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HISTORIC SITE FILE: **TEBBSDALE SITE**
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib, Manassas, VA

JUST MUSING with marilyn

on Possum Point Road:

Tebbsdale is gone, but reminder is there

"It's really hard to tell whether vandals did this or just time," said Mrs. John B. McClurkin, a resident of Possum Point Road as she stood at the site of a little known colonial day graveyard which borders her property.

One of the tombstones has been overturned and another has been broken in two at the site of Tebbsdale, a Colonial and ante-bellum home of the Tebbs family. The house is long gone and is marked now only by a few scattered bricks and an old pear tree. The house sat on a knoll, which probably could take in the view of Quantico creek if the trees were cut.

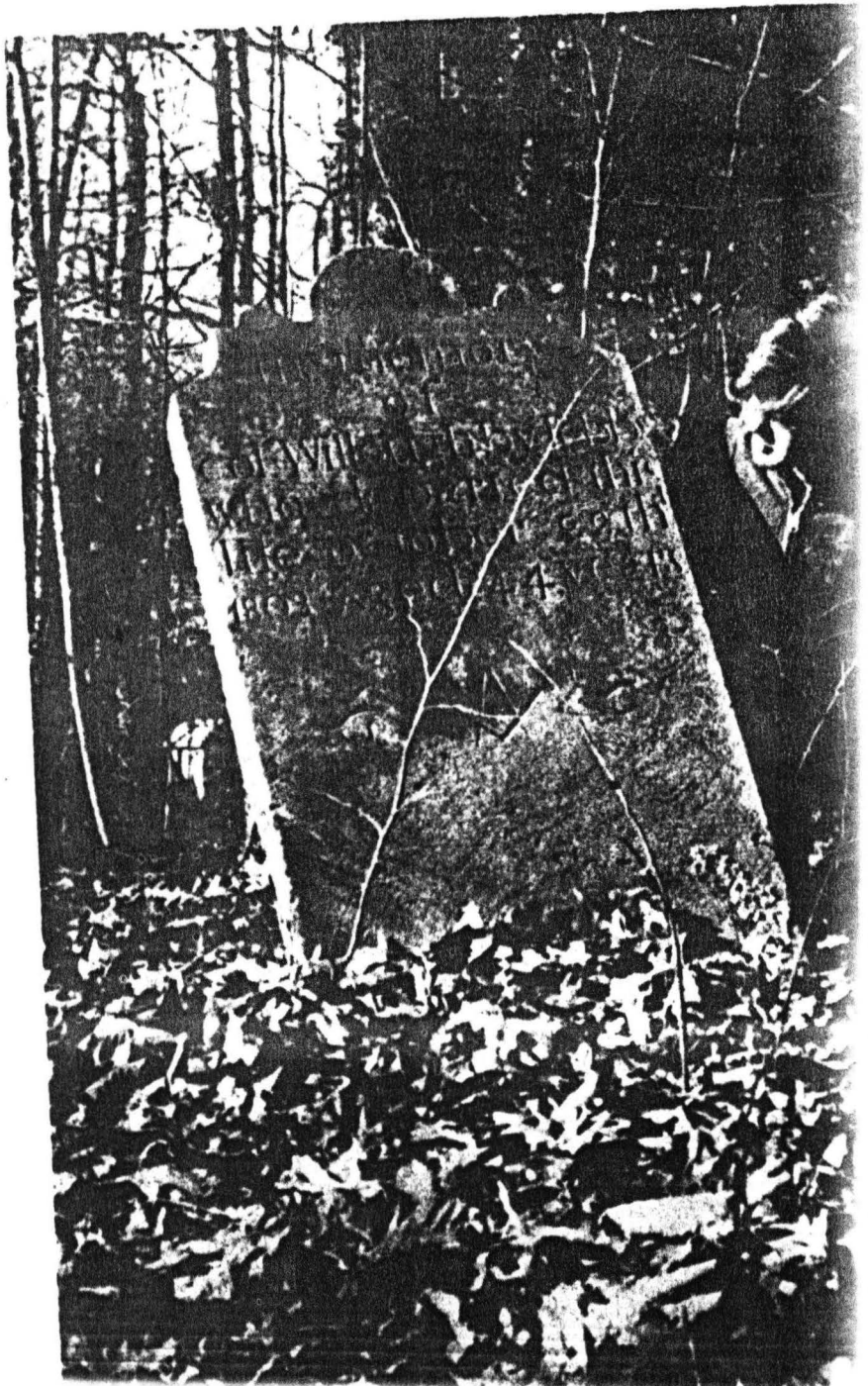
To the west of the house is the graveyard where several members of the family are buried.

The first of the family to live there was Daniel Tebbs, who died in 1742. He left many heirs.

One of the most prominent members, according to Prince William, Its People and Its Places, was Foushee Tebbs, who died in 1784. He was appointed by the Governor as captain of the Prince William militia in 1761; and served as Henry Lee's colleague in the House of Burgesses from 1765 to 1774. He was also a member of the first Virginia Convention.

One of the graves is that of Betsy Tebbs, wife of Willoughby Tebbs, who lived to a ripe age of 81—(1771-1852). Another unusual thing for her day, was that as a woman she had large business interests and managed efficiently, it seems, numerous estates left by her father, William Carr of Dumfries. It was her family that owned Terrapin Forest in 1799. Her father, too, was ahead of his time, it seems. In 1784, he freed a slave by the name of Nell and made it clear that "all her children and children's children should be forever set free."

Other graves at Tebbsdale are those of Col. Willoughby Tebbs, "who departed this life October 22nd, 1803, aged 44 years"; Willoughby Tebbs, "who departed this life, November 25th, 1872, aged 82"; and Dr. Tebbs, 1797-1835. Several graves are



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The only person buried in the small family plot who is not a Tebbs is Dr. John Spence, 1766-1829.

Dr. Spence, a distinguished physician in his day, promoted vaccination in the United States and was a leader in another innovation, American medical journalism. He wrote one of the first thesis on vaccination, Observations on the Inoculation of the Kine-Pock, in 1802. He was born in Scotland but spent most of his lifetime in Dumfries. He was conferred his M.D. degree from the University of Edinburgh and was later honored by Columbia College in 1827 and the University of Pennsylvania in 1828, for his pioneering in vaccination. He was also one of the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly in 1811 to form an Occoquan Manufacturing Co., for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woolen goods. He lived at one time at Belle Air.



John McClurkin Jr. at Col. Willoughby

Potomac
People

New officers