

# A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



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*Compiled by Elizabeth Wolfe Whitener*

*September 1998, 2002*

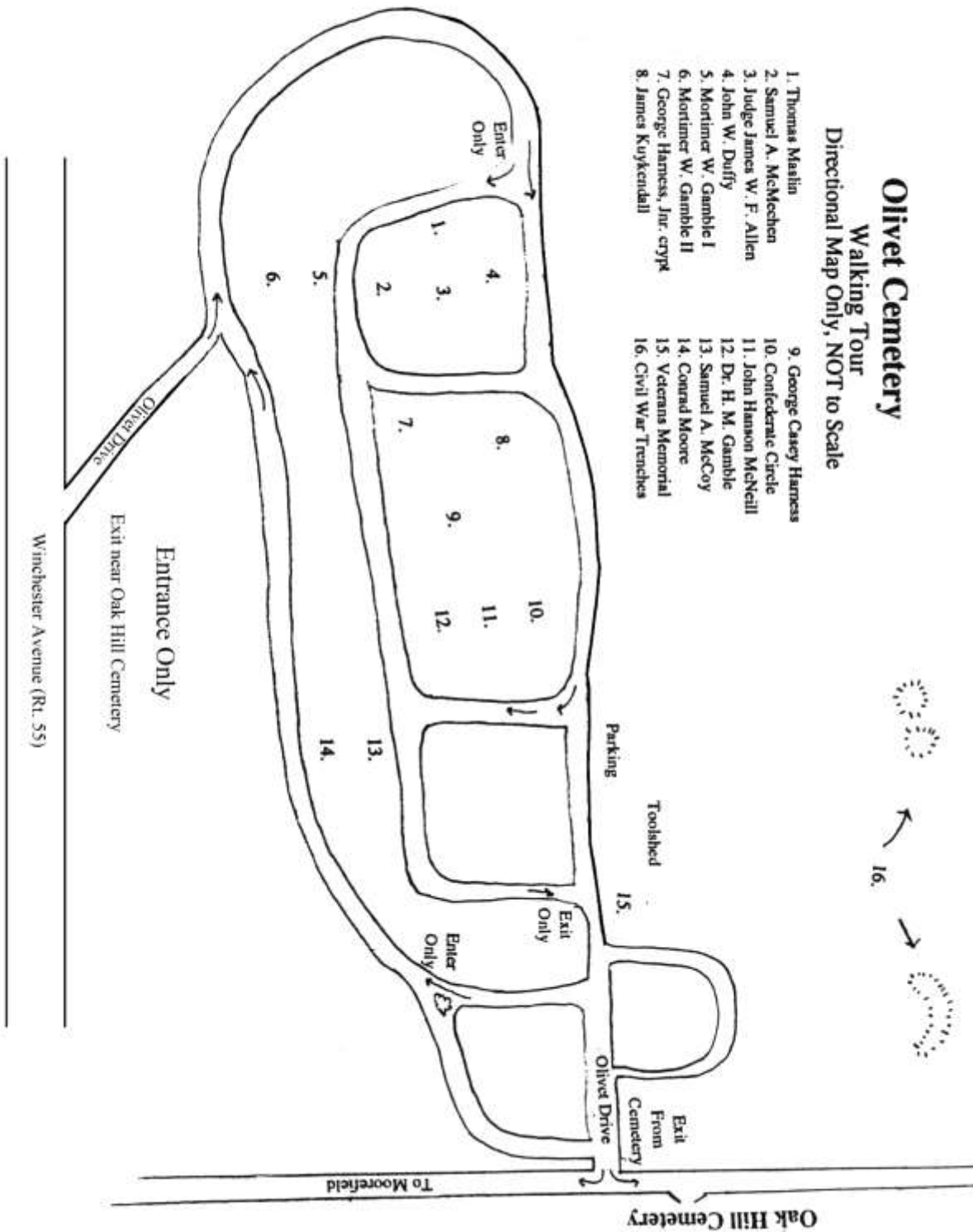
# Olivet Cemetery

## Walking Tour

Directional Map Only, NOT to Scale



- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Thomas Mastin            | 9. George Casey Harness |
| 2. Samuel A. McMecken       | 10. Confederate Circle  |
| 3. Judge James W. F. Allen  | 11. John Hanson McNeill |
| 4. John W. Duffy            | 12. Dr. H. M. Gamble    |
| 5. Mortimer W. Gamble I     | 13. Samuel A. McCoy     |
| 6. Mortimer W. Gamble II    | 14. Conrad Moore        |
| 7. George Harness, Jr. cypk | 15. Veterans Memorial   |
| 8. James Kuykendall         | 16. Civil War Trenches  |



## **WALKING TOUR OF OLIVET CEMETERY**

### **Moorefield, West Virginia**

As you leave Winchester Avenue (WV Route 55, east) ascending onto Olivet Drive, an arched "OLIVET CEMETERY" sign curves above the entrance way. Just to the left of this entrance way is a blue and white sign reading:

#### **OLIVET CEMETERY**

Soldiers of both North and South buried here, battle took place on the cemetery and adjoining hill Jan. 3, 1863, Col. James Washburn (USA) attacked by Gen. William E. Jones (CSA). Union won. Sept. 11, 1863, Capt. McNeill defeated Major W. E. Stevens.

