

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 79

Name: Elijah United Methodist Church Cemetery

Alternate name:

Address: Elgin Rd. 18401

Town: Poolesville

ADC Map Page 16 Grid B/C-7

Type

Religious Family Private Other

Association

Free black Enslaved Ethnic Prehistoric

Setting Rural Urban Suburban Forested Other

Condition Excellent Good Fair Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc)

Approximate no. of burials 105 known Date range of burials 1871 - 2004

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

lots of open space - probably a lot of unmarked graves
3 sides - wood picket fence. very deep lot. depressions w/ no markers.
Trees throughout - Well-kept.
Some markers handmade, some funeral home markers

Surveyor(s) Brackett + Manual Survey date 10-9-04
Photographer Brackett Date 10-9-04 Photo no.

Current owner
Address/Phone No.

Historic Status Locational Atlas ID National Register
Master Plan ID Other

UTM

Additional sources of information: Congregation began in 1871. First

Church built by John Adams of Poolesville. Present Church built after 1950. Oldest marker embedded in trees immediately behind church + to left

79 ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY 18401 ELGIN RD. POOLESVILLE

Handwritten scribbles and numbers in the bottom left corner.

ELIJAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY AT POOLSVILLE (ELIJAH REST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH)

Directions: Route 28 West, left on 109, church and cemetery on right. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 19, grid coordinates K-1.] Condition of cemetery: Well kept. Active cemetery. Earliest known death: 1881. Most recent death: Present. Veterans interred: WWII and other wars vets. In 1936, 1 volume records, 1909-?. Date transcribed: 1982. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Comments: Over 150 marked graves, African-American congregation, first church built 1871, present church built after 1950.

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ADC Map Page 16 Grid B/C-7

Type

Religious \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family \_\_\_\_\_  
 Private \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Association

Free black \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enslaved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prehistoric \_\_\_\_\_

Setting  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Forested  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate no. of burials 105 known Date range of burials 1871 - 2004

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

lots of open space - probably a lot of unmarked graves  
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Historic Status  Locational Atlas ID \_\_\_\_\_  National Register  
 Master Plan ID \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

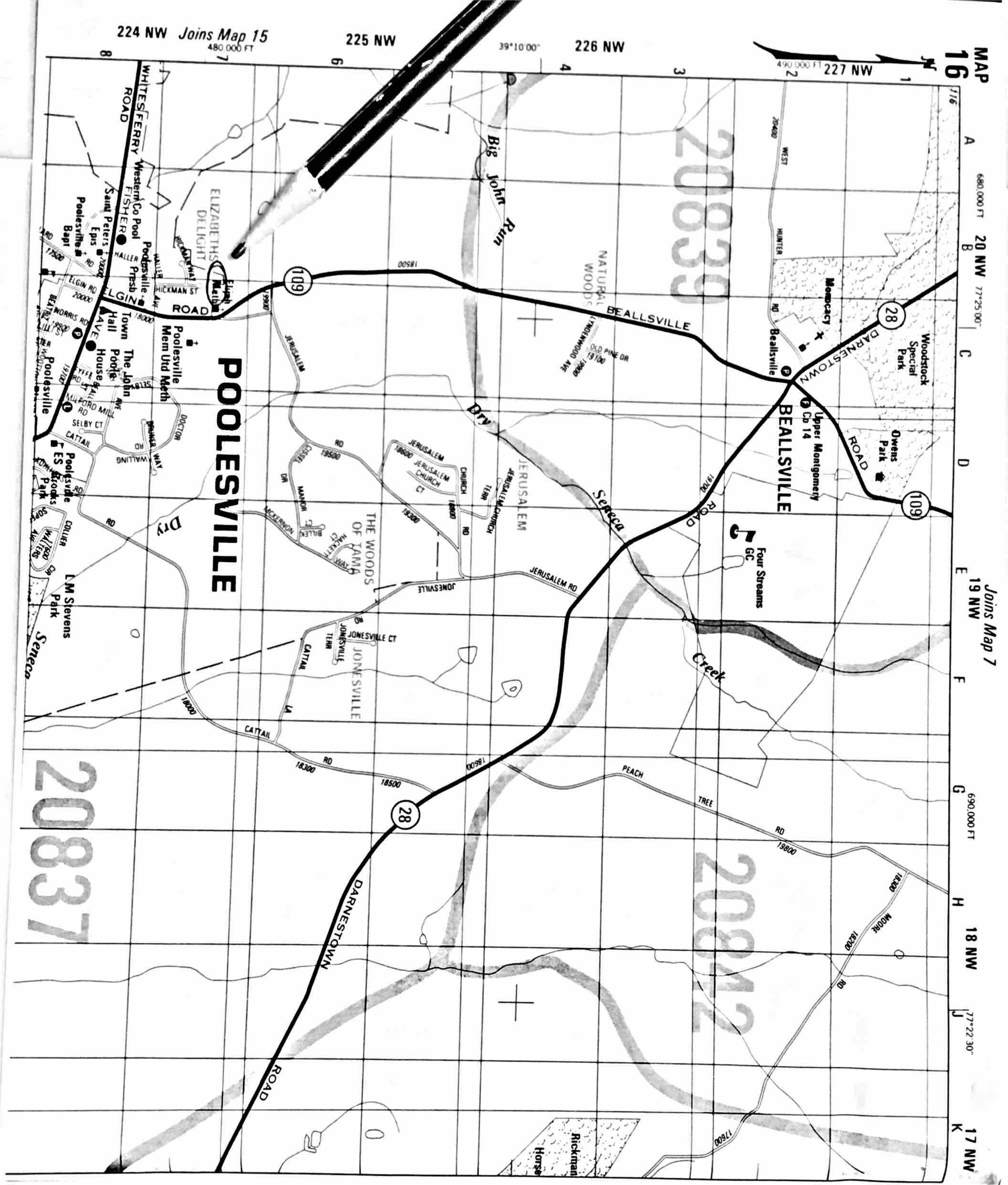
UTM \_\_\_\_\_

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79  
ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
18401 ELGIN RD.  
POOLESVILLE

4/8/03



79  
 ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
 18401 ELGIN RD.  
 POOLESVILLE

20837

20842

20839

MAP 16  
 690,000 FT  
 20 NW 77°25'00"  
 19 NW  
 18 NW  
 17 NW  
 77°22'30"

224 NW Joins Map 15  
 480,000 FT

225 NW

39°10'00"

