

REPORT ON
SURVEY OF THE WOLF AND MARTIN
FAMILY CEMETERIES
KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Submitted to:

Vivian Llambi and Associates
211 Grandview Drive
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017

Written by:

Jeannine Kreinbrink
Timothy King

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Taylor Mill proposes to construct a park on property located on Route 16, within the city limits. The property is situated on the east side of Route 16, south of its intersection with Wolf Road. The two cemeteries discussed in this report are situated within the proposed park property and are located at the eastern edge of the Alexandria Kentucky, 7.5 minute topographic map (Figure 1).

Vivian Llambi and Associates documented the presence of two small family cemeteries on the property. Ms. Jeannine Kreinbrink, Archaeologist Associate to the Behringer-Crawford Museum, and Mr. Timothy King, conducted an intensive survey of the two small cemeteries under contract to Vivian Llambi and Associates, as agreed upon by the City of Taylor Mill.

The two cemeteries are each located on ridge tops on the property (Figure 1). The northernmost cemetery (the Wolf Cemetery) sits at the northeastern end of a ridge spur, just as the ridge begins to slope off on three sides. A small grove of trees stands at the edge of the hill top. A large pile of limestone bedrock and concrete fragments had been piled on the ridgetop, just southwest of the grove of trees. four headstone markers, several bases, and some limestone fieldstones were visible at the edge of, and within, the grove of trees.

The second cemetery, (the Martin Cemetery) is located on a separate ridge, south of the Wolf Cemetery (Figure 1). The Martin Cemetery lies on the north side of a fenceline (property line) on a roughly west-east running ridge. The cemetery is situated a little more than halfway out the ridge from Route 16, just before the ridge begins to slope significantly downward. One marked stone, one cut marker base and several limestone fieldstones were visible on the ground surface.

The first site visit was conducted on Sunday March 15. A follow-up visit on March 25 included removal of the large pile of limestone bedrock and concrete.

