



# THE ARCHIVIST

A PUBLICATION OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF BERGEN COUNTY

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 1, FEBRUARY 2023

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Looking back...

Recently we had a chance to look at some old GSBC scrapbooks. Surprisingly, despite the organization's many years of existence, there are only four. Photos are few and often fuzzy and out-of-focus—barely reflecting the vibrant, busy organization that has been serving its members since 1973.

Clippings are scarce, too. It seems our members have generally been too busy researching their family trees to spend time gluing Society pictures, news articles or mementoes onto blank pages.

Many of us, though, can conjure memories of the scores of Monday night meetings we've attended over the years, the great programs we've learned from, and the many friends we've made comparing stories about our long-lost relatives or those we just couldn't track down. The camaraderie we've enjoyed in sharing "findings" or moaning over "brick walls" has continued to be one of the great benefits of being a member.

And there have always been more than meeting nights

in which to enjoy the company of like-minded researchers.

Along the way, we've shared practical workshops, one-on-one consultations, educational all-day seminars, new member socials, delicious volunteer breakfasts, and even relaxed picnics in Dunkerhook Park.

Because we're marking five decades, it's time to reminisce a bit. Let's do it together at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Reception we're planning at Ridgewood Public Library on Monday evening, May 22. We'll begin early at 6 pm, celebrate with refreshments and an anniversary cake, listen to remembrances of our longest members, and even have a little excitement with some gifts for all and a raffle or two for our luckiest guests!

Please save the date and join us. We look forward to observing this special GSBC milestone with you.

— Maria (Ree) Pratt Hopper and Geraldine Mola,  
*Co-Presidents*

Photos below show Society members at various educational and social events over the years. **CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP-RIGHT.** A GSBC's Members' annual picnic in Dunkerhook Park. A GSBC Seminar, where multiple presentations on a focused topic delivered across an entire day. The GSBC's General Meetings meet once a month (except May and December) to conduct Society business and welcome an expert to deliver a talk on a subject of interest. Now in its 20th year, the RPL-GSBC Lock-In provides an evening of camaraderie, socializing, classes, and research long-after the Ridgewood Public Library is closed to the public.



# The Genealogical Society of Bergen County, New Jersey

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2022

Contact the Society and its officers by email at [contact@njgsbc.org](mailto:contact@njgsbc.org). Current Officers and Trustees are listed below with Chairperson duties in brackets. Contact us about volunteering to fill vacant positions and other opportunities.

### CO-PRESIDENTS

Maria "Ree" Jean Pratt Hopper  
Geraldine Mola, MA [By-Laws; Tribute Cards]

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT; PROGRAMS

Lauren Maehrlein, MA [Programs; Seminar]

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT; LIBRARY

Lucille Bertram, MLIS, [Acquisitions; Genealogy Consultants and Queries; Library]  
[gsbc.queries@gmail.com](mailto:gsbc.queries@gmail.com)

### 3RD VICE PRESIDENT; MEMBERSHIP

Mary Beth Craven [Membership]  
[gsbc.membership@outlook.com](mailto:gsbc.membership@outlook.com)

### TREASURER

Lea Schwarzwaldner [P.O. Box]

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Jo Ann Berkenbush

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Theresa Wright (Email Monitor)

### WEBMASTER

(Vacant, volunteer needed)

### PAST PRESIDENT

Barbara Ellman, MS, MBA (2017–2021)

### TRUSTEES

Linda Baer, JD [Speakers' Bureau]  
Don Casey, PhD [Audit; Hospitality]  
Carol DeWitte [50th Anniversary Celebration]  
Steve Gabai [Nominating Committee; Publicity]  
Barry Messner  
Fred Voss [Education; BCC ILR Instructor;  
Long-Range Planning; Social Media; Tech]

### TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE

Christina Post, MPA  
Lucille Siebold [Outreach]

### TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Peggy W. Norris, MS, MLIS

## OTHER CHAIRPERSONS

### DUTCH DOOR GENEALOGY

Peggy W. Norris, MS, MLIS; Afina Broekman

### GSBC E-NEWS

Peggy W. Norris, MS, MLIS

### GSBC SEMINAR

Lauren Maehrlein, MA

### HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK

(Vacant, volunteer needed)

### INDEXING & SPECIAL PROJECTS

(Vacant, volunteer needed)

### RPL-GSBC LOCK-IN

Sarah Kiefer, MLIS, RPL

### WEBSITE TRANSITION

Michelle D. Novak, MI [*The Archivist*]

## SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

[contact@njgsbc.org](mailto:contact@njgsbc.org)

P.O. Box 432, Midland Park, NJ 07432

[www.njgsbc.org](http://www.njgsbc.org)

[www.facebook.com/GenSocBergenCo](https://www.facebook.com/GenSocBergenCo)

### GSBC COLLECTIONS + GENEALOGY CONSULTANTS

Bolger Heritage Center for Genealogy and  
Local History at the Ridgewood Public Library  
125 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood, NJ, 07450  
201-670-5600 x135

[gsbc.queries@gmail.com](mailto:gsbc.queries@gmail.com)

### GSBC MEETING LOCATION

(Unless noted otherwise)

Ridgewood Public Library Auditorium  
125 N. Maple Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ, 07450  
201-670-5600

## LIBRARY LIAISON

Sarah Kiefer, MLIS, Local History Librarian  
Bolger Heritage Center, Ridgewood Public Library  
125 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood, NJ, 07450  
201-670-5600 x135

[skiefer@ridgewoodlibrary.org](mailto:skiefer@ridgewoodlibrary.org)

<https://localhistory.ridgewoodlibrary.org>

## SOCIETY MISSION

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County, New Jersey, is an organization of people interested in educating ourselves and others in family and local history preservation. The various ancestral trails of its Members span much of the U.S., Canada, Eastern and Western European countries, as well as other parts of the world. Some Members trace back to this country's first settlers, while others are the children of recent immigrants.

Our purpose is to:

- bring together family researchers for mutual assistance and sharing of research experiences, and
- encourage the preservation of family history by the public through educational programs and classes.

Membership in the Genealogical Society of Bergen County is open to all those interested in genealogy. Our membership year is from 1 November to 31 October. Annual dues are:

- **\$20 Individual**
- **\$25 Family** (two or more individuals of the same family residing in the same household)
- **\$10 Junior** (ages 13–18)

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County is a tax-exempt organization as described in sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to the Society are deductible for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes as provided by the IRS.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

GSBC General Meetings are held at the Ridgewood Public Library Auditorium and/or online at 7pm on the fourth Monday of the month—except when the day falls on a holiday; no meetings in May, and December. The GSBC General Meeting consists of a brief business meeting, announcements, and a presentation on a topic of interest to researchers.

The GSBC also offers additional presentations, seminars, classes, workshops, and special events throughout the year. For up-to-date information on all these events, see [www.njgsbc.org](http://www.njgsbc.org).

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE GSBC!

The GSBC is an all-volunteer organization and volunteers are the lifeblood of our Society.

If you have a passion for family history—why not volunteer with the Society? Volunteers are always needed for special projects, indexing, or helping out with events. You can also help write, edit, and proofread this publication as well as our ever-growing website and collections.

In volunteering with the Society you will receive much more than you give—in the form of building skills and knowledge, and in making connections with other researchers.

## THE ARCHIVIST

*The Archivist* is published four times a year as a PDF electronic document. Double issues may also be created. A link to PDF issue on our website is sent to current GSBC Members.

Recent issues of *The Archivist*, which are available to GSBC Members' only, can be found at [www.njgsbc.org/members-area/archivist](http://www.njgsbc.org/members-area/archivist)

### Editorial Committee

Lauren Maehrlein, Ree Hopper, Steve Gabai, Geri Mola; Michelle D. Novak, Editor.

Articles and photos without a byline are by the Committee/Editor. The Committee/Editor reserves the right to edit submissions so that they may better serve the specific interests of our readers and the genealogical community and/or reject submissions for any reason.

While we strive for accuracy, the Society assumes no responsibility for typos, errors of fact, or opinions expressed or implied by contributors or the Committee/Editor. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected in the PDF version of the issue and/or noted in a subsequent issue.

The GSBC or *The Archivist* does not endorse any services or products that may be mentioned in this publication. Submitted articles with the sole purpose of promoting a product or service will not be published.

No reproduction or reuse without prior written permission of the GSBC or the Committee/Editor.

GSBC Members are encouraged to submit content for this publication. You can write an article recapping a GSBC event or reflecting on a presentation topic, write an educational piece about a specific research topic, or write your own family research experience and/or local history. Email us at [contact@njgsbc.org](mailto:contact@njgsbc.org) for information.



## Barbara Ann Ellman, February 1951–January 2023

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Barbara Ellman, our immediate past president, much respected colleague, and long-time GSBC member.

Barbara, of Secaucus, New Jersey, was a strong and influential leader at GSBC, serving as an officer for more than a decade. During her four-year presidency, she successfully guided GSBC through the difficult pandemic period, introducing online programs that greatly increased membership. She was instrumental in converting *The Archivist* from paper to electronic format, introducing the concept of Special Interest Groups with the initiation of the DNA SIG; and increasing the number of seminars as well as presenting them virtually to genealogy enthusiasts across the country and beyond.

Barbara made tremendous contributions to the Society over the years, serving as chair of education, membership, programs and numerous other committees. Hers was the hand that updated members with the GSBC E-news every two weeks and the opinion we sought when important Board issues were considered.

An accomplished genealogist with over 20 years of experience specializing in Jewish and New York research, she worked with many clients to research their family histories. Her own family search led her to family on four continents, including ancestors back to 1760 in Eastern Europe. She presented genealogy talks at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society's annual conference and was a frequent speaker in the Metro-New York area. She also wrote on genealogy subjects, and was



awarded second prize by the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors for the 2016 Excellence in Writing Competition.

She was especially devoted to her work with the JewishGen Leadership team and as a JewishGen KehilaLinks Project Director, assisting and advising site managers in creating websites to memorialize the communities where their ancestors lived. She created three KehilaLinks sites: Minkovtsy (Ukraine), the Farming Communities of NJ, and the Rockaways (NY). She was also the JewishGen Town Leader for Minkovtsy, her grandfather's ancestral home, and was recognized six times for her extensive volunteer work for the Israel Genealogy Research Association.

Barbara earned her BA in Sociology and History from the State University of New York at Albany and Master's Degrees from both NYU and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Professionally, she worked for AT&T and New York Telephone and its successors in customer service and marketing, then as a systems analyst to develop a system for those departments. After taking early retirement, she consulted as a systems analyst and project manager for a number of companies including AT&T, BMW, Reed Elsevier, and A&P.

Barbara gladly shared with us her many skills, deep knowledge of genealogy, and enjoyable dry wit. She will be profoundly missed by those of us who knew and worked with her. May she rest in peace.

### GSBC Subscriptions and Memberships

#### Magazine/Newsletter Subscriptions (Available at the Ridgewood Public Library)

*American Ancestors*,  
New England Historic and  
Genealogical Society  
*The American Genealogist*  
*American Spirit*,  
National Society of the  
Daughters of the American  
Revolution  
*De Halve maen*,  
The Holland Society  
*Genealogical Magazine*  
*of New Jersey*,  
Genealogical Society of  
New Jersey (GSNJ)

*Internet Genealogy*,  
Moorshead Magazines  
*Morris Area Genealogical*  
*Society Newsletter*  
*National Genealogical*  
*Society Quarterly*,  
National Genealogical Society  
*National Genealogical*  
*Society Magazine*,  
National Genealogical Society  
*New York Researcher*,  
New York Genealogical and  
Biographical Society (NYG&B)

*Orange County Genealogical*  
*Society Quarterly*  
*Relics*, the Pascack Historical  
Society Newsletter  
*Upper Saddle River Historical*  
*Society Newsletter*  
*Westchester County*  
*Genealogical Society*  
*Newsletter*

#### Memberships

Bergen County Historical  
Society  
Family Roots Publishing  
Genealogical Society of  
New Jersey (GSNJ)  
German Genealogy Group (IGG)  
Internet Genealogy  
National Genealogical  
Society (NGS)  
New England Historic and  
Genealogical Society  
New York Genealogical and  
Biographical Society (NYG&B)

# Written In Stone? Investigating Errors on Revolutionary War Headstones

*“Grave Errors: Inaccurate Markers for the 8th Virginia Regiment Soldiers,” by Gabriel Neville, All Things Liberty; Reflection by Michelle D. Novak, MI*

How much can you trust the information on a headstone? Ask any seasoned genealogist and the answers will almost certainly vary—with a lot of “it depends” thrown in. But challenging the errors inscribed on a grave marker may feel awkward and, especially in the case of veterans, borderline blasphemous.