226 NW

490,000 FT  
 227 NW

POOLESVILLE

BEALLSVILLE

THE WOODS OF TAMM

Creek

Seneca

Dry

Big John Run

PEACH TREE

MOORE

Rickman Horse

Four Streams GC

Owens Park

Woodstock Special Park

Upper Montgomery Cp 14

Beallsville

Beallsville

Beallsville

Beallsville

Beallsville

Beallsville

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p19 K1

ELIJAH METH.  
POOLESVILLE

MARYLAND CEMETERY DIRECTORY HEADINGS

County: *Montgomery*

Type of Cemetery:

Name of Cemetery: *Elijah United Methodist*

Location of Cemetery: *Elgin Rd., <sup>(Route 109)</sup> ~~at intersection of~~ Poolesville, Md.*

Contact:

Condition/Description of Cemetery:

Number of Graves: *marked - 105*

Oldest Grave Marker:

Span of Usage:

Inscriptions Transcribed: *Yes*

Date Transcribed: *Aug 1982*

Transcribed Records Located:

Transcribed Records Published:

Comments: *Colored*

*began 1871 - 1st church built on land given  
by John Adams of Poolesville.  
Present church built after 1950.*

79

ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
18401 ELGIN RD.  
POOLESVILLE



**Elijah United Methodist Church**  
 18401 Beallsville Road  
 P.O. Box 101  
 Poolesville, MD. 20837

*mail to*



**Historic Medley District, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 232  
 Poolesville, Md. 20837

Dear *Gileen,*

June 1, 1995

A housing development has invaded the privacy of a historic country churchyard. Please help!

The cemetery, on the grounds of the Elijah United Methodist Church in Poolesville has been surrounded since 1870 by farm field fences that screened it and defined its boundaries.

After NV Homes built houses on the adjoining property, they tore down the fences along two sides of the cemetery. Gravestones now appear to be in the backyards of the houses of "Elizabeth's Delight".

- ◆ An 1886 headstone is 24 feet from the rear deck of a new house.
- ◆ An unmarked gravestone is 12 feet from the tool shed of the house next door.
- ◆ A Vietnam veteran's headstone is 22 feet from the shed.

A four foot high traditional iron fence would establish a boundary and provide screening. Elijah Church and Historic Medley District are working together to raise the \$8,850 the fence will cost.

Will you be a good neighbor and make a contribution in any amount to help Elijah Church install a fence that will restore the dignity and privacy of a historic churchyard?

Please make your check payable to the Elijah Cemetery Fence Fund and mail it in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for being a generous and concerned neighbor.

Sincerely,

*Irene Pierce*  
 Irene Pierce, Pastor  
 Elijah United Methodist Church

*Mary Ann Kephart*  
 Mary Ann Kephart  
 Historic Medley District, Inc.

*Good to talk to you - thanks for your encouragement - we were flying for a while but now are at a steady walk!*

79  
 ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
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 POOLESVILLE

We were down to the Poolsville Presbyterian Church one time with one pastor. They stayed closed for thirty-five years and then they opened up and the pastor preached for us Homecoming Day in 1971. Rev. Custis, and he was invited down and we went down and I was singing in the choir then. I was so surprised when I went into the church and I seen how small it was. It was cute.

I believe you have to come every Sunday. Well, maybe not every Sunday, but most of the time. Course, maybe I'm spoiled cause we had to go every Sunday. I mean when I got 16 and was able to go to a dance and I could stay late, but I had to go to Sunday School at 9:00 and I was 16! I had to get up out of that bed and go to Sunday School. I think my grandparents raised me the right way. I thought they were mean, but I am so glad when I look back now, I am so glad they did that. I mean that they were strict.

Well, by me staying in the church, I think helped a whole lot and I know praying, prayer will change things. I know that because I have prayed. Cause I mean I raised four children by myself, my husband and I separated. We were married 12 years. My youngest child was six years old and it had to be prayer that did bring me out of it. I really prayed and I got them all through high school and my oldest daughter went into the service after she married and she just retired from the service last year. She's been all around overseas. She was in the army. My next child, she graduated from high school and got one year of college.

Prayer has been important in their lives too, and the church. Keep pushing on and not to give up. Well really we just go to the altar every Sunday morning and pray.

Our church has Joys and Concerns. We have that before service. Everybody gets up and says what we have joyful in our life. Ask people to pray for them. Before the minister speaks. When somebody's sick in the family, we help the family. The church has helped my family.

I would like my children and grandchildren to remember the part that I played in the church. I'd like for them to remember.

## HISTORY OF THE ELIJAH CHURCH CEMETERY

The Land Records of Montgomery County give the first clues to the founding of the Elijah Church Cemetery. In 1868 five trustees purchased an acre of land "for the purpose of building a School House." In 1870 a deed to some adjoining property states:

*"Mary H. Fisher agrees to keep 30 acres of the same by making a line about the Negro School House, across the field, near the graveyard, and then entering the woods . . ."*

confirming that the cemetery had been established on the schoolhouse land by 1870. No gravestones remain today with that date, but there is one, dated 1871, honoring Christiana Davis. Five others are dated in the 19th century. Between 1900 and 1920 there are twelve more dated headstones.

The earliest graves were situated just to the west of the church, so close, in fact, that in building the present church some of the lot markers had to be moved. A gentle downward slope to the west contains the next oldest graves and the upward slope opposite, the next. A few early graves are situated along the west boundary of the church property.



