

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY

Survey ID 20

Cemetery name Prather Family Cemetery

Alternate name(s) ~~None listed or given~~ Walnut Grove Cemetery (name given by Nature Center - Not historic)

Address (or direction from nearest intersection) Adjacent to Meadowside Nature Center: 50100 Meadowside Ln. Rockville MD. 20855

ADC Map Page 29 Grid J-1 Town Rockville

Type

Religious _____
 Family _____
 Private _____
 Other _____

Association

Free black _____
 Enslaved _____
 Ethnic _____
 Prehistoric _____

Setting Rural Urban Suburban Forested Other overgrown

Condition Excellent Good Fair Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) Has been vandalized in the past many times. Broken stones, overturned stones.

Approximate no. of burials 35-45 Date range of burials 1805-1860

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

There are 35-45 upright stones. Some of these stones could be markers. There is a single large monument stand approximately 4'9". At one point it appears that there were two monuments. The monument was erected in 1866 by survivors of the Prather Family. The monument was in memory of deceased family members. There were many unmarked upright stones. They could have been a part of a fence or other headstones. There are some stones that lay flat that are marked also. There were two flat marked stones with initials. There is a house about 50-100 yards away from the gravesite. The stones are put in more of a circular shape than in rows. The death ages marked on the monument range from 12-82. The gravesite is on the fringe of the park property.

on property of meadowside Nature Center. (Map attached)