A recent article by Neville Gabriel at *All Things Liberty*, a peer-reviewed American history journal, investigates the grave markers for soldiers from the 8th Virginia Regiment; provides a short history of veteran grave markers; and offers up challenges to *why*, *how*, and *if* erroneous information on gravestones should be corrected. And although documented facts should always take precedence, Neville allows that “There is something about the sanctity of a grave and the power of words carved into stone that elicits deference.”

It’s an interesting research piece that brings up many challenges for historians and genealogists.

Through his exhaustive and ongoing research, Neville has identified the approximately 900 men who served in the Regiment<sup>1</sup> throughout the Revolutionary War and then traced the location of the 52 identified graves of soldiers from this regiment. Using his extensive knowledge of the Virginia 8th; government records; peer-reviewed research by other historians; lineage society records; published and public histories; and information posted to FindAGrave and on other genealogical databases; Neville then researched each burial and compared the information on the gravestones to the records.

The errors Neville found range from potential misunderstandings and simple factual errors (most likely explained by family members creating the inscriptions on the stones, who often relied on secondary information); to outright fabrications; to markers set on the wrong grave; and to one veteran who has two grave markers in two different states. (See the full article for a run-down of errors.)

Neville also includes a brief history of military grave-marking, noting how “There were no government programs or patriotic societies to provide headstones when Revolutionary veterans died, and how their graves

were originally marked was determined by their families and circumstances.” In many cases, wooden markers or fieldstone markers were used, the former rotting away after only a few years and the latter often lost or overlooked in fields or eventually over-topped by soil. And some graves, even for prominent individuals, were never marked.

And although Neville notes that his investigation into the Virginia 8th is a small sampling, the rate of errors among the 52 graves is significant enough to raise much larger questions of *how* and *why* these errors may have occurred—as well as bigger issues as to if these stones *should* be corrected, and *how*.

Neville closes his article with seven recommendations to correct erroneous grave information, which include: increasing awareness, additional documented research, negating confirmation bias, and adding additional markers that offer corrected information.

But for genealogists who wish to improve the quality of the most easily accessible information there may be some additional points of action. Providing sourced information to correct the record can be offered by:

- Adding links to information sources and/or uploading (public domain) documents to FindAGrave memorials,
- Contacting lineage societies about adding annotations and original source evidence to veteran files<sup>2</sup> and other societies to note or correct published histories,
- Contacting descendants about applying for new, correct military stones to be set alongside the original stone. (Adding a second military stone will also help future generations as the originals continue to erode.)

These actions can help correct the most easily accessible information—while respecting the original gravestones—and leave improved records for future researchers.

---

Neville, Gabriel (2023). “Grave Errors: Inaccurate Markers for the 8th Virginia Regiment Soldiers,” *All Things Liberty*, <https://allthingsliberty.com/2023/02/grave-errors-inaccurate-markers-for-the-8th-virginia-regiment-soldiers>

1 The first example in the article regards Leonard Cooper (b. abt. 1751–1821). His pension application (W6712, sourced to a compiled transcription at [revwarapps.org/w6712.pdf](https://revwarapps.org/w6712.pdf)) records his attestation that he lost his leg during a skirmish near Paramus Meeting House, Bergen County, in 1779. But the transcription also includes a later attestation from a different official record that Cooper *actually* lost his leg while in Pompton (then in Bergen Co.) as the result of a duel with Captain Abraham Kirkpatrick, and not in military service. Many of the source materials on Ancestry (such as the Sons of the American Revolution Application files) contain factual errors which are not annotated and, as a result, erroneous information has been propagated into numerous trees. For Cooper, linking to this compiled transcription would provide evidence for both the claim as well as the statements of what actually happened.

2 Over the years, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have increased the standards of evidence for Patriot designation. As a result, many formerly approved Patriots have been “red-flagged” which sidelines the lineage from being used for new applications. Red-flag files are waiting for new and/or better-sourced research to support (or disprove) the previous information and anyone can submit new research for review by the DAR’s researchers.



# The ProQuest Historical New Jersey Collection—including the *Bergen Record*—is now available at the Ridgewood Public Library

The Bolger Heritage Center at the Ridgewood Public Library (RPL) recently announced that it has secured a subscription to the ProQuest Historical New Jersey Collection—which includes the *Bergen Record*<sup>1</sup> from 1898 to the present day. This subscription is funded in part by the GSBC's Membership (thank you!).

The ProQuest Historical New Jersey Collection is an online digital newspaper archive where users can search across the New Jersey Regional Historical Newspapers collection:

- *Asbury Park Press*, 1905–present;
- *Bergen Record*, 1895–present;
- *Courier News* (Bridgewater), 1961–present;
- *Courier-Post* (Cherry Hill/Camden), 1950–present;
- *Daily Record* (Morristown), 1974–present;
- *Home News Tribune* (East Brunswick), 1872–present;
- *The Daily Journal* (Vineland), 1876–1880; and
- *North Jersey Herald News* (Passaic), 1877–present [Available later this year.]

Every issue of each title includes the complete newspaper, cover-to-cover, with the option to download full-pages and articles in PDF format.

## Accessing the ProQuest Historical New Jersey Collection at the RPL

The Collection is accessible on-site at the Ridgewood Public Library or from home with a current Ridgewood Public Library card. For more information about accessing and using the ProQuest database, contact Bolger Center

Local History Librarian Sarah Kiefer, MLIS, at 201-670-5600 x135 or at [skiefer@ridgewoodlibrary.org](mailto:skiefer@ridgewoodlibrary.org).

For those genealogy patrons who cannot travel in-person to the Ridgewood Public Library, contact GSBC Genealogy Consultants and Queries Chair Lucille Bertram, MLIS, at [GSBC.queries@gmail.com](mailto:GSBC.queries@gmail.com). The GSBC Genealogy Consultants may be able to look-up entries from this collection as part of the GSBC's Lookup services—where GSBC Members receive four free lookups per membership year, otherwise, a small fee per lookup. [Please see the GSBC website, [www.njgsbc.org/library/gsb-genealogy-consultants](http://www.njgsbc.org/library/gsb-genealogy-consultants), for recently updated information on GSBC Genealogy Consultants Consultations, Lookup Services, Queries, and Hourly Research Fees.]

If you need assistance with navigating the ProQuest database please schedule an appointment with Ms. Kiefer or a GSBC Genealogy Consultant.

## Thank You!

Thank you to GSBC Members and GSBC Genealogy Consultants and Queries Chair Lucille Bertram for helping to bring this important research resource to the Ridgewood Public Library—your membership dollars helped make this happen!

1 The *Bergen Record* was also published under the titles: *The Record*, *The North Jersey Record*, *The Sunday Record* (Sunday edition), and *The Bergen Evening Record*.

The image shows a screenshot of the ProQuest Historical New Jersey Collection search results page. The search criteria are set to "Ridgewood Public Library". The results show 98 results, sorted by relevance. The first result is "May 21, 1998 (Page 105 of 120) The Record (1960-2009); Hackensack, New Jersey". The second result is "October 26, 1998 (Page 53) The Record (1960-2009); Hackensack, New Jersey". The third result is "March 21, 1998 (Page 48 of 64) The Record (1960-2009); Hackensack, New Jersey". The fourth result is "March 30, 1998 (Page 58 of 62) The Record (1960-2009); Hackensack, New Jersey".

Below the search results, there is a sample newspaper page from "THE EVENING RECORD". The page is dated "October 13, 1898 (Page 1 of 4)" and is from "The Evening Record (1898-1902); Hackensack, New Jersey". The page features a large headline "THE INDIAN TROUBLE OVER" and a portrait of Governor Foster M. Voorhees. Other headlines include "PORTO RICO IS OURS", "BATTLE AT A MINE", and "GOVERNOR FOSTER M. VOORHEES".

# Gethsemane Cemetery—A Small African American Burial Ground with Historical Significance

Article published by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs (DCHA); Additions, updates, and Resources section by Michelle D. Novak, MI

## Gethsemane Cemetery, Summit Place, Little Ferry, New Jersey

A Bergen County Historic Site. New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office Register of Historic Places ([nj.gov/dep/hpo/identify/nrsr\\_lists/BERGEN.pdf](https://nj.gov/dep/hpo/identify/nrsr_lists/BERGEN.pdf), no. 549); National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places (no. 94000330, [npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/94000330](https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/94000330)).

Gethsemane Cemetery, which dates from 1819, is located on a sandy, one-acre hill west of the Hackensack River in northern Little Ferry along Liberty (Moonachie) Road. Historically, this area has been called “Sand Hill,” and the burial ground was sometimes called the “San” or the “Sand Hill Cemetery.” It was also known as the Moonachie Colored Cemetery or the Hackensack Colored Cemetery.

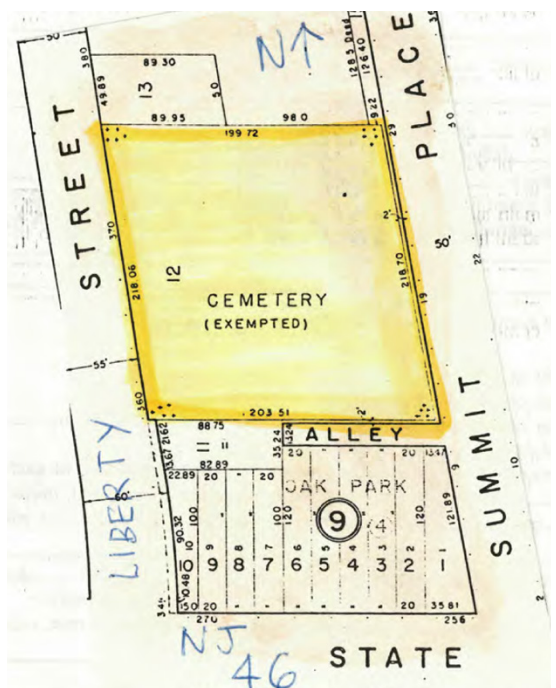
It’s not known when the first interment was made here. A 17 November 1860 deed of sale to three prominent white Hackensack residents states that this acre of land was to be used as a “cemetery for the colored population of the Village of Hackensack...”

On 21 March 1901 the Gethsemane Cemetery Association was incorporated, and the “Colored Cemetery” passed from white to black trusteeship. Seven trustees were appointed: William Hire, William Jackson, Thomas See,

Thomas H. Tiebout, James P. Westcomb, George W. White, and Samuel Winfield. The cemetery’s official name then became *Gethsemane Cemetery*.

Burials continued in Gethsemane until the 1920s but over time the cemetery was neglected and vandalized. Stones were stolen or broken, and it became a dumping ground for cars, garbage, and all matter of items. When its very existence was threatened with destruction through development, members of the African American community began the fight to save it.

