

Montgomery Parks Cemetery Briefing for the Planning Board

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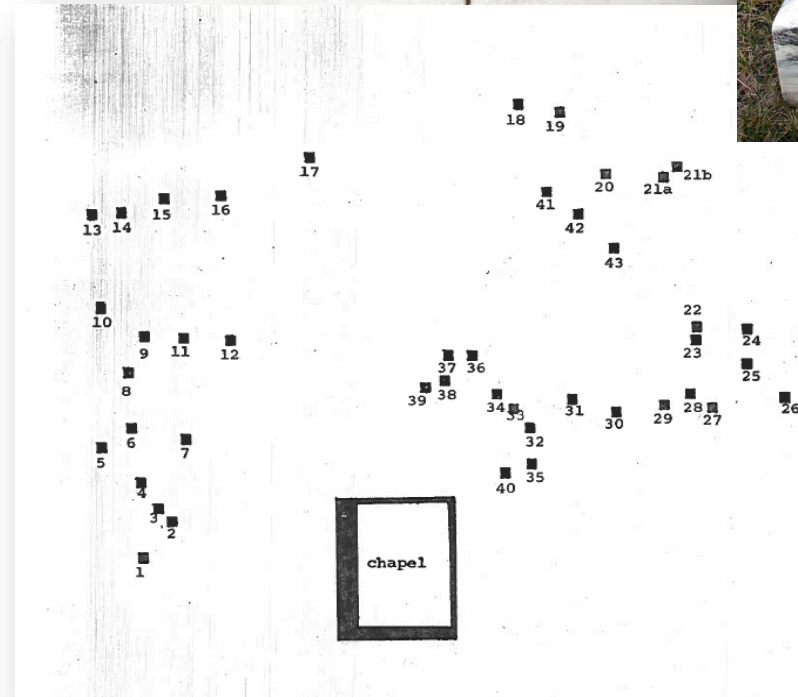
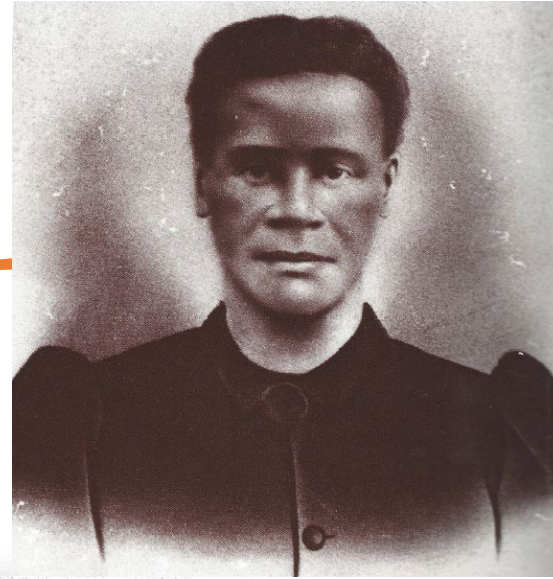
July 21, 2022



Cultural Resources Cemetery Program

*Montgomery Parks promotes stewardship of these important cultural resources through:

- Research and Documentation
- Preservation
- Management
- Community/Family access



Unmarked and “Lost” Cemeteries

- Many burial sites have little or no above ground markers, headstones, or other traces and have become heavily overgrown
- Archival research, oral tradition, and archaeology are necessary to uncover these unmarked cemeteries.
- Cemetery locations also come to Park’s attention through:
 - Historic Preservation Office
 - Public Inquires/Tips
 - Researching Internal Documents



Overview of Cemeteries on Parkland

- *13 known cemeteries on Parkland
- *1 cemetery partially on Parkland managed by others
- *5 cemeteries actively under research to define locations