Surveyor(s) Sean Hepburn, Michael Hepburn Survey date ^{March} April 27th, 2004

Photographer Sean Michael Hepburn Date ^{March} April 27th, 2004 Photo no. 8

Current owner ^{M-NCPPC} ~~Montgomery County Park Property~~

Address/Phone No. _____

Historic Status

Locational Atlas ID _____
 Master Plan ID _____

National Register
 Other _____

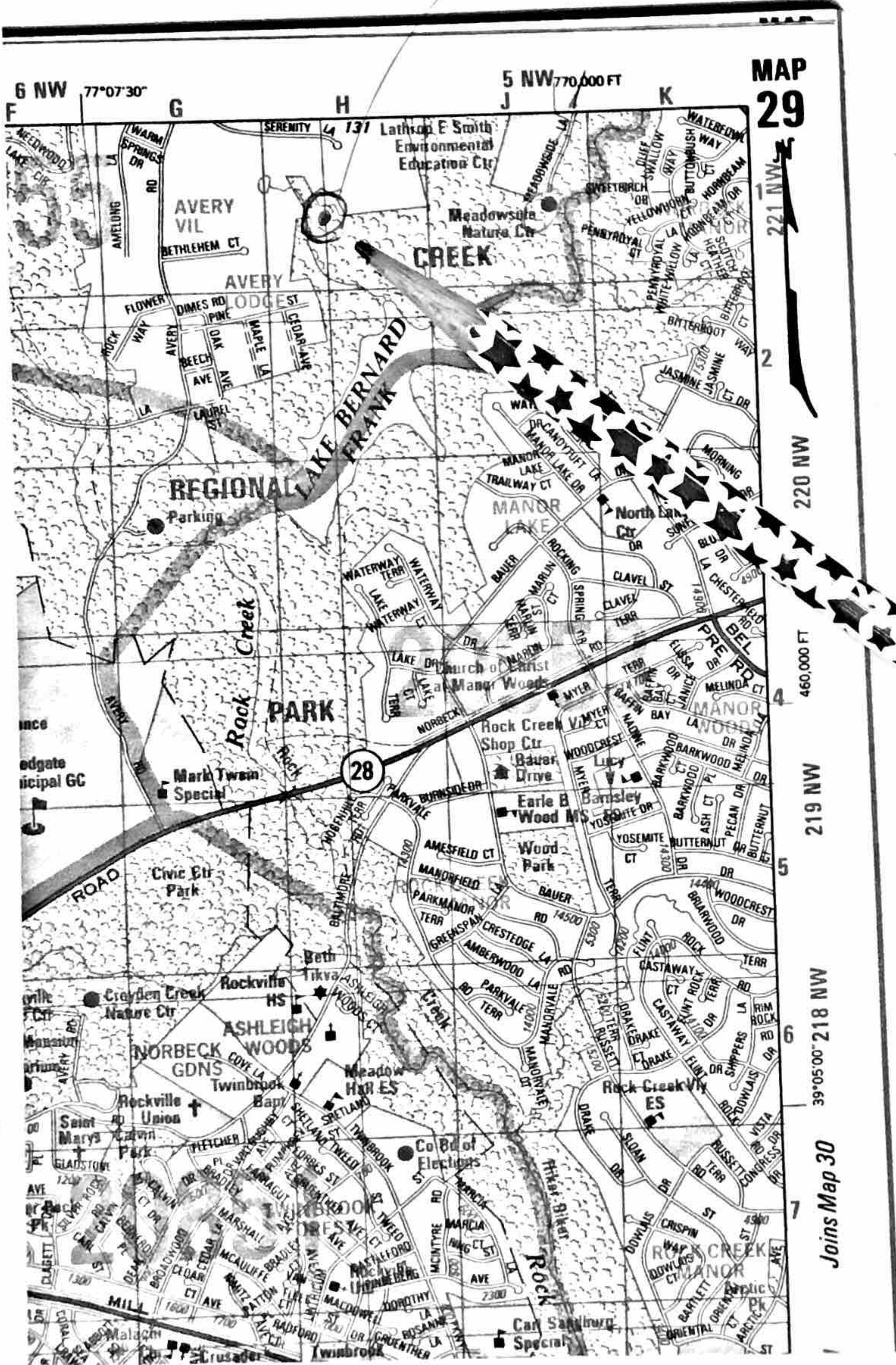
UTM _____

Additional sources of information:

Cenealogy (attached) of Prather family; includes transcriptions of graves. Student project? Given to surveyor by Meadowside Nature Center staff.

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Prather Cemetery



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THE
PRATHER
FAMILY

Acknowledgements:
William Van Leuven
Montgomery County
Historical Society
Barbara Bone

INTRODUCTION

There is a cemetery located near the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center known as the Prather Graveyard. There had been no records of the Prather family researched in this area. The lack of information led me to choose researching the family as a college project.

I found that the Prathers were an extremely large family. They consisted of two major lines: the family that resided in Prince George's County and the family that resided in Frederick County. (Today, that part of Frederick County is now part of Montgomery County.) The graveyard is a product of the Montgomery County line although both lines came from the same ancestors. The Prathers owned many acres of land including a large tract, where the graveyard stands today, known as **Plain Dealing**. Their plantation was presumably located on a hillside above the graveyard and consisted of orchards, slave quarters, and outhouses besides the main building. The Prather family at one time owned a mill which is today known as **Horner's Mill**. From all research, it is not believed that their main source of income was the mill. The Prathers were farmers.

Due to the family's size, their names are associated in marriage with many families recorded as living in the area. These families included the **Bowie's** (Bowie's Mill), **Higgins**, **Adamsons**, **Bealls**, **Craycrofts**, **Beckwiths**, and **Gaithers** (of Gaithersburg). Although no white Prathers can be found in the area today, branches of the family are located in Ohio, Colorado, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Following is the history of the Prather family.

PRATHER ROOTS FROM ENGLAND TO MARYLAND

The name Prather can be spelled Prater, Praytor, and Prether but from 1680, the Maryland branch has spelled it PRATHER. Although other branches have spelled it differently, it is all the same family. Jonathan Prather at one time, lived at a home called **Latton on Elan Water** in Wiltshire, England. To pay for his transportation, he gave a man, George Reed, 100 acres of land. After arriving in Maryland on October 6, 1658, he settled in Baltimore County on Swann's Creek. His wife, **Jane Prather**, is thought to have been a member of the **Goldsmith** family, also of Baltimore.

THE FAMILY, GRAVEYARD, AND THE OBELISK

Jonathan Prather, who arrived in Maryland from England, had six children – five boys and one girl. Jonathan II, one of his sons, had a daughter, Jane, who is believed to have been the head of the Montgomery County Prather line. She married a cousin(?), Aaron Prather, whose parentage has not been determined. Aaron Prather, whose name is found on the Smith Center graveyard obelisk, was the son of Jane and Aaron Prather. This Aaron Prather was the overseer of the road which led from the Dent Estate. Mr. Dent originally owned the land on which the Horner's Mill (at one time, Prather) is located today. (Mr. Charles Beckwith was an owner of the mill from sometime after 1786 until 1799.) This could be the Prather's introduction to the mill which was later purchased by Aaron's grandson, Singleton Prather. Aaron Prather married Mary whose death is recorded as 1805. William Prather (Aaron and Mary's son) married Elizabeth Owen Adamson. Their daughter, Nancy Owen Prather, later married a Duley. She preceded her father, William, and mother, Elizabeth O. in death. (She died at the early age of 22 years.) The death is recorded on the obelisk and her initials are found on a gravestone located in the graveyard. I believe from the engraving of Amanda Prather's recorded death in 182__ (age 12) that she was another daughter of William and Elizabeth. I also found references to a Singleton Prather [son of William and Elizabeth (sister of Nancy O. Duley)]. He ran the Prather (Horner) mill from 1846 to before 1877. The mill was valued at \$1,500 at this time. His mother, Elizabeth, still owned the house and land valued at \$3,500. Singleton Prather died in the early 1860's leaving two daughters, Elizabeth and Florida. The two girls married Darius M. Higgins and Charles A. Higgins respectively. (The Higgins house was located near the Prather estate according to the Montgomery County map of 1865.)

