

Grave mistake fixed



Suzanne Johnson and Ed Gates prepare to unload Gates' truck.

Ben Hohenstatt | The Herald Independent

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY — The Fairfield County Museum digs finding old graves.

A Fairfield County Museum research project resulted in a new grave marker for a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Col. Jesse Havis (1764-

1827) fought in the American Revolution, and was ultimately buried in a small family cemetery at his Fairfield County home. However, during the proceeding centuries, his grave marker went missing.

“At some point, a family decided that slab would make a really good top for a picnic table,”

said Suzanne Johnson, museum volunteer and Genealogy Society board member.

Pelham Lyles, director for Fairfield County Museum, said the desecration was accidental.

“They didn’t know why it was here, just that it would make a good picnic table,” Lyles said.

Lyles cautioned against

capriciously moving old, carved rock, because many small cemeteries are poorly marked, or fall into a state of disrepair, and it is easy to accidentally disturb something of personal, historical importance.

Later, the slab was placed in Bethel ARP

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