Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 124

Name: Poolesville Methodist ~~Episcopal~~ Church Cemetery

Alternate name:

Address: ~~Fisher~~ S.E. of Corner ~~of~~ ~~of~~ Fisher Ave. & W. Willard Road or W. Willard

Town: Poolesville

ADC Map Page _16_ **Grid** _B-8 & C-8_

Type

✓ Religious _____

___ Family _____

___ Private _____

___ Other _____

Association

___ Free black

___ Enslaved

___ Ethnic

___ Prehistoric

Setting ___ Rural ✓ Urban ___ Suburban ___ Forested ___ Other _____

Condition ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ✓ Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) (stones removed & set flat embedded in gravel & coated with clear ~~something~~ sealant)

Approximate no. of burials _unknown_ **Date range of burials** _~~unknown~~ 1839 - ?_

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

about 30 Union & Confederate soldiers in unmarked graves. —

See photos. See over for gravestone transcriptions.

According to Scharf, church was formed in 1846, but went defunct after Civil War. Building was sold in 1892 to YMCA.

Surveyor(s) _Brickett & Manuel_ **Survey date** _10-9-04_

Photographer _Brickett_ **Date** _____ **Photo no.** _____

Current owner _____

Address/Phone No. _____

Historic Status ___ Locational Atlas ID _____ ___ National Register

___ Master Plan ID _____ ___ Other _____

UTM _____

Additional sources of information:

Scharf, J. Thomas. ~~&~~ History of Western Maryland, v. 1, p. 734

Name: Poolesville Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery

ID: 5

Alternate name:

Address: Fisher

Town: Poolesville

Footstone A.S.

Ruth A. Eagle b Jul 7, 1817 — broken

———— b. Jan 2— — d mar 28 1850 (broken

Ann West w/o James W. Reed d June 5th 1862 in the
32nd year of her age

A. P. Eversol? b Apr 27, 1836 - d Aug 13, 1864 in the
29th yr. of his age

Ellen Hiser b in Shepherdstown Sep 4, 1808 d June 10, 1850

Daniel Hefner b Mar 1782 d June 29, 1861 age 79yrs.

Mary Ann Hefner w/o Daniel Hefner d June 7, 1854
(in the 68th yr. of Her age

———— son o/ ———— Moulden b Sep 14, 1819 d Feb 3, 1855
aged 5y 1m 20d.

J.H.E. footstone

Mary E. ———— b. 182? d. Aug 10, 1845 (mother in
refers to brother T. Cooley. inscription —

Plaque listing Civil War soldiers

POOLESVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH CEMETERY

Directions: Route 109 South, to Fisher Avenue, Town Hall on left. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 19, grid coordinates K-2.] Condition of cemetery: Cemetery next to church, in 1936, most markers removed or displaced, survivors unreadable. This cemetery is non-extant. Earliest known death: 1839. Church organized 1816, defunct after Civil War, building sold in 1892 to YMCA. Author: J. Thomas Scharf, A.M. Title: *History of Western Maryland*, page 734, Vol. I. Publisher: Regional Publishing Company [reprinted 1968], Baltimore, MD [originally printed in Philadelphia, 1882]. Comments: In 1936, no surviving records located.

History

The Methodist Church Building is one of the oldest and most venerable buildings in Montgomery County. Built in 1826 on land donated by the Peter family, the Methodist Church Building is historically and architecturally significant – a valued piece of our heritage. The history of the building and the surrounding property is a storied one. The Methodist Church preceded other churches in Poolesville by a generation. The church's first pastor was buried beneath the pulpit of the church in 1833. During the Civil War, the building served as a Union signal post, telegraph office, and hospital. The congregation cemetery on the Methodist Church property also served as a burial ground for Union and Confederate soldiers.

