

Capsule Summary  
SM-637  
Dryden Forbes Gordon Grave Site  
Oakley Vicinity  
Private

1732

The grave of Dryden Forbes Gordon is located on a property known in the early-eighteenth century as "Broad Neck" near present day Oakley, Maryland. The grave is marked by a stone slab with a beveled edge and a *momenti mori* depicting a skull and crossbones. Just below this iconography is the inscription:

Here lies interred the body of Dryden Forbes Gordon wife of George Gordon who departed this life in the 22nd day of January 1732 in the 22nd year of her age.

Dryden Forbes Gordon was most likely the daughter of George Forbes who died sometime after 1737. According to George Forbes' will, he was to be "...buried at Broad Neck in the same grave my son George was buried and his bones if not consumed to be put in my Coffin..." This was probably the same location as his daughter Dryden.<sup>1</sup> In the same will George Forbes leaves a portion of this estate to his grand-daughter Mary Gordon -- perhaps a daughter of Dryden Forbes Gordon. George Gordon, perhaps Dryden's husband, is also named in George Forbes' will as the executor and guardian of Mary Gordon.

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<sup>1</sup> St. Mary's County Will Records, Liber TA 1, Folio 79, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland. Thanks goes out to Robert Hurry of the Calvert Marine Museum for helping me make the Forbes - Gordon connection.

SM-637, Grave Site of Dryden Forbes Gordon  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Contact and Settlement Period, 1570-1750
Historic Period Theme:	Religion Cultural

Resource Type

Category:	Site
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Small Family Cemetery
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-637

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Broad Neck, Bolling Hall

and/or common Grave Site of Dryden Forbes Gordon (pref.)

**2. Location**

street & number E of the intersection of Maycroft Road and Ellis Rd. XXX not for publication

city, town Avenue  vicinity of congressional district 7

state Md county St. Mary's TM-39, G-9, P-63

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joan Cecile Bolling Von Goetz

street & number PO Box 92 telephone no.: no telephone

city, town Avenue state and zip code Md 20609

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 103

street & number folio 179

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-637

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Dryden Forbes Gordon grave site is located east of the intersection of Maycroft and Ellis Road. The grave is situated on a relatively high, but quickly eroding bluff overlooking St. Clements Bay. The grave as well as surrounding burial ground is overgrown with ivy, underbrush, and small trees. A low wrought iron fence surrounds the grave of Dryden Forbes Gordon as well as Jeanette Bolling -- mother of the current owner. A two story, Colonial Revival dwelling with a hip roof is situated to the south of the grave, but due to owner objection was not documented for the survey.

A stone slab inscribed with the barely legible writing "Here lies interred the body of Dryden Forbes Gordon, wife of George Gordon, who departed this life on the 22nd day of January 1732 in the 22nd year of her age" marks the grave of this early resident of Maryland. The stone lies low to the ground and features a modern concrete base. The edges of the stone are beveled and burial iconography in the form of a skull and crossbones within a circle is located just above the inscription. The stone was documented due to its location near a quickly eroding bank.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-637

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The grave of Dryden Forbes Gordon is located on a property referred to as "Broad Neck" near present day Oakley, Maryland. The grave is marked by a stone slab with a beveled edge and a momenti mori depicting a skull and crossbones. Just below this iconography is the inscription:

Here lies interred the body of Dryden Forbes Gordon wife of George Gordon who departed this life in the 22nd day of January 1732 in the 22nd year of her age.

Dryden Forbes Gordon was most likely the daughter of George Forbes who died sometime after 1737. According to George Forbes' will, he was to be "...buried at Broad Neck in the same grave my son George was buried and his bones if not consumed to be put in my Coffin..." -- the same location as his daughter Dryden.<sup>1</sup> This connection is made because in the same will he leaves a portion of this estate to his grand-daughter Mary Gordon -- perhaps a daughter of Dryden Forbes Gordon. George Gordon, Dryden's husband, is also named in George Forbes' will as the executor and guardian of Mary Gordon.

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SM-637, Grave of Dryden Forbes Gordon  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 103, Folio 179

Grantee: Joan Cecile Bolling von Goetz

Grantor: Joan Cecile Bolling von Goetz, personal representative of Mary Jeanette Bolling von Goetz

Date: August 21, 1981

Notes: This deed traces how the property, called "Broad Neck" or "Bolling Hall" became owned by Mary Jeanette Bolling von Goetz. In the will of Mary Queen (Will Record Liber PHD 1, Folio 442), executed on October 9, 1914, the property is passed from Mary Queen to May Bolling. Mary Bolling died and left the property to three of her children. Two, Evelyn Bolling and Richard Bolling, died. The third child, Mary Jeanette Bolling, became the sole possessor of the property.

