



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

## BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: <b>Awkard Family Cemetery [LOST]</b>	Inventory ID: <b>062</b>
Alternate name:	
Address: <b>Vicinity of west side of Beallsville Road, Big Woods Community</b>	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: <b>39.205066</b>	Longitude: <b>-77.395919</b>
FindaGrave: <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2478836">https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2478836</a>	

## BURIAL SITE TYPE

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

## BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rural</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Wooded</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
General condition (See conditions sheet): <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b>		
Is there a formal entrance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Accessibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>By foot</b> <input type="checkbox"/> By car	
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	Is there a cemetery sign: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	
Is cemetery being maintained? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> (If yes, note caretaker's name below)		
Are there visible markers? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers: <b>5</b>	Date ranges: <b>1880-1883</b>

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

- **Impenetrable bamboo has overtaken the area.**
- **Grave markers were found in 1978, but access to them now is impossible.**

## BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name:		
Relationship to burial site:	Advocacy contact: <b>Melissa Shumaker</b> _____	
Address:	Phone:	
City:	State:	ZIP Code:

## BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: <b>Glenn Wallace</b>	Survey Date: <b>10/6/2018</b>	Time spent: <b>5 min</b>
Address:		Phone:
Email: <a href="mailto:mococems@gmail.com">mococems@gmail.com</a>		
Photographer: <b>Glenn Wallace</b>		

## COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

- **Melissa Shumaker and her daughter, Katelyn Steingrebe, live behind this property and maintain the Mt. Zion Cemetery. They will try to take down the bamboo.**
- **Contact the National Zoo to harvest the bamboo for their pandas.**

Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:

- **Snakes**

Anything of significance about this cemetery?

