

## MISSING MIFFLINBURG CEMETERY

### Youngman's Town and Rote's Town

In 1792, Elias Youngman had a portion of his land surveyed and divided into building lots measuring 60 feet by 120 feet, and larger out-lots for those who wanted to keep livestock. East of Youngman's town, which ended at the present Third Street, was George Rote's land. Beginning in 1797, Rote sold lots of whatever size the buyer desired, most considerably larger than Youngman's building lots.

Elias Youngman donated land for a cemetery on the south side of the present Quarry Road just west of the Elias Church, which was built later. Now called the Elias Cemetery, it is the oldest part of the much larger Mifflinburg Cemetery.

However, this was not the only cemetery to exist within the present bounds of Mifflinburg.

### A Grave Yard or burying Ground

On January 3, 1805, Stophel Waggoner and William Rockey, executors of the estate of Jacob Rockey, sold a lot to Elias Youngman. This lot of nearly three acres was a parallelogram in shape except for a small piece at the northeast corner. The metes and bounds at that point are described in the deed as follows: "North 67 degrees East 14 ½ perches to a Stone *at a Grave Yard or burying Ground* thence along the same South 3 degrees East 6 perches to a stone, North 67 degrees East 3 perches to a stone..." The dimensions of this indentation where the graveyard was situated were slightly smaller than those of Youngman's building lots, roughly 50 by 100 feet.

Where was this "Grave Yard or burying Ground?" There are plenty of clues in the deed. The lot was "adjacent to Youngmanstown" which places it on the east side of the present Third Street. The survey of the lot begins at "the Great Road leading from the Said Town to Jenkins Mill," which is now Chestnut Street. It follow a course of North 3 degrees West, the same course as present Third Street, for thirty perches, i.e. 165 yards. This takes us to the present Mulberry Street. At that point, the survey follows a course that corresponds to that of the aforementioned street until it reaches the stone mentioned in the previous paragraph. After skirting the graveyard it returns to "the Great Road" and then back to the starting point.

Thus, this early graveyard was located on the south side of Mulberry Street, beginning about 80 yards east of Third Street and continuing for about 16 yards to the east and then 33 yards to the south.

Following Elias Youngman's death, this lot was sold by administrators of his estate to Rev. Henry Fries on March 14, 1822. The description includes the graveyard, and refers to the "Great Road" as "George Street" (now Chestnut Street).

On April 12, 1842, Rev. Fries sold the lot to Rev. J. G. Anspacht, but this time there is no mention of the graveyard. We can surmise that the graveyard had been abandoned sometime in the twenty years prior.

### Questions remain unanswered

When was the graveyard established?

If we look at earlier deeds, we see that Jacob Rockey purchased the lot on May 1, 1798 from Michael Shirtz. The description in that deed is not as detailed as in later deeds

but it does mention the "Grave yard or burying Ground" and is sufficient to establish that it was the same lot sold in 1805 by the executors of Rockey's estate.

Michael Shirtz, the grantor, was married to George Rote's daughter Elizabeth, and had power of attorney to act on behalf of George Rote's heirs. Rote died no more than a year after he had begun selling lots in his town, and he owned the lot in question at the time of his death. Likely he set aside the land for the cemetery in 1797 when the survey was conducted.

How many people were buried there and who were they? It is logical that George Rote and his wife were buried in the graveyard that he established. Indeed, a search of burials reveals that there are no grave markers in the Elias, Dreisbach or Ray's cemeteries for Rote and his wife. Nor do we find markers for Jacob Rockey and his wife. Both men were prosperous enough to have had their graves marked. Were other early residents interred in this burying Ground? What became of the remains and the grave markers?

We may never know.

An early map of Mifflinburg is on the next page.



# MIFFLINBURG

Scale 20 Rods to the Inch.

## Mifflinburg Business Directory

**Hotels.**  
Jacob Deckard... Proprietor Union House.  
H. W. Hauck... National Hotel.

**Merchants.**  
Herr & Hays... Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware and General Merchandise.  
Geo S. Kemble... Physician and Druggist.  
J. D. S. Gast... Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, &c.  
S. P. Myers... Druggist and Apothecary.  
M. M. Stone... Druggist and P. M.  
J. S. McMurtre... Dealer in ready made Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Notions, &c.  
Young & Foster... Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, &c.  
S. J. Weiser... Dealer in Stores, Tinware and Spouting.  
Wm. Young... President 1st, National Bank, Merchant and Miller.

**Physician and Surgeon.**  
D. H. Miller...

### Manufacturers.

G. W. Mader... Manufacturer of Stoves, Plows, Castings, Machinery &c.  
Jacob Gutelius... Manufacturer of Carriages, Sleighs, &c.  
John S. Stitzer... Harness, and Saddles.  
I. E. Zellers... Carriages and Sleighs.  
A. J. Katherman... Cabinet Maker and Undertaker.  
John Rishel... Manufacturer of Carriages, Sleighs &c., and Justice of Peace.  
G. & C. Moss... Manufacturer Carriages, Sleighs &c.  
Thos. Gutelius... Coaches, Carriages and Sleighs.  
B. W. Thompson... all kinds of Marble Work.  
Jos. Sheffer... of Carpets.

### Miscellaneous.

J. E. Herr... Editor and Publisher of Mifflinburg Telegraph.  
J. W. Sands... Cashier 1st National Bank of Mifflinburg.  
R. T. Barber... Miller and Grain Dealer.  
C. E. Hans... U. S. Assistant Assessor.  
B. F. Mohr... Inventor.  
Charles H. Shriner... Collector Internal Revenue.  
D. Kleckner... Farmer.  
J. M. Anspach... Clergyman.  
Henry Strunk... Merchant Tailor.  
Wm. Bogar... Farmer.  
A. E. Kling... Lumberman.  
Charles Croiser... Resident.

Early Map of Mifflinburg