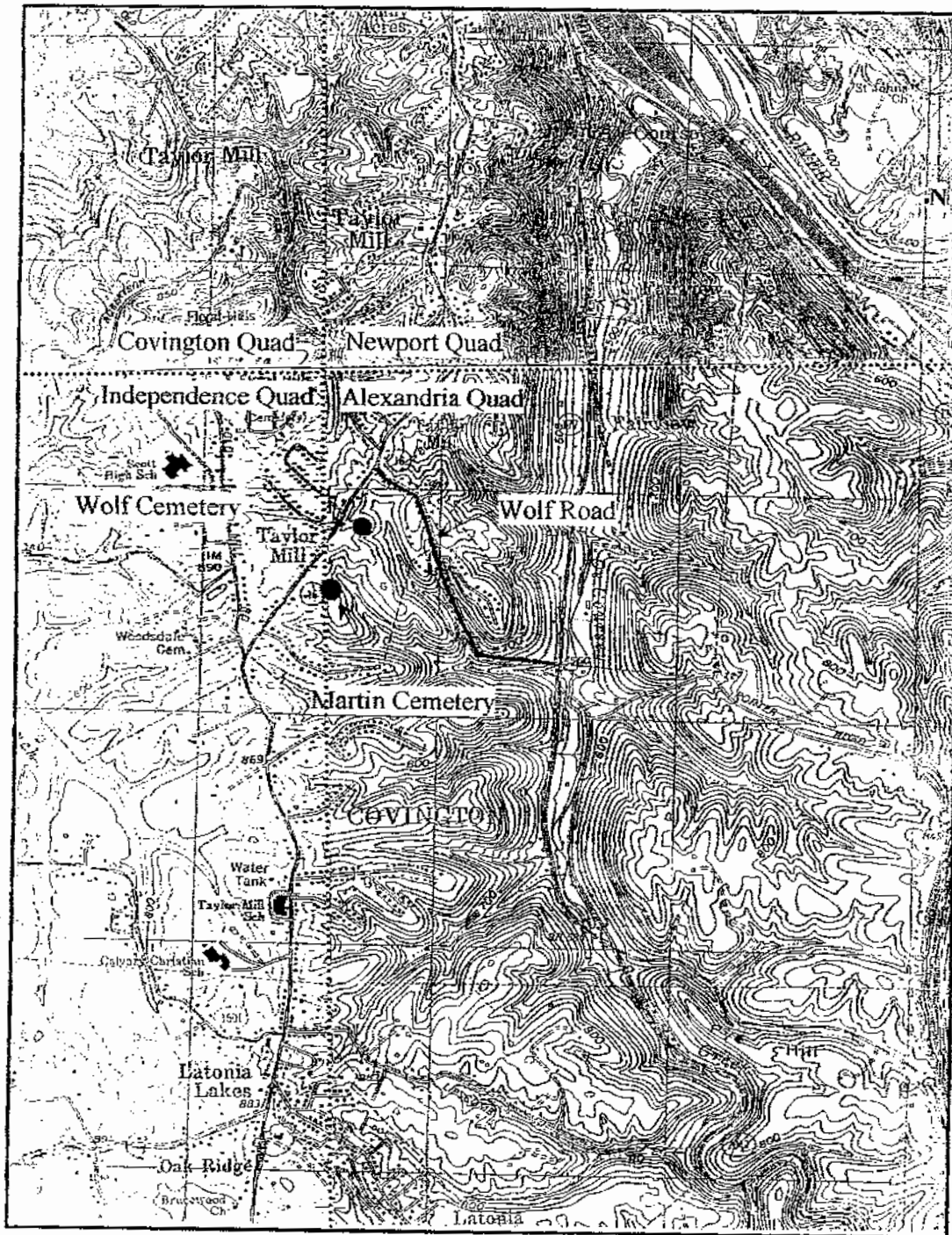


Figure 1. Portions of Newport, Covington, Independence, and Alexandria topographic maps showing location of Wolf and Martin Cemeteries.

METHODS

The investigation of the two family cemeteries included a field survey and a review of documentation available at the Covington Library. The documentary work included a review of the Lake (1883) *Atlas of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties, Kentucky*, and several books on Kenton County cemeteries (Fitzgerald et al 1970; Kenton County Historical Society 1979).

The purpose of the field survey was to identify the surface boundaries of the two cemeteries. Without excavating each cemetery down to the level where actual grave shafts can be seen, it is not possible to determine the exact boundary of each cemetery with complete confidence. For a surface boundary delineation, the following methodology has proven successful in finding surface and subsurface stone markers and bases.

Each cemetery is first evaluated for the presence of above ground markers and other stones such as limestone fieldstones. The location of each stone is marked with a pin flag. At this stage, all stones on the ground surface are flagged, whether still inserted in the ground or lying loose on the surface. Any stone larger than 10cm across is flagged.

Once obvious surface stones have been marked, a tile probe* is used to conduct a close interval testing of the site subsurface. The tile probe is pushed into the ground on an approximately one foot grid system. Any subsurface "hits" that appear to be rock are marked with a pin flag. Each subsurface hit is then excavated to determine whether it is a marker-like stone, or naturally occurring rock.

Once all stones have been uncovered, then a baseline is laid down for the site. One specific location is chosen as the site datum. The locations of all stones, whether loose or subsurface, are mapped in relation to the datum point. Stones that appear to be in their original positions are marked differently on the site field map. Any cut stones are assigned numbers and recorded in a list detailing inscriptions and dimensions.

Criteria for determining whether a stone is *in situ*, in original position, include the following:

- The stone/marker must be firmly inserted into the ground, with a significant portion underground.
- Preferably the stone is in a nearly vertical position, or leaning at an angle, but still firmly "seated".
- The stone must fit securely into the "slot" in the ground in which it was found. That is, it should not have an excessive amount of loose dirt around it, and at least the base of the stone should fit somewhat snugly into the hole.

*A tile probe is a metal or fiberglass pole with a steel tip and cross handle. It is used for probing for subsurface features without excavating large test holes.

RESULTS

The project included a field investigation of each cemetery and a preliminary literature review at the Covington Library. The results of the field work and the library review will be discussed in the context of each cemetery.

Wolf Cemetery

The Wolf Cemetery is so named because all the marked stones found during the survey bear the Wolf surname. A review of records in the Covington Library show that the cemetery has not been previously documented. The cemetery is not marked on the Alexandria, Kentucky 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map, the USDA (1989) *Soil Survey of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties, Kentucky*, or the Lake (1883) atlas map illustrating Kenton County.

The deed for the property actually includes three separate parcels. It is unclear at this time which parcel contains which cemetery. However, a deed made available for review (Book 163 Page 780) contains no direct reference to either cemetery. Several small property parcel exceptions are listed in the deed. Conducting deed research on the parcels, especially since the current property is made up of three parcels, would be rather complicated and is outside of the scope of this project. All the deed exceptions are small enough to account for either cemetery, or could refer to houselots along Route 16 or Wolf Road.

