

MUSE CEMETERY MUSINGS

- a. Tombstone inscriptions from the cemetery on Hwy. #11, nine miles north of Lexington, Va.
- b. A discussion of inter-relationships between many of the families buried in the cemetery
- c. A glimpse at the family connections with the Timber Ridge "Old Stone" Presbyterian Church

Compiled by Rev. Allen G. Hamann  
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church

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**TIMBER RIDGE  
PRESBY. CHURCH**

### Muse Cemetery Musings

The cemetery currently (1991) known as the "Muse Cemetery" is located about 9 miles north of Lexington, VA. (Rockbridge Co.), and about 3 miles north of the present Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church. It can be seen from the south-bound lane of Highway #11 ("Lee Highway") at a point south of where this highway intersects with the "Mackey's Lane" road. The cemetery sits well below the highway level, several hundred feet to the northwest.

The history of the cemetery cannot be totally separated from the history of the Presbyterian church, which was experiencing a division ("Old Side vs. New Side") about this time. One of the best summaries of this history can be found in Dr. Howard McK. Wilson's history of the Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church of Augusta Co. [See 5, p. 488]. As early as October 1741, Rev. John Craig (an "Old Side" pastor of Tinkling Spring) was preaching and baptizing children at the "Timber Grove Meeting House." In 1746 the Rev. John Blair (a "New Side" preacher) organized a portion of this group into the "Timber Ridge Meeting House", and a second building was built nearby. In 1756, this latter group constructed a new stone church about 3 miles south (the present location). The "Timber Ridge" group eventually dropped from the record, the last official record being baptisms by Rev. Craig in 1749.

The exact location of the original two buildings is open to some speculation. The original Timber Grove building was reportedly build "in the saddle of the ridge". Since Highway #11 was also built through this "saddle", one premise is that the original building was located approximately where the present south-bound lane of Highway #11 passes.

Based on reports from long-time residents of the area (reporting memories of their grandparents' statements), it is believed that the first Timber Ridge building was located in the woods about 1,000 feet west of the former church. There later was a school building either on or near this location.

It is known that a road went northwest from Highway #11 along the northern fence of the "Muse farm", a fence still in existence. A deed in 1927 [8, bk. 166-240] makes reference to a "stake near the old school" and to a "right of way" from Highway 11 to this same area. A map in this deed would indicate that this right of way follows the current fence, and it would seem plausible that the church (later a school) might have been located in the small triangular .29 acre lot involved in the deed. The Muse Cemetery is located a few hundred feet south of this location. It has also been referred to as the "Timber Grove Cemetery", perhaps to distinguish it from the larger "Timber Ridge Cemetery" near the present stone church. Burials were conducted at both locations during the same time period. Though the latest tombstone date in the Muse Cemetery is 1919, Daniel McManama (no death date given) was probably the latest burial here, sometime after 1929.

The cemetery derives its current name because of its location on "the Muse farm," referring to the family who has owned the farm since 1882. James B. Muse purchased the 133 acres that year [8, bk. UU-328] from Mr. and Mrs. John B. Irvine (John was the son of William S. Irvine, who is buried in the cemetery). The farm then passed to James Muse's son, Hubert T. Muse, whose daughters Sally and Mary (Mrs. Albert Kemp) still reside on the farm, though not in the original farm house which is still standing.

According to Dr. Kinnear [2, p. 6 of "biographical section"], the farm has passed through the hands of Dominick Moran, James Dougherty, Captain William Lyle, John Patton, George Ireland, Samuel Mackey, W. S. Irvine, J. B. Irvine, J. B. Muse, H. T. Muse & sister Eva Muse Hileman, and now to H. T. Muse's daughters.

The cemetery is approximately 115 feet by 90 feet in size. About 1973, the Muse descendants led a major cleanup of the site, when numerous trees were removed, and a fence was constructed around the cemetery. Although the casual observer often believes that Highway #11 heads north-south, with the cemetery parallel to it, the fact is that the highway is heading more N.E.-S.W., and the gate to the cemetery is near the south-east corner. Almost all of the tombstones in the cemetery are facing east.

The notes which follow center around an informal cemetery map by the author, using an arbitrary numbering system. After a listing of the tombstone inscriptions (as well as the author can decipher them), additional comments will be made concerning some of the family inter-relationships and connections with the area.