In addition to the burial sites of these soldiers, many ancestors of today's Hardy County residents lie in rest here in Olivet Cemetery. Among these and listed in the order in which you might arrive at them are the following well known "Town Fathers" and residents who were instrumental in influencing the growth and development of the Town of Moorefield. Special interest sites are also included.

**THOMAS MASLIN** was born in Berkeley County, West Virginia, in 1808 and clerked in a store at Harper's Ferry before he came to Hardy County. Relying entirely upon his own energy, integrity, and capacity for business, he became a successful merchant and an effective member of the community in the developing town of Moorefield and county of Hardy.

When the Virginia General Assembly appointed new trustees of the Town of Moorefield in 1836 Thomas Maslin, James Carr Gamble, George C. Harness, William Seymour, and John McDowell, Jnr. were appointed. The committee was authorized to impose taxes to pave streets, sidewalks and alleys of the town. As early as 1837 Maslin became a justice of the county court and served continuously through the Civil War years.

Hardy County people wanted a good road to link them with the Northwestern Turnpike as it neared completion in 1838. The 1838 session of the Virginia General Assembly authorized George C. Harness, Samuel H. Alexander, Thomas Maslin, and John McDowell to open subscription books at Moorefield for the turnpike that had been surveyed through Moorefield and Bean Settlement. At the same session the General Assembly authorized construction of this road. William Seymour, George C. Harness, Thomas Maslin, and James S. Miles were directors of the turnpike company at Moorefield.

By 1850 Moorefield was a town of 287 people with two hotels. John W. Duffy was proprietor of one of them; John Mullin, long a Whig member of the General Assembly, owned the other. Thomas Maslin, Samuel M. Mullin, Milton Babb and Philip T. Shearer, Robert W. Gilkeson, Samuel A. McMechen, and Samuel H. Alexander all owned stores and were general merchants.

Despite its economic importance as a center of cattle trade, Moorefield's first bank did not appear until the 1852 General Assembly authorized the Bank of the Valley to establish a branch at Moorefield. Thomas Maslin, who operated a general store in Moorefield from 1831, became the first president of the bank, which he was instrumental in organizing.

According to early 1850s tax records, personal wealth in Moorefield suggest the town's close relationship to the fertile farming country around it. Adam Harness, a farmer, was the wealthiest man in Moorefield with \$50,000; Sally Harness had \$30,000 worth of property; Alexander J. Sangster, M.D., has an estimated worth of \$22,000. Merchants came next. Thomas Maslin was listed at

\$18,000; John Hopewell at \$15,000. Circuit Court Clerk Charles Lobb had \$12,000; Merchant Samuel McMechen \$9,000.

A total of 26 Moorefield residents owned altogether 87 slaves in 1850. Mrs. Sidney McNeill Pugh owned 9 slaves; Adam Harness - 6 slaves; Sally Harness - 6 slaves; Dr. Alexander Sangster - 8 slaves. Five Moorefield families included 5 slaves (usually an adult woman and her children) - Samuel A. McMechen, Dr. Gustavus Williams, James Carr Gamble, Thomas Maslin, and Robert W. Gilkeson.

When the Virginia Convention met in Richmond on February 13, 1861, to determine whether the state would remain in the Union or join the states to the south that had seceded, representatives of the Shenandoah Valley voted against secession. Four members of the Convention did not vote – Thomas Maslin of Moorefield, the delegate of Hardy County; Paul McNeill, representing Pendleton and Pocahontas counties; A. M. Barbour of Jefferson County; and Benjamin Wilson of Harrison County. Of these four non-voters, Barbour and McNeill later signed the Ordinance of Secession. Maslin of Moorefield and Wilson of Harrison County did not sign.

Voters chose Abijah Dolley to represent them in the Constitutional Convention held in Wheeling in July 1861. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became a separate state with Hardy County casting 150 votes in favor of statehood. Seventy-six Hardy County voters gave consent to ratification of the new state constitution. It provided for the abolition of slavery and created a system of free public schools.

The 1872 Constitutional Convention met in Charleston, and marked the end of Reconstruction. Thomas Maslin, Hardy County attending representative, introduced an article of the proposed constitution that would guarantee a voice for each county in the House of Delegates. Under this provision, Hardy County regained its individual seat in the House of Delegates.