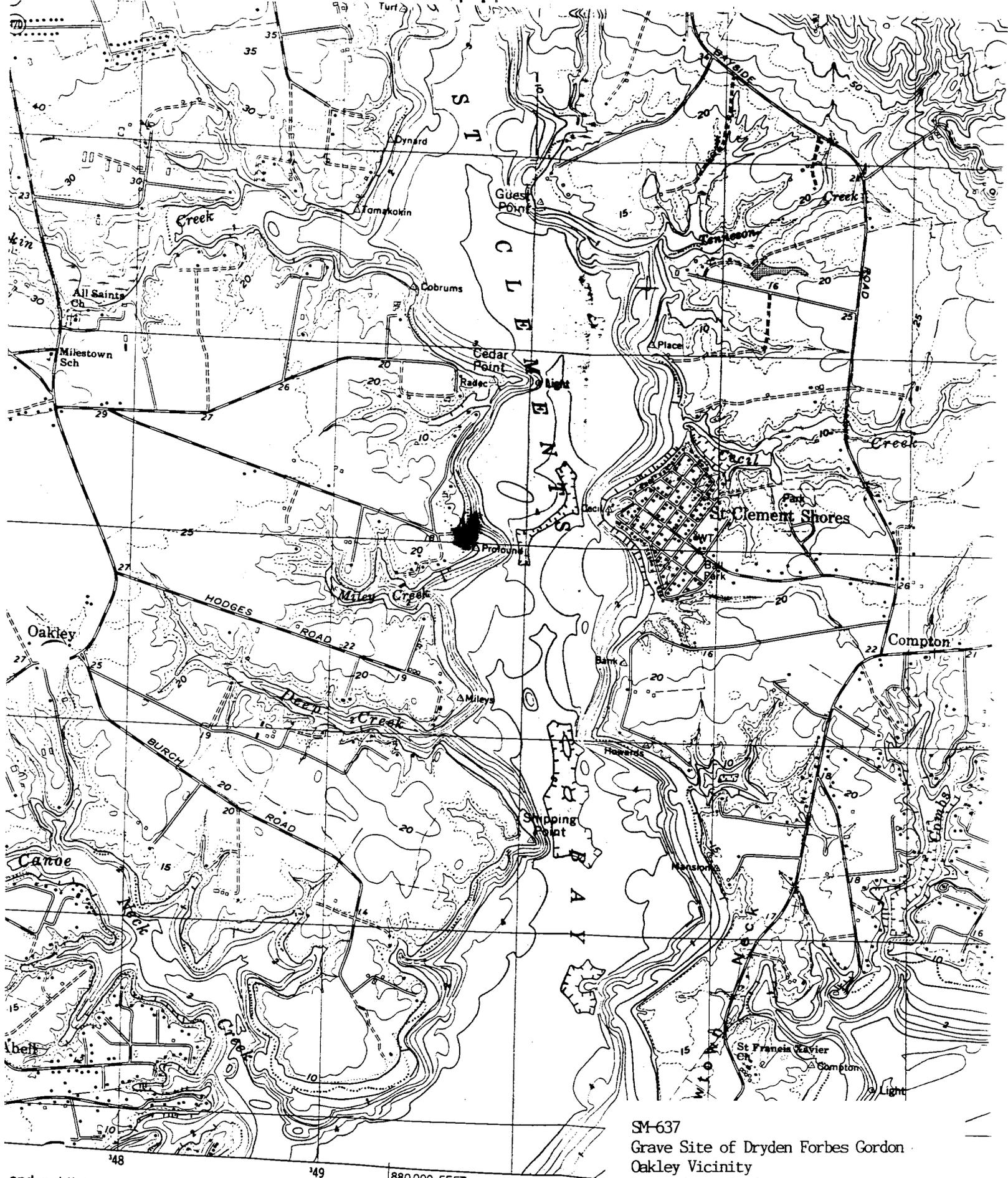
Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 215

Grantee: James McWilliams

Grantor: Mary Queen

Date: November 25, 1887

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 80 acres. This deed also mentions that Mary Queen had received the property from the estate of her mother Emeline McWilliams. A commission consisting of John M. Dent, Daniel Shanks, and Richard H. Garner was selected in order to elicit an equitable division of James and Emeline McWilliams estate. Some of the property was awarded to Mary Queen. Unfortunately, the court case which documented the division is located in the Execution Record Liber JH 1, Folio 235 which is not located in the St. Mary's County Courthouse. Due to the lack of a ban clause, the chain-of-title could not be carried further.



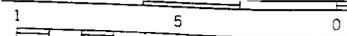
SM-637  
 Grave Site of Dryden Forbes Gordon  
 Oakley Vicinity  
 Leonardtown Quad

and published by the Geological Survey  
 Ocean Survey  
 NOS/NOAA  
 Photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
 1963  
 by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated  
 This information is not intended for navigational

NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY  
 HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX

880 000 FEET

NTS  
 1:11 NW  
 1:2  
 0  
 000





SM-637

Grave Site of Dryden Forbes Gordon

St. Mary's Coving

Kirk Ranzetta

May/98

MD CHPO

E-W orientation of grave - detail of stone

1 of 1