

Read comments in TB



Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 159

Name: Burgess Family Cemetery

Alternate name:

Address: S.E. corner of 75th Place and Arden Rd.

Town: Cabin John

ADC Map Page 35 Grid B-13

Type

Religious _____
 Family _____
 Private _____
 Other _____

Association

Free black _____
 Enslaved _____
 Ethnic _____
 Prehistoric _____

Setting Rural Urban Suburban Forested Other NON-EXTANT

Condition Excellent Good Fair Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) _____
No longer extant.

Approximate no. of burials unknown Date range of burials 1792-1849

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

Site now has a ~~1940s~~ ~~type~~ house. Former owner states in letter (attached) that the house was on a family graveyard. Some skeletons & vacated burial locations were found. Only 1 stone located - Elizabeth Burgess, 1792-1849. Stone removed from property.

Surveyor(s) ~~Earl Dunn~~ Earl Dunn Survey date 11/2004
Photographer NA Date _____ Photo no. _____

Current owner Fitzgeralds
Address/Phone No. 6519 75th Place, Cabin John, MD 20818 / (301) 229-3430

Historic Status Locational Atlas ID _____ National Register
 Master Plan ID _____ Other _____

UTM _____

Additional sources of information:

159
BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
SE CORNER ARDEN RD/75TH PLACE
CABIN JOHN

BURGESS FAMILY BURYING GROUND AT CABIN JOHN

Directions: West on MacArthur Boulevard, right on Seven Locks Road, right on Tomlinson Terrace and Avenue, left on Arden Road. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 37, grid coordinates J-7.] **Condition of cemetery:**

Unknown. This cemetery is non-extant. **Earliest known death:** 1841. **Date transcribed:** 1941. **Location of transcribed records:** Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. **Comments:** Photograph taken 1941, one marked grave, many unmarked graves.

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BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
SE CORNER ARDEN RD / 75th PLACE
CABIN JOHN



77°10'00" 77°07'30"

8 NW 6 NW

760,000 FT

Joins Map 40

#159 - Burgess Family

159
 BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
 SE CORNER ARDEN RD/ 75th PLACE
 CABIN JOHN

6519 75th Rd

Patrick F + SG FITZGERALD
6519 75th Rd Place

CABIN JOHN, MD 20818-1407

Primary structure built 1928

Purchased 9/24/1992

301-229-3430

Lot
b

Block
A

159
BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
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ID. No. 159

Nancy Harnen's
tombstone dug up in
back yard.

June 8, 1941

(1792-1849)

This must have been a family
burial plot as lots of pockets of old
graves were found around large
Cedar tree

July 1985

Now the S.E.
corner of 75th

Place and Arden Rd.,
Cabin John. We lived
at 7501 Arden Rd. - 1951

Harnen's House - 1978

2nd & Ridge Rd. M. FRANK
Cabin John, Md.

This stone
reads.

In memory of
Elizabeth Burgess

who was born
May 17, 1792

Died Dec 28, 1849

Info from postcard
note enclosed
with photo -

from - Gladys Smith
6513 75th St.
Cabin John Park, Md.

(copy)



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BURGESSES FAMILY CEMETERY
SE CORNER ARDEN RD/ 75th PLACE
CABIN JOHN

Friday 21 Apr. 1978

Dear Gladys:-

In answer to your letter I received today I could only find this one picture of the stone found on our property. Our house was on a family gravesite and I recall the name Burgess was on it with dates 1792-1849. Charlotte asked me for this Seneca red stone when I moved from Cabin John so she ought to know about it. We also found some skeletons and ~~and~~ empty packets of old graves filled with water there.

By the way I found this old writeup about the burning of the old hotel & thought Mr Fradine might like to have it. I'm sorry I never got a piece of glass from the hotel as you did. I hate to look back to the old Cabin John days as it brings not only good memories but some bad ones. I love my home here and am very happy near most of my family. I see Mrs Mackey at my Women's Club Meeting & like her alot.