On April 8, 1872, Delegate Johnson of Wood County presented a resolution: "Whereas, Hon Thomas A Maslin, a member of this body, has presented to the Convention a pen made from a quill which, with his own hand, he plucked from the pinion of the American eagle, with which pen he desires the new Constitution shall be signed;

"Resolved, that the Convention thankfully accept the pen... and direct that the new Constitution be signed therewith, and that the Secretary of this body is directed to place said pen in the office of the Secretary of State, there to be preserved among the archives of the State."

The resolution was adopted.

The Maslin home located on Main Street in Moorefield, was built in 1847 of locally prepared bricks and timber from nearby stands at a cost of some \$12,000. During the War Between the States, it is said that Confederate soldiers were hidden in the dirt cellar under the wing of the house. The house, Maslin-Gamble House, was named to the National Register of Historic Places on August 29, 1979.

Maslin's active participation in political affairs beginning in the 1840s extended through the 1872 Constitutional Convention. He died on September 21, 1879, and is buried in the Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield, WV. Following his death, the Maslin House was purchased from the Maslin heirs by Mortimer W. Gamble II and came to be known as the Maslin-Gamble House.

**SAMUEL A. McMECHAN** was born in Moorefield in 1822. A merchant, by the age of 27 he had accumulated some \$9,000 worth of real estate. He had the largest house in town by 1855. The 19-room McMechen house and attached general merchandise store on Main Street was three stories high. Great oak beams supporting the first floor are exposed in the basement. Each room had a fireplace with carved mantle.

During the Civil War, McMechan's house served as headquarters for Rebs or Yankees (depending on the current control of the town).

During the 1860s and 1870s Samuel A. McMechen kept one of the town's large general stores and advertised dry goods, coffee, sugar and other necessities. He also sold a variety of farm machinery.

Early nineteenth century Hardy County politics were dominated by the Federalist Party, and Samuel A. McMechen was elected in 1813 to serve in the Virginia General Assembly.

In an effort to continue the railroad line from Romney to Moorefield, Samuel A. McMechen served with an 1875 West Virginia delegation to convince Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad to finance the Washington & Ohio to open up the coal lands of West Virginia. McMechen was commissioned to negotiate with the coal owners to see if they would help build such a railroad. They would not.

However, S. A. McMechan never abandoned his dream of bringing a railroad up the South Branch Valley. The *Hardy County News* reported in September 1897 that S. A. McMechen "is working to bring the railroad through Hardy," as he had been doing for more than 30 years.

Finally, some seven years after S. A. McMechen's death in 1903 the Hampshire and Southern sent its first train to Moorefield which arrived on May 9, 1910. S. A. McMechen and his wife, Elizabeth Seymour McMechen, are buried in the Olivet Cemetery.

**JAMES WILLIAM FRANKLIN ALLEN** was the only circuit court judge to serve both Virginia and West Virginia. Born in 1813 in Woodstock, Virginia, and educated by his maternal grandfather, Allen arrived in Moorefield in 1826 to begin the practice of law.

During those years of bitter strife between Henry Clay and Andrew (later President) Jackson. Hardy County was Whig, and young Allen was warned that, since he was a Democrat, a supporter of "Old Hickory" and had no influential friends, he could not make a living in Moorefield. However, he did establish himself in the community and served several terms as prosecuting attorney. In 1860 he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court comprising the counties of Page, Warren, Shenandoah, Rockingham, Highland, Pendleton, and Hardy.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Allen became a money-raiser for the Confederacy and was so successful that the Yankees, reportedly, had a price of \$5,000 gold on his head.

At war's end, broken in fortune, disbarred, and disenfranchised, he formed a law partner with a Union sympathizer. In 1872 he was elected a circuit court judge in West Virginia.

He was married and was the father of 14 children. He died July 1875 and was eulogized as "a good lawyer, safe counsellor, just and upright judge, good and useful citizen and faithful and consistent Christian." Judge Allen is buried in the Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield, WV.

**JOHN W. DUFFY** was born February 1, 1811, the first of nine children born to John M. and Catherine Waldeck Duffy. His father, John M., was of Irish descent and a school teacher; born in Pennsylvania, he died in Ohio. Mother, Catherine Waldeck was of German descent; born in Maryland, she also died in Ohio.

On April 17, 1837, John W. Duffy and Catherine Raimer (born March 25, 1813) were married. They were parents of 10 children – three sons and seven daughters. The oldest daughter, Elizabeth C., was born in 1838 and married P. J. Slayer who built the Downing Building (old Coffman Fisher building) on Main Street in Moorefield.

By 1850, Moorefield was a town of 287 people, but its size belied its importance in the region. Moorefield had two hotels. John W. Duffy was the proprietor of a prosperous business under the firm name of Duffy's Tavern, located in a large log structure on Main Street, just north of the Samuel A. McMechen home. The second hotel, located at the corner of today's Main Street and Winchester Avenue, was owned by John Mullin, long a Whig member of the General Assembly. His son, John C. B. Mullin, was the actual innkeeper. A total of 26 Moorefield residents owned altogether 87 slaves in 1850. John W. Duffy, Samuel H. Alexander, Samuel Marshall, and William H. Strother each had three servants – a mother and her children.