* Interpretive Signage

- 2 installed
- 3 currently in development
- 9 additionally funded

- *Managing internal GIS/EAM cemetery data
- Cemetery Conditions Assessment

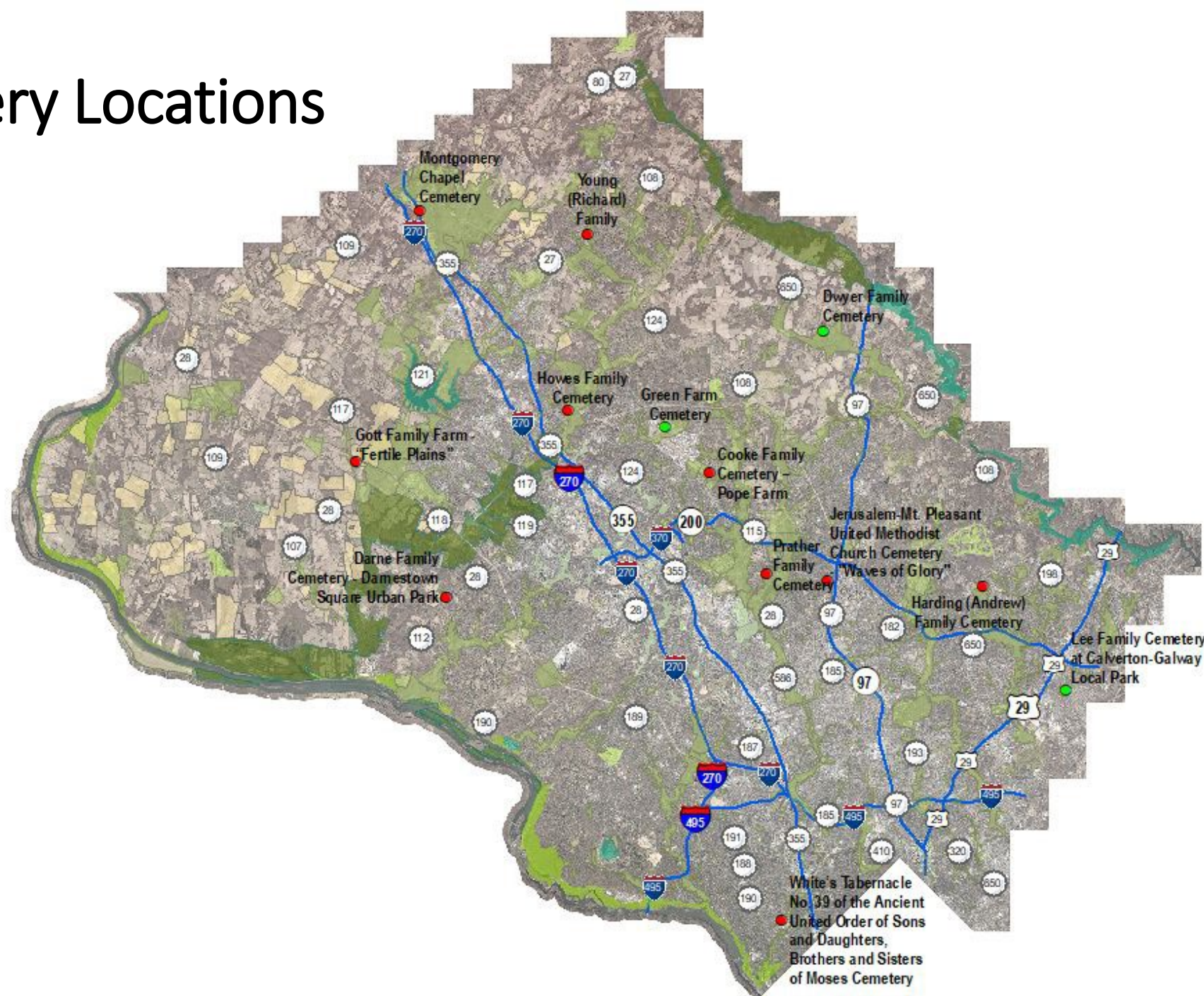


Montgomery Parks Cemeteries – July 2022

Cemetery Name	Park Name	Managed by M-NCPPC	Year Range of Known Burials	Tombstones Present (Quantity)	Interpretive Signage Present (Quantity)	Type of Cemetery
Darne (Darnestown) Cemetery	Darnestown Heritage Park	Yes	19 th century	No	Yes (1 of 3 is focused on the cemetery)	Community
Harding (Andrew) Family Cemetery	Cloverly Local Park	Yes	1882-1907	Yes (2)	1 in Development	European American, Family
Lee (Sarah) Family Cemetery	Calverton-Galway Local Park	Yes	1865-1957 (at latest)	No	2 in Development	African American, Family
Montgomery Chapel Cemetery	Little Bennett Regional Park	Yes	1883-1968	Yes (at least 38)	1 in Development	African American, Religious
Prather Family Cemetery	Rock Creek Regional Park	Yes	1805-1860	Yes (at least 10)	1 in Development	European American, Family
Cooke Family Cemetery	Pope Farm Nursery	Yes	1804-1904	Yes (at least 35)	1 in Development	European American, Family
Young (Richard) Family Cemetery	Magruder Branch SVU #2	Yes	1871-1880	Yes (3)	1 in Development	European American, Family
Dwyer (James) Family Cemetery	Rachel Carson Conservation Park	Yes	Ca. 1862-1889	No	No	Family
River Road Moses Cemetery	Willett Branch Greenway	Yes	1911-1958 (potentially earlier)	No	No	African American, Benevolent Society
