



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Musser Family Cemetery	Inventory ID: 043
Alternate name: Graff Family Cemetery	
Address: 12811 Clopper Road, Germantown	
Website: http://www.musserfamily.com/	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.157276	Longitude: -77.266007
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2340977	

BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category: ☐ Religious ☐ Community ☒ **Family** ☒ African American ☐ Other:

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: ☐ Rural ☐ Urban ☒ Suburban ☐ Wooded ☐ Other:	
General condition (See conditions sheet): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☒ Poor ☐ None	
Is there a formal entrance? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Accessibility: ☐ Inaccessible ☐ By foot ☒ By car
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Is there a cemetery sign: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Is cemetery being maintained? ☐ Yes ☐ Minimal ☒ No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)	
Are there visible markers? ☒ Yes ☐ No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers: 5
Date ranges: 1823--?	

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

- **Surrounded by a gas station and townhomes with a retaining wall on three sides.**
- **Only field stones are visible.**
- **A new sign on Mateny Rd was placed by descendants. Some names found in the MHT form were omitted.**
- **The original 1988 sign placed by the Germantown Citizens Association with the entire list has been removed.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Seneca Hills Homeowners Association, Inc.		
Management: Tidewater Property, 12200 Tech Road, Suite 325, Silver Spring, MD 20904		
Address:		Phone:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