In 1854 the Virginia General Assembly incorporated the town of Moorefield with John Hopewell, Samuel H. Alexander, Joseph E. Berry, George A. Shepherd, John G. Harness, Jr., Alfred Taylor, and John W. Duffy appointed trustees under this new system. The trustees had authority to adopt all necessary laws and generally service the needs of the town.

The Civil War years brought a great revival of religion across the South. Nineteen-year-old Jefferson Waite Duffy, son of John W. and Catherine Raimor Duffy, was serving with McNeill's Rangers when he attended a service at Hebron Lutheran Church on New Year's Day 1865. The Reverend Peter Miller's sermon spoke to him, and Duffy responded to an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior. In March 1865 the young Confederate united with the Moorefield Methodist Church. According to material prepared by Ella Bergdoll and published in the *Hardy County Family History to 1990*, the Duffy Memorial United Methodist Church at the corner of Winchester Avenue and Elm Street was named "... to honor Moorefield native John sic [Jefferson] W. Duffy who had distinguished himself as one of the McNeill Rangers in the Civil War, was converted shortly thereafter, and later became a beloved minister and bishop of the Baltimore Conference."

West Virginia became a separate state on June 20 1863. John W. Duffy, the Moorefield hotelkeeper, was described by MacMasters in his *History of Hardy County, 1786-1986*, as one of the only Union men in Moorefield in 1869. His son Jefferson Waite Duffy had distinguished himself in service with McNeill's Rangers during the Civil War. John W. Duffy was also the leader of the Republican Party in Moorefield and Hardy County during Reconstruction days. He served as Sheriff of Hardy County in 1862, and as Clerk of the Court in 1866. Duffy was the successful Republican candidate for the House of Delegates in 1868.

In 1868 Daniel R. McNeill and William M. Randolph chaired a meeting at the Hardy County Courthouse to discuss the need for a railroad. John W. Duffy, Felix B. Welton, James W. F. Allen, John A. Scott, Henry W. Frye, James Kuykendall, and James P. Stump served on the committee that drafted the resolutions. A big railroad meeting was set to be held on Washington's Birthday 1869. The meeting agreed on a steering committee composed of John W. Duffey, J. W. F. Allen, Joseph Sprigg, Homer S. Carr, F. B. Welton, W. M. Randolph, John A. Scott, P. N. Anderson, Isaac G. Mask, John J. Chipley, and D. R. McNeill.

The West Virginia legislature chartered the North and South Branches Turnpike Company on February 19, 1868. Hardy County directors included John W. Duffy, Joseph VanMeter, James R. Heiskell, James Kuykendall, George T. Williams, William Maury Randolph, Angus M. Wood, William Baker, and Samuel Bean. This company planned to build a turnpike to run from Cumberland to Romney and along the eastern side of the South Branch to Moorefield, with a branch road from Romney to Lost River by way of Grassy Lick and Bean Settlement.

On 18 August 1883, a charter was issued in the name of the South Branch Valley National Bank. Investors included John W. Duffy who was a member of the first Board of Directors of the bank.

The Duffy's Tavern business was apparently terminated in about 1887 (John W. Duffy died April 6, 1889) when John W. Duffy conveyed the southern part of the lot, with a dwelling house thereon to Dr. William B. Bowen, who had just moved to Moorefield from the Valley of Virginia to practice medicine in the community. That same year John W. Duffy conveyed the northern portion of the lot, with portion of the tavern building to Florence Copp. This portion of the building is still used (first by Earl B. Thursh as a funeral home) and today by a video and sewing business.

John W. Duffy died April 6, 1889, and is buried in Olivet Cemetery along with his wife, Catherine, who died February 7, 1863. A scalding accident resulted in the death of their son John Clinton Duffy who died in 1856 at the age of 5 years (born March 18, 1851) and is buried in Olivet Cemetery.

**MORTIMER WILLIAMS GAMBLE, I** was born August 26, 1820, in Hardy County, Virginia. He was a farmer, postmaster at Moorefield from 1840 to 1852, and served as bookkeeper in the first bank organized in 1851 in Moorefield. M. W. Gamble, I, served as first Secretary of the Board of

Education of the Moorefield District; was Deputy in the Hardy County Clerk's Office under his father, James Carr Gamble. He was a Confederate soldier – Second Lieutenant, then First Lieutenant, Hardy County Blues, Company A, 25th Virginia Regiment. Gamble was captured at the Battle of Rich Mountain in the summer of 1861 and was paroled July 17, 1861. He died February 11, 1872, and is buried in Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield, WV.

