



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

## BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: <b>Clark Family Memorial Cemetery</b>	Inventory ID: <b>167</b>
Alternate name:	
Address: <b>On Burdette Forest Road, at intersection with Clarksburg Square Road</b>	
Website: <a href="http://www.clarksburgmdhistory.org/clark-family-memorial-cemetery">www.clarksburgmdhistory.org/clark-family-memorial-cemetery</a>	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: <b>39.244022</b>	Longitude: <b>-77.275122</b>
FindaGrave: <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2354131">https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2354131</a>	

## 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: **9**      Date ranges: **1803-1817**

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

- **Recently restored cemetery, rededicated on June 27, 2017.**
- **Site was overgrown with trees that have been cleared and grass sod laid over the graves.**
- **Metal picket fence surrounded the cemetery with two benches at the front gate.**
- **Original gravestone fragments were reset within concrete forms to resemble similar stones of their time period.**

## BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: **Clarksburg Homeowner's Association**

Relationship to burial site: **Owner**      Advocacy contact: **Lisen Edwards, Manager**

Address: **12901 Sugarloaf Chapel Road**      Phone: **301-444-8680**

City: **Clarksburg**      State: **MD**      ZIP Code: **20871**

## BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: **Vivian Eicke**      Survey Date: **3/31/2018**      Time spent: **15 min**

Address:      Phone:

Email:

Photographer: **Vivian Eicke**

## COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

- **N/A**

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

- **N/A**

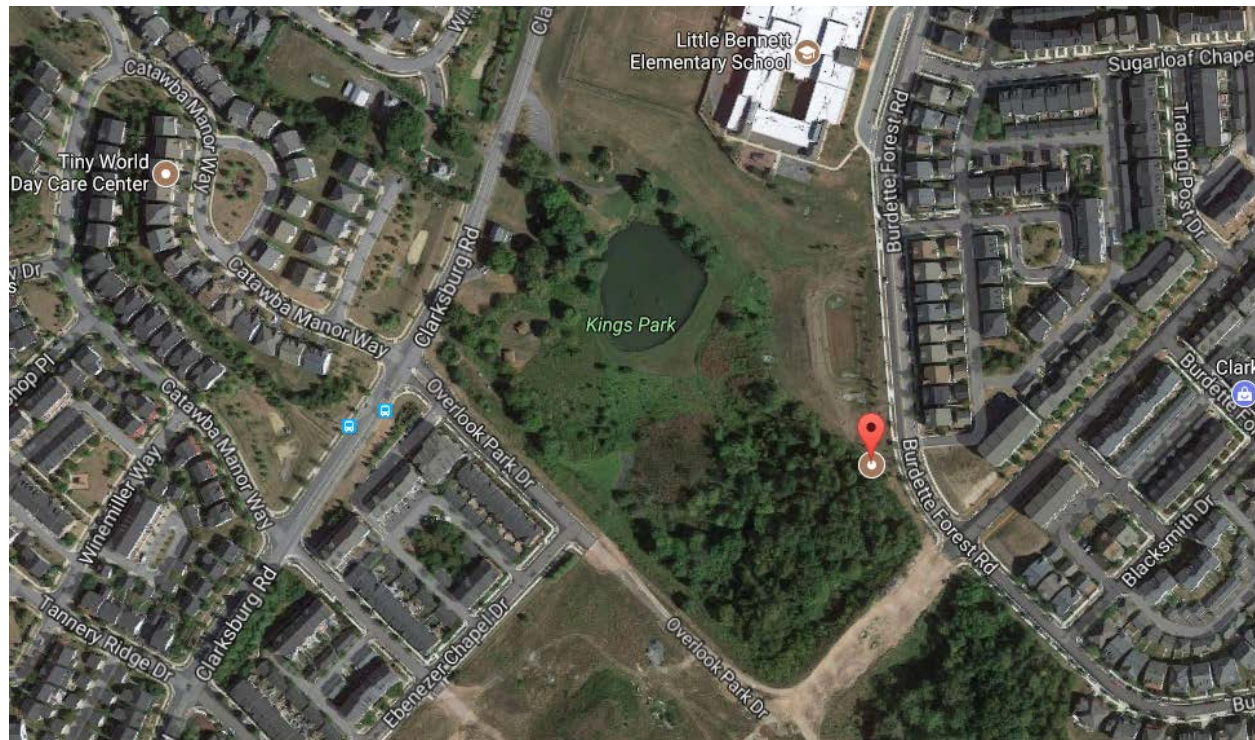
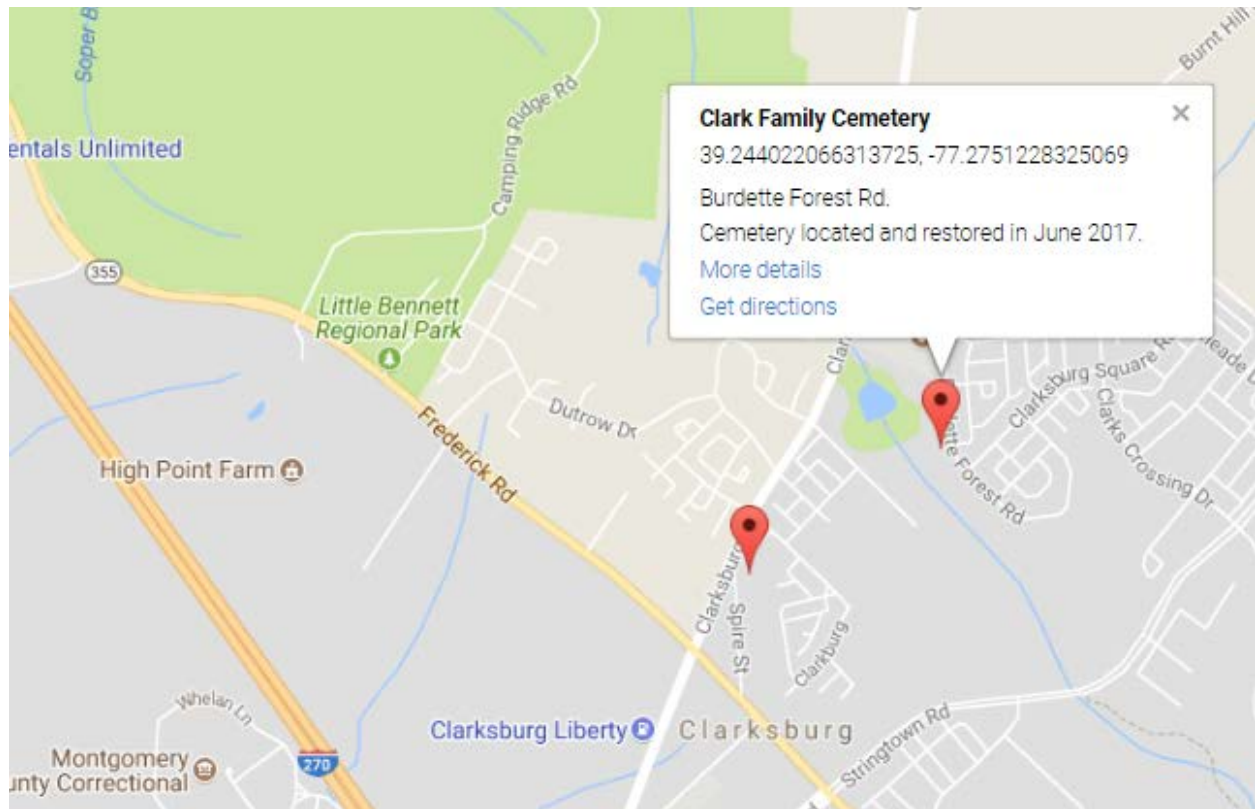
Anything of significance about this cemetery?

- **Burial location of John Clark, founder of Clarksburg, and his family.**
- **Historical interpretive signage near entrance.**

## SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

- **Clarksburg Historical Society <https://www.clarksburgmdhistory.org/>**
- **Additional information provided by Jean Hulse-Hayman**





## Clark Family Memorial Cemetery Dedication June 24, 2017

Written by Jean Hulse-Hayman ([jeanh2014@gmail.com](mailto:jeanh2014@gmail.com))

Buried in the original Clark Family Cemetery 1803 to 1817 were:

- John G Clark and Ann A Clark, town founders
- Gustarvus Willson and John Clark Willson, their grandsons
- William Harris, nephew & adopted son of a traveling minister. From 1896 to 1898, the Clarksburg United Methodist Church had a pastor named William Harris, perhaps his descendent?
- S [F?]ell, relationship unknown
- s of Divine, relationship unknown