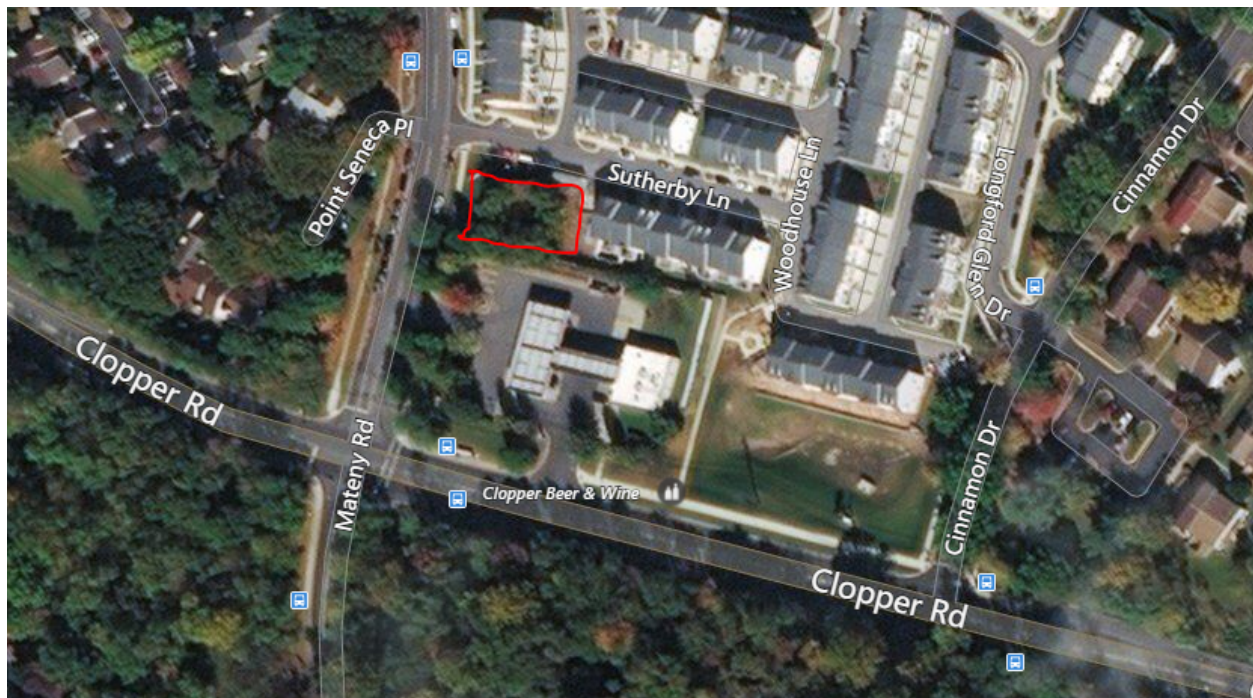
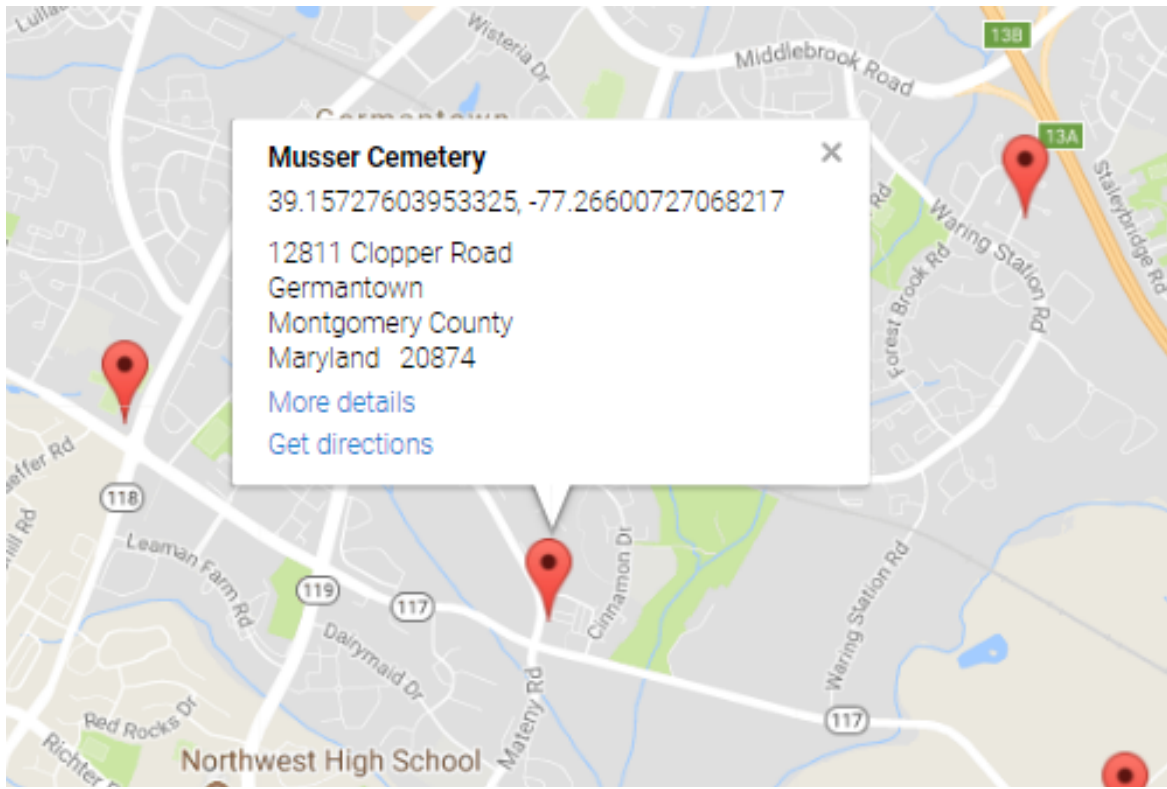
Name: Susan Soderberg	Survey Date: 3/18/2018	Time spent: 30 min
Address:		Phone:
Email:		
Photographer: Susan Soderberg		

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:
• Contact family for maintenance schedule: Barbara Collins barbaraacollins@gmail.com
Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:
• Due to location behind a gas station and overgrown landscaping, high probability of illegal or illicit activities
• Trash and broken glass
Anything of significance about this cemetery?
• Both black and white citizens are buried in this cemetery. Very unique for the time. First in county and state.

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:
• Montgomery Historic Trust document – no longer on file.
• Germantown Historical Society
• Barbara Collins – Family genealogist, website, and point-of-contact



Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory **Photograph Log**

Cemetery Name: Musser Family Cemetery		Inventory ID: 043
Photographer: Susan Soderberg		Date: 3/18/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
	1	Approach to Mateny Rd from Clopper Rd, facing north-east
	2	Cemetery entrance on Mateny Rd, facing north
	3	Cemetery entrance on Mateny Rd, facing east
	4	Approach to the cemetery, facing east
	5	Cemetery sign along Mateny Rd.
	6	Center of cemetery, facing north
	7	Center of cemetery, facing south
	8	Panoramic from west to north to east
	9	Panoramic from east to south to west



1. Approach to Mateny Rd from Clopper Rd, facing north-east



2. Cemetery entrance on Mateny Rd, facing north



3. Cemetery entrance on Mateny Rd, facing east

The Musser Cemetery

This little family plot was once on the farm belonging to William Musser. William Musser came to Germantown from Lancaster County, PA as the leader of a group of migrating Germans in 1832. He was the son of George Musser & Anna Maria Graff. The Musser farm covered most of the area that is occupied by Cinnamon Woods today.

