

Brayton cemetery caretaker . . .

Brayton Homestead, which included all of the land and the homestead. As she speaks of the labors of five generations, she said, "Just when the first stones were laid in their foundation, we know not, yet sometime in their early history, 'God's Acre,' which we see in a quiet spot upon the hillside, must have been set apart.

"I like that ancient Saxon phrase, which calls The Burial-ground God's Acre! It is just. It consecrates each grave within its walls, And breathes a benison o'er the sleeping dust."

She continued, "We find within this enclosure today 23 of those early graves marked only by the low slate stones which indicate their position, while inscriptions are carved upon the more recent ones in memory of John Brayton; Sarah, his wife; Content; John Jr.; Caroline and Kezia, his wife. Upon the stone of John Brayton is also a record of his son, William's death at sea, and upon Stephen's

stone, that of his daughter, Mary H., who died in her youth.

"We shall never know who first was buried within these walls, but many of us recall that last solemn service held October 20, 1880, when our grandmother, Kezia Anthony Brayton was laid beside her husband.

"Let us remember that those who rest here held in deep affection this farm, which was to them in truth their home, to us, the home of our ancestors, and to the community, for generations, 'The Brayton Homestead.'"

Joe pointed out two headstone bases. The top parts had been broken into pieces, he said, when kids, coming over from the former drive-in theater area, had knocked them down and broken them. Joe piled the pieces against the wall.

There were two other small stones almost buried. Joe indicated that is because woodchucks dug underneath and the stones

caved in and broke.

Some of the inscriptions on the stones are no longer readable. One showed that Sarah, wife of John Brayton, died at age 81 in 1843. It appeared that John had died at age 67 in 1829 and their son, William, age 17, had both drowned at sea. Caroline Brayton was 75 when she died Feb. 6, 1872.

Joe Perry has been caring for this cemetery, which is approximately 75 feet by 90 feet, and its access land, which is much larger, for six years now and is getting ready for the spring cleanup — the raking of the twigs. There are four trees, plus one fir tree within the cemetery's walls.

Joe is also thinking seriously about repairing the stone wall which appears to be falling apart on the easterly side — always something to keep him busy.

The Spectator is grateful to James E. Bradbury for the loan of "The Brayton Homestead" sketch by E.H. Brayton.