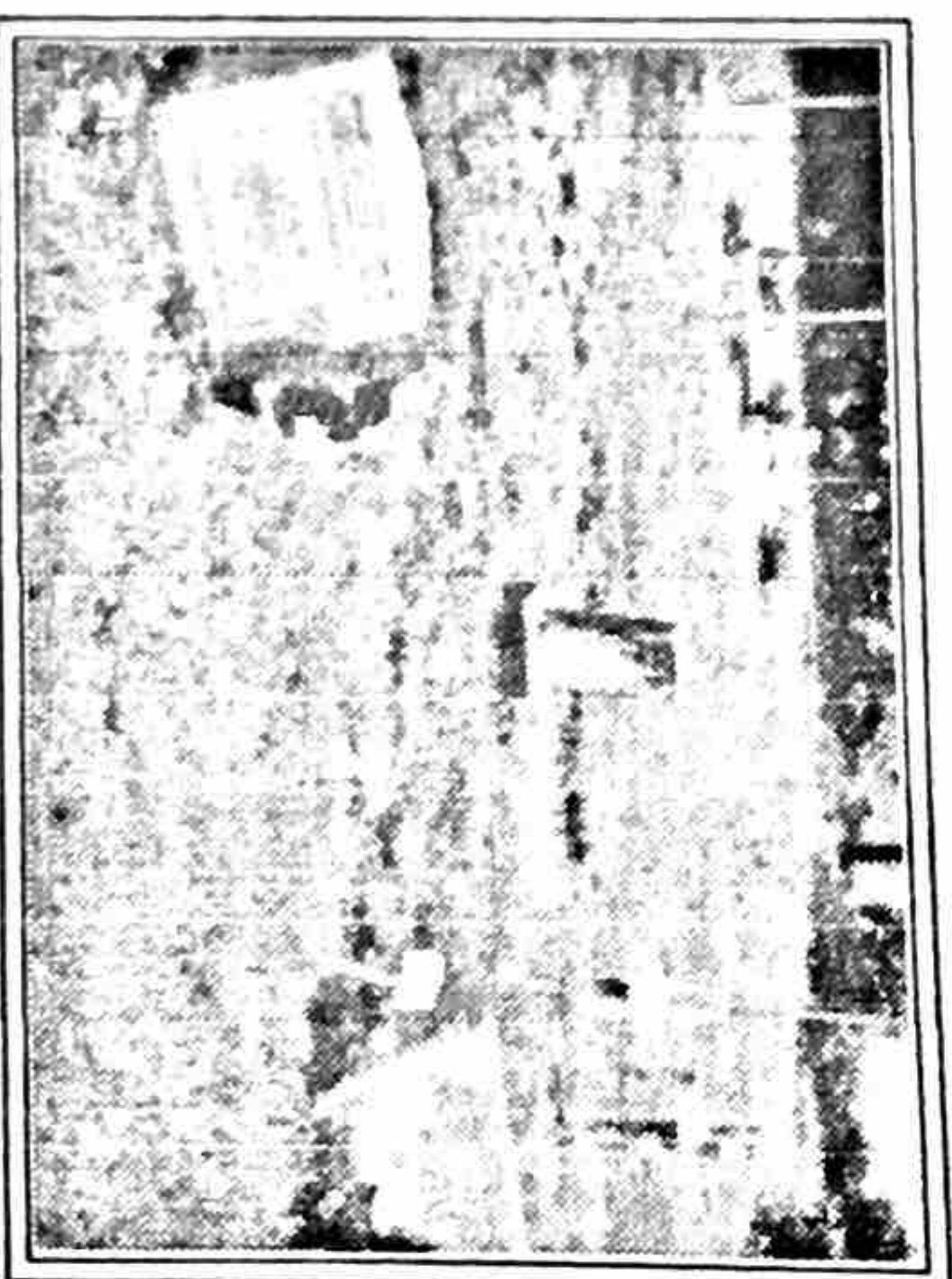
View of cemetery

From 1868 or 1870 to the 1920s there was a church building on the eastern end of the property and a large two-story frame building, Love and Charity Hall, on the western half of the property. Between the two buildings the graveyard was established. After the Hall was demolished, more land became available for burials. In 1923, when a third of an acre was given (for \$10) by the Davis family, there was space for a driveway to serve the church and cemetery, as well as land for more graves.

79  
ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
18401 ELGIN RD.  
POOLSVILLE



Davis, Lawrence Preston	d. 1956	Foreman, Howard L., II	d. 1983
Diggs, Charles Perry	d. 1952	Genus, Elizabeth Lucinda	1887-1984
Diggs, Laura	d. 1949	Genus, James Horace	1880-1963
Diggs, William R.	d. 1955	Gough, Ruth	d. 1957
Dorsey, Elvira	d. 1987	Graham, Joseph	1913-1981
Dorsey, Martha L.	1893-1980	Graham, Paul C.	1942-1978
Doswell, Kathleen	d. 1982	Gross, George Theodore	1948-1974
Driver, Golden C.	d. 1980	Hackney, William	d. 1948
Duffin, Fannie		Hall, Bertha E.	d. 1986
Duffin, James T.		Hall, Elizabeth	1917-1976
Duffin, Joshua		Hallman, John H.	1865-1955
Duffin, Mahalia		Hallman, John Henry	d. 1953
Dyson, Bertha	d. 1967	Hallman, Nannie J.	d. 1972
Dyson, Florence E.	d. 1960	Hallman, Roger M.	1891-1959
Edluma, Plummer		Hallman, William P.	d. 1968
Foreman, Mabel E.	1918-1994	Hamilton, Edward	d. 1959



Hamilton, Horrace	1879-1954	Harper, Martha	1897-1925
Hamilton, Horrace		Harper, Mary G.	d. 1973
Hamilton, Louis G.	d. 1952	Harper, Ralph M.	d. 1974
Hamilton, Mary Lee	1943-1985	Harper, Richard V.	1884-1943
Hamu, H.	d. 1951	Harris, Sally	
Harper, Alice		Harris, Gertrude G.	1901-1972
Harper, Chester		Hebron, Lewis H.	d. 1973
Harper, Columbus G.	1846-1924	Hebron, Rufus P.	1922-1958
Harper, Cora B.	886-1987	Hebron, Sylvester	d. 1968
Harper, James E.	1952-1994	Honemond, Cecil W.	1934-1976
		Hurt, Edith	d. 1938

