



Work Concludes on Coyle Cemetery Stone Wall Rehabilitation, Thanks to Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation Grant

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The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) is pleased to announce that work has finished on the Coyle Cemetery Stone Wall Rehabilitation project, thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation—Helen Parker Willard Jefferson County Historic Cemetery Grants. These funds enable the hiring of a contractor to carry out wall repairs and the reopening of the cemetery entrance.

The Coyle Family Cemetery is located at 40 Poor Farm Road, Kearneysville, WV. Over the years, groundhogs have caused extensive damage to the stone wall that surrounds the Coyle Cemetery, blocking any practical access to the site. With help from the Helen Parker Willard Fund, which emphasizes the preservation of Civil War history, the JCHLC was able to finish repairs to the stone wall and improve access to this historic site. This project demonstrates Jefferson County's commitment to preservation of County owned historic resources.

The Coyle cemetery is an excellent example of an early 19th century family cemetery with thirty graves identified thus far. The cemetery contains at least one grave of a Civil War veteran, Confederate Sgt. Joseph C. Coyle of the 12th Virginia Cavalry, who was killed at Bunker Hill, WV on March 27, 1864. Another burial plot is that of Major Joseph O. Coyle. The date of birth and death on his headstone indicates he could also have served in the Mexican War, Civil War or both. Three graves have been determined to be burial sites for slaves of the Coyle family.

The JCHLC is a branch of the Jefferson County government and operates under authority granted to landmarks commissions by the West Virginia legislature. The JCHLC's mission is to preserve historic sites, structures, and rural landscapes in the unincorporated areas of Jefferson County and to educate the public about the county's heritage. For more information about JCHLC programs and activities visit: www.jeffersoncountyhlc.org or the Landmark Commission's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyHLC/> and find them on Instagram: @jeffersoncountyHLC

The Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation (EWVCF) was established in 1995 and celebrates its 22nd year in 2017, managing more than 220 endowed funds with assets of just over \$22 million. EWVCF is the leading steward of philanthropic giving, connecting donors with community needs to improve the quality of life for all people in Eastern West Virginia. Thanks to an outstanding board of directors, donors, investment advisors, and a professional staff, the Community Foundation will continue to grow. For more information, please contact EWVCF Executive Director Michael Whalton at mwhalton@ewvcf.org, 304-264-0353, or visit www.EWVCF.org.