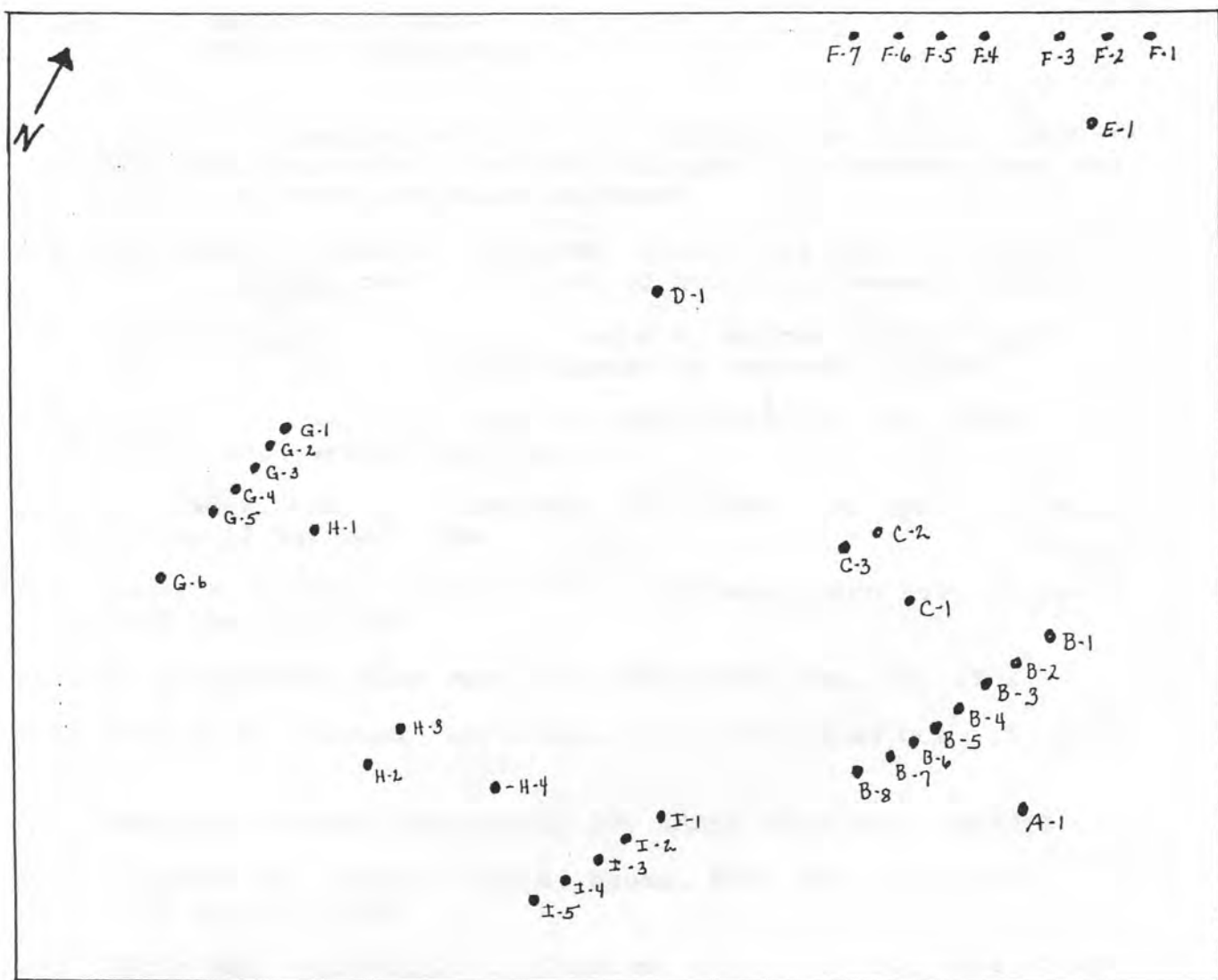
It might be noted that the author has seen a one-page listing for this cemetery entitled "A List (Which May Not Be Complete) of the Names in the Muse Cemetery". It is not known when or by whom this list was compiled. What is known is that there the tombstones contain far more information than is included on this list. The current project seeks to update this previous effort. Because some of the tombstones are placed deep into the ground (perhaps even broken and replanted), the author has not attempted to dig to the bottom of stones in order to record the various quotations which may be included following the birth and death details.

As with any project of this nature, there will be limitations and mistakes. Undoubtedly current residents could added even more details if time permitted. This represents a more complete record than was previously available, however, and hopefully will prove a valuable aide for history and genealogy buffs.

MAP OF MUSE CEMETERY

The map below seeks to show an approximate scale drawing of the headstones present in the cemetery as of October 1991. Sections of the cemetery have been arbitrarily assigned a letter (A to I), with an identifying number then given to each tombstone. Letter groups frequently (but not always) may refer to a related family group. The detailed inscriptions of the tombstones can be found on the next three pages. Following that listing, some additional comments will be offered concerning the various families.

The gate for the cemetery is located at the bottom right corner of the map, at basically the south-east corner of the cemetery. Almost all of the headstones (with the main exception of the "F" group) face toward the eastern rising sun.



Muse Cemetery Inscriptions

The punctuation used below is not necessarily identical with the tombstone. For comments on numbering system see the map page.

A-1\*. **McManama** (on base of tall, four-sided tombstone; names on the four sides include the following)

A-1-east. **Martha V.:** 1856-1880  
**Alexander:** 1852-1888

A-1-south. "rock of ages"; **Thomas P.:** 1823-1888  
his wife **Ellen S.:** 1823-1888

A-1-west. **Nannie J. Hunt**  
**Mary L.**

A-1-north. **Danial S.:** 1862-  
**Ella R.:** 1858-1886

B-1. **Jennie N. Cummins**, wife of **A. J. White**, born Oct. 6, 1859; died Aug. 26, 1897; "No pain, no grief, no anxious fear can reach our loved one sleeping here"

B-2. **Elizabeth C. Cummins:** born May 1823; died Jan. 31, 1894; "rest, mother, rest..." (rest of quotation beneath surface)

B-3. **Herman Vaughn**, son of **J.W. and M.A. White**, born May 21, 1886; died July 28, 1887 (quotation beneath surface)

B-4. **Samuel Cummins:** born Apr. 4, 1811; died Feb. 22, 1882 (quotation beneath surface)

B-5. **William H. Parrent:** born Feb. 27, 1838; died Apr. 27, 1919; Co. H. 14 Va. Cav. CSA

B-6. **Phebe E. Parrent**, wife of **W. H. Parrent**, born Nov. 15, 1841; died Feb. 24, 1890

B-7. **A. L. Parrent:** born Apr. 19, 1880; died Jan. 23, 1902

B-8. **Charles E. Parrent:** born Sept. 23, 1878; died Oct. 11, 1882

C-1. **James W. Gibson:** born April 20, 1835; died Apr. 7, 1901

C-2. **Virginia A.**, wife of **Ory H. Weeks**, born Aug. 13, 1859; died Jan. 5, 1889

C-3. **Addie May**, wife of **J. S. Cummins**, died July 12, 1896, aged 34 years; "Asleep in Jesus"