**MORTIMER WILLIAMS GAMBLE, II** was born June 25, 1862, in Moorefield, the seventh child and third son of Mortimer Williams Gamble I and Elizabeth Cunningham Gamble.

He read law with his cousin, attorney George E. Price, and began the practice of law in Moorefield at the age of 22 in 1884. M. W. Gamble II served as Prosecuting Attorney of Hardy County two terms, and represented Hardy County in the West Virginia State Legislature, one term. Mortimer Williams Gamble II died in 1932 and is buried in the Olivet Cemetery.

**GEORGE C. HARNESS, JNR.** *His crypt (1816) is the earliest dated burial site in Olivet Cemetery.* Grandfather Michael Harness was born on New Year's Day, 1700, in York County, Pennsylvania. At age 24 grandfather married 18-year-old Elizabeth Tepebo (Jephebe/ Westfall). The family moved to Hampshire County (now Hardy) with seven children, including a babe-in-arms, as the family made the journey to the new frontier. Five additional children were born in their new home.

Their first child, John, born in 1725, married Eunice Petty. John was a Revolutionary War patriot, and a Captain in service to his country. John and Eunice Harness became parents of 10 children. Among them were three daughters who married local brothers: Rebecca married John Cunningham; Sarah "Sallie" married Revolutionary War Capt. Isaac Cunningham; Jemima married William Cunningham; and George C. Harness, Jnr. born January 24, 1759, died August 27, 1816.

George C. Harness, Jnr. married Rebecca Ann Casey, daughter of Col. Peter Casey of the Revolutionary War who commanded a company or regiment at Yorktown at the surrender of Cornwallis. George and Rebecca Ann Harness lived just south of Moorefield and were parents of four children: John G., George Casey, Saray "Sally," and Frances "Fanny."

When George C. Harness, Jnr. died in 1816 he was buried in a crypt on family-owned property which was later to become a part of Olivet Cemetery. His wife, Rebecca Ann Harness, and other members of the family are buried in this family plot.

**JAMES KUYKENDALL** was born November 27, 1824, and died November 20, 1897. He and his wife, Ann Rebecca, conveyed three-quarters of an acre of property on the hill east of Moorefield and bounded on the southwest corner by the Olivet Cemetery to the Olivet Cemetery for the sum of \$1. In the property conveyance deed, James and Ann Rebecca specified that the property was "... to be used as a burial place for the dead and for no other purpose."

In an 1868 meeting at the Hardy County Courthouse, James participated in discussions relative to the need for a railroad to Moorefield. He was appointed a member of a local committee to explore which railroad, how, and when. By 1910 his works had born fruit and the very first train arrived in Moorefield.

Following the Civil War, West Virginia elected to provide public supported educations for its young citizens. James Kuykendall served with committees to lead the way.

In the 1880s James Kuykendall served as an Elder with the Moorefield Presbyterian Church, and was appointed Sunday School Superintendent, a position he held until his death in 1897.

His son, James William Kuykendall (February 15, 1855, to January 21, 1932) was a draughtsman. In February 1900, James William prepared a plat of Olivet Cemetery with a scale of 15 feet to 1 inch. He included burial sites with names of those who had been buried and/or had purchased burial sites

in the cemetery prior to that date. Kuykendall also included a listing of incorporators with the date of February 5, 1887. Those original incorporators: S. A. McMechen, J. William Gilkeson, Jno. J. Chipley, E. Holmes Shearer, R. A. Wilson, Jno. W. Inskeep, Jno. Daniels, J. Wm. Kuykendall, E. L. Allen, Jno. T. Vanmeter, W. K. Chambers, H. S. Carr, Jno. C. Fisher, Jno. P. Slur, and Sabul J. Heltzel.

The original Olivet Cemetery plat has become part of the permanent collection of the Hardy County Public Library archives collection.

**GEORGE CASEY HARNESS**, son of George C. Harness, Jnr. and Rebecca Ann Harness, was born 17 Dec 1802, died 19 Dec 1853. His burial site is distinctively marked with a tall obelisk in the Harness family plot.

In the 1820s, George Casey Harness owned a large tanyard near Moorefield. He was a farmer, and by the 1850s (Moorefield's population was 287) was listed among farmers with the largest investments in livestock. Only 20 Hardy County farmers had farms valued at a market price of \$30,000 or more in the 1850s. George Casey Harness, at age 47, is reported in the 1850 Hardy County Census to have owned real estate at a value of \$72,000.

In 1850 the Virginia General Assembly appointed trustees of Moorefield: George C. Harness, Thomas Maslin, William Seymour, James Carr and John McDowell, Jr. George C. Harness was also appointed to a committee for road improvements. Moorefield became the hub of first-class roads that radiated out in every direction. As a result, Town trustees were authorized to raise monies to pave streets, sidewalks, and alleys of town.

