

# Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 175

Name: Triadelphia Cemetery

Alternate name: Village of Triadelphia Cemetery WSSC

Address: South of Triadelphia Lake Rd. + western parking Lot  
PARKING Lot #2 WEST OF LAKE VILLAGE  
1000' BY PATH

Town:

ADC Map Page 12 Grid H-6

**Type**

Religious Church  
 Family  
 Private  
 Other Village of TRIADELPHIA + Mt. Carmel Church

**Association**

Free black  
 Enslaved (possible on outside)  
 Ethnic  
 Prehistoric

Setting  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Forested  Other

Condition  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) Neglect; Vandalism  
Stones toppled to removed.

Approximate no. of burials 25 Date range of burials 1809-1899

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

JOHN RIDGELEY D. 1879 SIGN - 1809 VILLAGE FOUNDED  
100' X 100'  
URIAS BROWN B. 1799 D. 11/22/1865  
JAMES BROWN B. 12/22/1803 - D. JAN 18/1881  
WIFE - ELIZABETH BROWN B. 5/20/1804 - D. MAY 14/1889  
MARTHA C. BROWN D. 3/9, 1899

Surveyor(s) Cori / Leonard Survey date 3/28/04  
Photographer Cori Jimenez Date 3/28/04 Photo no. 24 photos

Current owner WSSC

Address/Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Status  Locational Atlas ID  National Register (possible)  
 Master Plan ID 23/38  Other \_\_\_\_\_

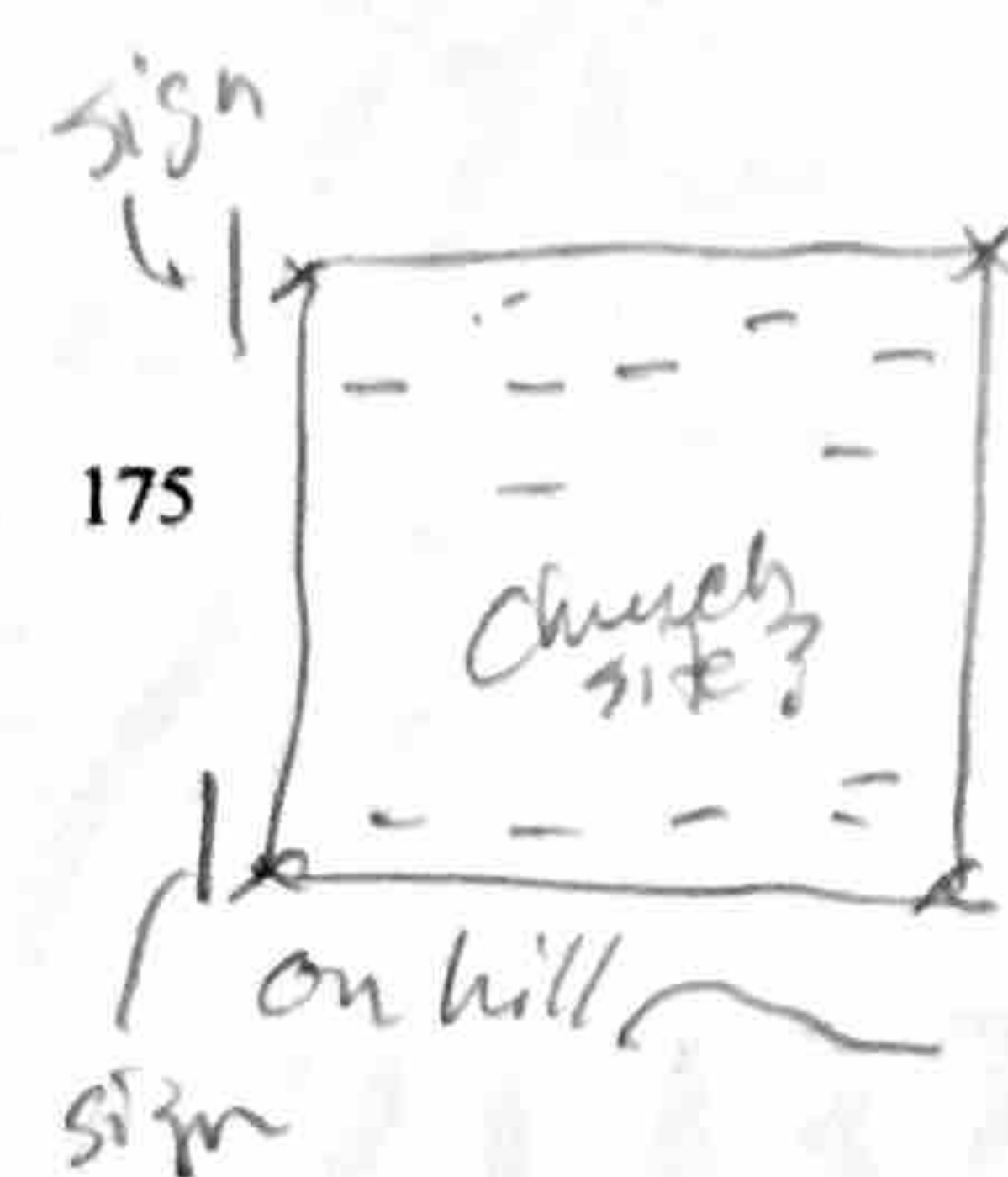
UTM GPS Coordinates (1 center point)

