

Colonists laid to rest — again



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARY U'VONE

A group gathers Sunday in Bedminster to watch the remains of 66 Colonial settlers lowered into their final resting place. Below, the Rev. David Ross, interim pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Pluckemin, leads the procession to the burial site.

Metro News Briefs

NEW JERSEY

New Burial for Remains Of 66 Colonial Settlers

BEDMINSTER — The remains of 66 Colonial settlers discovered during an excavation for a housing subdivision last year were taken to another location and reburied on Sunday, two and a half centuries after they were first buried.

The remains were of Lutheran parishioners of the Mountain Church, built with logs before 1720 by German settlers of the Pluckemin section of Bedminster Township, said the Rev. David W. Ross, interim pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Pluckemin. Mr. Ross presided over a burial service in a Colonial-era cemetery next to his church. The service was attended by archeologists and local Lutherans, but no known descendants of the settlers were there. The partial remains, about a quarter of which were those of infants, were buried together in a single coffin.

The skull of a young woman was discovered in July when the developer, Toll Brothers of Huntington Valley, Pa., was installing utility lines for Patriot Mews, a development of 76 town houses, said Kira McCarron, a company spokeswoman. The authorities were contacted, excavation was halted, and an archeological firm, Richard Grubb & Associates of Cranbury, N.J., was brought in to locate any additional remains and identify them.

die at sea," Mr. Becica said.

The memorial will be a life-size statue of a fisherman peering out past the narrow rock inlet toward the sea, the Becicas said. In one hand will be the bronze bell from the Adriatic, which was recovered from the wreck by divers. They hope to use the bell from the Beth Dee Bob if it can be salvaged. If not, the statue's other hand will carry a bronze lantern, symbolically lighting the way home for returning boats. (AP)