

THE REVOLUTION

When Lord Dunmore fled from Williamsburg and took refuge in the town of Norfolk, he effectively caused the breakdown of English rule in Virginia.

Virginia organized two regiments of troops: one under Patrick Henry and the other under General William Woodford (see chapter entitled "Windsor"). Since Henry was without experience, all the field missions were left to Woodford and his men.

On the morning of December 9, 1775, under the assumption that he could crush the force under Woodford with ease, Lord Dunmore sent his grenadiers across a narrow bridge over one of the areas of the Dismal Swamp. From the sound made by their marching feet, it was easy to locate them in the morning mist; and the attacking force was swept from the bridge at every attempt to cross. In this first battle of the Revolution fought on Virginia soil, the British lost over 100 men while the force under Woodford did not suffer a single casualty.

After the surrender at Yorktown, Washington's army returned to the Hudson River emplacement via the Hanover Highway (now Virginia Route 2), passing along the western boundary of Ft. A. P. Hill.

Aftermath

After the Revolution, there was a general break-up of both plantations and churches. Windsor, home of William Woodford, along with

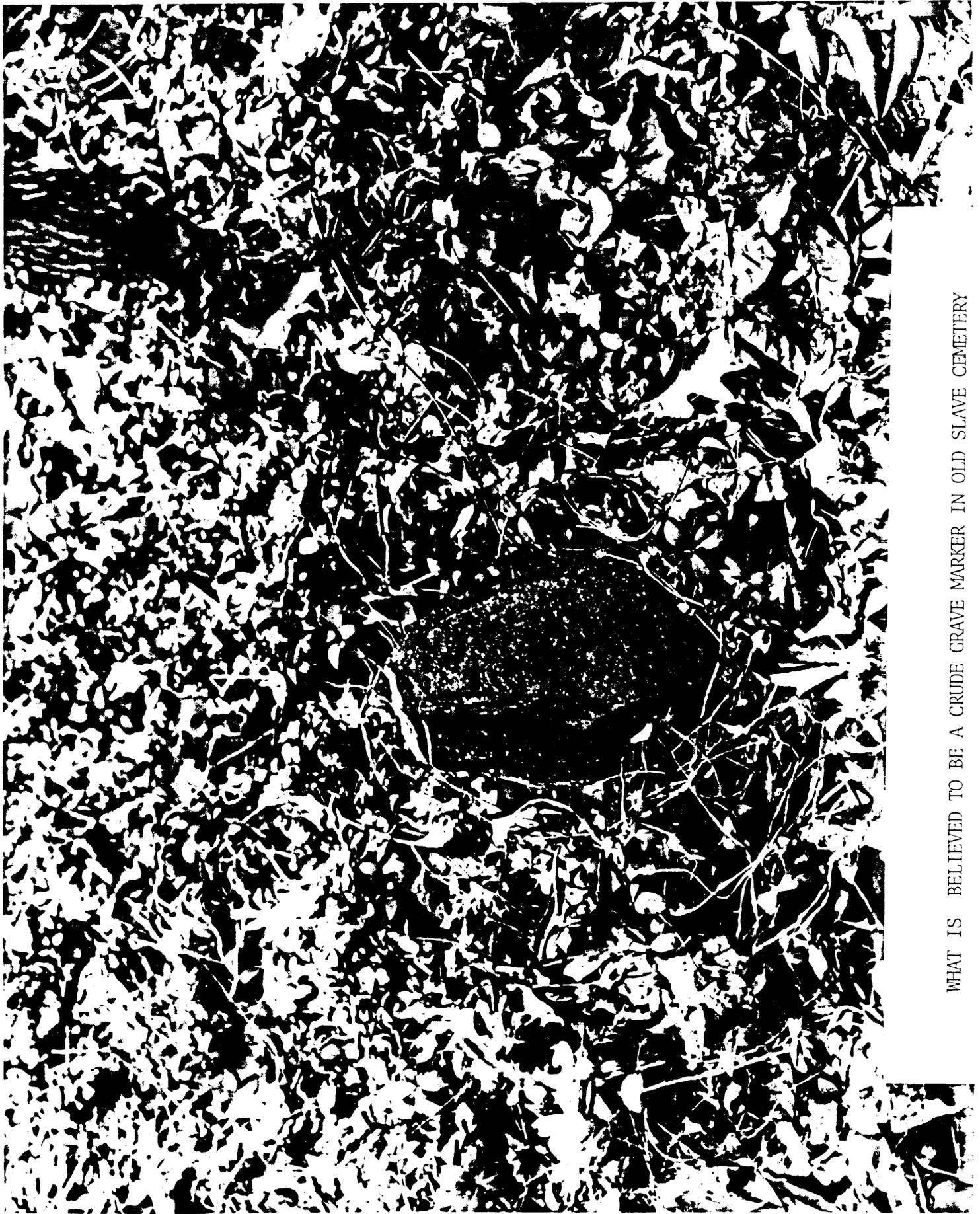
a large portion of the land was bought by a family by the name of Dew. While Woodford still owned the plantation, he allocated some land to the slaves for a burial ground. When the Dew family purchased the land, they deeded this land in 1884 (approximately three to four acres) to the slaves and Negroes living in this area. The cemetery is located in what was A. P. Hill's Pettigrew Campsite area; and was finally fenced in with no ingress or egress permitted except by permission of the post commander. There are no identifiable headstones, and this fencing was done to protect the gravesites. There have been no visitors to the cemetery for at least the past 25 years.

Mt. Dew Church, originally known as Moss Neck Colored Church, was first located in that area also. It was then moved some distance away along the Tidewater Trail (now U. S. Route 17) next to a Negro country school. Its last location was on land not acquired by the government, and is shown as a "knotched out" area on the boundary maps.

This entire Pettigrew area of A. P. Hill has now been declared excess, and the land now belongs to Caroline County.



FENCED-IN AREA OF OLD SLAVE CEMETERY AT ORIGINAL SITE OF MT. DEW CHURCH



WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE A CRUDE GRAVE MARKER IN OLD SLAVE CEMETERY