During this period, much of the property now known as the Olivet Cemetery was owned by George Casey Harness. In 1851 he and his wife, Sarah, "... impressed with the necessity and propriety of providing a suitable public burying ground near the town of Moorefield (for the sum of \$1) granted to the Olivet Cemetery Company a tract of land containing two and one half acres." This tract of land, referred to in a later deed, may have included the burial site of his father and mother, George and Rebecca Ann Harness.

### **SALUTE TO DECEASED CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS - CONFEDERATE CIRCLE**

Much of the following information is from *The History of Hardy County, 1786-1986*, by Richard K. MacMaster, 1986, page 236. The book is available for purchase at the Hardy County Public Library, 102 North Main Street, Moorefield, WV 26836.

"Friends of Deceased Confederate Soldiers met at Moorefield on February 23, 1867. D. O. Maupin presided and A. H. McNeill acted as secretary. The ladies of the community had already formed a Memorial and Monument Association, with Mrs. Martha Ann VanMeter as president, Mrs. Catherine Price, Mrs. Rebecca Alexander, Mrs. A. R. Kuykendall, Mrs. Rebecca Kuykendall, and Miss Ann Kuykendall vice presidents, Mrs. F. B. Welton secretary and Mrs. Elizabeth McMechen treasurer. They appointed a committee of gentlemen to select suitable grounds in the cemetery for a monument and arrange for the reburial of the Confederate dead there.

"They met again at the Moorefield Presbyterian Church in April 1867 and formally adopted a constitution. Mrs. E. M. McMechen was president, Mrs. Catherine Price vice-president, Mrs. Mary A. Kuykendall secretary, and Mrs. Mary C. Anderson treasurer. Five men formed the executive committee: G. T. Williams, P. T. Shearer, A. Hack, S. T. Tucker, and Colonel Abram Spangler. The Reverend G. W. White and the Reverend J. C. Dice agreed to compose a short address to be printed as a circular. The meeting appointed Mrs. Sallie Hack, Mrs. Sallie McNeill, Mrs. Sallie Miles, Mrs. Bell VanMeter, Miss Mary Maslin, Miss Mary Nelson, Miss Bettie Welton, Miss Maggie Chambers and Miss Sallie Heiskell to canvass for donations to the Confederate monument fund.



"As a result of their efforts a handsome granite monument was erected in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery overlooking Moorefield and Hardy County's Confederate dead encircled it. Each year on June 5, they arranged a memorial service and covered the graves of the Confederate dead with flowers."

This memorial service began in 1867 and continued into the 1920s. Today the First National Confederate Flag flies in honor of these Confederate soldiers. The flag was erected in 1998 by local Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Notice how the soldiers are identified. Those noted as "Strangers" were men who were not members of the involved unit. "Unknowns" were those soldiers who remained unidentified.

Men buried in the circle around the Confederate monument were killed in action. Other CSA veterans were buried outside the circle. CSA headstones/plaques were placed through efforts of United Daughters of the Confederacy.

**JOHN HANSON MCNEILL** Daniel McNeill, grandfather of John Hanson McNeill, came to the South Branch Valley in the mid-1700s from Pennsylvania. Daniel's son, Strother McNeill, was born in the South Branch Valley on June 22, 1773, one of only two children who lived to maturity.

John Hanson McNeill was born to Strother and Amy McNeill near Moorefield [Old Fields] on June 12, 1815. Strother died in 1819 when John was only 3½ years old. Hardworking and industrious, John Hanson grew to manhood in the South Branch Valley after receiving only a limited formal education. At the age of 21, he married Jemima Harness Cunningham on January 19, 1837. Their first son was born on November 4, 1837, on their farm near Moorefield. The desire for more land soon led John to pack up his wife and infant son and head for the promised land of the west. They moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky. After six years, Jemima developed health problems. The McNeill family returned to Hardy County in early 1844 with sons George W., born on October 26, 1839, and Jesse Cunningham, born September 22, 1841. Their only daughter, Sarah Emily, was born on July 18, 1844. In early 1848 the family began their second trek west to Boone County, Missouri. John's desire for more acreage led him to leave Boone County in 1855 and the family moved to Davies County, Missouri, where John purchased a 500-acre farm. John Hanson, Jr., was born there on October 7, 1859. Before his namesake had reached his second birthday, John Hanson, Sr. had enlisted in the Confederate army.

In his book, *McNeill's Rangers*, Roger U. Delauter, Jr. states that John Hanson McNeill was "appointed Capt. of 2nd Co. E 18th Va. Cav. 24 on September 1862, [and] was known as "Hanse McNeill." According to Virgil Carrington Jones in *Gray Ghosts and Rebel Raiders*, Hanse McNeill "organized an independent partisan company in the spring of 1863."