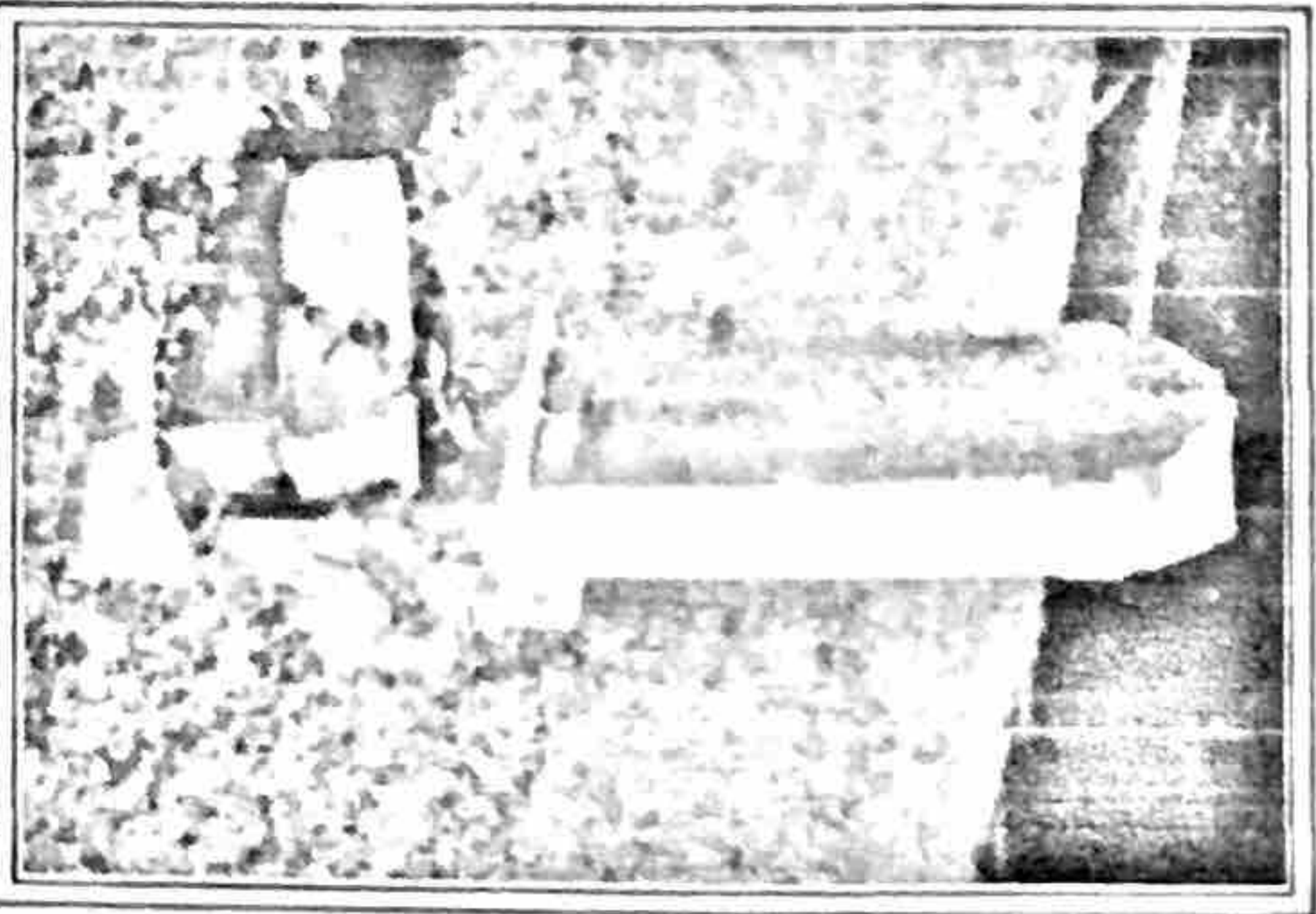


Harper, Joseph	d. 1962	Imes, John Wesley	d. 1958
Harper, Laresse	d. 1964	Ivory, Lawrence	d. 1979
Harper, Lee G.	1879-1948	Jackson, Beatrice Q.	1896-1987
Harper, Lucille	d. 1979	Jackson, Dora E.	1901-1918

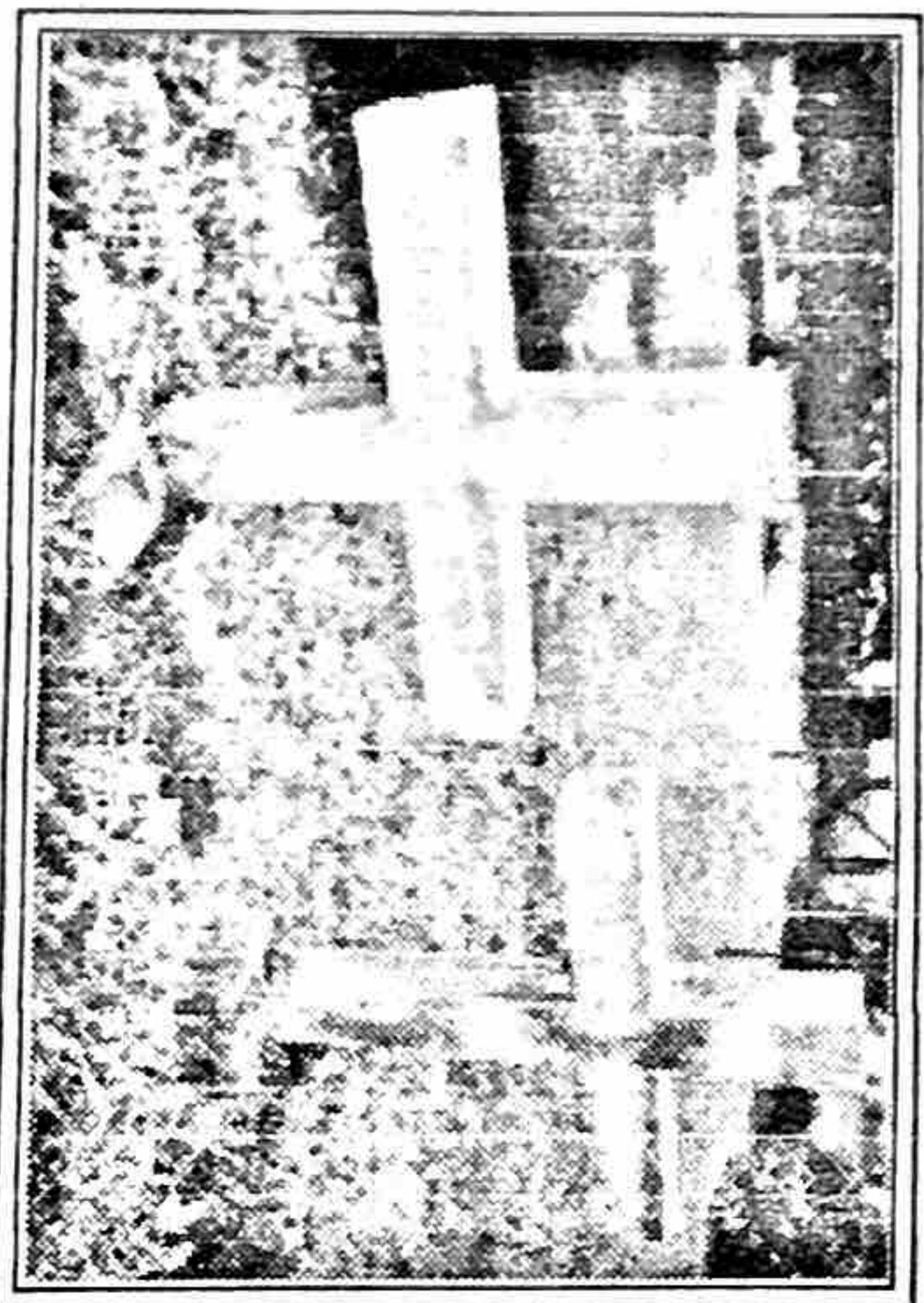
ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
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79