- D-1. In memory of **Ann Caruthers**, who departed this life Dec<sup>r</sup> 7, 1820, aged 80 years  
(new DAR marker -- "Ann Alexander Caruthers, Daughter of a Revolutionary Soldier, erected by Virginia Frontier Chapter DAR")
- E-1. **Otho B. Hunt**: born Feb. 11, 1908; died May 26, 1911
- F-1. **George A. Cox**: born June 6, 1852; died Sept. 11, 1884
- F-2. **Thomas J. Cox**: born Oct. 18, 1862; died July 22, 1895
- F-3. **Albert I. Cox**: born Nov. 9, 1847; died May 19, 1881  
(space could indicate one missing stone here?)
- F-4. **Sarah M. Cox**: born Apr. 17, 1855; died Feb. 6, 1859  
(there is some thought this should be 1889 death)
- F-5. **Mary Ann Cox**: born Oct. 10, 1849; died Aug. 25, 1887
- F-6. **Eliza Ann Teaford**, wife of Jackson Cox, born March 25, 1820; died Feb. 5, 1877
- F-7. **Jackson Cox**: born March 16, 1820; died Oct. 20, 1897
- G-1. **Mary C. Irvine**: born Jan. 4, 1838; died June 19, 1870
- G-2. **Isabell J. Irvine**: born March 20, 1841; died Sept. 9, 1864  
(broken at base, stone lying nearby)
- G-3. In Memory of **Charlotte J. Irvine**, departed this life Nov. 16, 1859, in the 45th year of her age.
- G-4. In Memory of **William S. Irvine**, departed this life Feb. 1, 1871, in the 60th year of his age.
- G-5. **Annie E. Irvine**: born Feb. 25, 1836; died Jan. 13, 1861
- G-6. ?? (a small rounded stone in line with the Irvine row, but unlike the other Irvine tombstones) It appears to have the initials "W.L." (or possibly "W.I.L.") with the date 1778 roughly carved in a portion of the stone underground. It is uncertain if there is additional information below that.

- H-1. Here lies the interred body of John Paxton, who departed this life Feb. 13, 1787, aged 71 years.
- H-2. Here lies Elizabeth Paxton, who departed this life March 1773 (this is a large flat piece of cement which reportedly was broken by a matchet, and re-cemented. Most of the stone is illegible.)
- H-3. In Memory of James Paxton, born Sep. 7th, 1782; died June 13, 1839, in 57th year of age. An honest man and a Christian.
- H-4. In Memory of Agnes Paxton, born July 29th, 1787; died March 24th, 1851, in the 64th year of her age. She early embr'ced the hope of the Gospel and adorned her profession of Christianity by an upright walk and a Chaste conversation.
- I-1. In memory of Sarah Dixon, born June 25th, 1822; died June 12th, 1837
- I-2. In memory of Elizabeth Dixon, born Nov. 9th, 1816; died July 8th, 1836
- I-3. In memory of Sally Dixon, born Nov. 21th, 1792; died July 16th, 1834
- I-4. In memory of Thomas Dixon, born May 2nd, 1776; died April 13th, 1854
- I-5. In memory of Andrew Dixon, born Aug. 31, 1810; died Sept. 18, 1837.

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### Additional Comments on Muse Cemetery Families

The following comments do not pretend to be complete histories of the families buried in the Muse Cemetery. They do seek, however, to share some added details concerning how the various persons may be inter-related, and how they may be connected to the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church and its community. In addition to the available county records, the author has used several church and family histories (see "Resources" page at end), and the records of the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church. Census research covered only the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Rockbridge records, and ages quoted from these must always be regarded as approximate. Information below is arranged according to the numbering system used earlier for the cemetery map and the tombstone inscriptions (see pp.3-6). Resources used are identified by brackets -- [ ]. The boldface numbers -- (B-3) -- refer to persons buried in the Muse Cemetery.

#### **(A) McMANAMA FAMILY**

A single tall, four-sided tombstone, plus footstones, is found on this lot. The base of the stone has the spelling "McManama", but the "McManamy" spelling also appears in the records. On each side of the tombstone, two names are found. Thomas Preston McManama (known both as "T.P." and as "Preston") married Eleanor E. Smiley (daughter of Daniel Smiley) on 25 Mar 1847 [10]. Both are listed as dying in 1888, and son Daniel S. was named administrator for his mother on 1 Oct 1888 [9]. Both parents are named on the south side of the tombstone.

By the 1870 census, six children had been identified (William A. 1848; Mary E. 1849; Martha Virginia 1853; Nancy J. 1855; Ellenor R. 1858; Daniel S. 1859). All appear to be listed on the stone, though their birth dates differ considerably from census dates. It is unknown if all of them are buried there with their parents.

Martha V. is listed with dates of 1856-1880, but the county birth records show her (Martha A.V.) born 30 Apr 1853 [6], a date which is supported by the censuses [13,14]. On the same side of this stone is "Alexander 1852-1888". This is likely William Alexander, who was already in the 1850 census as "William A.", age 1 [12]. Alexander is the only McManama name found in the membership books of the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, dying July 1888 [15].

Ella R. (also called Ellen and Eleanor in census records) is on the north side of the tombstone. Birth records show her born as Ellen R. McManamy on 29 Sep 1857 [6]. On the same side of the tombstone is "Danial S. 1862-". Current residents remember "Old Dan McManama" driving his horse and buggy to the store, and also recall his burial. Though no death date has been entered on the stone, it had to be after June 1929 when he was named in a local deed [8, bk. 153-256]. He was unmarried.



The fourth side of the tombstone is the least detailed, showing two names -- "Nannie J. Hunt" and "Mary L." -- and no dates. A case can be made for Mary being the daughter of Thomas and Ellen, since the other children are all listed. The 1870 census shows a daughter Mary E. (age 19). It might also be noted that Nannie had a daughter Mary Ellen born Aug 1878 [6]. Nannie, definitely the daughter of Thomas P. and Ellen, was born about 1855 according to the censuses [13,14], a date confirmed by her 6 Aug 1873 marriage [10] to William H. Hunt (son of Bernard & Elizabeth Hight Hunt). Rockbridge birth records name six children born by 1890 -- Nora 1876; Mary Ellen 1878; Willie Virginia 1880; son 1883; son 1888 and Lacy W. 1890 [6].

