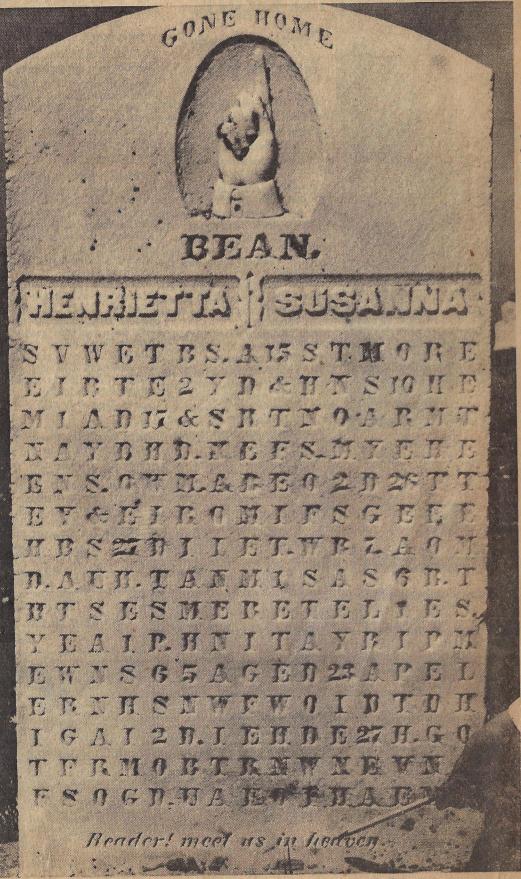
Kitchener-Waterloo Record



The tombstone in Crosshill cemetery for Henrietta and Susanna Bean.

Wierd Tombstone Code Lauds Wives

CROSSHILL MARKER ECHOES 1865 BURIAL-CARD PUZZLE

By JOHN T. SCHMIDT Record Staff Writer

CROSSHILL - If you've neven, you need go no further than Bible.

Many visitors to this "city of the dead" have been stopped funeral card was that it had 19 short by a gravestone in the letters down and 19 across and

tation," however, is the arrange Henrietta and Susanna Bean. ment of the lettering on the Mr. Terry was unable to re-

SEARCH IS ARDUOUS

15 letters down.

bearning the story about this "But," he said, "the superinmonths, making motor trips Hammond of Crosshill, knows

Elmer Ogram of RR 1, Wallenstein, first told us of the stone. zled by the apparent difference He said it has always been a local but she said her father, John curiosity. Upon the first visit it Hammond of RR 1, Millbank, was found the letters had grown near Crosshill, had once "brokin with moss and were hard to en" the code of the stone. Mr. Ogram said the message COPIED BY CARETAKER

started with an "i" in the exact Mr. Hammond, 83, was a fortired 90-year-old farmer at Clark- he had copied the inscription, son and a native of Crosshill, had took it home and over the course

Mr. Terry sent along a blacker received an invitation to heaver card, a keepsake from the family

the Rush Cemetery at Crosshill. CARD, STONE DIFFER

The puzzling thing about the southeast corner which bears the was the funeral card for Henriinscription, "Reader! Meet Us in etta Furry Bean, whereas the tombstone had 15 letters each More puzzling than the "invi- way and marked the grave of

white marble slab under which concile the discrepancies but are buried Henrietta and Susanna suggested that we contact his Bean. The letters don't make friend, W. A. Raymo of the Pressense when read conventionally ton Springs Home, another native But there is a hidden message of Crosshill, who might have the

Mr. Raymo was willing to help but unable because he said he There are 15 letters across and had left Crosshill when only about seven.

unique stone has taken about six tendent of staff here, Miss Jean around the country and writing something about it for I have heard her talk about it.'

Miss Hammond, too, was puz-

centre and could be deciphered mer caretaker at the cemetery. by reading counter-clockwise. He He recalled that while awaiting added that Charles R. Terry, a re- the arrival of a funeral cortege

S to HE ARMIT Y E HE D 26 E

Here is the lettering that appears on the stone.

an exact copy of the stone's inscrip- F E F I L Y L D O G A D E DA BNAEBP MORUE LLHERF A 6 5 AF E EL M 0 D WHOKNEWHER-W

This is the Henrietta Furry Bean funeral card.

INTHELORD-PEACE

of several months figured it out. Us in Heaven." It was a different message than The problem of making the

difficult to decipher.

Here is his surmise:

Pennsylvania in 1842. She mar- crepancies. ried Dr. Samuel Bean in Philadelphia. He came to Linwood to practice. Mr. Hammond said there was always some question of the funeral card: whether he was a qualified medical man.

Henrietta died after seven months of marriage on Sept. 27, 1865, and Dr. Bean had the unusual funeral cards printed. The code was easy to break by reading counter-clockwise from the centre letter.

DIED IN TWO YEARS

The good doctor married Henrietta's older sister, Susanna. She died two years later.

orated the occasion of his bereavement by a means that would last down through the years. He of the tombstone: had erected a stone for both In memoriam Henrietta 1st wife 'toughie."

appeared on the funeral card of stone readable for photographing Henrietta Bean and much more was solved by scraping off the moss-grown letters with a wire brush.

Henrietta Furry was born in There are several spelling dis-

Funeral Card Code

Here is the deciphered inscription

"In memoream Henriettah Furry Bean born in Penn. Married in Philadelphia to Samuel Bean M.D. & went with him to Canada leaving all her friends behind-Died in Linwood the 27th of Sep. 1865 after an illness of 11 weeks aged 23 years 2 months & 17 days she was a model wife 1 of 1000-Much regretted by her sorrowing husband & all who knew her-Was married 7 months & 10 days -Lived a godly life for 5 years & died happy in the Lord-Peace This time Dr. Bean commembe to her ashes—So mote it be.

Tombstone Code

Here is the deciphered code

which contained another hidden of S Bean MD who died 27th message—but this time it was a Sep 1865 aged 23 years 2 months & 17 days & Susanna his 2nd It begins seven letters from wife who died 27th April 1867 the top and seven letters from aged 26 years 10 months & 15 the left-hand side and starts days. 2 better wives 1 man never counter-clockwise but then goes in- had they were gifts from God to a zig-zag pattern and ends up but are now in heaven may God with the invitation, "Reader! Meet help me so to meet them there."