



Dear Friends,

We are writing to tell you about our effort, together with The John Marshall Foundation, to restore the Marshall family cemetery at our ancestral home, Oak Hill, near Marshall, Virginia. Oak Hill was built in 1773 by Colonel Thomas Marshall (1730-1802), father of Chief Justice John Marshall (1755-1835). Oak Hill was John Marshall's home until he established himself permanently in Richmond, in 1783, and it remained in Marshall family hands until 1866.

The family cemetery -- located on the grounds of the estate behind the main houses -- has been allowed to deteriorate into deplorable condition over the last several decades. It contains the remains of perhaps a dozen or more family members, though most graves are no longer identifiable. Three prominent but crumbling stones remain that mark the graves of Thomas Marshall (1784-1835), oldest son of Chief Justice John Marshall; his wife Margaret Waddrop Lewis Marshall (1792-1829); and the latter's mother, Agnes Harwood Lewis (1769-1822). Family records indicate that a dozen or more others were buried there, and an expert has identified 13 other likely graves.

The John Marshall Foundation has established an account to allow us to use the Foundation's 501(c)3 status for fundraising to support the project. We estimate the restoration cost at about \$25,000 and ongoing maintenance at about \$1,000 per year. Virginia law provides explicit protections to family cemeteries like ours, providing family members a perpetual legal right to reasonable access for the purposes of visitation, maintenance, etc.

The proposed restoration will include the following, as well as ancillary improvements as dictated during the project:

- Clean away brush, trees and trash.
- Locate unmarked graves.
- Remove the remains of the extant surrounding stone wall.
- Carefully remove piles of overburden to the original level of the soil.

- Rebuild the stone wall with original stone (dry wall, no mortar).
- Remove, restore and replace the memorial slabs for Thomas Marshall, Margaret Waddrop Lewis Marshall and Agnes Harwood Lewis.
- Purchase and place small markers at the presently unmarked graves.
- Purchase and install an entry gate.
- Purchase and install a plaque identifying the history of the cemetery.
- Contract for perpetual care.

Your tax deductible contribution, made out to “The John Marshall Foundation, Oak Hill Cemetery Project,” will help us restore and maintain the cemetery and thereby honor our ancestors.


Thank you for your support.

Sincerely



Bill Stribling

Markham, Virginia



John Marshall

McLean, Virginia



Your donation can help repair this wall.



Your gift will help restore and protect these gravesites.

You can make your gift:

Online to the Foundation at:

www.JohnMarshallFoundation.org

By **telephone**: 804-775-0861 or

By **mailing** a check in the enclosed pledge envelope!

You can make a difference!