If I find the other picture with the inscription clear I will mail it to you. Those were such carefree days & I remember all of us swimming in Cabin John Creek. So nice hearing from you & please write soon again.

Affectionately always,

Your old friend
Eleanor

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BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
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CABIN JOHN

Please consider adding these materials to the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory, ID 159, Burgess Family Cemetery, S.E. corner of 75th Place and Arden Road, Cabin John, Maryland.

1. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

2. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

3. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

4. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

Additional references:

5. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

6. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

7. Aerial photograph of the site, showing the location of the cemetery.

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BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
SE CORNER ARDEN RD/ 75th PLACE
CABIN JOHN

May 28, 2012

To: Montgomery County Historical Society
Jane C. Sween Library

Re: Cemetery Inventory, ID 159
Burgess Family Cemetery, Cabin John, Maryland

Under Tab 1 are copies of documents from the existing file at the Jane C. Sween Library.

Under Tab 2 are:

(1) photos of pieces of gravestones from the Burgess family graveyard, which were found in the early to mid-1970's in the drainage gully which runs behind the properties on the north side of the 7500 block of Arden Road, Cabin John, Maryland; and

(2) a satellite image showing approximately where the gravestones were found and the approximate location of the former Burgess family graveyard at 75th Place and Arden Road, Cabin John, Maryland.

Additional information:

I found these headstone pieces many years ago (early to mid-1970's), buried beneath dirt and rocks in a drainage ditch, which begins at 76th Street, runs behind the properties on the north side of the 7500 block of Arden Road, through the Cabin John Creek Park, and ends at the Cabin John Creek. The drainage ditch carries rain runoff from various properties into the creek. At any rate, as I was walking along the ditch one day so many years ago, I spotted a piece of red sandstone, which was noticeably out of place among the dirt and the other more common rocks and stones. I decided I'd try to find out what it was.

As I was digging out the first piece of headstone, I noticed another, and then another. I eventually found several pieces (all are shown in the photographs), but not all in that first day. As I recall, several months or maybe even several years passed between the time I found the first piece and the last. Eventually I stopped finding anything, despite searching thoroughly many times over a long period of time.

I thought it odd that gravestones would be in a drainage ditch, and I wondered whether perhaps there was once a graveyard situated there, and that maybe the gravestones had fallen into the ditch as the land eroded away. On the other hand, at the time that I found them, I had not heard about a graveyard or cemetery in that general area, and I didn't see any headstones in the immediate area above and around the ditch. I had no idea how they got there or where they had come from. (An historian many years later pointed out to me that it would be unusual for a

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graveyard to be located in a low-lying drainage area).

Some of the headstone pieces fit together. One of the headstones show that Thomas Burgess was born August 1, 1776, just after America had declared its independence, and died in 1834. Was he born in Cabin John? Another gravestone identifies an Edward Burgess, perhaps a grandson of Thomas Burgess, born in 1826. Other pieces have initials only, with no dates. How long did the family live in the area? How large was their farm?

I forgot about the gravestones until recently when I read something about a graveyard that once existed in the area of Arden Road. That led me to visit the Montgomery County Historical Society and the Burgess Family Cemetery file.

Questions and possible answers:

1. How, and when, did the pieces of the headstones get from the family graveyard (which was located at what is now 75th Place and Arden Road) to the drainage ditch about 100 yards away?

Answer: Anyone who could have provided any information about this is no doubt long-deceased. The April 21, 1978 letter in the Sween Library file from Eleanor to Gladys¹ provides some guidance. We know from the letter that when Eleanor lived on the property, there was only one known headstone remaining, that of Elizabeth Burgess, born 17 May 1792, died 28 December 1849. (Was Elizabeth married to Thomas Burgess?). That stone is shown in the June 1941 photograph in the Sween Library file. Kneeling next to the stone in that 1941 photo is Nancy Hannen, who presumably was a relative of Eleanor, the author of the letter. That stone, according to the letter, was apparently given to someone named Charlotte and removed from the property. From this information contained in the Sween Library file, one could conclude with some confidence that the pieces that I found were dumped into the ditch before 1941.