Additional sources of information: (all I can get)

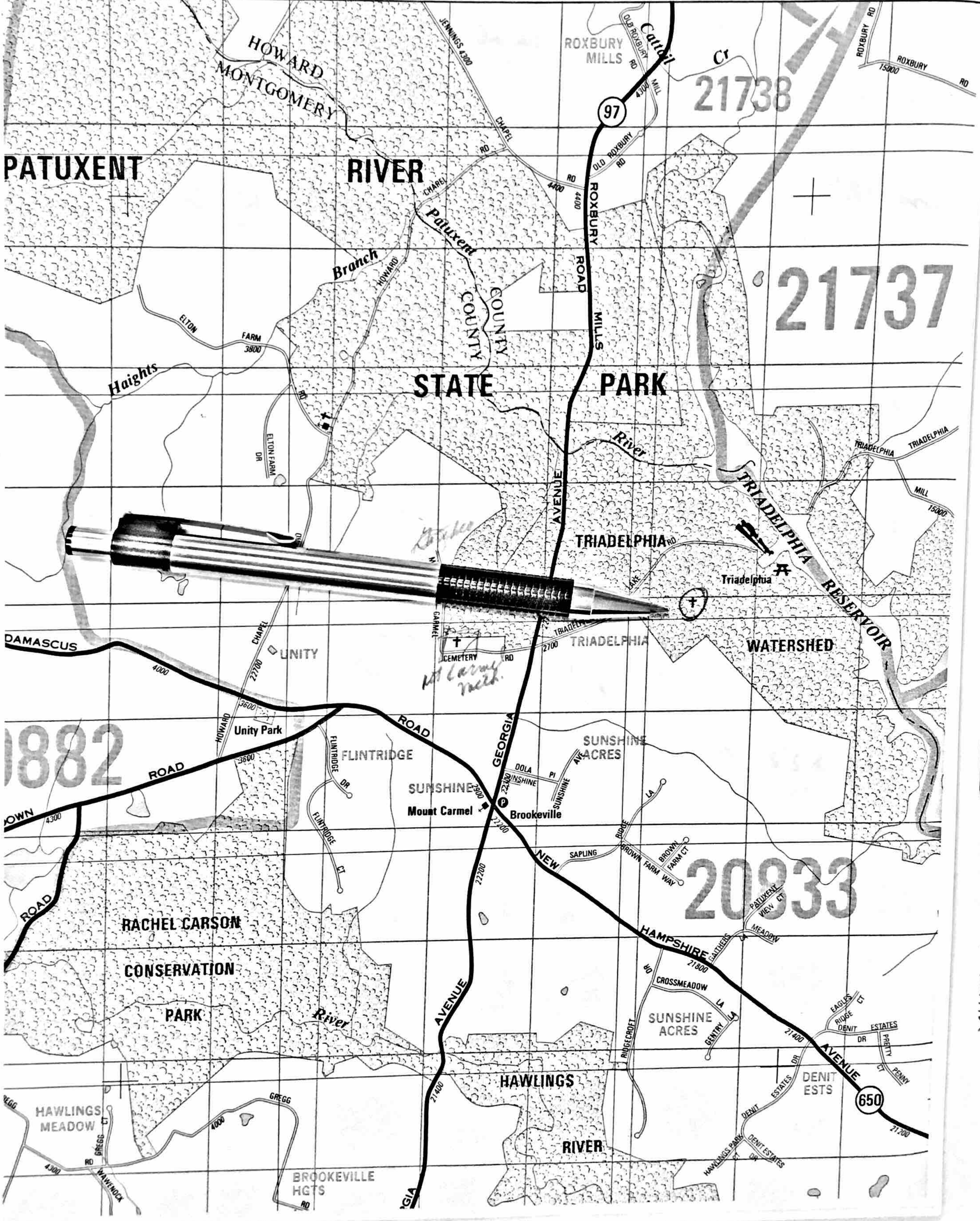
1989 - WSSC located 34 stones +  
reset markers on bases  
WSSC's Patuxent Watershed Property