The field investigation of the Wolf Cemetery began with an investigation of the small grove of trees located at the edge of the ridge. Four inscribed markers were found lying between the tree line and under the edge of the large pile of rock/concrete. The dumping of the rock and concrete had apparently disturbed the original location of the four inscribed stones and their bases. Several of the bases were partially buried beneath chunks of concrete. Enough of the concrete was removed by hand on the first field visit to document four bases, probably associated with the four inscribed markers (Figure 3). The City of Taylor Mill removed the rock/concrete with mechanical equipment enabling completion of the field work in late March.

The Wolf Cemetery included both formal, cut headstone markers and bases, as well as limestone fieldstones apparently used as grave markers (Figure 3). Testing in the cemetery revealed that the four marked headstones found at the edge of the grove of trees had corresponding bases, although only two appear to be close to their original positions (marker numbers #10 and #12 on Figure 3). Marker bases #7, #17, #3 and #4 were found beneath the concrete pile. Marker base #17 had been completely buried and pushed beneath marker base #7.

A total of 17 cut headstone markers, bases, footstone markers and bases, and other fragments of formal stones were documented in the Wolf Cemetery (Figure 3). These are listed in Table 1 with information on relevant inscriptions and dimensions.

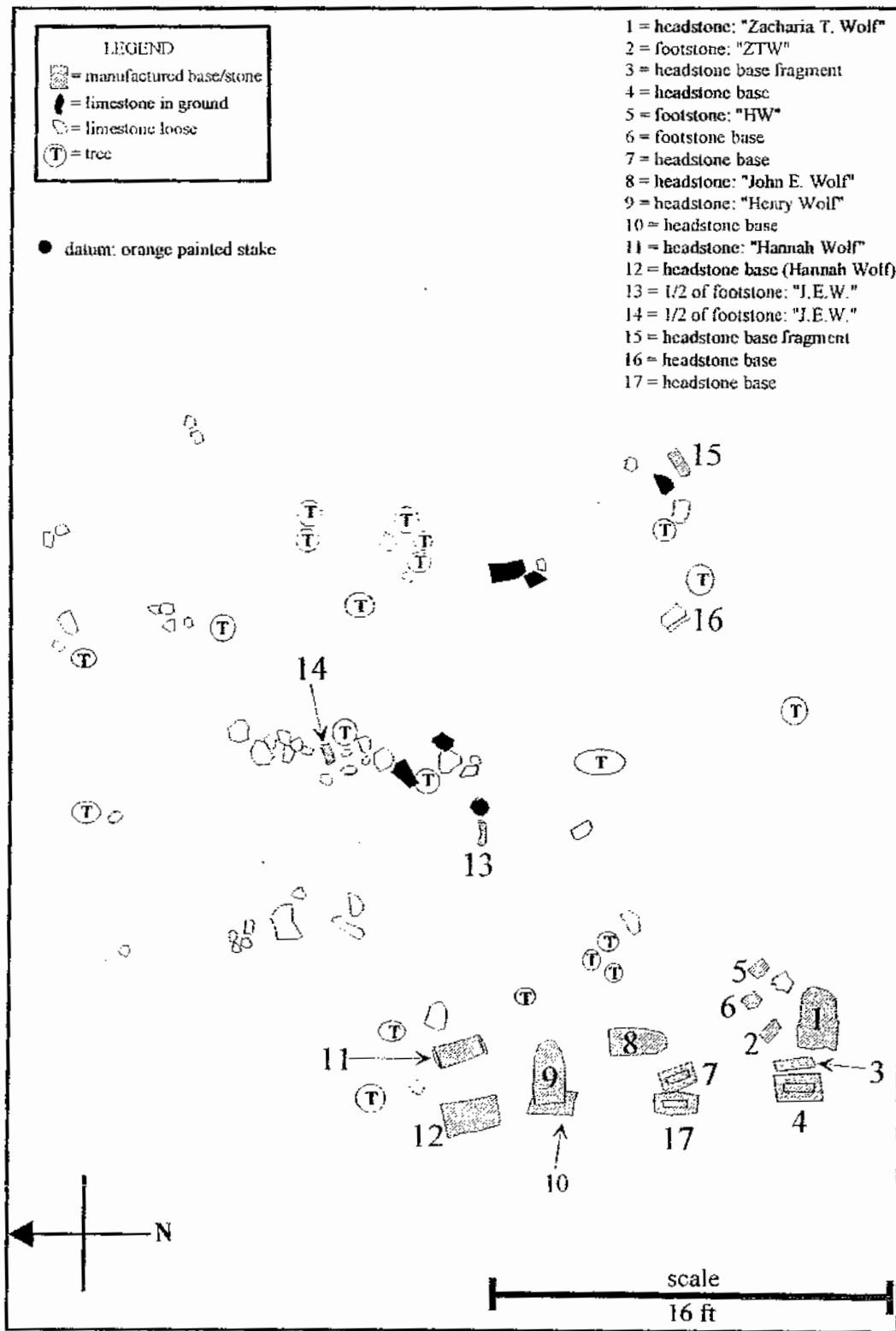


Figure 3. Map of Wolf Cemetery

Table I. Wolf Cemetery Marker List.

MARKER NUMBER (#)	MARKER TYPE	INSCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS (complete stones only)
1	Headstone; complete	Zachary T. Wolf/born/July 28 1851/died/July 12 1885	41cm x 80 cm x 10 cm
2	Footstone; complete	Z.T.W. footstone	18cm x 28cm x 5 cm
3	Base, from slotted base; fragment	none	
4	Base, with slot, almost complete	none	46cm x 58 cm x >20cm; partially buried. slot=42cmx12cm
5	Footstone, complete	H.W.	18cm x 28cm x 5cm
6	Footstone base, complete		28cm x 18cm x 20cm. slot=19cmx6cm
7	Base with slot, almost complete		50cm x 33cm x >20cm; partially buried
8	Headstone, complete	John E Wolf/born/March 18 1854/died/July 5 1874	41cm x 80 cm x 10 cm
9	Headstone, complete	Henry Wolf/born/ 1818/ died/ June 17 1883	41cm x 80 cm x 10 cm
10	Base with slot, almost complete		60cm x 36cm x >20cm; partially buried
11	Cylindrical Headstone	Mother/Hannah Wolf/1828-1899	25cm x 82cm
12	Grooved base for cylindrical headstone	<i>Thus saith the Lord/set thine own house in order for thou shalt die and not live. also has mold numbers:1128/3</i>	42cm x 82cm x >20cm partially buried