Though the house, barn and log cabin are gone, the cemetery remains to remind us of our brave ancestors who came here to make a better life for us. This cemetery contains the remains of the Musser & Graff families, friends and servants. The rocks that you see are not just rocks; they are their headstones.

Please respect their graves.
www.musserland.com

West

East

North

South

Andrew Graff	John Graff	William Musser d. 1901
George Graff	Wm C. Musser	Robert Jane Musser d. 1912
Sarah Henderson d. 1898	Sarah Anne Musser	
James Henderson	Isaac Reitzley	
	Reuel Butler	
	Frank Lang	
W. Douglas Crockett		
J. Graham Graff		
John Graff	Orville Henderson	
Leiford Graff		
R. H. Graft Tress	Johnny Ditzel	
John C. Crockett	Carlton Daughler	
J. Edmund	May Daughler	
Richard		

MONTGOMERY PRESERVATION INC
P.O. Box 4661 | Rockville, Maryland 20849-4661 | www.montgomerypreservation.org



6. Center of cemetery, facing north



7. Center of cemetery, facing south



8. Panoramic from west to north to east



9. Panoramic from east to south to west

North. Plat of Grave-yard.

11

West.

Andrew Graff.	Jane Graff.
George Graff.	Maria C. Musser.
Sarah Henderson DIED AUG 23, 1836	Sarah Anne Musser DIED NOV 9, 1836
James Henderson	Susan Beckley
E. Comfort Cromwell	Sarah Butler, widow
Eugenia Graff	Frank Larvy
Sally Graff	
L. Gustavus Graff	S. Honner Pons child
S. M. Graff Twin	
	Vassar child
John Closser	Godshall Douglass
Miss Redmond	Mary Douglass
Miss Redmond	
	Isaac Cox.

DIED 1836
DIED 1836
DIED 1836

Susan Jane
Musser
DIED NOV 9, 1836

Graveyard extended

South.
New Fence 1870.

Musser Barn and Cemetery (Alfred W. Spates)

Location: 12811 Clopper Road, Germantown. The farm is between Old Mateney Road and New Mateney Road, on the east side of Clopper Road. The barn is within 25' of Mateney Road, on a rise about 400' from Clopper Road. The cemetery adjoins Mateney Road 100' from Clopper.

The barn is comparatively small, about 25' x 30'. The foundation, of fieldstone, is much larger in area than the present structure, indicating that this is probably not the original barn. There are hand-hewn rock oak logs in the bottom. Alfred W. Spates, the owner, estimates the raising of the present barn at not long after the Civil War. A stone block with the inscription "William Musser 1857" existed until a few years ago but was erroneously broken up. Possibly this date was the construction of the first barn. The condition of the present structure is fair. It is still in use to house livestock.

The cemetery is part of a pasture and is somewhat overgrown. Most of the markers are raw fieldstones without visible inscription. The attached sheet is a plan of the graveyard. The condition of the site is poor but the animals serve to keep vegetation in check.

Also on the property is a large well, 8' in diameter by 52' deep. It has no curbing. The level of water in this well remains at a constant 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' depth.

There was formerly a springhouse supplied from the overflow from a hydraulic ram, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the house, and another spring on the property. In the field west of the house there was at one time a cabin near the site of which Mr. Spates found a glass oval piece used to start fires.