Jackson, Ellis L.	1910-1986	Lowry, Sarah	d. 1969
Jackson, Erin H.	1986-1986	Lyles, Charles E.	1913-1925
Jackson, Havana B.	1907-1982	Lyles, Clarence W.	1921-1942
Jackson, Herman W.	1901-1983	Lyles, Florin E.	1893-1954
Jackson, Ida Mae	1907-1981	Lyles, George Thomas	1865-1935
Jackson, Martha A.	d. 1952	Lyles, George W.	1918-1980
Jackson, Mary V.	1908-1977	Lyles, Howard B., Sr.	d. 1978
Jackson, Roosevelt T.	1906-1974	Lyles, John W.	1915-1994
Jackson, Vilda Ellen	d. 1952	Lyles, Julius M., Sr.	d. 1988
Johnson, A.		Lyles, Marjorie	1870-1938
Johnson, Clarence		Lyles, Mary F.	1894-1988
Johnson, Darlington L.	1937-1989	Lyles, Ora Stetson	d. 1986
Johnson, George T.	d. 1965	Lyles, Rosanna B.	d. 1958
Johnson, Margaret G.	1890-1944	Marbury, Matilda	d. 1935
Johnson, Martha M.	1902-1987	McPherson, Josephine	d. 1957
Johnson, Robert Clarence	d. 1952	Miles, Mary C.	d. 1964
Johnson, William	d. 1953	Nolan, Lula	d. 1951
Jones, Caroline	1836-1901	Nolan, Verreda E.	d. 1976
Jones, Christy D.	d. 1938	Onley, Thelma E.	d. 1967
Jones, Eugene Elmer	1888-1969	Owens, Clarence	d. 1959
Jones, George W.	d. 1954	Owens, Lula	d. 1975
Jones, Hannah E.	1902-1984	Owens, Sarah E.	d. 1966
Jones, H.		Owens, Solomon	d. 1977
Jones, Worthington C.	1920-1994	Payne, Garnett	1894-1914
Lee, Baby Boy	d. 1976	Payne, George Lewis	1876-1925
Lou __, VA		Payne, Julia Anna	



Payne, Martha E.	1903-1989	Savage, _____	1979-1994
Payne, Virgie M.	1894-1954	Scott, Aaron J.	1898-1989
Payne, Wilhemina O.	1904-1936	Sims, John I.	d. 1955
Plummer, Edna S.	d. 1969	Sims, Marion Hall	d. 1990
Plummer, George	d. 1965	Smith, Virginia E.	d. 1977
Plummer, George G.	1865-1908	Snow, Baby Girl	d. 1962
Plummer, Mary V.	1838-1921	Summerville, Morris	d. 1972
Plummer, Perry T.	1838-1900	Summerville, Raymond	d. 1973
Prater, Nelson L.	1830-1902	Summerville, Walter E.	d. 1947
Prather, Anna E.	1934-1992	Thomas, Lottie	1994-1994
Prather, George	1921-1990	Thompson, Elijah J.	d. 1969
Prather, Richard	d. 1966	Twyman, Grace L.	
Richardson, Maggie	d. 1962	Twyman, Lucille	
Robinson, Charles E., Jr.	1912-1939	Walker, Henry Canfield	1882-1958
Robinson, Charles E., Sr.	1884-1961	Williams, Hesta B.	1891-1941
Robinson, Emma G.	d. 1980	Williams, John H.	1890-1961
Robinson, Hilda D.	1924-1975	Wims, Claggett	d. 1956
Robinson, Laura I.	1887-1957	Wims, Dorothy E.	1909-1991
Robinson, Louretta S.	d. 1958	Wims, Eleanor E.	d. 1983
Robinson, Sallie E.	1882-1970	Wims, George William	1930-1975
Robinson, William A.	d. 1959	Wright, Anna Mae	1923-1983
Robinson, William H.	1845-1915	Young, Annie M. McPhersan	1876-1944
Root, Arthur L.	d. 1963	Young, Zane Harris	1933-1950
Ross, Daisy E.	1872-1950		



ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
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## SURVEY

In the spring of 1995 Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD) supervised the members of the History Club of Poolesville Middle Senior High School in making a survey of the Elijah Church Cemetery. During their first two visits to the cemetery, they numbered every marker including head stones, foot stones, family plot markers, stones with no inscriptions, bricks used to mark some plot boundaries, and metal plate markers. Then, with surveyor's tape and framing nails to hold the tape to the ground, they measured off 30-foot squares. They then made a record of the numbers included in each square. On their third and fourth workdays they copied off inscriptions and described the markers on a pre-printed form.

Today there are many beautiful marker stones in place, but there are also some stones which need repair or re-installation. Members of the church keep the grounds in excellent condition, enhancing

