

## Dump Engulfs Historical Marker

THE AREA probably can offer no better example of how not to treat a historical monument than the dump that has grown around the marker on a plot dedicated to the Sons of Union Veterans.

The stone, a few miles east of Elmira near Route 17, commemorates the British and Indians who died in the Battle of Newtown in 1779. It was set after the discovery of a mass grave when the Junction Canal was being dug.

The late Abner C. Wright, one-time Chemung County historian and

owner of the farm on which the mass grave was found, gave the land to the SUV as a site for annual drills and encampments.

It has been many years since the land was used for the purpose for which Abner Wright gave it. Now the stone raised to the memory of "our foe, Redmen and British . . ." rises above an unsightly and inexcusable accumulation of tin cans and other rubbish.

The site should be cleared at once and kept cleared. It would be a nice way for those who created the mess to atone for a thoughtless act.

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