



Milligan Farm Cattle Pound

Grotons

Rarely did the photographer of a century ago train his camera on the animal compound out behind the barn. This one did so in righteous indignation.

By the late nineteenth century it had long been known that the Jenkins Bridge-Grotons area had once been home to the Reverend Francis Makemie (1658?-1708), founder of American Presbyterianism, and that his daughter Anne Makemie Holden had lived at what is now 8288 Jenkins Bridge Road in the house known as "Waveland." In 1879 two prominent Maryland Presbyterians visited this neighborhood to determine where, exactly, Makemie lay buried.

Fortunately for Dr. L. P. Bowen and Dr. J. T. B. McMaster they were directed to Charlotte Milligan Corbin and Peggy Milligan, who could tell them exactly where the family burial ground had been. Unfortunately the final resting place of Makemie and his wife and daughters lay beneath the cowpen of what had once been the Milligan farm.

After a small amount of digging, Bowen and McMaster uncovered the remnants of the brick wall that had once surrounded the burial ground, and their finding set in motion visits by more Presbyterian divines over the next several years. J. F. Jennison of Baltimore confirmed Bowen's finding with further investigations in 1883. J. Simonson Howk of Somerset County uncovered the tops of two vaulted brick graves in 1897, and could see that one of them held "copper coffin nails, fragments of glass, and a few bones and teeth." And at some point someone took this photograph with the lamentable caption of "a cow standing on the grave of Rev. Francis Makemie."

"What weeping and lamentation will there be among our good Presbyterian friends," wondered the *Peninsula Enterprise* after Jennison's visit, "when they learn that the bones of one of the noblest men of their church lie in a corner of a cattle pound! What is to be done?"

The Presbyterians knew what to do. They purchased the site and on May 14, 1908, dedicated there a larger-than-life statue of Makemie. Today a newer, duplicate statue overlooks the revered Makemie Monument Park; the original statue of 1908 stands behind Makemie Presbyterian Church in Accomac.

MILLIGAN FARM CATTLE POUND: Photograph c. 1888 from I. Marshall Page, *The Life Story of Rev. Francis Makemie* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1938), facing p. 170. L. P. Bowen, *The Days of Makemie, or The Vine Planted* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1885), pp. 546-549. Page, pp. 195-196. Henry C. McCook, "A Summary of the Evidence that the Traditional Place of Francis Makemie's Burial Is the True Site." *Journal of Presbyterian History* 4 # 8 (December 1908), pp. 394-395. *Peninsula Enterprise*, 10 May 1883.

(Source: Glimpses of a Vanished Eastern Shore, Kirk Mariner, Miona Publications, Onancock, VA, 2008)