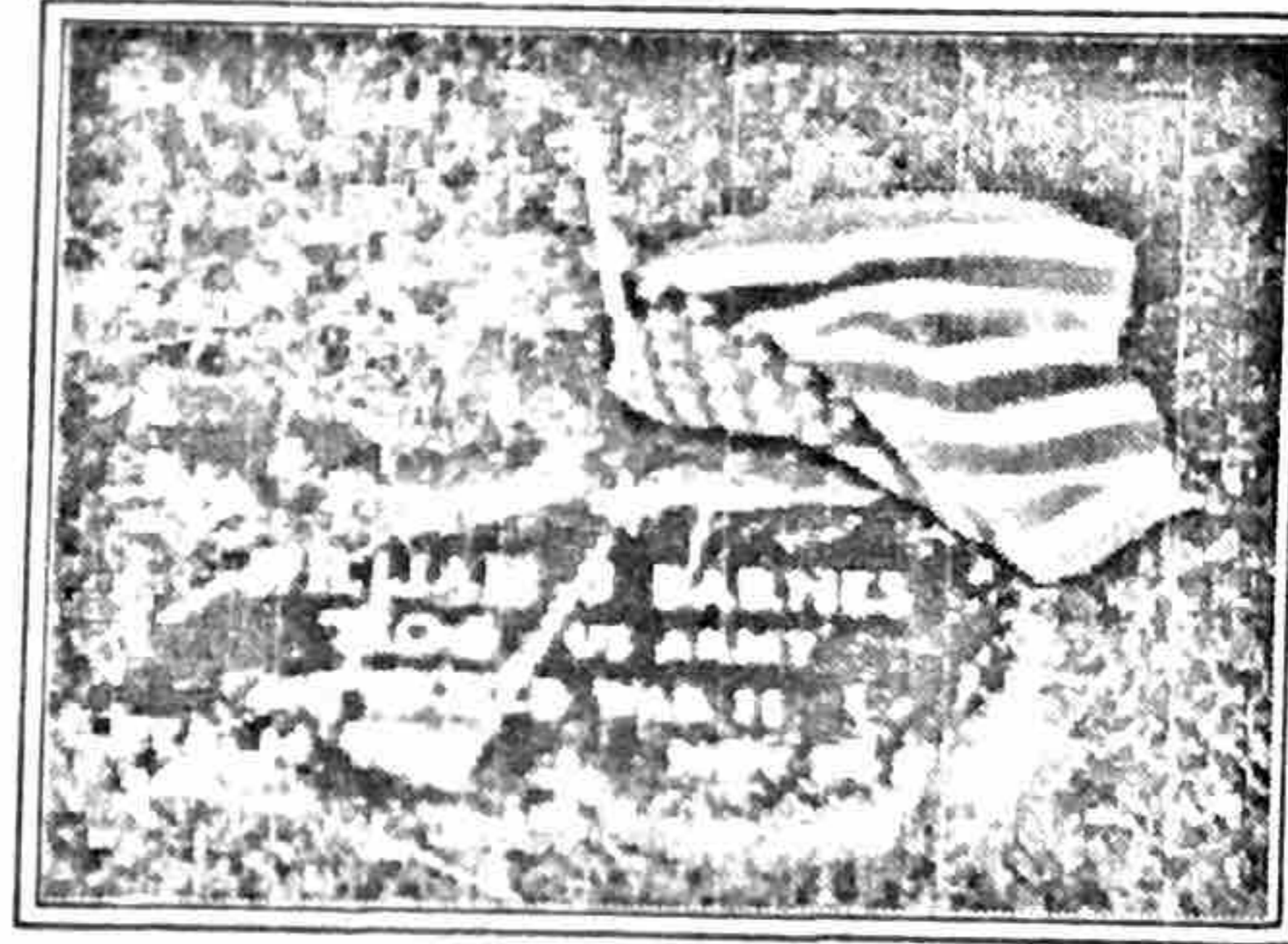


the peaceful, pastoral setting of the country graveyard.

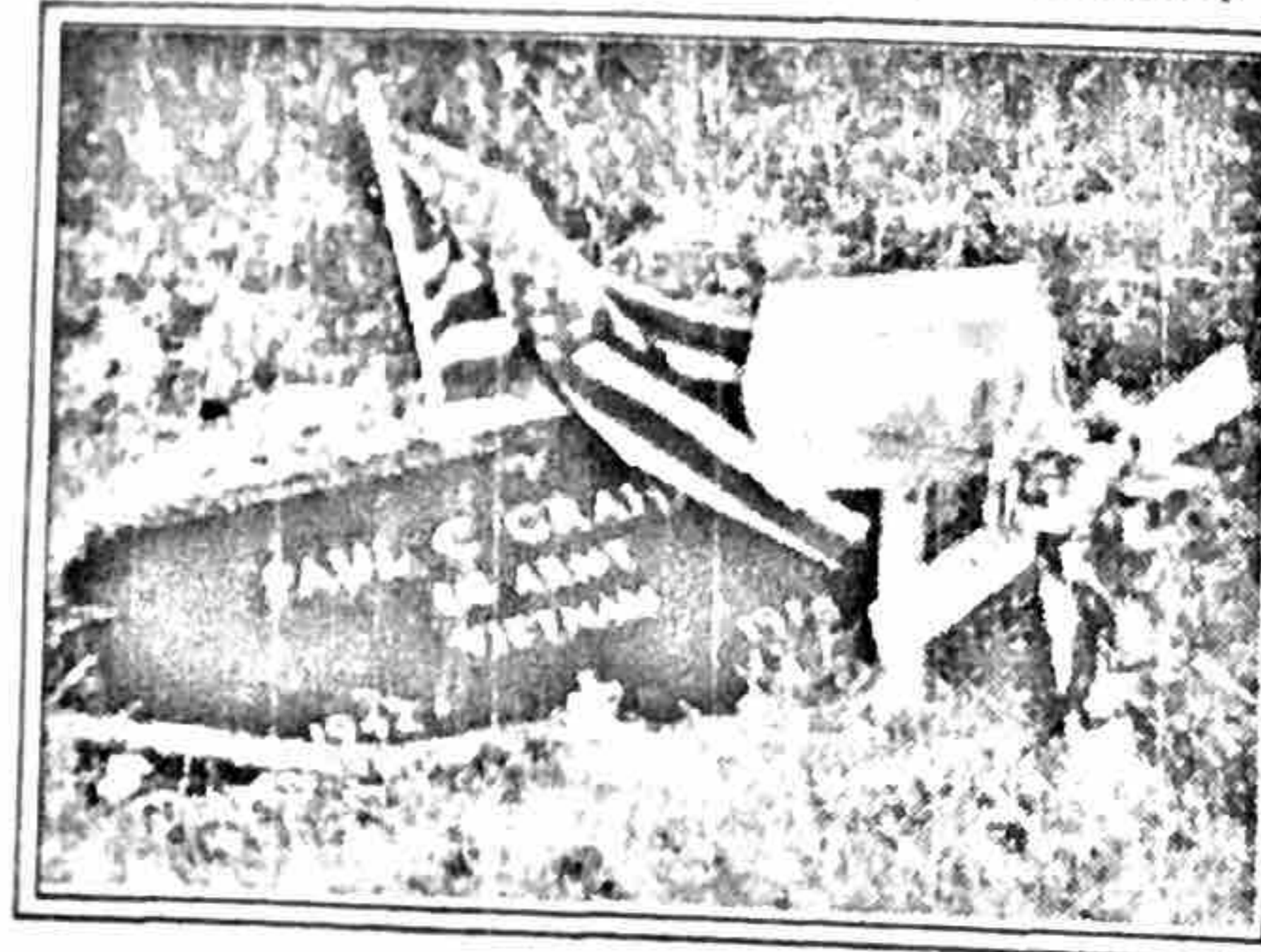
The following alphabetical list has been compiled from three sources. It may not be complete since early church records were destroyed in the 1950s fire which destroyed the church. The sources used are:

1. Records of lot ownership kept by church officials.
2. List furnished by Snowden Funeral Home of burials at the church from 1936 - 1994.
3. Inscriptions on headstones. On some stones, only part of the inscription is decipherable due to weathering or lichen growth.

