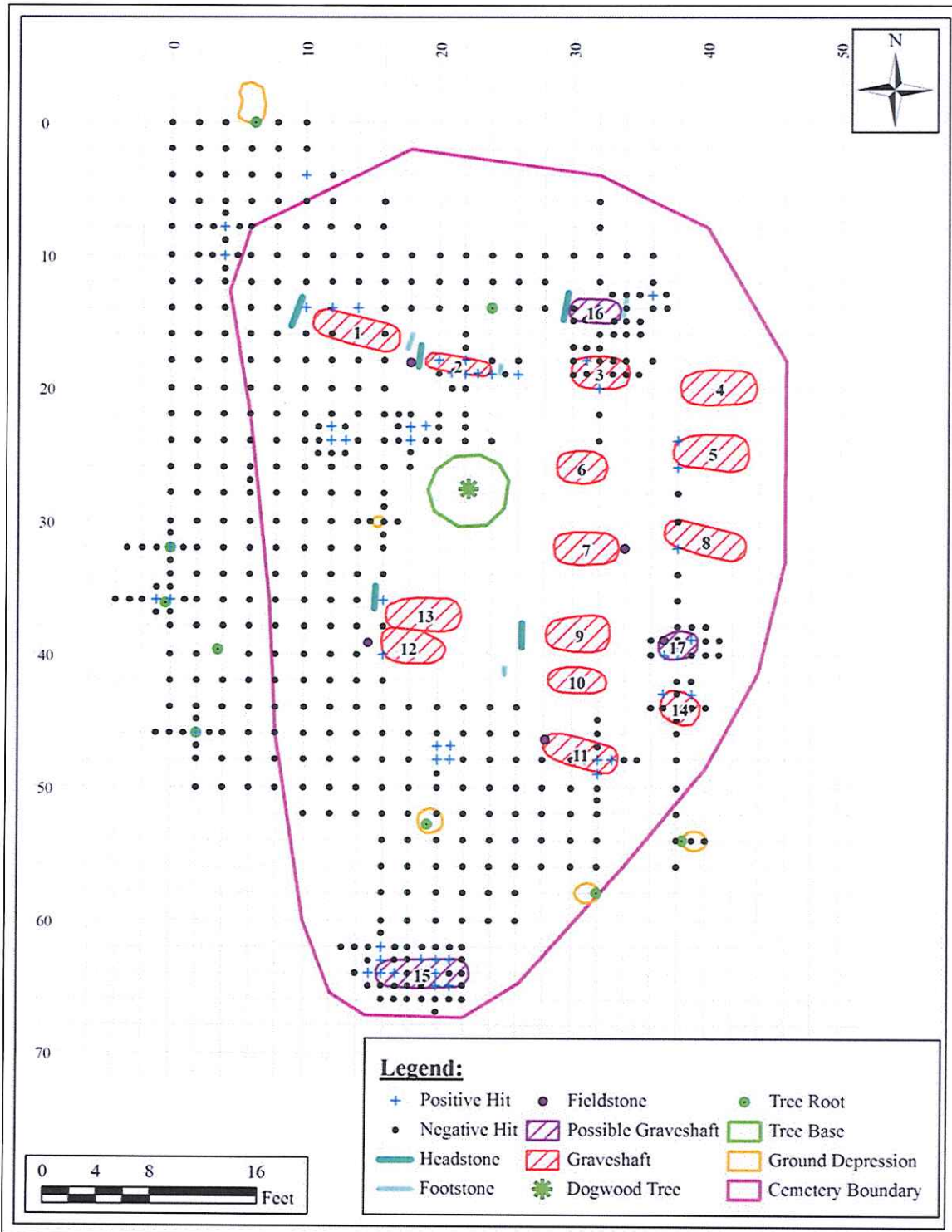


Figure 4: Map of Cemetery Delineation and Penetrometer Survey Results.

As a result of this investigation, a total of 14 graves shafts associated with sunken depressions and three possible grave locations (#s 15–17 on the map) have been identified in addition to five headstones, four footstones, and five fieldstones (see Figure 4). One additional potential grave location (#15) was recorded. This instance is located near the southern edge of the cemetery boundary and appears to retain similar dimensions as other identified graves and also maintains a similar orientation and row alignment as other graveshafts. Another graveshaft location that was associated with a headstone and footstone set (#16) did not produce positive hits during the penetrometer survey. While the lack of positive hits does not disprove the potential for a graveshaft, the markers and their orientation appear to be in their original locations and therefore this location has been identified as a possible graveshaft. A ground depression identified along the eastern edge of the study area has been determined to be a possible graveshaft (#17) based on the identification of a positive penetrometer hits, a fieldstone near the head position and its position and alignment within an identified row of graveshafts. All graves were flagged in the field delineating a general cemetery boundary of 65 feet north-south by 42 feet east-west.

While this survey identified up to 17 potential graveshaft locations, if any ground-disturbing activities greater than 6 inches in depth occur within the vicinity of the cemetery boundary, it is recommended that either further testing of the site be completed to insure its integrity and boundary before any developmental impact begins or that development plans make a wide perimeter berth surrounding the cemetery boundary.

If you have any questions on this delineation survey, please feel free to contact us at the Dovetail office via phone (540-899-9170) or by email (kbarile@dovetailcrg.com or mgonzalez@dovetailcrg.com).

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri S. Barile, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

and



Marco A. Gonzalez
Crew Chief, Archaeologist

References:

Campbell, Albert H.

1862 *Map of Caroline County, Va.* Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C., accessed at <http://www.loc.gov/item/2002627427>, accessed February 2013.

Cemetery Notes

n.d Higginbottom Cemetery – Lake Land’Or. Notes from the Lake Land’Or Records, received from Dennis Donachy, General Manager, February 2013.

U.S. Civil War Soldier Records

n.d Civil War Soldier Records, misc. years. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed September and February 2013.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

2002 U.S. Geological Survey. Virginia Digital Raster Graphic. Caroline County, Virginia. Reston, Virginia. (<http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>), accessed February 2013.

2011 National Agricultural Imagery Program. Caroline County, Virginia 2011. (<http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>), accessed February 2013.

United States Federal Census (U.S. Census)

n.d Federal Census records, misc. years. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed September and February 2013.