Transcriptions in  
file. Heirs guaranteed  
visitation access  
interperpetuity.

Photo log:  
① Brown plots  
② Old sites  
③ Brown + 2 infants  
④ General view



175  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD  
TRIADELPHIA



115  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD

6/5/89

Dear Mrs. Janet Manuel,

TRIADDELPHIA

Hello! Saw the Montgomery  
Journal article on 5/18/89 on  
your new book listing all Mass.  
grave markers. If it's not  
too late, I thought this  
additional information might  
be useful and interesting to  
you! I would be happy to

show you these sites if you  
are not already  
Sincerely,  
familiar with them!

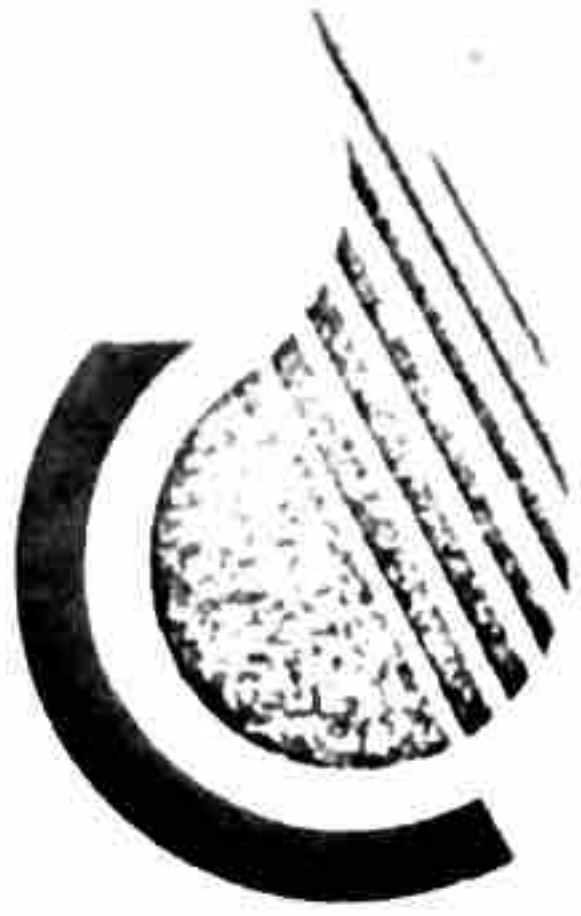
Michael Green

Watershed Range

W.S.S.K.

