

Burials in the Roman Burying Ground, W. High Street, Shepherdstown

Last updated: January 8, 2026

Names of individuals buried in the cemetery come from an article in the Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, Vol. XI, Dec 1945. *Early Shepherdstown and Its Churches* by A. D. Kenamond, Pg 38.:

Charles McElroy
Mary Rhodes Payne
Old Dan McKinney
John Brown & his wife Clarissa

Also buried there were “a number of cholera victims, Irishmen who had been building the C. & O. Canal. According to the text below, they were buried there under cover of night in 1833”.

The Irish canal workers. They were buried under "cover of night" because everyone at the time was terrified of catching cholera, and they didn't know how it spread. No records of their names have been found.

TR, Nov. 2025

Charles McElroy:

- Headstone still standing.
- Died May 24, 1824 (age 33)
- He was a native of Ireland, County Tyrone.

The others listed above do not have grave markers that have been found to date.

John Brown:

- Headstone not yet found
- Died January 22, 1902
- His wife, Clarissa, died June 10, 1927.

Others we know of:

Francis Roby:

- Tombstone is at the top of the hill, near the chain fence with Shepherd University
- Died December 2, 1874 (age 76 year, 5 months)

David (small son of Blakeny):

- David's name was found in *John Blackford's Ferry Hill Plantation Journal*.
- Died January 7, 1839, of scarlet fever.
- There is mention of him being buried across the river in the Catholic Burying ground on January 8, 1839.

“ I understand Blakeny buried his little son, the two Bosses Brantner & some other young man carried the corps to the Catholic Burying ground where he was Intered - Ned and Julious in the Boat. a Tolerable Business.” January 1839, pg. 129.

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/browse?type=lcsbc&key=Blackford%2C%20John%2C%201771%2D1839%20%2D%2D%20Diaries>

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Infant son of Jno Brown:

- Died January 13, 1898.
- His funeral was held at home, and he is buried in the Catholic Yard. *Records of Robert Samuel McClay Hoffman Undertaker of Shepherdstown Vol. 1, Pt 1 (Aug 20 1897 - Dec 31 1900). Pg 13.*