When the Methodist congregation decided in 1892 to relocate, the building was sold. In the subsequent century, the building housed a remarkable variety of uses. It has been used for dances, plays, and other social events. The building has been the site of elections, Masonic meetings, and Sunday school classes. It has functioned as a public school, a drug store, a veterinarian office, and Poolesville's town hall. The Town of Poolesville purchased the property in 1954. Today, the building's first floor is leased by the Friendly Thrift Shop. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cemetery Restoration

The Historic 1826 Methodist Church and Cemetery is a mirrored reflection of Poolesville's history. What took place within its walls and on its grounds in the last two centuries is a rich tapestry that speaks to who we are as a community. In 2002, the Town of Poolesville, current caretaker of this tapestry, undertook to restore the unmarked graveyard located on the property.

Under this restoration project, funded in part by a grant from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, burial headstones and markers removed from the cemetery decades ago were located, cleaned and returned to the property. The perimeter of the cemetery burial field was defined using ground penetrating radar. Archival research was performed to better understand the number and identities of the civilians and Civil War soldiers buried on the property. The cemetery fencing and landscaping, exhibit sign, headstone display, bench and memorial oak tree were installed by Town staff and members of Poolesville Boy Scout Troop 496 under the restoration project.

The Town of Poolesville wishes to specially thank Mr. James Poole, Mr. Will Martin of Boy Scout Troop 496, Historic Medley District, Inc., and the Elgin family for their assistance and contributions to the cemetery restoration project.

The Historic 1826 Methodist Church Building and Cemetery

**17605 West Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland**

Cemetery Burials

The exact number of graves at the cemetery is not known, but is estimated to be between 60-80 based on historical records and two archaeological surveys. No records have been found that can correlate individual names to particular grave shafts. The majority of graves are believed to be behind (east) and to the right (south) of the Methodist Church Building. In 1957, Mr. Thomas Randolph Hall copied down information from the remaining headstones at the abandoned cemetery. The headstones, used for civilian burials, were subsequently removed from the graveyard. Many were severely damaged, some have never been found. Some grave shafts are marked by unmodified field stones found just under the ground. It is believed that permanent, above-ground markers were not used to memorialize the Civil War soldiers at time of burial.

The following list of names represents the best available information known about who is believed to be interred at the Methodist Church Cemetery. However, due to incomplete and sometimes contradictory nature of the historical records, the list is not exhaustive and likely contains inaccuracies.

Civilians

	Name	Born	Died
1.	Eagle, Ruth Ann	1812, 7-2	1839, ?-?
2.	Eversole, A.P.	1836, 4-27	1864, 8-13

(the town wheelwright – maker and repairer of wagon wheels. After his death, a children's rhyme was created: "If you went behind the church, there's a man of A.P. Eversole, and if you asked what he saw, he would tell you nothing at all.")

3.	"J.H.E." (grave marker)	?-?-?	?-?-?
4.	Frechtigg, Mary A.	1850, 1-20	1855, 3-28

(daughter of Louis R. & E.H. Frechtigg)

5.	Gooley, Mary E.	1825, ?-?	1845, 8-10
6.	Hefner, Daniel	1782, 3-?	1861, 6-29
7.	Hefner, Mary Ann	?-?-?	1854, 6-7
8.	Hiser, Ellen	1808, 9-4	1850, 6-10
9.	Hughes, George F.	1861, 12-30	1862, 1-3
	or Gordon H.	1851, 12-30	1852, 1-3*

(son of William D. & Elizabeth Hughes)

* conflicting records as to first name and dates

10.	Hughes, Jane W.	1729, ?-?	1821, 8-7

(daughter of John H. & Catherine Hughes, age 91 years, 9 months)

	Hughes, Jane	1800, ?-?	1857, 8-7*

* conflicting records as to date of death and age

11.	Hughes, John W.(H.?)	1789(?), ?-?	1855, 7-12
12.	Hyatt, Mary A.E.	1829or35(?),?-?	1854, 8-27
13.	Leapley, Margaret A.D.	1828, ?-?	1859, 1-26