Howes Family Cemetery	Great Seneca Stream Valley Park	Yes – potentially 2 separate burial sites	Unknown at this time	N/A	No	European American, Family
Browning Family Cemetery	Little Bennett Regional Park	Yes	1830-1870	Yes (6)	No	European American, Family
Gott Family Cemetery	Hoyles Mill Conservation Park	Yes	1812-1871	Yes (4)	No	European American, Family
Green Farm Cemetery	Lois Y. Green Conservation Park	Yes	Possibly pre-1864	No	No	African American
Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant A.M.E. Church Cemetery	Norbeck-Muncaster Mill Neighborhood Park	No – owned managed by trustees of the Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant UMC	1893-1962	Yes (about 50)	No	African American, Religious and/or Benevolent Society

Parks Cemetery Locations

July 2022



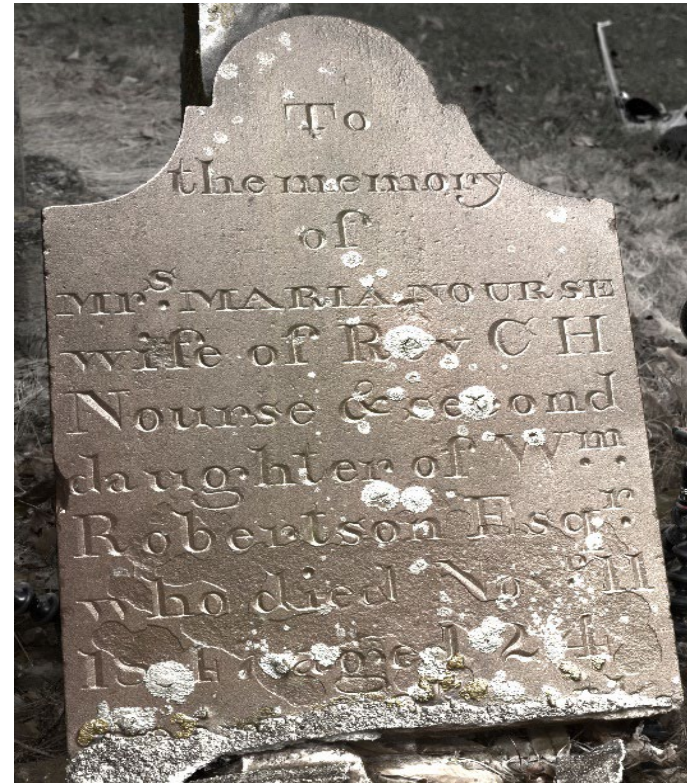
Cemetery Data Management

- Burial Sites GIS layer
- Cemetery Inventory

- Project Review
- EAM/Maintenance

Cemetery Care Process

- Removing dead trees, invasives, trash, and any vegetation overgrowth
- Conditions Assessment
- Complete preservation recommendations
- Working with descendants and community stakeholders on interpretation and memorialization
- Staff Education – attending relevant conferences and workshops



“The Social Contract”

A graveyard is an old agreement made between the living and the living who have died that says we keep their names and dates alive.