By 1985, title passed to Bergen County which saved it from the proposed development. Under the direction of the Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs (DCHA), the county hired archaeologist Dr. Joan Geismar who performed and supervised in-depth research, analysis, and restoration work. The staff of the DCHA and volunteers of the African American Studies Committee of the Bergen County



ABOVE: A detail from the *Bergen County Historic Sites Survey, Cemetery Inventory, Little Ferry (1991–1992)*, Gethsemane Cemetery [BCHA RG6-05-25a]. RIGHT: An aerial view of Gethsemane Cemetery, 1984 [BCHA RG6-13-05-02]. [Images courtesy of the Bergen County History Archives (BCHA), Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.]







LEFT: Survey work at Gethsemane Cemetery, 1985 [BCHA RG6-13-05-07]. RIGHT: Documentation of clay and glass pipes grave-markers discovered during archaeological investigations—the first evidence of West African burial customs discovered this far North in the U.S. [BCHA RG6-13-05-09]. [Images courtesy of the Bergen County History Archives (BCHA), Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.]

Historical Society conducted a comprehensive survey and inventory of the site. In 1989 Dr. Geismar conducted non-intrusive Ground Penetrating Radar surveys which determined the locations and approximate number of burials. In 1992 the DCHA published Dr. Geismar's resulting research in the book: *Gethsemane Cemetery in Death and Life* (see "Resources").

Although fewer than 50 gravestones are left, 27 with inscriptions, the burials of more than 500 people have been documented. It is known that African American tradition places great importance on burial. But the presence or lack of gravestones at Gethsemane does not necessarily reflect the economic or social status of the deceased or their families.

What is significant is the terra-cotta pipe grave-markers that were found here. This was the first evidence found this far north in the U.S. of West African burial customs, brought here by African slaves, that were more commonly found in southern U.S. cemeteries. In addition to connecting the world of the living and the dead, these clay pipes were water-related—an example of African symbolism.

In 1994 Gethsemane Cemetery was entered onto the *National Register of Historic Places*, the official list of

the Nation's historic buildings and sites worthy of preservation, because of the evidence found here of West African burial customs, the importance of people buried here, and the significant role Gethsemane played in the enactment of New Jersey's early Civil Rights legislation.

### Gethsemane Burial Records

Few written records have been found for burials in Gethsemane dating from before the 1870s. There were most likely earlier interments, but their names remain unknown. The first documented burial was that of Cornelia Smith, a 10-month-old [infant] who died on 13 August 1866. The two most common family names of those buried here are Thompson, with 21 documented burials, and Jackson, with 22. The last documented burial, that of Louis Swinney, occurred on 14 December 1924.

Records from the local Ricardo Funeral Home, which was responsible for many Gethsemane burials beginning in 1885, are now located in the DCHA's Bergen County History Archives (see "Resources"). These records provided much of the information on who is buried here.

Three Gethsemane Cemetery grave markers photographed in 1985 and showing the state of disrepair. FROM LEFT: the markers for William D. Blemus [RG6-13-05-04], Elizabeth [Dickerson Campbell Sutliff] Dulfer (1790-1880) [BCHA RG6-13-05-05], and [Private] Peter H. Billings (1827-1902) [BCHA RG6-13-05-06]. Unfortunately, Private Billings' marker was stolen shortly after the photographs were taken and its location is not known. [Images courtesy of the Bergen County History Archives (BCHA), Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.]





## The Community and Some Notable Interments

From its beginning, Gethsemane served as the burial ground for the local African American population. Social life of the local community centered around two African American churches: Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, founded in 1864; and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, founded in 1889. There are descendants of families buried in Gethsemane still associated with these Hackensack congregations.

At least two Civil War U.S. Army veterans are buried at Gethsemane: Private Peter H. Billings and Private Silas M. Carpenter. Both men served in the Union Army in the Twenty-Ninth (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Regiment. Unfortunately, the Billings' tombstone was stolen in the 1980s and Carpenter's tombstone has never been found. The tombstone for William Robinson who served on the U.S.S. *Savannah* and died in 1889, still stands in the cemetery today and was restored in 2007 after being vandalized and broken.

One of the most elaborate tombstones that remains is that for Elizabeth Dickerson Campbell Sutliff Dulfer—one of Bergen County's most remarkable residents. According to extensive research on her life by historian Dr. Arnold Brown, Elizabeth was born into slavery in 1790 on the William Campbell farm which was located on the banks of the Hackensack River in the Township of New Barbadoes.



Restored headstone for William Robinson, U.S.S. *Savannah*. [William Robinson (1825-1889), Memorial ID 208627975, findagrave.com/memorial/208627975/william-robinson Image by Charvella Volunteer, 2020.]

(At this time, Bergen County was more than twice as large as it is today and had an enslaved African population of 2,301—greater than that of any other New Jersey county.) Elizabeth, also called Betty, was enslaved on this farm for the first 32 years of her life. She was also known as Elizabeth Campbell indicating the use of the surname of her enslaver, a custom of the day.

In 1822 she was granted her freedom by Deed of Manumission. (This deed is in the original *Records of Manumission 1804–1841* in the DCHA's Bergen County History Archives.) Dated 17 June 1822, it says in part: “Know all men by These presents, that

*William Campbell of the Township of New Barbadoes in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey do by this presents for good and valuable consideration fully and absolutely manumit, make free and set at liberty my female slave named Betty...*”

We don't know how long Betty (Elizabeth) stayed in New Jersey after gaining her freedom, but sometime prior to 1830 she married Alexander Sutliff, a New York City teacher who was from the island of Jamaica and lived in the City. By 1847 she had moved back to New Barbadoes with her husband.

During the nineteenth century, the clay pits found along the banks of the Hackensack River in the area of Little Ferry became a resource for the area's thriving brick and pottery industries. Among those who had the foresight to tap into these natural resources was Elizabeth Sutliff. In 1847 while still living

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT TOWN OF GREENWICH

I, Peter H. Billings aged 37 years, Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have day of October 1862, to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority; Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, ration, and clothing, as now or may be established by law for volunteers. And I, Peter H. Billings do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Greenwich this 20 day of October 1862. P. H. Billings

I CERTIFY, ON OATH, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

EXAMINING OFFICER E. H. Park

I CERTIFY, ON OATH, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, Peter H. Billings previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has no marks, scars, or disfigurement, is 5 feet 8 1/2 inches high.

(A. G. O. No. 74.) Regiment of 29th Col'd Conn. Volunteers, Capt. V. B. Mann RECRUITING OFFICER V. B. Mann

29 Col'd Conn.

Silas M. Carpenter

Priv., Co. F, 29 Reg't Conn. Col'd Infantry.

Appears on Company Muster Roll for July & Aug. 1864.

Present or absent Absent.

Stoppage, \$ 100 for Due Gov't, \$ 100 for Free. Shot for

Remarks: How. 494 Absent  
sick U.S. G. Hospital  
Beaufort S.C. since  
May 20, 1864.

Book mark: Sitter.

Page No. 1 Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890. Supervisor's District No. 1 SPECIAL SCHEDULE. Enumeration District No. 94 SURVIVING SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, AND WIDOWS, ETC.

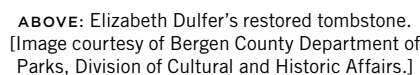
Persons who served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States during the war of the rebellion (who are survivors), and widows of such persons, in Ridgefield Township, County of Orange, State of New Jersey, enumerated in June, 1890. C. H. Rindfleisch

NAME	Rank	Company	Name of Regiment or Unit	Date of Enlistment	Date of Discharge	Length of Service	Yes	No	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58
59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73
74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77
78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83
84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84
85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
86	86	86	86	86	86	86	86	86	86
87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91
92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96
97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97
98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

LEFT AND CENTER: The 1863 Volunteer Enlistment for Peter H. Billings, born in Hackensack ([www.fold3.com/image/263052356](http://www.fold3.com/image/263052356)). A muster card from the compiled military service records for Silas M. Carpenter of Greenwich, CT ([www.fold3.com/image/263177322](http://www.fold3.com/image/263177322)). Both men served in the Union Army in the Twenty-Ninth (Colored) Connecticut Volunteer Regiment. [Source: NARA M1824. Compiled military service records of volunteer Union soldiers (U.S. Civil War)... via Fold3.com.] RIGHT: The 1890 U.S. Census Veterans Schedule showing Silas M. Carpenter living in Ridgefield Township, Little Ferry post office ([www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8667/images/NJM123\\_41-0040](http://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8667/images/NJM123_41-0040)). [Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890), National Archives Microfilm Publication M123, 118 rolls; via Ancestry.com.]




An exceptionally astute businesswoman her whole life, Elizabeth continued to buy land up to 1878. Robust and



This situation was brought before the New Jersey State Legislature by the state's newly-elected governor, Leon Abbett. He protested the denial of burial and in a strong statement to the State Legislature said: *"The regulation that refuses a Christian burial to the body of a deceased citizen upon the*

Bass was a black man and sexton of Hackensack's First Baptist Church who died on 22 January 1884. On 31 January 1884 *The Hackensack Republican* reported that Sexton Bass was denied burial in the all-white Hackensack Cemetery. Instead, his family buried him in Gethsemane.



*This Indenture* made this twenty  
fifth day of March in the year of our Lord  
our thousand eight hundred and forty seven Between  
Henry Johnson of the City of New York in the County  
of Hamilton in the State of Ohio and Sarah his wife  
parties of the first part and Richard Matting of the City  
of New York in the County and State of New York party  
of the second part Witnesseth that the above parties  
of the first part in consideration of the sum of one  
hundred dollars to them in hand well and truly  
paid by the said party of the second part at and  
before the sealing and delivery of these presents the  
except whereof have acknowledged and the said  
party of the first part themselves fully satisfied content  
and paid Now given granted conveyed sold alien  
enjoyed enjoyed and conveyed and by these presents  
we give grant bargain sell alien to have have and  
to have to the said party of the second part and to  
his heirs and assigns forever All the undivided eighth  
part of the undivided half of one third ten acres or  
partly of said and premises hereinafter particularly  
described Situate being and being within the first town  
in the township of New Barbours and Town in  
the County of Wayne and State of New York Beginning at  
a point on the base of a stone in the line of said City  
of New Johnson and in the West line of the former  
lot of the old road leading from New Johnsons to the  
"Little Run" thence running North Eighty degrees less  
four ten bearing and thirty nine feet to a white  
Spruce tree standing near the "Keyes" then along the  
top of the line of William Campbell to a white  
Spruce tree marked thence South fifty one degrees  
less about thirty seven bearing to the Rye Run  
road thence North along said road to the North  
line of William Mowatt lot thence South twenty  
seven degrees East twelve bearing and twenty feet to

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County | *The Archivist* | Volume 50, Number 1, February 2023 | ISSN 0275-0309 Page 9



*ground of color is not, in my judgment, a reasonable regulation, and therefore the church has the right to make the interment... The Legislature should see that the civil and political rights of all men, whether white or black are protected... It ought not be tolerated in this State that a corporation whose existence depends on the Legislature's will, and whose property is exempt from taxation because of its religious uses, should be permitted to make a distinction between a white man and a black man."*

Two months later, in March 1884, the legislation was passed—ending the segregation of burial places in the state.

#### THE COLORED BURIAL BILL AND SENATOR VAIL'S RAILROAD AMENDMENT PASSED.

TRENTON, Feb. 6.—The Hackensack Cemetery Company's refusal to bury the body of colored Sexton Bass led to a warm partisan debate in the Senate to-day. The matter under discussion was the bill making it a penal offense for any cemetery company to refuse to grant the right of interment to colored people. The proviso that led to the difference between the Governor and Senator Youngblood the other evening—that exempting church burying grounds from its operation—had been eliminated on Senator Youngblood's own motion, and the bill came up for final passage without it. Gov. Abbott's record as a civil rights man was attacked by Senator Youngblood and defended by Senators Cochran, Brinkerhoff, and Carpenter, and Senator Griggs made a neat little speech on a text selected from Mr. Cochran's address. Senator Brinkerhoff subsequently declared that the bill, in being applicable only to cemetery companies, did not probably include church burying grounds, and he moved to recommit, but his motion was defeated, and the bill went through.