Florida and Charles (married 1856) are now buried in the Rockville Cemetery. They are some of the survivors I feel were responsible for the obelisk. They were in the area in 1866 when the obelisk was erected. Another possibility is the existence of a brother or sister of Nancy O. Duley (son or daughter of William and Elizabeth), who may have been responsible. No records of other children can be found. In William Prather's will, as heirs of Nancy O. Duley, are his

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grandchildren Elen and Benedict Duley who were left their mother's portion of his estate. (Nancy O. was deceased by this time.) Elen and Benedict may have been two of the Prather survivors who enacted the building of the obelisk. There are many cases of the Prather family marrying into a Duley family. Eliza Duley [whose death in 1845 (age 40) is inscribed on the obelisk] married Benedict H. Duley, October 7, 1821 (at age 16).

The other branch of the Prather family, located in Prince George's County, was headed by William I (son of Jonathan II) who married Ann Yates. The two families [Prince George's, Frederick (Montgomery) Counties] came together through the marriage of cousins, Martha Prather (Jonathan's daughter) and William II (William I and Ann's son). Martha and William II had seven children. Among these a son, Benjamin Prather, whose will can be found at the Rockville, Montgomery County, Courthouse.

There are many instances of inter-family marriages in the Prather family. This resulted in a tremendous number of Prathers located in Maryland. Most families had 11 to 15 children. Descendants are now located in Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Colorado, and Kentucky. (Letters have been sent to these areas in anticipation of discovering the whereabouts of the Prather descendants.) Since 1879, no records of the Prathers or Homers exist in the courthouse. In the Prince George's County Tombstone Records, there are references to a Prather cemetery located on the B&O Railroad one-half mile south of Beltsville. Among names found in this cemetery are a Mary Prather (died, 1860), Nathan Prather (son of William II and Martha; d. 1863), Charles Prather (d. 1861), and one tombstone reading, "sacred to the memory of John B. Prather. Departed this life September 20, 1848 in the 17th year of his age."

FAMILY TREES

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LINE. Although the Prince George's County line of Prathers is not buried in the Prather graveyard, they still were direct descendants of Jonathan Prather I, who arrived in Maryland from England, and was the Montgomery/Frederick county line of the family. The original link between the two lines as shown in the following family tree, was the marriage of William Prather II (son of William I, P.G. County family), to Martha Prather (daughter of Jonathan II; head of the Montgomery/Frederick County family). These two Prathers were first cousins and there are other cases of Prathers marrying within the family.

Jonathan Prather I married Jane Goldsmith Prather. Their children were:
Jonathan II (1662-1735) George (1669-1698) William I (1670-1747)
Thomas (1673-1712) John (1676-?) Jane (1678-?)

The Prince George's County line is concerned with the children of William I. William I married Ann Yates Prather (1698 or 1699). Their son, William II married his first cousin Martha Prather (1724; she was the daughter of Jonathan II and Elizabeth Prather). Their children were:

Benjamin (1725-1780; married Lucy Rogers before 1765)
Samuel (1727-? married Susannah Aldridge before 1765)
Joseph (1735-1780; married Ruth?)
Martha (1735-1780; married Archibald Edmonston)
Zepheniah (1739-1807; married Rachel Prather)
Nathan (1742-1812; married Ann Wilcoxon)
James I (1729-1791; married Ann Turner)

The family tree continues with James I and Ann Turner Prather. His father, William I, left him 63 acres of Hogs Harbour and slaves. Their children were:

Benjamin (1755-1839; married Rachel Walker—two daughters; married Esther Waring)
Martha (alive in 1791; married John Milliken)
Joseph Jeremiah (1762-1816; married Elizabeth Welsh, 1781; died Wilkes County, GA)
Ruth (alive in 1797; married Robert Hooker)
William (alive in 1797; married cousin Ruth Prather, 1804, daughter of Nathan & Ann)
Josiah Turner (married Sarah Howard, 1795, daughter of Jacob, Montgomery County)
(married Elizabeth Drummond in 1803 after Sarah's death)
Anne (alive in 1797; married Leonard Howard)
Rebecca (married High Drummond in 1803)
James II (1763-? married Ann Hodges)

The family continues with **James Prather II** and his wife, **Ann Hodges Prather**. James II, born 1763, was listed as head of family in 1790. The family consisted of James (one free white male), Ann (one free white female), and two slaves. It is possible that he was at this time living in Montgomery County. In 1794, he deeded four+ acres of **Batchelors Forrest** in Prince George's County to Susanna Chaney (widow of Henry Chaney). In 1795, James II, and all other heirs of James I, agreed that their mother, Ann Prather, could keep all property left by their father. Their father's original will stated:

"From James I to wife Ann all his personal estate during her widowhood. To Benjamin, one Negro boy; to Joseph, one Negro girl; to Josiah Turner, the dwelling plantation where I now dwell called Batchelors Forrest containing 55-1/2 acres, more or less, also one other tract of land that my father conveyed to me and part I deeded to my son, Benjamin." To daughters and sons, Martha, Ruth, James, William, Ann, Rebecca, all personal estate to be sold and divided among above." This personal estate is what was left to his wife, Ann, by all these children.

The family tree continues with Thomas. In 1817, he deeded to Stephen West, tracts of land called **Pentling Hills** and **Bealls Chance** which contained 28 acres. In 1826, he moved to Brown County, Ohio where his daughters, Janetta and Lillie Anne and his son, Washington, were born. Thomas died here in 1857 and was buried beside his wife in the old Prather cemetery near Hamersville, Brown County, Ohio. The Prince George's County Prather line probably continued there. Other members of his line moved to Kentucky and Colorado.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LINE. We are most interested in this line because of the graveyard. What is today much of Montgomery County was at one time Frederick County. Those Prathers listed as living in Frederick County are the same line as those in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Prathers had the same ancestral roots as the Prince George's County family. The tree starts with **Jonathan** and **Jane** but dwells on one of their sons, **Jonathan II** whose daughter, Jane, married Aaron Prather whose parentage could not be determined. It is believed he was a descendent of Jonathan II's brother, Thomas (his family tree will be covered later). Jonathan II's daughter, Martha married a cousin, William II. She was the first link in the family line between Prince George's and the Montgomery County line. With the marriage of Jane and Aaron, another cousin link was made. The family tree involved with the Prather graveyard follows:

Jonathan Prather I (married Jane Goldsmith Prather). Their son,
Jonathan II (married Elizabeth Bigger). Their children were:
Martha (married William Prather II); **Jane** (married Aaron Prather)
Jane and Aaron Prathers children were:
Aaron (1724-1806; married Mary ? 1735-1805); **Basil** (1742-1822); **Baruch** (1743-1778)
No dates given for the following children: **Samuel, Walter, Barbara, Ruth, Molly, Elisha, Zachariah, Verlinda, Elizabeth**

The family tree continues with the children of Aaron and Mary Prather
William¹ (1770-1832; married Elizabeth Owen Adamson², 1780-1859)
Mary (married _____ Howard) **Mahala** (married _____ Whillesey)
Samantha (married _____ Carey) **Nancy** (married _____ Harding)

We continue with **William's** marriage to **Elizabeth O. Adamson**. The children were
Nancy Owen Prather³ (1799-1821; married _____ Duley). Their children were:
Elen, Benedict, and Singleton (wife's name unknown). **Singleton's** children were:
Elizabeth⁴ who married **Darius Higgins** (1856) and **Florida**⁵ who married **Charles Higgins** (1856). Florida and Charles, as stated before, are buried in the Rockville Cemetery.)