(wife of George N. Leapley)

14.	Lee(i)pley, Elizabeth	1822, 7-12	1845, 9-20

(stone erected by her brother, Robert T. Cooley)

15.	Moulden, ?	1849, 9-11	1855, 2-3
16.	Reed, Ann West	1830(?), ?-?	1862, 6-5

(wife of James W. Reed)

17.	Shanks, Nancy	1835, 9-2	?-?-?
18.	Spates, Ame(i)lia	1795, ?-?	1855, 7-19

(wife of Richard P. Spates)

19.	Spates, Richard P.	1792, 12-25	1863, 3-5
20.	Wood, Benjamin F.	1862, 9-23	1862,11-24
21.	"wife...1862...her age"(rest of the stone is missing)		

Civil War Military

	Name (unit)	Rank	Buried
1.	Howland, Malvin(a)	Orderly Sgt.	1861, 8-27
2.	Ware, Edward F.(a)	Private	1861, 9-23
3.	Hildreth, Frank A.(a)	Corporal	1861, 10-4
4.	Higgins, Patrick(b)	Private	1861,10-14
5.	Kelly, Patrick(a)	?	1861,10-15
6.	Olney, L.C.(c)	Corporal	1861,10-22
7.	Putnam, William L.(d)	2nd Lieutenant	1861,10-22
8.	Hooper, Andrew J.(e)	Private	1861,10-23
9.	Belknap, Alonzo(a)	?	1861,10-24
10.	Tuttle, ?(f)	Private	1861,10-24
11.	Clemans, ? (f)	Private	1861,10-24
12.	Mather, ? (f)	Private	1861,10-24
13.	Raymond, ?(f)	Private	1861,10-24
14.	Warren, Mosses J.(a)	Sergeant	1861,10-25
15.	Stackpole, ?(d)	Private	1861,10-25
16.	Truner, Luther G.(a)	?	1861, 11-1
17.	Cowdrey, Andrew W.(a)	Corporal	1861, 11-4
18.	Haril, Lewis(a)	Private	1861, 11-5
19.	Sibley, Samuel(a)	?	1861, 11-6
20.	Barber, Alexander M.(d)	Private	1861,11-21
21.	Driscol, Patrick(b)	Private	1861,12-13
22.	Unidentified(g)	Corporal	1861,12-16
23.	McCormick, Stewart(b)	Private	1862, 2-15
24.	Kearney, William(b)	Private	1862, 2-19
25.	Doyle, Patrick J. (b)	Private	1862, 3-15
26.	Stokes, Patrick (b)	Private	1862, 4-3
27.	Jenkins, Samuel(h)	?	1862,12-15
28.	Davis, Thomas W.(i)	Private	1863, 1-14
29.	Merrill, Charles W.(i)	Private	1863, 1-19
30.	Picket, Alonzo (j)	Private	1863, 8-26

(Unit designators: (a)– 15th Massachusetts; (b)– 69th Pennsylvania; (c)– 1st Rhode Island; (d)– 20th Massachusetts; (e)– 72nd Pennsylvania; (f) 3rd Wisconsin; (g)– 3rd New York; (h)– 35th Virginia; (i)– 23rd Maine; (j)– 11th New York)

