THE WALTON BURIAL GROUND
Picatinny Arsenal, NJ

This cemetery has been commonly called the Walton Burial Ground since the Nineteenth Century. The only currently known published record of its existence is in Munsell's History of Morris County, 1739-1882. For some time it has also been called the Hessian Cemetery because of a belief that some of the Hessian prisoners of war employed at the Mount Hope Furnace during the Revolution may be buried here. There has been no substantiating evidence for this belief, although it is a logical possibility. For lack of documentation and because of the nature of the cemetery, many of the graves, and identities of the occupants may remain a mystery. You will note that, except for three marked stones which were belatedly protected during the Bicentennial, this is predominantly a field stone cemetery. Most graves are identifiable only by a field stone headstone. Some also have a stone at the foot, and some are recognizable from the depressed ground.

What is known is that this ground, near the edge of the former Walton Farm property, was used as either a family or community burial ground from at least 1787 until at least 1884. The headstone of John Walton Senior was legible until at least 1882, with the inscription "John Walton, Died July 30 1787, 87 Years of Age". His wife, who died in 1791, is buried next to him. Their son was one of the most highly respected Baptist ministers in Morristown during his life. Peter Doland (d. 1821) and Elizabeth Riche Doland (d. 1852) are also buried here. Peter is noteworthy as the builder of the Doland House (Quarters 3119) circa 1803, and as the one confirmed Revolutionary War veteran buried here. His father was reputedly an aide to General Braddock during the French and Indian War.

Also known to be buried here are four members of the Burwell, Fordham and Walton families. Based on the statements of Henry Merrick Doland, it is probable that nine other members of the Doland family who died prior to 1850. Finally, it is presumed that Susan Walton is buried here since her husband and daughter are (The daughter, Agnes, has the only remaining legible stone).

Currently, local historians are trying to prove that another three Revolutionary War veterans are buried here. The most likely seems to be Jonathan Wiggins. After losing an arm at the Battle of Monmouth, Wiggins made a name for himself as John Jacob Faesch's wagonmaster, and something of an expert" 'with a whip.

After this clean-up, ARDEC's cultural affairs personnel will be responsible for planning and carrying out further improvements, to include better access and replacement of the fencing. This must, of course, wait for the completion of a plan for restoration and maintenance. The next planned volunteer effort will involve seeking approval for the placement of certain veteran and/or memorial markers.