By the 11 June 1929 deed previously mentioned [8, bk. 153-256], Mrs. Nannie J. Hunt is listed as deceased. In this transaction, her husband, her brother D.S. McManama, and other heirs, deeded 25 acres to Lacy Hunt. Without great research, it appears that the persons named in the deed are likely the children of Martha: Bertie (and husb. N.C. Chittum); Mary (and husb. William Lunsford); Miss Willie; Walter (and wife Julia); Emmett (and wife Minnie); Hubert (unmarried); Joe (and wife Alice); and grantee Lacy. This land adjoins the property of John Gibson, A.G. Brown, and G. N. Barnett, possibly being land east of the Muse farm where Lacy Hunt later lived.

The McManama family and later the William Hunt family reportedly lived on the southern side of the Muse farm in houses now owned by Randy Holland and Madeline (Hunt) Crist. Although the names of William and Nannie Hunt do not appear in the membership books of the Timber Ridge congregation, several of their children were members, listed as Emmett B., Willie Virginia, George "Hubert", Joseph Fultz, and Lacy Wilson. The wife of their brother Walter (Julia Crist) was also a member.

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#### **(B) CUMMINS-WHITE-PARRENT FAMILY**

The eight tombstones aligned in the row we have labelled "B" are related primarily through the Cummins family. Samuel Cummins (B-4) was twice married -- #1 on 5 Sep 1833 [10] to Phoebe Alexander (d/o Andrew and Isabella Paxton Alexander), and #2 on 7 Nov 1850 [10] to Elizabeth Withers (B-2) (d/o George). Samuel was the son of Andrew Cummins [1, p. 113] and Hannah Caruthers, a daughter of Ann (D-1). In his second marriage and in the 1850 census, he is listed as Samuel Jr., though perhaps this was used to distinguish him from his uncle of the same name.

Phoebe Ella Cummins (B-6), daughter of the first marriage, married 25 Feb 1861 to William H. Parrent (B-5)(s/o Eli and Elizabeth). After Phoebe's death, her husband m#2 to Elizabeth Gibson (d/o William & Hettie, of whom we will hear later).

They were the parents of at least the following children:

- a. Mary Alice Parrent; named in the 1870 census, married David T. Shields and is buried at the Timber Ridge ARP cemetery (1863-1945). Among their descendants still in the area are Mrs. Kenneth (Jean Swanson) Beard and her sisters, Frank T. Greene, and C.D. "Buddy" McGuffin.
- b. John F. Parrent; b. 1865 [6]; in 1870 census.
- c. Margaret J. Parrent; b. 21 May 1868 [6]; in 1870 census (note: erroneously listed in birth record as "Mary J.")
- d. Charles Eli Parrent (B-8); birth records say Sep 1877 [6].
- e. Alphonso L. Parrent (B-7); born 19 Apr 1880 [6].

As mentioned, Samuel Cummins m#2 in 1850 to Elizabeth Withers (at times "Weathers"), and several of their children bear mentioning here. Two daughters married White brothers (sons of Arthur and Mary). Mary A. Cummins m 25 Jun 1885 to John William White, and they were the parents of Herman Vaughn White buried in the Muse Cemetery (B-3). Virginia ("Jennie") Newman Cummins (B-1) m 1 Mar 1893 to Andrew Jackson White, a widower.

A sister of Jennie and Mary (Cummins) White, Ann Eliza Cummins, married James William Gibson. She is buried at the Timber Ridge ARP cemetery, but her husband James will be covered later (C-1).

Two brothers of the Cummins sisters -- William A. and John Samuel Cummins -- married Goodman sisters. These couples are the parents of Lloyd McClung Cummins and Carroll A. Cummins respectively and still have descendants worshipping at Timber Ridge.

Timber Ridge records [15] show that Samuel Cummins was a member of the church from 1820 (age 9) until his death. His first wife Phoebe had also been a member of the church, as were many of his children. Numerous descendants are still on the roll.

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#### (C-1) JAMES W. GIBSON

In his history of the Brick Church [1, p. 127], Dr. Diehl says that James was born 1835 and died 1889. However, this death date must be called into question since only one page later Dr. Diehl says that a son of James (Samuel F.) was born in 1894. The stone in the Muse Cemetery says James was born April 20, 1835 and died on April 7, 1901, which seems a more realistic date.

James is somewhat connected through the Gibson family with others in the Muse Cemetery, although his own parents are buried at the Timber Ridge "Old Stone" Cemetery. His father was William Gibson, s/o Patrick and Mary Carson Gibson [see 1, p. 126ff]. His mother was Hettie Reid Cummins, d/o Samuel and Sarah Paxton Cummins, and a first cousin to Samuel Cummins (see B-4 above). Two sisters of

James married Parrent brothers (sons of Eli). Elizabeth married William Parrent who had m#1 to Phoebe Cummins (B-6), a sister of James Gibson's wife. James' sister Isabella married Francis M. Parrent; they are buried at the Timber Ridge ARP Cemetery.

It is through the family of James' wife, however, that he is most frequently connected to other families in the Muse Cemetery, in spite of the fact that his wife is buried at the Timber Ridge ARP Cemetery. As mentioned above, he married in 1871 to Ann Eliza Cummins, d/o Samuel Cummins (B-4) and Elizabeth Withers (B-2). Ann Eliza's half-sister Phoebe (B-6) married William Parrent, her sister Virginia N. (B-1) married A. J. White, and her sister Mary married J. W. White (parents of Herman V., B-3). Two brothers married Goodman sisters and have many current area descendants.

Although the Gibson family is more frequently found in the Timber Ridge ARP Church records, James W., Ann Eliza, and their daughter Nellie were members of the Timber Ridge church. Margaret, one of the other children of James and Ann Eliza married Oliver Ware, and descendants of this Ware family still worship at Timber Ridge.