Poolesville sets out to restore 19th Century gro

By SONIA BOIN
Montgomery Bureau Chief
sboin@fredericknewspost.com

POOLESVILLE — A ravaged 19th century graveyard surrounding the old Methodist Church here is being restored.
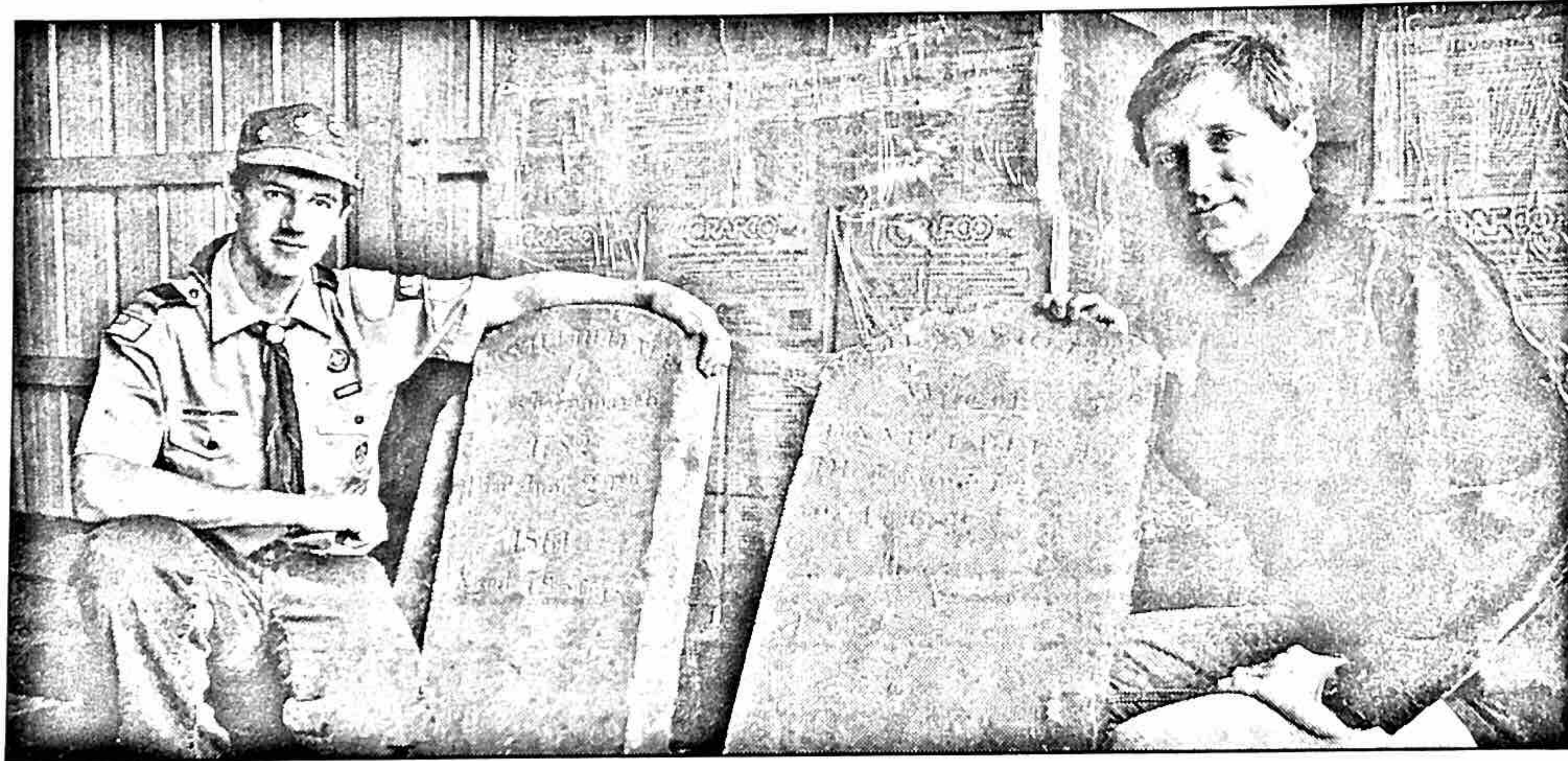
The site and nearly two dozen headstones that were missing for years will be turned into a "historic stop for history buffs who want to learn about the Civil War heritage."

Town Commissioner Andy Johnson, who successfully fought the idea of selling or giving away the property, has taken charge of the project that will use modern tools to identify gravesites and repair the headstones.

"It's something that should have been done a long time ago," he said. "We need to keep faith with those who are buried there and do it tastefully and with respect. We need to tell the residents and visitors what a rich heritage this property has." .

