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THE OLDEST KNOWN DATED GRAVE MARKER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY IS THAT OF MARY ANN KELLY, LOCATED IN THE HILL CHURCH GRAVEYARD. TRADITION RELATES THAT SHE WAS AN INDIAN GIRL - OTHER THAN THIS, WE KNOW NOTHING OF MARY ANN OR THE PRIMITIVE ARTIST WHO CARVED HER GRAVESTONE.

CHARTIERS (HILL) CEMETERY HAS NOTEWORTHY INHABITANTS
by James T. Herron

The Chartiers Hill Presbyterian Church was founded in 1775 and no doubt the first burials were made in the cemetery within a few years. The old graveyard with its irregular rows of weathered headstones reveals much to interest and confound the student of local history.

Here, just beside the church, is the large flat marker of the Rev. John McMillan (1752-1833), "The Apostle of Presbyterianism in the West," pastor of this church for over 50 years. Theologian, educator and able leader in both civil and ecclesiastical affairs, John McMillan was one of the most influential men in the early history of this region. He of the buckskin breeches, blue stockings and buckle shoes was dubbed by Brackenridge "the Cardinal of Chartiers."

Close by is a large single gravestone, dated 1802, marking the common grave of the gifted John Watson, first president of Jefferson College, and his brother-in-law, Rev. William Moorehead. Both men married daughters of Dr. McMillan in 1800. The inscription states: "They were married to two sisters at the same time, died in the same night of the same disorder and were buried at the same time in the same grave."

To the right, in this same row of headstones, stands that of Hector McFadden (1769-1834), the proprietor of McFaddens Tavern, which stood directly across College Street from the Junior High School. What more commendable eulogy could a man desire than this, "He was just, honest and a friend to the poor?"

A plain flat stone under a willow tree bears this inscription: "Samuel Miller A.M. For 30 years Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Jefferson College." Samuel Miller (1757-1832), was a highly respected, self-educated mathematical genius. A veteran of the Revolutionary War, he came to Canonsburg in 1791 and taught an English School here. He served as the first Professor of Mathematics in the college until his death. He resided on a small farm within sight of this cemetery and daily walked to the college to conduct classes.

CHARTIERS (HILL) contd.

The stone of Craig Ritchie Esq. (1758-1833), brings to mind the name of one of the first purchasers of a lot in John Canon's town. He came here in the 1780's, served in Crawford's Expedition against the Indians, was a land agent for Gen. Washington and operated a mercantile business on North Central Avenue until his death. He was one of the strongest supporters and benefactors of the college and served as a trustee for many years.

To the left of the Ritchie grave is the stone of Dr. George Herriott, an early physician of Canonsburg, and his wife Mary whose maiden name was Ritchie. Both died in Sept., 1828; he was 31 and she was 28 years old. The inscription is still very legible:

"Him fever to an early grave consigned
She faithful watched his dying couch then pined
And followed him, brief widowhood. Their
love and bliss are perfect now in brighter
worlds above."

And if you have a few more minutes, walk down to the stone of Sarah Galaspy, alias Sarah Baker, (1801-1837) and read this stern admonition of an unknown elegist:

"Old and young as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now soon you must be
Prepare for death and follow me."

NOVEMBER MEETING

"The Cooper," a sound and color film of colonial Williamsburg, will be shown at the meeting to be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the Canonsburg Borough Building.

In the costume of 1750-1780, a "cooper" will depict the making of barrels from felling the tree to the finished product. "It's a very good movie," according to President James T. Herron.