But who dumped them there? Because the pieces I found were covered by rocks and dirt, it's possible that employees or contractors for the American Land Company dumped the headstones into the ditch when the company was laying out the development and putting in the original roads. Or perhaps when the foundation was being dug for the house on the lot, the contractor dug up the gravestones and dumped them into the ditch. According to publicly available online records, the house on the graveyard lot was built in 1929. The houses on the other (north) side of Arden Road were built a few years later in the 1930's. Therefore, the builder of the house where the graveyard was located would have had easy access (i.e. no houses in the way) to the ditch at the bottom of the hill.

¹Eleanor (Hannen?) apparently once lived in the house that was built on the lot where the graveyard was situated. Gladys appears to be Gladys Smith, who lived on 75th Street and was one of the first residents of the new Cabin John community. Thus, they were former neighbors. Gladys still lived on 75th Street in 1978, but Eleanor had apparently left Cabin John many years earlier. But why were they writing to each other in 1978 about the graveyard? Had someone else found a headstone, or a piece of a headstone, and brought it to Gladys Smith's attention?

While all of this is nothing but speculation, I think the first scenario would be the more likely. The American Land Company might not have wanted anyone to know about a graveyard because of the possibility that it would have discouraged anyone from purchasing the lot. That particular lot must have been valuable, being high on a ridge with good views of Virginia and all around. The ALC thus may have wanted to get rid of the gravestones and, perhaps, had them unceremoniously dumped into the ditch. The one remaining stone on the lot, mentioned in the letter from Eleanor to Gladys, was "dug up" according to a note in the Sween Library file. In the 1941 photo, it appears to be leaning against a tree. Maybe that stone had fallen over and had been covered up with leaves, cedar needles and tall grass and thus went unnoticed by ALC and was later discovered by the Hannen family.

2. Why hadn't someone found them before I did?

Answer: There were many folks in the area during the 1930's through the 1970's who no doubt walked up and down and alongside the drainage ditch. Maybe others had spotted the red sandstone, but hadn't given it a second thought. Or maybe it took a major rain event such as Tropical Storm Agnes to push away some of the rocks and dirt and expose one of the pieces and I happened to be the first one who not only noticed, but who also had nothing better to do than spend the time to dig them out.

3. What should I do with them?

Answer: They do not belong to me, of course. I've thought that maybe I should have just left them in the ditch. On the other hand, if I had done that, this information (extent of interest to anyone, if any, unknown) may never have been discovered. If anyone has a good suggestion for what to do with the headstone pieces, please post something in the Cabin John Village News.