More important than this was the action of the Senate on one of the pending railway measures—Mr. Vail's amendment to the State Constitution declaring that railroads having irrevocable exemptions shall not hereafter have the benefit of desired legislation until they shall have first surrendered their exemptions. Senator Gardner as-

LEFT: "Legislation in New-Jersey," *The New York Times*, 7 February 1884 ([nytimes.com/1884/02/07/archives/legislation-in-newjersey-the-colored-burial-bill-and-senator-vails.html](https://www.nytimes.com/1884/02/07/archives/legislation-in-newjersey-the-colored-burial-bill-and-senator-vails.html)). Surprisingly, the article continued that "More important than this..." was the adjacent legislation for railroads—and although a action to the State constitution *is* significant, this early civil rights win quietly affected the lives of many millions of State residents through to today.

and archaeological research and restoration projects at the site. Discoveries made during these excavations led to applications for State and National historic site registrations and restoration projects at the site have been ongoing.

In 2003 the County celebrated Gethsemane Cemetery with the dedication of new meditation areas

containing nine interpretive panels that tell the cemetery's story. Three of these panels contain the names of 515 people buried here. More than 300 people, including historians and dignitaries from local, county and state government, attended the joyous and moving dedication—the most honored guests that October afternoon were the descendants of those buried in Gethsemane Cemetery.

#### Restoration and Re-dedication

After the last burials at Gethsemane Cemetery in the mid-1920s, the cemetery fell into disrepair and by the mid-1980s most of the headstones were damaged by the elements, intentionally vandalized, or missing. Ownership of the property was transferred to the Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs in 1985 and the division oversees historic



ABOVE: A recent photo of Gethsemane Cemetery showing the restored gravestone for veteran Henry Jones. [Image courtesy of the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.]



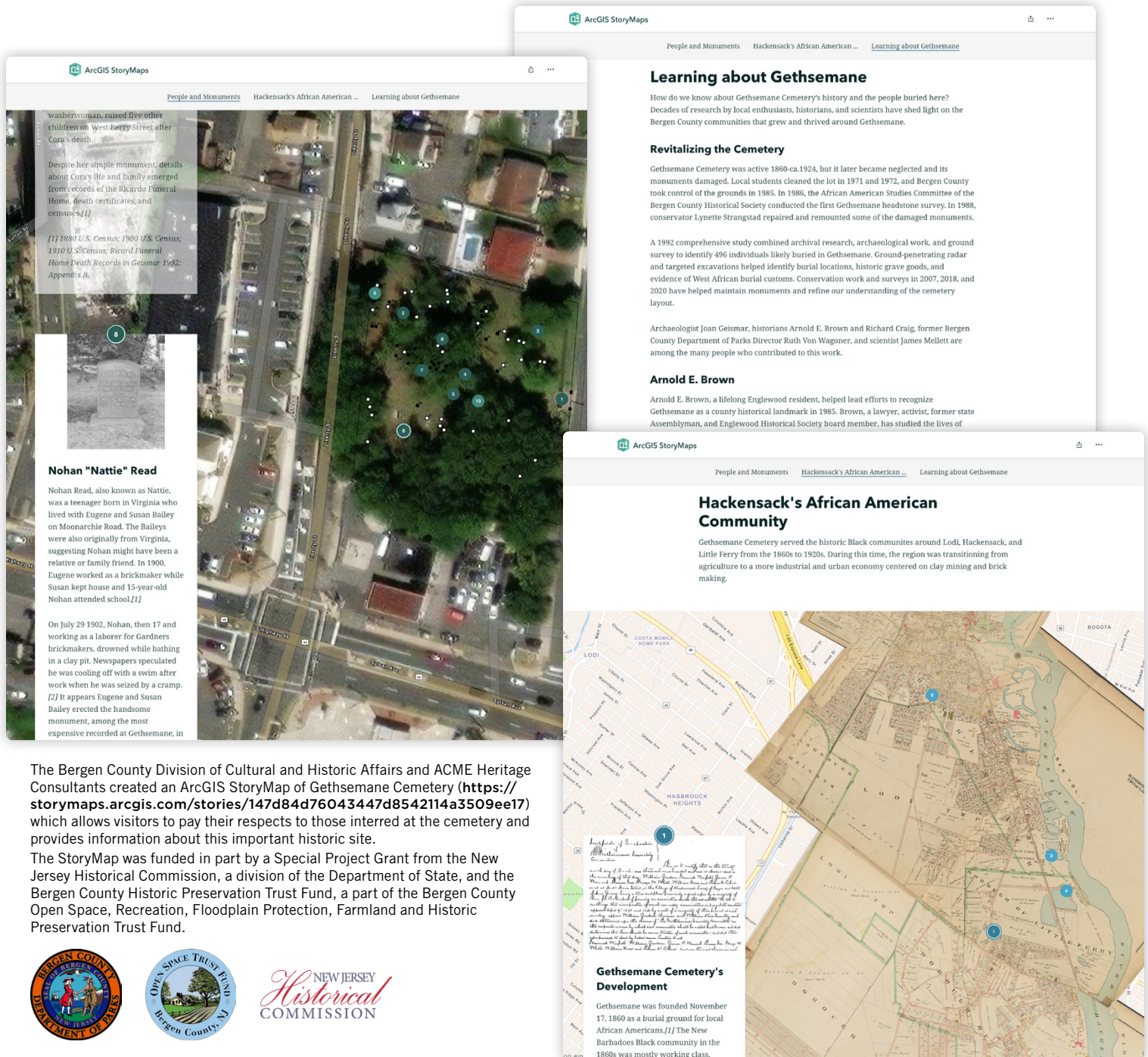
## Resources—Visiting Gethsemane Cemetery In-Person and Online

Gethsemane Cemetery is accessible by appointment only by contacting the Bergen County DCHA (see “Resources”).

For the past decade, Arnold E. Brown, PhD, has led tours of Gethsemane annually on Juneteenth. Dr. Brown, one of New Jersey’s most respected authorities on African American culture, was involved with some of the early work in identifying Gethsemane as a site of historic importance, and his family has lived in Bergen County since the 1700s. (See “Resources” for a walk-through of the cemetery with Dr. Brown and the ArcGIS StoryMap website for additional videos.)

Recently, as part of a Special Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Bergen County

Historic Preservation Trust Fund, The DCHS developed an ArcGIS (geographic information system) StoryMap of Gethsemane Cemetery (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/147d84d76043447d8542114a3509ee17>). This interactive website allows visitors near and far to pay their respects to those interred at the cemetery from the convenience of their computer, provides information and context about the experiences of Bergen County’s African American population at the turn of the twentieth century, and acts as a teaching tool for educators to build on in their classrooms. Additional studies are underway to re-frame and expand the Bergen County’s interpretation of the site.



The Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs and ACME Heritage Consultants created an ArcGIS StoryMap of Gethsemane Cemetery (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/147d84d76043447d8542114a3509ee17>) which allows visitors to pay their respects to those interred at the cemetery and provides information about this important historic site.

The StoryMap was funded in part by a Special Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, and the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund, a part of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.





## Resources

### Location and Access

Summit Place, off of Route 46, Little Ferry, NJ 07643

The cemetery is open by appointment only and often on Juneteenth (19 June, annually). For information about site access, contact Archivist Elizabeth Shepard at the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs ([co.bergen.nj.us](http://co.bergen.nj.us)), at 201-336-7267 or [eshepard@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:eshepard@co.bergen.nj.us).

### Bergen County History Archives (BCHA)

Records from the William Ricardo Funeral Home (RG6-13-03, Gethsemane Cemetery Ricardo Burial Records, 1895–1932, [bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com/archive/4CE4EE5D-2019-4B4B-B3DB-454174671425](http://bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com/archive/4CE4EE5D-2019-4B4B-B3DB-454174671425)) and research by the Gethsemane Cemetery Association were vital to reconstructing interments at the cemetery.

For more information about BCHA's collections, visit [bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com](http://bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com), or contact Archivist Elizabeth Shepard at 201-336-7267 or [eshepard@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:eshepard@co.bergen.nj.us).

(Note: The GSBC will be publishing an overview of the BCHA collections beginning in the next issue.)

### ArcGIS StoryMap of Gethsemane Cemetery

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/147d84d76043447d8542114a3509ee17>

Includes an interactive map of interments; information about Hackensack's African American communities; and information about ongoing research about the cemetery, restoration, archeology, and interpretation. [Funded in part by a Special Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund.]

### Video Presentations + Guides

Bergen County Parks System (2022). *A Walk through Gethsemane Cemetery with Dr. Arnold Brown*, [youtu.be/wGgjhPWIVE8](https://youtu.be/wGgjhPWIVE8).

[See also the ArcGIS StoryMap, for more videos.]

Bergen County Department of Parks (2010). *Guide to Gethsemane grave markers*, [yumpu.com/en/document/view/11814438/guide-to-gethsemane-grave-markers-bergen-county](http://yumpu.com/en/document/view/11814438/guide-to-gethsemane-grave-markers-bergen-county)

### Additional Reading

Brown, Arnold E. [PhD] (1986). *Elizabeth Sutliff Dulfer Story* [research paper]. Bergen County History Archives, RG10-007, <http://bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com/archive/2CA192FD-00F7-4E24-A780-458925429158>

Geismar, Joan H., PhD (1992). *Gethsemane Cemetery in Death and Life*. County of Bergen: Hackensack, NJ, [worldcat.org/title/1230292534](http://worldcat.org/title/1230292534); and available at Bergen County libraries, <https://catalog.bccls.org/polaris/search/title.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.7&pos=1&cn=286721>

Neumann, William (2021). "Gethsemane Cemetery: A Historic African American Burial Site in Little Ferry, NJ." *Preservation New Jersey*, [preservationnj.org/gethsemane-cemetery](http://preservationnj.org/gethsemane-cemetery)

FindAGrave for Gethsemane Cemetery, [findagrave.com/cemetery/1593984/gethsemane-cemetery](http://findagrave.com/cemetery/1593984/gethsemane-cemetery). Note that FindAGrave is not incomplete. See the ArcGIS StoryMap for some notable biographies and the following DCHA list, which contains 515 documented interments.



TOP-LEFT: Gethsemane Cemetery Dedication Ceremony, 2003 (RG6-13-05-18, Bergen County History Archives, Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs). TOP-RIGHT: A view of the cemetery's meditation areas and information panels. (Photo courtesy of Jerrye & Roy Klotz, MD, via Wikimedia Commons.) BOTTOM-ROW, L-TO-R: Images from the 2021 Juneteenth event at Gethsemane Cemetery. The Bergen County Historical Society's "blue marker" panel for Gethsemane Cemetery. Visitors wearing tees with "1619," the year enslaved Africans first arrived to the Colony of Virginia. Dr. Arnold Brown conducting a tour of the cemetery. Visitors reading plaques installed by the Bergen County Department of Parks which convey information about the cemetery as well as the names of individuals documented as being buried there. (Images courtesy of William Neumann and Preservation New Jersey, [preservationnj.org/gethsemane-cemetery](http://preservationnj.org/gethsemane-cemetery).)





# Memorial: Remembering Gethsemane's People

By Michelle D. Novak, MI; Interment data by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs

“Large numbers of African American graves have gone unmarked throughout America’s history. Fortunately, some records exist that identify most of those buried at Gethsemane Cemetery.” Inscription from the memorial panel at Gethsemane Cemetery, produced by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs (DCHA), ca. 2003.