13	1/2 of footstone	J.E.W.	
14	other 1/2 of footstone	J.E.W.	

15	Base fragment		
16	Base with slot, almost complete		63cm x 43cm x 26cm
7	Base with slot, almost complete		63cm x 43cm x 26cm?, partially buried beneath stone #7

As seen from Table 1, members of the Wolf family account for all the inscribed stones. Hannah Wolf may be seen on the Lake (1883) atlas showing Kenton County (Figure 2). The Wolf's owned property along Route 16 and Wolf Road. Several houses are shown as owned by Hannah Wolf, including one on Wolf Road, not too far north of the cemetery location.

In addition to the formal stone markers, a large number of limestone fieldstones were also found in the grove of trees (Figure 3). Of these stones, six appear to be still inserted vertically into the ground. With so many of the fieldstones lying loose on the ground surface, it is difficult to delineate rows, but there appear to be at least two, possibly three rows of fieldstone markers situated in the grove of trees (Figure 3). Adding together the six formal stone bases and the six apparently *in situ* fieldstone markers gives a minimum number of graves as 12.

Testing of the ground beneath the pile of concrete/rock found one "soft spot" located approximately 8-10 ft (2.5-3m) in front of the row of inscribed markers. Although not marked on the map, the spacing is right for it to have been part of another row of stones. However, it could also be the result of rodents burrowing beneath the pile of rock, creating tunnels/burrows. A large number of mice were found when the rock/concrete was moved.

The stones appear to be oriented in north-south rows. The inscribed stones have fallen down, but would face west when standing in their original positions (Figure 3). Compare this to the Martin Cemetery as described below.

The minimal cemetery boundary (14m x 12m) may be delineated by the locations of the loose fieldstones and the row of inscribed markers. The inscribed markers appear to be close to their original positions (at least #11/12 and #9/10). Bases #7, #17, #3, and #4 appear to have been pushed and moved out of position. They may have originally stood forward of their present location.

The northern, eastern, and southern boundaries can be liberally defined by the slope of the ridge. On those sides of the tree grove, the ridge begins to slope downward. We recommend that the boundary be placed at least 30ft beyond any stone marker location (whether fieldstone or cut marker). This will provide a buffer for any unmarked graves or original locations of moved markers that may be slightly outside the currently delineated boundary.