When John and Ann Clark were in their twenties, our country was still a colony of England and Montgomery County did not exist. The Sons of Liberty were active and met at Dowden's Ordinary, the Clarks among the group. It is likely that John fought in the Revolutionary War, but I have not found specific documents to prove that. I did find a Major John Clark, Jr. who spied for General Washington during the war. My research showed that this Major was born in Lancaster, PA which is where the Clarks were from. Is it our John G. Clark? More research needs to be done. Toward the end of the Revolutionary War, John and Ann married and in the same year they built a home across from John's family's trading post. There were other peoples' homes scattered about this area, but this one couple decided to put down roots and start a community. John G. Clark did extensive public service for the new community. He took on so many leadership roles that our town took on his family name. In 1790, he surveyed the town and laid out lots. He was a founding member of the Methodist Society which formed in 1788 and the Methodist Episcopal Church which began as a log chapel in 1794. In 1798 he was appointed the first town Justice of the Peace. In 1799 he served as county commissioner, and in 1800 he was the first town postmaster. In 1804, Clarksburg boasted 30 structures. By 1879, Clarksburg was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest town in Montgomery County with 250 residents. The places where John Clark and his relatives lived, worked and worshipped can still be seen in the Clarksburg historic district.

Margaret Foreman Williams who was born and raised in Clarksburg remembers, as a girl in the 1940's, she would walk along the creek and look up to see the inscription on the gravestones.

Not many towns have their founder buried there. This memorial cemetery may seem "new" to some residents, but the people were buried in this approximate place over 200 years ago. How many of us are daughters and can identify with the words written so long ago? In 1810, Ann's daughter, Sarah, made a wish for her Mom and Dad. Her words are written on Ann Clark's gravestone and they say;

*Sacred forever may this place be made,  
My father and my mother's humble shaid,  
Unmov'd and undisturb'd til time shall end,  
The turf that's round them may God defend.*

Did she see into the future? Her wish for her parents did not come true. Sometime during the 1960's, a neighbor who lived on Stringtown Road looked out her kitchen window and a familiar site was gone. She turned to her husband and said, "Rowland, the cemetery is gone!" Fence, gravestones and all were removed by a farmer and leaned against a nearby oak tree. They were there for close to 30 years.

In this complex and crowded world, sometimes it may feel like one person can't really have much of an effect on what happens. But in this case the individuals involved made a profound difference in the long path home for these gravestones.

In 1989, one Clarksburg resident, Charles Ellis, who knew the location of the gravestones decided to contact Norman Mease, the then Clarksburg Civic Association President Norman Mease took it upon himself to ask lifetime Clarksburg resident, Margaret Foreman Williams, to show him the location of the cemetery. He made a map and took pictures to preserve this information. Then he cataloged the gravestones and found a public agency who could safely store them.



Over a decade later, one woman and one couple volunteered to establish the Clarksburg Historical Society. These people are Joann Woodson and Eloise & Tuck Woodfield.

I joined the Clarksburg Historical Society in 2002, its first year. Ten years later, we were sitting in a meeting and someone mentioned the Clark Family Cemetery. "What?" I said. "John Clark, the town founder is buried in Clarksburg?" And then I heard what happened to the cemetery. That same year, I did research on the Clark family genealogy and I proposed making the Clark Family Memorial Cemetery a historical society project. In June 2012, the gravestones were on display for the public. There was a lot of interest in them, but I always got the question, "What are they doing here away from their cemetery?" That fall, I contacted Norman Mease who shared his map and other information that he collected back in 1989. Armed with the map and directions from Norman, my husband, a horticulturist and I went searching for the oak tree near where two barbed wire animal fences met. After a search, we found the oak tree and using a cellphone to measure distance and direction, we identified the approximate location of the original cemetery. This was repeated with Kate Kubit and an arborist with the same result. Margaret Williams came to the location and confirmed that it made sense according to her childhood memories.

As part of my research, I had the pleasure of meeting Mary Beth Jacobs Fleming who is a direct Clark descendent. She approved of returning the gravestones to as close to their original site as possible rather than placing them anywhere else. With her blessing, the historical society began to work in close cooperation with Kate Kubit, vice president of a Clarksburg development company. Talk about an individual making a difference! Certainly, this project fell in the realm of Kate's, "job," but clearly it was much more than that. She put herself and lots of her time into it. What you see here today would not have been possible without Kate. She is an amazing person who saw to it that the journey home for these gravestones became a reality. This memorial cemetery is an example of a beautiful, seamless partnership between a large development company and a local historical society.