"... a predawn attack on a 100-man detail of Federals guarding a bridge across the Shenandoah near Mount Jackson [VA], [John Hanson McNeill] was felled by a bullet supposedly from the gun of one of his own men." McNeill died five weeks and three days (Nov 10, 1864) after his wounding. Burial followed in the local cemetery, with Masonic honors. Two months later, his body was taken up and moved to Cemetery Hill overlooking Moorefield. In the words of Roger U. Delauter, Jr., John Hanson McNeill was "mortally wounded in action on 3 October 1864 at Meem's Bottom, near Mt. Jackson, Va., died 10 November 1864 at Hill's Hotel, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Remains moved to Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield, WV in January 1865."

**DR. HAMILTON MacSPARRIN GAMBLE** was born in 1838 in Moorefield, a son of James Carr Gamble and Elizabeth Maria Williams Gamble. He was a brother of Mortimer Williams Gamble I. Hamilton MacSparrin Gamble, M. D., was a student at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, in 1853. He graduated in Pharmacy from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1859. Two years later, in 1861, he graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Following his graduation from Jefferson Medical College, Hamilton enlisted as a private in the Hardy Blues Confederate Army. Less than a year later, on February 10, 1862, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the Confederate Army by President Jefferson Davis and held this commission to the end of the Civil War.

During the Civil War, he was twice captured and imprisoned at Fort Delaware. Each time he was released in an exchange of prisoners program. After his second imprisonment and release, he served as Assistant Surgeon in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1864-65, in the 23rd Regiment of the Virginia Cavalry.

The greater part of his life was spent practicing medicine and surgery in Moorefield, WV. He was a French translator, contributor and Assistant Editor for *Gaillards Medical Journal* of New York. He was also a master of the French, German, Russian, and Latin languages and could read Greek, Italian, and Spanish.

In 1894, Hamilton received an Honorary Ph.D. from the University of West Virginia. Dr. Hamilton MacSparrin Gamble's plant collection of 157 species was donated to the University of West Virginia in 1894, and is now in the State Herbarium. A section of the arboretum on Campus there is named Gamble Gardens in his honor.

**SAMUEL ALEXANDER McCOY**, the son of Pendleton and Catherine (Kate) Seymour McMechen McCoy, was born in 1880 in Pendleton County. His paternal grandfather was William McCoy who was a member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention. His maternal grandfather, Samuel Alexander McMechen, was a well-known merchant of Moorefield.

*The Moorefield Examiner* has been a weekly newspaper since 1845. In 1902 at the age of 21, Samuel A. "Mr. Sam" McCoy and G. W. McCauley purchased the *Weekly Examiner* from (Civil War) Captain John J. Chipley. "Mr. Sam" changed the name of the weekly paper to *The Moorefield Examiner* in 1907. With the death of her husband in 1935, Mr. Sam's widow, Eunice, became the publisher and daughter, Katherine McCoy Fisher, assumed the position of managing editor. Later Katherine McCoy Fisher was joined in the enterprise by her husband, Ralph.

During the Depression of the 1930s *The Examiner* took over *The Hardy County News*, a Republican paper, owned by Harry Woodyard and edited by Mrs. L. R. Grover. Since then the paper has been called *The Moorefield Examiner and Hardy County News*. *The Moorefield Examiner* office building continues to be located and maintained on Main Street in Moorefield.

After the death of her parents, Phoebe Fisher Heishman assumed management of *The Moorefield Examiner*, and was later joined by her husband, David O. Heishman, a surveyor and part-time farmer. By 1977, the paper began publishing twice weekly, Wednesday and Saturday.

Samuel Alexander McCoy, his wife Eunice Petty Taylor McCoy, and parents Pendleton and Catherine (Kate) Seymour McMechen McCoy are buried in Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield.

**CONRAD MOORE** Some of the earliest recorded properties deeded by Lord Fairfax include twenty deeds recorded as lots 1 through 20 along the South Fork of the Potomac River. These deeds, dated 1748-49, extend from Brake (lots 1 and 2 went to Peter Reed, lot 3 to Michael Stump) to the site of present Moorefield. Lot 20 of 373 acres, including properties where Moorefield is now located, went to Philip Moore, father of Conrad Moore.

By 1748, Philip Moore was considered an "old resident." When the survey party, including George Washington, came to survey the area, Washington referred to Moore's home as a "house" distinguishing it from the "cabbins" which dotted the settlement. Philip Moore must have loved adventure. His philosophy may have been "don't wonder, wander."

His journeys brought him through Brock's Gap, to the Lost River Valley, to Mathias, and across Howard's Lick Mountain. He and his family must have traveled some of the worst roads in the

country at that time. Finally arriving in the valley (to become Moorefield), Philip and his family settled down. When he died in 1772, he left his "goods and chattels" to four sons and three daughters. Philip Jr. died in 1778. His brothers, Michael and John with their families, moved across the Alleghany Mountains to Monongalia County in 1785. Michael had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War. It is not known whether others of his brothers, including Conrad, might also have been involved in that War.