Martin Cemetery

The Martin Cemetery contains only one inscribed marker, bearing the name Alfred Martin. The cemetery is situated along a fenceline that appears to mark a property boundary (Figure 4). Topographically, the site lies on the northeastern side of a slightly sloping ridgetop (Figure 1).

A review of cemetery records and relevant topographic and historical maps found no record of the cemetery. Please see the Wolf Cemetery Section for a discussion of the deeds.

The field investigation found the site in thick, rolled down grass, honeysuckle stumps, and several concentrations of young daylily plants. Several very large trees are growing adjacent to and through the fenceline that marks the southwestern boundary of the site (these trees were not marked on the site map). Only one tree is currently standing within the cemetery boundary (Figure 4).

A surface examination revealed one inscribed rectangular headstone and one formal cut base. They were found approximately 7 meters apart (Figure 4). The headstone was obviously out of position. The base may be in, or near, its original position.

Although the grass was high, and some snow covered the ground on the first field visit, a large number of fieldstones were noted on the ground surface. Probing found or uncovered at least 97 limestone field stones of varying sizes. Of the 97 stones, 24 of the stones are still imbedded into the ground (Figure 4). Some of the imbedded stones appear to be multiple stones marking a single grave. Being conservative, the *in situ* stones probably represent a minimum of 13 graves, in four rows.

Many of the stones also had smaller stones inserted into the ground along one face of the larger stone. They may have been inserted as supports for the main marker. Three of the markers (two fieldstones and the formal marker base) have limestone fieldstones laying in a group "in front" of the stones (Figure 4 near bottom of figure). These extra stones are laid flat on the ground touching or just in front of the vertical marker.

If these stones indicate the direction of the graves, then the graves face east, with the deceased's feet to the east. This contrasts directly with the Wolf Cemetery whose stones face west. The significance of the flat limestone fieldstones is unknown, but has been seen by the author on other small family cemeteries in northern Kentucky. In those cemeteries, the stones also mark the direction of the burial.

The one marked stone is for Alfred Martin (Inscription: Alfred Martin/died/Oct. 1 1919). No Martins are listed on the Lake (1883) atlas map in the vicinity of the study area (Figure 2).

The cemetery boundary is partially delineated by the fenceline on its southwestern side. Several very large trees are located on that fenceline, in fact, at least one tree has grown around barbed wire from the fence and around one of the metal fence posts. A semi-circular contour line of less than 1ft (30cm) appears to delineate the east, northern, and western boundaries of the cemetery. All the fieldstones, whether *in situ* or lying flat on the ground, are all within this