Armed with "an interesting hodgepodge of historic documentation" that includes three or four "completely in tact" headstones, 14 with some chiseled, partial markings and five with no markings, Mr. Johnson said at least 21 graves were identified in an archeological study in late 1995, when the town was thinking of adding on to the building.

Archaeologist Edward Otter

Staff photo by Sam Yu

Will Martin, left, 15, of Boy Scout Troop 496, and Andy Johnson, Poolesville town commissioner, are shown with some old tombstones in a barn at the Poolesville wastewater treatment plant recently. The pair are coordinating the survey of the historic cemetery on the Old Town Hall property and plan to renovate the cemetery, which also contains Civil War dead. This is the Eagle Scout project for Mr. Martin.

identified the graves, but there is no visible, above-ground indication of them on the property.

Mr. Johnson is planning to "completely map out the burial field, using radar to scan the ground and produce a sonogram of the grave area."

The plan got a $3,000 Historic Preservation grant to help locate and return the headstones that were removed some time after 1957 — after they were found knocked over and placed against the foundation of the building used by soldiers in the Civil War.

The project will require gath ing information about the civili and Union soldiers who were bu there from a list of some 45 nam in 150- to 200-year-old records.

"Once we find out where who was buried there," Mr. John said, "we will put up a fence signs that would commemorate historical significance."

Noting that some Confeder soldiers were possibly buried th near the site of a Union enca ment to the west and south of church, Mr. Johnson said, "Th an incredibly important vestig our past."
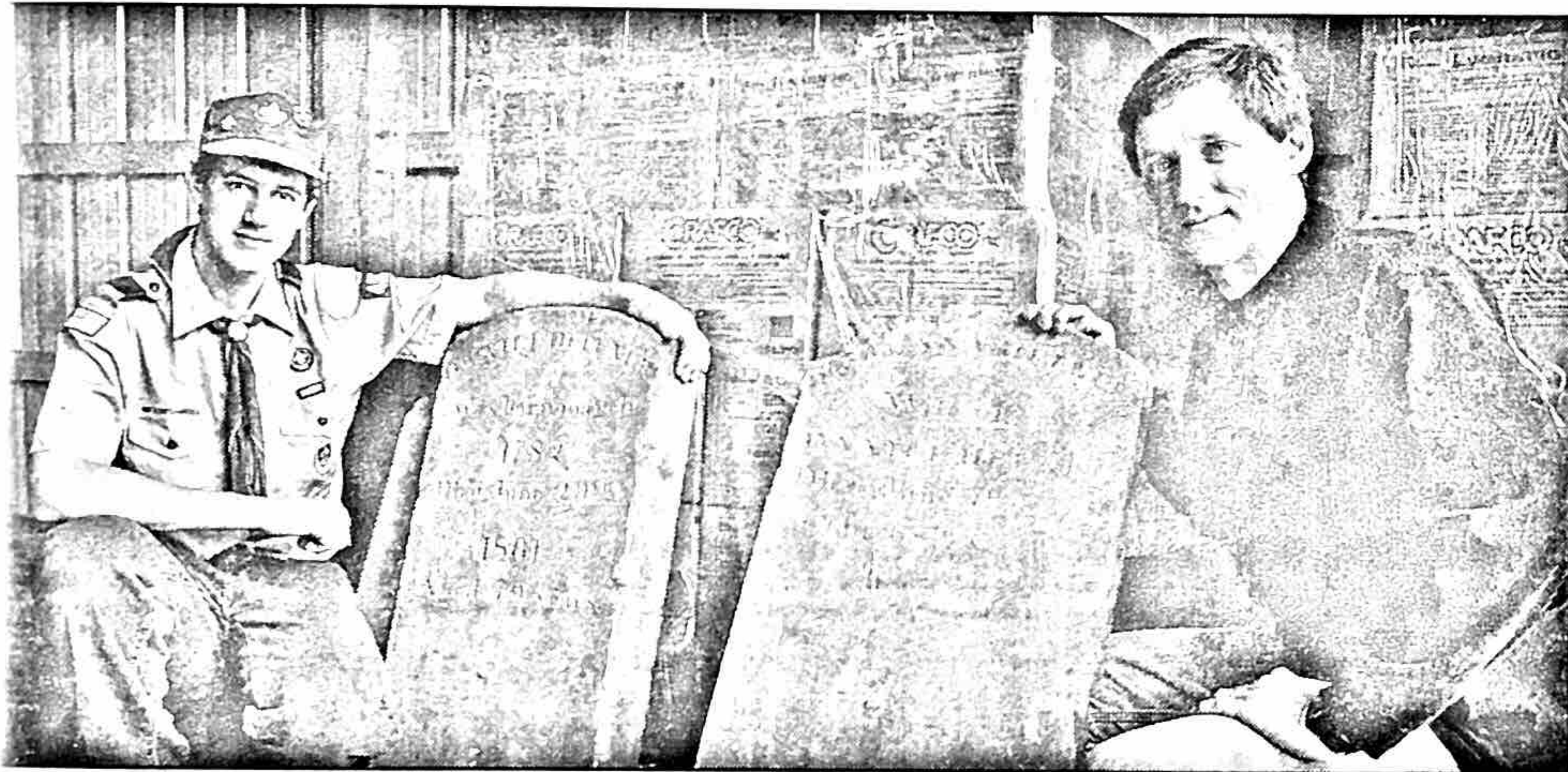
Without adequate documen tion about the Union soldiers. Johnson isn't too optimistic ab getting individual headstones graves that were only marked w wooden crosses. But, he s "maybe we can get a marker t commemorates this as a milit cemetery without names. We going to work with the Veter: Administration to see if they assist us with an honor or burial on a single marker."