The original owner, William Musser, came to this area from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, as the leader of a group of migrating Germans. In 1832 he and William Cromwell purchased ten acres with buildings from John Gassaway; in 1836 he acquired 177 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres from William Cromwell in addition to Cromwell's claim to the Gassaway land. William Musser's occupancy of this property is noted on the 1865 Martenet and Bond and the 1878 G.M. Hopkins maps of Montgomery County. He had one son, Henry, who died in the 1890's, leaving two daughters and a very young son, Henry Marcellus ("Porter") Musser. The farm was occupied for some years by William Musser's daughters, at least one of whom was a local schoolteacher. Henry Marcellus Musser, brought up after his father's death by the George Nicholls family on Hoyle's Mill Road, inherited the house until the early 1930's. The original farmhouse burned in July 1935. In the same year Alfred W. Spates acquired the property at auction. He still retains five acres on which the buildings and cemetery stand, and plans to move the barn and preserve the cemetery.

Sources: Madeline Nicholls 869-1690
Alfred W. Spates 349-2241
Dorsey Waters 972-1132
Madeline Waters 972-1132

Researcher: Geraldine Berkman
5813 Lone Oak Dr.
Bethesda, MD 20014

Musser Barn and Cemetery (Alfred W. Spates)

PLOT OF OLD GRAVEYARD AT MUSSER FARM

North

Andrew Graff
d June 13, 1827

Jane Graff

George Graff
d. Dec. 10, 1823

Maria C. Musser
Wn. Musser

Sarah Henderson

Sa(h)ah Ann Musser

Susan Jane Musser
died May 9, 18

James Henderson

Susan Beckley

Comfort Cromwell

Sarah Beckley
colored

Eugenie Graff

G. Henderson's
Child

L. Gustavus Graff

Gassaway
child

G.M. Graff
Twins

John C. Clopper

Redmond

Godschall Douglas
May Douglas

Isaac Cox

MUSSER CEMETERY

Clopper Road, Germantown, Montgomery Co., MD

There are no tombstones, just rocks that mark the graves. The cemetery is surrounded by trees and bushes and is kept up pretty nice although it appears to be a place where kids must gather to sit, drink and vandalize (especially the historical marker). There must be a lot of upkeep just to keep up with trash, etc. left by whomever - it was pretty clean today. This is located right in the corner of the parking lot in front of the Weis grocery store in Cinnamon Woods on Clopper Road. There is now a brand new 7-11 which is on the other side. Not many people even realize this is a cemetery
... Donna Guiffre | 17 Nov 2001

Musser Cemetery Historical Marker

This little family plot was once on the farm belonging to William Musser. It contains the remains of some of the Musser family and servants, and also of an earlier family named Graff.

Only one tombstone is legible, that of Isaac Cox. The others are mainly marked by raw fieldstones with no visible inscriptions. In the early days of Germantown, when it was just a little farming village, fieldstones were commonly used for marking graves. Gravestones were very expensive and, since there were no craftsmen of tombstones in the area, gravestones had to be bought in Georgetown and brought up by wagon.

William Musser came to Germantown from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, as the leader of a group of migrating Germans in 1832. William had one son, Henry. Henry married, inherited the farm, and had one son, Henry Marcellus ("Porter") Musser, and two daughters. Henry's wife died young and Henry himself died in 1890 when his son was quite son. Henry Marcellus was brought up by the George Nicholls family who lived on Hoyles Mill Road. Henry Musser's daughters stayed on the farm and one was a local school teacher. When Henry Marcellus grew up he returned to live on his father's farm with his sisters until the early 1930's.

The Musser farm covered most of the area that "Cinnamon Woods" occupies today. Though now the original house, which burned in 1935, and barn, and even the log cabin are gone, the cemetery remains to remind us of a people who lived here before. Those buried here were a brave and hardy stock breaking new ground and starting a new life here in Germantown.

Photo #1	Photo #2	Photo #3	Photo #4
GRAFF, Andrew Died June 13, 1827	GRAFF, George Died Dec 10, 1823	HENDERSON, Sarah	HENDERSON, James
CROMWELL, Comfort	GRAFF, Eugenie	GRAFF, L. Gustavus	GRAFF, G.M. Twins
CLOPPER, John C.	REDMUND	GRAFF, Jane	MUSSER, Maria C.
MUSSER, William Born 1808	MUSSER, Sarah Ann Born 1814	MUSSER, Susan Jane	BECKLEY, Susan
BECKLEY, Sarah	G. HENDERSON's Child	GASSAWAY Child	DOUGLAS, Godschall