Jane's husband, Aaron, for whom a family background determination has not been made, may have been the son of **Thomas Prather** (1673-1712), brother of Jonathan II. **Thomas** married **Martha Sprigg** and there children were:

Aaron (1700-1777) **Eleanor** (no dates) **Philip** (1708-?)
Thomas (1704-? married Elizabeth Clagett and had 11 children)
Rachel (1702-?) **Jonathan** (no dates)
John Smith (1706-? married Elizabeth Nutall and had 8 children)

^{1,2,3} Family names located on obelisk

^{5,6} Possible survivors responsible for erection of obelisk

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**THE OBELISK
ERECTED AD 1866
BY THE SURVIVORS⁷**

IN MEMORY OF
FATHER
AARON PRATHER
DIED 1806
AGED 82 YEARS

THEIR FATHER
WILLIAM PRATHER
DIED 1832

MOTHER
ELIZABETH O. PRATHER
DIED 1859
AGED 79 YEARS

SISTER
NANCY O. DULEY
DIED 1821
AGED 22 YEARS

ELIZA DULEY
DIED 1845
AGED 40 YEARS

AGIN(?)
DIED 1861

____ PRATHER
AGED ____

AMANDA PRATHER⁸
DIED 182_

LUCINDA HAL(?) CONER
DIED 1845
AGED 34 YEARS

SARAH LL N FERGUSON⁹
DIED 1847
AGED 20 (?) YEARS

⁷ Florida and Elizabeth who were the great grandchildren of Aaron and Mary; Elen and Benedict Duley who were the grandchildren of William and Elizabeth O. Prather

⁸ Believed to be the child of William and Elizabeth O. (no proof)

⁹ Baruch's daughter; Aaron's niece; married John W. Ferguson, May 16, 1843

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GRAVESTONES FOUND AT THE PRATHER GRAVEYARD

WP 1832 (William Prather)
ED (Eliza Duley)
P () Prather)
WBC 1832

EOP 1859 (Elizabeth Owen Prather)
AM
MP (Mary Prather)
MEG () Gaither?)

NOD (Nancy Owen Duley)
SA
AP (Aaron Prather)
P ()

There are many other stones whose initials have worn away. There are many Prathers that should be buried in this graveyard. Not all of the graves have, as yet, been discovered.

THE SLAVES

It is probable the Prathers, being large plantation owners, had many slaves. There are still black Prathers living in Maryland today, some in a town known as Prathertown. It is believed that many of these slaves took the Prather name as a last name after being freed as a result of the Civil War. Following are names of slaves discovered in my search for information.

→ near Gaithersburg

James Prather I left his son, Benjamin, one boy slave, **Bob**. To his son, Joseph, he left one girl slave, **Sills**. There is record of a boy slave, **Bick**, left to James Prather II. In the 1790 census, James Prather II had two slaves, **Peg** and her son, **Ben**, bought from Richard Kralls for 80 pounds(?). Tom Prather of Prince George's County, sold a man slave, **Nathaniel**, to a man named Locke.

PRATHER LANDS AND THE HOUSE

Many people have tried to determine the location of the Prather house. The Prathers, being a large family, owned several tracts of land. One known as **Batchelors Forrest**, was located in what was then Prince George's County. In 1793, James Prather II (son of James and Ann Turner Prather) deeded 4-3/8 acres of this tract of land to Susanna Chaney (widow of Henry Chaney). He deeded his brother, Josiah, a "*dwelling plantation where I now dwell called Batchelors Forrest containing 55-1/2 acres, more or less, also, one other part of tract of land known as Hogs Harbour that my father conveyed to me and part I deeded to my son, Benjamin.*"

There is reference to an area termed **Miller's Beginning** located on Paint Branch for a total of 152 acres. The Montgomery County side of the family owned an estate located near the graveyard site. My conclusions are the house was called **Bradford's Rest**. The family moved from a house referred to as **Orphans Gift** in Prince George's County when Basil Prather was a child. Their new home, **Bradford's Rest** was located on land called **Plain Dealing**. Records indicate the land was in Lower Potomac Hundred, Frederick County, Maryland, not far from Rockville which is today Montgomery County. Basil's son, Walter, was born in that part of Lower Federick near Rockville on February 1, 1768. This leads us to believe the family lived in this house for many years. Basil later moved his entire family to North Carolina and later to Indiana. His grandson, Hiram Prather said that he lived to be very old. Basil and his wife are buried at New Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery, Watson, Indiana.

Because Aaron Prather later sold part of **Bradford's Rest** to his sons, William and Thomas, it is probable that Basil sold the property to Aaron upon his relocation to North Carolina. In a Prather deed located in Montgomery County, MD, November 7, 1797, Aaron Prather sells his sons, William and Thomas, for

"...400 pounds all stock, crops, grain, furniture, utensils, and whole of personal property....for 350 pounds, **Plain Dealing** consisting of 200 acres with house and orchard." Aaron's wife, Mary, agreed.

