

The Enslaved Burial Ground

The fenced area within the orchard is believed to be a burial ground for some of the men, women, and children enslaved by the Hite family at Belle Grove. As is typical at many such graveyards, simple uninscribed stones mark the graves. Additional evidence that it was used for the burials of the enslaved includes being on high ground, in an area not used for agriculture, and in sight of the Hites' home so that the enslaved meeting here would be under surveillance. Ground penetrating radar, a non-ground disturbing technology was used to respectfully study this site and detected 14 potential grave shafts. Though no written burial records exist, Hite family records note the following enslaved individuals died while living at Belle Grove. It is possible that this burial ground is larger than what is indicated by the fence, or that there are additional burial sites for the enslaved on the property.

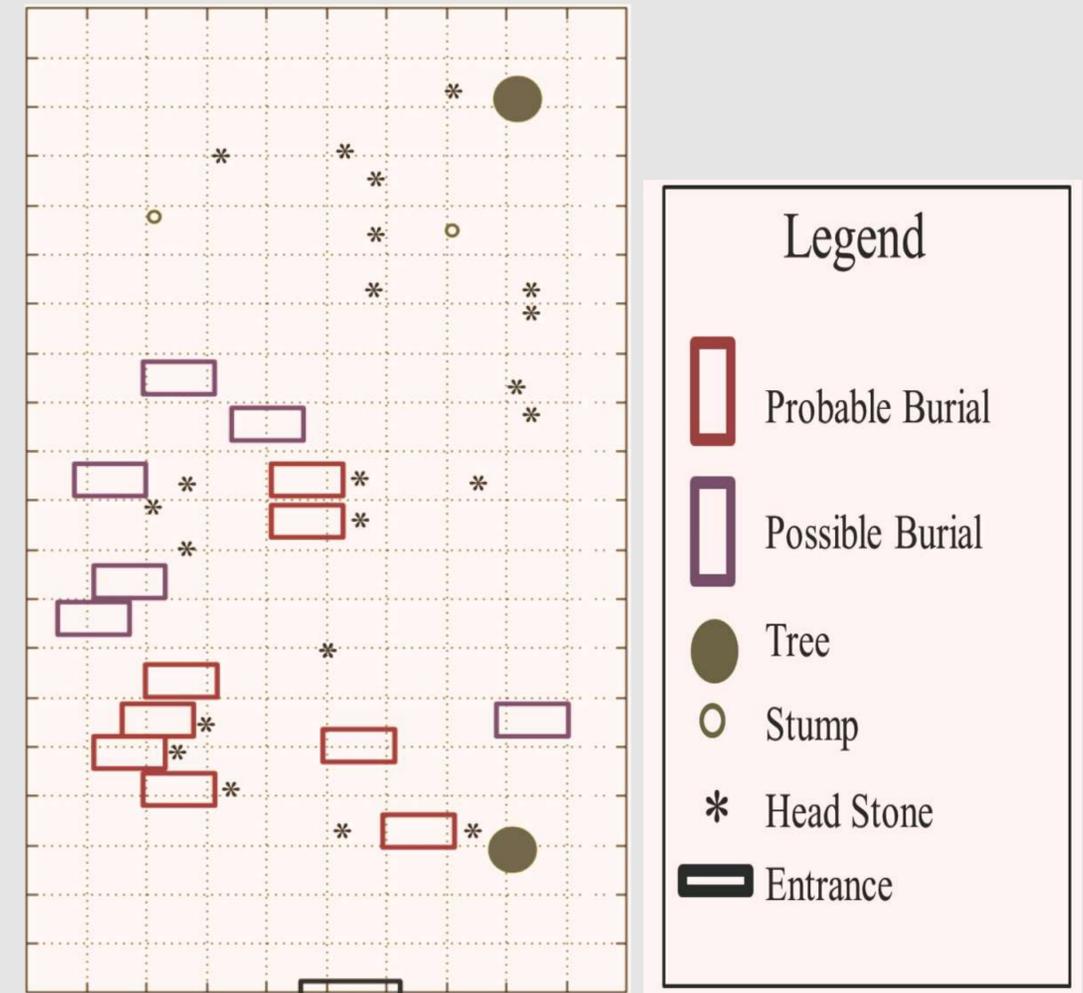
Visitors are welcome to visit this site, but please respect this hallowed ground.