NAME	DATES		
_____, Charles A.	d. 1883	Chaney, Isaac	1903
_____, Eliza J.	1830-1889	Chaney, Wife of Isaac	1913-1963
_____, Elizabeth	d. 1928	Clarke, Raymond R.	d. 1938
_____, Ida S	d. 1887	Coles, Kathlyn Davis	1922-1980
_____, Marjorie	1896-1988	Cooper, Herman	d. 1962
_____, Nelson	1834-1904	Cooper, Purnell	d. 1966
_____, Peter H.		Crampton, Carrie	1875-1915
_____, William	d. 1886	Crampton, Della C.	1880-1903
		Crampton, Harry C.	



A., Rosanna E.	1888-1956	Crampton, Leonard C.	d. 1965
Barnes, D. Gradie	1877-1945	Crampton, William J.	1871-1881
Barnes, Lucy C.	1877-1964	Crawford, Annie	1841-1916
Barnes, William J.	1916-1990	Cross, F.	
Bell, John W.	d. 1973	Davis, Christiana	1790-1871
Bell, Rosalie	d. 1979	Davis, Clarence Henry	1895-1951
Bolden, Clarence, Sr.	d. 1963	Davis, H.	
		Davis, James Henry	d. 1975



79  
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## Dispute focuses attention on historic value of church

**E**lijah United Methodist Church has about 53 members.

Freed slaves founded it in 1868 on an acre of land they bought for \$150. According to the deed, the land was originally to be used to build a school. But the church and graveyard came first.

Church members built the "Love and Charity Hall" on land that is now in the center of the graveyard. The upper floor was a social hall, and the ground floor served as the only school for blacks in that area, according to local historian Mary Ann Kephart.

The Love and Charity Society was a burial society whose members raised money to pay for the burial of friends and family.

Parishioners razed the hall in the 1920s after it fell into disrepair. By that time, blacks had pooled their money to build a new school for their children elsewhere in Poolesville.

The church itself has gone through four different buildings. The latest, a one-room white clapboard chapel with a basement, was built in 1950 after fire destroyed the previous building.

Before and during the Civil War, Poolesville was home mostly to white plantation owners and Southern sympathizers,

most of whom owned slaves, Mrs. Kephart says.

"When the slaves were freed, people gave and sold them land, and they established small communities," she says.

The ongoing conflict over the fence at Elijah Methodist has awakened new interest in the church among Poolesville residents.

Working with church members, Historic Medley District Inc. is raising money to replace the entire graveyard fence with an antique wrought-iron version the preservationist group found in Richmond. The fence costs nearly \$9,000. Residents have so far raised about \$4,000.

Historic Medley also got a \$600 grant from the Maryland Commission on Arts and Humanities to publish a brief history of the church in honor of its 125th anniversary next year.

As part of that effort, about 20 students in the History Club at Poolesville Middle-Senior High School helped map out the graveyard this spring.

Students spent about six hours laying out a grid, recording where gravestones are located and jotting down all the information carved on the stones.

"It is an important historic landmark in the town," says Sue Ketrone, their teacher.

—Laura Outerbridge

# Cemetery clash pits builder vs. church

By Laura Outerbridge  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

In its first 120 years, not much beyond the buzz of nearby tractors disturbed the peace of Elijah United Methodist Church and its oak-shaded cemetery along Route 109 just north of Poolesville, Md.

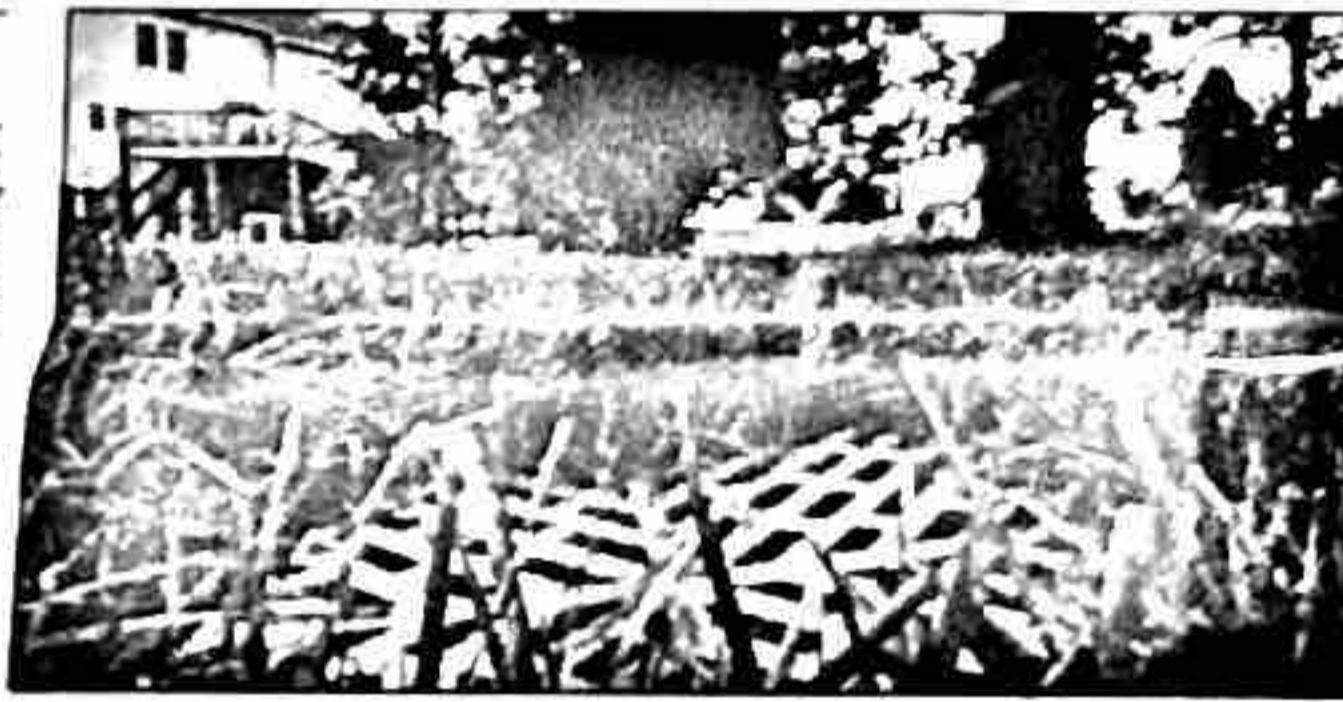
A woven-wire farm fence, long ago overgrown with vines, separated the two-acre plot and its 200 grave sites from surrounding pastures.