Other references to **Plain Dealing** include:

February 3, 1798: Thomas Prather sells William, "...for 200 pounds, all claim in property sold them by Aaron Prather on November 7, 1797."

November 4, 1803: Thomas Prather sells William "...for \$373. all right and claim in land Aaron Prather conveyed to them November 7, 1797...tract **Plain Dealing**."

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In determining how the family obtained Bradford's Rest, I found a deed dated December 13, 1760, in which a George Wilson sells Aaron Prather, Jr. of Frederick County for

"...25 pounds, all of Plain Dealing in Frederick County...100 acres." By the time the land was transferred into William's hands, it consisted of 200+ acres which leads to the premise that the Prathers bought up more land after obtaining the initial 100 acres.

To aid in determining the location of Plain Dealing, the deeds of Aaron Prather to William and Thomas Prather were found in the courthouse. They are, as follows:

November 7, 1797. Deed G/648-Personal property from Aaron Prather to William Prather and Thomas Prather. *"all my stock of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs, crop of tobacco, corn, wheat, and also all grain now in the ground, household furniture, plantation utensils; also all the rest and residue of my whole personal estate....."*

November 7, 1797. Deed G/649-Land from Aaron to William and Thomas Prather. Price for land: 350 pounds. *"...the following tract or parcel of land lying in the County of Montgomery and State of Maryland, called the resurvey of Plain Dealing beginning at a marked hickory standing on the fork of Rock Creek on a hillside and at the end of the third line of the original tract of land called Plain Dealing and running thence north 81 west 50 perches (rods); north 16 west 82 perches; north 78 east 10 perches; north 14 west 130 perches; north 50 east 16 perches; north 28 west 42 perches; north 13 east 46 perches; north 62 west 22 perches, south 82 west 26 perches; north 15 east 36 perches; north 37 east 19 perches to the end of 120 perches on the fifth line of a tract of land called Paradise Enlarged, then south 73 east 110 perches to the fourth line of a tract of land called Boyd's Delay¹⁰, then with the said line reversed, southwest 19 perches to the end of the third line of said land, then south 16 east 258 perches, northeast by east 8 perches to the fifth line of the original, then south 77 east 10 perches to the end of the fourth line of the original, then north the said line reversed to the beginning tree containing and now laid out for 200 acres of land, more or less together, with all the houses, outhouses, orchards, woods, under woods, commons and commons of pasture ways, waters, water courses, profits, advantages, whatsoever to the said tract belonging, or in any ways appertaining and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders rents, issues, and profits of the said premises..."*

In conclusion, the Prathers were large plantation owners holding much land containing many buildings and slaves as proven by William Prather's will dated June 26, 1832 and probated September, 1832. He left his wife, Elizabeth Owen,

"all of estate for her natural life or widowhood and if she should marry, she shall receive only one-third. She may sell Negroes at her pleasure." He leaves to his grandchildren, Elen and Benedict Duley, as heirs of his daughter, Nancy Owen Duley, deceased, all of their mother's portion. This will was witnessed by Washington Adamson, William w. Beckwith (one time owner of Horner's Mill), Edward Creyrcraft, and Singleton Prather.

There are evidences of other Prather owned land in Frederick County. One deed describes Basil Prather leasing Layhill in Frederick County. Another has John Prather (William's son), selling William Bradshear of Frederick, 100 acres of a tract of land appropriately named William and John, and a 75-acre tract termed Prather's Adventure in Frederick County. In March 1807, Lyle Beckwith sold William Prather for \$50. a tract of land called Adamson's and Beckwith's Discovery. I have not, as yet, determined what, or where, this was located. One other reference has Benjamin Prather owning a 200 acre tract of land in Frederick County.

¹⁰On January 17, 1814, John Adamson of Montgomery County sells William Prather a tract called Boyd's Delay in Montgomery County for the price of \$642. The Adamsons lived in this area possibly next to the Prather estate. The families intermarried.

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WHERE IS PLAIN DEALING AND THE PRATHER HOME, BRADFORD'S REST?