175

11 WASHINGTON ST. 1ST FL.  
SC WITH SIDE TRIADDELPHIA CARE CD  
TRIADDELPHIA



WSSC  
4017 HAMILTON STREET  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND 20781  
(301) 699-4172  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLIAM W. GORMLY  
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

May 8, 1989  
Contact: Pearl D. Laufer

HISTORIC SITES PRESERVED BY WSSC

The Patuxent Watershed staff of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission recently completed work on three historic cemetery sites found on the WSSC's Patuxent Watershed property. Plots belonging to the Owens and Batson families have been rehabilitated. Tombstones have been repaired and reset and fencelines have been added.

Work on the original cemetery of the town of Triadelphia, perhaps the most historically significant site, has also been completed. The site was destroyed by two major floods, in 1868 and 1889 (Johnstown Flood), and finally inundated by the construction of Brighton Dam, completed in 1943. Thirty-four tombstones, some dating back to the mid-1700s, have been repaired and reset.

The WSSC Patuxent Watershed staff will be maintaining these historic cemetery sites and, in keeping with an 1896 Maryland state covenant requiring preservation of graveyards into perpetuity, descendants will have access to the final resting places of their ancestors.

# # . # # #

175  
WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD  
TRIADELPHIA

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## WSSC staff locate, maintain Patuxent area cemetery sites

The Patuxent Watershed staff of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission recently completed work on three historic cemetery sites found on the WSSC's Patuxent Watershed property. Plots belonging to the Owens and Batson families have been rehabilitated. Tombstones have been repaired and reset and fencelines have been added.

Work on the original cemetery of the town Triadelphia, perhaps the most historically significant site, has also been completed. The site was destroyed by two major floods, in 1868 and 1889 (Johnstown Flood), and was finally inundated by the construction of Brighton Dam, completed in 1943. Thirty-four tombstones, some dating back to the mid-1700s, have been repaired and reset.

The WSSC Patuxent Watershed staff will maintain these historic cemetery sites and, in keeping with an 1896 Maryland state covenant requiring preservation of graveyards into perpetuity, descendants will have access to the final resting places of their ancestors.

MEMPHIS

175

TRIADAPLHIA CLINTON I  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADAPLHIA WARE RD  
TRIADAPLHIA

DRAFT

DRAFT

HISTORIC SITES PRESERVED BY  
PATUXENT WATERSHED STAFF

Restoration work has been completed on the three historic cemetery sites found on the WSSC's Patuxent Watershed property. The Owens' family plot has been cleared, trimmed, had fenceline repaired and a new gate added. This site is located off of Supplee Lane in Prince Georges County. A second site (also a family plot) belonging to the Batson family, has also been rehabilitated with trimming, tombstones repaired and reset and a fenceline added. This site is located off of Greenbridge Rd. in Howard County.

Finally, perhaps the most interesting and historically significant site, located in Montgomery County off of Triadelphia Lake Road, has also been restored through careful rehabilitation efforts. This large site is apparently the original cemetery for the Town of Triadelphia founded in 1809, destroyed by two major ~~floods~~<sup>floods</sup> in 1868-9 and 1889 (Johnstown Flood) and finally inundated by the Triadelphia Reservoir created by the construction of Brighton Dam 1941-43. Here staff initially located approximately ten headstones; however, diligent search and careful surface clearing "unearthed" another 24 tombstones <sup>dating</sup> ~~dated~~ back to the mid/late 1700s. All 34 headstones and bases have been carefully repaired and reset. The area has been cleared, trimmed, reseeded and fenced. Historic Site signs will be erected and the site will be maintained annually along <sup>with</sup> the ~~the~~ Batson and Owens family plots sites.

Patuxent Watershed staff who played a major role in this significant cultural/historic preservation effort include:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. Donald Whittaker, Crew Chief          | Mr. Wayne Johnson, Maint. Worker II  |
| Mr. Dennis Hubbard, Maint. Worker II      | Mr. Norman Morris, Maint. Worker II  |
| Mr. Lounge C. Powell, Maint. Worker II    | Mr. Bob Howes, Maint. Worker II      |
| Mr. Jeff Bell, Maint. Mech. <del>II</del> | Mr. Michael Grear, Watershed Manager |

Attached are listings of the headstones' inscriptions found at the sites. It is a wonderful feeling to "rescue" these sites from the desecration and destruction they apparently suffered and save them for archeological, geneological, cultural and historical preservation. Heirs are guaranteed access to these burial sites in perpetuity. Respect for our ancestors' peaceful internment will be provided.

