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McMasters Cemetery Links Historic Past To Present

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A new chain link fence has recently been placed around the McMasters Cemetery, also known as the Old Mack Cemetery, three miles west of Staley.

There are also further plans for improvement including cleaning the cemetery, erecting some fallen monuments, straightening other markers and placing them in concrete. A work day for these and other improvements has been scheduled for Saturday beginning at 8 a.m.

THE CHAIN link fence was purchased by the Peter Kivett Family Association of Randolph County at a cost of \$1,400. Spearheading this purchase and other improvements were Willard Hiatt, president of the association, and Larry Wall, the immediate past president.

Peter Kivett, whose original

homeland was Holland, is believed to be the forefather not only of the Kivetts in this area but also Kivetts throughout the United States. Many family members around the United States participated in the purchase of the chain link fence.

Reunion president Hiatt is also conferring with N.C. State Archives on the possibility of placing the former Kivett land, an old house and the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Sites. The original grant of land to Peter Kivett was made by Lord Granville and it is thought that his entire acreage amounted to 1,302 acres.

More than half of the estimated 110 graves in the cemetery have markers, some with names and others without. Oldest dates on those with names were William

Allredge, who died November 13, 1789, and his wife, Elizabeth, who died October 24, 1793; and Peter Kivett, who died September 28, 1791, and his wife, Anna Barbara, who died July 26, 1797.

AN EPITAPH on Anna Barbara's soapstone monument, similar to the one at her husband's grave, was inscribed with these words: "My soul is above this earth, raised by Jesus there to sing his praises." The stone which comprises their monuments is similar to the product which was formerly processed at the soapstone mine which was located in the area.

An easement was secured by reunion officials from adjoining landowners Benjamin Foust and Floyd Langley, providing right of way into the property which is located off of State Road 2458 and

also gave the right to clean and maintain the cemetery and to erect the chain link fence.

The easement listed the dimensions of the cemetery as having approximately 180 feet on the eastern side, 174 feet on the northern side, 105 feet on the western side, and 183 feet on the southern side.

Family names found on the various monuments, besides the Kivetts and the Allredges, were McMasters, Williams, McCollum, York, Stout, Craven, Scotten, Foust, Boroughs, Caviness, and Nelson. There were more McMasters than any other family.

Reunion president Hiatt expressed his appreciation to those who helped and donated money for the cemetery project, saying "we had a lot of good help from a lot of good people."