The following data was compiled by the County of Bergen and various historians and volunteers working on documenting those interred at Gethsemane Cemetery and compiled over many years. The bulk of the information for 1895 through 1932 was transcribed from the records of the William Ricardo Funeral Home (1895–1932), which are archived at the Bergen County History Archives ([bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com/archive/4CE4EE5D-2019-4B4B-B3DB-454174671425](https://bergencountyhistory.pastperfectonline.com/archive/4CE4EE5D-2019-4B4B-B3DB-454174671425), note that the BCHA index does not list the names of children). Additional information was transcribed from extant grave markers, newspaper clippings, and other sources.

The following data—which contains information for 515 individuals documented to be buried at Gethsemane—are printed on exhibit panels located within the Cemetery. The BCHA supplied PDFs of these panels to the GSBC so that the GSBC could publish the information in *The Archivist* and on the GSBC website.

This compilation is by far the most comprehensive set of data for the cemetery (the FindAGrave database lists less than 50 memorials) and is the first time this information has been published in full outside of the cemetery. Research into records and individuals is ongoing.

From the DCHA data, 79% of the interments were of African Americans (listed as “Black,” “Colored,” or “Negro” on the original records); 18.3% were of Caucasians (listed as “White”); 0.4% as “Mulatto”; and 2.3% were unrecorded.

Interments	Number (%)
<b>Persons 0-20 Years</b>	<b>257 (50%)</b>
Stillborn Babies	39 (7.6%)
Infants, 0-12 months	127 (24.7%)
Toddlers, 13 months–3 years	51 (9.9%)
Children, 4–10 years (Including “Unknown Child”)	18 (3.5%)
Young Adults, 11–20 Years	22 (4.3%)
<b>Adults, 21–40 Years</b>	<b>86 (16.7%)</b>
<b>Adults, 41–60 Years</b>	<b>72 (14.0%)</b>
<b>Adults, 61–80 Years</b>	<b>62 (12%)</b>
<b>Adults, Over 81 Years</b>	<b>4 (0.8%)</b>
<b>Unknown, Adults</b>	<b>7 (1.4%)</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>27 (5.2%)</b>

Some percentages may appear incorrect due to rounding.

(Please see the historical transcription note on the next page.)

Males accounted for 250 interments (approximately 49%); females for 224 (43.5%); and a sex was not recorded for 41 individuals.

Shockingly, half of the interments were for people 20 years and younger—42% of who did not reach their fourth birthday. The oldest recorded person was 108 years old, and three individuals were 90 years of age or older. The youngest non-still-born baby lived for only five minutes.

Two hundred ninety one burials were recorded between 1900 and 1915, more than half of the burials in the history of the cemetery.

## Next Steps

If you would like to help enter the following DCHA data into FindAGrave, please contact us first at [contact@njgsbc.org](mailto:contact@njgsbc.org). The data must be credited to the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs (DCHA), and the GSBC will provide you with the correct citation credit and help coordinate data entry efforts.

The article, interment data, and exhibit panels can be found on the GSBC website, [www.njgsbc.org/gethsemane-cemetery](https://www.njgsbc.org/gethsemane-cemetery).

We thank the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs and the Bergen County History Archives for providing us with the article, data, and cemetery panels—and allowing the GSBC to revisit these materials and make it available to the public.



# Gethsemane Cemetery Recorded Interments

*Interment data by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs*

**A Note on Historical Records and Transcription**—The terms in the column headed “Color” are transcribed directly from records or other source information and is historical terminology. This information is transcribed as found on the records as, sometimes, words we may find offensive may have specific contextual meanings.

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Adamson, [infant]	14 Feb. 1901	[?]	—	Black
Addison, Oliver	8 June 1899	17y	M	Black
Allen, Adalene May	5 March 1901	1m 20d	F	Black
Allen, John W. B.	25 June 1901	19y	M	Black
Allen, Mary M.	13 Aug. 1887	5m 2d	F	Colored
Allen, Mattie V.	17 July 1905	27y	F	Black
Alston, David Alexander	24 Dec. 1909	2m	M	Black
Alston, Wiley	12 March 1901	17y	M	Black
Anderson, Richard	15 Aug. 1904	31y	M	Black
Archer, George	9 April 1887	45y	M	Black
Area, Jaqua	3 June 1909	[?]	—	White
Armstrong, [infant]	13 March 1906	1d	—	White
Asbury, Elizabeth	11 July 1915	3m	F	Black
Auloluca, Antonia	13 July 1905	1m	F	White
Bagley, Onie	3 April 1907	60y	F	Black
Banks, Ann	2 Nov. 1888	44y	F	Colored
Banks, Sarah	29 April 1910	46y	F	Black
Banks, William	7 July 1916	52y	M	Black
Basley, William	6 Nov. 1891	30y	M	Colored
Bass, Samuel	22 Jan. 1884	38y	M	Black
Bates, Ethel R.	26 March 1903	6y 11m	F	White
Bates, Leah	25 March 1891	34y	F	Negro
Bates, Sarah Louisa	25 July 1892	35y	F	Colored
Bates, Washington	25 Sept. 1885	5m 22d	M	Black
Batz, [infant]	19 Sept. 1911	[stillborn]	—	White
Beckham, Albert	6 April 1900	2y	M	Colored
Bennett, Elizabeth	25 Aug. 1891	13y 5m	F	Colored
Benson, Benjamin	12 Feb. 1888	16y 9m	M	Colored
Berry, Albert E.	14 March 1913	54y	M	Black
Berry, Anne	6 May 1886	45y 4m 12d	F	Colored
Berry, Lydie J.	22 Feb. 1903	92y	F	Black
Billings, Charles	27 Nov. 1908	[?]	M	Colored
Billings, Charles	30 Dec. 1918	71y	M	Black
Billings, Ella	2 May 1904	20y	F	Black

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Billings, Hilder	27 June 1902	1m 14d	F	Black
Billings, John	28 July 1889	2m 7d	M	Black
Billings, Lizzie	7 Sept. 1901	40y	F	Black
Billings, Peter H.	5 Dec. 1902	75y	M	Black
Blind, Purnella	7 Jan. 1908	36y	F	Black
Blunt, William	20 July 1909	7m	M	Black
Bookman, Ellen Q.	29 Sept. 1912	25y	F	Black
Bookman, Ester	5 Oct. 1903	67y	F	Black
Boswell, Lillie	21 Jan. 1901	1y 3d	F	Black
Bowen, William F.	24 Jan. 1908	[stillborn]	M	White
Boyd, James T.	5 March 1909	1y 1m	M	Black
Broadie, William N.	– Jan. 1912	3y 6m 15d	M	Black
Brown, Estella (Wright)	11 Nov. 1908	3m	F	White
Brown, Ester	16 April 1897	8d	F	White
Brown, [infant]	24 Jan. 1899	[?]	M	Black
Brown, Susan Price	21 Feb. 1892	39y 10m	F	Colored
Brown, Wallace	7 June 1891	5m 12d	M	Black
Brumdage, Walter	1 April 1893	43y	M	White
Burwell, [child]	[Unknown]	[?]	—	—
Burwell, David	30 Sept. 1906	14y	M	Black
Burwell, Edward	16 Feb. 1919	60y	M	Black
Burwell, Emma (Elmira)	10 Aug. 1902	39y	F	Black
Burwell, Helen M.	3 Dec. 1900	2y 11m	F	Black
Burwell, Hezekiah	4 Sept. 1916	21y	M	Black
Burwell, Nicholas	18 Nov. 1924	37y 2m 2d	M	Black
Caines, Thomas M.	28 Nov. 1900	1y 3m	M	Colored
Campbell, Mary	10 May 1912	29y	F	Black
Carpenter, Male	10 July 1886	6m	M	Colored
Carpenter, Orice	18 Oct. 1908	73y	F	Black
Carpenter, Silas M.	27 July 1912	74y	M	Black
Cavassnak, Charley	13 July 1889	35y	M	White
Chickey, James	6 Jan. 1884	54y	M	Black
Christie, Henry	2 Aug. 1903	7m	M	Black
Cisco, John Henry	3 March 1892	3y	M	Black

\* Terminology for “Color” is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.



Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Cisco, Maria	21 March 1881	27y	F	Black
Clark, [infant]	3 April 1910	7d	—	Black
Clark, Charlotte	9 July 1907	7y 10m	F	Black
Clark, Evelin	4 April 1912	16y	F	Black
Clark, Helen C.	13 Feb. 1910	1y 1d	F	Black
Clark, Howard	4 Sept. 1907	10m 15d	M	Black
Clark, [infant]	27 Dec. 1889	5d	—	Black
Clark, Jennie	1 March 1899	4y 6m	F	Black
Clark, Peter H.	19 Sept. 1904	47y	M	Black
Clark, Sunny	13 July 1911	2m	—	Black
Clarke, Phoebe Jane	18 April 1918	57y	F	Black
Cobb, Joseph	26 May 1909	5d	M	Black
Collins, Jennie	5 July 1908	1m 9d	F	—
Conklin, Philip	28 Nov. 1889	9d	M	White
Conover, George M.	5 Aug. 1884	4m	M	Colored
Cook, Lillian	26 May 1899	1d	F	Black
Cottrelle, Frances Anna	1 Oct. 1911	4d	F	White
Cuines[?], Chas. E.	10 July 1903	11m 6d	M	White
Dangerfield, Nathaniel	3 March 1894	1y	M	Colored
Dangerfield, [Unknown]	12 April 1894	[adult]	—	Colored?
Davis, Charles	23 Jan. 1912	34y	M	Black
Davis, Henry	2 Dec. 1907	31y	M	Black
Davison, Lydia	27 Sept. 1885	2m 3d	F	Colored
Dawson, May C.	17 Aug. 1905	10m	F	Black
de Groat, Vida May	14 July 1896	7m 4d	F	Black
de Groat, Walter	21 Feb. 1902	6m	M	—
Demarest, Frank Jr.	2 Dec. 1890	14h	M	White
Dick(erson), Samuel	14 June 1894	62y	M	Colored
Dickers, Harry	19 Aug. 1889	34y	M	White
Dickerson, Sarah	29 Dec. 1906	83y	F	Black
Dillard, George	[?] Oct. 1906	8y 2m	M	Black
Dillard, Marvring	4 July 1903	3m 4d	[?]	White
Discato, Pasquallo	27 Sept. 1903	29y	M	White
Dittman, Oscar	25 Dec. 1906	[stillborn]	M	White
Dobbins, [infant]	27 April 1909	[stillborn]	—	White
Doremus, Sarah Ann	18 July 1889	52y	F	Black
Drinkwater, John J.	4 Oct. 1911	[stillborn]	M	White
Dulfer, Elizabeth	12 Feb. 1880	90y	F	Black
Dulfer, John B.C.	23 Feb. 1885	65y	M	White