-Slet-

*Michael Grear*  
Michael Grear  
Watershed Manager  
4/17/89

175  
TRIADAPHELPHIA LAKE RD  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
MD

# Historic Sites Preserved by Patuxent Watershed Staff

-- Michael Gear,  
Watershed Manager

Joshua Brown  
Born  
Jan'y. 31, 1811  
Died  
June 29, 1878

"An honest man's the noblest  
work of God."

--Inscription on tombstone  
in cleared cemetery

A recent article in The Washington Post highlighted a problem which is intensifying in the rapidly developing Baltimore/Washington megalopolis - that of the intentional or unintentional destruction and loss of historic cemetery sites. A bill was proposed in this past session of the state legislature that would task a state agency with the responsibility for preparing an inventory of known cemetery sites and would



guarantee heirs access to burial sites in perpetuity. Although there is an 1896 Maryland state covenant requiring preservation of graveyards, with a maximum jail sentence of 15 years for violators, advocates of the proposed bill wanted a stronger, more pointed measure on the books. The bill, killed in committee, will be reintroduced in the next session.

Commission personnel, however, did not need a new bill to motivate them to do their share to preserve history. Recently, the Commission's Patuxent Watershed staff identified, located, and restored three old cemetery sites on its Patuxent Reservoirs watershed property. The Owens' family plot, located off Supplee Lane in Prince George's County, has been cleared and trimmed; the fence line has been repaired and a new gate has been added. A second site, off Greenbridge Road in Howard County, belonging to the Batson family, has also been rehabilitated. Tombstones have been repaired and reset, and a fence line has been added.

Perhaps the most interesting and historically significant restored site, located in Montgomery County off Triadelphia Lake Road at the Commission's Christmas tree production lease site, is the original cemetery for the town of Triadelphia. Thirty-four headstones have been identified; the bases have been repaired and reset. Founded in 1809, Triadelphia at one time had over 400 inhabitants. The town was destroyed by a major flood in 1868, rebuilt and devastated again by the Johnstown Flood of 1889, rebuilt again and then inundated for a third and final time by the reservoir when Brighton Dam was constructed (1941-1943).

(continued)

① P.G. Co.

② Ho Co

③ Mo Co

175  
TRIADAPHELIA  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADAPHELIA LAKE RD  
TRIADAPHELIA

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***"In helping to preserve the final resting place of our historical forefathers, we forge a link to our past and guarantee that it will not be lost for the future."***

---

The town of Triadelphia was laid out on part of a tract called "Benjamin's Lot," which was deeded to Benjamin Gaither by Lord Baltimore. Mr. Gaither, in turn, deeded the tract to three brothers-in-law, Isaac Briggs, Caleb Bentley, and Thomas Moore. Their relationship inspired the name of the village: Triadelphia is Greek for three brothers. One of the men, Isaac Briggs, was an engineer and a surveyor. It was he who laid out the town and superintended the erection of the cotton factory, grist mill, and adjoining house. He was also one of the people who helped to lay out the city of Washington.

Triadelphia Village was a prosperous mill town from its establishment until the Civil War. Cotton and grain from nearby farms fed the Triadelphia Montgomery Mill Company, Inc. The cotton mill was shut down after the Civil War and the disastrous flood of 1868.



When dismantled, the four-story, 50' x 150' structure provided stone for the construction of many private homes. The bronze bell, which had been used to call mill hands to work, was subsequently donated to Sherwood High School where it still remains. The grist mill and post office continued to operate until the devastating Johnstown flood of 1889.

