

# Scout's effort unveils long-lost names



## COMMUNITY WORK:

Eighteen-year-old Adam Anderson, of Lovettsville, uses shaving cream to highlight the name on a tombstone in Waterford's Union Cemetery. Anderson earned his Eagle Scout award after mapping the African-American section of the cemetery.

Times-Mirror Staff  
Photo/Jason Hornick

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What the wear and tear that decades have obscured, shaving cream can sometimes bring back to light.

That was the experience of Adam Anderson, of Lovettsville, who earned his Eagle Scout award recently after mapping the African-American section of Union Cemetery in Waterford.

Anderson, 18, enlisted two dozen helpers to plot the gravesides in the half-acre section of the cemetery where more than 75 African-Americans are buried. They employed shaving cream and a squeegee to highlight even the most shallow depressions in the worn stones, and thereby deciphered a half-dozen names not recorded in earlier surveys.

"This is an excellent example of community volunteerism," said Bronwen Souders, former president of the Waterford Foundation and an authority on Waterford's African-American history.

"Adam went at it systematically, took photographs and documented what he did." The shaving cream proved a successful treatment that was harmless to the stones, she said.

The graves date as far back as the early and mid-1800s. No new graves have been added to the black section of the cemetery since the 1960s.

One of the names that came to light for the first time was that of Mary Kennedy, who died in 1872 at about 15 years of age. Her father, according to Souders, was a founding trustee of the

African-American church and school on Second Street. A descendant in Washington, D.C., "is really excited" about the find and is eager to visit the grave, Souders said.

The white section of Union Cemetery contains several hundred graves, which are typically better marked, with more prominent and expensive stones. Adam's mother, Julia Anderson, noted that there was "inequality in death as well as life."

Adam is with Catocin Troop 743. His four brothers before him also achieved Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest award.