

Spanning the Gap

Who is buried in the "Slave" Cemetery?

The "Slave" Cemetery is a small flat plot of land in the woods off Military Trail in Walpack NJ. Slavery was legal in New Jersey until 1846, and in the 1700s, prominent families such as the Rosencrans, Van Campens, and Dewitts owned slaves. At least one free black was also interred here.

Though we do not know the names of most who lie here in this cemetery, we can speculate about some of them. Isaac Van Campen, second owner of Van Campen Inn, owned 8 slaves, whom he freed upon his death. John Dewitt, next owner of Van Campen Inn, owned at least three slaves. From his will, Dewitt's three slaves were *Abraham*, *Abraham's wife*, and *Caesar Soults*. When New Jersey abolished slavery in 1846, *Soults*, then 80 or 90 years old, chose to stay on at the Dewitt farm. He later went to live locally with the family of *Absolom Reamer*, an African American with six children. The 1860 census listed *Soults* as 107 years old.

Another African American who may be buried here is *Enos Johnson*, born in 1825, who became the first mail carrier in Walpack Township NJ. Prior to 1850, he brought the mail from Tuttle's Corners to Walpack Center and Flatbrookville NJ. His home - still standing but in poor repair - is just over a mile south of the cemetery.

The one person we **do** know is buried here is *Mary Stackhouse*, who in 1880 was a 56 year old housewife in Montague NJ with her husband *Milton* and their two teenage children. Around 1900, a young white girl living in Van Campen Inn saw Mary's funeral procession and noted it in her diary.



U.S. Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service

Spanning the Gap
The newsletter of
Delaware Water Gap National
Recreation Area
Vol. 21 No. 2 Spring 1999



(Above) and (below) Two of the stones, about 12 inches high, which mark graves in the slave cemetery.



Johnson Losey House, once the home of Enos Johnson, stands along the dirt roadbed of Old Mine Road about a mile south of Van Campen Inn.