

LOCATED NEAR HILLIARD

# Pre-Civil War History In Missing Cemetery

A facet of Hilliard's history is buried in unmarked graves which the Northwest Franklin County Historical Society would like to locate and mark.

Slaves freed before the Civil War settled in and near Hilliard. The city's history indicates they were too poor to mark their graves.

**APPARENTLY NO** one in the Hilliard area now knows exactly where the graves are located. The best guess is the cemetery was in a grove of trees along the Rome-Hilliard Rd. near the No. 2 Norwich Township Fire Department.

In December, 1823, Smith Slaughter of Jefferson County, Va., directed in his will that after his death approximately 16 Negroes be set free.

He named them. They included Jack, Dick, Coll, Luc, "Agness and all her increase," "Jennie, sometimes

known as Pet with her two children," and Nancy and Matilda, "daughters of Lucy who died this fall."

**SLAUGHTER ALSO** directed they be given \$100 to pay their way to a 200-acre tract that he owned at Scioto, Ohio. The area was on the southern and eastern parts of Hilliard.

Slaughter also bequeathed the freed slaves a wagon and four horses.

Several families made the trip before the Civil War.

**THE LAND WAS** divided into five-acre tracts on Hamilton Rd., Norwich St., Cemetery Rd., and Scioto-Darby Rd.

Eventually, the families sold their lands and the Negro settlement disappeared from the Hilliard scene.

Reportedly, the last person to know exactly the location of the cemetery was the late Delmar Weeks of Rome-Hilliard Rd.