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#### (C-2) VIRGINIA A. WEEKS

Virginia A. and her sister Addie May (C-3) are buried near James Gibson (C-1), perhaps because they were first cousins of James' wife (see C-3 notes below). The cemetery and the censuses [13,14] show her as "Virginia A." Conversely, her birth and her marriage record show her as "Agnes V." The tombstone birth is somewhat difficult to read (1839 or 1859?), but county birth records [6] show her born 15 Aug 1859, the daughter of John Sheltman Jr. and Malinda "Susan" Davis. She had two sisters who married Cummins men (see C-3). On 21 Jul 1881 she married Ory H. Weeks, s/o Adam A. & Caroline [10]. After her death, Ory m#2 in 1897 to Henrietta Chittum. Ory Weeks (b. 1 Jun 1855; d. 8 May 1908) is buried with his second wife, near his parents at the Fairfield Cemetery.

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#### (C-3) ADDIE MAY CUMMINS

Addie May is clearly identified on the tombstone as the "wife of J.S. Cummins". They were married on 12 Oct 1887 [10]. She was the daughter of John Sheltman (s/o John and Dorcas) and Malinda "Susan" Davis (d/o Richard and Mary). Her husband, James Samuel Cummins, was born about 1859 [10,13,14], being listed in the 1860 census as eight months old.

Again demonstrating the interwoven connections between families, it can be noted that James' brother, George A. Cummins, married Mary D. Sheltman, the sister of Addie May and Virginia (C-2). The

parents of James and George were Andrew Reid Cummins and his 2nd wife Sarah A. Withers [10]. To continue, Andrew Cummins' brother Samuel (B-4) had married Sarah's sister Elizabeth Withers (B-2), thereby making the Sheltman sisters the first cousins of Parrent and White wives mentioned earlier (see section B), and also first cousins of the wife of James W. Gibson (C-1). The Cummins family is also closely related to the Caruthers family (see D-1).

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#### (D-1) ANN CARUTHERS

This tombstone sits alone in the center of the Muse Cemetery, 25 feet from any current tombstones. Against it lies a new marker placed by the DAR. She was the daughter of Archibald Alexander, one of the Timber Ridge area pioneers, and his first wife Margaret Parks, and thus related to a multitude of Timber Ridge families (McClung, Reid, Lyle, Gibson, Patton, etc.) [See 1, pp. 120-122].

Ann was born 17 Sep 1740, in Providence, PA. [according to one genealogy chart, compiler unnamed]. She married Robert Caruthers (d.1781, son of William and Margaret McCroskey Caruthers). Robert and Ann were the parents of seven children, including Esther and Hannah. Esther married William McCrory, and their descendants still worship at Timber Ridge. Hannah married Andrew Cummins and is buried at the Timber Ridge "Old Stone" Cemetery[15]. They were the parents of Samuel Cummins(B-4) and Andrew Reid Cummins (see section C-3), whose families have been discussed in detail above.

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#### (E-1) OTHO B. HUNT

Nothing further is known about this child, marked with an unusual (home-made?) tombstone. The known children of Nannie (McManama) Hunt (A-1w) were born from 1876-1890, but it is unknown whether Otho might have been her child or grandchild.

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#### (F) COX FAMILY

To this point, little is known about the origins of this family, except that Jackson Cox married Eliza Ann Teaford in Augusta Co. on 10 Aug 1844 [11]. In 1896, they sold 146 acres to John C. and Annie J. Hyde. This land, which Jackson Cox had acquired in 1848, was apparently west of the present Muse Farm, as it adjoined the lands of Adam Lucas, S.M. Lackey, John K. Swink and H.W. Bagley.

By comparing the cemetery tombstones, the county birth and death records, and the 1850-1860-1870 census records, the following picture begins to emerge of the Jackson and Eliza Cox family:

## Jackson and Eliza Cox children:

- a. Elijah G.: b. c1847 [12,13]
- b. Albert I.: b. 9 Nov 1847 [12,13]; d. 19 May 1881(F-3)
- c. Mary Ann: b. 10 Oct 1849 [12,13,14]; d. 25 Aug 1887(F-5)
- d. George A.: b. 6 Jun 1852 [13,14]; d. 11 Sep 1884(F-1)
- \* e. Sarah M.: b. 17 Apr 1855 [6,13,14]; d. 6 Feb 1889(F-4)
- f. twin son: b. Apr 1857 [6]; d. Apr 1857 at 5 days [7]
- g. twin dau.: b. Apr 1857 [6]; d. May 1857 at 1m-6d [7]
- h. Eliza E.: b. May 1858 [6,13]; d. 4 Jun 1862 at 5y-1d [7]
- i. child: b. Nov 1860 [6]; d. 2 Nov 1860 at 1 day [7]  
(listed as dau. at birth and as son at death)
- j. Thomas Jackson: b.18 Oct 1862 [6,14]; d.22 Jul 1895 (F-2)

\* The tombstone says Sarah died Feb. 6, 1859, but she was in the 1860 census (age 5). She joined the Timber Ridge church with her sister in 1874, and the church record says she died Feb 1889.

As shown on the cemetery map, there appears to be a missing stone between Albert and Sarah. One could speculate that this might be a lost stone for Eliza, the only other named child who died young. Or it could be for George's wife (E.J. Lackey, d/o T.T. & M.). In addition to the current stones, we would suspect that Eliza and the other three infants above (f,g,i) are also buried nearby.

Albert, Mary, Sallie and Thomas all appear on the Timber Ridge church books, Albert joining just a few days before his death. Before any of these had joined, a Mrs. Susan Cox had joined the church in 1871, but it is not clear if she is related to these.