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Eastley, Matthew	29 Aug. 1879	17y	M	Black
Farmer, Ethel	7 Nov. 1907	4m	F	White
Farr, Alonzo	26 Sept. 1907	[stillborn]	M	Black
Farr, Florence E.	20 Feb. 1901	7m 20d	F	Black
Flow, James	2 March 1888	39y	M	Colored
Ford, Georgina	14 Dec. 1911	1y 3m	F	Black
Francis, Susan	19 June 1883	45y	F	Colored
Franklin, Samuel	19 March 1923	71y 1m 16d	M	Black
Franklin, Simon	1 Feb. 1883	53y	M	Black
Frazier, Lilly	5 Jan. 1881	4y 5m	F	Black
Freeman, Charles	26 June 1903	10m	M	Black
Freeman, Charles	9 Jan. 1904	14d	M	Black
Freeman, Charles	4 May 1904	[adult]	M	Black
Freeman, Mary M.	16 Feb. 1913	33y	F	Black
Fuchs, William	27 Nov. 1908	[stillborn]	M	White
Furrelli, Rach.	8 March 1906	30y	M	White
Gaines, Eldridge H.	17 May 1903	10m 8d	M	Black
Galfield, Anthony	12 June 1884	65y	M	Colored
Garbarino, [infant]	5 Jan. 1912	[stillborn]	—	White
Garino, [infant]	15 Sept. 1911	[stillborn]	—	White
Garrison, [infant]	1 Sept. 1911	[stillborn]	—	White
Gee, Joshua	25 May 1921	45y	M	Black
Gefferson, Elizabeth	31 Dec. 1888	65y	F	Black
Gefferson, Jane	6 June 1879	42y	F	Black
Gefferson, Mary	[1898]	70y	F	Black
Gibbs, James Jr.	3 March 1909	[stillborn]	M	Black
Gibbs, Kenneth	29 Aug. 1910	7m	M	Black
Goin, John Jr.	31 Oct. 1900	1d	M	Colored
Greenleaf, Anna	9 Dec. 1911	37y	F	Black
Grey, Cornelius C.	19 April 1880	27y 7m	M	Colored
Grimes, John	25 March 1900	62y	M	Black
Gross, Elizabeth	[?][?] 1884	61y	F	Black
Guy, Victore	17 Oct. 1908	19y	[?]	White
Haine(s), Hannah	24 Feb. 1889	45y	F	Colored
Hamie, Louis	28 Oct. 1896	35y	F	White
Hammond, Elmer J.	8 Nov. 1910	5m	M	Black
Hammond, Wilbur	12 Feb. 1908	1y 2m	M	Black
Hannibal, Frank	17 April 1884	52y	M	Negro
Harris, Albert	9 May 1886	5y 6m	M	Colored

\* Terminology for "Color" is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Harris, Anna M.	5 Dec. 1921	1y 3d	F	Black
Harris, Etta	4 July 1886	1y 2m	F	Black
Harris, Fannie P.	24 March 1917	10m 23d	F	Black
Harris, Francis A. Miss	5 Oct. 1897	37y	F	Colored
Harris, G...	12 Nov. 1891	3m 18d	—	Colored
Harris, Helen B. M. A.	30 July 1907	3m	F	Black
Harris, Ida H. (Eva)	7 Aug. 1889	5m	F	Colored
Harris, John	16 Oct. 1903	[?]	M	Black
Harris, Joseph	28 Dec. 1915	[?]	M	Black
Harris, Josephine	8 Oct. 1906	18y	F	Black
Harris, Katherine	24 Oct. 1904	1m 2d	F	Black
Harris, Mabel	3 May 1900	[stillborn]	F	Black
Harris, Peter	14 April 1893	76y	M	Colored
Harris, Rosalind	1 April 1908	1m 17d	F	White
Harris, Samuel McFadden	18 July 1902	2m	M	Black
Harris, Sarah E.	24 Jan. 1903	66y	F	Black
Harris, Stella	13 Jan. 1906	[stillborn]	F	Black
Harris, Thomas	2 Dec. 1902	77y	M	Black
Harris, Thomas	31 Dec. 1918	[?]	M	Black
Harris, Wm. W. (Phelps)	12 June 1896	1y 11m 20d	M	Colored
Hawkins, Harriet	31 Dec. 1912	58y	F	Black
Hawkins, Helen E.	21 Feb. 1883	3y 1m 13d	F	Black
Hennesy, James	9 July 1911	4m	M	White
Heyny, Dorothy	10 April 1910	[stillborn]	F	White
Hire, Rebecca	8 May 1909	46y	F	Black
Hire, Thomas	25 Dec. 1907	78y	M	Black
Holland, Elizabeth	29 Nov. 1901	[?]	F	Black
Hollenbeck, Ida Mary	29 Oct. 1882	7m	F	Black
Hollinbeck, James W.	4 Jan. 1881	4m	M	Black
Hommell, [infant]	6 Oct. 1910	2h	—	White
Horak, Frank	24 Jan. 1908	[stillborn]	M	White
Huland, Fridrik	10 July 1889	24y	M	White
Hunter, male	6 June 1899	6m	M	Black
Hunter, William	3 June 1907	3y	M	White
Isaac, [infant]	17 Aug. 1911	[stillborn]	—	Black
Isaac, Mary M.	9 Nov. 1910	35y	F	Black
Gross, Elizabeth	[?][?] 1884	61y	F	Black
Guy, Victore	17 Oct. 1908	19y	[?]	White

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Haine(s), Hannah	24 Feb. 1889	45y	F	Colored
Hamle, Louis	28 Oct. 1896	35y	M	White
Hammond, Elmer J.	8 Nov. 1910	5m	M	Black
Hammond, Wilbur	12 Feb. 1908	1y 2m	M	Black
Hannibal, Frank	17 April 1884	52y	M	Negro
Harris, Albert	9 May 1886	5y 6m	M	Colored
Harris, Anna M.	5 Dec. 1921	1y 3d	F	Black
Harris, Etta	4 July 1886	1y 2m	F	Black
Harris, Fannie P.	24 March 1917	10m 23d	F	Black
Harris, Francis A. Miss	5 Oct. 1897	37y	F	Colored
Harris, G...	12 Nov. 1891	3m 18d	—	Colored
Harris, Helen B. M. A.	30 July 1907	3m	F	Black
Harris, Ida H. (Eva)	7 Aug. 1889	5m	F	Colored
Harris, John	16 Oct. 1903	[?]	M	Black
Harris, Joseph	28 Dec. 1915	[?]	M	Black
Harris, Josephine	8 Oct. 1906	18	F	Black
Harris, Katherine	24 Oct. 1904	1m 2d	F	Black
Harris, Mabel	3 May 1900	[stillborn]	F	Black
Harris, Peter	14 April 1893	76y	M	Colored
Harris, Rosalind	1 April 1908	1m 17d	F	White
Harris, Samuel McFadden	18 July 1902	2m	M	Black
Harris, Sarah E.	24 Jan. 1903	66y	F	Black
Harris, Stella	13 Jan. 1906	[stillborn]	F	Black
Harris, Thomas	2 Dec. 1902	77y	M	Black
Harris, Wm. W. (Phelps)	12 June 1896	1y 11m 20d	M	Colored
Hawkins, Harriet	31 Dec. 1912	58y	F	Black
Hawkins, Helen E.	21 Feb. 1883	3y 1m 13d	F	Black
Hennesy, James	9 July 1911	4m	M	White
Heyny, Dorothy	10 April 1910	[stillborn]	F	White
Hire, Rebecca	8 May 1909	46y	F	Black
Hire, Thomas	25 Dec. 1907	78y	M	Black
Holland, Elizabeth	29 Nov. 1901	[?]	F	Black
Hollenbeck, Ida Mary	29 Oct. 1882	7m	F	Black
Hollinbeck, James W.	4 Jan. 1881	4m	M	Black
Hommell, [infant]	6 Oct. 1910	2h	—	White
Horak, Frank	24 Jan. 1908	[stillborn]	M	White
Huland[?], Fridrik	10 July 1889	24y	M	White
Hunter, male	6 June 1899	6m	M	Black

\* Terminology for "Color" is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.



Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Hunter, William	3 June 1907	3y	M	White
Isaac, [infant]	17 Aug. 1911	[stillborn]	—	Black
Isaac, Mary M.	9 Nov. 1910	35y	F	Black
Jackson, Alexander	17 June 1887	3y 24d	M	Black
Jackson, Anna	22 July 1907	4m 14d	F	Black
Jackson, Edna	25 Nov. 1885	2y 4m	F	Black
Jackson, Edward	24 July 1885	8y	M	Black
Jackson, Edward	12 March 1910	73y	M	Black
Jackson, Elizabeth	14 May 1889	45y	F	Black
Jackson, Henry	1881?	40y	M	Black
Jackson, John	6 Nov. 1886	40y	M	Black
Jackson, Marselina	18 March 1897	3y 4m	F	Colored
Jackson, Martha	6 Dec. 1911	3m	F	Black
Jackson, Mary J.	7 Feb. 1911	38y	F	Black
Jackson, Mary Jane	21 Aug. 1913	41y	F	Black
Jackson, Richard	8 April 1889	[?]	M	Colored
Jackson, Samuel	3 Nov. 1889	[?]	M	Colored
Jackson, Sarah	7 March 1895	48y	F	Black
Jackson, Susan A.	7 June 1903	62y	F	Black
Jackson, Vina	24 April 1889	13y	F	Black
Jackson, Walter	13 June 1882	1y 4m	M	Black
Jackson, William	28 March 1887	38y	M	Colored
Jackson, William	22 July 1894	22y	M	Black
Jackson, William	8 Jan. 1906	40y	M	Black
Jacobus, [?]	20 May 1902	[adult]	M[?]	White
Jacobus, Anna E. (Hannah)	2 April 1906	24y	F	Black
Jahelka, John	27 March 1899	47y	M	White
James, Irene J.	1 Aug. 1907	1y 3m	F	Black
Jefferson, Ann	13 Aug. 1921	88y 4m 9d	F	Black
Jefferson, Thomas	28 March 1901	67y	M	Black
Jenks, Julia	19 March 1884	28y	F	Black
Jennings, Lewis	30 Sept. 1882	5y 11m	M	Black
Jinkins, Douglas	6 Sept. 1913	25y	M	Black
Johnson, Anthony	29 Sept. 1880	78y	M	Colored
Johnson, Clara	1 April 1883	1y 2m 3d	F	Black
Johnson, George	7 Aug. 1897	4m	M	Black
Johnson, Luella	22 July 1906	9y 8m	F	White
Johnson, William H.	5 Oct. 1889	7y 3m 14d	M	Colored

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Jones, Edward P.	12 June 1898	8y 4m	M	Black
Jones, Harry	24 April 1888	87y	M	Black
Jones, Henry	7 May 1905	47y	M	Black
Jones, Infant	1894?	[?]	F	Black
Jones, Mary E.	8 Feb. 1901	2y 3m	F	Black
Jones, Nancy	29 March 1887	52y	F	Black
Jones, Sarah[?] Mrs.	c. 18(70–88)	[adult]	F	Black
Jorden, Stephen	28 Feb. 1910	43y	M	Black
Junior, Frank E. (Jr.)	28 Nov. 1906	5d	M	Black
Kaiser, Betsy	26 April 1903	59y	F	Black
Kaiser, Sarah E.	22 April 1880	42y	F	Colored
Kammler, [infant]	13 Dec. 1909	[stillborn]	—	White
Kearney, Bertha	28 July 1908	2m	F	White
Keiser, Diana	16 Sept. 1893	65y	F	Black
King, Ann	31 May 1900	[?]	F	Black
Kipp, Anthony	26 June 1881	23y	M	Colored
Kirkpatrick, Eliza	3 Nov. 1904	41y	F	Black
Kirkpatrick, Elmer	13 July 1910	17y	M	Black
Kirkpatrick, Isaac	24 Aug. 1903	43y	M	Black
Kirkpatrick, Isaac S.	2 May 1883	1y	M	Black
Koster, Charles	[?]	74y 11m	M	White
Kreuger, Frank	3 July 1895	35y	M	White
Kroh, [infant]	10 Sept. 1910	[stillborn]	—	White
Lamey, Victor	19 Jan. 1900	50y	M	White
Lange [infant]	5 Oct. 1903	[stillborn]	—	White
Lawrence, Mary	12 Jan. 1888	47y	F	Black
Lewis, [child]	17 Sept. 1885	[?]	—	Colored
Lewis, ...	21 June 1880	7d	—	Black
Lewis, Annie	21 June 1911	63y	F	Black
Lewis, Charles E.	21 Nov. 1911	50y	M	Black
Lewis, Charles E.	15 Dec. 1915	35y	M	Black
Lewis, Dianna	27 March 1871	[?]	F	—
Lewis, Healy	15 Aug. 1879	4m	—	Black
Lewis, John H.	18 March 1888	70y	M	Black
Lewis, Julia	30 July 1889	78y	F	Colored
Lewis, Nicholas	4 July 1876	[?]	M	—
Linier, Hazel Mary Ida	7 May 1909	2y 6m 2d	F	Black
Linier, Lavinia	11 Feb. 1911	27y	F	Black
Linier, Mack	10 July 1910	40y	M	Black