4. Are there any local living descendants of the Burgess family?

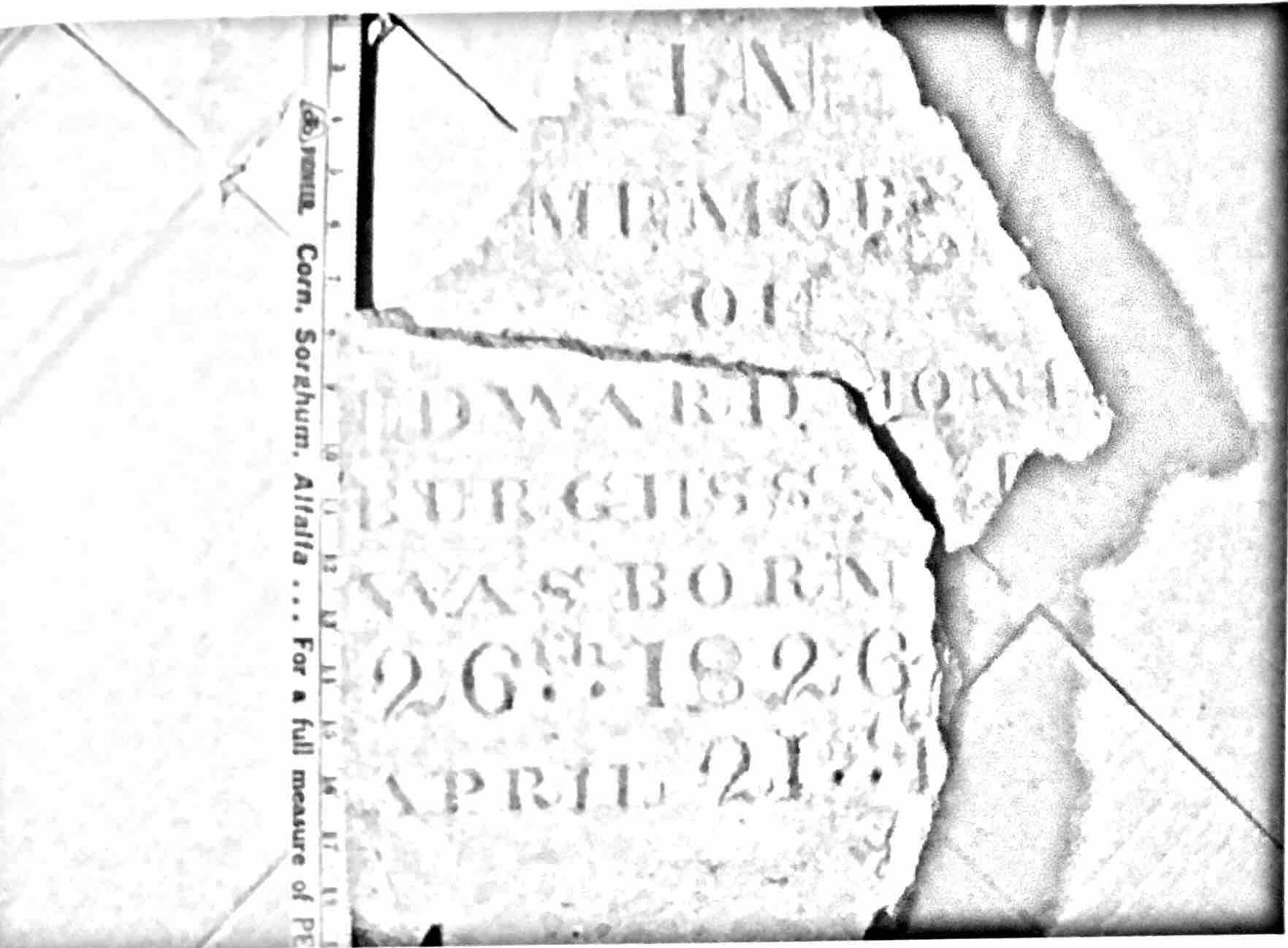
Anonymous

cc: Ms. Judith Welles
Cabin John Historian

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SE CORNER ARDEN RD/75th PLACE
CABIN JOHN