There are a few others who should be recognized for contributing to this project.

- Craig Rice, who shows his support of the Clarksburg Historical Society in many, many ways.
- The Little Bennett Park Staff
- My daughter, Evelyn Hudson, who edited the writing for the interpretative plaque.
- Mr. Ron Evans, who without any notice dropped everything and spent the better part of a day photographing the gravestones for the plaque.
- Gloria King Winter who read and re-read the history portion.
- All of the contractors who put their time and talents into creating this beautiful place of remembrance.
- Carlos Flores, of Cast Stone Designs Inc., who took such great care refurbishing the gravestones. He visited cemeteries with me and on his own to look at examples of other gravestones. He checked in regularly to be sure he was in the going in the right direction. He created original forms to fit the gravestones. And then after all the work was done, he would not accept any payment.

Now our town and our state have a new historic landmark for future generations to visit. As they stand or sit here may they reflect on the notion that "the power of one man or one woman doing the right thing, for the right reason, at the right time is the greatest influence in our society." (By Jack Kemp)



# Clark Family Memorial Cemetery



In memory of the amiable, affectionate and pious M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> HARRIS nephew and adopted Son of Rev<sup>d</sup> Buckley Carl of the Presbyterian church in Rahway New Jersey departed this life 5th



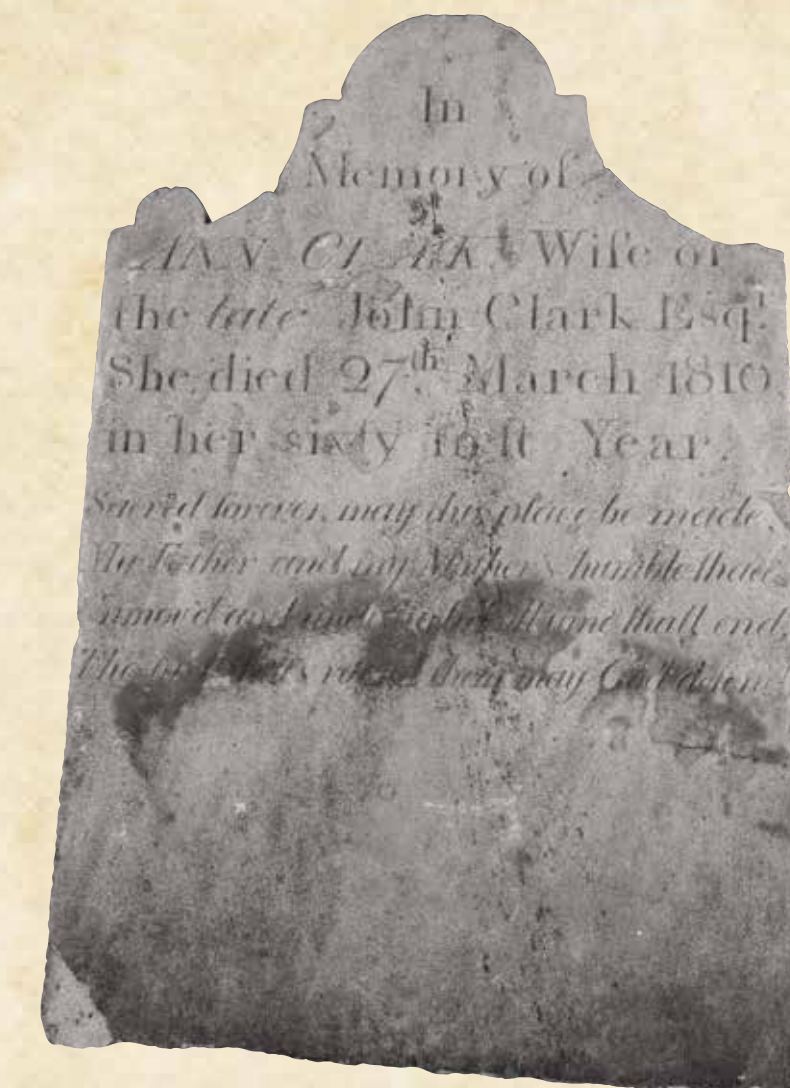
William Harris' footstone

In 1752, **John G. Clark** was born. In that same year, Michael A. Dowden applied for a land patent and soon opened an inn which would be called Dowden's Ordinary. Most likely, young John came to the Clarksburg area during his childhood with his grandfather, William, and his dad, John, to help at their trading post and to visit Dowden's Ordinary. The Sons of Liberty, a group who advocated for independence from England, met at Dowden's Ordinary starting in 1770. The Clarks were one of the local families who belonged to this patriotic group. In 1776, the Continental Congress declared independence and one would expect that many members of The Sons of Liberty joined the fight of the Revolutionary War.

