

Musser Barn and Cemetery (Alfred W. Spates)

Location: 12811 Clopper Road, Germantown. The farm is between Old Mateney Road and New Mateney Road, on the east side of Clopper Road. The barn is within 25' of Mateney Road, on a rise about 400' from Clopper Road. The cemetery adjoins Mateney Road 100' from Clopper.

The barn is comparatively small, about 25' x 30'. The foundation, of fieldstone, is much larger in area than the present structure, indicating that this is probably not the original barn. There are hand-hewn rock oak logs in the bottom. Alfred W. Spates, the owner, estimates the raising of the present barn at not long after the Civil War. A stone block with the inscription "William Musser 1857" existed until a few years ago but was erroneously broken up. Possibly this date was the construction of the first barn. The condition of the present structure is fair. It is still in use to house livestock.

The cemetery is part of a pasture and is somewhat overgrown. Most of the markers are raw fieldstones without visible inscription. The attached sheet is a plan of the graveyard. The condition of the site is poor but the animals serve to keep vegetation in check.

Also on the property is a large well, 8' in diameter by 52' deep. It has no curbing. The level of water in this well remains at a constant $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' depth.

There was formerly a springhouse supplied from the overflow from a hydraulic ram, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the house, and another spring on the property. In the field west of the house there was at one time a cabin near the site of which Mr. Spates found a glass oval piece used to start fires.

The original owner, William Musser, came to this area from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, as the leader of a group of migrating Germans. In 1832 he and William Cromwell purchased ten acres with buildings from John Gassaway; in 1836 he acquired $177\frac{1}{2}$ acres from William Cromwell in addition to Cromwell's claim to the Gassaway land. William Musser's occupancy of this property is noted on the 1865 Martenet and Bond and the 1878 G.M. Hopkins maps of Montgomery County. He had one son, Henry, who died in the 1890's, leaving two daughters and a very young son, Henry Marcellus ("Porter") Musser. The farm was occupied for some years by William Musser's daughters, at least one of whom was a local schoolteacher. Henry Marcellus Musser, brought up after his father's death by the George Nicholls family on Hoyle's Mill Road, inherited and occupied the house until the early 1950's. The original farmhouse burned in July 1935. In the same year Alfred W. Spates acquired the property at auction. He still retains five acres on which the buildings and cemetery stand, and plans to move the barn and preserve the cemetery.

Sources: Madeline Nicholls 869-1690
Alfred W. Spates 349-2241
Dorsey Waters 972-1132
Madeline Waters 972-1132

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1900
1187

PLOT OF OLD GRAVEYARD AT MUSSER FARM

North

Andrew Graff d June 13, 1827	Jane Graff	
George Graff d. Dec. 10, 1823	Maria C. Musser Wn. Musser	
Sarah Henderson	Sa(h)ah Ann Musser	Susan Jane Musser died May 9, 18
James Henderson		
	Susan Beckley	
Comfort Cromwell	Sarah Beckley colored	
Eugenie Graff	G. Henderson's Child	
L. Gustavus Graff	Gassaway child	
G.M. Graff Twins		
John C. Clopper Redmond	Godschall Douglas May Douglas	
	Isaac Cox	