Mr. Johnson hopes to have

sets out to restore 19th Century gravesite

Staff photo by Sam Yu

ll Martin, left, 15, of Boy Scout Troop 496, and Andy Johnson, Poolesville town commissioner, are wn with some old tombstones in a barn at the Poolesville wastewater treatment plant recently. e pair are coordinating the survey of the historic cemetery on the Old Town Hall property and plan renovate the cemetery, which also contains Civil War dead. This is the Eagle Scout project for Mr. rtin.

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The project will require gathering information about the civilians and Union soldiers who were buried there from a list of some 45 names in 150- to 200-year-old records.

"Once we find out where and who was buried there," Mr. Johnson said, "we will put up a fence and signs that would commemorate the historical significance."

Noting that some Confederate soldiers were possibly buried there, near the site of a Union encampment to the west and south of the church, Mr. Johnson said, "This is an incredibly important vestige of our past."

Without adequate documentation about the Union soldiers, Mr. Johnson isn't too optimistic about getting individual headstones for graves that were only marked with wooden crosses. But, he said "maybe we can get a marker that commemorates this as a military cemetery without names. We are going to work with the Veterans Administration to see if they can assist us with an honor or burial roll on a single marker."

Mr. Johnson hopes to have the site mapped out by the end of May before the civilian headstones, which include infants a few days of age to a nearly 92-year-old woman, returned to the grounds.

He will be talking to people about restoring the stones to bring out the writing and smoothing and cleaning some stones that are chipped and rough before they're returned to the site.

Having quashed a move last year to "abdicate" the site, Mr. Johnson said, "It's our responsibility to restore the property and celebrate its historical significance."

Given 12 months to complete the effort, his goal for completion is the end of the year.

He's getting help from Eagle Scout Will Martin, a 15-year-old working on a leadership badge who is checking prices for fencing and "trying to get the Scouts together to build the fence, instead of the town paying for it."

He's also reading a book of the Maryland Graveyard Association in an attempt to "find any pictures of anything that will tell me where to put them."