But in spring 1994, after a developer had filled one of those pastures with 54 newly minted single-family homes, peace became the first casualty.

The old graveyard was bordered on two sides by \$230,000 to \$400,000 brick homes and the manicured lawns and staked-up baby trees that are staples of the suburban landscape.

All this would have been unremarkable, a consequence of sprawl. But last year the developer, NV Homes, did two things. It removed a fence and installed a drainage pipeline through the graveyard. The pair of changes continue to anger church members and preservationists.

In March 1994, the developer



Clockwise from the top: Gravestones in the cemetery of Elijah United Methodist Church seem to be in the back yard of a new home as the Rev. Irene Pierce (right) and church member Dorothy Norwood survey the historic property. Firewood stacked at the edge of a yard forms a sort of makeshift fence behind the grave of Howard B. Lyles Sr., whose brother is buried nearby. A gutter that is not on church property collects water from a drainage pipe that goes across the cemetery's midsection. Installation of the pipeline and removal of a fence have pitted the church and the homes' builder, NV Homes, at odds.

pulled down the farm fence that had marked the cemetery on two of its three sides. Two homebuyers had found the fence unsightly and asked the developer to remove it as part of their sales contracts.

Overnight, the cemetery's historic gravestones appeared to become part of the suburban back yards. The granite 1886 headstone for a freed slave named only "William" sits 24 feet from the deck of one of the homes.

The grave of Paul C. Graham, a Vietnam vet, decorated with small flags and silk flower arrangements, lies near children's play equipment and the backyard grill at another house. The white marble markers of Howard B. Lyles

Sr. and his brother, Julius M. Lyles Sr., both World War II veterans, lie a few yards from the toolshed of the same yard. The homeowner, Dale Geiss, has stacked his woodpile alongside the Lyles' graves as kind of a makeshift fence.

Church members don't dispute that the fence was on NV Homes' property. But they say they were surprised and disappointed that the developer chose not to notify them that the fence was coming down.

"They don't seem to have any concern for the church and the cemetery," says the Rev. Irene Pierce, pastor at Elijah Methodist. "It seems like they could come talk to the church and work out some kind of a privacy fence."



Local preservationists have taken on the fence as an issue of historical importance.

"Have you seen the pictures? The gravestones are literally sitting in people's back yards," says Van Dien, a retired professor at Trinity College and a Poolesville resident.

"It was just such an injustice" to remove the fence, says local historian Mary Ann Kephart. A member of the Historic Medley District Inc., the area's preservation society, Mrs. Kephart is also the church's neighbor on the north side, opposite the NV Homes development.

Historic Medley District (the group is named for an old voting district) is working on a campaign to raise money to replace the fence, together with Elijah Methodist Church members.

"I think it has a lot of dignity—the church and the cemetery—and it was ignoring that dignity, taking the fence down," Mrs. Kephart says.

For church members, the drainage pipeline is the primary cause of concern.

NV Homes installed the underground pipe last year. It runs across the graveyard's midsection, occupying several unused grave sites.

The pipe, which raises a low hump through the cemetery, corrects a drainage problem—a pond that formed every time it rained—in a corner of the back yard of one of the new homes.

But Mrs. Pierce complains that the pipe was installed without church permission and after only preliminary discussions with church members.

She calls it "blatant disrespect and desecration of the cemetery." Mrs. Pierce became pastor at Elijah Methodist a little over a year ago, as the conflict was unfolding.

Dorothy Norwood, an active member at Elijah and wife of its lay leader, expresses the fear of many church members: "I have a plot out here," she says, motioning to the graveyard. "When I saw that pipeline out there, I thought, 'Maybe they'll wash me away.'"

Don Wolf, NV Homes production manager, who oversaw both the fence removal and pipelines project, declined to comment for this story, except to say, "It's been a long, drawn-out affair."

He referred calls to the company's lawyer, who did not return phone messages.

The developer and the church are in legal proceedings now, heading—not very fast—toward a probable court trial over the

pipeline issue.

In a letter late last year to the church's lawyer, Mr. Wolf argued that it was the church's fault that water pooled in the new houses' back yard.

The church graveyard, he said, was poorly graded because at some point church members had added dirt to the property, reshaping it into a hill. Thus, Mr. Wolf wrote, rainwater was not able to drain from his clients' property across the cemetery.

Church members deny having ever added dirt to the graveyard.

The two sides do agree that Mr. Wolf met in July 1994 with Richard Norwood, the church's lay leader, and received a preliminary verbal OK to run a pipeline through the graveyard.

But, church members say, Mr. Norwood told the developer the project would have to be approved by the church's administrative board. The church also wanted to have a say where the pipeline would go.

"We thought we had an agreement," Mr. Wolf told the United Methodist Connection newspaper in January. "Our problem was, we went on a handshake instead of a legal document. We didn't think that would be necessary."

The developer offered to settle

the matter in January, offering the church \$5,000 but asking that the amount be kept confidential.

The church board and congregation rejected the offer.

"Any negotiation we go into will have to be an open agreement," Mrs. Pierce says.

She thinks there are probably two reasons NV Homes requested secrecy: "First of all, they're ripping us off to give us \$5,000," Mrs. Pierce says. "Second, they weren't responding to our other demands."

Parishioners want to see the pipe moved by about 10 feet, into the base of a hill, where it won't disturb grave sites. They also want compensation from the developer for use of church land, and an agreement for the pipe's maintenance.

Support in Poolesville seems to fall squarely behind Elijah Methodist. The church has gotten calls of support from many of the town's other churches as well as members of the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce.

"They had no right to dig across another person's property and put that in," Mr. Van Dien says of the developer.

Members of Historic Medley District say the issue is a property dispute and they have no right to step in.

19  
ELIJAH UMC CEMETERY  
19401 ELGIN RD.  
POOLESVILLE

HMD mailed 500 letters in June  
- HPC \$600 did  
- has need \$4300 need much more  
- H's history club measured stones, etc. - using Coalition info