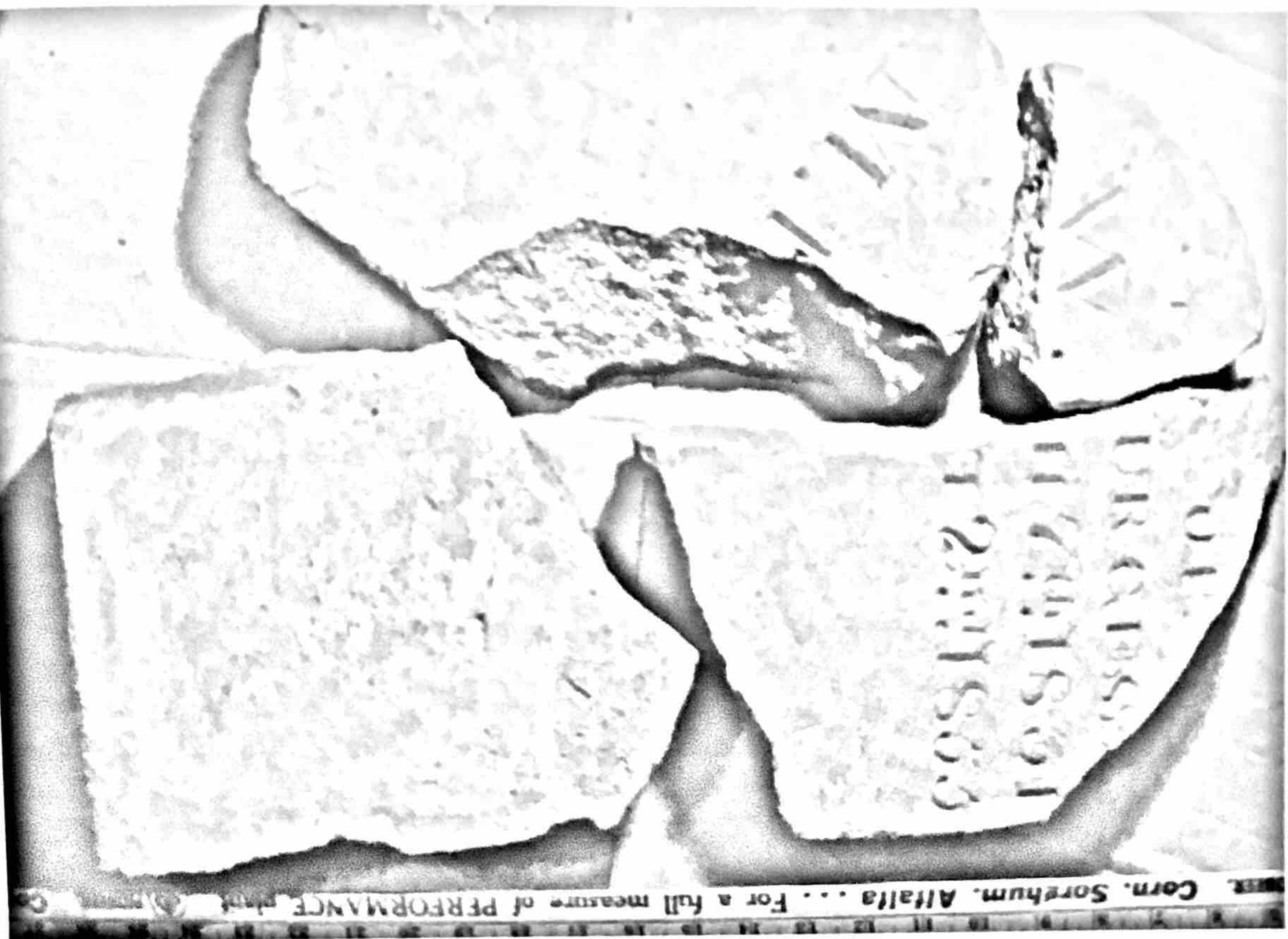
MEMORY
OF
JONAS BURGESS
WHO WAS BORN
AUGUST 1ST 1776
DIED MARCH 16TH
1851.

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In memory of a soldier
of the Revolution
born 1776
died 1851



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Corn, Sorghum, Alfalfa . . . For a full measure of PE

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BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
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BUDESS FAMILY CEMETERY
SE CORNER ARDEN RD/75th PLACE
CABIN JOHN



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BURGESS FAMILY CEMETERY
SE CORNER ARDEN RD/75TH PLACE
CABIN JOHN



Approx. area where stones found

Arden Rd

Approx. area of Burgess family graveyard

100ft

50m

mapquest

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In Burgess family cemetery
on corner Arden Rd
East side