\* Terminology for “Color” is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Livingston, [infant]	14 Feb. 1902	[stillborn]	—	—
Lockwood, Pearl	1 Aug. 1900	1y 6m	F	Black
Loder, Josephine	30 May 1911	29y	F	Black
Loder, Theodore	27 July 1911	5y 4m	M	Black
Lorick, Elizabeth	17 Aug. 1914	2d	F	White
Magdza, John	13 June 1902	55y	M	White
Mann, Jane	13 Oct. 1891	5m	F	Colored
Mann, John Wesley	11 June 1910	18y	M	Black
Martin, Ethel Marie	20 July 1910	2m	F	Black
Martin, Jerry	26 Feb. 1908	1d	M	White
Mattison, Richard R.	27 Nov. 1892	29y	M	Black
Mayer, [infant]	13 Nov. 1910	[stillborn]	—	White
McQuado, Edward	21 Oct. 1889	35y	M	White
McWay, Cornelius	7 June 1907	[stillborn]	M	White
Melburne, Varona Eliz.	25 May 1904	2m 16d	F	Black
Meyers, Mary	16 Nov. 1892	2y	F	Black
Millburn, Annie	8 March 1906	1d	F	Black
Miller, Charles	29 Sept. 1887	4m	M	Colored
Miller, Sarah Eliz.	14 April 1890	38y	F	Colored
Mills, Harrison	9 Aug. 1913	6m	M	Black
Miner, Stewart R.	4 July 1908	2m	M	Black
Moor, Samuel	1884?	75y	M	Black
Moore, Arthur	4 Aug. 1907	5m	M	Black
Moore, Helen A.	21 June 1908	1y 5m	F	Black
Moore, Jane	27 July 1907	85y	F	Black
Moore, John H.	12 Oct. 1903	44y	M	Black
Morris, Julia (Oblenus)	21 Jan. 1889	61y 21d	F	Black
Mulligan, Flossie	1 March 1896	6m	F	Colored
Mulligan, Gladas	8 April 1904	5m 2d	[?]	Black
Myers, John	15 Feb. 1908	48y	M	White
Neal, William	11 June 1903	1y 4m 14d	M	Black
Neill, Ester L.	1 March 1909	1y 5m	F	White
Neill, Lillie M.	22 July 1906	1y 2m 4d	F	Black
Neill, Mary E.	9 Jan. 1910	1m 3d	F	Black
Neilson, [infant]	19 May 1911	[stillborn]	—	White
Neumeyer, Chris	7 March 1899	40y	M	White
Oblenus, Cora	14 Sept. 1894	14y 11m 4d	F	Colored
Oblenus, Eliz. Mrs.	11 March 1883	51y 9m	F	Black
Oblenus, Harry	25 Feb. 1883	56y	M	Colored

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Oblenus, Julia A.	21 April 1873	10y	F	Black
Oblenus, Sarah	25 Sept. 1877	22y	F	Black
Oblenus, Sarah	9 Nov. 1882	2y	F	Colored
Oblenus, William	4 Dec. 1894	71y	M	Black
Oliver, Helen	18 March 1918	2y 3m 30d	F	Black
Oliver, Josie	17 May 1884	1y	F	Black
Olsten, Clark Aaron	13 March 1911	3d	M	Black
Osten, Paul	6 Oct. 1908	[stillborn]	M	Black
O'Brien, Anthony W.	10 Oct. 1902	52y	M	Black
O'Brien, Jane	11 May 1900	34y	F	Black
O'Brien, Mary C.	1882?	34y 4m	F	Black
O'Dell, John	1 May 1888	1d	M	Black
O'Neil, Harry H.	7 April 1914	9m 14d	M	White
Palmer, Mary A.	28 Feb. 1914	62y 9m	F	Black
Parnell[?], Sarah	4 April 1901	33y	F	Black
Patrick, Earl C.	12 July 1911	3y 4m	M	Black
Pennell, Hampton	7 June 1911	55y	M	Black
Peterson, James B.	12 Sept. 1910	7m	M	White
Peterson, Julia	6 Aug. 1902	82y	F	Black
Peterson, Lena	8 Oct. 1907	8d	F	Black
Peterson, Sarah J.	12 Sept. 1917	7m	F	Black
Philips, Annie	27 March 1900	28	F	Black
Pickett, Andrew	24 March 1910	1h	M	Black
Plumber, George	4 Jan. 1907	[stillborn]	M	Black
Plumber, George W.	28 May 1909	[stillborn]	M	Black
Pope, Louetta	7 March 1902	1y 9m	F	Black
Pope, Louisa	8 Oct. 1900	45y	F	Black
Pope, Oliver	2 April 1909	1y 3m	M	White
Pope, William	25 July 1902	1d 7h	M	Black
Porter, (son)	16 March 1893	[?]	M	Black
Porter, Charlotte E.	3 Aug. 1889	27y	F	Black
Porter, George W.	18 Aug. 1902	22y	M	Black
Porter, Josephine	1 Feb. 1891	50y	F	Black
Porter, Josephine	3 Sept. 1894	[?]	F	Colored
Porter[?], Laura Helen	9 Sept. 1906	9m 29d	F	Black
Porter, Mary L.	3 June 1904	31y	F	Black
Porter, Samuel B.	26 Jan. 1912	64y	M	Black
Pratt, Annie	23 April 1893	17y 7m	F	Mulatto
Pratt, Frank W.	6 Aug. 1903	25y	M	Black

\* Terminology for "Color" is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.



Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Pratt, James	18 Jan. 1899	5m 3w	M	Colored
Pratt, Mamie E.	12 July 1900	26y	F	Black
Price, Annie	1 June 1902	48y	F	Black
Price, Anthony Jr.	1 June 1893	42y	M	Black
Price, Sam	14 Feb. 1893	33y	M	Black
Price, Sarah Jane	29 Feb. 1888	65y	F	Colored
Reed, Nattie (Nohan Read)	29 July 1902	17y	M	Black
Reeve, Melvina	16 Sept. 1903	4m	F	Black
Rhodes, Annie	9 April 1906	1d	F	White
Rhodes, Lillie	10 May 1907	1d	F	White
Ridley, Grace	2 Dec. 1900	4m	F	Black
Roberson, Philis	9 Jan. 1903	88y	F	Black
Roberts, Nettie C.	18 May 1881	3y 1m	F	Colored
Robertson, Christopher	22 March 1911	1m 21d	M	Black
Robinson, Caesar	10 July 1896	90y	M	Black
Robinson, Hannah	9 March 1894	73y	F	Black
Robinson, Jacob	[?][?] 1922	[adult]	M	Black
Robinson, Susan	14 Aug. 1881	80y 11m 17d	F	Black
Robinson, Susan	20 July 1919	75y	F	Black
Robinson, William	23 March 1889	55y	M	Colored
Rowland, George	24 Dec. 1907	33y	M	Black
Rowland, James	31 May 1904	53y	M	Black
Ruback, Jacob	16 Sept. 1908	45y	M	White
Russell, [child]	20 June 1910	[stillborn]	—	White
Sacra, Katherine	17 Aug. 1911	1m 12d	F	White
Sanders, Charlott(e)	3 Feb. 1890	84y	F	Colored
Sanford, Edward	6 March 1885	23y	M	Black
Sanford, Georgianna	8 June 1900	55y	F	Black
Sanford, Henry	20 Oct. 1908	70y	M	Black
Sanford, male [infant]	7 May 1883	31d	M	Black
Sanford, Sam [child]	27 April 1900	[?]	M	—
Sanford, Samuel	16 April 1901	21y	M	Black
Saxon, Lidia Jane	23 June 1882	40y	F	Black
Schlicke, Carl Frederick	28 July 1897	3m 20d	M	White
Schrader, Frederick	8 Oct. 1908	[stillborn]	M	White
Scisco, Benjamin	25 March 1901	42y	M	Black
Scott, Arella	11 Nov. 1909	23y	F	Black
Scott, Irene A.	12 Aug. 1913	2m	F	Black

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
See, Davenport	21 Feb. 1894	11m	M	D
Sewkft, Jacob	21 Nov. 1908	4d	M	White
Simmons, [infant]	7 April 1911	[?]	—	Black
Simmons, Ethel	29 Jan. 1905	1d	F	Black
Simmons, Martha	30 Jan. 1906	[stillborn]	F	Black?
Sisco, Herbert	15 July 1894	3m 1d	M	Black
Sisco, John	8 June 1903	62y	M	Black
Sisco, Lunasi	18 Feb. 1890	38y	F	Black
Skak, Ton[?]	18 Nov. 1892	45y	M	White
Smith, ...	13 May 1886	6d	—	White
Smith, Cornelia	13 Aug. 1866	11m 6d	F	—
Smith, Jane	18 March 1882	41y	F	Colored
Smith, John	20 Aug. 1882	1y 2m	M	Black
Smith, Leroy P.	9 Dec. 1906	5d	M	White
Smith, Mary	14 Feb. 1907	[stillborn]	F	—
Smith, Mrs. Susan	10 March 1888	108y	F	Colored
Smith, William	10 Nov. 1885	21y	M	Colored
Spencer, Frances	17 Dec. 1906	22y	F	Black
Sprague, Thomas E.	18 Aug. 1915	8m 6d	M	Black
Stanley, William	15 April 1889	50y	M	White
Sweeney, Donald A.	19 July 1903	9m 8d	M	Black
Swinney, Louis	14 Dec. 1924	45y 10m 7d	M	Black
Tafte, [infant]	18 Sept. 1910	[stillborn]	—	White
Tankwine, John	7 July 1894	45y	M	White
Teibout, William B.	12 Nov. 1890	11y 9m	M	Black
Templeton, Gustave	17 Sept. 1911	1d	M	White
Thoma, [infant]	18 June 1910	5 minutes	—	White
Thompson, [infant]	30 May 1910	[stillborn]	—	White
Thompson, Ada	21 Aug. 1902	[adult]	F	Black
Thompson, Andrew	4 Aug. 1892	75y	M	Colored
Thompson, Anthony	11 Aug. 1902	[adult]	M	Black
Thompson, Dinah B.	15 Feb. 1908	69y	F	Black
Thompson, Frank	27 Dec. 1914	43y	M	White
Thompson, Hannah	24 July 1906	69y	F	Black
Thompson, Harry	31 July 1886	70y	M	Negro
Thompson, Harry	16 March 1912	74y	M	Black
Thompson, Hester	8 June 1887	[?]	F	Black
Thompson, James H.	23 Feb. 1914	61y	M	Black
Thompson, Jane	15 March 1881	7y	F	Colored