Toward the end of the War in 1781, **John G. Clark**, for whom our town is named, built his home in

Clarksburg. At the site of his grandfather's trading post, he established a general store. *Note - The Clark House and General Store are still in existence in Clarksburg's historic district.* In 1790, **John G. Clark** surveyed the town and laid out lots. He was a founding member of the Methodist Society in 1788, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, which began as a log chapel in 1794. This site, on Spire Street, is the place of longest continuous worship in Montgomery County. In 1798, our town founder was appointed the first town Justice of the Peace. In 1799, he served as county commissioner, and in 1800, he was the first town postmaster. **John G. Clark** was "Mr. Clarksburg" and that is why our town bears his name.

We do not know a lot about all of the people buried in this cemetery, but you can be sure that each one made their mark on our town in some way.



In memory of ANN CLARK Wife of the late John Clark Esq. She died 27<sup>th</sup> March 1810 in her sixty first Year.

*Sacred forever may this place be made, My Father and my Mother's humble shaid. Unmov'd and undisturb'd till time shall end, The turf that's round them may God defend.*

## — Buried In This Cemetery Are: —

**JOHN G. CLARK** (CLARKSBURG TOWN FOUNDER) AUGUST 1752 - FEBRUARY 1805

**ANN ARCHEY CLARK** (HIS WIFE) 1749 - MARCH 27, 1810

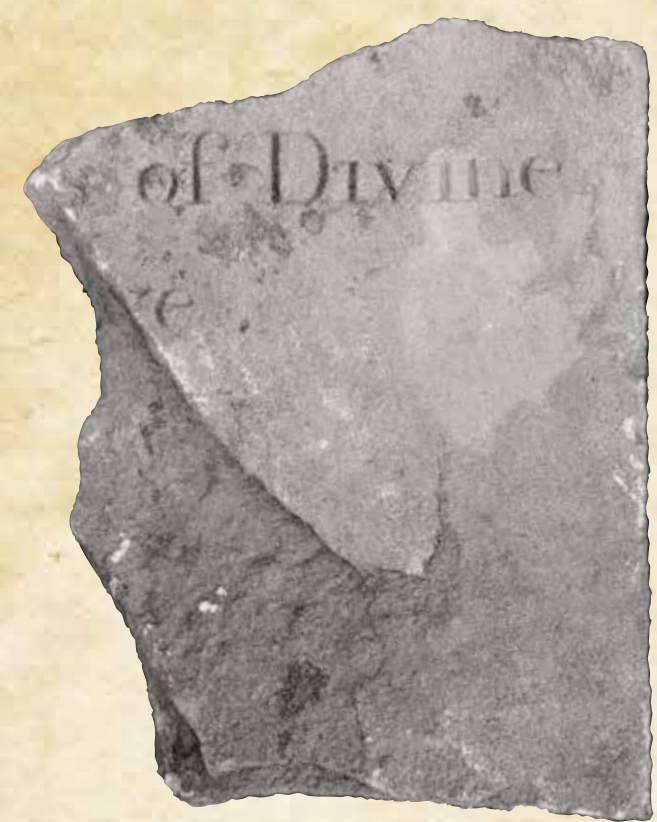
**JOHN CLARK WILLSON** (THEIR GRANDSON) AUGUST 25, 1802 - DECEMBER 6, 1803

**GUSTARVUS WILLSON** (THEIR GRANDSON) FEBRUARY 11, 1811 - FEBRUARY 23, 1811

**MR. WILLIAM HARRIS** (NEPHEW AND ADOPTED SON OF REVEREND BUCKLEY CARL. RELATIONSHIP TO CLARK FAMILY UNKNOWN.) 1793 - MAY 5, 1817