On the 1865 map of Montgomery County, the branch of Rock Creek which is referred to in the deed of Aaron Prather to his sons, seems to be located where Lake Frank and Lake Needwood are now located. There is reference to a hillside and orchards. The Smith Center staff believes the house above the Prather graveyard is the Prather house. There is evidence of orchards and it is located on a hillside. I believe this is the Prather home, **Bradford's Rest**. Other supporting evidence is the marriages of the Prathers into the Adamson and Higgins families. The Adamsons still live as neighbors to the Smith Center and a Charles Higgins owned a house next to the Prather property (shown on Montgomery County map of 1865).

THE MILL

HORNER'S MILL

At one point in the family history, the Prathers had an influence on the Horner's Mill. We believe the same mill was called Prather's Mill for a short period of time in its history. Following is a record of the past of Homer's Mill.

- 1765 Mr. Dent owned the land on which Horner's Mill is located. Whether the mill was there at that time is not known. It was sold to William Prather Williams who owned the Rockville land at the time when Rockville was referred to as Williamsburg.
- 1786 Eliza and Ed Williams (presumed to be brother and sister of William Williams as it was not left to his son, William Prather Williams) owns the mill. From sometime after 1786 until 1799, the mill is owned by Charles Beckwith.
- 1799 Mill owned by Charles Beckwith.
- 1780-1804 Mill owned by John Lodge. At this time, the mill was referred to as Lodge's Mill.
- 1804 Suit filed over Lodge's Mill due to previous owners holding debts. The suit took 15 years and was decided in the favor of John Lodge.
- 1831 Mr. Landsdale owned the mill from January 1 until December, at which time it went to public auction.
- 1833 The mill is purchased by Benjamin Forrest and left to his wife, Anna Forrest.
- 1846 Anna Forest sells the mill to Singleton Prather. Deeds show that the Prather home, still owned by Singleton's mother, Elizabeth O., is valued at \$3,500. (This also includes the cemetery.) The mill, owned by Singleton, is valued at \$1,500. Sometime after this date, Singleton sells the mill to his son-in-law, Florida's husband, Charles Higgins.
- 1877 Charles Higgins sells the mill to the Homers. With this goes 166 acres of land which is divided into four parts among four Homers.
- 1879 The Rockville Directory which lists names and occupations, registers John W. and Frank B. Homer as farmers.
- 1880 Frank B. is listed as a miller and does not live with John. In the 1880 census, the entire Horner family is living with the mother, presumably at the Homer estate. Frank lives by himself...probably at or near the mill.
- Early 1900's There is a request for a road to be built connecting Horner's Lane to Avery Road. Today this road is Southlawn. (Premise: It could be that the original Horner owners wished to connect the mill to the estate with this road.)

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APPENDICES

Scharf. History of Western Maryland. Volume I

- p. 479. John Smith Prather. Member of House of Delegates for Frederick, 1750.
- p. 480. Thomas Prather, Sheriff, Frederick County, 1763.
- p. 501. Petition for division of St. John's Parish, Prince George's County, north of Great Seneca Run to be made into All Saints Parish, 1742. Thomas Prather et al. In 1758, Thomas Prather again petitioned to divide All Saints to create All Souls Parish.

Early Marriages in Montgomery County.

- Prather, William and Elizabeth Adamson, June 2, 1798.
- Prather, Nelly and Benjamin Craycroft¹¹, December 8, 1708.
- p. 744. Samuel Prather, John Smith Prather, and others petition for erection of new parish out of King George and Prince George's parish in 1757. Denied.
- p. 745. John Prather in 1761 petitioned for Chapel of Ease at Hawlings River.

The will of John Foster was administered by James Prather. The estate of James Prather, Sr. was administered by James Jr. and settled in Allegheny County, February 10, 1829. It shows that four daughters of James Prather, Sr. wed sons of John Foster.

John Foster, born round 1733, Revolutionary War. Methodist minister in Pike County, c.d. Oldtown, Allegheny County, Maryland. The will was administered August 12, 1810. He first married Elizabeth Lewis and then Sarah Cresap, daughter of Colonel Thomas Cresap and widow of Captain Harry Innis (History of the Cresaps).

Fayette County, Kentucky Marriages. D.A.R. Library.

- Prather, Martha Sprigg and Nathaniel Morrison, December 21, 1803.
- Prather, Mary¹² and Stephen Holland Reid, June 14, 1803.
- Bourne, Ambrose¹³ and Polly Johnson, May 10, 1804.
- Prather, Thomas¹³ and Mary Clagett, February 16, 1806.
- Prather, Polly¹³ and Samuel Sullivan, October 20, 1808.