DOUGLAS, MAY

COX, ISSAC

Made available to The USGENWEB Archives by: Donna Guiffre (guiffre@gmail.com)

For inquiries about this or any MD cemeteries/burials or to submit a transcription to this Project
contact the MD Tombstone Transcription Project Manager: Kathi Jones-Hudson
mdcemmy@yahoo.com

[Photo Project](#)[Tombstone Page](#)[Registry](#)[Top of Page](#)

This page was last updated January 30, 2005
Copyright © 1997-2005 USGenWeb Tombstone Project and Kathi Jones-Hudson

USGENWEB NOTICE: All documents placed in the USGenWeb Archives remain the property of the contributors, who retain publication rights in accordance with US Copyright Laws and Regulations.

In keeping with our policy of providing free information on the Internet, these documents may be used by anyone for their personal research. They may be used by non-commercial entities, when written permission is obtained from the contributor, so long as all notices and submitter information are included. These electronic pages may NOT be reproduced in any format for profit.

Any other use, including copying files to other sites, requires permission from the contributors PRIOR to uploading to the other sites. The submitter has given permission to the USGenWeb Archives to store the file permanently for free access.

Subject: Re: Musser burial ground
From: Susan Cooke Soderberg <soderberg@md.net>
Date: 4/29/2014 11:02 AM
To: Webmaster <webmaster@musserfamily.com>

Thank you for the clean-up. My information for the sign came from a Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) form probably dating from the 1970s. I have attached the form and also a newspaper article I wrote in 1986. As you can see, the Isaac Cox tombstone was there at that time.

We would be happy to do oral histories. We do audio only, with still photos, and transcribe as we get volunteers to do it. Just contact me to set up a place and time.

Susan

Susan Cooke Soderberg
19313 Liberty Mill Rd.
Germantown, MD 20874
h) 301-972-0795
c) 301-814-5048

On 4/27/2014 5:52 PM, Webmaster wrote:

Hi Susan,

Yes we had a "family graveyard" cleanup day and put up the new sign. We hauled away a tremendous amount of trash, and one the family member's business took down a dead tree. The old sign was vandalized and the developer had it and was trying to decide how to fix it. We told them not to worry about the old sign because it contained errors.

I am glad I heard from you because we had tried to find out who put up the original sign and where you got the information.

Yes, the developer does want to preserve the ground, and has plans for more fences and a bench and landscaping. My contact at Beazer was Timothy Hartman <timothy.hartman@beazer.com>. He might be able to tell you what the plans are for the 6' retaining wall.

You probably already have this, but here is the plans for the development;
http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2012/documents/20120716_GermanTownPark.pdf

Do you have anyone that takes oral histories? I think that would be a good idea as there are only 3 children of Henry Marchellus Musser left.

Barb

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Cooke Soderberg [mailto:soderberg@md.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 27, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Musser Family
Cc: Elaine Huey; Kathie Hulley; Karen Mason; Claudette Gerety
Subject: Musser burial ground

Hello,

I am the president of the Germantown Historical Society (GHS), and also the

person responsible for the original sign in the Musser family burial ground at the corner of Clopper Rd. & Mateny Rd. (as president of the Germantown Citizens Association). The Germantown Historical Society is partly responsible for the current preservation of the burial ground with the present development, by being in contact with the developer and making sure that the burial ground would be preserved and the upkeep placed under the homeowners association.

I visited the burial ground this morning to check on it, as we do periodically, and saw that your group has put up a new sign. This pleased me immensely as the old sign needed to be replaced. It looks as if the development is preserving the burial ground, but the earth definitely needs to be shored up on two sides where there is a 6' sheer embankment. Do you know if the developer is going to put a stone wall there, or a gentle grassy slope?

The GHS (www.germantownmdhistory.org) would like to be a part of your group and participate in whatever way our organization could be of value to your organization. We keep an archives of family records of Germantown families, photographs, and memorabilia. Please let us know how we can be of mutual assistance.

Susan

--

Susan Cooke Soderberg
19313 Liberty Mill Rd.
Germantown, MD 20874
h) 301-972-0795
c) 301-814-5048

Attachments:

Musser Cemetery2.PDF	129 KB
Musser Cemetery article 1986.PDF	228 KB