

# Revolutionary War veteran, Bethel Hill Baptist minister gravesite put in order

**V**eteran John Brookes served as a private in the Continental Line of Virginia during the Revolutionary War, from Aug. 6, 1778 until Nov. 25, 1782.

Brookes was ordained a Baptist minister in Person County on June 4, 1803. He served as the second pastor of Bethel Hill Baptist Church from July 1, 1820 until July 1, 1832.

Bethel Hill Baptist had its beginnings in the Mayo Baptist Church of Virginia which was constituted in 1776. Bethel Hill dates back to 1779. Brookes became pastor of Bethel Hill following the first pastor, Reuben Pickett, the first pastor who served from 1779 to 1820.

Brookes is buried on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Lewis in Cluster Springs, Va. Some of his family members are buried in this same cemetery also.

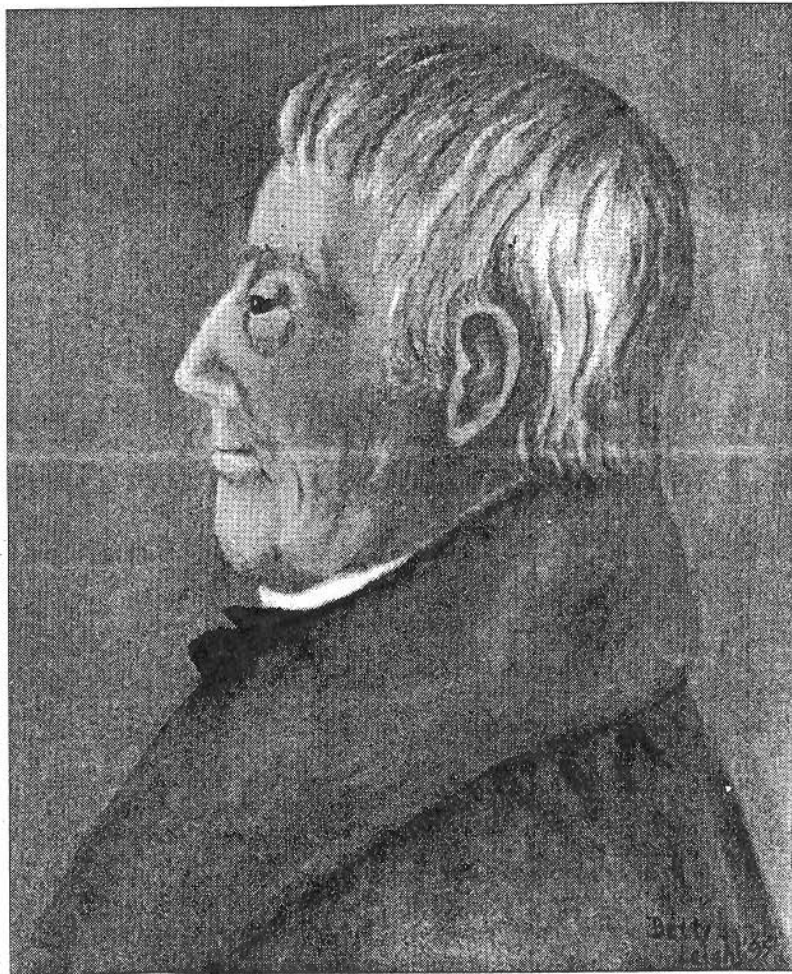
Each year on the first Sunday in June, some of Brookes descendants meet at Hester Baptist Church in Oxford for a family reunion.

The family members decided to collect monies to clean the grave, remove trees and install a fence around the grave. When it was determined there was not enough money to finish the project, Ryland K. Young of Greensboro, the great, great, great grandson of John Brookes, and Ryland's sister, Janice Murray of Roxboro, started soliciting funds from family and friends in the Roxboro area.

Ryland, who lives in the Sullivan's Lake area of Greensboro, brought the landscaper and landscaping crew to cut the trees and clean the area. Holley Fence Co. of Danville, Va. was hired to install the fence and gate around the gravesite. All the work was finished by the end of October.

If anyone would like to visit the cemetery or gravesite, it is requested that visitors sign the guest register at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Lewis.

The Thomas Person Chapter of Roxboro and the Berryman Green Chapter of South Boston, Va placed the Daughters of the American Revolution marker on the gravesite.



John Brooks Sr. 1748-1840