**S. BELL** (RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN)

**TO VIEW THE FRONT OF THE STONES, WALK DOWNHILL TO BACKSIDE OF FENCE.**



s of Divine e (Relationship unknown)

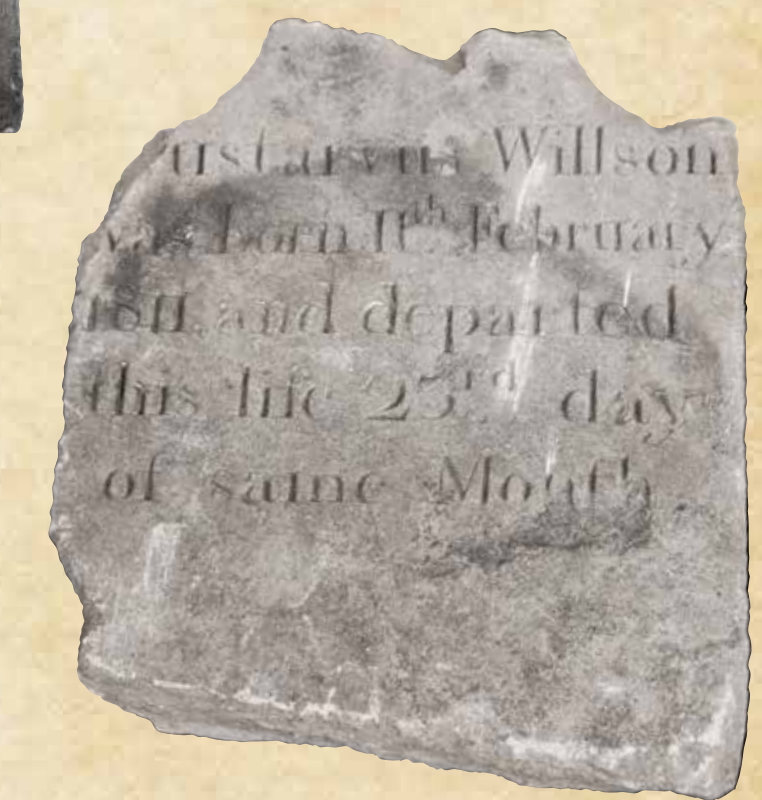


S \_ell



John G. Clark's footstone

Piece of stone- we used it to represent John Clark Willson



Gustarvus' footstone

Gustarvus Willson was born 11<sup>th</sup> February 1811, and departed this life 23<sup>rd</sup> day of same Month.



Late 1800s - Early settlement in Clarksburg, Maryland.



1960 - Gravestones in the way of farming equipment are moved from the cemetery plot to lean against a nearby oak.



1989-1990 - Norman Mease asks lifetime Clarksburg resident, Margaret Foreman Williams, to show him the cemetery location.



2005-2017 - Extensive development in Clarksburg.



Map of Clark Family Memorial Cemetery



Clark-Waters House - The log portion in the back is said to be John G. Clark and Ann Clark's original home. Their descendants added the front.