Although it is not possible to identify who is buried here, Hite family records note the following men, women, and children as having died while enslaved at Belle Grove. We honor their lives and their memory.

Bob 60 years old in August 1796
 Jane 60 years old in August 1796
 Judah d. February 12, 1793
 Ned b. 1758
 Jemmy b. February 2, 1765
 Harry 30 years old in August 1796
 Penny b. March 15, 1770
 Daniel (Blacksmith) b. January 14, 1773 - d. October 24, 1836
 Adam b. July 1, 1775
 Simon b. February 5, 1776
 Eliza (Joana's) b. April 26, 1796 - d. May 23, 1797
 Nancy (Marjory's) b. 1777
 Harry (Abba's) b. December 4, 1787 - d. October 22, 1828
 Truelove's Boy b. May 5, 1788, died a week old
 Betty b. August 8, 1784
 Jordan b. July 2, 1786
 Adam (Abba's) b. October 27, 1793 - d. November 11, 1794
 Judah b. 1794 - d. 1836
 Betty (Truelove) b. 1795
 Jonathan (Milly's) b. July 23, 1796
 Howard (Chloe's) b. 1798 - d. December 20, 1834
 George (Sarah's) b. 1798

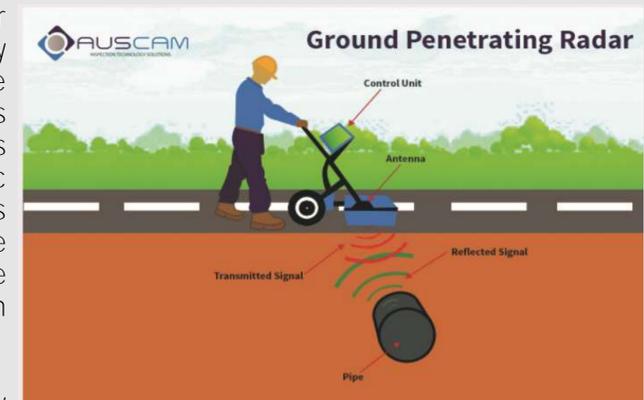
Thomas (Abba's) b. January 28, 1798
 Joshua b. May 9, 1798
 Miley (Sarah) b. December 9, 1800
 Lucy (Diana's) b. January 6, 1801
 Nelson (Chloe's) b. October 1805
 Betsy (Abba's) b. December 15, 1805
 Becca (Diana) b. May 2, 1806
 Anstep (Nelly's) b. June 30, 1812
 Unknown (Demas) b. January 1813
 Daniel (Phylis') b. 1814
 Maria (Sarah's) b. July 18, 1814
 Unnamed (Nelly's) b. September 10, 1814
 Maria (Susy's) b. May 29, 1824
 Sarah Elizabeth (Sally's) b. March 3, 1828
 Jake (Sally's) b. March 20, 1830 - d. 1835
 Martha (Sally's) b. March 16, 1832
 Louisa (Sally's) b. July 17, 1834
 Jonathan (Judah's) b. February 28, 1836
 Amanda (Maria's) b. January 28, 1847
 Ophelia (Sally's) b. June 21, 1849
 Leah (Sukey's) both dead

The names of these individuals are listed as they are in the Hite family records: with only the first name of the individual, their mother's name in parentheses, the year or date of their birth or other note about their age, and in a few cases, the year or date of their death.



A ground penetrating radar survey indicated marked and unmarked burials at this site. The color of the boxes represents the level of confidence for each specific burial. Marker stones and other features such as trees and stumps are also depicted (see legend). The survey identified the location of 14 distinct burials, at least eight of which are definitive. Based on the location of these burials with some of the stones, and the presence of similar stones for which burials were not detected, it is likely that there are more graves here than could be detected. The age of the grave, soils, the method of burial (e.g. coffin or shroud), and the size of the body, may make some burials more difficult to detect than others.

A ground penetrating radar transmitter emits a high frequency electromagnetic wave into the ground. When this wave encounters an object in the subsurface that has contrasting electromagnetic properties, part of the wave energy is reflected upward where it can be detected by the receiver. The time between transmission and reception indicates the depth of the object.



The ground penetrating radar survey of this burial ground was conducted by Michelle G. Proulx, Reagan A. Cronin, and R Shane McGary, Department of Geology and Earth Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy, James Madison University.

This exhibit is a gift of the descendants of James Cornelius Hite