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Grayson no longer rests in his tomb

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One of Prince William County's most famous native sons found his resting place in Woodbridge.

William Grayson, one of Virginia's first two U.S. Senators, originally was buried at the Grayson family homestead of Belle Air, which once stood near what is now Marumsc Hills. The property now belongs to Omer and Margaret Fisher, who live on Longview Drive.

When the couple moved onto the historical property, Mrs. Fisher said her husband entered the tomb from a large hole in its side, but found no remains.

"Apparently for a number of years, this property was a hog farm," she said. "But I don't know if that has anything to do with it."

Another possible explanation for the missing remains of the senator and his brother Rev. Spence Grayson is Civil War devastation.

During the war, Belle Air reportedly was used as a field hospital, Mrs. Fisher said.

"I don't know what side used it," she added, but when they left they "burnt the house and blew up the tomb."

In the late 19th or early 20th centuries, the tomb was covered with cement



Courtesy of Central Library

William Grayson, one of Virginia's first senators, is buried in Woodbridge.

Places

and stone, according to historical overview of local sites prepared by Prince William County Historical Commission. The barrel-arched vault juts out of a hillside and continues to be preserved as a tribute to Grayson's patriotic contributions.

He was born on the estate in 1736 to

Benjamin Grayson and Susannah Monroe, the aunt of James Monroe, the fifth president of the U.S. Grayson's father, a Scotsman, was one of the first merchants to settle on Quantico Creek.

After the revolution, he went back to Dumfries to his legal practice. Grayson continued to serve the newly-formed nation as a member of the Virginia Legislature, the Continental Congress and finally the U.S. Senate.

Prince William Public Library

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