<b>1803</b> John Clark Willson is buried.	<b>1805</b> John G. Clark is buried.	<b>1810</b> Ann A. Clark is buried.	<b>1811</b> Gustarvus Willson Clark is buried.	Unknown burials.	<b>1817</b> William Harris is buried.	<b>143 Years Pass</b>	<b>1960</b> Gravestones in the way of farming equipment are moved from the cemetery plot and leaned against a nearby oak.	<b>1989-1990</b> As he was preparing to move, Clarksburg resident, Charles Ellis, who was concerned about preserving the gravestones, contacts Norman Mease, Clarksburg Civic Association President.  Norman Mease asks lifetime Clarksburg resident, Margaret Foreman Williams, to show him the cemetery location.  Norman Mease catalogs the gravestones and places them in storage with a public agency.	<b>2002</b> Joann Woodson and Eloise & Tuck Woodfield establish the Clarksburg Historical Society, Inc.	<b>2005</b> Extensive real estate development occurs.	<b>March 2012</b> Jean Hulse-Hayman, Clarksburg Historical Society member since 2002, learns that John Clark is buried in Clarksburg. She researches the Clark family and proposes making the cemetery a society project.	<b>June 2012</b> Gravestones publically displayed at Clarksburg Day. It's been 52 years since anyone has seen them!	<b>October 2012</b> Jean and husband Dale Hayman locate the oak tree and use it and a map from Norman Mease to identify the probable cemetery location. This is repeated with Kate Kubit and an archeologist.	<b>March 2013</b> Margaret Williams confirms the location makes sense according to her childhood memories. Margaret recalls that when she walked along the creek, she could look up and read the writing on the gravestones. They faced downhill towards the creek.	<b>2015</b> Direct Clark descendent, Mary Beth Jacobs Fleming, approves of returning gravestones to as close to their original site as possible.	<b>2013-2017</b> Clarksburg Historical Society works with Kate Kubit of Third Try, LLC to return gravestones to their original location.	<b>2002-2017</b> Active Clarksburg Historical Society members not previously mentioned: Karen King Earp Frances Wims Foreman Gloria King Winter.	<b>June 24, 2017</b> The Clark Family Memorial Cemetery is dedicated.  Time & materials to refurbish gravestones donated by Carlos Flores.
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## Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Clark Family Memorial Cemetery		Inventory ID: 167
Photographer: Vivian Eicke		Date: 3/31/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
1:50 pm	1	Entrance to gated cemetery from Burdette Forest Road
1:51 pm	2	Interpretive sign near entrance
1:53 pm	3	Panoramic from west to north to east
1:53 pm	4	Panoramic from east to south to west
1:55 pm	5	Cemetery from bottom of slope, facing north-east
1:56 pm	6	Head and footstones for Gustarvus Willson, facing north-east
1:57 pm	7	Headstone for Unknown #2, facing north-east
1:58 pm	8	Headstone for Ann Clark, wife of John Clark, facing north-east
1:59 pm	9	Headstone for S. [F]ell, facing north-east
2:00 pm	10	Footstone for John Clark, facing north-east
2:01 pm	11	Headstone for William Harris, facing north-east
2:02 pm	12	Footstone for William Harris, facing north-east
2:03 pm	13	Footstone for John Clark Willson, facing north-east
2:04 pm	14	Downhill slope at south-east corner, facing south-west



1. Entrance to gated cemetery from Burdette Forest Road, facing south-west



2. Interpretive sign near entrance





**3. Panoramic from west to north to east**



**4. Panoramic from east to south to west**



**5. Cemetery from bottom of slope, facing north-east**





6. Head and footstones for Gustavus Willson, facing north-east



7. Headstone for Unknown #2, facing north-east





8. Headstone for Ann Clark, wife of John Clark, facing north-east

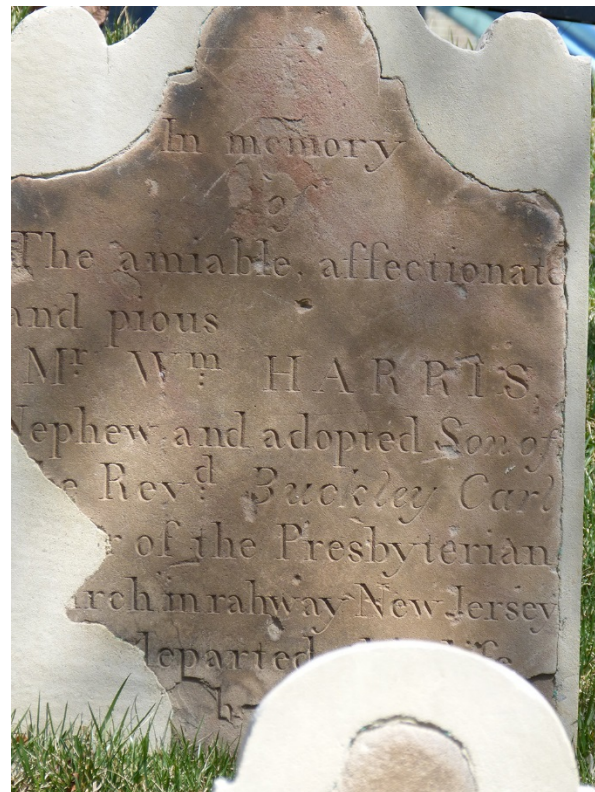


9. Headstone for S. [F]ell, facing north-east





10. Footstone for John Clark, facing north-east



11. Headstone for William Harris, north-east





**12. Footstone for William Harris, north-east**



**13. Footstone for John Clark Willson, north-east**





**14. Downhill slope at south-east corner, facing south-west**