Historians, archaeologists, genealogy buffs, preservationists, and the like, are all rightfully interested in preserving our history and, certainly, our ancestors' rest. The Commission's Patuxent Watershed staff share these concerns and are doing their part to be "ahead of the curve" and part of the solution, not part of the problem. Now that cleanup and restoration are completed, ongoing annual maintenance will require a small scale effort, in terms of labor and material, and will be well worth the effort as we comply with the 1896 ordinance, preserve history, respect our ancestors' peaceful internment, and generate customer goodwill. In helping to preserve the final resting place of our forefathers, we forge a link to our past and guarantee that it will not be lost for the future.

Patuxent Watershed staff who played a major role in this significant cultural/historic preservation effort include:

Mr. Donald Whittaker, Crew Chief  
Mr. Dennis Hubbard, Maint. Worker II  
Mr. Lounge C. Powell, Maint. Worker II  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Maint. Mech. II  
Mr. Wayne Johnson, Maint. Worker II  
Mr. Norman Morris, Maint. Worker II  
Mr. Bob Howes, Maint. Worker II  
Mr. Michael Grear, Watershed Manager

175  
HARRISVILLE CEMETERY  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD  
TRIADLPHIA



GRAVESTONE READINGS FROM THREE SITES

Triadelphia Cemetery:

---- "L.F.R." (Laura F. Ridgely)

---- "C.C.R."

---- "A.R.B."

---- "John C.  
Son of  
A. & H. Brown  
Born July 3, 1849  
Died Dec. 16, 1856"

*John C. Brown*

---- "Holy Bible  
Elizabeth  
Wife of  
James Brown,  
Born May 20, 1804,  
Died Mar. 4, 1889  
-----

Dearest Mother thou hast left us,  
We thy loss most deeply feel,  
Yet is God that hast bareft us,  
He can all our sorrows heal."

---- "Laura F.  
Wife of  
John W. Ridgely  
Born Mar. 11, 1853  
Died Oct. 20, 1879  
Having finished life's duty,  
She now sweetly rests."

175  
TRIADELPHIA CEMETERY  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD  
TRIADELPHIA

Triadelphia Cemetery (continued)

--- In memory of  
He is not  
Dead  
but

Urias Brown  
Sleepeth  
Born Jany. 31, 1799

Died Nov. 22, 1865  
In the 67 year of  
his age.

"Mark the perfect man, and  
behold the upright, for the  
end of that man is peace."

---- Holy Bible

Sarah

Consort of

Urias Brown

Born Mar. 17, 1802

Died Jan. 15, 1878.

She was a kind and affectionate  
wife, a fond Mother and a  
friend to all.

---- Sacred  
to the memory of  
Mrs. Mary Clarke,  
who departed this life  
Feb. 15th, 1845,  
in the 71st year of her age.

Formerly of Reisterstown  
Baltimore County.

(Born 1794!)

---- Temas R.

Son of

H. Brown

Born  
Jan. 11, 1853

Died  
Dec. 6, 1855

--- B

--- J.C.B.

175  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD

Triadelphia Cemetery (continued):

---- In memory of our  
First Born  
by  
L.B./ A.R.  
Brown  
1887

---- In memory of  
Mrs. Sarah A. Heckrotte  
Died  
Jan'y 29, 1849  
In the 29th Year  
of her age.

A. Guddess, Maker, Ball

---- J.B. *Carl Brown*

---- A.S. *(Name)*

---- In Memory of  
Mrs. Nancy <sup>v</sup>Snily (~~Spelling~~)  
died Nov. 28th, 1817,  
in the 22nd year of  
her age.

She shouted Hallelujah  
in Jesus, and said she  
was going home, and said  
weep not for me my \_\_\_ie  
\_\_\_ds weep not for me.

---- Henrietta  
Wife of  
Alfred Brown  
Died June 23, 1876,  
In her 54 year  
Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep  
From which \_\_\_\_\_ ever \_\_\_\_\_  
to weep.