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**(G) IRVINE FAMILY**

The small rounded stone (G-6) is included under this letter, but it is unknown if there is a connection. It is almost in a row with the other stones, but of a different size and nature. Almost illegible now, it appears to carry the initials W.L. (or perhaps W.I.L) and the date 1778. It is uncertain if there is additional information below that (buried well beneath the surface).

The head of this family was William Stinson Irvine, a Pennsylvania native [10, 1868] who lived on the current "Muse Farm". Evidently his wife's name was Charlotte Jane Berry, ["Charlotte Jane" was given in a son's birth record and "Charlotte Berry Irvine" in the church records [15; 2, p. 6 of biographical section]. After her death in 1859, William m#2 on 8 Dec 1868 [10] to Nancy L. (Adams) Gibson, widow of David "Addison" Gibson. Two years later, William died. Nancy survived him for 20 years, probably residing with her sons in the Gibson home a mile south of the Muse Farm, a home now owned by the B.A. Lipscomb family. She is buried ("Nancy Gibson") next to one of her sons in the Timber Ridge ARP Cemetery. It is uncertain if her first husband is buried there also.

William and Charlotte Berry Irvine united with the Timber Ridge congregation on 6 Jun 1852, and most of their children also were listed on the church rolls. Three of the Irvine children have tombstones near their parents, but the county death records vary with the cemetery data. Mary died 19 Jun 1870 (tombstone), or 19 Aug 1870 (county). Isabella died 9 Sep 1864 at 23 years (stone), while the county death records show Esabella dying 1 Sep 1864 at 24 years. Annie's death was not seen in the county records, but is listed in the Timber Ridge membership books [15; d. 1861].

Based on the 1850 and 1860 censuses, there were at least seven children. The three oldest have already been mentioned -- Ann Eliza, Mary C., and Isabella J. Next came Charles W., born about 1844 [12,13]. Christianna B. was born about 1846-47 [10,12,13], and married 8 Apr 1869 to James A. Shewey (s/o J. & N.J.) [10]. Rebecca Emma was born in early 1850 [1850 census] or about 1848 [1860 census]. In the 5 Oct 1886 settlement of William Irvine's estate [9, bk. 25-422], she is listed as both "R. Emma" and "Emma R." Hiltzheimer.

The youngest child was apparently John B. Irvine, born about 1853 [10,13]. He married 27 May 1875 to Ella S. Willson of Knoxville, TN., a daughter of Robert T. and E. J. Willson [10]. It was John and Ella who sold the 133 acre farm to James B. Muse in 1882 [8, bk. UU-328; see page 2 of this booklet for added details].

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#### (H-1) JOHN PAXTON

The Paxtons represent one of those families from whom a multitude of current residents are descended. With support by the history of the family written in 1903 [3], it is generally conceded that the Rockbridge group descends from Elizabeth (Alexander) Paxton (Mrs. John), who came to the area from Ireland and Pennsylvania with her five sons. Her tombstone at the Paxton Cemetery in the Wesley Chapel area of the county lists her dates as 1694-1756.

The Paxton history [3, p. 44], states that Elizabeth's son John Paxton Jr. was born 1716, died 13 Feb 1787, and had married Mary Blair (b. 1726; d. 12 Aug 1821) about 1742 in Lancaster Co., PA. It indicates that John and Mary were both buried at "Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church." It also quotes the epitaph of John which is on "a brown stone slab, lying in the garden of Mr. Brady." Mr. Brady lived in the Falling Springs area south of Lexington where some of the other Paxtons resided.

The above is significant in that the John Paxton tombstone at the Muse Cemetery (a six-foot long flat stone with a round headstone and an extremely legible inscription) contains the exact wording

and dates of the "brown slab" of the Brady garden, leading one to speculate that that a new stone may have been erected. It also would seem that the "Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church" cemetery mentioned in the 1903 Paxton book is probably the Muse Cemetery. One can only wonder if the original stone also said that John was "aged 71 years" (sic), the spelling on the Muse Cemetery stone.

There is no tombstone in the Muse Cemetery for John's wife Mary, which confirms the common presumption that there are many people buried in this cemetery for whom we have no record. It is likely that the Paxton family may comprise a large number of these. The children of John and Mary inter-married with such familiar family names as Alexander, Stuart, Barclay, McClung, Lyle, Houston, Conn and Caruthers [3, p.33].

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## (H-2) ELIZABETH PAXTON

Elizabeth Paxton, whose tombstone lies about 20 feet south of the above John Paxton, also presents us with several challenges. The large flat stone lying on the ground has the appearance that it was made of poured cement. Tradition says that it was once struck by a matchet, and the result is a pieced together slab which is virtually illegible. Upon close examination, it appears that the inscription begins, "Here lies Elizabeth Paxton, who departed this life March 1773...." (if there is a day of death, it would be in one of the present cracks of the stone).

The Paxton history [3,p.135] discusses Thomas Paxton and his wife Elizabeth, who are buried at the old Falling Spring church. The author notes the epitaph of both, quoting her tombstone as, "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Paxton, who departed this life March 3, 1773, her age being 49 years." The similarity between this wording and the wording on the Muse Cemetery stone is undeniable. Since her grandson James is buried next to this stone, one might speculate that if the Paxton history is correct at placing her burial at Falling Springs, her family may have erected a marker at the Muse Cemetery. Dr. Diehl [1, p. 200] writes that Elizabeth was buried "in the old Timber Grove Meetinghouse graveyard", but he may have based this on the presence of the tombstone there.

Elizabeth was a daughter of William McClung, an elder at Timber Ridge. Since her sisters married such men as Samuel Lyle, Samuel McDowell, and William Alexander, her connection with many Timber Ridge families is quite obvious. In 1746 Elizabeth married Thomas Paxton (d. 27 Sep 1788 at 69 years) [3,p.135], a brother of John Paxton Jr. (H-1). After her death, Thomas m#2 in 1774 to Mary Barclay (d/o Hugh); Mary later married James Woods [3].

