

LITTLE-KNOWN SITES HIGHLIGHT FAWN LAKE'S HISTORICAL PAST



Two short chapters of American history were written in the area now known as Fawn Lake Forest. The land was farmed and was perhaps the northern end of an escape route from slavery. It also supported a flagstone quarry that disappeared with the demand for that decorative product.

Near the eastern end of Upper Lakeview Drive, between that road and Westcolang Lake, is a small cemetery.

Twenty-two rough, unmarked stones stand on the small patch of ground. Area historians say the story of this cemetery is unknown.

It may have been part of the property of a farming family or perhaps, say the historians, it's an ex-slave cemetery — a burial ground for some of those who fled north to escape the horrors of slavery.

Historical authorities in Harrisburg say the cemetery should easily date back to the 1700's.

Fawn Lake Forest has another historical claim, not preserved like the cemetery certainly, but interesting just the same.

In the 1850's, there was a thriving flagstone quarry very near the intersection of Granite Drive and Greenbrier Lane in Fawn Lake Forest's northeast section.

The quarrymen lived in the town of Masthope, about five miles north of your property. Back then, Masthope was a busy metropolis of 250 people.

Today, Masthope, with its six permanent residents and numerous empty buildings, might be called a ghost town. No sign remains of the quarry, where over 120 years ago, wagons carried out the flagstone for use in the growing cities to the east.