“At the Opening of Oak Creek Cemetery Bridge”, Thomas Lynch

Cleaning Up Burial Sites

- Increase Awareness and Accessibility
- Decrease Liability
- Property Delineation

Prather Cemetery (Meadowside, Rock Creek Regional Park)



Jerusalem- Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery (Norbeck-Muncaster Mill Neighborhood Park)



2022 Cemetery Conditions Assessment

- Compile information on Parks cemeteries
- Conduct staff workshops
- Provide cemetery management recommendations



Signage

- Operation
- Interpretive



THE GRAVEYARD

Clues to the Past: Oral History and Archaeology

Montgomery Parks.org

Victorian Funeral Processions

Danvers Presbyterian Church Cemetery

Recent records accounts identified that 20 to 30 individuals, including members of the Danvers family were buried here. Given the high infant mortality rates until the mid-19th century, even the youngest residents of Danvers were vulnerable to the hardships of life, disease, and death.

The mystery remains as to who were the occupants of this graveyard. Between 1994-1999 historical research and several archaeological digs were conducted to help shed some light on this question. The nearby Danvers Presbyterian Church had a cemetery that dates from the 19th century as it predates that residents not affiliated with the congregation were buried in this smaller non-sectarian graveyard. Equally transfers whose demise occurred while in Danvers may have been, but as noted in this lot, the lack of tombstones could also indicate burials by some residents lacking financial resources for an elaborate burial. There is over a possibility that some of the unidentified graves belonged to African soldiers.

Because of an injury of illness – including matters possible grave robbery, neglect over time – this cemetery was long by the ages. The occupants might be numerous, but certainly not forgotten.

Victorian Funeral Processions

Perhaps the most revealing artifact discovered during the archeological dig was an elaborate 1897 coffin handle made of brass and steel by the 1890s. Various forces were an ever-to-degree well-maintained. Some were made of wood and metal. The handle was the last case and prepared for the funeral. The presence of an elaborate handle, especially in the late 19th century, and denotes the owner could handle was presented to culture death.

Continuum Fragment

Continuum Fragment

Archaeology performed in the 1990s revealed the presence of 22 graves. A few night gravestones were uncovered but lacked any identification or ornamentation.

The funeral procession for Priscilla Abraham Lincoln was quite elaborate and well attended. The woman had her coffin laid out on a bier and had four attendants dressed by their sides on each side.

Norbeck Rosenwald School

ParksCulturalResources.org

County-funded elementary education for African American children did not exist until 1922. Until then, small black enclaves, like Mount Pleasant, pulled community resources to establish schools. A significant boost in financial assistance came in 1917 with the establishment of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Between 1920 and 1929, **thirteen Rosenwald Schools were built in Montgomery County** – collectively covered by African American residents contributing \$7,000 to match the \$6000 donated by Jewish philanthropist and Sears founder Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932). The remaining \$61,360 came from tax revenues. Nine schools, including Norbeck, were constructed between 1927-1928. This two-teacher, two-room, one-story structure cost \$5000 to build.

Classroom instruction included the basics – reading, writing, and arithmetic, and followed the Tolskege model established by educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915). The emphasis was on self-help and gender-specific vocational training. Conditions made were not always ideal for learning as former pupil Mabel D. Jackson recalled: "There were no trade facilities, water, or central heat. We had free books but never any new ones. These books were dirty, ragged, marked up, and often had pages missing." These inequalities only increased as the school entered the Great Depression. During World War II, Norbeck had 85 students from 1st to 7th grades. Norbeck closed in 1951, three years before the 1954 Supreme Court ruling *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawed school segregation. In 1957, Mt. Pleasant developed plans to convert the school into a recreational center, a function that continues today.