Born 1822

175  
TRIADAPLPHIA CEMETERY  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADAPLPHIA LAKE RD  
TRIADAPLPHIA

*remains*  
Triadelphia Town Site:

----- "Martha C. Brown"  
Died 3/9/1899

----- "Ridgely" *S.W. T.*  
Infant Son of  
Died July 1, 1886  
Aged 4 days  
-----  
-----

----- "JFB"

----- "John G.  
Son of I. & H. Brown"  
Born July 3, 1849  
Died Dec. 16, 1856

*at first pass  
slightly diff.*

----- "A.H.B." or "A.R.B."

----- "L.F.R."

----- (Too worn out to read)

----- (Base Only)

----- "James Brown  
Born  
Dec. 22, 1803  
Died  
Jan. 18, 1881

Blessed are the dead which  
die in the Lord. From henceforth  
You saith the spirit that they  
may rest from their labours  
and their works do follow

Triadelphia Cemetery (continued):

- "Infant" *(see B. Brown)*
- "S.B." *Sarah Brown*
- "L.B." *(see Elog. Brown)*

---- Joshua Brown  
Born  
Jan'y. 31, 1811.  
Died  
June 29, 1878.

"An honest man's the noblest  
work of God."

---- *W. A. Lough*  
*C. A. K.*

WSSC'S PATUXENT WATERSHED STAFF IDENTIFIES, LOCATES AND RESTORES HISTORIC CEMETERY SITES ON RESERVOIRS WATERSHED PROPERTY

A recent article in the Washington Post newspaper highlighted an increasing and sensitive problem in the rapidly developing Baltimore/Washington megalopolis-- that of the intentional or unintentional destruction/loss of historic cemetery sites. A bill now before the Md. State legislature would task one of the state's agencies (Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene) with preparing an inventory or registry of known cemetery sites and guarantee heirs access to burial sites in perpetuity. The latter mirrors an 1896 Md. State covenant requiring preservation of graveyards in perpetuity. Violators are subject to a maximum 15 year jail sentence!

Desiring to be "ahead of the curve," the Commission's Patuxent Watershed staff have identified and located three old cemetery areas on its Patuxent Reservoir's watershed property and we are in the process of restoring/refurbishing the sacred sites which appear to date at least into the early 1800s. One site is the Owens family cemetery plot located off of Supplee Lane in Prince Georges County. Another site which had about 10-15 headstones is located in Howard County near the Pigtail Recreation area at "Duttons" fields.

Perhaps the most interesting, significant and historically valuable site is located in Montgomery County off of Triadelphia Lake Road at the Commission's Christmas tree production lease site near our Triadelphia Recreation area. The site is currently in very poor, unkempt condition, but appears to be the main cemetery for the original 400+ residents of the town of Triadelphia, Maryland which was established in 1809, destroyed by a major flood in 1869, rebuilt and destroyed again by the 1889 Johnstown Flood, rebuilt only to be submerged for a third and final time by the reservoir (named after the town) when Brighton Dam was constructed 1941-1943. Many of the names and dates (mid-late 1800s) on the tombstones here match up with the available history of the Village of Triadelphia!

Triadelphia Village was a once prosperous mill town from its establishment until the Civil War. Cotton and grain from nearby farms fed the "Triadelphia Montgomery Mill Company, Inc.". The cotton mill was shut down after the Civil War and the disastrous flood of 1868. The grist mill and Post Office continued in operation until the deadly Johnstown flood of 1889. When dismantled, the four story, 50' x 150' stone constructed, cotton mill provided stone for many a private home constructed nearby and also provided a bronze bell (previously used to call mill hands to work) to the Sherwood High School where it still remains today! The bell is now 152 years old!