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**(H-3, H-4) JAMES AND AGNES PAXTON**

James Paxton was a son of Samuel Paxton and his first wife Sarah Coalter, and the grandson of Thomas and Elizabeth (H-2) McClung Paxton. On 26 Apr 1808, James married Agnes Dixon, d/o James (in the marriage records, the name "Nancy Dickson" is also used [10]). Among their nine children were Rev. Thomas Paxton, who preached for a time at New Monmouth, and Samuel D. Paxton who, like his father, served as an elder at Timber Ridge [2, biography p. 13].

Agnes Paxton was the daughter of James Dixon [10], and the sister of Thomas Dixon who married James Paxton's sister (I-4, I-3). In the 1850 census, Agnes headed a family of 5 children, ages 17-29). The names of the widow Agnes and three children appear first in the Timber Ridge membership records on 19 May 1844, but it is not clear whether they joined the Timber Ridge congregation or the Fairfield Church which had become a separate church in 1840.

To again note the close ties of area families, Samuel Paxton (the father of H-3 James) m#2 in 1825 (at age 70) to Jane Smiley, d/o Alexander, and a sister to Susan Smiley, who had married in 1817 to Samuel Paxton Jr. (Jane's step-son). A niece of these Smiley sisters (Eleanor Smiley) later married Thomas McManama (A-1s).

The family of Samuel Paxton Jr. bears mentioning here. A daughter Susan married Abraham McFadden, and they are ancestors of the Fix families at Timber Ridge today. Another daughter Sarah married Samuel Mackey. They were the parents of Inez (Mackey) Williams (Mrs. D.T.). Samuel Mackey was a brother to John Porter Mackey (m Phoebe Alexander). Samuel and John are the ancestors of the many Mackey descendants still worshipping at Timber Ridge today.

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**(I) THE DIXON FAMILY**

As previously mentioned, Thomas Dixon (son of James) was the brother of Agnes Dixon (H-4), who married James Paxton. On 28 Sep 1809 [10], Thomas married Sarah Paxton, the sister of James (H-3) and the daughter of Samuel Paxton Sr. Thomas is listed as head of household in the 1850 census [12], with son Thomas (22) and daughter Margaret (20) also in the home. It would appear that a daughter Martha married David S. Beard in 1839 [10], and that her sister "Mary Margaret" married a Templeton [7, died 1914 at 87].

In Thomas' will of 1854 [9, bk. 13-81], six children are named -- Samuel, James, John, Thomas Jr., Martha, and Margaret. The Muse Cemetery tombstones (all identical to those of Thomas and Sarah) would indicate that Andrew (1810-1837), Elizabeth (1816-1836) and Sarah (1822-1837) were also probably part of that family.

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### Family Connections

The follow "abbreviated genealogy outlines" seek to quickly show some of the connections within various families as they apply to the Muse Cemetery and Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church families. They are not intended to be complete -- for example, not all of the children of a family are listed, but only those pertinent to this booklet. Not all birth, death, or marriage information is given. As is true with any outline of this nature, there always is the danger that inadvertant errors may occur, or that sources being cited may have been wrong. Thus the reader is urged to see the following as only a "helpful glimpse", not "the last word." Each indentation represents a new (younger) generation.

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#### The Smiley Connection

##### I. Alexander Smiley

- A. Daniel Smiley: m Ann Smiley, d/o Walter Smiley Jr.
  - 1. Susan Smiley: m 1829 Samuel Paxton, s/o John
  - 2. Eleanor Smiley: m 1847 Thomas P. McManama (A-1s)
    - (1) Nannie McManama (A-1w): m William Hunt
  
- B. Jane Smiley (c1794-1847): m Samuel Paxton Sr., s/o Thomas (her stepchildren by Samuel's first marriage included:)
  - 1. Sarah Paxton: m Thomas Dixon (I-3,I-4)
  - 2. James Paxton: m Agnes Dixon (H-3,H-4)
    - (1,2,3) Sarah, Elizabeth, Andrew (I-1,I-2,-I-5)
  - 3. Samuel Paxton Jr.: m Susan Smiley, d/o Alexander
  
- C. Susan Smiley (c1794-1866): m Samuel Paxton Jr.
  - 1. Sarah Paxton: m Samuel Mackey
  - 2. Susan Paxton: m#1 Abraham McFadden

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#### The Alexander Connection

- I. Archibald Alexander (1708-1780): m#1 (1734) - Margaret Parks
  - A. Elizabeth Alexander: m John McClung, brother of H-2
  - B. Ann Alexander (D-1) (1740-1820): m Robert Caruthers
    - 1. Hannah Caruthers: m Andrew Cummins
      - a. Samuel Cummins (B-4) (See "Cummins" below)
      - b. Andrew Reid Cummins
    - 2. Esther Caruthers: m William McCrory
  - C. Phebe Alexander (1749-1821): John Paxton Jr., s/o H-1
  
- I. Archibald m#2 - Jane McClure
  - D. John Alexander (1764-1828): m Sarah Gibson, d/o William

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## The Cummins Connection

- I. John Cummins (d. 1810): m Esther Reid
- A. Andrew Cummins: m (1798) - Hannah Caruthers, d/o D-1
1. Andrew Reid Cummins
    - m#1 Isabella Alexander (mother = Isabella Paxton)
    - m#2 Sarah A. Withers, d/o George & Nancy
      - a. George Andrew Cummins (b. 1857)  
m Mary D. Sheltman, sister of C-2 and C-3
      - b. James Samuel Cummins (b. c1859)  
m Addie May Sheltman (C-3), d/o John Jr.
  2. Samuel Cummins (B-4)
    - m#1 Phoebe Alexander (mother = Isabella Paxton)
      - a. Phoebe Cummins (B-6): m Wm. H. Parrent (B-5)  
(children included B-7 and B-8)
    - m#2 Elizabeth Withers, d/o George & Nancy
      - b. Ann Eliza Cummins: m James W. Gibson (C-1)
      - c. William A. Cummins: m Lucy Ann Goodman
      - d. Virginia N. Cummins (C-2): m A. J. White
      - e. Mary A. Cummins: m John W. White, bro. of A.J.  
(1) Herman Vaughn White (B-3) (1886-1887)
      - f. John S. Cummins: m Mary Ellen Goodman
- B. Samuel Cummins: m (1809) - Sarah Paxton
1. Hettie Reid Cummins (1813-1874): m William Gibson
    - a. James William Gibson (C-1) (1835-1901)  
m Ann Eliza Cummins, d/o B-4  
(children included Margaret: m Oliver Ware)