Norbeck was one of over 5,000 Rosenwald Schools built in the American South, and one of 150 schoolhouses established in memory of Maynard's country between 1918 and 1932.

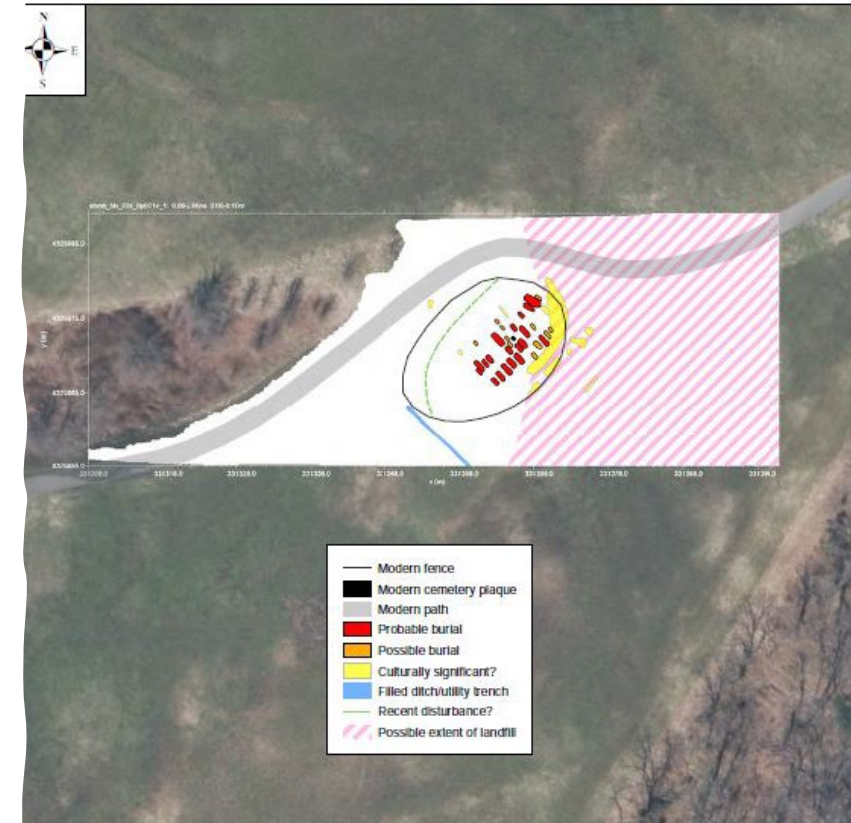
Mount Pleasant

Following Emancipation in 1864, freedmen communities developed throughout Montgomery County. Formerly enslaved farmers acquired small parcels of land, creating the community of Mount Pleasant. In 1872, A.D. Wadsworth sold 0.5 acres to help establish one of the first segregated schools in Montgomery County. The original two-room frame school burnt down in 1905. The Christianized School reopened in 1927. On Sundays, Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church used the school room open for evening services. By 1948, the church purchased land for a permanent sanctuary. Beyond the school is the cemetery, cemetery on land acquired in 1983, "occasionally by a buying list for the colored people." The Mackall's Boardman operates a large that once stood on land before the church during the first half of the 20th century. Today, the Wives of Glory Cemetery Center occupies the ca. 1920s chapel. The Jerusalem Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church still owns and maintains the cemetery.

Funding generously provided by: Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation
www.jewish-american-society-for-historic-preservation.org

Case Study: Sarah Lee Cemetery, Calverton-Galway Local Park

- Historical Research
- Fairland Master Plan and Documentary
- Archaeological Assessment Report
- GPR and Magnetometry
- Cut and fill analysis
- Family meetings and oral histories
- Interpretive signage





Thank you!