\* Terminology for "Color" is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Thompson, Johanna	[?]	[?]	F	—
Thompson, John	27 Oct. 1900	44y	M	Black
Thompson, Rachel	14 Dec. 1902	69y	F	Black
Thompson, Samuel	29 July 1890	70y	M	Colored
Thompson, Sarah	16 July 1880	24y 6m	F	Colored
Thompson, Sarah	8 Nov. 1905	44y	F	Black
Thompson, William L.	26 July 1914	21y	M	Black
Tiebout, John R.	12 July 1908	10m 21d	M	Black
Toliver, Annie	3 Jan. 1904	37y	F	Colored
Toliver, [female?]	28 July 1909	[stillborn]	[?]	Black
Towns, Josephine	21 March 1907	26y	F	Black
Trainor, Susan	17 June 1889	50y	F	Black
Turpen, Lena B.	11 April 1922	26y 6m 19d	F	Black
Tyler, Mary	5 June 1910	25y	F	Black
Umacka, William	13 May 1911	2h	M	White
Urban, Joseph	1 Sept. 1893	60y	M	White
Van Orden, Maud	1 May 1910	22y	F	Black
Van Riper, Joseph	– Nov. 1891	56y	M	Colored
Veilhaus, Claus	27 April 1891	40y 9m 19d	M	White
Veilhaus, Claus	28 April 1891	10m 3d	M	White
Venable, Edward	21 April 1913	10y	M	White
Vreeland, Rachel C.	19 April 1859	22y	F	White
Walker, Glydis E.	15 Aug. 1910	6m	F	Black
Walker, Son	31 July 1907	9m 2d	M	Black
Watson, Florina May	26 Dec. 1888	2y	F	Black
Watson, Ida	8 March 1887	7y 6m	F	Colored
Watson, Jane	21 May 1896	44y	F	Black
Watson, John Peter	1 July 1888	20y 6m 14d	M	Black
Watson, Thomas C.	1 Aug. 1905	26d	M	Black
Welz, Henry	9 June 1910	1d	M	White
West, Robert	28 Sept. 1906	1y 4m	M	Black

Name of Deceased	Date of Death or Burial	Age at Death	Sex	Color*
Westcomb, [child]	9 Feb. 1892	[child]	—	Colored
Westcomb, James P.	10 Jan. 1906	48y	M	Black
Westcomb, Owen E.	25 July 1893	3m	M	Mulatto
Wheeler, Joseph	11 April 1888	80y	M	Colored
White, Eleanna	10 Feb. 1893	12y 6m	F	Black
White, Eva	14 Dec. 1889	1y 8d	F	Black
White, Fannie	29 June 1900	18y	F	Black
White, George Washington	18 May 1915	64y	M	Black
White, Henry	22 May 1911	25y	M	Black
White, James	21 May 1913	44y	M	Black
White, Lucy	12 May 1924	70y 9m 25d	F	Black
White, Maggie	25 March 1884	3y	F	Colored
Wilkins, Rastus	14 Feb. 1907	9m	M	Black
Williams, (Peter) Henry	9 Aug. 1889	36y	M	Colored
Williams, Hannah	4 Feb. 1892	[?]	F	—
Williams, James E.	10 Nov. 1905	4m	M	Black
Williams, Robert	6 May 1882	43y	M	Black
Williams, Robert Ed.	31 March 1882	4m	M	Black
Williams, Thomas	12 Jan. 1881	69y	M	Black
Williams, Thomas	28 May 1900	66y	M	Black
Wilson, Eva May	8 March 1916	2y 24d	F	Black
Wilson, John	9 May 1907	46y	M	Black
Wilson, Lucy F.	11 Aug. 1896	22y	F	Colored
Wise, [infant]	10 Oct. 1911	[stillborn]	—	Black
Wise, Harriet	16 July 1903	[?]	F	Black
Woody, Ellis E.	17 Aug. 1911	32y	M	Black
Woody, Irene	17 Dec. 1912	22y 9m 19d	F	Black
Wright, Archie I.	26 July 1907	1d	M	Black
Wyatt, Eunice W.	16 Dec. 1904	20y 8m 8d	F	Black
Young, John	29 May 1902	47y	M	White

\* Terminology for “Color” is listed as it appears on the records and is historic language.

### Related Presentations

GSBC *Extra! A Serendipitous Find*, by New Milford Councilwoman Hedy Grant, JD, and Peggy W. Norris, MS, MLIS, about the re-discovery of a New Milford African American burial ground, [njgsbc.org/a-serendipitous-find/](https://njgsbc.org/a-serendipitous-find/)



# African Americans in the Hackensack Community

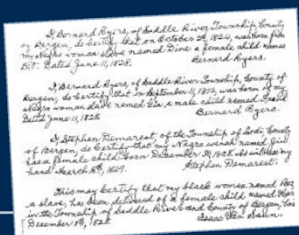


When Gethsemane was founded in 1860, just prior to the Civil War, the African American population of New Barbadoes numbered 314, or about 9% of the total. It included four slaves as well as descendants of both slaves and free blacks, almost all born in Bergen County. Slavery had persisted in New Jersey for two hundred years, and the movement to end it was a long and tedious one. Although slavery had been largely abolished in the state by 1846, it was technically legal until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865.

With a growing free black population in Hackensack, in an age of segregation, the need for a black cemetery became apparent. No African Americans are known to have been buried in Hackensack's two publicly chartered cemeteries prior to their desegregation in 1884. By the

1880s, residents of neighboring towns were also buried at Gethsemane, and ninety-eight white graves have been documented as well.

In the early 1900s, African Americans from southern states were migrating north in search of better job opportunities. Many settled in the Hackensack area to seek work as laborers at the various local brickyards. Others worked as porters, domestics, coachmen, barbers, and cooks. Social life centered around the two black churches, Varick Memorial AME Zion Church and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and the desire for a decent burial remained critically important as it had in earlier societies. The records of the Ricardo Funeral Home, which served the community for decades, have enabled researchers to paint a portrait of burials at Gethsemane at that time.



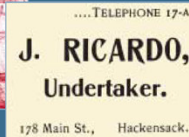
Slave Birth Records



Hackensack School



Many black men in Bergen County worked as laborers in Hackensack and Little Ferry brick factories.



The Ricardo Funeral Home. Much of what we know about Gethsemane Cemetery comes from the records of the Ricardo Funeral Home in Hackensack. James and William Ricardo, who were white men of Spanish background, served the local African American community starting in the 1880s.



Varick Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was founded in 1864. This photograph was taken in 1944. Courtesy Varick Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church



Mt. Olive Baptist Church was founded in 1889.

# The Souls of Gethsemane

Samuel Bass, the son of a former slave, had at various times been a prisoner, a waiter, and a circus driver. He was the respected sexton of Hackensack's First Baptist Church when he died on January 22, 1884, at about the age of 38. Members of the congregation wanted to bury him in the Hackensack Cemetery, but cemetery trustees refused to let a black man be buried there. He was then buried at Gethsemane. The controversy was reported in local New Jersey newspapers, the African American press, The New York Times, and the New York Telegram.

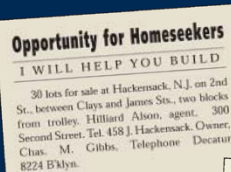


The newly elected governor, Leon Abbett, called for a law allowing any citizen the right to be buried in a public cemetery, regardless of color: "It ought not to be tolerated in this State that a corporation whose existence depends on the Legislature's

will, and whose property is exempt from taxation because of its religious uses, should be permitted to make a distinction between a white man and a black man." The "Negro Burial Bill" was passed in March 1884, prohibiting cemeteries from discrimination.

In June, Bass's wife and mother removed his remains to Philadelphia, his childhood home.

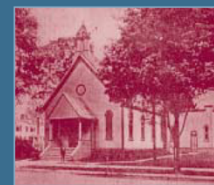
At least nine members of the Porter family were buried at Gethsemane between 1890 and 1912. Samuel B. Porter owned a home on Lodi Street at the corner of Huyler Street, and his brother Jesse owned one nearby. Both were teamsters and part of a stable group of working men and women who were homeowners in several predominantly African American sections of Hackensack. The largest section was developed in the 1920s near Second and Clay Streets. Other communities were located along Grove Street, Kansas Street, and Railroad Avenue, as well as Main Street and parts of Passaic Street.



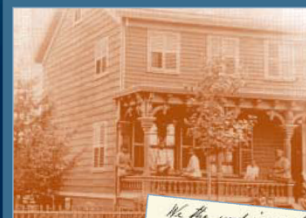
Developers promised homes in suburbia in proximity to convenient transportation, urban employment, and community facilities.



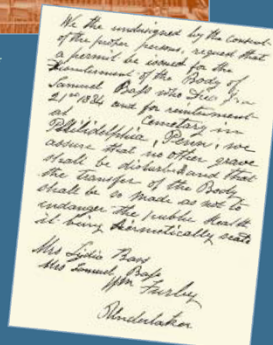
The New York Times, Saturday, January 26, 1884



First Baptist Church, Hackensack



Samuel B. Porter residence by Huyler Street ca. 1890.



Disinterment permit application ca. 1884.



# Picturing Upper Saddle River History

The Upper Saddle River Historical Society hosts some great local history images and images of people and places on its website and Instagram page. Site pages of note include the “[Early Families](#),” “[Oral Histories](#),” and the “[Lost Buildings](#)” pages. Explore more images and history at [www.usrhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.usrhistoricalsociety.org)

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP-LEFT: Students Ralph, Carrie, Herb, Clarence, Ed, Walter, and Martha, circa 1910; Sam Kanreck on the Carlough apple farm loading a market wagon—perhaps made by Packer in Saddle River, as many local market wagons were. Sam worked for the Carlough family from 1915 until his retirement; Andrew Hennion with oxen on his property on Pleasant Avenue; the Old Stone Church, 1898; the Van Kampens walking by the Church; the Nicausie Hopper homestead, circa 1890, on what is now Hopper Farm Road. [Images and captions courtesy of the Upper Saddle River Historical Society.]





MULTIPLE SPEAKERS + SURPRISES



# Celebrating GSBC's 50th Anniversary

GSBC Special Event  
Monday, 22 May 2023 @ 6pm Eastern  
In-person @ Ridgewood Public Library

## GSBC SPECIAL EVENT

GSBC's 50th Anniversary  
Monday, 22 May 2023 @ 6pm Eastern  
In-person @ the Ridgewood Public Library  
GSBC Members and non-members welcome!

You're invited to celebrate 50 years of genealogical research, education, and camaraderie.

In 1973 the Society had its first official meeting in Westwood, New Jersey, with fourteen charter members. How we've grown since then!

Join us at the Ridgewood Public Library on Monday, 22 May at 6pm to enjoy refreshments and anniversary cake. Mingle with society members, and current and former board members. And hear current and former presidents and board members speak about their memories of our society spanning the last five decades.

[www.njgsbc.org](http://www.njgsbc.org)

---

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County (GSBC) is a non-profit society founded in 1973. Our purpose is to assist those researching their family heritage, to assist those seeking out and preserving information about the families and genealogical records of the greater Bergen County area, and to offer educational and research assistance to all those interested in genealogical research.

---

# The Genealogical Society of Bergen County, NJ (GSBC)

The GSBC Membership year runs 1 November–31 October.

Sign-up or renew using a credit card at [www.njgsbc.org/store](http://www.njgsbc.org/store)

Make checks payable to “GSBC” and mail to: Genealogical Society of Bergen County, P.O. Box 432, Midland Park, NJ 07432

---



Level (\$US dollars; select one): ☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Junior \$10 (Ages 13–18) ☐ + Additional Donation

Type (select one): ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name(s)

---

Address

---

Town/City

State/Province

Zip/Post Code

---

Country (if not United States)

---

Phone

E-mail  
(one address\*)

---

The GSBC is a registered tax exempt organization as described in sections 501(a) and 509 (a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues are deductible for federal income tax purposes as provided by the IRS.

## \* GSBC Website Members' Section—Email Login

Please provide ONE email per Individual or Family Membership—this email will be used for communications as well as logging into the Members' section of the GSBC website. Please allow up to 14 working days from when we receive your Membership form and payment to set-up your Member site login.

## GSBC eNews

All GSBC Members will receive the twice-monthly *GSBC eNews*, which contains information about our upcoming programs and events as well as news of note. You can sign-up additional email addresses to receive the *GSBC eNews*.

## The Archivist Newsletter

Our multi-award-winning newsletter, *The Archivist*, will be posted periodically to the Members' section of the GSBC website, [www.njgsbc.org/archivist](http://www.njgsbc.org/archivist)—where you can access current as well as all past issues. New issue releases will be announced in the *GSBC eNews*.