Henry Clay, Jr., son of Henry Clay of Kentucky and Maria Julia Prather, daughter of the late Thomas Prather of Louisville, were married October 10, 1832, by the Reverend G. W. Ashbridge.

.....*National Intelligencer, October 29, 1832*

Calander Black Books I.

- #265 (1733). Prince George's County. Taxables. Collin Hundred
John Smith Prather, constable; John Prather, senator;
John Smith Prather; William Prather; Philip Prather;
Philip Prather; Thomas Prather; John Prather

Reference 11, 113.

- #994 (bf. 31, March, 1760). Vestry and inhabitants of Prince George's Parish, Frederick and Montgomery counties. Petition for erecting a Chapel of Ease on or near Hawlings River. John Prather.

¹¹Witnessed William Prather's will
¹²Baruch's daughter
¹³Wards of Aaron Prather

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Montgomery County, Maryland. Marriages 1796-1850 (by Bowman).

Prather, Baruch and Cassandra Swearinger. December 11, 1799
Prather; Nelly and Benjamin Craycroft. December 8, 1798
Prather, Sarah and Thomas H. Wilcoxon. May 3, 1798
Prather, Henry and Elizabeth Ratliff November 20, 1826
Prather, Jonah K. and Sarah Howard April 1, 1800
Prather, Thomas and Jinny Beall February 22, 1890
Prather, William and Elizabeth Adamson June 2, 1798
Prather, William and Rachel Ann Smith May 3, 1842
Prather, Ann and Benedict Duley June 20, 1816
Prather, Deborah¹⁴ and Wilson Walker October 8, 1801
Prather, Eliza¹⁴ and Benedict Duley October 7, 1821
Prather, Elizabeth and Nicholas Nicholls March 20, 1811
Prather, Emmeline and William Boyd October 17, 1836
Prather, Janetta and Nathan MackKnew February 10, 1806
Prather, Lucy and Sykes Beckwith June 14, 1820
Prather, Mary and Jeremiah Falconer November 29, 1825
Prather, Nancy O. and Isaac King May 9, 1842
Prather, Rachel and Jacob Howard October 8, 1799
Prather, Sarah Ellen¹⁴ and John Ferguson May 16, 1843

Prince George's County, Maryland. Marriages.

Prather, Zachariah and Rosamond Callahane March 2, 1778
Prather, Joseph and Elizabeth Welsh June 1, 1781
Prather, Benjamin and Rachel Walker January 15, 1782

Frederick County, Maryland. Marriages.

Prather, John and Amelia Philips August 6, 1785
Prather, John Garrot and Mary Ann Sergeant February 22, 1791

Prince George's Parish. Montgomery County, MD. Register 1792-1845

Prather, William, aged 60 years. Funeral August 26, 1832
Prather, Elinor Aldridge, born July 20, 1761 (daughter of Samuel & Susannah)
Prather, Basil, born February 1, 1762 (son of Aaron & Mary)
Prather, Baruch and Sarah Higgins married November 16, 1775
(Names and birthdates of their children)

Thomas (September 18, 1778)
Deborah (October 24, 1779)
Martha Sprigg (February 19, 1781)
Ann (September 25, 1792)
John (February 5, 1785; buried May 4, 1792)
Mary (October 27, 1786)
Rebecca (April 28, 1788)
Benjamin H. (January 26, 1790)
Walter (January 22, 1792)

(Walter and Ann Prather's children)

Ann (January 19, 1793)
Verlinda (June 21, 1797)
Walter (May 29, 1799)
Elemelech Swearingen (February 6, 1807)
Luraner Higgins (November 12, 1803)

¹⁴ obelisk

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PRATHER FAMILY CEMETERY
50100 MEADOWSIDE LANE
POCKVILLE

(Walter and Elizabeth's child)
Nancy O. (May 31, 1799)

(Baruch and Cassandra's children)
Sarah (June 15, 1802)
Christian (July 24, 1804)
Washington Swearinger (March 2, 1801)

**Prince George's County Tombstone Records. Toering Castle Chapter, D. A. R.
p. 73. Prather cemetery south of Sunnyside Drive., Beltsville, Maryland**

Mary Prather departed this life, 1869.
Nathan Prather died February 7, 1868.
Charles F. Prather died May 9, 1861.
Sacred to the memory of John Prather who departed
this life, September 20, 1848 in the 17th year of
his life.

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PRATHER FAMILY CEMETERY
50100 MEADOWSIDE LANE
ROCKVILLE