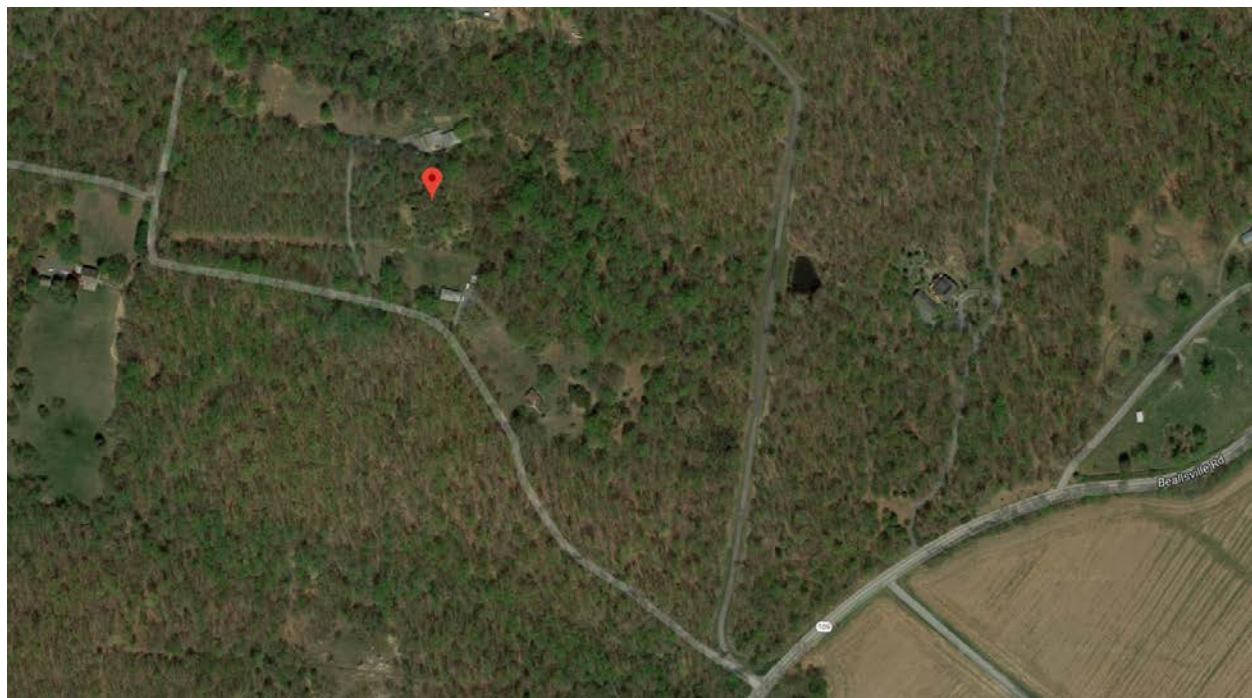
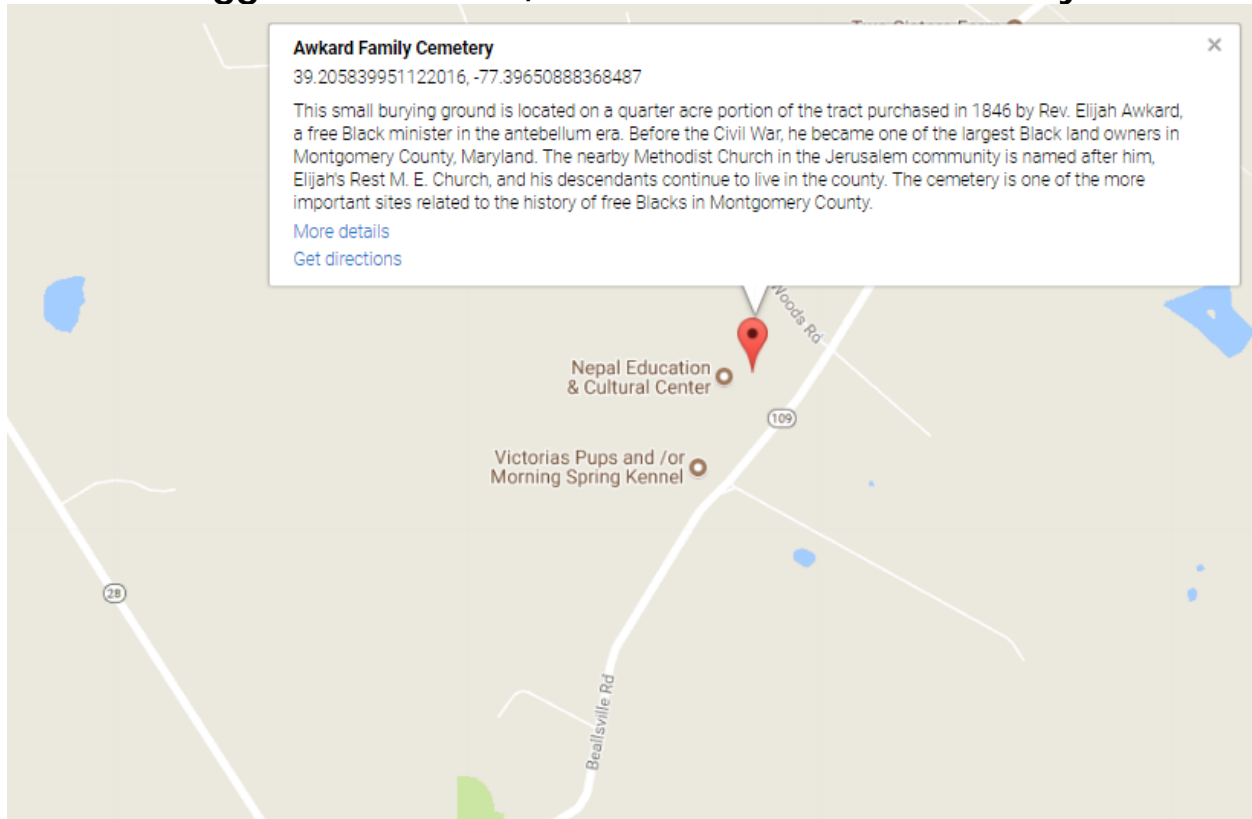
- **The cemetery is one of the more important sites related to the history of free Blacks in Montgomery County**

## SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

- <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M:%2012-42-1.pdf>

**This is a suggested location, but no trace of the cemetery exists.**



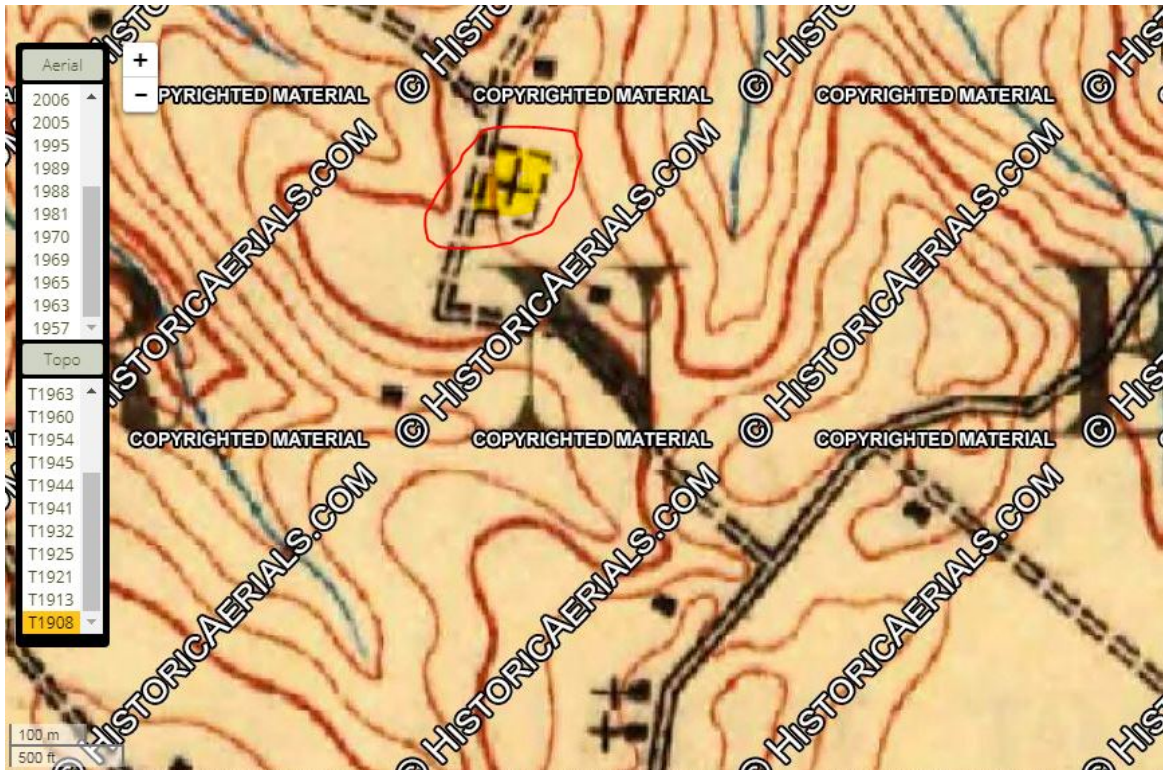
## History

This small burying ground is located on a quarter-acre portion of the tract purchased in 1846 by Rev. Elijah Awkard, a free Black minister in the antebellum era. Before the Civil War he became one of the largest black landowners in Montgomery County. The nearby Methodist church in the Jerusalem community is named after him, and his descendants continue to live in the county. The cemetery is no longer maintained and is one of the more important sites related to the history of free Blacks in Montgomery County.



1865 ATLAS



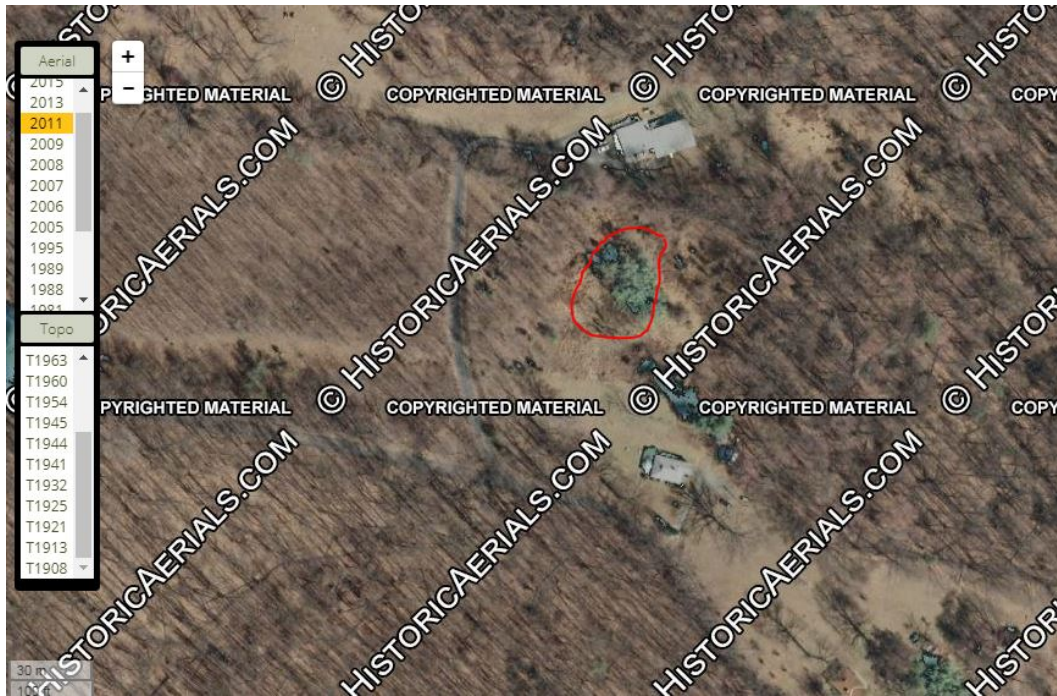


1908 Map



1957 aerial





2011 aerial



2018 aerial



**Grave markers found by George McDaniel in 1978.**



## Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Awkard Family Cemetery		Inventory ID: 062
Photographer: Glenn Wallace		Date: 10/6/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing
9:45 am	1	Edge of bamboo field.



**1. Edge of bamboo field.**