

African American Cemetery

Big Gut

911-W-28-North

Located near the community of Upper Hill in Somerset Co. on a creek known as Back Creek (alias Maddox Creek) The burial site is on high ground on the south side of the creek and can be reached by boat. People were interred in this cemetery as late as 1940 and many of the vaults are of concrete construction which apparently started about circa 1920. It is important to note that the cemetery contains many field stones place as head and foot markers for some early graves. It has been reported that the grounds were used to bury slaves in early times. Many cast concrete post are found in the cemetery, some with hand scripted names and initials. Some of these unique markers have an impression of a star on the top or bottom of the post and in some cases on both ends. Two veterans are resting in this lonely place, one from the Civil War marked with a federal marker, a member of the 19th U.S. Colored Infantry, and the other from the First World War. Numerous Eastern Red Cedars shade the ground which is covered with a light green ground cover producing a beautiful four pedal flower that bloom in April. One of the Cedars has blown over by strong North winds and appears to be at least 100 years old. Although no roads lead to this hollowed ground, we pray that the names of those buried there will be recited again because of the inscriptions we found.

Exact location:

Coordinates; 38 degrees 07.317 minutes north

75 degrees 47.154 minutes west

Located on Big Gut one half a mile NNE of Sybil Road in Upper Hill, Fairmount, and Somerset County, Maryland.

Jackson Custis Co. C. 19 U.S. C. INF. (Government marker)	Sidney White Died Feb. 9, 1921 (scribed on the end of vault the)
Lola May White Died Oct. 8, 1940 Age 9 yrs. 9 mos. (Scribed on the end of vault)	Joseph H. Maddox died Mar. 25, 1912 Aged 73 yrs. may he rest in peace
Richard Maddox Dec. 14, 1891	Amanda M. Wife of

May 13, 1921 Rest soldier rest thy warfare o'er (Located on the same stone with Joseph H.)	Isaac Houston Died Feb. 8, 1908 Aged 82 yrs & 10mos. And the shall see his face and his name shall be in their foreheads (near the waters edge)
Lucy Waters Born 1849 Died June 5 1919	Rev. WM.. H. Johnson Born 1835 July 26, 1908 At Rest
Loisa Sanders Died Oct 9, 1900 aged about 78 yrs. May the soul of the departed rest in peace	J. F Gilles J. H. Maddox (both on same cemnt stone)

The following is a list of post made of concrete and of the same design, probably made by the same undertaker or stone cutter. The letters were scratched into the wet cement or formed by a stamp in some cases. Some post have an impression of a five sided star.

S. D.	A. B. No. 60
C. Bary *	F. P. W. No. 22 (F wrote inverted)
* W. E. S. No 21	* M. J. Waters
C. W. Johnson *	* H. Johnson
D. J. H. *	J. B. (B wrote inverted)
R. H. M. No 27	C. C. No. 53
* L. M. *	W. E. Miles
W. S. Miles	W. Turpin *
* L. M. *	A. B. No. 3
* J. B. Waters (B inverted)	J. B. Hall *
E. H. No. 46	* Virginia Pinder (post on each end of grave)
J. D. No. 36 (D. inverted)	E. D. C. No. 59
L. O. No. 64	E. B.

W. E. Miles	Robt. Waters
D. C. No. 36	

This cemetery was originally visited on January 3, 2003 by: Ed Smith, Rebecca F. Miller and Philip L. Goldsborough.

Transcribed by: Phil Goldsborough from Photographs and field notes. 2005

Re-visited: On March 6, 2005 by Harold Tilghman III of Salisbury, J. Dewayne Coleman of Hebron, Ed Smith of Fairmount and Philip L. Goldsborough of Crisfield.