Conrad, the fourth son and perhaps the least adventuresome of the brothers, chose to remain in the valley. He was a man of versatile interests and talents, a man of means, and a "jack-of-all trades." In addition to managing his own farm, Conrad was a blacksmith, a wagon maker, a manufacturer of pewter spoons, a watchmaker, and a clock mender. He was a carpenter and a housebuilder. There is evidence, too, that Conrad practiced medicine and surgery. Records reveal that he was the town's first banker, a money lender of repute. He was also a confirmed bachelor.

In 1777 the Virginia General Assembly authorized a town to be known as Moorefield on 62 acres of Conrad Moore's property.

Conrad died some 23 years later. Evidently, he attended the Mount Zion Church, a log building with stone chimney, located on the south edge of town. He was buried in the graveyard of this Mount Zion Church. A more exact date of his death has not been determined. His will was dated December 2, 1799, and was entered for probate on April 9, 1800. His estate amounted to \$1,418.90. Among his effects sold in the settlement of his estate were a still, a brass clock, a "cookoo clock," a repeating watch, a mirror, guns and pistols, a pair of plush breeches, a fur hat, and silver knee buckles. He must have been a "dandy" as he paraded in his fine attire after Sunday church.

In 1911, United Daughters of the Confederacy were instrumental in moving the site of his burial to the Olivet Cemetery where it is honored with an 8-foot tall obelisk. In his last will, Conrad's burial request read: "I desire my grave to be walled up with stone three feet thick and four feet high with a tomb stone at my head." Though today his grave is not walled up, he does have a fitting monument at his head, and a fitting tribute of the respect and veneration of people of the valley – in the place called Moorefield.

**VETERANS MEMORIAL** Dedicated to the Memory of American Veterans of All Wars. This center provides an appropriate site to honor the memory of soldiers of our country. It was constructed in 1983 in cooperation with the Olivet Cemetery board of directors and through the auspices of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**TRENCHES OF THE SOLDIERS** Nearly 130 years ago, Moorefield, and much of our young country, was a focus of conflict. Fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, friends ... all chose sides, some early, some later.

With the regular change of occupying forces of the Town during the Civil War, soldiers took a look around and determined that Cemetery Hill was an opportune location for the invading or attacking force.

A Hardy County Public Library archives collection of copies of letters contains the following account of one occasion of the shelling of Moorefield.

*March 2, 1862 Dearest S,*

*"An attack was made on our town a short time since...*

*"Two cannon balls struck the Court House, one cannon the Lobb's house, his family there, and several others in different parts of town. Three minnie balls passed into Mrs. Emma By's house, she there. . . after the militia retired the town was taken possession of by the federal forces; who only remained a brief period..."*

*"I witnessed the whole affair from a high knob known to you as Hickory,..."* "Ellan"

It is most likely that Federal forces camping on Cemetery Hill had prepared trenches for their protection. Remnants of these trenches are still visible on the far northeastern slope of Olivet Cemetery. Other trenches said to have been in the western slope, facing Moorefield and along the edge of the hill where the toolshed now stands have given way to grassy knolls and burial sites.

Still in existence are at least three trenches used by the soldiers in that long ago rage as it swept the country. These trenches have been "out of thought" as have so many events that poisoned the relationships of so many people. Through the use of metal detectors, diggings, pasturing of cattle, and more, the trenches visible today are mere shadows of their former selves. As you approach and view them though, you will remember the sound of explosions meant to maim and kill, the dirt and grime, the fear, the frustration, and the challenge of the soldier.

Olivet Cemetery's Civil War trenches are located on the far northeastern slope of the Cemetery. Two smaller ones are adjacent and nearer the toolshed. They are somewhat oval in shape and approximately 20 feet on the long side. The third trench is located southeast of the first two and is of a semi-circular shape. It is approximately 60 feet from end-to-end. An old apple tree (not of Civil War vintage, but perhaps a sprouting of another tree that stood in its place during that dreadful time) stands just beside the eastern end of the trench.

People tell the story of an old cannon discarded in the deep gulch just down the hill from this third trench. Water still runs through the gully to pool in a swampy area further down the hill. Eighty or ninety years ago it would have been a favorite place for like-minded youngsters to let their imagination run wild.

Many shells, parts of shells and/or casings have been found around local battlefields, including Olivet Cemetery. Late in the evening soldiers continued to fire until prepared shots had been used since the dampness of the night and the dew of the morning made the powder unusable the following day.

These Civil War trenches atop Cemetery Hill are a sad reminder of that chapter of our history. The trenches were largely neglected until more recently when the Olivet Cemetery board of directors, with Grover See as president, began more extensive landscaping, paving, and planting, clearing and cleaning. In the interest of the preservation of this portion of our history, the trenches have been cleared with walking access to them. Further plans for their preservation remain in the hands of the Olivet Cemetery board of directors.

**-- Compiled by Elizabeth Wolfe Whitener, September 2002**