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## The Parrent Connection

- I. Eli Parrent: m Elizabeth Fuller
- A. William Parrent (B-5)
    - m#1 (1861) - Phoebe E. Cummins (B-6), d/o Samuel (B-4)  
(parents of B-7 and B-8)
    - m#2 (1894) - Elizabeth Gibson, sister of C-1
  - B. Frances M. Parrent: m Isabella Gibson, sister of C-1

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### The Paxton Connection

- I. John Paxton: m Elizabeth Alexander (1694-1756; bur. Paxton cem.); she came to Rockbridge 1741 with 5 sons
- A. John Paxton (c1715-1787; bur. Muse cem.) (H-1)  
m (c1742) - Mary Blair; bur. Muse cem. without stone?[3]
- B. Thomas Paxton (c1719-1788; bur. Falling Spring)  
m#1 (1746) - Elizabeth McClung (c1723-1773), d/o William  
(Paxton history says she is buried at Falling Spring  
but she has a tombstone at Muse Cemetery (H-2))
1. Samuel Paxton Sr. (c1748-c1807)  
m#1 - Sarah Coalter
- a. James Paxton (H-3) (1782-1839)  
m (1808) - Agnes Dixon (H-4), d/o James
- b. Samuel Paxton Jr. (1790-1869): m Susan Smiley  
(1) Sarah Paxton: m Samuel Mackey  
(2) Susan Paxton: m Abraham McFaddin
- c. Sarah Paxton (I-3) (1792-1834)  
m (1809) - Thomas Dixon (I-4), s/o James  
(1,2,3) Andrew, Elizabeth, Sarah (I-5,2,1)
- m#2 - Jane Smiley, d/o Alexander
- C. Joseph Paxton (1721-1755; bur. Paxton cem.)
- D. Samuel Paxton (1730-1756; bur. Paxton cem.)
- E. William Paxton (c1732-1795; bur. Paxton cem.): m Eleanor  
(granddaughters Isabella and Phebe m Cummins brothers)

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### The Sheltman Connection

- I. John Sheltman: m Dorcas
- A. John Sheltman Jr.: m Malinda "Susan" Davis, d/o Richard
1. Addie May Sheltman (C-3): m J.S. Cummins, s/o A.R.  
2. Mary D. Sheltman: m George A. Cummins, s/o A.R.  
3. Agnes Virginia Sheltman (C-2): m Ory Weeks

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Muse Cemetery Tombstones (alphabetical)

- CARUTHERS, Ann (c1740-1820)
- COX, Albert I. (1847-1881)  
 Eliza Ann Teaford (1820-1877)  
 George A. (1852-1884)  
 Jackson (1820-1897)  
 Mary Ann (1849-1887)  
 Sarah M. (1855-1859) (possibly should be 1855-1889)  
 Thomas J. (1862-1895)
- CUMMINS, Addie May (c1862-1896)  
 Elizabeth C. (1823-1894)  
 Samuel (1811-1882)
- DIXON, Andrew (1810-1837)  
 Elizabeth (1816-1836)  
 Sally (1792-1834)  
 Sarah (1822-1837)  
 Thomas (1776-1854)
- GIBSON, James W. (1835-1901)
- HUNT, Mary L. (no dates or last name; listed with Nannie J. Hunt)  
 Nannie J. (no dates)  
 Otho B. (1908-1911)
- IRVINE, Annie E. (1836-1861)  
 Charlotte J. (c1814-1859)  
 Isabell J. (1841-1864)  
 Mary C. (1838-1870)  
 William S. (c1810-1871)
- McMANAMA, Alexander (1852-1888)  
 Danial S. (1862- )  
 Ella R. (1858-1886)  
 Ellen S. (1823-1888)  
 Martha V. (1856-1880)  
 Mary L. (no dates; listed with Nannie McManama Hunt)  
 Thomas P. (1823-1888)
- PARRENT, A. L. (1880-1902)  
 Charles E. (1878-1882)  
 Phebe E. (1841-1890)  
 William H. (1838-1919)
- PAXTON, Agnes (1787-1851)  
 Elizabeth (March 1773)  
 James (1782-1839)  
 John (c1715-1787)
- WEEKS, Virginia A. (1859-1889)
- WHITE, Jennie N. Cummins (1859-1897)  
 Herman Vaughn (1886-1887)
- ??? (old tombstone says only W.L. or W.I.L., 1778)

Resources

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5. Wilson, Dr. Howard McKnight. The Tinkling Spring: Headwater of Freedom. Fishersville, VA.: Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, 1954.
6. Births, Rockbridge Co., VA. (Lexington,VA. courthouse)
7. Deaths, Rockbridge Co., VA. (Lexington,VA. courthouse)
8. Deeds, Rockbridge Co., VA. (Lexington,VA. courthouse)
9. Estate Records, Rockbridge Co.,VA. (Lexington,VA. courthouse)
10. Marriages, Rockbridge Co., VA. (Lexington,Va. courthouse)
11. Marriages, Augusta Co., VA. (Staunton,VA. courthouse)
12. 1850 U.S. Census, Rockbridge Co., VA.
13. 1860 U.S. Census, Rockbridge Co., VA.
14. 1870 U.S. Census, Rockbridge Co., VA.
15. Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church Membership Records

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