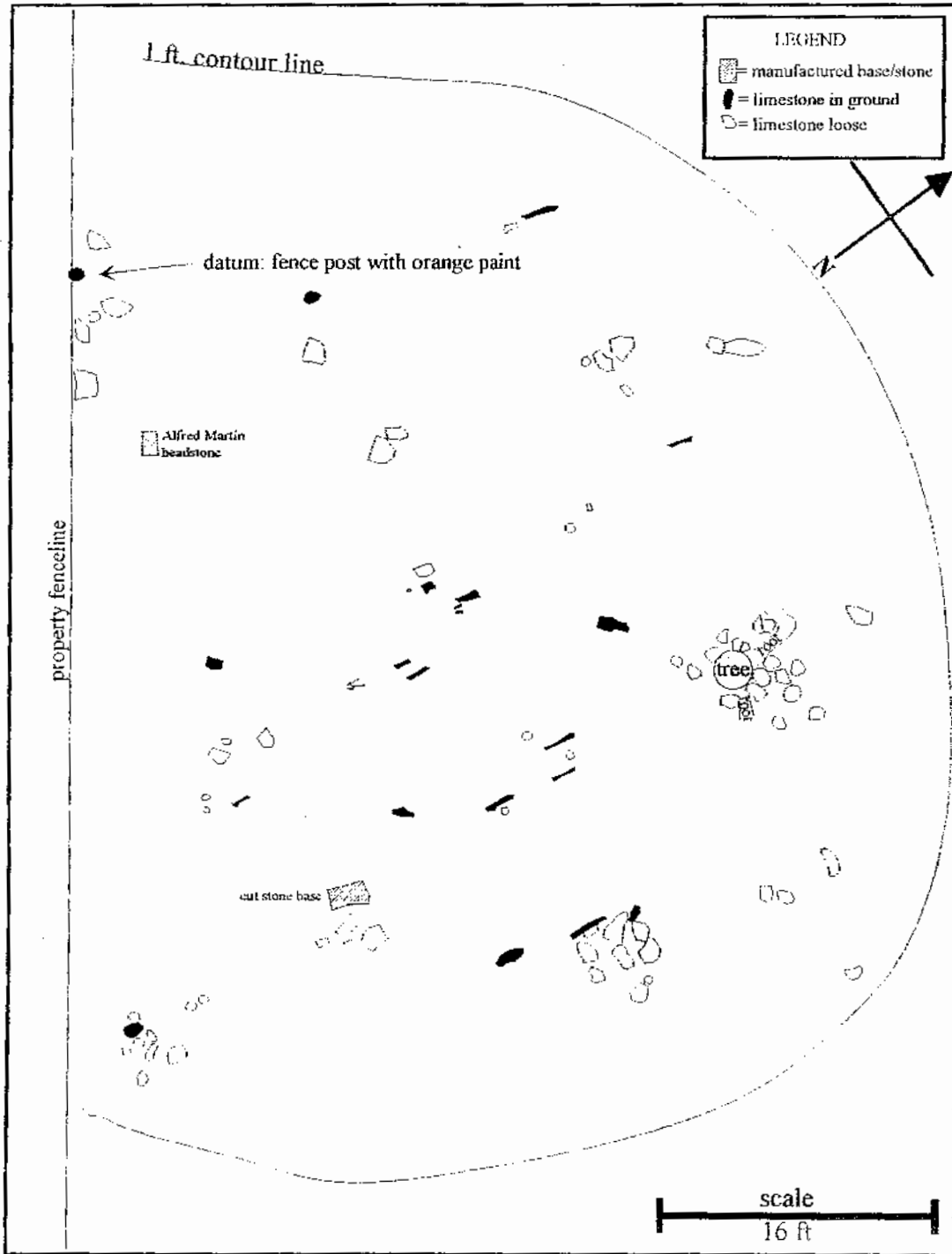


Figure 4. Map of Martin Cemetery

contour line (Figure 4). The dimensions of the cemetery are at least 16m x 13m). It is recommended that a 30ft (15m) buffer be placed around the cemetery. As the fenceline is also a property line, it may not be possible to include a buffer on that side of the cemetery.

CONCLUSION

The delineation survey of the Wolf and Martin Cemeteries documented both surface and subsurface stone markers. Both cemeteries included formal cut markers and limestone fieldstone markers. Limestone markers are common in northern Kentucky family cemeteries. They served several purposes. These included; serving as footstones, marking infant/small child graves, marking slaves, tenants, servant graves, as temporary markers until a formal marker could be purchased. If a family could not afford a stone for an infant or small child, fieldstone markers were often used. Slaves, servants, hired laborers, or tenant farmers' graves were apparently often marked with fieldstones. In some cases, limestone markers may have been used as a temporary stone, but then for one reason or another, never replaced with the intended formal marker. At one time, people would automatically state that fieldstone markers were always for slaves (in slave states), but this has proven to be inaccurate at times for the above stated reasons.

It is unknown whether the Wolfs or other local families had slaves, tenant farmers, or servants. The twentieth century date for the Martin marker indicates that the cemetery was in active use until at least 1919. So many limestone fieldstone markers in that cemetery may indicate that the Martin Cemetery was used by low income inhabitants of the property and/or local area.

The Wolf Cemetery is clearly associated with the Wolf family traditionally associated with the property. Wolf Road, which runs along the northern edge of the property, was named for this family. Hannah Wolf is noted on the Lake (1883) atlas map. John and Zachary Wolf were probably sons of Hannah and Henry Wolf. Both died before they were 30 year old. The 1883 Lake atlas map shows an M. Wolf across Taylor Mill Road (Rt 16) from the cemetery site. No M. Wolf is documented for the cemetery, however, two bases were found that are missing their corresponding headstones.

Both cemeteries are delineated based on extant stone locations and on the topographic setting.

Both appear to be topographically isolated, either by the natural hillslope at the Wolf Cemetery, or by an apparently artificial contour line and fenceline at the Martin Cemetery. We strongly recommend leaving a buffer around each cemetery for a distance of approximately 10m (30ft). This will provide protection for the known gravestones and allow a buffer in case unmarked graves exist outside the evident boundaries. Subsurface testing found no other stones or obvious soft areas in the soil, except as indicated above at the Wolf Cemetery.

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