175  
 11 WATERSHED COUNCIL  
 SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA LAKE RD  
 TRIADELPHIA

Triadelphia was the name of a lovely little village of about three hundred and fifty inhabitants that once existed on the south bank of the Patuxent River, in Montgomery County Maryland, fourteen miles from Rockville, the county seat, and twenty-five miles from Baltimore. The town was laid out on a survey containing five hundred and sixteen acres, made for Benjamin Gaither, April 8, 1725. The town was established in 1809 by three brothers-in-law, Isaac Briggs, Caleb Bently, and Thomas Moore. Mr. Moore married Miss Mary Brooke, September 21, 1791; Mr. Bently married Miss Sarah Brooke, April 20, 1791; and Mr. Briggs married Miss Hannah Brooke, all daughters of Roger Brooke, a descendant of Robert Brooke, who came from England and settled on the Patuxent River in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Mr. Briggs was an engineer and helped to lay out the city of Washington! The town of Triadelphia was laid out on a part of a tract called "Benjamin's Lot," which was deeded to Benjamin Gaither by Lord Baltimore, and then deeded by Mr. Gaither to these three brothers-in-law, Briggs, Bently, and Moore, whose relationship gave name to the village, Triadelphia, which means "The Three Brothers." Mr. Briggs, the surveyor, laid out the town and superintended the erection of the cotton factory, grist mill, and house adjoining.

Hon. Thomas Lansdale was born in <sup>Montgomery</sup> ~~this~~ County in 1808. He invented the first wood planing machine, and the metallic yoke for the swing bells. He engaged extensively in mechanical operations for a number of years. In 1842 he became interested in the Triadelphia Mills, remaining five years, when he took charge of the Granite at Ellicott's Mills where he remained ten years. He was the first to introduce steam into a factory (the Triadelphia Cotton Mill) for heating purposes. In 1856, he returned to Triadelphia and by his enterprise and energy succeeded in making it a thriving village containing 400 inhabitants, with a large three story store, cotton factory, saw, plaster, bone and grist mills, stone and mechanical shops and furniture store. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1864, and was elected to the Senate in 1865. Mr. Lansdale died in 1878 universally respected by the large circle of operatives, business men and politicians, with whom he was associated while he lived in the confidence and esteem of his friends and neighbors.

#### THE TRIADELPHIA BELL

Purchased in the 1840s for the Triadelphia Montgomery Mill Co.; this bell manufactured by G.H. Holbrook <sup>of</sup> Medway, Massachusetts in 1837, was used to call the mill hands to their daily work. In 1889, the Johnstown flood destroyed most of Triadelphia Town and the bell fell into disuse until 1902. In that year, while

175  
 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 SOUTH SIDE TRIADELPHIA WARE CO  
 TRIADELPHIA

DRAFT

on a visit to the Triadelphia Town area, Alice Farquhar, the Principal of Sherwood School, made inquiries of the owner and raised \$50.00 to acquire the bell for Sherwood School. The bell was then installed at the Sherwood School where it was used for 50 years to call students to the school. The bell's <sup>current h.</sup> structure was a gift from the Class of 1954.

In addition, a fourth cemetery site has been located off the cul-de-sac of Reservoir Road in Howard County immediately adjacent to the Commission's watershed property with ten or more simple old headstones with hand carved initials and dates back to 1808<sup>1853</sup>. This site is not actually on Commission property but appears to be imminently threatened by development as it is staked, flagged, and a well has been dug nearby with bulldozer access and clearing.

Historians, archeologists, geneology buffs, preservationists, etc. are all rightfully interested in preserving our history and certainly our ancestor's rest. The Commission's Patuxent Watershed staff share these concerns and are doing their part to be "ahead of the curve" and part of the solution, not part of the problem! Once clean up and restoration of our three known cemetery sites on WSSC property is completed, ongoing annual maintenance will require a very small scale effort (in terms of labor and materials) and will be well worth the effort in terms of <sup>being in compliance with the state law,</sup> preservation of our history, respect for our ancestors' peaceful internment and customer goodwill generated!

*Michael J. Grear*  
Michael J. Grear  
Watershed Manager  
3/27/89

- STET -

" Ahh -oooh  
We did the Mash,  
We did the Monster Mash  
We did the Mash,  
It caught on in a flash.  
We did the Mash,  
It was a graveyard smash,  
We did the Mash,  
We did the Monster Mash,  
Ahh - oooh. "

MJG:ssa

175  
TRIADAPHELPHIA  
SOUTH SIDE TRIADAPHELPHIA LAKE RD  
TRIADAPHELPHIA